

## EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Subcommittee: Academic Standards and Assessment

Date: June 10, 2013

### INFORMATION

**Results of the 2012 Parent Survey**

#### PURPOSE/AUTHORITY

Section 59-28-190 of the Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act requires the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) to "survey parents to determine if state and local efforts are effective in increasing parental involvement." In addition Section 59-18-900 of the Education Accountability Act (EAA) requires that the annual school report cards include "evaluations of the school by parents, teachers, and students" as performance indicators to evaluate schools. The tool that has been adopted by the EOC and administered by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to meet these statutory requirements is the annual parent survey.

#### CRITICAL FACTS

The parent survey was commissioned by the EOC and designed by the Institute for Families in Society at the University of South Carolina in 2001. The survey is designed to determine parent perceptions of their child's school and to evaluate the effectiveness of state and local parental involvement programs. Since 2002 the South Carolina Department of Education has annually administered the survey, and the EOC has provided an annual review of the survey results. The attached report reflects the results of the 2012 administration of the parent survey.

#### TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

Study began in March 2013 and completed in May 2013

#### ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR EOC

**Cost:** No fiscal impact beyond current appropriations

**Fund/Source:**

#### ACTION REQUEST

For approval

For information

Approved

#### ACTION TAKEN

Amended

Not Approved

Action deferred (explain)

2013

# Results of the 2012 Parent Survey



**SC EDUCATION  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**



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## **Acknowledgements**

The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) acknowledges the ongoing assistance of Cynthia Hearn of the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) in providing data files, timely updates and important information on the annual administration of the parent survey. The EOC also appreciates the parents who took the time to complete and return the annual parent survey, because their perspective is critical in evaluating public schools. And, the EOC is also grateful for principals and administrators who encouraged parental participation in the survey and who oversaw the administration of the survey.



## Executive Summary

**Background:** The parent survey was designed in 2001 to meet the requirements of the Education Accountability Act (EAA) and the Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act. Section 59-18-900 of the EAA requires that the annual school report card include "evaluations of the school by parents, teachers, and students" as performance indicators to evaluate schools. In addition Section 59-28-190 of the Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act requires the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) to "survey parents to determine if state and local efforts are effective in increasing parental involvement." The tool that has been adopted by the EOC and administered by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to meet these statutory requirements is the annual parent survey.

Since 2002 the SCDE has administered the parent survey to a sample of parents whose children attended public schools in South Carolina. The parents of students in the highest grade at all elementary, middle and high schools are surveyed. In high schools and career centers, parents of all 11<sup>th</sup> graders are surveyed. In schools with a grade configuration that spans multiple levels, parents of children in multiple grades are surveyed. For example, in a school with a grade span of grades 6 through 10, parents of children in grades 8 and 10 are surveyed. For parents in schools with a grade span of K-12, parents of children in grades 5, 8 and 11 are surveyed. Parents in schools containing grades 2 or lower (K-1, K-2, and 1-2 configurations) are not surveyed. Annually, the EOC has analyzed the results of the parent survey and issued reports. The reports are online at [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov).

**Survey Responses:** In 2012 the number of parent surveys completed and returned totaled 69,581, a decline of 4,174 surveys or 5.7 percent from the prior year. Between 38 and 44 percent of all eligible parents surveyed responded to the 2012 parent survey. In 2012 there were no changes in the administration of the parent survey. As in the prior year, there were no parent surveys printed in Spanish made available to parents by the South Carolina Department of Education. In 2012 the percentage of parents who completed the survey who identified themselves as Hispanic was 5.1 percent as compared to 4.6 percent in 2011 and 5.0 percent in 2010.

An analysis of the respondents to the 2012 parent survey concluded that the survey responses typically overrepresented the perceptions of parents who had children in elementary schools and underrepresented the perceptions of parents who had

children in high school. Furthermore, the respondents typically obtained higher educational achievements and had greater median household incomes than the general population of South Carolina. As in prior years, the “typical” parent responding to the survey was a white female having attended or graduated from college and having a household income of greater than \$35,000. Furthermore, when compared to the enrollment of students in public schools, parents of African American students were underrepresented in the responses.

The data documented that the parent survey responses were generally representative, within one percentage point, of the percentage of students enrolled in schools by their absolute rating. Nine percent of the parents who responded to the survey had children attending schools with an absolute rating of Below Average or At Risk, the same percentage as the number of students who were enrolled in a school with an absolute rating of Below Average or At Risk in school year 2011-12. On the other hand, sixty-one percent of the parents who responded to the survey had children attending schools with an absolute rating of Good or Excellent, the same percentage as the number of students who were enrolled in a school with an absolute rating of Good or Excellent in school year 2011-12.

2012 Absolute Rating	% of Students Enrolled in School 2011-12	% of Parents Responding to 2012 Survey
Excellent	39%	38%
Good	22%	23%
Average	30%	31%
Below Average	5%	6%
At Risk	4%	3%

**Parent Survey Results:** Despite a 5.7 percent decline in the number of parents responding to the annual parent survey, the results of the 2012 parent survey demonstrate that parent satisfaction levels with the three characteristics measured - the learning environment, home and school relations and social and physical environment of their child’s school—were consistent with the prior year’s results. Significant changes are estimated as an annual increase or decrease of three or more percent. Satisfaction is defined as the percentage of parents who agreed or strongly agreed that they were

satisfied with the learning environment, home and school relations, and social and physical environment of their child's school.

**Percentage of Parents Satisfied with:**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Annual Increase or Decrease</b>
Learning Environment	<b>87.2</b>	<b>84.3</b>	85.9	<b>2.9</b>
Home and School Relations	<b>82.9</b>	<b>80.2</b>	81.9	<b>2.7</b>
Social and Physical Environment	<b>84.1</b>	<b>82.4</b>	83.2	<b>1.7</b>

When comparing parent satisfaction in 2012 with parent satisfaction over the most recent three-year period, there were no significant increases in parent satisfaction levels.

**Percentage of Parents Satisfied with:**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Mean % (2009-2011)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Learning Environment	<b>87.2</b>	85.2	2.0
Home and School Relations	<b>82.9</b>	81.2	1.7
Social and Physical Environment	<b>84.1</b>	82.8	1.3

Parents who completed the survey in 2012 were overwhelmingly more positive about the learning environment of their child's school than in 2011 when responding to the following three questions:

**Percentage of Parents who Agree or Strongly Agree to:**

<b>Learning Environment Questions</b>	<b>2012</b>	2011	<b>Difference</b>
My child's teachers give homework that helps my child learn.	<b>89.9</b>	86.7	<b>3.2</b>
My child's teachers encourage my child to learn.	<b>91.8</b>	88.7	<b>3.1</b>
My child's teachers provide extra help when my child needs it.	<b>81.9</b>	78.7	<b>3.2</b>

Parental satisfaction, the percentage of parents agreeing or strongly agreeing, generally declined as the absolute rating of the school declines. The largest difference in parental satisfaction between the highest and lowest performing schools was in parent perception of the social and physical environment of their child's school, followed by the learning environment.

**Percentage of Parents whose Child Attends an Excellent or At-Risk School, Satisfied with:**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Excellent Schools</b>	<b>At-Risk Schools</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Learning Environment	<b>90.5</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Home and School Relations	<b>85.5</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Social and Physical Environment	<b>88.2</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>

Parents whose child attended a school with an absolute rating of Below Average were less satisfied with the learning environment and home and school relations at their child's school than parents whose child attended a school with an absolute rating of At Risk.

**Percentage of Parents whose Child Attends a Below Average or At-Risk School,  
Satisfied with:**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Below Average Schools</b>	<b>At-Risk Schools</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Learning Environment	<b>80.7</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>
Home and School Relations	<b>79.5</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>(2.6)</b>
Social and Physical Environment	<b>77.8</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>

Parents who responded to the 2012 annual survey reported comparable levels of parental involvement as in other years and identified work schedules as their greatest obstacle to involvement.

**Parents Report Obstacles to Parental Involvement in 2012**

Work Schedule	53.8%
Lack of timely notification of volunteer opportunities	23.5%
School does not encourage involvement	15.7%
Lack of child or adult care services	14.7%
Family and health problems	14.4%
Transportation	11.6%
Involvement not appreciated	10.6%

As in prior years, the inclusion of parents in school decisions and the development of parent leaders and representatives fall below the ideal. Opportunities for improving communication between parents and teachers also continue to exist.

Interest in the association between responses to the surveys and school achievement levels as measured by the absolute ratings (or index) has been rekindled by the proceedings conducted to date of the cyclical review of the accountability system. In this process the usage of parent and student surveys as a part of the accountability system in other states has been studied, and interest in utilizing the opinions of parents and students as elements of school ratings has been expressed by three focus groups.

**Analysis of Parent, Student and Teacher Surveys:** This investigation examined the relationship of the responses to these surveys with the absolute index at the item or question level. It was conducted: (1) to determine which of the items or questions

presented on each survey were related to the absolute index of the school, and (2) to identify the commonalities in the items across surveys that were highly related to the absolute index.

The analyses found that the best predictor of the absolute index of the school was found when all questions on the surveys were analyzed with no constraint that the same predictors be used for elementary, middle and high schools. However, when additional analysis was performed that required the same items to be used as a predictor in two of the three school types, the results showed that for the parent and teacher surveys, there was only a slight decline in predictability. Student surveys administered in elementary and middle schools were significantly less predictable while student surveys administered to high school students were just as predictive as the parent and teacher surveys. The implication is that the same predictive items could be included on the parent and teacher surveys; however, student surveys would need to be adjusted to reflect the school type.

Finally, there were communalities among the surveys that were predictive of the absolute index of schools:

- For parents and students, items related to high expectations for student learning;
- For parents and teachers, items related to student behavior;
- For parents and teachers, items related to parent participation in school activities; and
- A parent item that indicates they are invited to their child's classroom as is a teacher item that indicates that parents attend conferences when requested.



## PART ONE

### Administration of the 2012 Parent Survey

The design and sampling methodology for the parent survey were established in 2001. The EOC contracted with the Institute of Families in Society at the University of South Carolina to design the survey and to recommend a medium for distributing the survey. To maintain complete anonymity and to maximize the return rate, the Institute recommended that the survey be mailed to a sample of parents along with a postage paid, return envelope. While the sampling methodology proposed by the Institute was implemented, the parent survey has never been mailed to parents due to budgetary restrictions. Instead, schools have been given the responsibility for distributing and collecting the forms. Generally, schools send the surveys home with students. Some schools have held parent meetings or special meetings at school during which the surveys were distributed.

Rather than surveying all parents of public school students, the parents of students in the highest grade at all elementary, middle and high schools are surveyed. In high schools and career centers, parents of all 11<sup>th</sup> graders are surveyed. In schools with a grade configuration that spans multiple levels, parents of children in multiple grades are surveyed. For example, in a school with a grade span of grades 6 through 10, parents of children in grades 8 and 10 are surveyed. For parents in schools with a grade span of K-12, parents of children in grades 5, 8 and 11 are surveyed. Parents in schools containing grades 2 or lower, which include primary schools, child development schools and schools with configurations like K, K-1, and K-2 are not surveyed. The parent survey is typically administered during the second semester of each school year. Appendix A provides the instructions used by schools in 2012 to administer the parent as well as student and teacher surveys.

As in 2011, there were no parent surveys printed in Spanish. A copy of the 2012 survey is in the appendix. The 2012 administration of the parent survey occurred over the following time period and involved the following actions.

March 16, 2012	All schools received survey forms.
April 18, 2012	Date for parent survey forms returned to school.
April 25, 2012	Last day for schools to mail completed forms to contractor.

A school survey coordinator, a staff person designated by the school principal, distributed and collected the parent surveys at each school according to instructions provided by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). According to SCDE, an independent contractor hired by the agency to mail to each school the following:

- ✓ An administrative envelope containing;
  1. A letter to the principal from the Education Oversight Committee (EOC),
  2. Two sets of instructions for administering the surveys,
  3. A page of shipping instructions, and
  4. One pre-addressed, bar-coded UPS shipping label (used to return completed surveys to contractor, freight prepaid).

- ✓ Parent survey envelopes. Each envelope contains a letter from the State Superintendent of Education and a parent survey form.
- ✓ Student survey forms.<sup>1</sup>

The name of each school was printed on the survey forms to assist parents who were completing surveys for multiple schools. Schools were also advised to “distribute the parent surveys as soon as possible” after delivery. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2007-08, SCDE entered into a five-year contract with a vendor to print, ship, process and scan the parent survey with the annual costs the same each year.<sup>2</sup> The annual costs of printing, shipping, processing and scanning the parent surveys are approximately \$54,000.

Each school’s designated survey coordinator then distributed envelopes containing the parent survey and letter from the state Superintendent of Education to each classroom teacher within the designated grade being surveyed. Teachers gave each student an envelope and instructions to take the envelope home for their parents to complete and then return the completed survey to school in the sealed envelope. The envelopes were designed to maintain the confidentiality and anonymity of all parents. Parents were given the option of mailing the completed survey directly to SCDE with parents incurring the cost of the mailing or of returning the survey to the school. The school survey coordinator was expressly advised that mailing of the envelopes directly to the parents was allowed with all costs to be borne by the school. Information did not exist to document if any schools mailed the parent surveys to parents.

As in the prior year, the 2012 instructions contained the following special note that cautions schools against implementing policies that would create disincentives for parents who opt to mail in their survey responses:

**SPECIAL NOTE:** We appreciate that schools work diligently each year to encourage parents to complete and return the parent surveys. Some schools offer incentives such as ice cream treats or extra recess time to individual students or classes where all students have returned completed parent surveys. Each year parents call the Department to inform us that their child is upset that he/she cannot return the parent survey form to school and receive the special incentive because the parent wants to mail the survey form to the Department. Parents have the option to mail in the survey form, so we would encourage you to not penalize students whose parents’ mail in their completed survey form.<sup>3</sup>

Upon receiving the completed parent surveys, the school survey coordinator then mailed the forms to the independent contractor for scanning and preparation of the data files. Individual school results were tabulated by SCDE. The overall parent satisfaction scores of three questions relating to the school’s overall learning environment, home and school relations, and social and physical environment were printed on the 2012 annual school report cards. For each school, SCDE aggregated the responses to all survey questions and provided the data files to the district office.

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<sup>1</sup> “Administration of the 2012 Report Card Surveys,” South Carolina Department of Education.

<sup>2</sup> Cynthia Hearn, e-mail message to Melanie Barton, February 4, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> “Administration of the 2012 Report Card Surveys,” South Carolina Department of Education.

As in prior years, the 2012 parent survey contained a total of fifty-four questions. Forty-six questions were designed to elicit information on parental perceptions and parental involvement patterns. For the first twenty-one questions, parents were asked to respond to individual statements using one of the following responses: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree or Don't Know. These twenty-one questions focused on three key components: learning environment, home and school relations, and the physical and social environment of their child's school. These components and individual activities reflect the framework devised by Dr. Joyce Epstein of the National Network of Partnership Schools.

The remaining questions on the survey addressed parental involvement activities and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. Parents were asked about their participation in various parental involvement activities both in and outside of the school. Parents were also asked to determine from a list of responses potential barriers to their involvement in their child's education. Finally, parents were asked to provide specific information about themselves, their child, and their household. Parents were asked four questions about their child: their child's grade in school, gender, race/ethnicity, and grades on his or her last report card. Four questions sought information about the parent: his or her gender, race/ethnicity, highest level of education and total yearly household income.



## PART TWO

### Respondents of the 2012 Parent Survey

The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) in 2011 issued the seventh edition of *Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys*. The AAPOR notes that there are mixed mode surveys that “can consist of surveys in which there are separate samples which are conducted with different modes, a unified sample in which multiple modes are used for individual cases (e.g. in address-based samples employing both in-person and postal approaches to obtain responses), or a combination of both...However, for calculating outcome rates many of the detailed, mode-specific disposition codes are irrelevant. They can be collapsed into the major categories used in the outcome formulas used in *Standard Definitions*.”<sup>4</sup> Therefore, as in prior years, the response rate for the parent survey is calculated accordingly:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Numerator:} & \text{Complete surveys + Partial Surveys} \\ \text{Denominator:} & \text{(Completed + Partial Surveys Returned)} \\ & + \\ & \text{(Non-Returned Surveys) + (Estimate of proportion surveys of} \\ & \text{unknown eligibility that are eligible)} \end{array}$$

According to Instructional Assessment Resources at the University of Texas, acceptable response rates vary by the method of distribution:

- Mail: 50% adequate, 60% good, 70% very good
- Phone: 80% good
- Email: 40% average, 50% good, 60% very good
- Online: 30% average
- Classroom paper: > 50% = good
- Face-to-face: 80-85% good<sup>5</sup>

Distribution of the South Carolina parent survey does not fall within any of the above media for distribution. Consequently, two methods were developed to analyze the response rate for the 2012 parent survey to determine the percentage of eligible parents who completed and returned a parent survey.

