



Parents say: Schools safe, success-oriented

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Portland Public Schools parents and guardians believe their children's schools are safe and welcoming environments that promote academic success for all students, according to results of the 2015 Successful Schools Survey.

More than 6,000 parents and guardians across the school district participated in the survey in February, sharing their views on their children's schools. The survey is the first of what will become an annual school climate survey.

"I want to thank PPS families for the high level of participation in the Successful Schools Survey," said Superintendent Carole Smith. "We are fortunate to have a strong community of parents and guardians dedicated to the success of their students."

Conducted online and through paper copies available at schools in six languages, the survey was hosted by Oregon's Kitchen Table, a program of Portland State University's College of Urban and Public Affairs.

DHM Research analyzed the results and highlighted the following findings:

- "This school is a safe place for my child." 91% of survey responders agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.
- "This school has someone I can contact if I have questions or concerns." 90% agreed or strongly agreed.
- "This school keeps me well informed about school activities." 88% agreed or strongly agreed.

Parents and guardians also gave schools high ratings on the following statements:

- "This school is an inviting place for students to learn." (88%)
- "This school promotes academic success for all students." (88%)
- "This school has a welcoming front office." (86%)
- "My child's teachers effectively support my child's learning needs." (86%)
- "This school communicates the importance of respecting all cultural beliefs and practices." (85%)

PPS school administrators, teachers and support staff received high ratings from parents. Roughly 80 percent of parents said that the teachers, the principal and the staff treated parents and students with respect. And schools received favorable marks for their communication with families:

- "This school keeps me well-informed about my child's progress." (83%)
- "My child's teachers and principals show me specific ways to be an active partner in educating my child." (76%)

PPS parents and guardians expressed the most concern about harassment and bullying, student lunchtime and nutrition, lack of physical activity, and awareness and involvement with the district's racial and equity work.

DHM Research found the lowest agreement with the following statements:

- "This school provides students with healthy food choices." Only 58% of survey responders agreed.
- "This school provides enough time for my child to eat lunch." Only 52% agreed.
- "This school has informed me about racial/equity work in the district." Only 50% agreed.
- "This school has given me the opportunity to participate in racial/equity work." Only 42% agreed.
- "Does your child get enough physical activity at school?" Only 52% said most of the time or all of the time.

In other findings:

- A majority of the parents who participated in the survey (71%) said they were largely comfortable with the amount of standardized testing in their child's school.
- A majority of parents and guardians (57%) indicated that harassment or bullying was a large, somewhat or small concern at their child's school.
- Parents and guardians of Historically Underserved ethnic groups were more likely (40%) to consider harassment or bullying "somewhat or a large issue" compared to their non-Historically Underserved ethnic group counterparts (23%).

View Successful Schools Survey results at www.pps.net. School-by-school results expected in August; staff and student results coming soon.