

Ewing Marion BURNS Kauffman Foundation BROTHERS + & Suburban Balance Kauffman Foundation

Suburban Balance **Survey Results**

April 2022



Executive Summary

The Burns Brothers (TBB) had the pleasure of working with the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation (EMKF) and Suburban Balance to gather key insights and metrics to better inform future organizational messaging, positioning, and content strategy.

We are a solely black and military-veteran owned fully integrated culture-driven diversity agency offering 360-degree solutions for meeting clients' and stakeholders' needs in a new and diverse environment. TBB delivers across several pillars of operations and live at the intersection of marketing, diversity and inclusion, and culture—specializing in creating programs that move the needle for our clients.

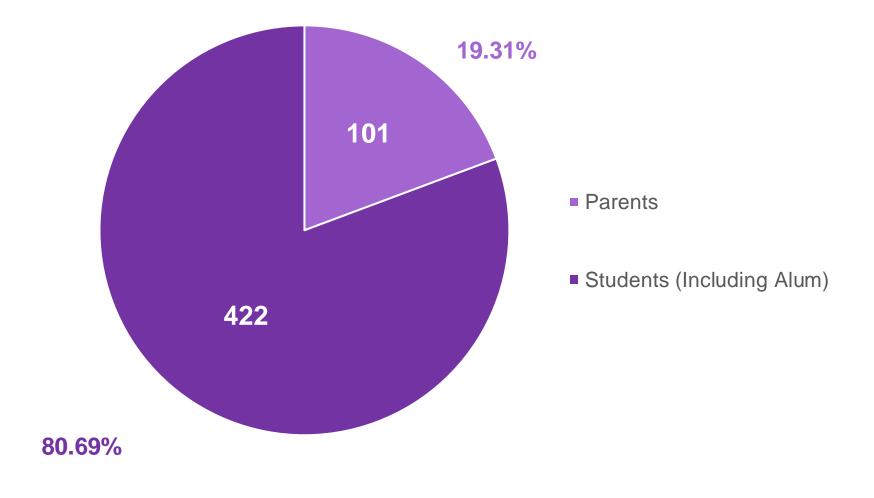
With the help of students and parents across the greater Kansas City Metro area, we completed multiple focus groups, 1:1 interviews, and a survey with 500+ responses. Our team believes that by leveraging diverse perspectives and opinions, organizations and communities can drive long-term impactful change.

The insights gathered in this report will be used to inform the creation of several highly curated and inspirational 3–5-minute mini-documentaries. These documentaries will serve as one of the many tools leveraged by Suburban Balance to inform and educate local and national decision makers.





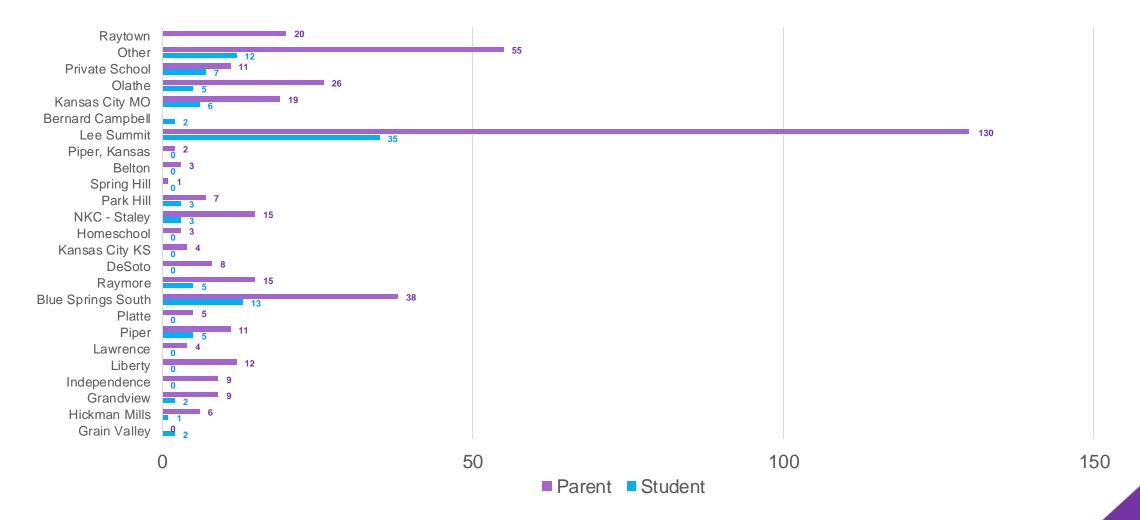
Are you a Parent or Student?







What school district do you currently reside in?

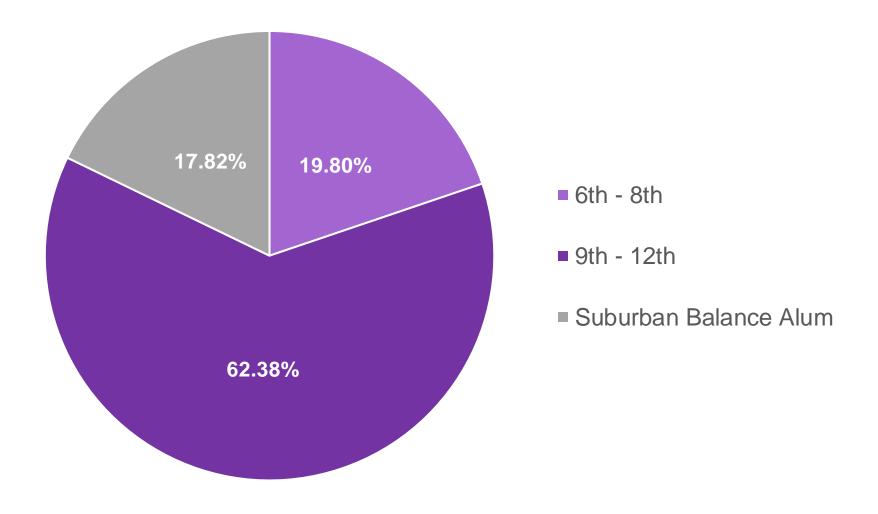




STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



What is your current grade level?

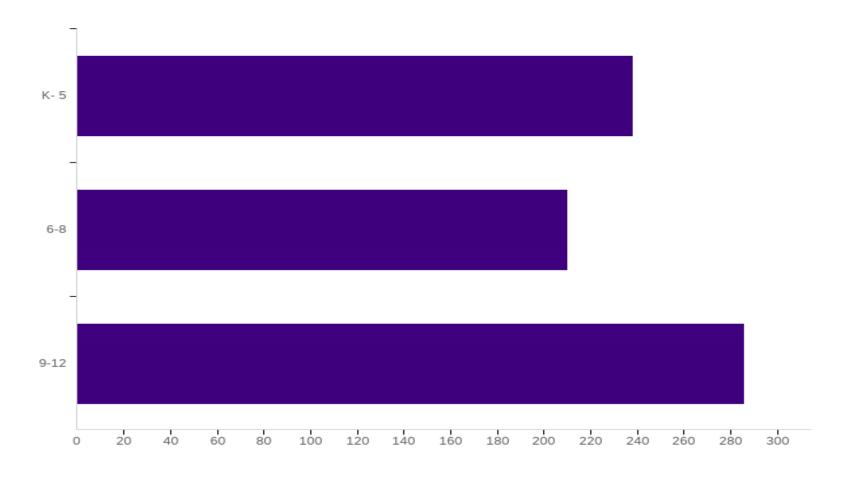




PARENT DEMOGRAPHICS



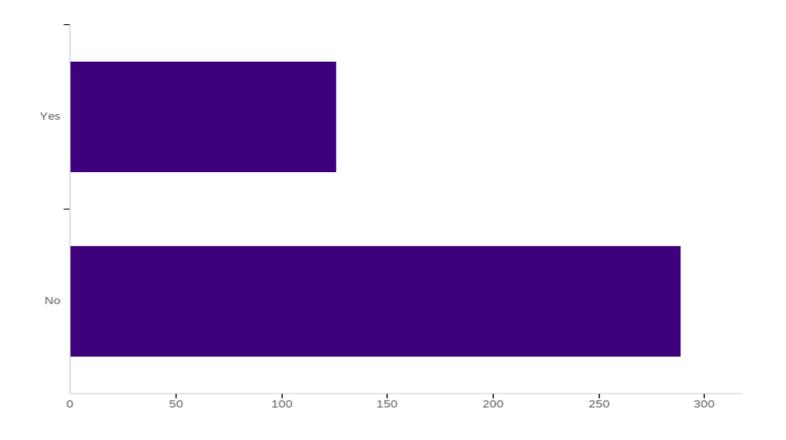
How many children do you have in the following grade levels?