One method is to compare the number of surveys mailed to schools with the number of completed surveys returned. According to SCDE, a total of 185,006 parent surveys were mailed to 1,150 schools for distribution. The schools included elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, career centers, charter schools, and schools in the South Carolina Public Charter School District as well as the following special schools:

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<sup>4</sup> The American Association for Public Opinion Research. 2011. *Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys*. 7<sup>th</sup> edition. AAPOR., p. 39.

<sup>5</sup> Instructional Assessment Resources. University of Texas at Austin, 21 September 2011.  
<<http://www.utexas.edu/academic/ctl/assessment/iar/teaching/gather/method/survey-Response.php>>.

- Felton Laboratory School
- John de la Howe School
- Wil Lou Gray School
- School for the Deaf and the Blind
- Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics
- Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities

Schools containing grades 2 or lower were not included in the survey. This first method inflates the sample size because schools requested and received extra copies of the parent survey for parents who enrolled children in the second semester or who lost their original form.

A second method is to estimate the unknown eligibility of surveys by using the statewide 135-day average daily membership of all students in grades 5, 8 and 11 in school year 2011-12 as the sample size. On the 45<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> and 135<sup>th</sup> days of school, school districts report each student by grade and by a pupil classification system prescribed in the Education Finance Act. In school year 2011-12 the 135-day average daily membership for grades 5, 8 and 11 rounded to the nearest student totaled 157,523.<sup>6</sup> This method underestimates the number of parents surveyed. The parents of some 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students also complete the survey because some schools have a grade configuration that spans multiple levels or these schools represent the highest grade level in the school.

As reflected in Table 1, the total number of parent surveys returned in 2012 decreased by 5.7 percent or 4,174 over the number returned in the prior year.

**Table 1**  
**Total Number of Parent Surveys Returned**

<b>2012</b>	<b>69,581</b>
2011	73,755
2010	69,474
2009	67,014
2008	68,761
2007	64,596
2006	69,495
2005	66,895
2004	66,283
2003	64,732
2002	55,864

Using the two methods of determining response rates and the total number of parent surveys returned, two response rates were calculated in Table 2. Between 38 and 44 percent of all eligible parents surveyed responded to the 2012 parent survey. In the prior year, 2011, using the same two methodologies, the response rate was between 40 and 47 percent. Compared to IAR’s definitions of acceptable response rates for email and

<sup>6</sup> “SC 135-Day Average Daily Membership by Grade, by District, 2011-12,” South Carolina Department of Education. < <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/cfo/finance/Fiscal-Systems/DME12135.txt>>.

online surveys, the response rate to the 2012 parent survey should be considered average. According to IAR, “generally, the better your respondents know you, the better your response rate. Respondents who you know by name or have regular contact with will be more likely to respond to your survey than respondents you do not know.”

**Table 2**  
**Determining the Response Rate**

	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Surveys Returned</b>	<b>Response Rate</b>
Method 1: Surveys Distributed	185,006	69,581	37.6%
Method 2: ADM of 5, 8 and 11 <sup>th</sup> grades	157,523	69,581	44.2%

Parents completing the survey were asked four questions about their child:

1. What grade is your child in? (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>)
2. What is your child’s gender?
3. What is your child’s race/ethnicity?
4. What grades did your child receive on his/her last report card?

Parents were asked another set of four questions about themselves and their family:

1. What is your gender?
2. What is your race/ethnic group?
3. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
  - Attended elementary/high school
  - Completed high school/GED
  - Earned associate degree
  - Attended college/training program
  - Earned college degree
  - Postgraduate study/and/or degree
4. What is your family’s total yearly household income?
  - Less than \$15,000
  - \$15,000 - \$24,999
  - \$25,000 - \$34,999
  - \$35,000 - \$54,999
  - \$55,000 - \$75,000
  - More than \$75,000

Responses to these eight questions revealed the following about the parents who completed the 2012 parent survey. As in prior years, the “typical” parent responding to the survey was a white female having attended or graduated from college. Over 57 percent of the respondents who answered the question about income reported earning over \$35,000.

In 2012 the percentage of parents who completed the survey who identified themselves as Hispanic was 5.1 percent as compared to 4.6 percent in 2011 and 5.0 percent in 2010.

**Table 3**  
**Respondents to the 2012 Parent Survey**  
**(n=69,581)**

Gender

Male	<b>14.4%</b>
Female	<b>85.6%</b>

Race

African-American	<b>32.1%</b>
Caucasian/white	<b>58.9%</b>
Hispanic	<b>5.0%</b>
All Other	<b>4.0%</b>

Education

Attended elementary/high school	<b>11.0%</b>
Completed high school/GED	<b>23.7%</b>
Earned Associate Degree	<b>10.5%</b>
Attended college/training program	<b>21.9%</b>
Earned college degree	<b>21.0%</b>
Postgraduate study/and/or degree	<b>11.9%</b>

Household Income

Less than \$15,000	<b>14.5%</b>
\$15,000 - \$24,999	<b>14.2%</b>
\$25,000 - \$34,999	<b>14.9%</b>
\$35,000 - \$54,999	<b>16.7%</b>
\$55,000 - \$75,000	<b>14.2%</b>
More than \$75,000	<b>26.3%</b>

Their Child Enrolled in:

Grades 3-5	<b>47.1%</b>
Grades 6-8	<b>39.0%</b>
Grades 9-11	<b>13.9%</b>

Their Child's Gender:

Male	<b>45.3%</b>
Female	<b>54.7%</b>

Their Child's Ethnicity:

African-American	<b>32.6%</b>
Caucasian/White	<b>57.1%</b>
Hispanic	<b>5.1%</b>
All Other	<b>5.2%</b>

Their Child's Grades:

All or mostly A's and B's	<b>61.4%</b>
All or mostly B's and C's	<b>27.7%</b>
All or mostly C's and D's	<b>9.1%</b>
All or mostly D's and F's	<b>1.8%</b>

Note: Percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

To determine if the survey responses were representative of elementary, middle and high school parents, the following analysis was done. First, 59,760 parents who returned the 2012 survey indicated that their child was in 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Defining grade 5 as elementary schools, grade 8 as middle school and grade 11, high school, approximately 42 percent of parents who completed the survey were elementary school parents, 33 percent, middle school and 13 percent, high school (Table 4). As compared to prior years, the percentage of surveys reflecting the perceptions of elementary and middle school parents remained relatively unchanged; however, the percentage of parents of high school students declined from 20 to 18 percent.

Comparing the surveys returned with the 135-day average daily membership of the grade, while 42 percent of all the surveys returned were from parents whose child was enrolled in grade 5, these surveys represent 51 percent of all students in grade 5 according to the average daily membership count. At grade 8, the number of surveys returned accounted for 41 percent of all children enrolled in grade 8; however, at grade 11, the percentage drops to 18 percent (Table 4). As in prior surveys, the perceptions of parents in elementary schools are over represented and the perceptions of parents who have children in high school are underrepresented.

**Table 4**  
**Parental Respondents by Child's Grade**

<b>Child Enrolled in:</b>	<b>Surveys Returned</b>	<b>% of All Surveys</b>	<b>2011-12 135-day Average Daily Membership (ADM)</b>	<b>% of Surveys by Grades 5, 8 &amp; 11 ADM</b>
Grade 5	28,691	42%	55,867	51%
Grade 8	22,470	33%	54,259	41%
Grade 11	8,599	13%	47,397	18%
TOTAL	59,760		157,523	

When asked about their child's race or ethnicity, 57 percent of the parents responded that their child's ethnicity was white, 33 percent African American and 5 percent Hispanic. Compared to the ethnicity of children in the public schools of South Carolina in 2010-11, parents whose children are African American were underrepresented by 3.6% in the results (Table 5).

**Table 5**  
**Ethnicity of Children**

	<b>2012 Parent Survey</b>	<b>Student Enrollment All Public Schools 2010-11<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Difference</b>
White	57.1%	53.4%	3.7%
African American	32.6%	36.2%	(3.6%)
Hispanic	5.1%	6.4%	(1.3%)
Other	5.2%	4.0%	1.2%

Note: "Other" includes American Indian/Alaskan, Asian, Hawaiian Native/Pacific Islander and Two or more races.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Documentation to the Common Core of Data State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education: School Year 2010-11." <<http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/pdf/STnonfis101agen.pdf>>.

With respect to educational attainment, 32.9 percent of parents who responded to the survey in 2012 had earned a bachelor or postgraduate degree. For comparison purposes, the United States Census Bureau projected that 24.3 percent of persons 25 years old and over in South Carolina had earned a bachelor's degree or higher in 2009.<sup>8</sup>

Regarding the annual household income of the respondents, in 2012 57.2 percent of the parents who completed the survey reported having an annual household income in excess of \$35,000. For comparison purposes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income in South Carolina in 2011 was \$44,587.<sup>9</sup>

Finally, staff performed an analysis that compared the number of parents who responded to the survey according to the absolute rating of their child's school in 2012 with the percent of students enrolled in schools by their 2012 absolute report card rating.<sup>10</sup>

<b>2012 Absolute Rating</b>	<b>% of Students Enrolled in School, 2011-12</b>	<b>% of Parents Responding to 2012 Survey</b>
Excellent	39%	38%
Good	22%	23%
Average	30%	31%
Below Average	5%	6%
At Risk	4%	3%

The data document that the parent survey responses were generally representative, within one percentage point, of the percentage of students enrolled in schools by their absolute rating. Nine percent of the parents who responded to the survey had children attending schools with an absolute rating of Below Average or At Risk, the same percentage as the number of students who were enrolled in a school with an absolute rating of Below Average or At Risk in school year 2011-12. On the other hand, sixty-one percent of the parents who responded to the survey had children attending schools with an absolute rating of Good or Excellent, the same percentage as the number of students who were enrolled in a school with an absolute rating of Good or Excellent in school year 2011-12.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Table 233, "Educational Attainment by State: 1990 to 2009." <<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s0233.pdf>>.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "State and County Quick Facts" <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/45000.html>>.

<sup>10</sup> "Student Performance in SC," South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, 2012. <<http://www.eoc.sc.gov/Home/Report%20Card%20Data/Report%20Card%20Brief.forprinter.pdf>>.

## **Conclusions**

- The total number of parent surveys completed and returned in 2012 was 69,581, a 5.7 percent or a 4,174 decline over the number of parent surveys returned in the prior year.
- Using two methods of calculating a response rate, one method that underestimated and one that overestimated the total number of parents eligible to take the survey, the response rate to the 2012 parent survey was between 38 and 44 percent, each of which by industry standards is considered average.
- An analysis of the respondents to the 2012 parent survey found that the survey responses typically overrepresented the perceptions of parents in elementary schools and underrepresented the perceptions of parents who have children in high school. Furthermore, the respondents typically have obtained higher educational achievements and have greater median household incomes than the general population of South Carolina.
- The data documented that the parent survey responses were generally representative, within one percentage point, of the percentage of students enrolled in schools by their absolute rating. Nine percent of the parents who responded to the survey had children attending schools with an absolute rating of Below Average or At Risk, the same percentage as the number of students who were enrolled in a school with an absolute rating of Below Average or At Risk in school year 2011-12. On the other hand, sixty-one percent of the parents who responded to the survey had children attending schools with an absolute rating of Good or Excellent, the same percentage as the number of students who were enrolled in a school with an absolute rating of Good or Excellent in school year 2011-12.



## **PART THREE**

### **Results of the 2012 Parent Survey**

The parent survey was designed to determine: (1) parent perceptions or satisfaction with their child's public school and (2) parental involvement efforts in public schools. The following is an analysis that documents the actual parent responses to questions focusing on parental satisfaction and parental involvement.

#### **Parent Perceptions of Their Child's School**

The information below summarizes the results of the 2012 parent survey. The percentages do not add to 100 percent because invalid or incomplete responses are not reflected. At the school level, responses to these questions can reveal the strengths and weaknesses of parental involvement initiatives at the individual school site. Statewide, the data provide policymakers information on the overall effectiveness of policies and programs in promoting parental involvement. The following analysis focuses on parent perceptions or satisfaction with the learning environment, home-school relations, and the social and physical environment of their children's schools. In analyzing responses, "significant change" is defined as a change of three percent or more in satisfaction.

#### **A. Learning Environment**

Five questions in the parent survey ask parents to reflect upon the learning environment of their child's school. Questions 1 through 4 are designed to elicit parental agreement with specific aspects of the learning environment at their child's school, focusing on homework, expectations, and academic assistance. Question 5 offers parents the opportunity to report on their overall satisfaction with the learning environment at their child's school. For each school, the aggregate parental responses to question 5 are included on the annual school report card if a sufficient number of parents complete the survey.

Table 6 summarizes the total responses to these five questions for all parents who completed the 2012 parent survey. The data reflect the percentage of parents responding out of the total number of parents surveys completed, 69,581. Overall, 87.2 percent of parents responded that they were satisfied with the learning environment of their child's school. Across the five questions, the percentage of parents who disagreed or strongly disagreed was highest for questions 4 and 5. Approximately, one in five in parents either did not believe or did not know if their child received extra help when needed.

**Table 6**  
**Percentage of Parents in 2012 Responding:**

<b>Learning Environment Questions</b>	<b>Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Disagree or Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
1. My child's teachers give homework that helps my child learn.	<b>89.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>
2. My child's school has high expectations for student learning.	<b>91.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
3. My child's teachers encourage my child to learn.	<b>91.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>
4. My child's teachers provide extra help when my child needs it.	<b>81.9</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>5. I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>

Table 7 compares the percentage of parents who responded that they agreed or strongly agreed to these questions each year from 2008 through 2012.

**Table 7**  
**2008-2012**  
**Percentage of Parents who Agree or Strongly Agree to:**

<b>Learning Environment Questions</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
1. My child's teachers give homework that helps my child learn.	<b>89.9</b>	86.7	89.0	89.9	86.9
2. My child's school has high expectations for student learning.	<b>91.7</b>	88.9	90.3	90.9	88.3
3. My child's teachers encourage my child to learn.	<b>91.8</b>	88.7	90.4	90.9	88.2
4. My child's teachers provide extra help when my child needs it.	<b>81.9</b>	78.7	79.8	79.7	77.7
<b>5. I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school</b>	<b>87.2</b>	84.3	85.9	85.5	82.3

Parents who completed the survey in 2012 were overwhelmingly more positive about the overall learning environment of their child's school than in 2011. Comparing parent responses from 2012 to 2011, parents were significantly more positive on three of the five questions, Questions 1, 3 and 4 (Table 8).

**Table 8**  
**Percentage of Parents who Agree or Strongly Agree to:**

<b>Learning Environment Questions</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1. My child's teachers give homework that helps my child learn.	<b>89.9</b>	86.7	<b>3.2</b>
2. My child's school has high expectations for student learning.	<b>91.7</b>	88.9	2.8
3. My child's teachers encourage my child to learn.	<b>91.8</b>	88.7	<b>3.1</b>
4. My child's teachers provide extra help when my child needs it.	<b>81.9</b>	78.7	<b>3.2</b>
<b>5. I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school</b>	<b>87.2</b>	84.3	2.9

To determine if there are any significant changes in parent perception of the learning environment of their child's school over recent years, an analysis was done to compare the 2012 results with the average or mean results of the prior three years. Table 9 documents the percentage of parents who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement regarding the learning environment of their child's school in 2012 compared to the average percentage of parents who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement in years 2009 through 2011. The 2012 respondents were overall more satisfied with the learning environment of their schools than the average of the respondents over the past three years; however, the difference was did not exceed three percent on any one question.

