



Division of Accountability & Research

Parent and Community Involvement Survey Executive Summary (2014-2015)

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 in a student's education by parents/guardians enhances a child's ability to succeed and there is a correlation between parental involvement and a child's academic achievement. This survey is used 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, school environment, leadership/partnership opportunities, and decision-making (assessment, evaluation, and planning).

Significant revisions were made to the Parent & Community Involvement Survey for the 2014-15 school year. Revisions were made to provide information on the status of compliance with board policy on family engagement and to provide an improved survey to families. The revisions included removing 10 questions and adding 7 questions to the survey. The 7 new questions are listed below.

Added Questions

5. My child's teacher(s) hold high expectations for my child.
6. The school communicates to me and my child what we need to do to prepare my child for college, career, and success in life after high school.
14. When I volunteer at the school, I am given training and resources to do my tasks well, if needed.
15. The school makes it easy for parents to attend meetings by holding them at different times of the day, providing an interpreter or in other ways.
18. The school enforces school rules equally for my child and all students.
20. I can be involved in school improvement planning and decision-making at my child's school.
21. The school actively seeks the input of parents before making important decisions.

Survey Participants

Printed copies of the 23 item survey were distributed to APS staff at Elementary and K-8 schools in January 2015. APS staff then provided the surveys to parents, either by

sending them home with students or by distributing them at school events. Surveys with postage paid return envelopes were mailed to parents with students in middle and high school. Both English and Spanish versions of the surveys were provided. Parents were also able to complete the survey online. A total of 2,616 surveys were returned (3,489 in 2014), for an overall return rate of approximately 11% (15% in 2014).

Parents of elementary school students continue to respond at a higher rate to the survey than parents of students in upper grade levels; 77% percent of respondents who provided an answer indicated that their child was in kindergarten through grade five. The distribution of respondents across race/ethnicity and linguistic groups was similar to the distribution of the overall district student population. Of those parents who completed the survey, fifty-two percent of respondents indicated that they had students identified as Hispanic or Latino; 19% indicated they had students identified as white; 8% indicated they had students identified as two or more race backgrounds; and 12% indicated they had students identified as black. Smaller percentages of respondents indicated they were parents of students that identify as Asian (7%), Native American (2%) or Native Hawaiian (1%). Thirty-one percent of the surveys were completed in Spanish.

Survey Results

The item level results of the parent survey are presented in Table 1 below. For the district as a whole, there were high rates of agreement and satisfaction on all items this year, indicating that most parents who responded to the survey are satisfied with the overall climate of their children's schools. The items with the highest rates of agreement and satisfaction were those associated with school environment. The overall rates of agreement for items in this area were between 83% and 96%. These agreement rates indicate that most parents feel welcome in their child's school, they believe school is a safe place for their child, they believe the school respects different cultures, and they believe the school's staff is accessible. Overall rates of agreement were also very high for items having to do with student achievement (63%-91%). Items related to leadership and partnership opportunities had less favorable agreement rates (58% - 82%). The item with the lowest agreement rate fell in this category, and was about training and resources being provided to parents when they volunteer.

There were 14 items where change could be examined from the 2014 survey. Responses to one item on the 2015 survey showed meaningful change (>3%) from the previous year. The item had one of the lower rates of agreement (63%) and was related to being familiar with the Unified Improvement Plan.

Conclusions

- The Parent and Community Involvement Survey had an 11% response rate in 2015. Seventy-seven percent of participants were parents of Kindergarten to 5th grade students. The reported student races reflect those found in the general student population. Just under a third (31%) of the surveys were completed in Spanish.

- Survey items continue to show high agreement rates, with only one item showing a disagreement rate over 20%. Agreement rates on the remaining items fall between 58% and 96%.
- Parents are particularly satisfied with the environment of schools in the district. The survey did bring to light that parents would like training and resources when they volunteer in their child's school.

Table 1. Item Agreement Rates: Overall District Results

Item	D/SD 15	Don't Know	A/SA 15
Student Achievement			
1. The school has provided me with opportunities to learn about helping my child with homework.	10.9%	3.7%	85.4%
2. The school has provided me information on the state standards*	12.3%	4.3%	83.4%
3. I have been informed about my child's performance on the standards.*	7.0%	2.1%	90.8%
4. I have received information on opportunities offered for children in need of additional support with their learning*	18.3%	7.9%	73.9%
5. My child's teacher(s) hold high expectations for my child.	5.9%	6.8%	87.3%
6. The school communicates to me and my child what we need to do to prepare my child for college, career, and success in life after high school.	23.2%	13.4%	63.4%
7. The school challenges my child academically	10.4%	8.3%	81.4%
Environment			
8. I feel welcomed in my child's school.	6.0%	1.3%	92.7%
9. School information that I've received is in a language that I understand.	3.5%	0.8%	95.7%
10. The school is a safe place for my child.	5.6%	5.0%	89.4%
11. The teachers and staff in my child's school respect the different cultures that are represented in the community.	3.0%	6.8%	90.2%
12. I find that the school's staff is able to meet with me when I need to discuss my child's progress.	5.7%	4.7%	89.6%
15. The school makes it easy for parents to attend meetings by holding them at different times of the day, providing an interpreter or in other ways.	7.6%	9.0%	83.4%
18. The school enforces school rules equally for my child and all students.	8.6%	7.6%	83.8%
Leadership/Partnership Opportunities			
13. The school provides me the opportunity to give input on the school's programs and goals.	9.6%	12.2%	78.2%
14. When I volunteer at the school, I am given training and resources to do my tasks well, if needed.	5.1%	36.5%	58.4%
16. If needed, the school provides me with information on local agencies and other community support services that I can use.	10.1%	21.5%	68.4%
17. The school provides me many opportunities to plan and participate in the school's activities.	10.0%	8.3%	81.8%
Assessment, Evaluation & Planning			
19. I am familiar with the school's Unified Improvement Plan.	18.5%	18.5%	63.0%
20. I can be involved in school improvement planning and decision-making at my child's school.	9.0%	22.4%	68.6%
21. The school actively seeks the input of parents before making important decisions.	12.1%	19.1%	68.7%

Note. All responses of "not applicable" were omitted from this analysis. 2014: n=3,489 2015: n=2,616.

* Question abbreviated for report.