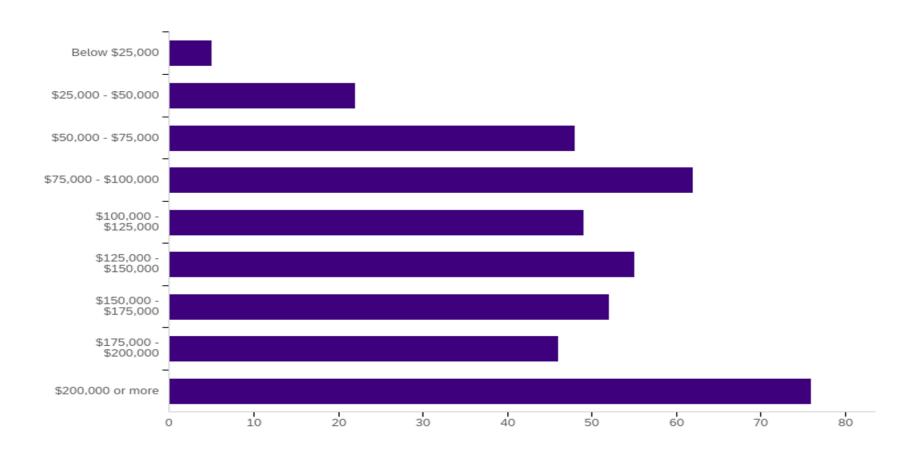
Are you the first in your family to receive a degree or credential beyond a high school diploma?







Could you estimate your annual household income from last year?

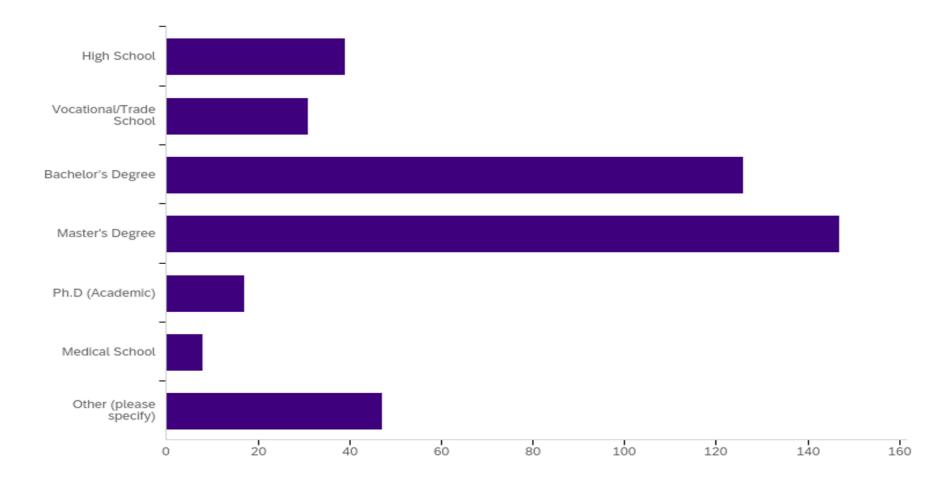




PARENT DEMOGRAPHICS



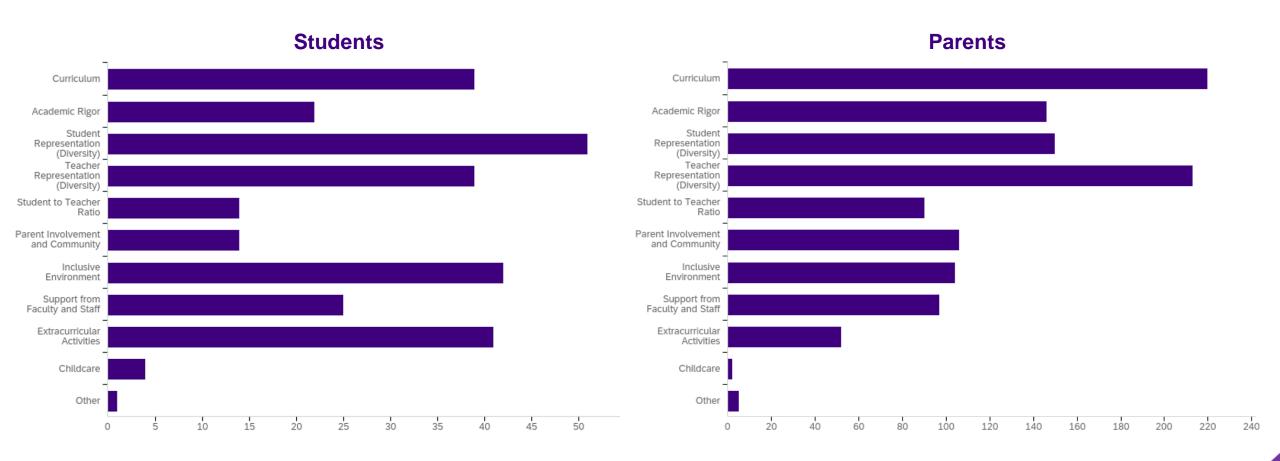
What is your highest education level?







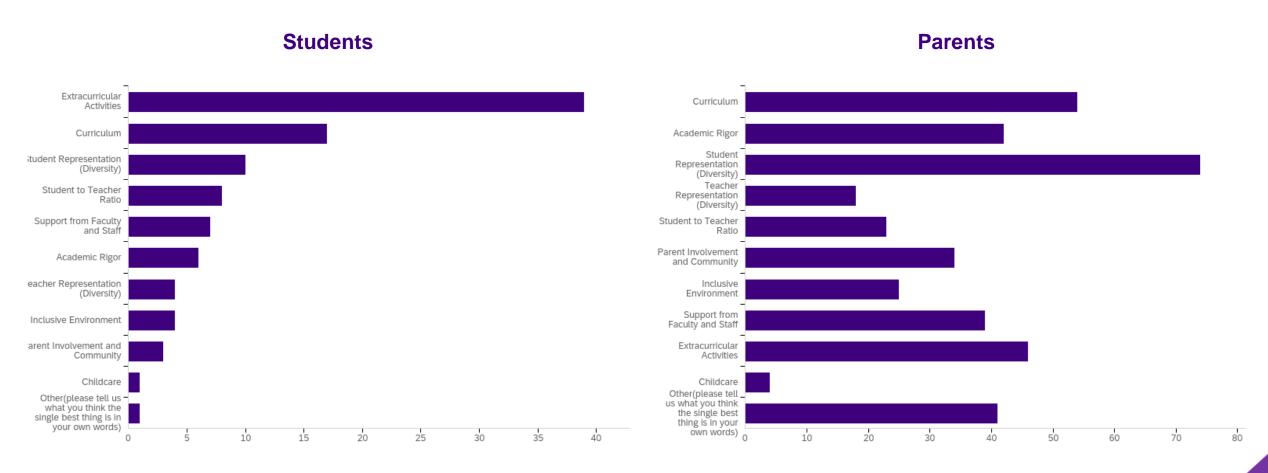
Based on the options below, what are the top three characteristics that best define an ideal school? [select only three options]