**Table 9**  
**Comparing 2012 Results with Three-Year Average**  
**(Percentage of Parents who Agree or Strongly Agree)**

<b>Learning Environment Questions</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Mean % (2009-2011)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1. My child's teachers give homework that helps my child learn.	<b>89.9</b>	88.5	1.4
2. My child's school has high expectations for student learning.	<b>91.7</b>	90.0	1.7
3. My child's teachers encourage my child to learn.	<b>91.8</b>	90.0	1.8
4. My child's teachers provide extra help when my child needs it.	<b>81.9</b>	79.4	2.5
<b>5. I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school</b>	<b>87.2</b>	85.2	2.0

Comparing parental responses to Question 5 with the 2012 absolute rating of their child's school, Table 10 documents that a higher percentage parents whose child attended a school with an absolute rating of Excellent strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the overall learning environment at their child's school. Parental satisfaction generally declines as the absolute rating of the school declines, except for the case of parents whose child attends an At Risk school. Still, comparing parents whose child attended a school with an Excellent rating versus parents whose child attended a school with an At-Risk rating, there was an approximate 9 percent difference in parent satisfaction with the learning environment. Furthermore, the percentage of parents in schools rated At Risk or Below Average who disagrees or strongly disagrees with the question is approximately twice that of parents in schools with an Excellent absolute rating.

**Table 10**  
**I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school.**  
**(Percentage of parents by Absolute Rating of Child's School)**

<b>2012 Absolute Rating</b>	<b>Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Disagree or Strongly Disagree</b>
Excellent	90.5	8.3
Good	87.7	10.8
Average	84.4	13.6
Below Average	80.7	16.8
At Risk	81.3	15.9

Then, analyzing the responses across elementary, middle and high schools based again on absolute ratings, the data reveal that parent satisfaction with the learning environment of their child's school tends to be greatest for parents whose children are enrolled in elementary schools and declines for parents whose children are enrolled in middle or high schools, even across absolute ratings (Table 11). The only exception is for parents whose children attend schools with an At-Risk rating. Parents whose children attend high schools with an At-Risk rating were more satisfied with the learning environment of their child's school than were parents whose children attended elementary or high schools with an At-Risk rating. Included in Table 11 are the number of parent responses for each school level and absolute rating.

**Table 11**  
**I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school.**  
**(Percentage of parents by Absolute Rating of Child's Elementary, Middle or High School)**

2012 Absolute Rating	Type	Total Number Parent Responses	Agree or Strongly Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Excellent	Elementary	13,139	93.1	6.1
	Middle	7,591	88.7	9.7
	High	4,853	86.1	11.8
Good	Elementary	8,071	91.5	7.5
	Middle	5,326	84.4	13.8
	High	1,904	80.6	16.1
Average	Elementary	10,508	87.6	10.8
	Middle	8,345	81.5	16.3
	High	2,057	80.2	17.4
Below Average	Elementary	2,179	83.7	14.4
	Middle	1,416	78.1	18.9
	High	112	57.1	35.7
At Risk	Elementary	558	76.7	18.3
	Middle	546	74.4	22.9
	High	831	88.9	9.8

### **B. Home and School Relations**

The next eleven questions on the parent survey determine parent perception of home and school relations by focusing on the relationship between the parent and their child's teacher and between the parent and the school. Question 11 offers parents the opportunity to report on their overall satisfaction with home and school relations at their child's school. For each school, the aggregate parental responses to question 11 are included on the annual school report card.

Table 12 summarizes the total responses to these eleven questions for all parents who completed the 2012 parent survey.

**Table 12**  
**Percentage of Parents in 2012 Responding:**

<b>Home and School Relations Questions</b>	<b>Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Disagree or Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
1. My child's teachers contact me to say good things about my child	<b>57.3</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>
2. My child's teachers tell me how I can help my child learn.	<b>65.4</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
3. My child's teachers invite me to visit my child's classrooms during the school day.	<b>54.0</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>
4. My child's school returns my phone calls or e-mails promptly.	<b>81.0</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>
5. My child's school includes me in decision-making.	<b>69.8</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>5.9</b>
6. My child's school gives me information about what my child should be learning in school.	<b>78.3</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>
7. My child's school considers changes based on what parents say.	<b>52.6</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>22.8</b>
8. My child's school schedules activities at times that I can attend.	<b>79.7</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>
9. My child's school treats all students fairly.	<b>70.0</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>12.6</b>
10. My principal at my child's school is available and welcoming.	<b>82.4</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>7.8</b>
<b>11. I am satisfied with home and school relations at my child's school</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>

Overall, 82.9 percent of parents were satisfied with home and school relations at their child's school. An examination of questions 1 through 10, which ask parents more specific questions about their personal experiences at their child's school, found the following.

- Parents overwhelmingly agreed that the principal at their child's school was available and welcoming.
- Over 80 percent of the parents agreed that their child's school returned phone calls or e-mails promptly, provided information about what their child should be learning, and scheduled activities at times that parents could attend.
- Approximately four out of ten parents disagreed or strongly disagreed that their child's teachers contacted them to say good things about their child or invited the parents to visit the classroom during the school day.
- One third of the parents disagreed that their child's teachers told them how to help their child learn.

- One-fourth of parents disagreed or strongly disagreed that their child’s school included parents in decision-making.
- One-half of all parents responded that they did not believe or did not know if the school considered changes based on parental input.
- Nearly one in three parents did not believe or did not know if students were treated fairly at their child’s school.

As documented by Table 13, the trend is that parental satisfaction with home and school relations has increased since 2008.

**Table 13**  
**2004-2012**  
**Home and School Relations**  
**Question 11: I am satisfied with home and school relations at my child’s school.**

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Agree or Strongly Agree	<b>82.9%</b>	80.2%	81.9%	81.4%	77.8%	77.9%	76.6%	67.8%	66.9%
Disagree or Strongly Disagree	<b>13.7%</b>	13.9%	14.3%	14.9%	16.0%	17.1%	16.6%	17.7%	18.2%

Analyzing parental satisfaction trends over the recent years, Table 14 documents parental satisfaction with all eleven questions regarding home and school relations since 2008.

**Table 14**  
**2008-2012**  
**Percentage of Parents who Agree or Strongly Agree to:**

<b>Home and School Relations Questions</b>	<b>2012</b>	2011	2010	2009	2008
1. My child's teachers contact me to say good things about my child.	<b>57.3</b>	54.5	52.2	57.2	53.8
2. My child's teachers tell me how I can help my child learn.	<b>65.4</b>	62.4	64.1	64.4	62.2
3. My child's teachers invite me to visit my child's classrooms during the school day.	<b>54.0</b>	52.0	53.7	54.8	53.2
4. My child's school returns my phone calls or e-mails promptly.	<b>81.0</b>	77.7	79.5	79.3	75.0
5. My child's school includes me in decision-making.	<b>69.8</b>	66.7	67.8	67.9	65.1
6. My child's school gives me information about what my child should be learning in school.	<b>78.3</b>	75.6	78.3	78.3	75.4
7. My child's school considers changes based on what parents say.	<b>52.6</b>	49.2	50.1	50.5	47.8
8. My child's school schedules activities at times that I can attend.	<b>79.7</b>	76.9	78.9	78.8	75.5
9. My child's school treats all students fairly.	<b>70.0</b>	67.3	67.5	67.4	63.4
10. My principal at my child's school is available and welcoming.	<b>82.4</b>	80.1	81.4	80.8	77.3
<b>11. I am satisfied with home and school relations at my child's school</b>	<b>82.9</b>	80.2	81.9	81.4	77.8

An additional analysis was done comparing the mean or average percentage of parents who agreed or strongly agreed to each statement over the past three years with the responses from 2012. Table 15 documents the percentage of parents who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement regarding home and school relations at their child’s school in 2012 compared to the

average percentage of parents who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement in years 2009 through 2011. Again, using a three percent change as “significant,” there was no significant increase or decrease in parental responses to any of these questions. However, Table 15 documents that the parental responses in 2012 to all questions related to home and school relations exceeded the three year-average of parental responses.

**Table 15**  
**Comparing 2012 Results with Three-Year Average**  
**(Percentage of Parents who Agree or Strongly Agree)**

<b>Home and School Relations Questions</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Mean % (2009-2011)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1. My child's teachers contact me to say good things about my child.	<b>57.3</b>	54.6	2.7
2. My child's teachers tell me how I can help my child learn.	<b>65.4</b>	63.6	1.8
3. My child's teachers invite me to visit my child's classrooms during the school day.	<b>54.0</b>	53.5	0.5
4. My child's school returns my phone calls or e-mails promptly.	<b>81.0</b>	78.8	2.2
5. My child's school includes me in decision-making.	<b>69.8</b>	67.5	2.3
6. My child's school gives me information about what my child should be learning in school.	<b>78.3</b>	77.4	0.9
7. My child's school considers changes based on what parents say.	<b>52.6</b>	49.9	2.7
8. My child's school schedules activities at times that I can attend.	<b>79.7</b>	78.2	1.5
9. My child's school treats all students fairly.	<b>70.0</b>	67.4	2.6
10. My principal at my child's school is available and welcoming.	<b>82.4</b>	80.8	1.6
<b>11. I am satisfied with home and school relations at my child's school</b>	<b>82.9</b>	81.2	1.7

Comparing parental responses to Question 11 with the 2012 absolute rating of their child's school, Table 16 documents that a higher percentage of parents whose child attended a school with an absolute rating of Excellent strongly agreed that they were satisfied with home and school relations. Again, parental satisfaction declines proportionately as the absolute rating of the school declines. The difference between the percentage of parents whose children attended an Excellent Schools and the percentage of parents whose children attended an At-Risk school and who agreed or strongly agreed with Question 11 was 3.4 percent as compared to 9.2 percent regarding parent perceptions of the learning environment of their child's school.

**Table 16**  
**I am satisfied with home and school relations at my child's school.**  
**(Percentage of parents by Absolute Rating of Child's School)**

<b>2012 Absolute Rating</b>	<b>Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Disagree or Strongly Disagree</b>
Excellent	85.5	11.6
Good	82.3	14.1
Average	80.8	15.4
Below Average	79.5	16.9
At Risk	82.1	14.9

Then, analyzing the responses across elementary, middle and high schools based again on absolute ratings, the data reveal that parent satisfaction with the learning environment of their child's school tends to be greatest for parents whose children are enrolled in elementary schools and typically declines for parents whose children are enrolled in middle or high schools, even across absolute ratings (Table 17). The only exception is again high schools with an absolute rating of At Risk where parent responses are significantly more positive than all other parents of high school students

**Table 17**  
**I am satisfied with home and school relations at my child's school.**  
**(Percentage of parents by Absolute Rating of Child's Elementary, Middle or High School)**

2012 Absolute Rating	Type	Agree or Strongly Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Excellent	Elementary	89.6	8.2
	Middle	81.8	14.6
	High	80.1	16.1
Good	Elementary	87.4	10.3
	Middle	77.4	17.9
	High	74.6	20.0
Average	Elementary	85.0	11.6
	Middle	76.8	19.1
	High	76.1	19.5
Below Average	Elementary	83.0	14.2
	Middle	75.7	19.7
	High	60.0	33.6
At Risk	Elementary	79.8	16.1
	Middle	75.4	21.4
	High	88.0	10.0

### **C. Social and Physical Environment**

The next five questions on the parent survey focus on the social and physical environment of schools. These questions are designed to elicit parent perceptions of the cleanliness, safety, and climate of their child's school. Question 5 asks parents to report on their overall satisfaction with the social and physical environment of their child's schools. For each school, the aggregate parental responses to question 5 are included on the annual school report card.

Table 18 summarizes the total responses to these five questions for all parents who completed the 2012 parent survey.

**Table 18**  
**Percentage of Parents in 2012 Responding:**

<b>Social and Physical Environment Questions</b>	<b>Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Disagree or Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
1. My child's school is kept neat and clean.	<b>91.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>3.1</b>
2. My child feels safe at school.	<b>90.9</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>
3. My child's teachers care about my child as an individual.	<b>84.1</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>7.2</b>
4. Students at my child's school are well behaved.	<b>63.7</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>13.1</b>
<b>5. I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my child's school.</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>

Nine in ten parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child's school was kept neat and clean and that their child felt safe at school. On the other hand, over one out of three parents either did not believe or did not know that students at their child's school were well behaved. And, 15.0 percent of parents did not know or did not believe that their child's teachers cared about their child as an individual.

Table 19 compares the 2012 results of the South Carolina parent survey with the results of parent surveys administered since 2008. The data document that parental responses to the five questions regarding the social and physical environment of their child's school are consistent with the prior year's results. Over time, however, parent satisfaction with the social and physical environment of their child's schools as reflected in the responses to these five questions has increased.

**Table 19**  
**2008-2012**  
**Percentage of Parents who Agree or Strongly Agree to:**

<b>Social and Physical Environment Questions</b>	<b>2012</b>	2011	2010	2009	2008
1. My child's school is kept neat and clean.	<b>91.3</b>	90.0	91.0	90.7	87.9
2. My child feels safe at school.	<b>90.9</b>	89.7	90.5	90.1	86.3
3. My child's teachers care about my child as an individual.	<b>84.1</b>	81.1	82.1	82.2	79.0
4. Students at my child's school are well behaved.	<b>63.7</b>	61.2	62.4	61.4	56.6
<b>5. I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my child's school</b>	<b>84.1</b>	82.4	83.2	82.7	78.6

A final analysis was conducted to gauge parent satisfaction with the social and physical environment of their child's school in 2012 with the results of surveys completed during the prior three years. Table 20 documents the percentage of parents who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement regarding the social and physical environment at their child's school in 2012 compared to the average percentage of parents who agreed or strongly agreed with each statement in years 2009 through 2011. Again, there were no significant increases or decreases when comparing parental responses in 2012 with the average of the three prior years.

**Table 20**  
**Comparing 2012 Results with Three-Year Average**  
**(Percentage of Parents who Agree or Strongly Agree)**

<b>Social and Physical Environment Questions</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Mean % (2009-2011)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
1. My child's school is kept neat and clean.	<b>91.3</b>	90.6	0.7
2. My child feels safe at school.	<b>90.9</b>	90.1	0.8
3. My child's teachers care about my child as an individual.	<b>84.1</b>	81.8	2.3
4. Students at my child's school are well behaved.	<b>63.7</b>	61.7	2.0
<b>5. I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my child's school.</b>	<b>84.1</b>	82.8	1.3

Comparing parental responses to Question 5 with the 2012 absolute rating of their child's school, Table 21 documents that a higher percentage of parents whose child attended a school with an Excellent rating strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the social and physical environment at their child's school. Again, parental satisfaction generally declines as the absolute rating of the school declines. The difference between the percentage of parents whose children attended a school with an absolute rating of Excellent and those whose children attended a school with an absolute rating of At Risk and who agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the social and physical environment of their child's school was 14.6 percent as compared to 3.4 percent for learning environment and 9.2 for home and school relations.

**Table 21**  
**I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my child's school.**  
**(Percentage of parents by Absolute Rating of Child's School)**

<b>2012 Absolute Rating</b>	<b>Agree or Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Disagree or Strongly Disagree</b>
Excellent	88.2	9.2
Good	84.3	12.0
Average	81.0	14.3
Below Average	77.8	17.9
At Risk	73.6	18.4

Then, analyzing the responses across elementary, middle and high schools based again on absolute ratings, the data reveal that parent satisfaction with the learning environment of their child's school tends to be greatest for parents whose children are enrolled in elementary schools and typically declines for parents whose children are enrolled in middle or high schools, even across absolute ratings. Table 22 documents the large differences between parent satisfaction between schools with an Excellent or Good absolute rating and schools with a Below Average or At-Risk rating. As in the answers to the prior questions, parents whose children attended a school with an absolute rating of Below Average were much less satisfied in 2012 with the overall performance of their child's school than even parents whose children attended a school with an absolute rating of At Risk.

**Table 22**

**I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my child's school.  
(Percentage of parents by Absolute Rating of Child's Elementary, Middle or High School)**

2012 Absolute Rating	Type	Agree or Strongly Agree	Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Excellent	Elementary	92.5	6.0
	Middle	85.2	11.3
	High	80.9	14.8
Good	Elementary	89.8	7.8
	Middle	79.3	15.5
	High	75.5	19.7
Average	Elementary	85.8	10.4
	Middle	76.8	17.6
	High	73.9	21.5
Below Average	Elementary	81.9	14.8
	Middle	73.8	20.6
	High	46.8	45.9
At Risk	Elementary	76.6	19.1
	Middle	68.1	28.4
	High	75.3	10.9

### **Parental Involvement**

According to the National Network of Partnership Schools, founded and directed by Dr. Joyce Epstein at Johns Hopkins University, there are six types of successful partnerships between the school, family and community:<sup>11</sup>

- Type 1. Parenting – Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students. Also, assist schools to better understand families.
- Type 2. Communicating – Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and home-to-school about school programs and student progress.
- Type 3. Volunteering – Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.
- Type 4. Learning at Home – Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

<sup>11</sup> Epstein, et. al. 2002. *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, Second Education*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.  
<[http://www.csos.jhu.edu/P2000/nmps\\_model/school/sixtypes.htm](http://www.csos.jhu.edu/P2000/nmps_model/school/sixtypes.htm)>.

