

OFFICE OF PROGRAM EVALUATION  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2012-2013  
SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEYS  
DISTRICT RESULTS  
SUMMARY

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SEPTEMBER 2013

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## INTRODUCTION

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School Climate Surveys of parents, students, and staff have been regularly administered in the Miami-Dade County Public School district since the early 1990s. The purpose of these surveys is to gather information regarding the perceptions of these groups about school and how the school can be improved. Results from several of the most recent years' surveys are available by school on the following website: <http://drs.dadeschools.net>. In addition to providing information to the public, survey results are intended to assist schools in the identification of priorities for their annual School Improvement Plans.

In January and February, 2013, the school climate surveys were distributed to approximately 93,000 parents, 52,000 elementary, secondary, and adult students, and 24,000 staff.

Fifty percent of the parents who were surveyed in 2013 responded, a figure roughly equivalent to last year's 46 percent. Student returns decreased by three percent from 81 percent to 78 percent. The staff response rate increased from 62 percent to 65 percent. Detailed by-school results were provided to the schools before the beginning of the school year. The primary purpose of these reports was to facilitate an in-depth view of the learning climate at each school. The present report represents a byproduct of those by-school reports and summarizes selected district wide results.

The patterns of the responses for all groups were very similar to the previous year's patterns, and do not deviate greatly from the response patterns of earlier administrations. All groups were generally positive in their responses, as they have been in previous years, expressing general agreement with the survey items. On average, parents and staff have a high percent of agreement with the items expressing a high degree of satisfaction with their schools. Students at the elementary level also have a high average agreement on these items, but middle and senior high students are less likely to express satisfaction with their school. The item- by-item results are listed by educational level (elementary, K-8, middle and senior) for each of the three responding groups, parents, staff, and students.

**SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY  
SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE 2012-13 ADMINISTRATION  
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS**

***9999 Overall Results for ALL MIAMI-DADE Schools***

	Parents		Students		Staff	
	No.	%	No	%	No.	%
<b>Return Rate</b>						
Forms Distributed	92874		50562		24461	
Forms Returned	46631		42195		14549	
Rate		50.2		83.5		59.5
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	7663	17.3	20634	49.7	3134	21.7
Female	36755	82.7	20907	50.3	11283	78.3
<b>Ethnic Group</b>						
White, Non-Hispanic	3979	8.9	3750	9.1	3368	23.3
Black, Non-Hispanic	8904	19.8	9929	24.1	2488	17.2
Hispanic	30187	67.2	24512	59.4	7607	52.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	722	1.6	581	1.4	139	1.0
American Indian	90	0.2	367	0.9	22	0.2
Multi-Ethnic	1052	2.3	2136	5.2	803	5.6
<b>School Activities Attended</b>						
None	7559	17.1				
One to Three	25294	57.1				
Four or More	11457	25.9				
<b>Magnet School/Program?5</b>						
Yes	5477	14.7	5324	13.8	1568	11.2
No	31712	85.3	33156	86.2	12428	88.8
<b>Are You Teaching?</b>						
Yes					13404	94.6
No					763	5.4
<b>Grade</b>						
Pre-K			0	0	323	2.3
K			0	0	904	6.5
1st			0	0	937	6.8
2nd			0	0	1048	7.6
3rd			0	0	1268	9.2
4th			0	0	1021	7.4
5th			0	0	1154	8.3
6th			0	0	997	7.2
7th			0	0	903	6.5
8th			0	0	1083	7.8
9th			0	0	783	5.7
10th			0	0	851	6.1
11th			0	0	776	5.6
12th			0	0	659	4.8
Other			125	100.0	1133	8.2