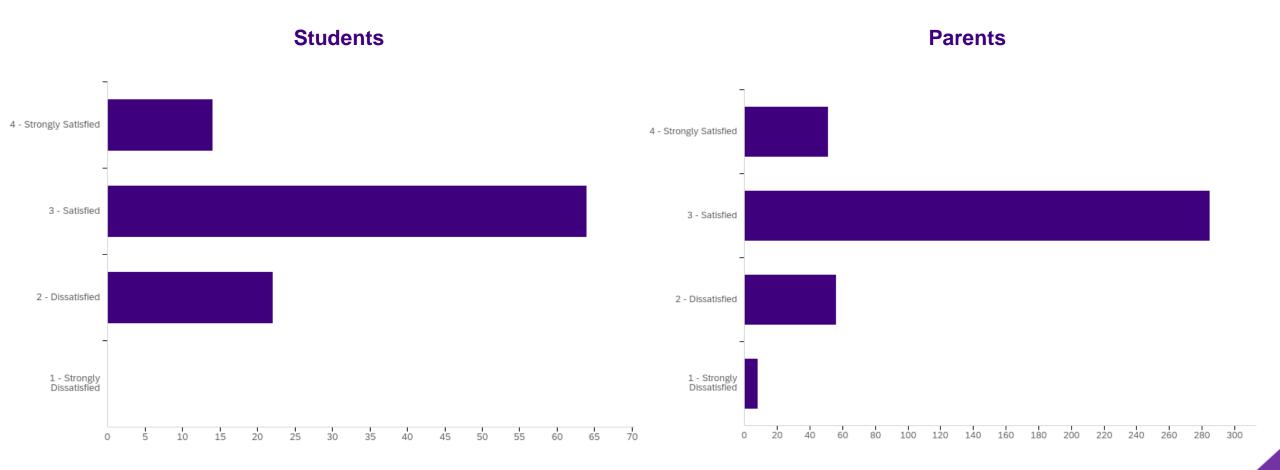
Based on the options below, what would you say is the single best thing about the Kansas City education system? [select only one option]







What is your current level of satisfaction with your or your child's/children's school? (School System, Administration, Rules and Policies, etc.)







What is your current level of satisfaction with your child's/children's school? (School System, Administration, Rules and Policies, etc.)

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

My child is now in college. However, I do not believe that there were high expectations for him and the other Black students at the school.

I am satisfied I see they are trying, and my children don't have any complaints. I do wish they did more representation of teaching the children about black culture and what we contributed to history.

I selected satisfied because the safety of the kids could be better in the public-school environment.

There have been too many racial issues as well as non-inclusive issues with my child with disabilities.

Equity needs to be foundational within in extra-curricular activities, especially when it comes to work, and initiatives led by sponsors and coaches.



What is your current level of satisfaction with your child's/children's school? (School System, Administration, Rules and Policies, etc.)

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Involvement from teachers is very encouraging and the students are engaged and confident.

Strong educational components and exposure to advanced technology for my student but diversity among the teaching staff is still missing.

My child is not an area of focus for their school.

Equity is an afterthought in our district. There is no diversity in the staff. There are few extracurricular activities at the middle school for 6 & 7th graders.

I feel as though the school does a great job of proving a ton of work to keep the kids engaged. This helps them better prepare for the workload for when they attend college. The communication isn't consistent. I am seeing children being left behind and not receiving the education they need due to overworked teacher, inconsistent expectations from teachers to the students, and lack of communication from the teacher.



What is your current level of satisfaction with your school? (School System, Administration, Rules and Policies, etc.)

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

I feel like I am challenges at school.

I think student diversity is a big part of having a good school and I wish there was more student diversity.

I am satisfied with my school because if I had any problems I can go talk to a counselor or a trusted teacher for their help.

Some of my teachers are not good about answering my questions. I feel like some of them are lazy and don't care much (like my math teacher). I've began to not like math because I don't understand because we don't get taught anything. I do love the classes that have good teachers though (like ELA and Social Studies).

Not enough Black representation in teacher. Activities not as inclusive for African Americans



What is your current level of satisfaction with your school? (School System, Administration, Rules and Policies, etc.)

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

I believe that there is great opportunities in my school, multiple options in extracurricular activities, diversity in students but not really teachers, much support with the teachers.

The extracurricular activities they give out is very pleasing. Their A+ tutoring program is really helpful plus their mental health program is honestly a relief because kids in my generation go through a lot mentally, and sometimes we just need to know that someone cares.

Some teachers treat kids of color differently than the rest as if there is something wrong with us.

There is not enough diversity in the school district within the staffing.

They are doing a good job of trying to motivate students, but not checking in mentally and emotionally with their students.

My school is pretty good I would say in academics. There isn't too much diversity though, so that kinda sucks.



What is your current level of satisfaction with your school? (School System, Administration, Rules and Policies, etc.)

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

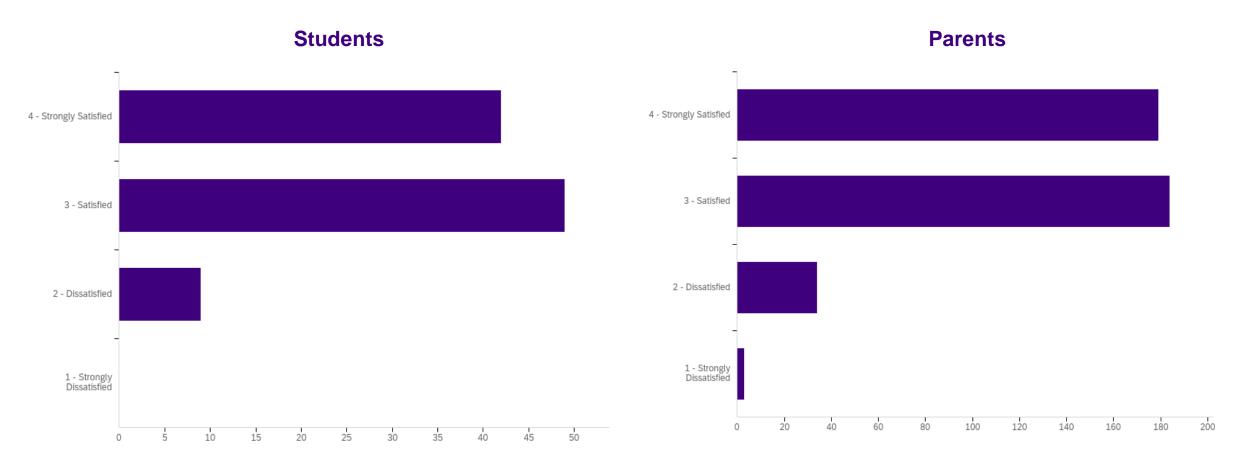
There's a lot of dissatisfaction with the staff, as we feel they don't care about us as students or as human beings.

I feel like I had a good high school experience because of being able to play football and also have good classes that prepared me for high school. My teachers for the most part were good and supportive. The only down fall is the lack of diversity in staff and students.

I loved most of teachers but I just feel like my school could have done more to get students of color included in different activities.



How do you think your non-Black classmates/parents at your school would rate their current level of satisfaction in that school?







How do you think the non-Black parents at your school would rate their current level of satisfaction in that school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Many non-Black parents who are allies are getting involved and pushing for the same goals as Black parents. The other parents still see benefits and opportunities of their students. However, some are not embracing the DEIB work and practices

100% of the staff and 80% of the students population look like them.

Heavy parent participation/engagement.

I honestly don't care about what non-black parents think.

Most of them have a relationship with each other outside school, so they plan things together and control most events

Their voices are more heard and it's catered more towards them.



How do you think the non-Black parents at your school would rate their current level of satisfaction in that school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

The schools teach about their history.

Lots of micro aggressions happening more often than not.

They're succeeding and reaping benefits.

While diversity is important to this particular set of parents, it is a major consideration for me as a parent of African American student; especially since her last academic setting lacked diversity in student population and faculty.

I'm sure they are pleased with the student body ratio but maybe not forced to learn about the inclusion of African American studies.

If white and black kid did same thing wrong but white kid will get into less trouble, then white kid.



