



Division of Accountability & Research

Parent and Community Involvement Survey Executive Summary (2009-2010)

The purpose of the Parent and Community Involvement survey is to collect information from parents on the opportunities afforded to them to be actively and meaningfully involved in their children's education. Research indicates that increased participation from parents enhances a child's ability to succeed. Regardless of socioeconomic status or race, studies show a direct correlation between parental involvement and a child's academic achievement. This survey is utilized to provide one measure of parental involvement within the Aurora Public Schools.

Survey Development

The Parent & Community Involvement Survey was developed during the 2005-06 school year in collaboration with the Diversity Education Office, the Grants Office and the Division of Accountability & Research. The items were designed to reflect attitudes related to student achievement, welcoming environment, leadership/partnership opportunities and decision making (assessment, evaluation, and planning). For 2010, there were no changes to survey items from the previous year. One item was invalidated since it's no longer applicable (i.e. I've received the School Accountability Report).

Survey Participants

A 22 item survey was mailed to the parents of all secondary school students in February of 2010. Elementary schools provided the survey to parents either through the mail or during school events during the month of January. All surveys were provided in both English and Spanish versions. A total of 6,212 surveys were completed. The overall percentage of parent responses approximated 24%. The total percentage of parents responding to the survey since 2008 can be found in table 1. The percent of students by grade level indicates a higher return rate for elementary school with 70% of parents reporting their child was in kindergarten through grade five. The distribution of the students ethnicity reported by the parents reflected percentages very similar to the overall district population.

Table 1. Parent Involvement Survey: Historical Percent Response Rates

| Parent Survey | Total | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Overall | 6,212 | 26% | 22% | 24% |

Note. Total reflects number of survey responses in 2010.

In 2010, 2,448 surveys collected were completed in Spanish (i.e. 39% of all surveys). An additional 66 Parent surveys were collected via our on-line survey tool.

Survey Results

The Parent Involvement survey results have been examined based on item specific responses. Overall, all items (i.e. that were applicable to all parents) exceeded 70% agreement rates. This result indicates high satisfaction concerning overall climate (see table 2). The highest agreement rates were associated with items concerning school environment with all items exceeding 88% agreement. In effect, most parents feel they are welcomed in their child's school, they believe school is a safe place for their child, they believe the school respects different cultures, and they also believe the school's staff is accessible.

Meaningful between-year change (>3%) was limited to two items including; (6b) I think the after-school program have helped my child (+7.5%; 83% Ag/SA) and (22) If you used centralized admissions this year, your overall satisfaction (-4.6%; 66.9% satisfied).

Conclusions

- The Parent and Community Involvement Survey had a 24% response rate in 2010. Most participants were parents of K to 5th grade students and responded to the English version of the survey. The reported ethnicities reflect those found in the general student population.
- Survey items continue to show high agreement rates. In addition, one item experienced meaningful improvement.
- Areas of strength are related to the school environment. No significant areas of concern are noted. However, the reported level of satisfaction by individuals who utilized centralized admissions has declined by 4.6% between-years.

Table 2. Item Agreement Rates: Overall District Results

| Item | %Ag/SA 09 | %Ag/SA 10 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Student Achievement | | |
| 1. The school has provided me with opportunities to learn about helping my child with homework. | 85.6% | 84.0% |
| 2. The school has provided me information on the state standards* | 87.5% | 86.2% |
| 3. I have been informed about my child's performance on the standards.* | 91.6% | 91.3% |
| 4. I have received information on opportunities offered for children in need of additional support with their learning* | 72.3% | 72.3% |
| 5. I understand how my child's academic progress is evaluated in all subject areas. | 83.4% | 82.0% |
| 6. My child has attended after-school support programs. | 29.9% (Yes) | 32.3% (Yes) |
| <i>6b. I think the after-school programs have helped my child.</i> | 75.5% | 83.0% |
| Environment | | |
| 7. I feel welcomed in my child's school. | 94.2% | 92.7% |
| 8. School information that I've received is in a language that I understand. | 95.7% | 94.3% |
| 9. The school is a safe place for my child. | 91.5% | 88.7% |
| 10. The school respects the different cultures that are represented in the community. | 90.9% | 90.1% |
| 11. I find that the school's staff is able to meet with me* | 90.8% | 90.2% |
| Leadership/Partnership Opportunities | | |
| 12. The school provides me the opportunity to give input on the school's programs and goals. | 81.0% | 80.3% |
| 13. The school provides me with information on how to become involved in the school's decision-making process, if I choose. | 78.4% | 78.3% |
| 14. The school encourages me to participate in school leadership activities. | 76.9% | 75.4% |
| 15. If needed, the school provides me with information on local agencies and other community support services that I can use. | 69.2% | 69.3% |
| 16. The school provides me many opportunities to plan and participate in the school's activities. | 81.2% | 79.6% |
| 17. I am familiar with what the School Improvement Plan is. | 58.1% | 57.5% |
| Assessment, Evaluation, & Planning | | |
| 18. I understand how the School Improvement Plan is developed. | 79.1% | 77.1% |
| 19. I know what the school's achievement goals are for the SIP*. | 80.7% | 78.6% |
| 20. I am aware of the achievement data that is collected to develop the SIP* | 78.5% | 78.3% |
| Additional Questions | | |
| 21. If you used centralized admissions this year, your overall satisfaction*. | 71.5% | 66.9% |

Note. All responses of "not applicable" were omitted from this analysis. 2009: n=5,220. 2010: n=6,212.
 Italicized/bolded Items indicate meaningful positive change. *: question abbreviated for report.