

# District Accountability Committee

## 2010 School Community Satisfaction Survey

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### **Background**

In spring of 2010, the Aspen School District Accountability Committee updated and disseminated a community satisfaction survey.

The goals of this survey were to obtain current opinions regarding the strengths and areas in need of improvement for the Aspen School District. The survey encompassed topics regarding: overall satisfaction, specific school functioning, the school calendar, the board of education, and academic and non-academic programming.

The survey initiative was launched by the District Accountability Committee (DAC), a District-sponsored organization composed of parents, faculty, and community representatives.

### **Survey Execution**

- The survey was administered online and parents were given the opportunity to take it during spring parent teacher conferences.
- The survey was translated into Spanish and administered to parents in the fall of 2010.
- Surveys were available in paper format if needed.
- The survey was administered over an eight week period from 4/9/10-6/4/10.
- Information regarding this survey was disseminated on the district website, from the superintendent to the community through a “blast” e-mail, and through the building principals.
- Participants were allowed to answer questions about individual schools in order to provide opinions about various situations in those schools.
- Surveys were completed by 249 participants: 233 parents/guardians, 3 students, 20 teachers, 7 non-teaching staff, 3 district administrators, 8 community members, and 5 others (substitutes & volunteers) (note: respondent groups total more than survey number, as some respondents fit more than one category, such as teacher *and* parent).

### **Survey Weaknesses**

- Not all parents were instructed about the survey during parent-teacher conferences, so the capture rate was lower than originally anticipated.
- Students were not provided time during their school day to complete the survey, so there is minimal student input on this survey. However, through the ENDS monitoring process for “E-4: Citizenship,” students provide input regarding their satisfaction with their school and district.
- The vast majority of respondents were parents, so the results largely represent the opinions of the district’s parent population.

- There was an inadvertent omission of a question regarding the satisfaction of the PE program at the elementary school.

**Respondent Statistics**

The results of this survey represent approximately 20% of the population of each school building: 77 respondents from the high school, 124 from the middle school and 94 from the elementary school, and 27 from the Aspen Community School.

Equal representation of respondents with students from various buildings

Respondents appear to be very involved, with 74% of respondents reported that they volunteered at the school in some form and 21% stating that they had volunteered more than 11 hours during the past two months.

The results from the preschool were not analyzed, as the sample size was not statistically significant.

**Satisfaction Ratings**

Overall, the School District received relatively high ratings on its performance. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of the respondents rated the school as good or outstanding for its performance in educating our community’s children. Only 1% rated the school district as poor, and zero respondents rated the School District as unacceptable.

Similarly, the school board and superintendent received relatively high marks, with 60% of respondents ranking the board good to outstanding and 6% ranking them poor to unacceptable. The superintendent was ranked as 71% good or outstanding and 5% poor or unacceptable.

This survey included questions regarding the satisfaction with the current district calendar and whether or not the community would be open to moving to a more “year round” schooling atmosphere. Sixty-four percent (64%) of respondents indicated that they think the current calendar meets their needs, while 44% appear open to the concept of changing the calendar.

**Culture and Climate**

Culture and Climate of the Aspen Schools received consistently high rankings, with respondents indicating that they felt comfortable and welcomed in the school environments.

I feel comfortable and welcomed at school	
HS	90%
MS	95%
ES	95%
ACS	97%

## High School

The high school received relatively high rankings for academic programming related to math and science, IB and experiential education. There was less satisfaction with PE and foreign language.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
The Aspen High School challenges students to reach their individual academic/intellectual potential	81%	16%	3%
I am satisfied with the reading curriculum at Aspen High School	77%	12%	11%
I am satisfied with the writing curriculum at Aspen High School	79%	12%	9%
I am satisfied with the math curriculum at Aspen High School	80%	15%	5%
I am satisfied with the science curriculum at Aspen High School	92%	4%	4%
I am satisfied with the social studies curriculum at Aspen High School	84%	8%	8%
I am satisfied with the P.E./Wellness curriculum at Aspen High School	65%	11%	24%
I am satisfied with the music curriculum at Aspen High School	35%	9%	56%*
I believe the Aspen High School IB program gives students the tools they need to be successful in higher education	75%	13%	12%
I am satisfied with the experiential education curriculum at Aspen High	85%	10%	5%
I am satisfied with the foreign language curriculum at Aspen High School	68%	24%	8%

\*Please note the high percent of unsure responses is due to a large percent of students not participating in this program.

Consumer satisfaction with college counseling supports ranked high as well, with 86% of respondents agreeing that Aspen High School provides students with appropriate college/career counseling.

An area of need appears to be related to how teachers modify their teaching style/curriculum to fit students' individual needs, with 50% of respondents agreeing and 43% disagreeing that this consistently occurs.

In addition, respondents appeared unsure about how clubs operated and there was a lack of awareness of these programs overall.

### *Common Areas of Excellence:*

The relationship between adults and students allows for a positive and challenging learning environment.

The Experiential Education program exposes the students to classroom material, the outdoors, and helps them understand their role in the world.

The teachers and administrators really care, and the kids know that.