How do you think the non-Black parents at your school would rate their current level of satisfaction in that school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

I am actively involved in my school environment. After speaking to numerous parents, their biggest concerns are different from mine. They are concerned about things like, their child watching too much TV in after care or their child not being enrolled in their secondary school of choice.

Not enough people of color staff members.

Race is playing a huge impact in our students and parents. Whites are being (accommodated, while blacks are being inconvenienced because black are outnumbered in most schools (teachers and student.)

I often listen to parents say how great the district is. They only appear to be concerned recently about mask worn in school and critical race theory. Critical race theory is not taught in the schools and will not be taught so that shows they are concerned about their children being taught about various cultural backgrounds

For the majority, they believe their school system is the best. "Why fix a system that's not broken?" would be a go to response. It's difficult for non-Black people to admit there is bias, injustice, lack of representation/equity/equality, etc. in schools but anywhere for that matter.



How do you think your non-Black classmates at your school would rate their current level of satisfaction in that school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Because it is a slightly different experience for them but we are still in the same environment.

They can identify and are all inclusive actives for them. They have events that are relatable to them. They are not frowned upon for the way the look or the music they listen too.

It seems like the teachers are more willing to "work" with non-black students, especially when they do bad on an assignment. Non-black students (NBS) are sometimes viewed as being more responsible. For NBS, if an assignment goes missing; it is assumed it was an oversight. If black and brown students (POC) do bad on an assignment or test, the teachers are harder on them by not allowing the same opportunities as the NBS. It's like they put POC in the same boat and assume they didn't do well because they chose to play Xbox instead of studying.

I gave this answer because they seem to make friends with a lot of the black students and don't care what color your skin is. Our black and non-black classmate blend nicely. We all talk to one another and communicate evenly.



How do you think your non-Black classmates at your school would rate their current level of satisfaction in that school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

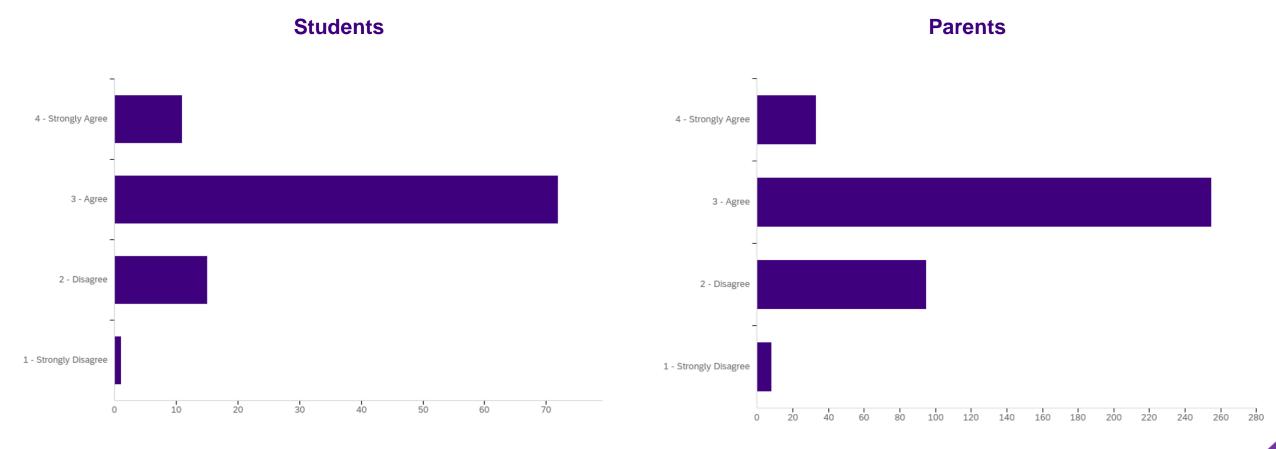
I am definitely attending a PWI and even within my first semester I have seen and even experienced different treatment, having no sense of belonging, etc. I have not heard that same experience from non-black classmates. college is described as "the time of their life" while I and others who look like me are still finding a place where were comfortable.

Unfortunately, curriculums are guided toward the teaching of topics that make nonblack students and families comfortable. Topics do not challenge the behaviors felt by those oppressed in history, books are banned because a nonblack family feels it should not be in school for any student. What about the family that has no problem reading a book with their student and having those uncomfortable questions?

Non-Black students specifically white students who have grown up in nice school districts do not appreciate the quality of their experience. They believe that their school is "bad" because of superficial reason. Some i have heard is not having a pool, school mandated Macbooks, inadequate school lunch and not enough ap classes.



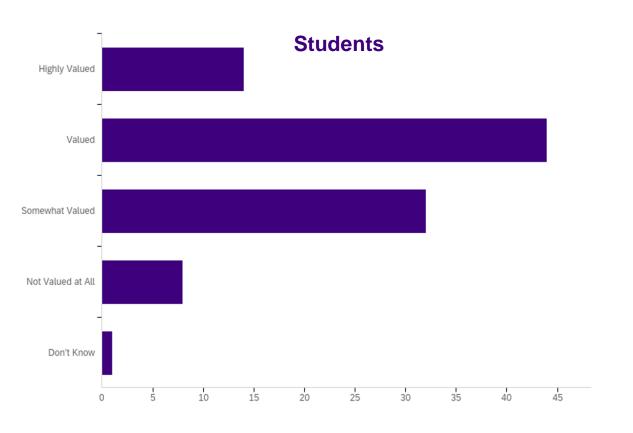
How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "My current academic environment embraces differences of thoughts and opinions."

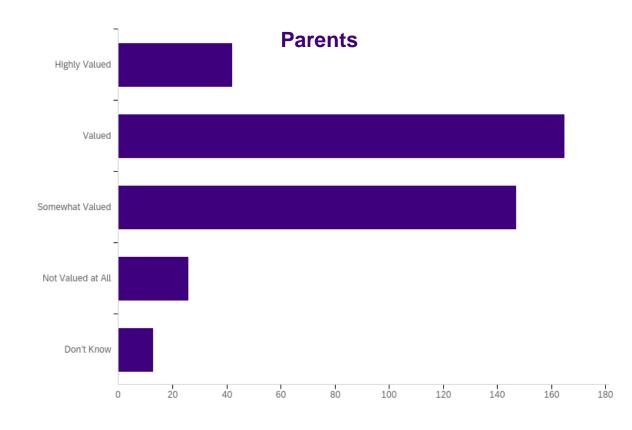






As a student or parent, do you feel valued by your school faculty? (Principal, Teachers, Administration, etc.)

