

Parents appear to be happier with Austin schools

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Now it's time for the schools to get graded.

Parents are satisfied with Austin Public Schools' communication and academics, according to the results of a survey conducted among students' parents in February.

According to Superintendent Candace Raskin, 1,284 surveys were distributed to parents during parent/teacher conferences. The surveys were anonymous and rated the satisfaction level of communication between parents and the student's school; the school's effort to keep parents informed about their child's learning; academics and school environment; and opportunities for extracurricular activities.

Results showed more than a 10 percent increase in satisfaction over a survey conducted last year on many of the same areas.

Raskin said she is pleased with the results.

A similar survey completed last year by parents and community members showed about 70 percent were satisfied with curriculum decisions and 80 percent were satisfied with the communication they received from schools.

Those surveys were conducted by the **Improve Group of Bloomington, Minn.**, for the purpose of using the results to assist in forming a long-range strategic plan for the district.

Communication between parents and school

93 percent: Very satisfied/Satisfied
4 percent: Neutral
2.4 percent: Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied
2 percent: Don't Know

School's effort to keep parents informed about your student's learning

90.1 percent: Very satisfied/Satisfied
6.5 percent: Neutral
3.2 percent: Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied
0.2 percent: Don't Know

Student academics

91.2 percent: Very satisfied/Satisfied
4.4 percent: Neutral
3.4 percent: Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied
0.9 percent: Don't Know

Student's school environment

91.2 percent: Very satisfied/Satisfied
5.5 percent: Neutral
2.9 percent: Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied
0.5 percent: Don't Know

Student opportunities for extracurricular activities

84.6 percent: Very satisfied/Satisfied
10.3 percent: Neutral
2.6 percent: Dissatisfied/Very Dissatisfied
2.4 percent: Don't Know