- Type 5. Decision Making – Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop parent leaders and representatives.
- Type 6. Collaborating with the family – Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.

In addition to determining parent satisfaction with their child’s school, the annual survey of parents in South Carolina includes questions designed to elicit information on the level of parental involvement in schools. The questions focus on the first five types of parental involvement. It should be reiterated that parents self-report their involvement.

First, parents were asked to specifically respond to eight questions relating to their involvement in their child’s school. These questions focus on the following types of parental involvement: parenting, volunteering and decision making. Parents were asked specifically to respond to these eight questions in one of four ways:

- I do this.
- I don’t do this but would like to.
- I don’t do this and I don’t care to.
- The school does not offer this activity/event.

The responses are reflected in Table 23 with the fourth column highlighting the percentage of parents who expressed an interest in becoming involved in these school activities. These parents want to be involved but either have personal barriers preventing their involvement or face obstacles at the school level. At the school level, parents responding “I don’t do this but would like to” are the parents for whom school initiatives to improve parental involvement should be focused.

**Table 23**  
**Percentage of Parents in 2012 Responding:**

	n =	“I do this”	“I don’t do but would like to”	“I don’t do & I don’t care to:	“The school does not offer this activity/event”
Attend Open Houses or parent-teacher conferences	(67,688)	80.4	<b>15.4</b>	3.3	1.0
Attend student programs or performances	(68,074)	80.3	<b>15.2</b>	3.1	1.4
Volunteer for the school	(67,119)	36.9	<b>38.6</b>	20.9	3.6
Go on trip with my child’s school	(67,409)	35.7	<b>43.8</b>	15.1	5.4
Participate in School Improvement Council Meetings	(66,378)	13.0	<b>46.4</b>	35.0	5.6
Participate in Parent-teacher Student Organizations	(67,327)	31.4	<b>37.0</b>	28.5	3.1
Participate in school committees	(66,765)	17.2	<b>40.3</b>	35.1	7.4
Attend parent workshops	(67,660)	26.6	<b>40.0</b>	19.1	14.3

Based on the responses in Table 22 and the six types of involvement, there are significant opportunities for improving parental involvement in South Carolina’s public schools.

- Decision-Making - Fewer parents report being involved in the School Improvement Council, Parent-Teacher-Student Organizations and school committees than in any other activity. Decision making, including parents and families in school decisions, and developing parent leaders and representatives are areas for growth where parents want to be involved in these decision-making organizations.
- Volunteering – Approximately 37 percent of the parents responded that they volunteered while 39 percent wanted to volunteer.
- Parenting - Over three-fourths of the parents attended open houses, parent-teacher conferences or student programs, all activities that support their children. Approximately one-fourth reported attending parent workshops while 7 percent contend that such workshops were not provided at their child’s school.

Parents were asked five questions about their involvement with their child’s education, both at the school site and at home. These questions are directed at learning at home, parents involved with their children’s homework and other activities and decisions. Parents could respond in one of three ways:

- I do this
- I don’t do this but would like to
- I don’t do this and I don’t care to

Table 24 summarizes parental responses to these five questions.

**Table 24**  
**Percentage of Parents in 2012 Responding:**

	n=	“I do this”	“I don’t do but would like to”	“I don’t do & I don’t care to”
Visit my child’s classroom during the school day	(67,000)	33.9	50.7	15.5
Contact my child’s teachers about my child’s school work.	(68,239)	77.5	18.1	4.4
Limit the amount of time my child watches TV, plays video games, surfs the Internet	(67,645)	85.9	8.4	5.8
Make sure my child does his/her homework	(68,688)	95.5	3.3	1.2
Help my child with homework when he/she needs it.	(67,915)	94.3	4.5	1.2

Clearly, parents overwhelmingly report being involved in activities and decisions to support their child’s learning. At least 94 percent of parents reported helping their child with his or her

homework while 86 percent report limiting television and other distractions at home. Approximately one-third of parents responded that they visited their child’s classroom during the day while a majority wanted to become involved in this way. These responses are similar to parent responses in prior years.

There are obstacles that impede parental involvement in schools. These obstacles may include lack of transportation, family responsibilities, and work schedules. Schools may not encourage or facilitate parental involvement at the school level. The annual parent survey asks parents to respond “true” or “false” to seven questions on factors that impact their involvement. The results for 2012 as well as the results from 2004 are included in Table 25. Across time, work schedule is the most common obstacle to parent involvement. At the individual school, the responses to these questions may assist principals and teachers in scheduling parental involvement activities or even parent-teacher conferences at times and places convenient for both parents and teachers.

**Table 25**  
**2004-2012 Percentage of Parents Replying "True" to these questions**

	<b>2012</b>	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Lack of transportation reduces my involvement	<b>11.6</b>	11.5	11.8	11.7	11.6	11.8	12.9	12.3	12.5
Family health problems reduce my involvement.	<b>14.4</b>	14.3	14.3	14.7	14.9	15.0	15.5	15.4	14.9
Lack of available care for my children or other family members reduces my involvement.	<b>14.7</b>	14.5	15.1	15.4	15.2	15.4	16.1	15.9	15.5
My work schedule makes it hard for me to be involved.	<b>53.8</b>	54.4	55.1	55.6	56.2	55.4	55.6	55.5	56.2
The school does not encourage my involvement.	<b>15.7</b>	16.2	17.4	17.6	18.0	19.6	19.8	20.0	20.4
Information about how to be involved either comes too late or not at all.	<b>23.5</b>	24.6	25.3	25.7	26.8	27.3	28.2	28.3	29.1
I don't feel like it is appreciated when I try to be involved.	<b>10.6</b>	11.4	12.0	12.1	12.8	13.6	14.0	14.1	14.1

Finally, parents were also asked several questions about their child's school and its efforts at increasing parental involvement. Across these questions and across time, two-thirds or more of parents consistently rated the efforts of their child’s school at parental involvement efforts as good or very good (Table 26). Approximately twenty percent rated their child’s school overall as “okay.”

**Table 26  
2009 – 2012**

**Percentage of Parents who responded:**

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Very Good or Good</b>				<b>Bad or Very Bad</b>				<b>Okay</b>			
	<b>2012</b>	2011	2010	2009	<b>2012</b>	2011	2010	2009	<b>2012</b>	2011	2010	2009
School's overall friendliness.	<b>81.5</b>	80.4	79.6	78.8	<b>2.2</b>	2.4	2.4	2.4	<b>16.3</b>	17.2	17.8	18.8
School's interest in parents' ideas and opinions.	<b>63.9</b>	63.0	61.4	61.7	<b>7.2</b>	7.6	7.9	7.8	<b>28.9</b>	29.5	30.5	30.6
School's effort to get important information from parents.	<b>68.8</b>	67.8	66.8	66.0	<b>7.2</b>	7.5	7.8	7.9	<b>24.0</b>	24.7	25.2	26.1
The school's efforts to give important information to parents.	<b>74.3</b>	73.3	72.7	71.7	<b>6.0</b>	6.2	6.3	6.5	<b>19.7</b>	20.5	20.9	21.8
How the school is doing overall.	<b>77.5</b>	76.4	75.1	74.3	<b>3.2</b>	3.4	3.5	3.7	<b>19.3</b>	20.2	21.3	22.0

**Conclusions:**

- Despite a 5.7 percent decline in the number of parents responding to the annual parent survey, the results of the 2012 parent survey demonstrate that parental satisfaction with their child's public schools as measured by the learning environment, home and school relations and social and physical environment, was at comparable levels to the prior year's survey results

**Percentage of Parents Satisfied with:**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Difference between 2012 and 2011</b>
Learning Environment	<b>87.2</b>	84.3	85.9	<b>2.9</b>
Home and School Relations	<b>82.9</b>	80.2	81.9	<b>2.7</b>
Social and Physical Environment	<b>84.1</b>	82.4	83.2	<b>1.7</b>

- When comparing parent satisfaction in 2012 with parent satisfaction over the most recent three-year period, there were no significant increases or decreases in parent satisfaction levels.

**Percentage of Parents Satisfied with:**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Mean % (2009-2011)</b>	<b>Difference between 2012 and Mean of three years</b>
Learning Environment	<b>87.2</b>	85.2	2.0
Home and School Relations	<b>82.9</b>	81.2	1.7
Social and Physical Environment	<b>84.1</b>	82.8	1.3

- Parental satisfaction, the percentage of parents agreeing or strongly agreeing, declines as the absolute rating of the school declines. The largest difference in parental satisfaction between the highest and lowest performing schools is in parent perception of the social and physical environment of their child's school, followed closely by the learning environment.

**Percentage of Parents whose Child Attends an Excellent or At-Risk School, Satisfied with:**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Excellent Schools</b>	<b>At-Risk Schools</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Learning Environment	<b>90.5</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Home and School Relations	<b>85.5</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Social and Physical Environment	<b>88.2</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>

- Parents whose child attended a school with an absolute rating of Below Average were less satisfied with the learning environment and home and school relations at their child's school than parents whose child attended a school with an absolute rating of At Risk.

**Percentage of Parents whose Child Attends a Below Average or At-Risk School, Satisfied with:**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Below Average Schools</b>	<b>At-Risk Schools</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Learning Environment	<b>80.7</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>
Home and School Relations	<b>79.5</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>(2.6)</b>
Social and Physical Environment	<b>77.8</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>

- Parents who responded to the 2012 annual survey reported comparable levels of parental involvement as in other years and identified work schedules as their greatest obstacle to involvement.
- As in prior years, the inclusion of parents in school decisions and the development of parent leaders and representatives fall below the ideal. Opportunities for improving communication between parents and teachers also continue to exist.

## PART FOUR

### Analysis of Parent, Teacher and Student Surveys

In addition to parents South Carolina students and teachers are also asked to complete annual surveys pursuant to Section 59-18-900 (D) of the Education Accountability Act which states:

(D) The comprehensive report card must include a comprehensive set of performance indicators with information on comparisons, trends, needs, and performance over time which is helpful to parents and the public in evaluating the school. Special efforts are to be made to ensure that the information contained in the report card is provided in an easily understood manner and a reader-friendly format. This information should also provide a context for the performance of the school. Where appropriate, the data should yield disaggregated results to schools and districts in planning for improvement. The report card should include information in such areas as programs and curriculum, school leadership, community and parent support, faculty qualifications, **evaluations of the school by parents, teachers, and students**. In addition, the report card must contain other criteria including, but not limited to, information on promotion and retention ratios, disciplinary climate, dropout ratios, dropout reduction data, student and teacher ratios, and attendance data.

Since 2002 the South Carolina Department of Education has administered all three surveys. Parents, teachers and student all respond to the following three questions.

- I am satisfied with the learning environment at my school or my child's school.
- I am satisfied with the home and school relations at my school or my child's school.
- I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my school or at my child's school.

The answers to these three questions and have been communicated to the public on the annual school report cards and through analyses published by the EOC.

While the actual content of the three surveys is different, these surveys have been constructed so that they obtain information regarding the overall attitudes of parents, teachers, and students toward the school in each of three areas: Learning Environment, Home and School Relations; and Social and Physical Environment. For each of these areas a number of questions are asked regarding specific aspects. The parent survey contains 46 questions; the student survey contains 44 questions, and the teacher survey contains 55 questions.

As a part of a more in-depth investigation of the 2007 parent survey, the ability of an overall score in each of the three areas (learning environment, social and physical environment, and home and school relations) to predict the absolute index was examined. The score for each area was obtained by averaging the items of each section – the overall question for each area was not used. Each of the three

components was found to be predictive of the absolute index for all school types, elementary, middle, and high.

Interest in the association between responses to the surveys and school achievement levels as measured by the absolute index or rating has been rekindled by the proceedings conducted to date of the cyclical review of the accountability system. In this process the usage of parent and student surveys as a part of the accountability system in other states has been studied, and interest in utilizing the opinions of parents and students as elements of school ratings has been expressed by three focus groups.

The following investigation examined the relationship of each survey with the absolute index at the item or question level. It was conducted to determine (1) which of the items presented on each survey were related to the absolute index of the school, and (2) identify the commonalities in the items across surveys that were highly related to the absolute index. This information may be useful in considerations of revising each of the surveys, and in identifying those elements that are most useful as predictors of absolute rating.

#### Data

Data were obtained from the South Carolina Department of Education for responses to the parent, student, and teacher questionnaires administered for the 2011-2012 academic year. Records were used when they contained a valid school identification number. The number of records of each type of survey used in these analyses is as follows:

<b>Survey Type</b>	<b>Number of Records Used</b>
Parent	69,037
Student	142,038
Teacher	38,510

#### Analyses

Each parent, student, or teacher responding to the survey provides responses with respect to their perceptions of a specific school. The responses for all parents evaluating the same school can be averaged to provide a summary of the attitudes of parents toward that school. Similarly, the responses of students and teachers associated with a specific school can be averaged to provide a summary of the attitudes of students and teachers towards that school for each item. In this analysis, the mean item scores created by school were used as predictors of the school absolute index. Three analyses were performed.

In the first analysis (Model 1), the three questions regarding satisfaction with the learning environment, social and physical environment, and home and school relations were used as predictors of the absolute index. No other specific questions were included in the model. This analysis provided a baseline for the relationship between parent, student, and teacher perceptions of the school and the absolute index of the school.

The second analysis (Model 2) includes the overall question for each area as predictors of the absolute index and allows the remaining individual items from all three areas of the questionnaire to be included based on a selection process. The result includes as predictors those items or questions that best enhance the ability to predict the absolute index and excludes those items that do not enhance the ability to predict the absolute

index. This analysis examines which of the specific items add to the prediction of the absolute index over and above the prediction made by the summary questions for the three areas. Analyses were performed separately by school type, and no attempt was made to modify the prediction equations from any school type to obtain consistency across school types.

The third analysis (Model 3) does not include any of the overall questions for the three areas as predictors of the absolute index in order to focus more exclusively on the efficacy of the individual items in the parent, student, and teacher surveys as predictors of the absolute index. As in the second analysis, this analysis includes as predictors those items that best enhance the ability to predict the absolute index, and does not include those items that do not enhance the ability to predict the absolute index. Once regression analyses were performed for elementary, middle, and high schools, the results were examined to find which items were included as predictors of the absolute index. When an item was included as a predictor in two of three school types, it was included as a predictor for all school types. When an item was included as a predictor for only one school type it was excluded as a predictor for all school types. The same items were ultimately used as predictors for elementary, middle, and high schools.

As already described, the second and third analyses employed a process which allows each item in the survey to be included as a predictor of the absolute index, but only included those items that enhance the prediction of the absolute index - this process is a "stepwise" regression. In a stepwise regression the items that are considered as potential predictors are identified, and analyzed in the following sequence. In the first "step", the item that is the best predictor of the absolute index is included in the regression equation. Each subsequent "step" in a stepwise selection process is actually composed of two parts. The first part finds the item that best predicts the absolute index – over and above items that have already been included. The second part of each step is to re-evaluate all of the variables that have been included as predictors to see if, because of adding the latest variable, all of the variables in the model still function as predictors. An item that is added as a predictor early in a stepwise process could be removed as a predictor at a later time. At the end of the stepwise selection process the most succinct group of items that provide the best prediction of the absolute index are included as predictors in the regression equation. For this analysis the statistical criterion for entry into an equation (the first part of each step) is a significance level of .05, and the criterion for removal from an equation (the second part of each step) is a significance level of .01.

The numeric indicator of the effectiveness of each regression equation is an  $R^2$  value. As a statistical indicator,  $R^2$  gives the percentage of variability in absolute indices that can be explained by the predictors included in a regression equation. Higher  $R^2$  values indicate better prediction than do lower  $R^2$  values. An  $R^2$  value of .40 cannot, however, be regarded to be "twice as good" as an  $R^2$  value of .20.

## Results

Table 27 presents the results of the three regression processes for elementary, middle, and high schools for each survey (parent, student, and teacher).