**2012-2013 SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY  
DISTRICT WIDE SUMMARY OF  
STAFF RESPONSES**

Survey Item		Percent Responding*											
		Elementary			K-8			Middle			Senior		
		A	U	D	A	U	D	A	U	D	A	U	D
1	At my school I feel safe and secure.	86	6	9	89	4	7	83	6	11	86	6	8
2	At my school the school building is kept clean and in good condition.	79	6	16	78	6	16	75	6	19	77	6	18
3	At my school personnel work together as a team.	84	6	9	86	5	8	79	8	13	78	9	13
4	At my school administrators solve problems effectively.	83	8	9	85	6	10	77	10	14	75	10	14
5	At my school I feel that my ideas are listened to and considered.	81	9	10	81	10	9	76	11	13	69	15	16
6	At my school adequate disciplinary measures are used to deal with disruptive behavior.	75	9	16	76	10	14	67	9	25	70	11	19
7	My principal is an effective administrator.	84	7	8	88	5	6	82	8	9	83	9	9
8	My principal represents the school in a positive manner.	89	5	6	92	4	4	87	6	6	88	6	6
9	My principal demonstrates good interpersonal skills.	83	6	10	85	6	9	82	7	10	79	9	13
10	My principal deals with conflict constructively.	81	9	10	83	9	8	78	12	10	76	13	11
11	My principal responds in a reasonable time to my concerns.	87	6	6	88	6	6	84	9	8	80	11	9
12	My principal treats me with respect.	90	4	6	91	4	5	90	5	6	87	6	7
13	My principal is receptive to constructive criticism.	76	14	10	76	14	9	71	19	9	66	23	11
14	My principal is supportive of teachers.	84	7	8	87	7	7	83	9	8	80	10	10
15	I am limited by too many students in each class.	22	7	71	24	6	70	27	9	64	37	10	53
16	I am limited by student deficiencies in basic academic skills.	52	9	39	47	8	45	62	8	30	61	9	29
17	I am limited by lack of concern/support from parents.	54	8	38	43	8	49	55	9	36	48	11	40
18	I am limited by lack of concern/support from the principal.	8	8	84	7	6	87	10	9	80	10	10	81
19	I am limited by lack of concern/support from the district administration.	14	25	62	13	23	65	16	29	55	17	28	55
20	I am limited by insufficient resources (e.g., funds, books, equipment, supplies, etc.).	36	9	55	33	8	58	38	10	52	40	10	49
21	I am limited by school violence.	4	4	92	3	4	93	12	9	80	8	9	83
22	I am limited by student gang activity.	2	4	95	2	4	94	6	12	82	6	11	83
23	I am limited by student substance abuse.	2	4	94	2	5	93	8	17	75	13	19	67
24	Students come to my class at the beginning of the term prepared for the grade level or courses I teach.	48	11	41	55	10	35	41	10	49	40	12	46
25	I feel satisfied concerning how my career is progressing at this school.	76	12	12	79	11	10	70	15	16	69	15	15
26	I have a feeling of job security in my present position.	74	13	13	75	13	11	67	16	17	68	16	17
27	I like working at my school.	89	6	6	90	6	4	85	8	7	87	7	6
28	Staff morale is high at my school.	64	15	21	67	16	17	56	17	27	56	19	25
29	I frequently feel overloaded and overwhelmed while working at my school.	42	12	46	40	12	47	41	13	47	43	12	46
30	Annual teacher evaluations are fair and reasonable.	69	17	14	71	17	12	61	22	18	57	22	21
31	Annual teacher evaluations are used to improve teacher performance.	67	19	14	67	20	12	58	24	19	49	27	24
32	In-service programs keep me informed of the latest educational strategies.	87	8	6	85	8	6	82	11	7	75	12	14
33	I believe children attending my school are receiving a good education.	92	5	3	94	4	2	88	8	5	88	7	5
34	The overall climate or atmosphere at my school is positive and helps students learn.	87	7	6	89	6	5	81	9	11	83	9	9
35	What overall grade would you give to this school?	<b>B+</b>			<b>B+</b>			<b>B</b>			<b>B</b>		

\*A = strongly agree + agree, D = strongly disagree + disagree, U = undecided/unknown.  
Item percents for an educational level may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