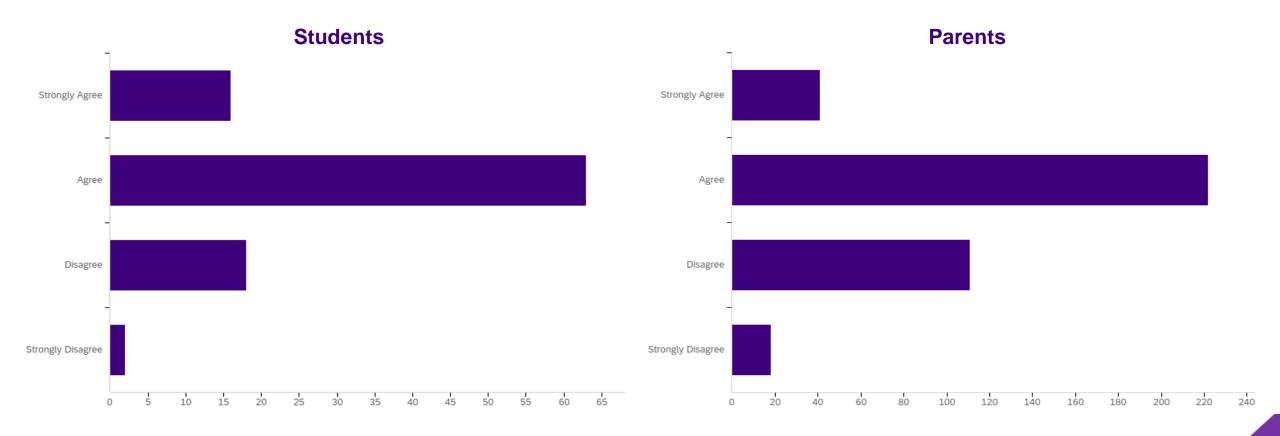








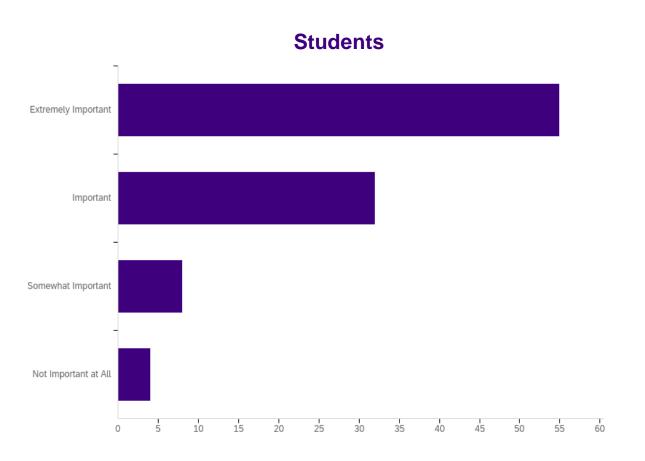
As a parent or student, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I feel my child's/children's teachers and staff understand how I/they learn and develop as a student"

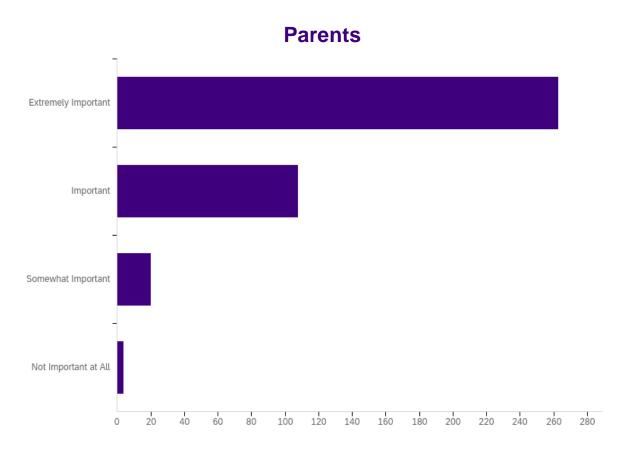






How important to you is teacher and faculty racial or ethnic diversity?

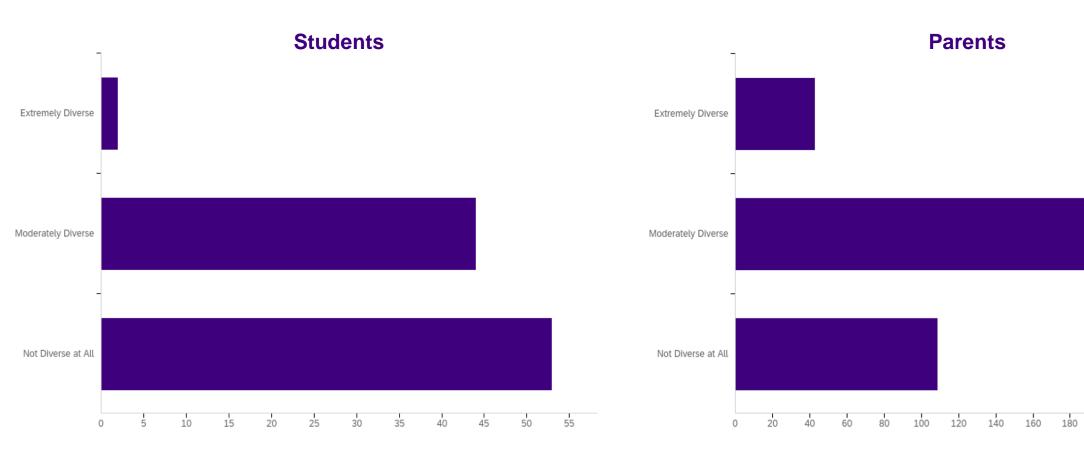








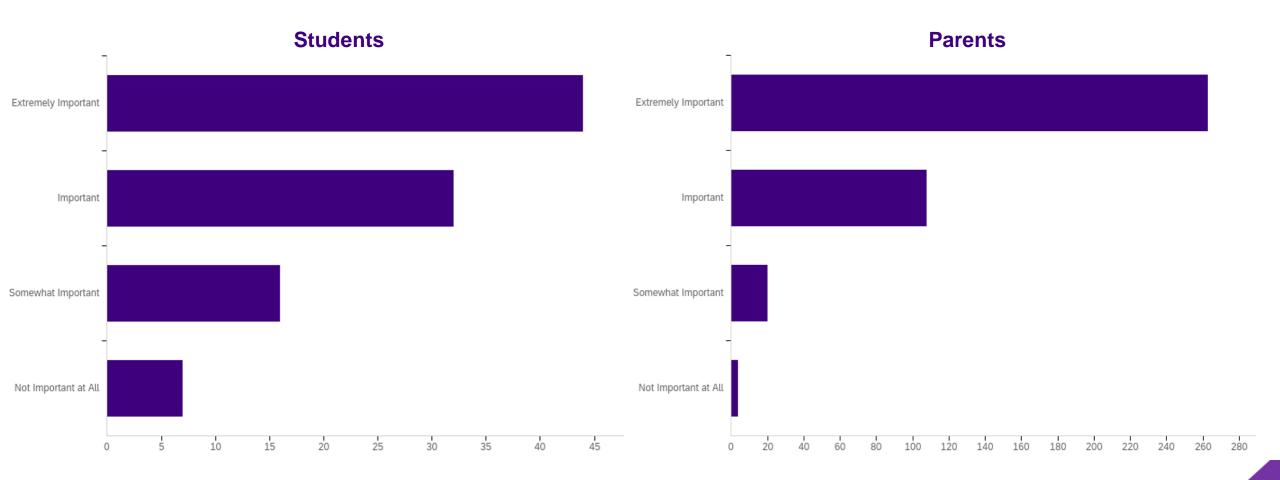
How would you describe the current racial or ethnic makeup of teachers and faculty at your school?







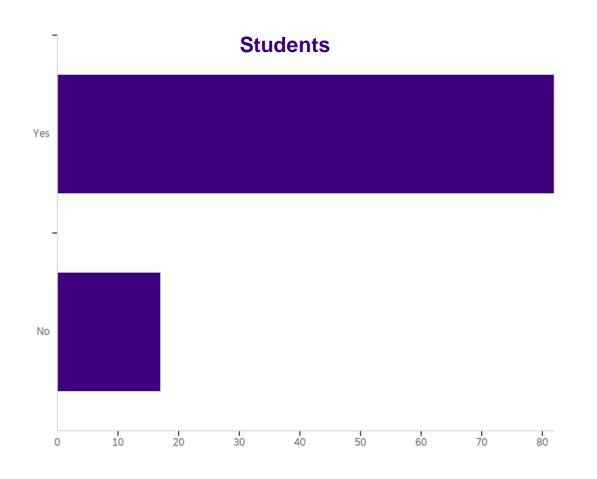
How important is student racial or ethnic diversity at your or your child's/children's school?

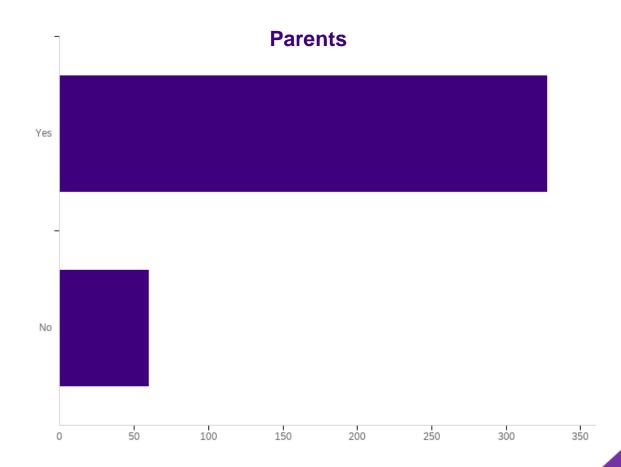






Does your school provide adequate resources for you to accomplish your goals after middle/high school?