**Table 27**  
**R<sup>2</sup> Values Obtained for Each Survey By School Type**

Survey	School Type		
	Elementary	Middle	High
Parent	Model 1: 0.30	Model 1: 0.25	Model 1: 0.17
	Model 2: 0.54	Model 2: 0.57	Model 2: 0.40
	Model 3: 0.54	Model 3: 0.57	Model 3: 0.37
Student	Model 1: 0.11	Model 1: 0.19	Model 1: 0.19
	Model 2: 0.46	Model 2: 0.64	Model 2: 0.57
	Model 3: 0.26	Model 3: 0.27	Model 3: 0.33
Teacher	Model 1: 0.44	Model 1: 0.38	Model 1: 0.36
	Model 2: 0.64	Model 2: 0.69	Model 2: 0.57
	Model 3: 0.57	Model 3: 0.62	Model 3: 0.46

Within each survey type (parent, student, and teacher), Model 1 consistently provides the least effective prediction of the absolute index, as it consistently has the lowest R<sup>2</sup> values, regardless of school type. These results are as would be expected. Model 1 produced the most basic prediction of the absolute index because no information from the specific items of the questionnaires was allowed as predictors of the absolute index. The R<sup>2</sup> values are, then, the smallest of all three models.

Model 2 consistently provides the best prediction of the absolute index. The results presented in Model 2 include the overall questions, and allow any of the specific questions to be included as predictors. The models differ for elementary, middle, and high school in that for each school type, the best prediction possible was made by including the items that were best predictors for each school type – with no constraint that the same predictors be used for elementary, middle and high schools.

Model 3 provides a prediction that is not as effective as Model 2. For parents and teachers, predictions using Model 3 are only modestly effective than Model 2, however for students predictions using Model 3 are substantially less effective than Model 2. Model 3 differs from Model 2 in two important ways: (1) it does not include as predictors any of the overall questions, and (2) the same items were used as predictors for elementary, middle, and high schools. In order to be included as a predictor for Model 3, an item must have been selected as a predictor in two or three of the school types (elementary, middle, or high).

The second condition, in particular, means that the prediction equations used for elementary, middle, and high schools will not be optimal for each context. An item that was a predictor for elementary schools that was not a predictor for either middle or high schools was not included as a predictor for Model 3. That the R<sup>2</sup> values for Model 3 are as modestly lower than the R<sup>2</sup> values for Model 2 is interesting. For the parent and teacher surveys, although the requirement that the same predictors be used for elementary, middle, and high schools did result in a slight decrease in the R<sup>2</sup> values obtained, it did not seem to decrease the ability to predict the absolute index dramatically. For the student surveys the requirement that the same predictors be used for elementary, middle, and high schools did result in a pronounced decrease in the ability to predict the absolute index.

In general, responses to the teacher survey are more predictive of the absolute index than are responses to the parent survey. How the ability of responses to the student survey to predict the absolute index compares to that of the parent and teacher survey depends upon the model and the school type. For Model 1, responses to the student surveys in elementary and middle schools are not as predictive of the absolute index as the parent survey or the teacher survey; however, in high schools the student survey is similar in its ability to predict the absolute index as the parent survey. For Model 2 in elementary schools the student survey is not as predictive as either parents or teachers; however, in middle and high schools the students survey is more predictive than the parent survey, and similar in predictive power to that of the teacher survey. For Model 3 the student surveys are not as predictive as either the parent or the teacher surveys.

The most outstanding difference between the student surveys and the parent and teacher surveys is the difference between how well Models 2 and 3 predict the absolute index. For students, the difference between Models 2 and 3 is much larger. Recall that in Model 2 there is no attempt to identify common items across school types. For the student survey the items included as predictors for each school type are effective predictors; however, the items included differ across school types. When the condition of including only those items shown to be predictors in two or more school types is imposed (Model 3), the predictive ability of the student survey decreases substantially.

Table 28 includes the items selected within the analyses by parents, students and teachers as predictors of the absolute index.

**Table 28**  
**Common Items used as predictors for the parent, student, and teacher surveys**

Parent	Student	Teacher
<b>Learning Environment</b>		
Q2) My child's school has high expectations for student learning.	Q15) The textbooks and workbooks I use at my school really help me to learn.	Q1) My school provides challenging instructional programs for students. Q15) Our school has a good selection of library and media material. Q18) There are relevant professional development opportunities offered to teachers at my school.
<b>Social and Physical Environment</b>		
Q4) Students at my child's school are well-behaved.		Q32) Students at my school behave well in class. Q34) Rules and consequences for behavior are clear to students.
<b>Home and School Relations</b>		
Q3) My child's teachers invite me to visit my child's classrooms during the school day. Q4) My child's school returns my phone calls or e-mails promptly. Q5) My child's school includes me in decision-making.	Q1) My parent knows what I am expected to learn in school. Q7) Parents volunteer and participate in activities at my school.	Q48) Parents attend conferences requested by teachers at my school.

Based on the presentation of Table 28, the following communalities across survey types can be noted:

- For parents and students, items related to high expectations for student learning are included.
- For parents and teachers, items related to student behavior are included.
- For parents and teachers, items related to parent participation in school activities are included.
- A parent item that indicates they are invited to their child's classroom is included, as is a teacher item that indicates that parents attend conferences when requested.

Details of the stepwise regression processes used to identify the common items identified as predictors for parents, students, and teachers are included in Appendices A, B, and C, respectively.

Should survey data be incorporated in any way in the report card process, these themes should be included in some way to ensure that aspects of school quality that are relevant for all school settings are represented.



# ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012 REPORT CARD SURVEYS

## APPENDIX A

The Education Accountability Act of 1998 specifies that “school report cards should include information in such areas as...evaluations of the school by parents, teachers, and students.” To obtain these evaluations, the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) has constructed student, teacher, and parent surveys that are designed to measure perceptions of three factors: home and school relations, the school’s learning environment, and the school’s social and physical environment. The purpose of these teacher, parent, and student surveys is to obtain information related to the perceptions of these groups about your school. Results will provide valuable information to principals, teachers, parents, School Improvement Councils, and community groups in their efforts to identify areas for improvement. Results will also appear on the annual school report cards.

## SCHEDULE

**Teacher Surveys** – on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) website

- February 27, 2012 – Teacher Survey portal opens.
- March 30, 2012 – Teacher Survey portal closes.

**Student & High School Student Surveys** – paper forms

- March 16, 2012 – All schools should receive survey forms by this date.
- April 25, 2012 – Last day for schools to ship completed survey forms to contractor.

**Parent Surveys** – paper forms

- March 16, 2012 – All schools should receive survey forms by this date.
- April 18, 2012 – Date for parent survey forms to be returned to the school.  
This is the due date in the letter to parents.
- April 25, 2012 – Last day for schools to ship completed survey forms to contractor.

## CONTACTS

If your student or parent survey forms are damaged in shipment please contact Mike Pulaski with Columbia Business Forms. His email address is [mpulaski@mindspring.com](mailto:mpulaski@mindspring.com).

If you have questions about administration procedures for any survey, please contact Cynthia Hearn at [chearn@ed.sc.gov](mailto:chearn@ed.sc.gov) or 803-734-8269.

## INDEX

This booklet is divided into sections by the different tasks required for the administration of surveys.

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## ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012 REPORT CARD SURVEYS

### CHANGES THIS YEAR

No changes.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- ✓ Useful survey results are dependent upon candid responses. The survey administration must encourage candid responses by protecting the anonymity of the respondents and by communicating to respondents that the information is important and will be used for improvement purposes. A letter from the State Superintendent of Education enclosed with the parent survey explains the survey and its purpose.
- ✓ No names or other identifying information should appear on the survey forms or the envelopes containing the parent survey forms. Every effort should be made to ensure that responses to the surveys remain anonymous.
- ✓ While principals should be aware of survey procedures and due dates, they should not be involved in handling completed survey forms. School staff are not allowed to review completed surveys.
- ✓ School principals must designate a staff person to serve as the school's survey coordinator. This person will be responsible for overseeing the distribution of surveys to students and parents and packaging completed surveys for return to contractor. The school survey coordinator also will keep teachers informed of the web-based teacher survey procedures and due dates and report any problems to the Department of Education.
- ✓ Guidelines established by the Education Oversight Committee determine the grade level(s) to be surveyed in each school. All students in the highest grade at elementary and middle schools should complete a student survey. Their parents should receive the parent survey form. For high schools and career centers the surveys should be administered to all 11<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. Appendix A on page 7 lists the grade level(s) to be surveyed as determined by the grade span of the school.
- ✓ Sampling is not allowed. All students in the designated grade and their parents should receive a survey. You do not need to have students complete a survey if they are absent on the day of administration or if they would have difficulty reading and responding to the items. However, these students should be given a parent survey to take home.
- ✓ Special education students are to be included and should be provided the same accommodations used for testing.
- ✓ Student and parent surveys should not be administered to children in grades two and below or their parents. For schools that contain only grades two and below, only the teacher survey will be conducted.
- ✓ These survey forms cannot be copied. The scanning equipment can not scan photocopies.
- ✓ Retain the container in which you received the survey forms. That same container can be used to return the survey forms to the contractor.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012 REPORT CARD SURVEYS

### RECEIPT AND DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

- Check the materials received in your shipment to ensure that you have received the following items:
  - ✓ An administrative envelope containing;
    5. A letter to the principal from the Education Oversight Committee (EOC),
    6. Two sets of instructions for administering the surveys,
    7. A page of shipping instructions, and
    8. One pre-addressed, bar-coded UPS shipping label (used to return completed surveys to contractor, freight prepaid).
  - ✓ Parent survey envelopes. Each envelope contains a letter from the State Superintendent of Education and a parent survey form.
  - ✓ Student survey forms.
- The number of survey forms printed for your school is based on numbers provided by your district office. Contact Mike Pulaski if you received fewer surveys than ordered.
- Check a few student and parent survey forms to make sure that your school name is on the form. If you have received survey forms for another school, please contact Mike Pulaski.
- Keep the box in which the survey forms were delivered to use for the return shipment.
- Give the letter from the EOC to your principal.
- Determine the number of student and parent survey forms you will need for each class at the designated grade level(s). Count the surveys into classroom stacks and distribute.

### SURVEY GUIDELINES

#### Student & High School Student Surveys

- Student surveys should be administered in classroom settings.
- Each survey item has four response choices. Respondents must decide whether they agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or disagree with each statement. Students will mark their responses by darkening bubbles on the survey form. If they do not have knowledge relative to the statement, students should be instructed to skip the item and go on to the next one.
- Teachers should not read the survey items to the students, but they may answer student questions about the survey items. Teachers may read items to special education students with an oral administration testing accommodation. On the last page of these instructions is the script for teachers to use to explain the survey to students.
- It is important that the surveys not be folded, torn, stapled, or damaged in any way. Please have the students use pencils. A number 2 pencil is not required.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012 REPORT CARD SURVEYS

### Parent Surveys

- Schools will distribute envelopes containing parent surveys to students in the appropriate grade(s). Students should take the envelope home for their parents to complete the survey inside and then return the envelope to the school. Envelopes are used to maintain confidentiality.
- No names or other identifying information should appear on the survey forms or the envelopes containing the survey form. Every effort should be made to ensure that responses to the surveys remain anonymous.
- The parent survey should be administered to the parents of the same children participating in the student survey.
- Parents with children in the highest grade at two different schools will receive two survey forms to complete. The name of the school appears on the survey form to help avoid confusion for the parents.
- Parent surveys will not be administered to parents of children in grades two and below. For schools that contain only grades two and below, only the teacher survey will be conducted.
- The parent survey forms are identical for all grade levels. If you are surveying parents for more than one grade level, the correct number of survey forms for all grade levels will be in your shipment.
- Each survey contains fifty-four questions and should take approximately fifteen minutes to complete. The letter enclosed with the survey form tells parents that they are being asked for their opinions about their child's school. Parents are asked to think about the entire year rather than a specific event or something that happened only once or twice. They are asked to provide honest responses that can help to improve the school.
- Parents should mark their responses by darkening bubbles on the survey. Although the scanning equipment can read pen marks, it is still a good idea to use a pencil should the parent need to change an answer. It is also important that the surveys not be folded, torn, stapled, or damaged in any way.
- Parents have the option of mailing their completed survey form to the Department of Education. The mailing address is provided in the letter to parents from the State Superintendent of Education.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** We appreciate that schools work diligently each year to encourage parents to complete and return the parent surveys. Some schools offer incentives such as ice cream treats or extra recess time to individual students or classes where all students have returned completed parent surveys. Each year parents call the Department to inform us that their child is upset that he/she cannot return the parent survey form to school and receive the special incentive because the parent wants to mail the survey form directly to the Department. Parents have the option to mail in the survey form, so we would encourage you to not penalize students whose parents' mail in their completed survey form.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012 REPORT CARD SURVEYS

### ADMINISTRATION OF SURVEYS

#### Student & High School Student Surveys

- Choose a day within the time period to administer the survey to the students. The survey should be administered to students at the same time (homeroom or advisory period for example).
- Copy the teacher instructions from the last page of these administration procedures and provide a copy of the instructions with the survey forms. Make sure the classroom teachers administering the student surveys are familiar with the administration instructions for your school.
- On the day the survey is to be administered, distribute materials to each classroom teacher within the designated grade(s).
- Make sure you are available to respond to any problems that may arise during administration of the surveys.

#### Parent Survey

- Distribute the parent surveys **as soon as possible** after they are received at the school. This should allow sufficient time for parents to complete and return the survey prior to the April 18 due date.
- Distribute the envelopes containing the parent survey form and letter to each classroom teacher within the designated grade(s). Have the teachers distribute the envelopes to students. Teachers should ask students to take the envelopes home for their parents to complete the surveys. Students should be instructed not to remove the survey form or letter from the envelope. Students should bring the envelopes containing the completed surveys back to school as soon as possible.
- If your budget allows, survey forms may be mailed to students' homes.
- Make sure you are available to respond to any problems that may arise during administration of the surveys.
- As the due date for returning the parent survey approaches, you may want to send home a note or use your automated phone system to remind parents of the due date.

#### Teacher Survey

- The teacher survey is conducted online over the internet. The survey can be accessed from the State Department of Education website at [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov).
- Teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, and speech therapists at the school should complete the teacher survey. Part-time teachers may complete a survey form if they are on campus at least half of each school day or week.
- The survey may be completed using any computer with internet access. Teachers may use their home computers.
- There is no way to determine which teachers have completed the survey, but the internet site keeps track of how many survey forms have been completed for each school. A teacher survey reporting tool may be accessed from the first page of the teacher survey which will allow you to see how many surveys have been completed for your school.
- Problems with your school's internet access should be directed to your district technology coordinator.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012  
REPORT CARD SURVEYS**

**PREPARING SURVEYS FOR SHIPMENT**

Student & High School Student Surveys

- Place all surveys flat, face up, and turned the same way. Return all completed survey forms, even those that may be damaged. No changes or edits may be made to student responses. School personnel should not be allowed to review student responses.
- Carefully paper-band the completed forms with one strong paper band. Do not use rubber bands as they tear the forms. Two or three wraps with adding machine paper fastened with tape makes a strong band.
- Unused survey forms should be placed on top of the bound materials to be returned.

Parent Survey

- All parent surveys should be returned in their individual envelopes. Envelopes should be returned flat, face up, and all turned the same way.
- All parent surveys returned without the envelope should be placed on top of the envelopes. Place the survey forms flat, face up, and turned the same way. Return all completed survey forms, even those that may be damaged. No changes or edits may be made to parent responses. School personnel should not be allowed to review parent responses.
- Carefully paper-band the completed survey forms with one strong paper band. Do not use rubber bands as they tear the forms. Two or three wraps with adding machine paper fastened with tape makes a strong band.
- Unused survey forms should be placed on top of the bound materials to be returned.

