

# Renovo Spiritual Life Inventory– High School

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Renovo High School Spiritual Life Inventory?

The Renovo High School Spiritual Life inventory (HS-SLI) helps leaders of Christian high schools to determine the spiritual vitality of their student body and target ways to increase the school's effectiveness in helping students grow spiritually. The HS-SLI is based on the church version of the SLI, which launched in 2007 and has been used by more than 2,000 churches.

The *Renovo High School Spiritual Life Inventory* (HS-SLI) was launched in 2011 as a tool to help Christian high schools assess their school's spiritual impact. To date, 19 schools and more than 7,500 students have responded to the HS-SLI. The HS-SLI is a comprehensive, multiple-choice, online questionnaire administered through high schools that sign up to have their students take the inventory. It includes items on the student's attitudes, beliefs, spiritual practices, involvement in church activities, involvement in serving the community, and satisfaction with the way their school aids them in their spiritual growth.

### What's the history of the RENOVO High School Spiritual Life Inventory?

The HS-SLI is based on the Church SLI, which has been developed and refined over the past 10 years. Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies were employed in the development of the SLI.

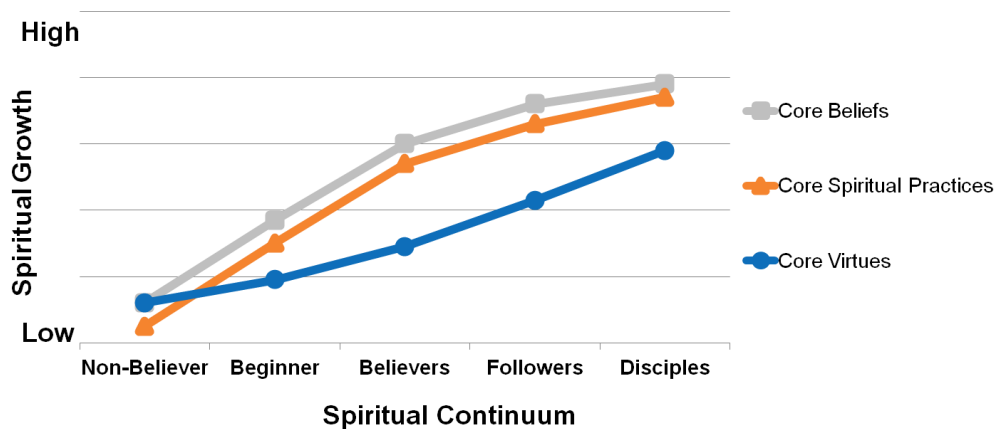
#### *High School SLI Development*

Additional items were developed specifically for the high school version that measured spiritual identity formation. The development team collaborated with the Fuller Youth Institute to create these and other items that are specific to the HS-SLI.

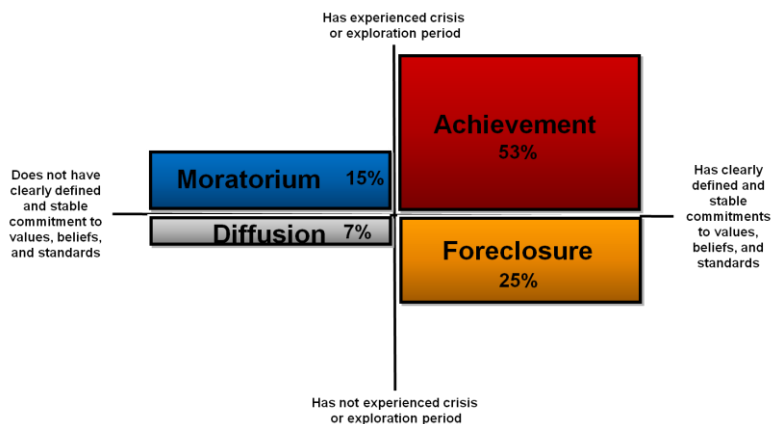
In spring 2011, the HS-SLI was piloted with three Christian high schools in Michigan. Approximately 1,400 students responded to the inventory. The pilot was scaled up to 19 Christian high schools (including the three 2011 pilot schools) in the spring of 2013, with approximately 5,000 students responses collected.

## What are the key building blocks of the Spiritual Life Inventory for High School?

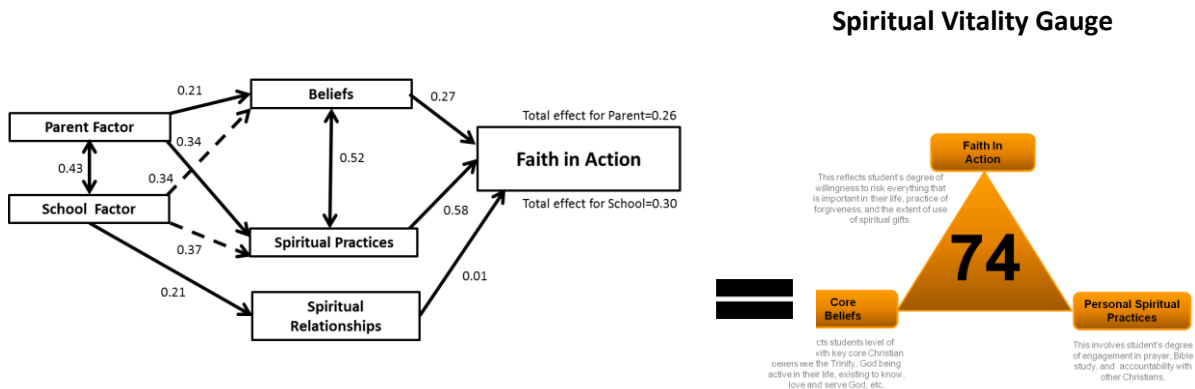
Just as we did with adults we have been able to find a spiritual continuum, or a progressive series of segments of students defined by increasing levels of intimacy in their relationship with Christ and a deepening love of others. This spiritual continuum is highly predictive of spiritual growth. This means that all the behaviors, attitudes and beliefs related to a growing love of God and others advance in lockstep with this continuum. So everything—from frequency of prayer to Bible reading, to serving and evangelism, and most importantly, love for God and others—move sharply higher when we look through this lens.