**2012-2013 SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY  
DISTRICT WIDE SUMMARY OF  
STUDENT RESPONSES**

Survey Item	Percent Responding*																						
	Elementary			K-8			Middle			Senior													
	A	U	D	A	U	D	A	U	D	A	U	D											
1	I feel safe at my school.											85	9	6	79	12	9	73	16	12	75	15	10
2	My school building is kept clean and in good condition.											61	16	23	55	17	27	49	19	33	56	16	28
3	Students in my school usually follow school rules.											45	24	32	37	27	37	27	28	45	41	24	35
4	There are too many students in my classroom and that affects how much I learn.											17	9	74	19	12	69	17	14	69	19	16	65
5	My teachers require that I work very hard for the grades I get.											91	6	3	88	9	4	85	10	5	81	13	6
6	My school has enough books and equipment to help me learn.											86	8	7	77	12	12	69	16	16	59	17	24
7	Food served for lunch at my school looks good and tastes good.											30	22	47	24	20	57	20	20	59	21	23	57
8	I like the choice of classes I have at this school.											71	21	8	62	20	18	60	17	24	59	16	25
9	My teachers are friendly and easy to talk to.											84	9	8	74	14	11	64	21	16	68	18	13
10	My teachers make learning fun and interesting.											87	8	6	71	15	14	55	23	22	49	27	24
11	My teachers make me want to learn.											87	8	5	74	16	10	61	22	17	51	28	22
12	My teachers know a lot about the subjects they teach.											93	5	2	88	8	4	83	11	6	75	15	9
13	My teachers give me meaningful homework that helps me learn.											86	8	6	74	14	12	61	21	19	50	24	26
14	My teachers are interested in how I do in the future.											82	14	5	72	19	8	65	22	14	58	25	16
15	My teachers let me know how I am doing on my schoolwork.											89	6	4	82	10	9	73	15	12	65	17	18
16	Violence is a problem at my school.											27	13	60	26	17	56	32	22	46	16	19	65
17	Gangs are a problem at my school.											16	11	72	15	14	70	17	20	63	9	16	75
18	Student drug and alcohol use are problems at my school.											13	7	81	14	14	73	20	21	59	23	23	54
19	My principal does a good job running the school.											87	7	6	77	13	11	71	16	13	62	20	18
20	The assistant principals are available when needed.											72	19	8	64	24	12	59	26	15	45	33	22
21	My guidance counselor helps me with school and personal problems.											71	23	6	61	29	12	54	31	14	50	29	20
22	Adults at my school care about me as an individual.											75	17	7	63	24	14	52	30	18	45	33	22
23	Adults at my school help me when I need it.											84	11	5	74	17	9	65	22	13	57	27	16
24	I like coming to my school.											74	12	13	63	16	20	54	20	26	51	21	28
25	I am getting a good education at my school.											89	8	3	83	12	5	75	16	8	72	18	10
26	The overall climate or feeling at my school is positive and helps me learn.											77	16	8	67	21	12	56	27	17	56	26	17
27	I ride the district school bus and I like it.											13	69	18	14	60	26	23	44	32	18	46	35
28	The driver of my school bus is friendly to me.											15	72	13	15	65	20	23	50	27	20	55	25
29	What overall grade would you give to your school?											<b>B+</b>			<b>B</b>			<b>B-</b>			<b>B</b>		

\*A = strongly agree + agree, D = strongly disagree + disagree, U = undecided/unknown.  
Item percents for an educational level may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

**2012-2013 SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY  
DISTRICT WIDE SUMMARY OF  
PARENT RESPONSES**

Survey Item	Percent Responding*											
	Elementary			K-8			Middle			Senior		
	A	U	D	A	U	D	A	U	D	A	U	D
1	The school is safe and secure.											
2	The school is kept clean and in good condition.											
3	The school is overcrowded to the degree that it affects learning.											
4	The school maintains high academic standards.											
5	The school uses adequate disciplinary measures in dealing with disruptive students.											
6	The school makes available textbooks, equipment, and supplies needed for learning.											
7	The school serves lunches that are nutritious and taste good.											
8	I am satisfied with the choice of ed. programs offered by the school.											
9	Teachers are friendly and easy to talk to.											
10	Teachers make learning interesting and relevant.											
11	Teachers motivate students to learn.											
12	Teachers take an interest in students' educational future.											
13	Teachers are knowledgeable and understand their subject matter.											
14	Teachers assign meaningful homework that helps students learn.											
15	Teachers do their best to include me in matters directly affecting my child's progress in school.											
16	The school teaches students the basic academic skills in reading.											
17	The school teaches students basic academic skills in mathematics.											
18	The school teaches students to speak and write correctly in English.											
19	The school teaches how to solve problems in science.											
20	The school teaches use of computers.											
21	The school teaches students to think critically and reason problems.											
22	The school teaches students to develop good study and work habits.											
23	The school teaches students to get along with different people.											
24	The school is free of violence.											
25	The school is free of gang activity.											
26	The school is free of substance abuse.											
27	The principal does an effective job running my child's school.											
28	The principal is available and easy to talk to.											
29	The assistant principals are effective administrators.											
30	Guidance counselors are concerned about and try to help students with educational and personal problems.											
31	Staff in the principal's office treats me with respect when contacted.											
32	School staff responds to my needs in a reasonable period of time.											
33	My child is getting a good education at this school.											
34	The overall climate at the school is positive and helps my child learn.											
35	I am satisfied with the bus/ transportation provided by the district.											
36	The bus drivers provide professional/ courteous service to my child.											
37	What overall grade would you give to your child's school?											
	A-			B+			B+			B+		

\*A = strongly agree + agree, D = strongly disagree + disagree, U = undecided/unknown.  
Item percents for an educational level may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