**SHIPPING THE COMPLETED SURVEYS**

- Please return all of your school's completed student and parent survey forms at the same time. Package both types of surveys in the same sturdy box. Use crumpled paper, cardboard, or Styrofoam beads to fill the voids in the shipping carton to help keep surveys from being damaged during transit. You may want to use the box in which the survey forms were delivered for the return shipment.
- Attach the pre-addressed, bar-coded UPS return shipping label to your package. (NOTE: If you are re-using the original delivery box be sure to remove or cover up the old label.) Give the package to your UPS driver the next time a delivery is made to your school. You can also drop off the package at any UPS store or drop box as well as select Office Depot and Staples locations. **Scheduling a special pick up from your school will cost you extra.**
- The pre-addressed, bar-coded UPS return shipping label was included in the administrative envelope along with these instructions. If the return UPS shipping label is missing, please contact Mike Pulaski with Columbia Business Forms. His email address is [mpulaski@mindspring.com](mailto:mpulaski@mindspring.com).
- All surveys must be shipped on or before **Wednesday, April 25, 2012.**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012  
REPORT CARD SURVEYS

**Appendix A—Student and Parent Survey Participants**

School's Grade Span	Grade Level of Students and Parents to be Surveyed		School's Grade Span	Grade Level of Students and Parents to be Surveyed
K-1, K-2, 1-2	none		4-9	5 & 9
K-3	3		5-9	9
1-3	3		6-9	9
2-3	3		7-9	9
K-4	4		8-9	9
1-4	4		K-10	5, 8, & 10
2-4	4		1-10	5, 8, & 10
3-4	4		2-10	5, 8, & 10
K-5	5		3-10	5, 8, & 10
1-5	5		4-10	5, 8, & 10
2-5	5		5-10	8 & 10
3-5	5		6-10	8 & 10
4-5	5		7-10	8 & 10
K-6	6		8-10	10
1-6	6		9-10	10
2-6	6		K-11	5, 8, & 11
3-6	6		1-11	5, 8, & 11
4-6	6		2-11	5, 8, & 11
5-6	6		3-11	5, 8, & 11
K-7	5 & 7		4-11	5, 8, & 11
1-7	5 & 7		5-11	8 & 11
2-7	5 & 7		6-11	8 & 11
3-7	5 & 7		7-11	8 & 11
4-7	5 & 7		8-11	11
5-7	7		9-11	11
6-7	7		10-11	11
K-8	5 & 8		K-12	5, 8, & 11
1-8	5 & 8		1-12	5, 8, & 11
2-8	5 & 8		2-12	5, 8, & 11
3-8	5 & 8		3-12	5, 8, & 11
4-8	5 & 8		4-12	5, 8, & 11
5-8	8		5-12	8 & 11
6-8	8		6-12	8 & 11
7-8	8		7-12	8 & 11
K-9	5 & 9		8-12	11
1-9	5 & 9		9-12	11
2-9	5 & 9		10-12	11
3-9	5 & 9		11-12	11

## TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT SURVEY

Surveys should be administered in a classroom setting. One student should be designated in each classroom to collect the student surveys and to bring them to the school survey coordinator. To ensure confidentiality, teachers should not collect completed surveys. Classroom teachers and school administrators are not to review completed student surveys.

Pass out surveys and pencils.

The teacher should read the following script.

**Today you are being asked your opinions about our school. There are no right or wrong answers. When you read each item, think about the entire year rather than a specific event or something that happened once or twice. Please provide honest and true answers so that we can change and improve our school. Do not talk to other students, but you can ask me a question if you do not understand a statement. Do NOT write your name on the survey. Do not fold or bend the sheet.**

**First, read the instructions at the top of the form and mark your grade. Make sure you have a pencil. Do not use a pen. You will read each statement, and mark your response on your survey sheet. Darken the ovals completely with your pencil. Erase any stray marks or changes. Remember to continue on the back of the sheet.**

**There are four choices for each sentence. Decide whether you agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or disagree with each sentence. Do your best to decide. If you do not know anything about the subject, you can skip the sentence and go on to the next one.**

**When you have completed the survey, check to see that you have marked only one response to each sentence and that you have marked your correct grade. Then, place your survey on your desk. (The designated student) will collect the forms.**

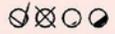
Have the student designated to collect surveys do so. Then, have the student take the completed surveys to the school survey coordinator.

Thank You

# South Carolina Parent Survey

Parents in South Carolina who have children in selected grades are being asked to complete this survey. This survey asks you how you feel about your child's school. Since this survey will be used to help make your child's school a better place, it is very important to tell us exactly what you think. Your answers will be kept private. The school will get a summary of the survey results.

## MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

- Make solid marks that fill the circle completely.
- Erase cleanly any marks you wish to change.
- Make no stray marks on this form.
- Correct Mark: ● Incorrect Marks: 

Please mark how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the Learning Environment at your child's school.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. My child's teachers give homework that helps my child learn.	<input type="radio"/>				
2. My child's school has high expectations for student learning.	<input type="radio"/>				
3. My child's teachers encourage my child to learn.	<input type="radio"/>				
4. My child's teachers provide extra help when my child needs it.	<input type="radio"/>				
5. I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school.	<input type="radio"/>				

Please mark how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Home and School Relations.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. My child's teachers contact me to say good things about my child.	<input type="radio"/>				
2. My child's teachers tell me how I can help my child learn.	<input type="radio"/>				
3. My child's teachers invite me to visit my child's classrooms during the school day.	<input type="radio"/>				
4. My child's school returns my phone calls or e-mails promptly.	<input type="radio"/>				
5. My child's school includes me in decision-making.	<input type="radio"/>				
6. My child's school gives me information about what my child should be learning in school.	<input type="radio"/>				
7. My child's school considers changes based on what parents say.	<input type="radio"/>				
8. My child's school schedules activities at times that I can attend.	<input type="radio"/>				
9. My child's school treats all students fairly.	<input type="radio"/>				
10. The principal at my child's school is available and welcoming.	<input type="radio"/>				
11. I am satisfied with home and school relations at my child's school.	<input type="radio"/>				

Please mark how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the Social and Physical Environment at your child's school.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. My child's school is kept neat and clean.	<input type="radio"/>				
2. My child feels safe at school.	<input type="radio"/>				
3. My child's teachers care about my child as an individual.	<input type="radio"/>				
4. Students at my child's school are well-behaved.	<input type="radio"/>				
5. I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my child's school.	<input type="radio"/>				

Please tell us if you do the following.	I do this	I don't do this, but I would like to	I don't do this, and I don't care to	The school does not offer this activity/event
1. Attend Open Houses or parent-teacher conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Attend student programs or performances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Volunteer for the school (bake cookies, help in office, help with school fund raising, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Go on trips with my child's school (out of town band contest, field trip to the museum, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Participate in School Improvement Council meetings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Participate in Parent-Teacher-Student Organizations (PTA, PTO, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Participate in school committees (textbook committee, spring carnival committee, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Attend parent workshops (how to help my child with school work, how to talk to my child about drugs, effective discipline, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us if you do the following.	I do this	I don't do this, but I would like to	I don't do this, and I don't care to
1. Visit my child's classrooms during the school day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Contact my child's teachers about my child's school work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Limit the amount of time my child watches TV, plays video games, surfs the Internet, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Make sure my child does his/her homework.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Help my child with homework when he/she needs it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Go on to next page. 

## APPENDIX B

Please mark if each of the following is TRUE or FALSE.	TRUE	FALSE		
1. Lack of transportation reduces my involvement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
2. Family health problems reduce my involvement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
3. Lack of available care for my children or other family members reduces my involvement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
4. My work schedule makes it hard for me to be involved.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
5. The school does not encourage my involvement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
6. Information about how to be involved either comes too late or not at all.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		
7. I don't feel like it is appreciated when I try to be involved.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		

Please rate your school on...	Very good	Good	Okay	Bad	Very bad
1. The school's overall friendliness.	<input type="radio"/>				
2. The school's interest in parents' ideas and opinions.	<input type="radio"/>				
3. The school's efforts to <b>get</b> important information <b>from</b> parents.	<input type="radio"/>				
4. The school's efforts to <b>give</b> important information <b>to</b> parents.	<input type="radio"/>				
5. How the school is doing overall.	<input type="radio"/>				

Please answer the following questions about <u>your child</u> who attends the school identified at the bottom of this page.
1. What grade is your child in? <input type="radio"/> 3rd <input type="radio"/> 4th <input type="radio"/> 5th <input type="radio"/> 6th <input type="radio"/> 7th <input type="radio"/> 8th <input type="radio"/> 9th <input type="radio"/> 10th <input type="radio"/> 11th
2. What is your child's gender? <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
3. What is your child's race/ethnicity? <input type="radio"/> African - American/Black <input type="radio"/> Hispanic <input type="radio"/> Asian American/Pacific Islander <input type="radio"/> Caucasian/white <input type="radio"/> Native American <input type="radio"/> Other
4. What grades did your child receive on his/her last report card? <input type="radio"/> All or mostly A's and B's <input type="radio"/> All or mostly C's and D's <input type="radio"/> All or mostly B's and C's <input type="radio"/> All or mostly D's and F's

Please answer the following questions about <u>yourself</u> . We are asking these questions because we want to be sure that schools are involving all parents. For each question, please mark only one answer. Your answers will be kept private.
1. What is your gender? <input type="radio"/> Male <input type="radio"/> Female
2. What is your race/ethnic group? <input type="radio"/> African - American/Black <input type="radio"/> Hispanic <input type="radio"/> Asian American/Pacific islander <input type="radio"/> Caucasian/white <input type="radio"/> Native American <input type="radio"/> Other
3. What is the highest level of education you have completed? <input type="radio"/> Attended elementary/high school <input type="radio"/> Earned Associate Degree <input type="radio"/> Earned college degree <input type="radio"/> Completed high school/GED <input type="radio"/> Attended college/training program <input type="radio"/> Postgraduate study and/or degree
4. What is your family's total yearly household income? <input type="radio"/> Less than \$15,000 <input type="radio"/> \$25,000 - \$34,999 <input type="radio"/> \$55,000 - \$75,000 <input type="radio"/> \$15,000 - \$24,999 <input type="radio"/> \$35,000 - \$54,999 <input type="radio"/> More than \$75,000

Thank you very much for completing this survey!

	DO NOT MARK IN THIS AREA  3205044	Leaphart Elementary
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APPENDIX C

**Appendix C. Regression Coefficients from Stepwise Selection of the Parent Survey.**

Item Number	Item Text	Elementary	Middle	High
LE_1	My child's teachers give homework that helps my child learn.	.	.	.
LE_2	My child's school has high expectations for student learning.	0.45837	0.56618	0.73094
LE_3	My child's teachers encourage my child to learn.	.	.	.
LE_4	My child's teachers provide extra help when my child needs it.	.	.	.
LE_5	I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school.	.	.	.
HSR_1	My child's teachers contact me to say good things about my child.	.	.	.
HSR_2	My child's teachers tell me how I can help my child learn.	-0.28486	.	.
HSR_3	My child's teachers invite me to visit my child's classrooms during the school day.	-0.22415	-0.76804	-0.99696
HSR_4	My child's school returns my phone calls or e-mails promptly.	0.68375	0.87115	.
HSR_5	My child's school includes me in decision-making.	-0.31031	-0.53968	.
HSR_6	My child's school gives me information about what my child should be learning in school.	.	0.36580	.
HSR_7	My child's school considers changes based on what parents say.	.	.	.
HSR_8	My child's school schedules activities at times that I can attend.	.	.	.
HSR_9	My child's school treats all students fairly.	.	.	.
HSR_10	The principal at my child's school is available and welcoming.	-0.18840	.	.

APPENDIX C

Item Number	Item Text	Elementary	Middle	High
HSR_11	I am satisfied with home-school relations at my child's school.	.	-0.58303	.
SPE_1	My child's school is kept neat and clean.	.	.	.
SPE_2	My child feels safe at school.	.	.	.
SPE_3	My child's teachers care about my child as an individual.	.	.	.
SPE_4	Students at my child's school are well-behaved.	0.49154	0.51380	0.60789
SPE_5	I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my child's school.	.	.	.
RATE_1	The school's overall friendliness.	.	.	.
RATE_2	The school's interest in parents' ideas and opinions.	-0.67905	.	.
RATE_3	The school's efforts to get important information from parents.	.	.	.
RATE_4	The school's efforts to give important information to parents.	.	.	.
RATE_5	How the school is doing overall.	0.79750	.	.

APPENDIX D

**Appendix D. Regression Coefficients from Stepwise Selection of the Student Survey.**

Item Number	Item Text	Elementary	Middle	High
LE_1	My classes are challenging (not too easy; they make me think).	.	0.90903	.
LE_2	My teachers want me to understand what I am learning, not just remember facts.	.	.	.
LE_3	My teachers expect students to learn.	.	.	1.02516
LE_4	My teachers expect students to behave.	.	.	0.93591
LE_5	My teachers spend enough time helping me learn.	.	.	.
LE_6	My teachers help students when they do not understand something.	.	.	-0.93967
LE_7	My teachers do a good job teaching me mathematics.	.	0.56841	.
LE_8	My teachers do a good job teaching me English language Arts.	.	.	.
LE_9	My teachers give tests on what I learn in class.	0.70818	.	.
LE_10	My teachers give homework assignments that help me learn better.	-0.30639	.	.
LE_11	My classes are interesting and fun.	.	.	.
LE_12	Students at my school believe they can do good work.	.	.	.
LE_13	My teachers praise students when they do good work.	-0.37231	.	.
LE_14	Work done by students can be seen on the walls of my school.	.	.	.
LE_15	The textbooks and workbooks I use at my school really help me to learn.	-0.48552	-1.15510	-0.39646
LE_16	The media center at my school has a good selection of books.	0.17122	.	.
LE_17	I use computers and other technology at my school to help me learn.	.	.	.

APPENDIX D

Item Number	Item Text	Elementary	Middle	High
LE_18	I am satisfied with the learning environment in my school.	.	.	.
SPE_1	The grounds around my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_2	The hallways at my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_3	The bathrooms at my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_4	Broken things at my school get fixed.	.	.	.
SPE_5	There is enough room for students to learn at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_6	Students at my school behave well in class.	.	.	0.41232
SPE_7	Students at my school behave well in the hallways, in the lunchroom, and on the playground.	0.29850	.	.
SPE_8	Students at my school know the rules and what happens when students break the rules.	-0.35734	.	.
SPE_9	The rules about how students should behave in my school are fair.	.	.	.
SPE_10	The rules for behavior are enforced at my school.	0.39018	.	.
SPE_11	I feel safe at my school before and after school hours.	.	.	.
SPE_12	I feel safe at my school during the school day.	.	0.68152	.
SPE_13	I feel safe going to or coming from my school.	.	.	0.48503
SPE_14	Students from different backgrounds get along well at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_15	Teachers and students get along well with each other at my school.	0.33163	.	.
SPE_16	Teachers work together to help students at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_17	My school has a variety of extracurricular activities for students.	.	.	.

APPENDIX D

Item Number	Item Text	Elementary	Middle	High
SPE_18	I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my school.	.	.	.
HSR_1	My parent knows what I am expected to learn in school.	-0.59938	-1.60901	-0.89273
HSR_2	My parent knows how well I am doing in school.	0.53192	.	.
HSR_3	My school informs parents about school programs and activities.	.	.	-0.43687
HSR_4	Parents at my school know their children's homework assignments.	.	.	.
HSR_5	My parent helps me with my homework when I need it.	.	.	.
HSR_6	Parents are welcomed at my school.	.	.	.
HSR_7	Parents volunteer and participate in activities at my school.	0.36336	0.95986	0.42272
HSR_8	I am satisfied with home-school relations.	.	.	0.69669

APPENDIX E

**Appendix E. Regression Coefficients from Stepwise Selection of the Teacher Survey.**

Item Number	Item Text	Elementary	Middle	High
LE_1	My school provides challenging instructional programs for students.	0.46575	0.88361	.
LE_2	Teachers at my school effectively implement the State Curriculum Standards.	0.40354	.	.
LE_3	Teachers at my school focus instruction on understanding, not just memorizing facts.	.	.	.
LE_4	Teachers at my school have high expectations for students' learning.	.	.	.
LE_5	There is a sufficient amount of classroom time allocated to instruction in essential skills.	-0.19520	.	.
LE_6	Student assessment information is effectively used by teachers to plan instruction.	.	.	.
LE_7	Effective instructional strategies are used to meet the needs of low achieving students.	.	.	.
LE_8	My school offers effective programs for students with disabilities.	.	.	.
LE_9	Instructional strategies are used to meet the needs of academically gifted students.	0.17933	.	.
LE_10	The level of teacher and staff morale is high at my school.	.	.	.
LE_11	Teachers respect each other at my school.	-0.21652	.	.
LE_12	Teachers at my school are recognized and appreciated for good work.	.	.	.
LE_13	Students at my school are motivated and interested in learning.	.	.	.
LE_14	There are sufficient materials and supplies available for classroom and instructional use.	.	.	.
LE_15	Our school has a good selection of library and media material.	0.15118	0.22244	0.41973

APPENDIX E

Item Number	Item Text	Elementary	Middle	High
LE_16	Our school has sufficient computers for instructional use.	.	-0.12926	.
LE_17	Computers are used effectively for instruction at my school.	.	.	-0.36800
LE_18	There are relevant professional development opportunities offered to teachers at my school.	-0.24329	-0.29443	.
LE_19	The school administration communicates clear instructional goals for the school.	.	.	.
LE_20	The school administration sets high standards for students.	.	.	.
LE_21	The school administration has high expectations for teacher performance.	.	.	.
LE_22	The school administration provides effective instructional leadership.	.	.	.
LE_23	Student assessment information is used to set goals and plan programs for my school.	.	.	.
LE_24	Teacher evaluation at my school focuses on instructional improvement.	.	-0.25079	.
LE_25	The school administration arranges for collaborative planning and decision making.	.	.	.
LE_26	I am satisfied with the learning environment in my school.	.	.	.
SPE_27	The grounds around my school are kept clean.	.	.	-0.37108
SPE_28	The hallways at my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_29	The bathrooms at my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_30	The school building is maintained well and repaired when needed.	.	.	.
SPE_31	There is sufficient space for instructional programs at my school.	.	.	.

