



PARENT SURVEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Oklahoma Parent Legislative Action Committee (OKPLAC) is a nonpartisan, statewide organization comprised of passionate, volunteer advocates committed to promoting policies which protect, support and strengthen the public education in the state of Oklahoma. As ninety percent of Oklahoma children attend public schools, OKPLAC believes the insight of their parents and guardians can and should inform state policy and budget decisions regarding public education.

The results section of our survey show the breakdown of each survey question. The ranked choice question indicates the percentage of people who ranked that item in their “top 10”. Of particular note is the high percentage of respondents who ranked these items in their top 3: *qualified teachers, safe learning environment, and small class sizes*. **80.49% of those surveyed ranked one of these items as their top priority.**

Another noticeable distinction emerged as a majority of the top 10 ranked items involve enriched learning opportunities and areas which contribute to a well-rounded education. While assessments are an important accountability metric, survey respondents prioritize robust learning experiences with access to a variety of programs and classes, higher than test score rankings to determine a “top 10” education for their children.

SURVEY OBJECTIVE

In alignment with the OKPLAC mission, as well as in support of Governor Stitt’s stated goal to make Oklahoma a Top 10 Education state, OKPLAC launched a parent survey to identify educational priorities of public school parents. Recent increases in education funding are a critical first step which must be sustained to be a Top 10 state. As Oklahoma continues to invest in education, OKPLAC believes it’s important to seek out and consider the input and priorities of parents of children in public schools.

PARTICIPANTS

The survey was promoted to parents and guardians of Oklahoma public school children. 938 respondents representing 137 Oklahoma school districts (Appendix A) completed the survey. 20 respondents started but did not complete the survey. The sample population variable demographics include type of school, grade level of children, and geographic characteristics of the school.

The survey introduction included the following language:

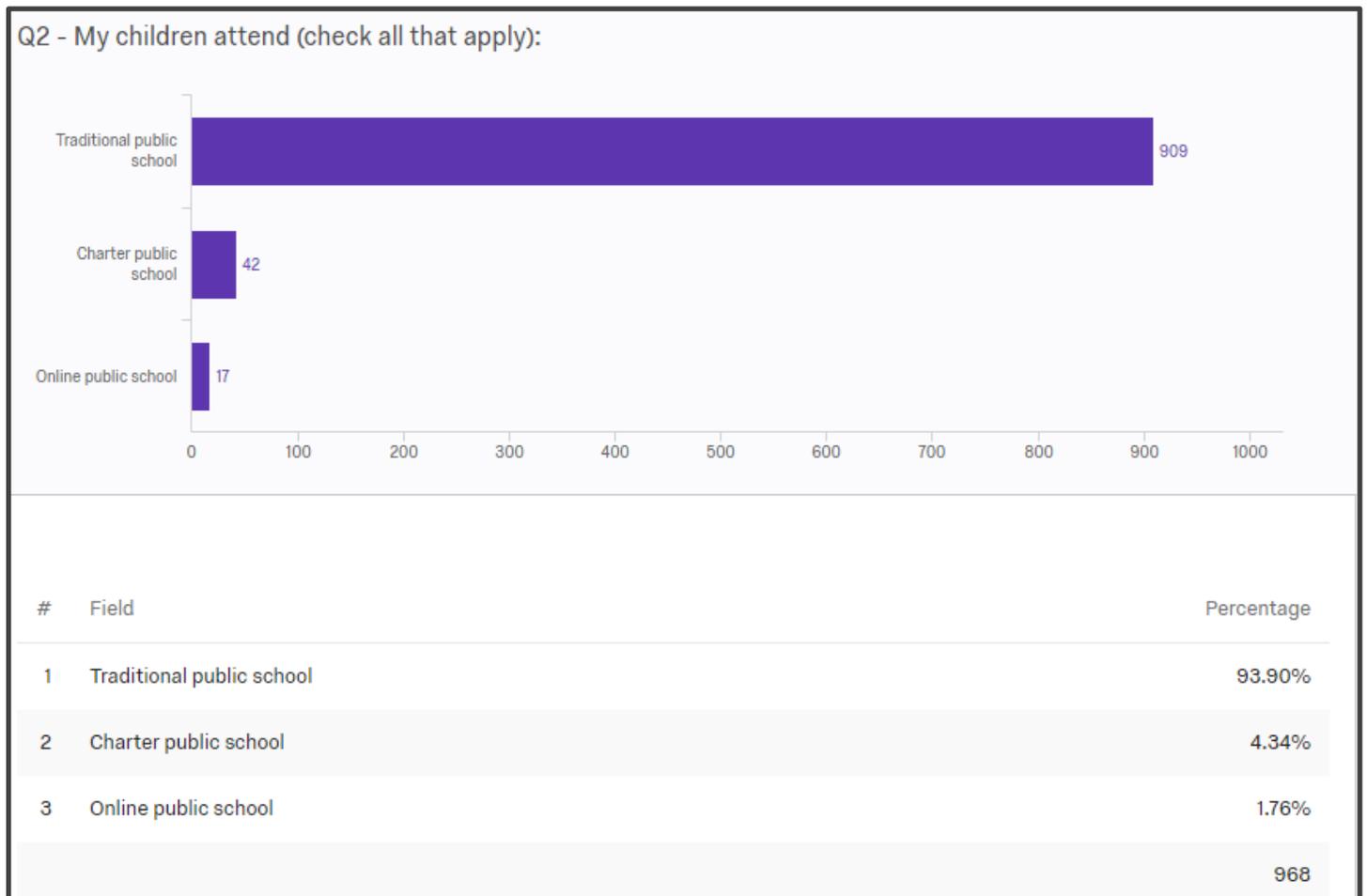
If you are the parent, grandparent, or guardian of a child attending public school in Oklahoma, your feedback is very important to ensure Oklahoma takes the steps necessary to become a Top 10 Education state. Thank you for taking this brief survey to help ensure all Oklahoma public school students receive a quality education.