*Common Areas for Improvement:*

Increased instructional accommodations for students who don't fit into a traditional or IB classroom.

Students exiting the IB foreign language program should be proficient in speaking the language.

**Middle School**

The middle school received strong overall ratings for academics, fine arts and outdoor education. There was less satisfaction among respondents with music and foreign language.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
The Aspen Middle School challenges students to reach their individual academic/intellectual potential	86%	14%	0%
I am satisfied with the reading curriculum at Aspen Middle School	86%	12%	2%
I am satisfied with the writing curriculum at Aspen Middle School	84%	14%	2%
I am satisfied with the math curriculum at Aspen Middle School	89%	10%	1%
I am satisfied with the science curriculum at Aspen Middle School	89%	9%	2%
I am satisfied with the social studies curriculum at Aspen Middle School	93%	5%	2%
I am satisfied with the P.E./Wellness curriculum at Aspen Middle School	80%	13%	7%
I am satisfied with the music curriculum at Aspen Middle School	68%	17%	15%
I am satisfied with the outdoor education curriculum at Aspen Middle School	93%	6%	1%
I am satisfied with the foreign language curriculum at Aspen Middle School	68%	28%	4%
I am satisfied with the fine arts curriculum at Aspen Middle School	76%	9%	15%

In addition, a relative area of strength appears to be that 77% of respondents report that Aspen Middle School teachers modify their teaching style/curriculum to fit students' individual needs, while 16% disagree with this statement.

*Common Areas of Excellence:*

The entire staff really understands and "gets" middle schoolers.

There is a wide array of educational opportunities and a great mix of academics and social activities.

The overall feeling is friendly and engaging, which leads to interpersonal success as well as academic achievement.

Outdoor education is a phenomenal experience for children.

*Common Areas for Improvement:*

There should be increased time in foreign language classes to practice speaking in addition to writing.

Integrate music more fully into the day in addition to early morning practices.

**Elementary School**

The elementary school received overall positive ratings in the areas of academics, fine arts, music, and outdoor education. Areas receiving relatively lower rankings were foreign language, social studies and science.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
The Aspen Elementary School challenges students to reach their individual academic/intellectual potential	83%	14%	3%
I am satisfied with the reading curriculum at Aspen Elementary School	88%	10%	2%
I am satisfied with the writing curriculum at Aspen Elementary School	87%	10%	3%
I am satisfied with the math curriculum at Aspen Elementary School	87%	10%	3%
I am satisfied with the science curriculum at Aspen Elementary School	79%	14%	7%
I am satisfied with the social studies curriculum at Aspen Elementary School	78%	8%	14%
I am satisfied with the music curriculum at Aspen Elementary School	80%	14%	6%
I am satisfied with the outdoor education curriculum at Aspen Elementary School	92%	4%	4%
I am satisfied with the foreign language curriculum at Aspen Elementary School	70%	25%	5%
I am satisfied with the fine arts curriculum at Aspen Elementary School	82%	8%	10%

An additional area of strength appears to be that 77% of respondents report that Aspen Elementary School teachers modify their teaching style/curriculum to fit students' individual needs, while 11% disagree with this statement.

In addition, 87% of respondents agreed that the school newsletters, teacher newsletters and website are effective in keeping them informed.

*Common Areas of Excellence:*

The teachers really care and are able to help each student excel individually.

Outstanding outdoor education program.

Feeling of community among teachers, staff and families creates an excellent environment for students.

*Common Areas for Improvement:*

Increased opportunities for students who are advanced in academic areas to keep up with their advanced skills.

Spanish more than once every six days.

**Aspen Community School**

The Aspen Community School received high rankings in the areas of academics, fine arts, performing arts, music and outdoor education. The main area respondents identified as in need of improvement was the physical design of the school.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
The Aspen Community School challenges students to reach their individual academic/intellectual potential	90%	3%	7%
I am satisfied with the reading curriculum at Aspen Community School	87%	10%	3%
I am satisfied with the writing curriculum at Aspen Community School	90%	7%	3%
I am satisfied with the math curriculum at Aspen Community School	87%	10%	3%
I am satisfied with the fine arts curriculum at Aspen Community School	93%	3%	3%
I am satisfied with the music curriculum at Aspen Community School	86%	7%	7%
I am satisfied with the outdoor education curriculum at Aspen Community School	88%	3%	9%
I am satisfied with the performing arts curriculum at Aspen Community School	90%	3%	7%

In addition, 86% of respondents report that Aspen Elementary School teachers modify their teaching style/curriculum to fit students' individual needs.

Twenty-four percent of respondents disagreed that the design of the school contributes to student learning.

*Noted Commendation Comments:*

Staff treats each child as though he/she is special.

Strong emphasis on music, art and experiential learning balances out the more rigorous math, reading and writing.

The school responds to the entire spectrum of a child's needs and to the individual child's way of learning.

*Noted Improvement Comments:*

The facilities need to be upgraded with attention to the inherent character of the school that is so appealing.

**Recommendations**

- Provide education to the community regarding a year round school calendar and further explore their willingness to proceed.
- Explore the practices and curriculum scope and sequence related to foreign languages.