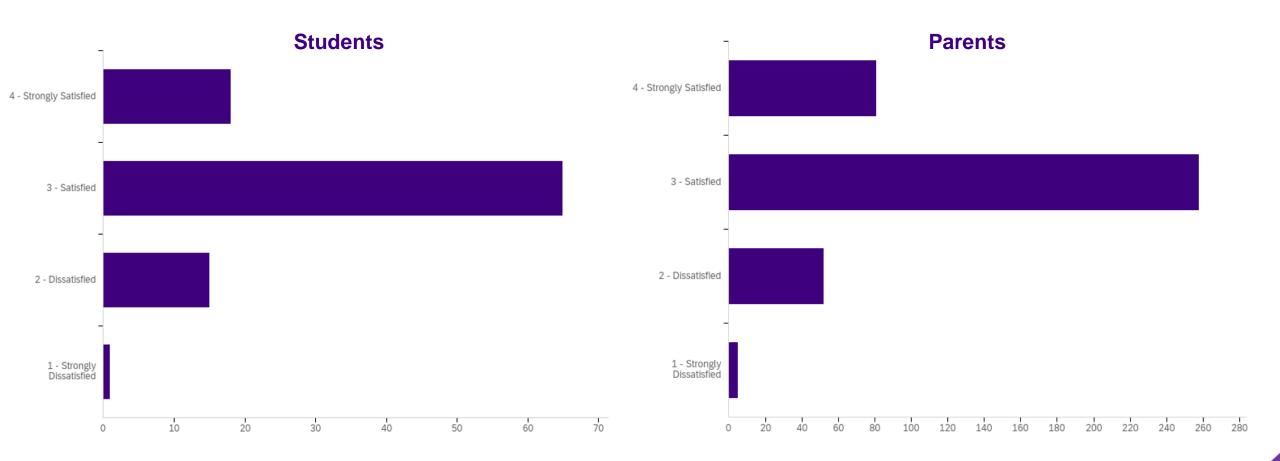








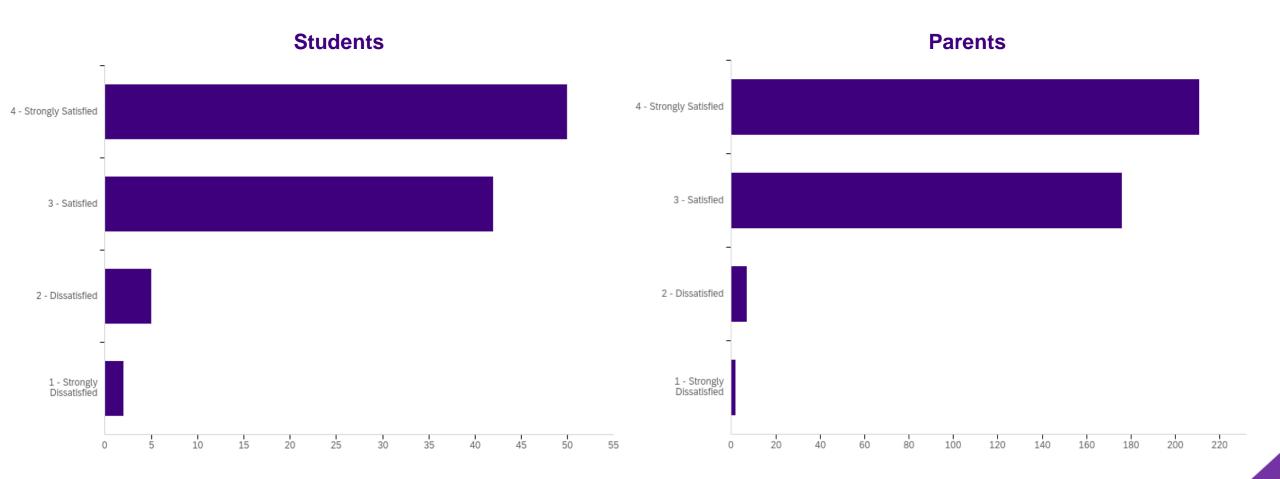
Quality of Teaching and Instruction (Adapting to Students' Learning Styles, Engagement, etc.)







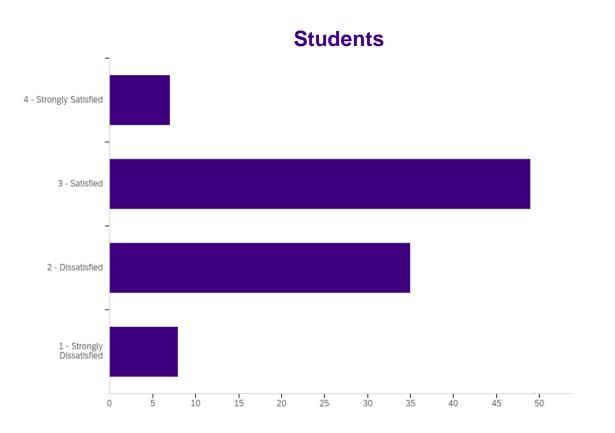
Access to Working Technology (WIFI, Computers, Calculators, etc.)

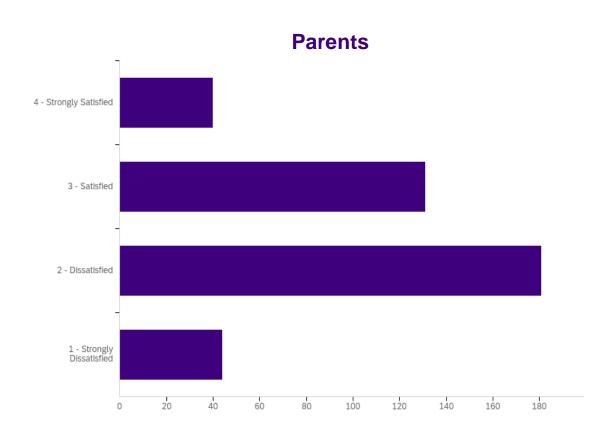






Promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Student Body and Faculty Representation, Inclusive Curriculum and Discussion, etc.)

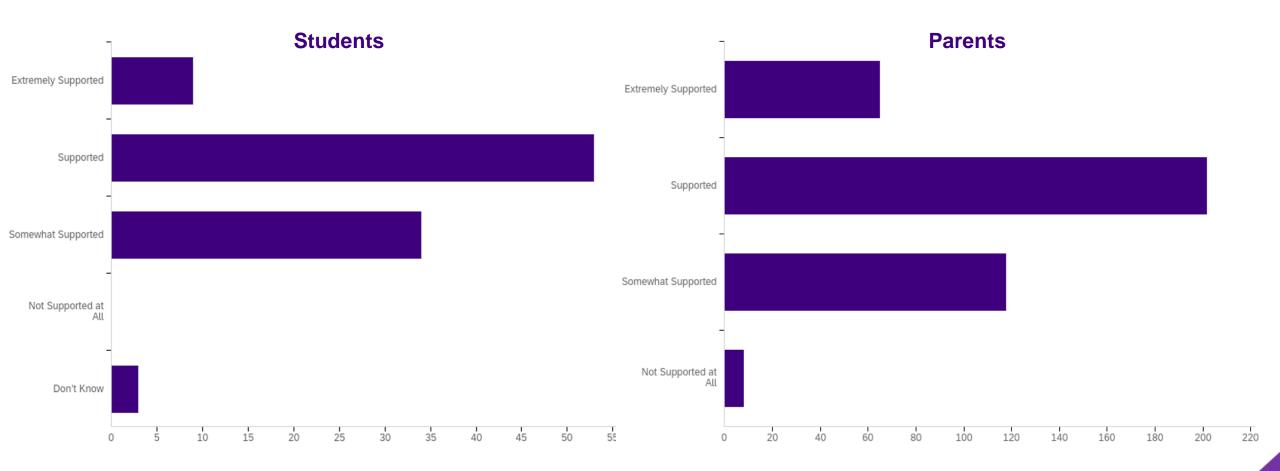








How supported do you/your child or children feel in your current educational setting?