APPENDIX E

Item Number	Item Text	Elementary	Middle	High
SPE_32	Students at my school behave well in class.	0.38512	0.59898	0.88115
SPE_33	Students at my school behave well in the hallways, in the lunchroom, and on school grounds.	.	.	.
SPE_34	Rules and consequences for behavior are clear to students.	-0.17706	-0.33773	-0.46160
SPE_35	The rules for behavior are enforced at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_36	I feel safe at my school before and after school hours.	.	.	.
SPE_37	I feel safe at my school during the school day.	.	.	.
SPE_38	I feel safe going to or coming from my school.	.	.	.
SPE_39	Students from different backgrounds get along well at my school.	.	-0.35550	.
SPE_40	Teachers and students get along well with each other at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_41	Teachers at my school collaborate for instructional planning.	.	.	.
SPE_42	I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my school.	.	0.34990	.
HSR_43	Parents at my school are aware of school policies.	.	.	.
HSR_44	Parents at my school know about school activities.	.	.	.
HSR_45	Parents at my school understand the school's instructional programs.	.	.	.
HSR_46	Parents at my school are interested in their children's schoolwork.	.	.	.
HSR_47	Parents at my school support instructional decisions regarding their children.	-0.41800	.	.

APPENDIX E

Item Number	Item Text	Elementary	Middle	High
HSR_48	Parents attend conferences requested by teachers at my school.	0.49818	0.51263	.
HSR_49	Parents at my school cooperate regarding discipline problems.	.	-0.38837	.
HSR_50	Parents attend school meetings and other school events.	.	.	0.70520
HSR_51	Parents participate as volunteer helpers in the school or classroom.	0.23333	.	.
HSR_52	Parents are involved in school decisions through advisory committees.	.	.	.
LE_71	School administrators visit classrooms to observe instruction.	.	.	.
SPE_72	The rules about how students should behave in my school are fair.	.	.	.
HSR_73	I am satisfied with home and school relations.	.	.	.

The Education Oversight Committee does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, or handicap in its practices relating to employment or establishment and administration of its programs and initiatives. Inquiries regarding employment, programs and initiatives of the Committee should be directed to the Executive Director 803.734.6148.



# ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012 REPORT CARD SURVEYS

The Education Accountability Act of 1998 specifies that “school report cards should include information in such areas as...evaluations of the school by parents, teachers, and students.” To obtain these evaluations, the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) has constructed student, teacher, and parent surveys that are designed to measure perceptions of three factors: home and school relations, the school’s learning environment, and the school’s social and physical environment. The purpose of these teacher, parent, and student surveys is to obtain information related to the perceptions of these groups about your school. Results will provide valuable information to principals, teachers, parents, School Improvement Councils, and community groups in their efforts to identify areas for improvement. Results will also appear on the annual school report cards.

## SCHEDULE

**Teacher Surveys** – on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) website

- February 27, 2012 – Teacher Survey portal opens.
- March 30, 2012 – Teacher Survey portal closes.

**Student & High School Student Surveys** – paper forms

- March 16, 2012 – All schools should receive survey forms by this date.
- April 25, 2012 – Last day for schools to ship completed survey forms to contractor.

**Parent Surveys** – paper forms

- March 16, 2012 – All schools should receive survey forms by this date.
- April 18, 2012 – Date for parent survey forms to be returned to the school.  
This is the due date in the letter to parents.
- April 25, 2012 – Last day for schools to ship completed survey forms to contractor.

## CONTACTS

If your student or parent survey forms are damaged in shipment please contact Mike Pulaski with Columbia Business Forms. His email address is [mpulaski@mindspring.com](mailto:mpulaski@mindspring.com).

If you have questions about administration procedures for any survey, please contact Cynthia Hearn at [chearn@ed.sc.gov](mailto:chearn@ed.sc.gov) or 803-734-8269.

## INDEX

This booklet is divided into sections by the different tasks required for the administration of surveys.

SECTION	PAGE	SECTION	PAGE
Changes This Year	2	Preparing Surveys for Shipment	6
General Guidelines	2	Shipping the Completed Surveys	6
Receipt and Distribution of Materials	3	Appendix A – Student and Parent	
Survey Guidelines	3	Survey Participants	7
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ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012  
REPORT CARD SURVEYS

## CHANGES THIS YEAR

No changes.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

- ✓ Useful survey results are dependent upon candid responses. The survey administration must encourage candid responses by protecting the anonymity of the respondents and by communicating to respondents that the information is important and will be used for improvement purposes. A letter from the State Superintendent of Education enclosed with the parent survey explains the survey and its purpose.
- ✓ No names or other identifying information should appear on the survey forms or the envelopes containing the parent survey forms. Every effort should be made to ensure that responses to the surveys remain anonymous.
- ✓ While principals should be aware of survey procedures and due dates, they should not be involved in handling completed survey forms. School staff are not allowed to review completed surveys.
- ✓ School principals must designate a staff person to serve as the school's survey coordinator. This person will be responsible for overseeing the distribution of surveys to students and parents and packaging completed surveys for return to contractor. The school survey coordinator also will keep teachers informed of the web-based teacher survey procedures and due dates and report any problems to the Department of Education.
- ✓ Guidelines established by the Education Oversight Committee determine the grade level(s) to be surveyed in each school. All students in the highest grade at elementary and middle schools should complete a student survey. Their parents should receive the parent survey form. For high schools and career centers the surveys should be administered to all 11<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. Appendix A on page 7 lists the grade level(s) to be surveyed as determined by the grade span of the school.
- ✓ Sampling is not allowed. All students in the designated grade and their parents should receive a survey. You do not need to have students complete a survey if they are absent on the day of administration or if they would have difficulty reading and responding to the items. However, these students should be given a parent survey to take home.
- ✓ Special education students are to be included and should be provided the same accommodations used for testing.
- ✓ Student and parent surveys should not be administered to children in grades two and below or their parents. For schools that contain only grades two and below, only the teacher survey will be conducted.
- ✓ These survey forms cannot be copied. The scanning equipment can not scan photocopies.
- ✓ Retain the container in which you received the survey forms. That same container can be used to return the survey forms to the contractor.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012  
REPORT CARD SURVEYS

## RECEIPT AND DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

- Check the materials received in your shipment to ensure that you have received the following items:
  - ✓ An administrative envelope containing;
    1. A letter to the principal from the Education Oversight Committee (EOC),
    2. Two sets of instructions for administering the surveys,
    3. A page of shipping instructions, and
    4. One pre-addressed, bar-coded UPS shipping label (used to return completed surveys to contractor, freight prepaid).
  - ✓ Parent survey envelopes. Each envelope contains a letter from the State Superintendent of Education and a parent survey form.
  - ✓ Student survey forms.
- The number of survey forms printed for your school is based on numbers provided by your district office. Contact Mike Pulaski if you received fewer surveys than ordered.
- Check a few student and parent survey forms to make sure that your school name is on the form. If you have received survey forms for another school, please contact Mike Pulaski.
- Keep the box in which the survey forms were delivered to use for the return shipment.
- Give the letter from the EOC to your principal.
- Determine the number of student and parent survey forms you will need for each class at the designated grade level(s). Count the surveys into classroom stacks and distribute.

## SURVEY GUIDELINES

### Student & High School Student Surveys

- Student surveys should be administered in classroom settings.
- Each survey item has four response choices. Respondents must decide whether they agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or disagree with each statement. Students will mark their responses by darkening bubbles on the survey form. If they do not have knowledge relative to the statement, students should be instructed to skip the item and go on to the next one.
- Teachers should not read the survey items to the students, but they may answer student questions about the survey items. Teachers may read items to special education students with an oral administration testing accommodation. On the last page of these instructions is the script for teachers to use to explain the survey to students.
- It is important that the surveys not be folded, torn, stapled, or damaged in any way. Please have the students use pencils. A number 2 pencil is not required.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012 REPORT CARD SURVEYS

### Parent Surveys

- Schools will distribute envelopes containing parent surveys to students in the appropriate grade(s). Students should take the envelope home for their parents to complete the survey inside and then return the envelope to the school. Envelopes are used to maintain confidentiality.
- No names or other identifying information should appear on the survey forms or the envelopes containing the survey form. Every effort should be made to ensure that responses to the surveys remain anonymous.
- The parent survey should be administered to the parents of the same children participating in the student survey.
- Parents with children in the highest grade at two different schools will receive two survey forms to complete. The name of the school appears on the survey form to help avoid confusion for the parents.
- Parent surveys will not be administered to parents of children in grades two and below. For schools that contain only grades two and below, only the teacher survey will be conducted.
- The parent survey forms are identical for all grade levels. If you are surveying parents for more than one grade level, the correct number of survey forms for all grade levels will be in your shipment.
- Each survey contains fifty-four questions and should take approximately fifteen minutes to complete. The letter enclosed with the survey form tells parents that they are being asked for their opinions about their child's school. Parents are asked to think about the entire year rather than a specific event or something that happened only once or twice. They are asked to provide honest responses that can help to improve the school.
- Parents should mark their responses by darkening bubbles on the survey. Although the scanning equipment can read pen marks, it is still a good idea to use a pencil should the parent need to change an answer. It is also important that the surveys not be folded, torn, stapled, or damaged in any way.
- Parents have the option of mailing their completed survey form to the Department of Education. The mailing address is provided in the letter to parents from the State Superintendent of Education.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** We appreciate that schools work diligently each year to encourage parents to complete and return the parent surveys. Some schools offer incentives such as ice cream treats or extra recess time to individual students or classes where all students have returned completed parent surveys. Each year parents call the Department to inform us that their child is upset that he/she cannot return the parent survey form to school and receive the special incentive because the parent wants to mail the survey form directly to the Department. Parents have the option to mail in the survey form, so we would encourage you to not penalize students whose parents' mail in their completed survey form.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012 REPORT CARD SURVEYS

### ADMINISTRATION OF SURVEYS

#### Student & High School Student Surveys

- Choose a day within the time period to administer the survey to the students. The survey should be administered to students at the same time (homeroom or advisory period for example).
- Copy the teacher instructions from the last page of these administration procedures and provide a copy of the instructions with the survey forms. Make sure the classroom teachers administering the student surveys are familiar with the administration instructions for your school.
- On the day the survey is to be administered, distribute materials to each classroom teacher within the designated grade(s).
- Make sure you are available to respond to any problems that may arise during administration of the surveys.

#### Parent Survey

- Distribute the parent surveys **as soon as possible** after they are received at the school. This should allow sufficient time for parents to complete and return the survey prior to the April 18 due date.
- Distribute the envelopes containing the parent survey form and letter to each classroom teacher within the designated grade(s). Have the teachers distribute the envelopes to students. Teachers should ask students to take the envelopes home for their parents to complete the surveys. Students should be instructed not to remove the survey form or letter from the envelope. Students should bring the envelopes containing the completed surveys back to school as soon as possible.
- If your budget allows, survey forms may be mailed to students' homes.
- Make sure you are available to respond to any problems that may arise during administration of the surveys.
- As the due date for returning the parent survey approaches, you may want to send home a note or use your automated phone system to remind parents of the due date.

#### Teacher Survey

- The teacher survey is conducted online over the internet. The survey can be accessed from the State Department of Education website at [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov).
- Teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, and speech therapists at the school should complete the teacher survey. Part-time teachers may complete a survey form if they are on campus at least half of each school day or week.
- The survey may be completed using any computer with internet access. Teachers may use their home computers.
- There is no way to determine which teachers have completed the survey, but the internet site keeps track of how many survey forms have been completed for each school. A teacher survey reporting tool may be accessed from the first page of the teacher survey which will allow you to see how many surveys have been completed for your school.
- Problems with your school's internet access should be directed to your district technology coordinator.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012  
REPORT CARD SURVEYS

## PREPARING SURVEYS FOR SHIPMENT

### Student & High School Student Surveys

- Place all surveys flat, face up, and turned the same way. Return all completed survey forms, even those that may be damaged. No changes or edits may be made to student responses. School personnel should not be allowed to review student responses.
- Carefully paper-band the completed forms with one strong paper band. Do not use rubber bands as they tear the forms. Two or three wraps with adding machine paper fastened with tape makes a strong band.
- Unused survey forms should be placed on top of the bound materials to be returned.

### Parent Survey

- All parent surveys should be returned in their individual envelopes. Envelopes should be returned flat, face up, and all turned the same way.
- All parent surveys returned without the envelope should be placed on top of the envelopes. Place the survey forms flat, face up, and turned the same way. Return all completed survey forms, even those that may be damaged. No changes or edits may be made to parent responses. School personnel should not be allowed to review parent responses.
- Carefully paper-band the completed survey forms with one strong paper band. Do not use rubber bands as they tear the forms. Two or three wraps with adding machine paper fastened with tape makes a strong band.
- Unused survey forms should be placed on top of the bound materials to be returned.

## SHIPPING THE COMPLETED SURVEYS

- Please return all of your school's completed student and parent survey forms at the same time. Package both types of surveys in the same sturdy box. Use crumpled paper, cardboard, or Styrofoam beads to fill the voids in the shipping carton to help keep surveys from being damaged during transit. You may want to use the box in which the survey forms were delivered for the return shipment.
- Attach the pre-addressed, bar-coded UPS return shipping label to your package. (NOTE: If you are re-using the original delivery box be sure to remove or cover up the old label.) Give the package to your UPS driver the next time a delivery is made to your school. You can also drop off the package at any UPS store or drop box as well as select Office Depot and Staples locations. **Scheduling a special pick up from your school will cost you extra.**
- The pre-addressed, bar-coded UPS return shipping label was included in the administrative envelope along with these instructions. If the return UPS shipping label is missing, please contact Mike Pulaski with Columbia Business Forms. His email address is [mpulaski@mindspring.com](mailto:mpulaski@mindspring.com).
- All surveys must be shipped on or before **Wednesday, April 25, 2012.**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2012  
REPORT CARD SURVEYS

**Appendix A—Student and Parent Survey Participants**

School's Grade Span	Grade Level of Students and Parents to be Surveyed	School's Grade Span	Grade Level of Students and Parents to be Surveyed
K-1, K-2, 1-2	none	4-9	5 & 9
K-3	3	5-9	9
1-3	3	6-9	9
2-3	3	7-9	9
K-4	4	8-9	9
1-4	4	K-10	5, 8, & 10
2-4	4	1-10	5, 8, & 10
3-4	4	2-10	5, 8, & 10
K-5	5	3-10	5, 8, & 10
1-5	5	4-10	5, 8, & 10
2-5	5	5-10	8 & 10
3-5	5	6-10	8 & 10
4-5	5	7-10	8 & 10
K-6	6	8-10	10
1-6	6	9-10	10
2-6	6	K-11	5, 8, & 11
3-6	6	1-11	5, 8, & 11
4-6	6	2-11	5, 8, & 11
5-6	6	3-11	5, 8, & 11
K-7	5 & 7	4-11	5, 8, & 11
1-7	5 & 7	5-11	8 & 11
2-7	5 & 7	6-11	8 & 11
3-7	5 & 7	7-11	8 & 11
4-7	5 & 7	8-11	11
5-7	7	9-11	11
6-7	7	10-11	11
K-8	5 & 8	K-12	5, 8, & 11
1-8	5 & 8	1-12	5, 8, & 11
2-8	5 & 8	2-12	5, 8, & 11
3-8	5 & 8	3-12	5, 8, & 11
4-8	5 & 8	4-12	5, 8, & 11
5-8	8	5-12	8 & 11
6-8	8	6-12	8 & 11
7-8	8	7-12	8 & 11
K-9	5 & 9	8-12	11
1-9	5 & 9	9-12	11
2-9	5 & 9	10-12	11
3-9	5 & 9	11-12	11

## TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENT SURVEY

Surveys should be administered in a classroom setting. One student should be designated in each classroom to collect the student surveys and to bring them to the school survey coordinator. To ensure confidentiality, teachers should not collect completed surveys. Classroom teachers and school administrators are not to review completed student surveys.

