

## Discussion Topics: A Sense of Optimism

After filling out individual staff questionnaires and examining the student questionnaires, staff members, teams, book groups, and other adult groups should come together to explore the following topics of discussion.

1. Does our school have a clear vision?
2. How do student perceptions differ from those of the school staff? Why do they differ?
3. Do *all* students and their families feel welcome in our school?
4. How could we make our school atmosphere more welcoming and supportive for students? For parents?
5. Do any students in our school feel intimidated or bullied?
6. How can we make our school safer, and how can we help everyone—teachers, parents, and students—feel more respected and valued?
7. What else can we do to celebrate student successes and family cultures?
8. How can we help poverty-level families find the available services they need in our community?
9. How can our school staff gain a better understanding of the conditions of poverty in our community and how these conditions affect learning for our students?