



## MEMORANDUM

**Memo No. 18-104**

**TO:** Trustees  
Student Trustees

**FROM:** Jennifer Adams, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board  
Michèle Giroux, Executive Officer, Corporate Services

**DATE:** 22 June 2018

**RE:** **2017-2018 School Climate Parent Survey - District Report**

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Between April 19 and May 22, 2018, all OCDSB schools conducted the Parent Survey, a school climate survey of all parents/guardians of students enrolled in the OCDSB. The information gathered from these surveys assists schools in developing strategies to prevent bullying and to promote safe and inclusive schools for all students.

The District level report is available on the District website and can be used to assist schools in the interpretation of their school level results. Some highlights of this year's District level results, in relation to previous years' results, are presented on the following pages.

### **Background**

In the spring of 2017-2018, parents/guardians of students in all OCDSB schools were invited to participate in the School Climate Parent Survey. This survey was created by The Learning Bar and is based on Joyce Epstein's research on encouraging positive relationships between home and school. In this survey, parents were provided with the opportunity to share their perspective on their own experiences, as well as those of their child(ren), at school.

## Highlights of District Results

Highlighted below are some of the key findings for the District. District results from the two previously administered parent surveys (i.e., 2013-2014; 2015-2016, respectively) are included for comparison:

Measure	Parent Survey		
	2013-2014 (n = 5,112)	2015-2016 (n = 8,843)	2017-2018 (n= 7,642)
Parents Feel Welcome	7.3	7.2	7.3
Parents are Informed	6.7	6.4	6.5
Parents Support Learning at Home	6.6	6.5	6.4
School Supports Learning	7.2	7.0	6.9
School Supports Positive Behaviour	7.1	7.0	7.0
Safe School	7.6	7.6	7.4
Inclusive School	6.5	6.4	6.4

Note: Parents were asked to rate how much they agreed with a series of statements (on a 5-pt scale from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”) and these ratings were converted to a 10-point scale. The above data represent an average score out of 10 for each domain. To aid in interpreting these average scores: 0 = “strongly disagree”, 2.5 = “disagree”, 5 = “neutral”, 7.5 = “agree”, and 10 = “strongly agree”.

## District Results to Consider

The number of parents/guardians who responded to the survey in 2017-2018 was 7,642 compared to 8,843 in 2015-2016. The response rate has decreased from 14% to 10.5%.

On average, parent ratings for each of the measures fell between “neutral” and “agree”, and were not substantively different from those observed in previous years.

The results of the parent survey suggest *school safety* continues to be an area of strength for the District. Within this category, however, dealing with behavioural issues in a timely manner is an area that may warrant some attention. Further, while parents generally reported feeling welcome at their child’s school, they were less likely to report that parents activities are scheduled at times when they are able to attend. In fact, the District-added custom questions suggest that of the parents who responded to the survey, the factors that most limit their ability to attend school or district events are lack

of time (33% of respondents) and inability to attend events during the day (28% of respondents).

The areas that received the lowest ratings included: *parents supporting learning at home*, the school providing an *inclusive environment*, and *parents being informed*. Within each of these main categories, parents were less likely to report discussing how well their child is doing in their courses, talk about how important schoolwork is, being informed about opportunities concerning their child's future, and being informed about their child's social and emotional development. Over 40% of parents who responded to the survey indicated that e-mail is their preferred method of communication from the school about events, activities and initiatives, whereas 20% indicated that notices in their child's backpack was also appreciated.

The full District report has been provided as an attachment to this memo and is also available on the District website.

### **Important Considerations for Interpreting Results**

It is important to remember that the District-level report is based on 10% of the parent population. While the perspectives of those that took the time to provide feedback and input is important to consider in targeting next steps for action, they may or may not be representative of the entire parent population that we serve. Further, due to the anonymous nature of the survey and the survey questions posed, it is not possible to determine whose voices may be missing. As a result, it is best to use this information in combination with other data/information in order to get a fulsome picture of perceptions of school climate and safety.

Please do not hesitate to contact Michèle Giroux, Executive Officer, Corporate Services if you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the content.

Attach.

cc     Senior Staff  
       Katrine Mallan, Manager Board Services  
       Corporate Records