Pass out surveys and pencils.

The teacher should read the following script.

**Today you are being asked your opinions about our school. There are no right or wrong answers. When you read each item, think about the entire year rather than a specific event or something that happened once or twice. Please provide honest and true answers so that we can change and improve our school. Do not talk to other students, but you can ask me a question if you do not understand a statement. Do NOT write your name on the survey. Do not fold or bend the sheet.**

**First, read the instructions at the top of the form and mark your grade. Make sure you have a pencil. Do not use a pen. You will read each statement, and mark your response on your survey sheet. Darken the ovals completely with your pencil. Erase any stray marks or changes. Remember to continue on the back of the sheet.**

**There are four choices for each sentence. Decide whether you agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or disagree with each sentence. Do your best to decide. If you do not know anything about the subject, you can skip the sentence and go on to the next one.**

**When you have completed the survey, check to see that you have marked only one response to each sentence and that you have marked your correct grade. Then, place your survey on your desk. (The designated student) will collect the forms.**

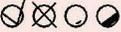
Have the student designated to collect surveys do so. Then, have the student take the completed surveys to the school survey coordinator.

Thank You

# South Carolina Parent Survey

Parents in South Carolina who have children in selected grades are being asked to complete this survey. This survey asks you how you feel about your child's school. Since this survey will be used to help make your child's school a better place, it is very important to tell us exactly what you think. Your answers will be kept private. The school will get a summary of the survey results.

## MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

- Make solid marks that fill the circle completely.
- Erase cleanly any marks you wish to change.
- Make no stray marks on this form.
- Correct Mark: ● Incorrect Marks: 

Please mark how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the Learning Environment at your child's school.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. My child's teachers give homework that helps my child learn.	<input type="radio"/>				
2. My child's school has high expectations for student learning.	<input type="radio"/>				
3. My child's teachers encourage my child to learn.	<input type="radio"/>				
4. My child's teachers provide extra help when my child needs it.	<input type="radio"/>				
5. I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school.	<input type="radio"/>				

Please mark how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about Home and School Relations.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. My child's teachers contact me to say good things about my child.	<input type="radio"/>				
2. My child's teachers tell me how I can help my child learn.	<input type="radio"/>				
3. My child's teachers invite me to visit my child's classrooms during the school day.	<input type="radio"/>				
4. My child's school returns my phone calls or e-mails promptly.	<input type="radio"/>				
5. My child's school includes me in decision-making.	<input type="radio"/>				
6. My child's school gives me information about what my child should be learning in school.	<input type="radio"/>				
7. My child's school considers changes based on what parents say.	<input type="radio"/>				
8. My child's school schedules activities at times that I can attend.	<input type="radio"/>				
9. My child's school treats all students fairly.	<input type="radio"/>				
10. The principal at my child's school is available and welcoming.	<input type="radio"/>				
11. I am satisfied with home and school relations at my child's school.	<input type="radio"/>				

Please mark how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the Social and Physical Environment at your child's school.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. My child's school is kept neat and clean.	<input type="radio"/>				
2. My child feels safe at school.	<input type="radio"/>				
3. My child's teachers care about my child as an individual.	<input type="radio"/>				
4. Students at my child's school are well-behaved.	<input type="radio"/>				
5. I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my child's school.	<input type="radio"/>				

Please tell us if you do the following.

	I do this	I don't do this, but I would like to	I don't do this, and I don't care to	The school does not offer this activity/event
1. Attend Open Houses or parent-teacher conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Attend student programs or performances	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Volunteer for the school (bake cookies, help in office, help with school fund raising, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Go on trips with my child's school (out of town band contest, field trip to the museum, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Participate in School Improvement Council meetings.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Participate in Parent-Teacher-Student Organizations (PTA, PTO, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Participate in school committees (textbook committee, spring carnival committee, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Attend parent workshops (how to help my child with school work, how to talk to my child about drugs, effective discipline, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us if you do the following.

	I do this	I don't do this, but I would like to	I don't do this, and I don't care to
1. Visit my child's classrooms during the school day.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Contact my child's teachers about my child's school work.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Limit the amount of time my child watches TV, plays video games, surfs the Internet, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Make sure my child does his/her homework.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Help my child with homework when he/she needs it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Go on to next page. 

Please mark if each of the following is TRUE or FALSE.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Lack of transportation reduces my involvement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Family health problems reduce my involvement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Lack of available care for my children or other family members reduces my involvement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. My work schedule makes it hard for me to be involved.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. The school does not encourage my involvement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Information about how to be involved either comes too late or not at all.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. I don't feel like it is appreciated when I try to be involved.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please rate your school on...

	Very good	Good	Okay	Bad	Very bad
1. The school's overall friendliness.	<input type="radio"/>				
2. The school's interest in parents' ideas and opinions.	<input type="radio"/>				
3. The school's efforts to <b>get</b> important information <b>from</b> parents.	<input type="radio"/>				
4. The school's efforts to <b>give</b> important information <b>to</b> parents.	<input type="radio"/>				
5. How the school is doing overall.	<input type="radio"/>				

Please answer the following questions about your child who attends the school identified at the bottom of this page.

1. What grade is your child in?  3rd  4th  5th  6th  7th  8th  9th  10th  11th
2. What is your child's gender?  Male  Female
3. What is your child's race/ethnicity?  
 African - American/Black  Hispanic  Asian American/Pacific Islander  
 Caucasian/white  Native American  Other
4. What grades did your child receive on his/her last report card?  
 All or mostly A's and B's  All or mostly C's and D's  
 All or mostly B's and C's  All or mostly D's and F's

Please answer the following questions about yourself. We are asking these questions because we want to be sure that schools are involving all parents. For each question, please mark only one answer. Your answers will be kept private.

1. What is your gender?  Male  Female
2. What is your race/ethnic group?  
 African - American/Black  Hispanic  Asian American/Pacific islander  
 Caucasian/white  Native American  Other
3. What is the highest level of education you have completed?  
 Attended elementary/high school  Earned Associate Degree  Earned college degree  
 Completed high school/GED  Attended college/training program  Postgraduate study and/or degree
4. What is your family's total yearly household income?  
 Less than \$15,000  \$25,000 - \$34,999  \$55,000 - \$75,000  
 \$15,000 - \$24,999  \$35,000 - \$54,999  More than \$75,000

Thank you very much for completing this survey!

DO NOT MARK IN THIS AREA



3205044

Leaphart Elementary

**Appendix C. Regression Coefficients from Stepwise Selection of the Parent Survey.**

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Text</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
LE_1	My child's teachers give homework that helps my child learn.	.	.	.
LE_2	My child's school has high expectations for student learning.	0.45837	0.56618	0.73094
LE_3	My child's teachers encourage my child to learn.	.	.	.
LE_4	My child's teachers provide extra help when my child needs it.	.	.	.
LE_5	I am satisfied with the learning environment at my child's school.	.	.	.
HSR_1	My child's teachers contact me to say good things about my child.	.	.	.
HSR_2	My child's teachers tell me how I can help my child learn.	-0.28486	.	.
HSR_3	My child's teachers invite me to visit my child's classrooms during the school day.	-0.22415	-0.76804	-0.99696
HSR_4	My child's school returns my phone calls or e-mails promptly.	0.68375	0.87115	.
HSR_5	My child's school includes me in decision-making.	-0.31031	-0.53968	.
HSR_6	My child's school gives me information about what my child should be learning in school.	.	0.36580	.
HSR_7	My child's school considers changes based on what parents say.	.	.	.
HSR_8	My child's school schedules activities at times that I can attend.	.	.	.
HSR_9	My child's school treats all students fairly.	.	.	.
HSR_10	The principal at my child's school is available and welcoming.	-0.18840	.	.

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Text</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
HSR_11	I am satisfied with home-school relations at my child's school.	.	-0.58303	.
SPE_1	My child's school is kept neat and clean.	.	.	.
SPE_2	My child feels safe at school.	.	.	.
SPE_3	My child's teachers care about my child as an individual.	.	.	.
SPE_4	Students at my child's school are well-behaved.	0.49154	0.51380	0.60789
SPE_5	I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my child's school.	.	.	.
RATE_1	The school's overall friendliness.	.	.	.
RATE_2	The school's interest in parents' ideas and opinions.	-0.67905	.	.
RATE_3	The school's efforts to get important information from parents.	.	.	.
RATE_4	The school's efforts to give important information to parents.	.	.	.
RATE_5	How the school is doing overall.	0.79750	.	.

**Appendix D. Regression Coefficients from Stepwise Selection of the Student Survey.**

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Text</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
LE_1	My classes are challenging (not too easy; they make me think).	.	0.90903	.
LE_2	My teachers want me to understand what I am learning, not just remember facts.	.	.	.
LE_3	My teachers expect students to learn.	.	.	1.02516
LE_4	My teachers expect students to behave.	.	.	0.93591
LE_5	My teachers spend enough time helping me learn.	.	.	.
LE_6	My teachers help students when they do not understand something.	.	.	-0.93967
LE_7	My teachers do a good job teaching me mathematics.	.	0.56841	.
LE_8	My teachers do a good job teaching me English language Arts.	.	.	.
LE_9	My teachers give tests on what I learn in class.	0.70818	.	.
LE_10	My teachers give homework assignments that help me learn better.	-0.30639	.	.
LE_11	My classes are interesting and fun.	.	.	.
LE_12	Students at my school believe they can do good work.	.	.	.
LE_13	My teachers praise students when they do good work.	-0.37231	.	.
LE_14	Work done by students can be seen on the walls of my school.	.	.	.
LE_15	The textbooks and workbooks I use at my school really help me to learn.	-0.48552	-1.15510	-0.39646
LE_16	The media center at my school has a good selection of books.	0.17122	.	.
LE_17	I use computers and other technology at my school to help me learn.	.	.	.

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Text</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
LE_18	I am satisfied with the learning environment in my school.	.	.	.
SPE_1	The ground around my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_2	The hallways at my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_3	The bathrooms at my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_4	Broken things at my school get fixed.	.	.	.
SPE_5	There is enough room for students to learn at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_6	Students at my school behave well in class.	.	.	0.41232
SPE_7	Students at my school behave well in the hallways, in the lunchroom, and on the playground.	0.29850	.	.
SPE_8	Students at my school know the rules and what happens when students break the rules.	-0.35734	.	.
SPE_9	The rules about how students should behave in my school are fair.	.	.	.
SPE_10	The rules for behavior are enforced at my school.	0.39018	.	.
SPE_11	I feel safe at my school before and after school hours.	.	.	.
SPE_12	I feel safe at my school during the school day.	.	0.68152	.
SPE_13	I feel safe going to or coming from my school.	.	.	0.48503
SPE_14	Students from different backgrounds get along well at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_15	Teachers and students get along well with each other at my school.	0.33163	.	.
SPE_16	Teachers work together to help students at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_17	My school has a variety of extracurricular activities for students.	.	.	.

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Text</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
SPE_18	I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my school.	.	.	.
HSR_1	My parent knows what I am expected to learn in school.	-0.59938	-1.60901	-0.89273
HSR_2	My parent knows how well I am doing in school.	0.53192	.	.
HSR_3	My school informs parents about school programs and activities.	.	.	-0.43687
HSR_4	Parents at my school know their children's homework assignments.	.	.	.
HSR_5	My parent helps me with my homework when I need it.	.	.	.
HSR_6	Parents are welcomed at my school.	.	.	.
HSR_7	Parents volunteer and participate in activities at my school.	0.36336	0.95986	0.42272
HSR_8	I am satisfied with home-school relations.	.	.	0.69669

**Appendix E. Regression Coefficients from Stepwise Selection of the Teacher Survey.**

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Text</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
LE_1	My school provides challenging instructional programs for students.	0.46575	0.88361	.
LE_2	Teachers at my school effectively implement the State Curriculum Standards.	0.40354	.	.
LE_3	Teachers at my school focus instruction on understanding, not just memorizing facts.	.	.	.
LE_4	Teachers at my school have high expectations for students' learning.	.	.	.
LE_5	There is a sufficient amount of classroom time allocated to instruction in essential skills.	-0.19520	.	.
LE_6	Student assessment information is effectively used by teachers to plan instruction.	.	.	.
LE_7	Effective instructional strategies are used to meet the needs of low achieving students.	.	.	.
LE_8	My school offers effective programs for students with disabilities.	.	.	.
LE_9	Instructional strategies are used to meet the needs of academically gifted students.	0.17933	.	.
LE_10	The level of teacher and staff morale is high at my school.	.	.	.
LE_11	Teachers respect each other at my school.	-0.21652	.	.
LE_12	Teachers at my school are recognized and appreciated for good work.	.	.	.
LE_13	Students at my school are motivated and interested in learning.	.	.	.
LE_14	There are sufficient materials and supplies available for classroom and instructional use.	.	.	.

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Text</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
LE_15	Our school has a good selection of library and media material.	0.15118	0.22244	0.41973
LE_16	Our school has sufficient computers for instructional use.	.	-0.12926	.
LE_17	Computers are used effectively for instruction at my school.	.	.	-0.36800
LE_18	There are relevant professional development opportunities offered to teachers at my school.	-0.24329	-0.29443	.
LE_19	The school administration communicates clear instructional goals for the school.	.	.	.
LE_20	The school administration sets high standards for students.	.	.	.
LE_21	The school administration has high expectations for teacher performance.	.	.	.
LE_22	The school administration provides effective instructional leadership.	.	.	.
LE_23	Student assessment information is used to set goals and plan programs for my school.	.	.	.
LE_24	Teacher evaluation at my school focuses on instructional improvement.	.	-0.25079	.
LE_25	The school administration arranges for collaborative planning and decision making.	.	.	.
LE_26	I am satisfied with the learning environment in my school.	.	.	.
SPE_27	The grounds around my school are kept clean.	.	.	-0.37108
SPE_28	The hallways at my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_29	The bathrooms at my school are kept clean.	.	.	.
SPE_30	The school building is maintained well and repaired when needed.	.	.	.

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Text</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
SPE_31	There is sufficient space for instructional programs at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_32	Students at my school behave well in class.	0.38512	0.59898	0.88115
SPE_33	Students at my school behave well in the hallways, in the lunchroom, and on school grounds.	.	.	.
SPE_34	Rules and consequences for behavior are clear to students.	-0.17706	-0.33773	-0.46160
SPE_35	The rules for behavior are enforced at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_36	I feel safe at my school before and after school hours.	.	.	.
SPE_37	I feel safe at my school during the school day.	.	.	.
SPE_38	I feel safe going to or coming from my school.	.	.	.
SPE_39	Students from different backgrounds get along well at my school.	.	-0.35550	.
SPE_40	Teachers and students get along well with each other at my school.	.	.	.
SPE_41	Teachers at my school collaborate for instructional planning.	.	.	.
SPE_42	I am satisfied with the social and physical environment at my school.	.	0.34990	.
HSR_43	Parents at my school are aware of school policies.	.	.	.
HSR_44	Parents at my school know about school activities.	.	.	.
HSR_45	Parents at my school understand the school's instructional programs.	.	.	.
HSR_46	Parents at my school are interested in their children's schoolwork.	.	.	.

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Item Text</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>High</b>
HSR_47	Parents at my school support instructional decisions regarding their children.	-0.41800	.	.
HSR_48	Parents attend conferences requested by teachers at my school.	0.49818	0.51263	.
HSR_49	Parents at my school cooperate regarding discipline problems.	.	-0.38837	.
HSR_50	Parents attend school meetings and other school events.	.	.	0.70520
HSR_51	Parents participate as volunteer helpers in the school or classroom.	0.23333	.	.
HSR_52	Parents are involved in school decisions through advisory committees.	.	.	.
LE_71	School administrators visit classrooms to observe instruction.	.	.	.
SPE_72	The rules about how students should behave in my school are fair.	.	.	.
HSR_73	I am satisfied with home and school relations.	.	.	.