How supported do your child or children feel in your current educational setting?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Spend more time finding out their interests, talents and skills. Honing in on what is important to them.

I need notifications when my child is falling behind in a subject so that I may make sure my child is staying current with assignments.

Hire more teachers and administrators of color.

Challenge kids who need to be challenged. Do not group all kids into one box.

Listen to parents.

Adapt to learning and personality differences.



How supported do your child or children feel in your current educational setting?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

You don't even get to talk to teachers anymore. Homeroom based conferences if any at all with clueless HR teachers are now the standard. Challenge kids instead of teachers becoming informants on trivial matters. I would rather teachers reach out with children's individual updates and progress. We know what they learn daily but not how the learning is going. Do not group all kids into one box.

Mental health days, be more accepting of diversity extracurricular activities, enforce disciplinary action for racial slurs.

Train the teachers, hold forums with the students and hear their concerns, then take action.

Meaningful input from students of color to address issues and concerns that are evident as well as follow through on implementing student ideas beyond mainstream. I feel many teachers do not make the time and or have the time to "connect" with kids anymore. They are robotic in their teaching. My kid always does better when she has a teachers that takes the time to notice her first and try to connect in some way.



How supported do you feel in your current educational setting?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Promote more diverse learning.

Provide free tutoring options after school, evening hours, online/at home options. When you are doing homework in the evening and need help.

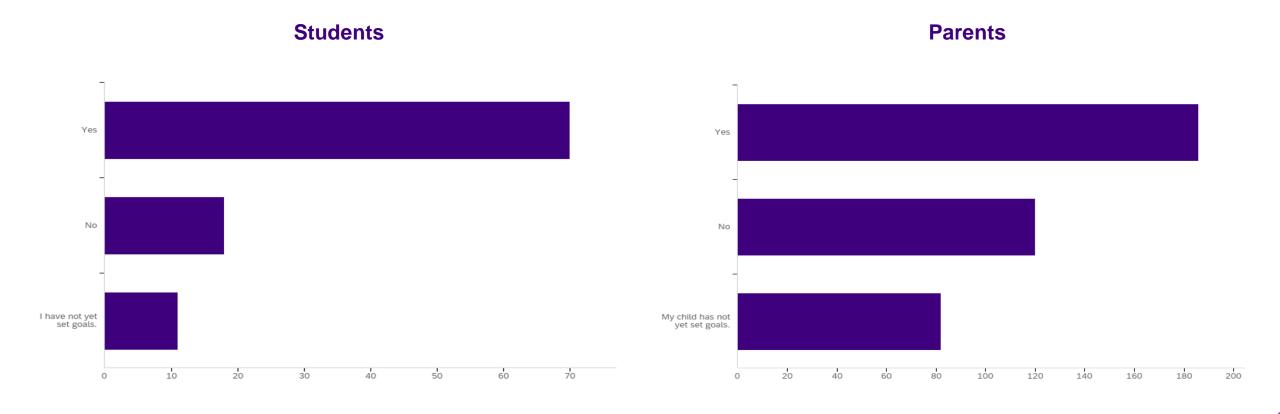
I wish the school would be more understanding of personal issues, such as mental health.

Adjust to the learning styles some students need to learn information better.

PARENTS vs. STUDENTS



Have you shared your child's/children's goals after you/they complete middle/high school with anyone at your school?







Have you shared your child's/children's goals after they complete middle/high school with anyone at your school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

The don't feel heard or feel the staff has a true connection or concern about them.

I don't think there has been an opportunity for that yet.

They were shared to ensure the staff clearly understands the expectations we have for our child.

No one asked or created a space for such.

Doesn't feel like anyone cares.

They have not asked me, however, that have had the conversation with my child, and I've also had the conversation with my child.



Have you shared your child's/children's goals after they complete middle/high school with anyone at your school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

He is very quiet and reserved. He often feels intimidated by other teachers and students.

To my knowledge, no one has asked. He was required to list his post-secondary plans recently on his 9th grade enrollment form but no one at his school has discussed his plans with him.

My senior is really only close with one teacher. We have issues without counselor and deal with her on limited basis.

He has not thought about sharing his goals with anyone at school. There has not been a platform to do so.

They don't have much choice in middle school to take courses geared towards that goal.

Our oldest daughter who is a Sophomore in high school has shared her goals with her counselor because she wants to earn college credits during her Junior and Senior year of high school.



Have you shared your child's/children's goals after they complete middle/high school with anyone at your school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

She hasn't decided her path yet.

It is clear that the school is not motivated to help reach these goals. The school provides a service, and you have to pick the services you want and hope they are enough.

We have time schedule with her counselor to discuss her future goals.

Son has an excellent counselor. He has shared his goals, but sadly, his mistreatment from the previous teaching staff has caused his confidence to decline.

My senior plays sports and the coaches have asked for this information to share on senior night and/or to assist with recruitment.

Most don't really ask, and they don't have ways to explicate different career field options.



Have you shared your goals after you complete middle/high school with anyone at your school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

No one has asked.

We had a senior project to do where you had to go over your goals and then mentor a person in the field of work you wanted to do. We designed a website and researched it. It was pretty cool. I learned a lot about how to become a veterinarian.

My school counselor and I talk about my future goals when we meet. We meet regularly.

I shared them because I want people to know that I'm prepared for life after-school and I also want them to know that I'm going to be a successful person in the future.

I don't have any yet.

I have not shared because no one at my school has asked.



Have you shared your goals after you complete middle/high school with anyone at your school?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Part of our curriculum to meet with advisors regularly.

Counselors do check ins with the different grade levels, and that is when we will usually discuss our plans for the future.

I'm not sure who I should tell my goals to?

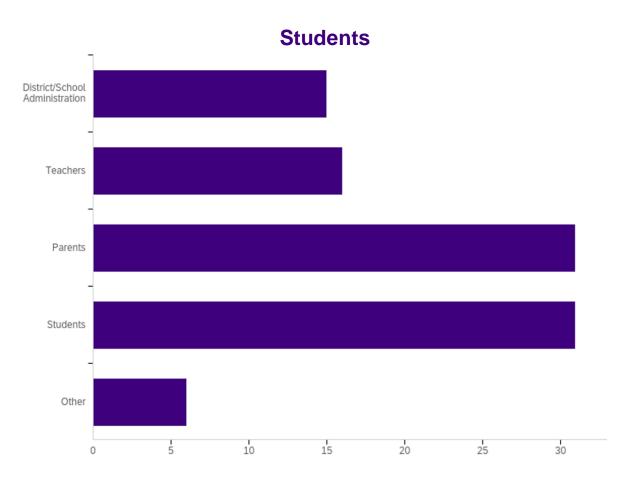
I have because I know they cannot stop me.

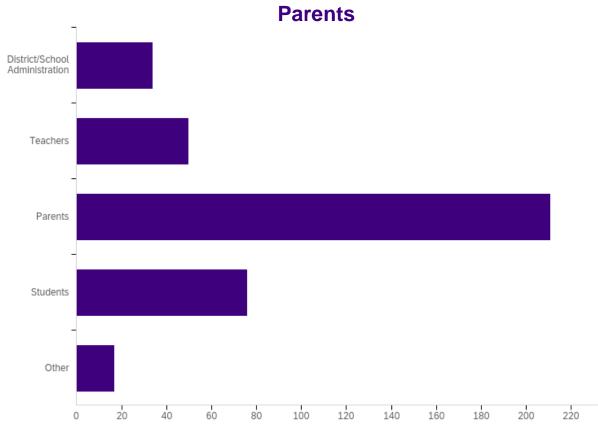
I shared my goals because I wanted to ensure I was taking the right classes to my postsecondary plans.

PARENTS vs. STUDENTS



Whose voice matters the most in determining your educational needs?