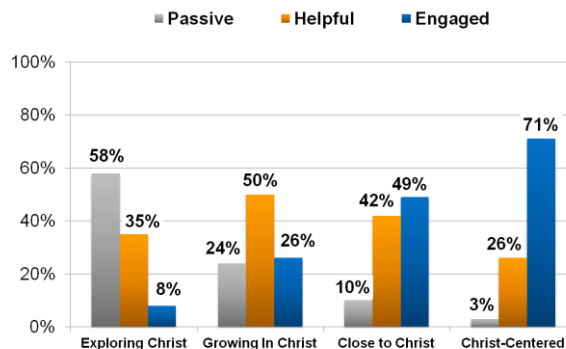
Next, utilizing a battery of questions (Adams, Shea, & Fitch, 1979) we have been able to place students into four different stages of identity development as defined by psychologist James Marcia: diffusion, foreclosure, moratorium and achievement. This was leveraged to understand to what degree teenagers were experiencing a more internalized sense of spiritual identity (i.e., how much a student personally owns their religious commitment).



Also, we employed a statistical technique to construct a model that represented the school's role in students' spiritual growth, the effect of the school's role on students' beliefs, spiritual practices, and ability to put their faith into action, and the influence of parents on these aspects of students' spiritual growth. Additionally, the results indicated that students' spiritual growth can be measured using an overall Spiritual Vitality Gauge (SVG) score that represents students' growth in Beliefs, Spiritual Practices, and Faith in Action. The SVG demonstrated both reliability and validity as a measure of growth.



Finally, we analyzed another data-set to learn more about how parents can contribute to the spiritual development of their children. Results from this preliminary study of parents indicated that parents who were furthest along in their spiritual growth were much more engaged in the spiritual development of their children than those who were less spiritually mature. These findings challenge not only churches but also other Christian ministries (like schools) to involve parents to a greater extent in programs aimed at children and to invest more in the spiritual growth of parents in order to create a spiritual tailwind that will lead to spiritual growth in children.



## Is the Renovo High School Spiritual Life Inventory reliable and valid?

Yes. Estimates of reliability for subscales of the SLI indicate good internal consistency reliability. Available evidence for the validity of the Spiritual Vitality Gauge (Student and School versions), scores which are derived from HS-SLI items, and the spiritual continuum of growth suggests that these metrics are meaningful in representing their underlying constructs. To read more details, please request a copy of the *Renovo High School SLI Technical Report*.

## Who are the schools that have taken the RENOVO SLI?

Most of the 19 schools that participated in the 2013 questionnaire are located in the Midwest. See Table 1 for a breakdown of schools by location and Table 2 for a breakdown by enrollment. Most schools administered the questionnaire during the school day in a computer lab and student participation was compulsory.

**Table 1. Geographic Location of Schools Participating in 2013 HS-SLS.**

State	%
Illinois	11
Michigan	37
Minnesota	5
South Carolina	5
Washington	11
Wisconsin	22
Africa	5
Canada	5

**Table 2. Total Enrollment of Schools Participating in 2013 HS-SLS.**

Enrollment	%
Less than 100	20
100 – 249	16
250 – 499	35
500 or more	21

## Can I see a copy of the inventory?

We can actually do better than providing you a copy of the inventory. We have actually created a document that not only provides you with the questions that we ask but just as importantly why we ask them so you can fully understand the goals of the inventory. Please request a copy of the *Renovo High School SLI Questions and Rationale*.

## How long does it take to complete the inventory?

The inventory contains just under fifty questions in series of single-response, multiple response, and grid style questions. Most students spend about 30 minutes responding to the HS-SLI (mean = 29.77 minutes; SD = 12.11 minutes). This questionnaire is thought-provoking in nature. Taking the questionnaire is like completing a spiritual inventory and many respondents haven't spent much time focused on their spiritual lives.

## Who will see our inventory results?

Only two people on the Renovo team have access to school reports and we treat your information as highly confidential. No one outside of the team will see your results without your permission. Your final report will be emailed **only** to the School Principal.

## Will I see inventory results from individuals in my school?

No. Your student's responses are collected anonymously by an independent research organization.

## What is the timetable for launching the Renovo High School Spiritual Life Inventory?

Please contact us so we can work out a timeline that best meets your needs.

## How do we go about administering the online inventory?

What we have learned is that each school is unique and is set up differently to have students complete an online inventory. As such, we have seen a wide range of inventory administration techniques from every student in the school taking the inventory from their laptop at the same time to rolling students through the computer lab during their Bible Study class over a series of weeks. You really know the routine, resources and facility of your school best. This is why we provide you the flexibility of a five week testing window in which to deploy and complete the inventory within your school.

While the inventory is in the testing window how will we know the participation rate at our school?

We will provide **response rate updates** so you know how you're doing. You'll receive updates on how many responses we've received from your school twice a week during the inventory period.

Can I see what a final report looks like?

Of course. Please request a copy of the *Renovo ABC High School SLI Report* to see an example of a final report.

Will we get access to the raw data from the inventory?

We do not make available the raw data from the inventory.

Do you provide any kind of inventory helpline or customer assistance?

We will equip you to be able to respond to issues. For major technical problems or questions, please email Mel Probst at [Mel.Probst@Renovou.com](mailto:Mel.Probst@Renovou.com)