METHODOLOGY

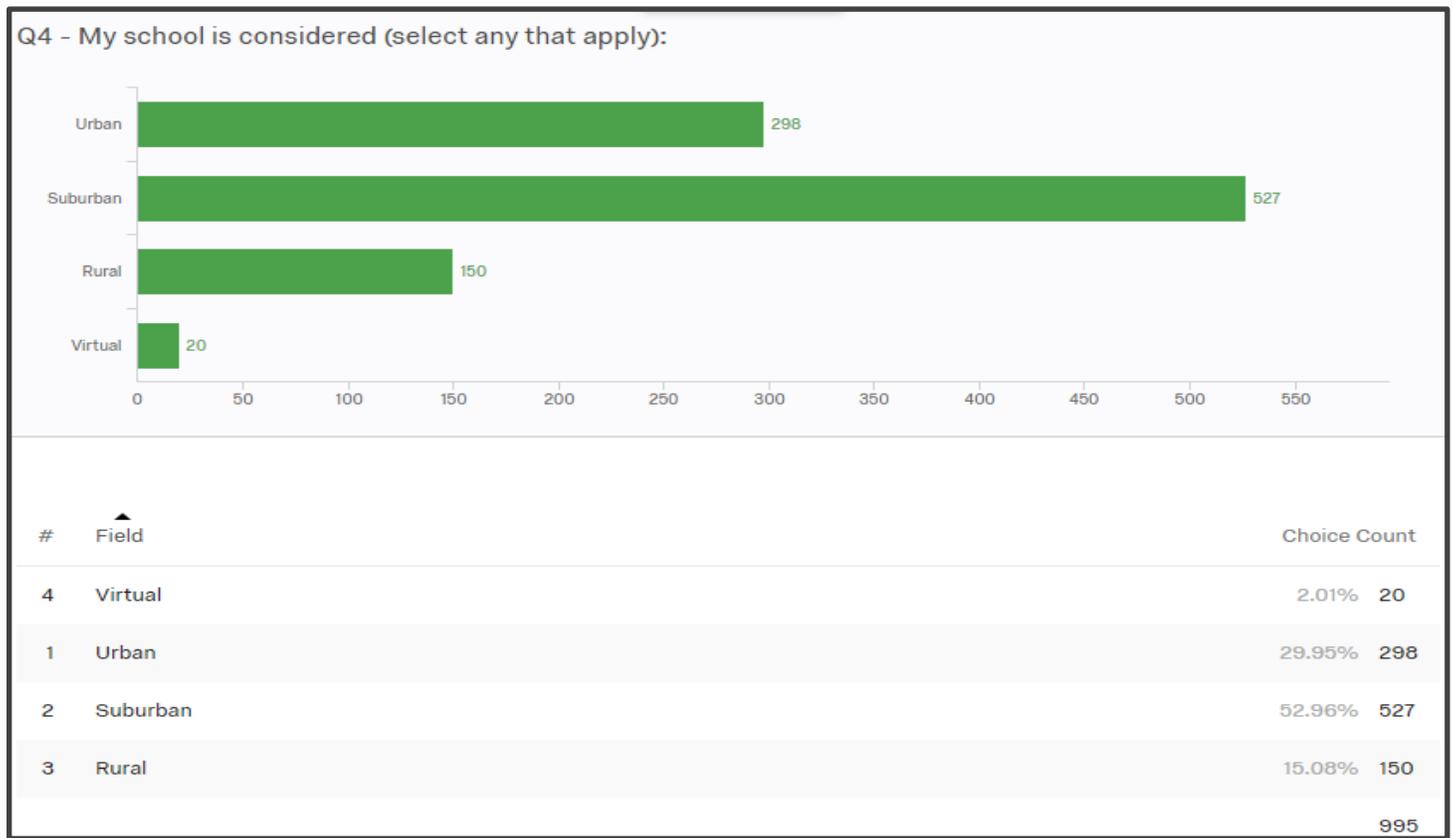
The survey was conducted using Qualtrics survey management platform between October 1st and October 15th, 2019. The survey was hosted on the www.OKPLAC.org website and distributed via grassroots social media channels and email distribution lists. A \$100 Facebook post boost was purchased for the two-week survey period, and earned media was received via print and broadcast media.