In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

The school they attend is most like your best options. They have a lot of programs for higher education and international exchange programs.

Would only want to move from Park Hill to another comparable school district that had more diverse and representation within student body, teachers and staff. Otherwise, the curriculum is rigorous and opportunities expansive that meet my students' needs and wants.

We are currently in the KS area & hopefully will be relocated by the time Harmony starts school.

I would move to the area of Lincoln College Prep but the area is not ideal to live in unfortunately. Other than this I would move to North Kansas City.

Maybe Overland Park due to access to more resources and flexibility in tech and even online learning opportunities.

No sure I am satisfied with any of them for my child. The lack of diversity and inclusion in Kansas City is disturbing to me.



In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Blue Valley NorthWest. their curriculum is top tier in the state.

We wouldn't. Our children our flourishing in their current setting (smaller class sizes more delicated attention). For high school we would more diverse class sizes, population, and teachers. We are very impressed with Lincoln High school

Honestly I would not move my children because the school they are both at now are very adequate to their needs.

The Kauffman school off of 63rd St or Lincoln Prep.

Blue Springs school district, academics and diverse sports for children of color to participate from middle school to high school. I would not move as I believe that most of the suburban school districts in the area have similar diversity and equity issues.



In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Private - maybe Pembroke
Public - Lincoln for the diversity in urban
area and the resources available

I would maybe consider a private school to have more challenging academics.

Would stay where I am.

Park Hill School

Lincoln Prep

I would have moved my sons to the northland area schools or Lincoln Prep Academy.



In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

I considered private school and strongly considered Pembroke Hill. I heard about a great education they there. As my children got older, I saw their needs were being met. I would move to the North Kansas City School District because they have a very diverse population.

North Kansas City - because it is one of the most diverse schools in the state.

Right now we are homeschooling our child but the school we would like for him to attend is University Academy because we the diversity in teachers.

When they're old enough I'd love for them to attend Lincoln College Prep, University Academy, or Kauffman. Lee's Summit or Blue Springs.



In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Pembroke Hill-Academic rigor and prepared for college

Lincoln Prep. They are the best school is the state. If we want her to be the best she needs to be with the best.

We moved to Lee's Summit specifically for the school district. High praises for support and moderate diversity that is improving.

Liberty District, the school administration is very supportive to my child's needs. We have never experienced and issues pertaining to diversity, curriculum, programs in order for my child to be successful.

University Academy. I like the academic standard and the opportunities for access to postsecondary education.

Blue Springs.



In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Lincoln college prep - they would be in a diverse environment and still get a great education and preparation for college.

I work in Lawrence Kansas, at Lawrence High School. The attention and meetings with counselors and administrators are 2x a year. In a school of 1600 students, they make sure they personalize. They have an open commitment to equity that is supported by the community.

Stay at LSr7.

I would not move to another district. I believe the Lees Summit school district provides a fine curriculum. That is important to me which is why I moved to this area. I will move them to a Charter or an Academic school. The reason why is I feel in inner City does not get the support of the district and community enough to push the things suburban schools has.

My daughter is at Basehor Linwood High School. If we moved her school, it would be to the Lees Summit school district. While there is an opportunity to advance the DE&I effort within the LSR7 school district it's further advanced in these effort vs. the current district she is in.



In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

KCMO doesn't have a lot of great options so I would not move him, despite the high cost of educating him.

I lived in Olathe school district for years and there is very little diversity in the student, teacher and faculty. I moved to Parkhill because it was more diverse and seemed to offer a strong curriculum for my children. At the moment there isnt anywhere else I would send my children because they will face challenges and stereotypes no matter where they attend school in KCMO.

I don't know any more I never hear anything good about them and the school I looked up at first where difficult to get into and once my son got in 1 they didn't offer support in his success or to aid the parent and they relayed his struggles to late to change the outcome or get help.

I wouldn't move. Blue Springs school district is a very good school district academically. They also score very high every year in state rankings.

I'm on the fence. I want them to go to the best schools, but I don't want them to be the only black kid in the class or on the team. I want them to grow up with a diverse teaching staff and student body.



In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Shawnee Mission Northwest bc I know a lot of people there.

I would love to blue springs because they work with our in high school WAY more than Lees summit.
They also teach correctly and not just make the students watch videos and do an IXL over them.

I would stay here in piper. I had some rough days when I attended park hill.

I am currently enrolled in Lee's Summit school and I moved here because it gave me a better education and more opportunities.

I would probably stay in Lees Summit, Evan though the district isn't perfect the curriculum is really good.

I don't know many other schools.



In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

I would move to the Lee Summit district because there are a lot of kids that look like me and that want the same life as me. Sometimes living and going to school in Olathe is hard because not a lot of people look like me and or my family so people can't relate to my situation. Lee's Summit North, mainly because of the diversity. Their academics are high and their sports teams are really known. If not there then Lincoln College Prep. because of the same things plus they help push you in the right direction for college and after school life.

I would stay in LS. I like LSN it is the most diverse in LSN. I also have a coaches who look like me.

Lincoln high, because it was a place with students would look like me and be on the best path for success.

Park Hill South- they have a good dance team.

I would move to Lincoln or Lees summit, there is more representation, more access to activities i am interested in and the schools are mostly diverse.



In a few words, if you could move to any school in the Kansas City Metro area, where would you move and why?

Based on the previous question please briefly describe why you gave this answer.

Lincoln College prep because my friends go there, and it seems like cool school.

I would move back to Lees Summit North Highschool. I started off there, and it was very diverse and I felt like I fit in. I was surrounded by many more people who look like me. Also the building was in much better condition.

I would stay in Lee's Summit because I feel like the city itself is a more diverse suburb in the Kansas City Metro.

Campbell Middle school because that's were all my friends from elementary are and I already know some of the teachers there.

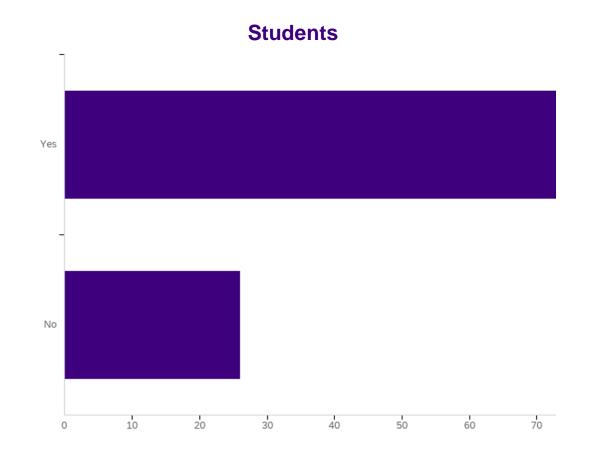
Shawnee Mission for the diversity or St. Teresa high, their academic curriculum and scholarships to college.

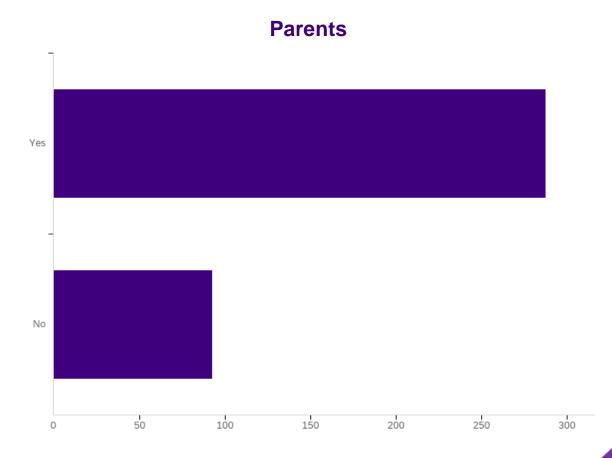
Blue springs area (even though I already live there). I would stay in that area because it is diverse and the teachers are kind along with the administration and also I feel safe when I went to that school

PARENTS vs. STUDENTS



If a friend or family member was moving to the Kansas City Metro area, would you recommend their children attend your school?









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Thank You

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