RESULTS

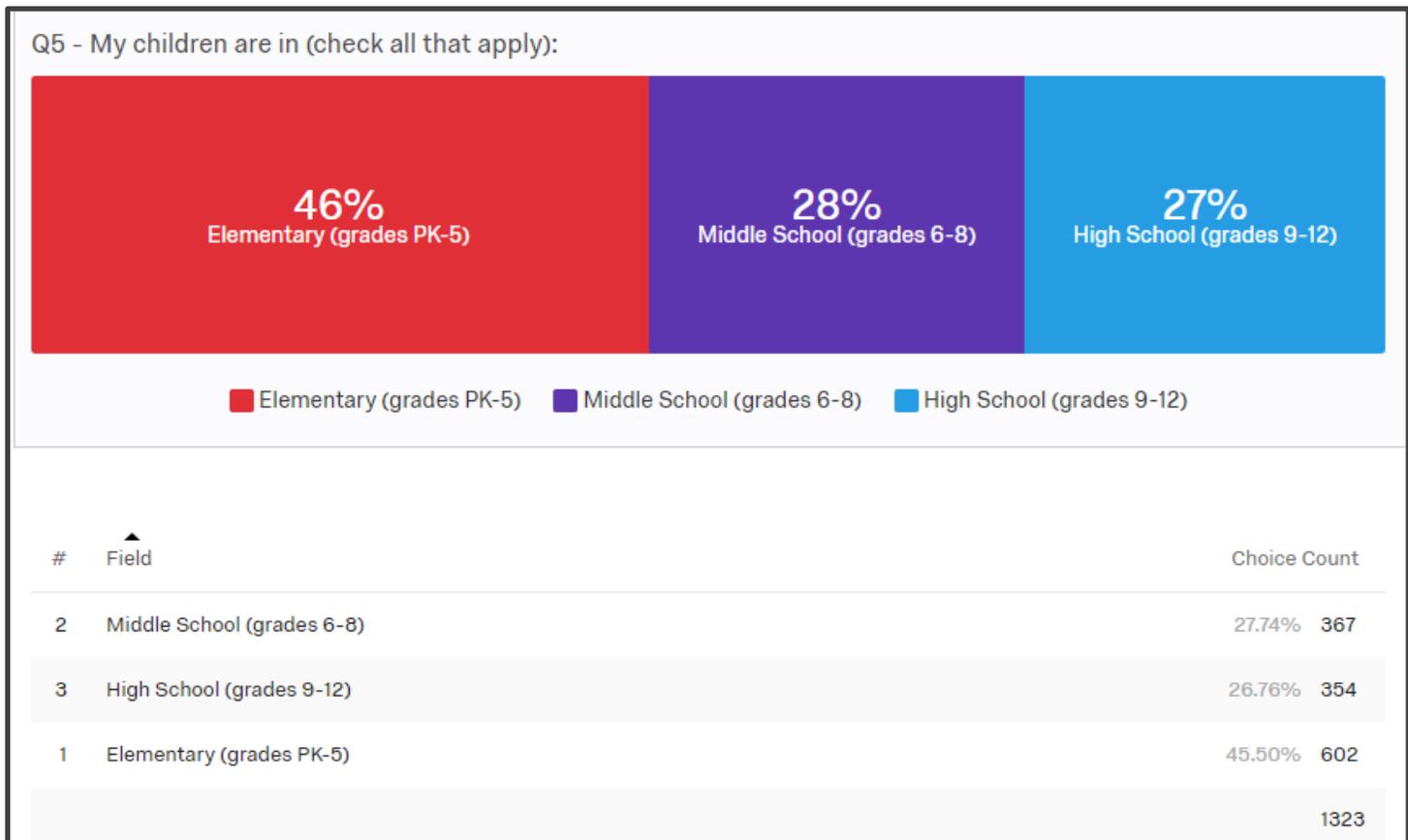
School type:



Geographic Characteristics:



School Level:



Ranking:

Respondents were asked to rank the top 10 items they consider important indicators of quality education. Twenty items, including two open response options were provided and can be found in the complete survey listed in Appendix B. Ranked order response percentages were calculated with the following formula.

W= weight of ranked position X= response count for answer choice

$$\frac{X_1 W_1 + X_2 W_2 + X_3 W_3 \dots X_n W_n}{\text{Total response count}}$$

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>% of people ranking this in their "Top 10"</u>
1) Small class sizes	94.98%
2) Safe learning environment	93.07%
3) Professionally trained and certified, high-quality teachers	89.22%
4) Extra-curricular & Co-curricular offerings (sports, performing or fine arts, clubs, etc.)	81.13%
5) AP, concurrent enrollment, and vocational/career readiness opportunities	73.89%
6) Increase exposure to art, music, and physical education in elementary schools	59.07%
7) Wrap-around services: counseling, health services, etc.	57.59%
8) Quality special population programs (Special Education, English Language Development, Gifted & Talented)	55.75%
9) Character education/Anti-bullying programs	54.91%
10) Adequate time for recess	52.36%
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11) School test scores: student growth	51.29%
12) Average ACT/SAT scores	47.12%
13) School test scores: student achievement	43.69%
14) School graduation rate	40.93%
15) 1:1 Technology/Internet access	31.87%
16) World Languages/Global Education program	25.50%
17) Full-day pre-k/kindergarten	23.46%
18) Online/blended day opportunities in a traditional school	11.11%
19) Other: (open response)	8.10%
20) Other: (open response)	5.02%

Conclusion:

The results of this survey indicate Oklahoma parents value a well-rounded, strong public education system for their children. Recent increases in investing in education must be sustained to continue to restore cut programs and positions, attract and retain high-quality teachers, and prepare Oklahoma students for a successful future beyond high school. It is clear that parents value opportunities and choices for their children within their public schools.

Many of the prioritized initiatives are most efficiently and effectively carried out at a local level where locally elected school boards and district leaders can work with their community to meet the needs of students. We hope state leaders and elected officials will adopt policies and make budget decisions which support the priorities of the parents and guardians of over 700,000 Oklahoma children attending public schools. A high quality public education system is the best investment in our children and in our state. Indeed, it is the key to ensuring Oklahoma is a “Top 10” state not only in education but also in economic, health, and various social indicators.

Appendix A

School District survey participation

Adair	Elk City	Norman
Agra	Enid	Nowata
Alex	Epic	Oilton
Altus	Eufala	OK School for the Deaf
Alva	Fairland	Okarche
Antlers	Fort Gibson	OKCPS
Bartlesville	Fort Supply	Oologah-Talala
Berryhill	Frink Chambers	Owasso
Bethany	Frontier	Panola
Bixby	Glencoe	Piedmont
Blackwell	Glenpool	Ponca City
Blanchard	Granite	Porum
Boise City	Haileyville	Pryor
Braggs	Hilldale	Putnam City
Bridge Creek	Hinton	Red Oak
Broken Arrow	Holdenville	Salina
Butner	Idabel	Sand Springs
Byng	Jenks	Santa Fe South
Cache	John Rex Charter	Seminole
Canadian	Justus-Tiawah	Sequoyah
Carlton Landing	Kellyville	Shawnee
Cashion	Kiefer	Skiatook
Catoosa	Kingfisher	Sperry
Checotah	Kiowa	Stillwater
Cherokee	Lawton	Stillwell
Chisolm	Liberty	Tahlequah
Choctaw Nicoma Park	Locust Grove	Tecumseh
Claremore	Mannford	Tonkawa
Classen SAS	Marietta	Tulsa
Coffeyville	Marlow	Tulsa Honor Academy
Collinsville	McAlester	Tuttle
Connections Academy	Miami	Union
Coweta	Mid-Del	Vanoss
Crooked Oak	Moore	Vinita
Deer Creek	Morris	Wagoner
Dickson	Mounds	Warner
Dove School of Discovery	Muskogee	Washington
Durant	Mustang	Waukomis
Edmond	Newcastle	Welch
El Reno	Noble	Wilberton
		Woodward
		Yukon

Appendix B

Survey Questions:

Q1) My email: open response

Q2) My children attend: (check all that apply):

- Traditional public school
- Charter public school
- Online public school

Q3) My school district name: open response

Q4) My school is considered (select any that apply):

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- Virtual

Q5) My children are in (check all that apply):

- Elementary (grades PK-5)
- Middle School (grades 6-8)
- High School (grades 9-12)

Q6) Of the following options please rank the top 10 things you consider the most important indicators of quality education (drag and drop to order):

- Average ACT/SAT scores
- Extra-curricular & co-curricular offerings (sports, performing or fine arts, clubs, etc.)
- School test scores: student achievement
- School test scores: growth
- AP, concurrent enrollment, and vocational/career readiness opportunities
- Small class sizes
- Safe learning environment
- Character education/Anti-bullying programs
- Wrap-around services: counseling, health service, etc.
- School graduation rate
- Online/blended day opportunities in a traditional school
- Quality special population programs (Special Education, English Language Development, Gifted & Talented)
- Professionally trained and certified, high-quality teachers
- Adequate time for recess
- Full-day pre-k/kindergarten
- World Languages/Global Education program
- 1:1 Technology/Internet access
- Increase exposure to art, music, and physical education in elementary schools
- Other: open response
- Other: open response