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**Connect & Assess  
Survey Results**

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Board Meeting 10/3/22

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# Background Information

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- Connect & Assess Days: 9/2 and 9/6 for grades PreK-5
- First day of school for PreK-5 was 9/7
- Families had 1-on-1 time to meet teachers before the start of school
- Teachers had time to do baseline academic assessment with students
- Estimated participation: 90-95%
- Families were sent a survey to measure the success of this new process
- Teachers were sent a survey through Ed Richfield to measure their satisfaction with the new process

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## **Family Survey Results**

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# Family Survey Participation

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- Total: 249 responses
- By school (some families have students at multiple schools):
  - Centennial: 19 responses
  - Central: 10 responses
  - RDLS: 98 responses
  - Sheridan Hills: 47 responses
  - STEM: 81 responses

# Perceived Helpfulness of C&A Meetings

Survey Question: Did you find the Connect & Assess meeting with your child's teacher to be helpful? Yes/No

- 96% of respondents selected yes.

Survey Question: What was the most/least helpful?

- 141 respondents stated that the 1-on-1 time with the teacher was helpful.
- 29 respondents stated that being able to see the classroom/school space was helpful.
- 11 respondents stated that time to take care of logistics (e.g. schedules, paperwork, school supply drop off, bus info, lunch accounts) was helpful.
- 6 respondents stated that the time dedicated to assessment was helpful.
- 6 respondents stated that the limited availability of time slots for sign up was a challenge.
- 6 respondents stated that either too much or too little time was allotted for the assessment.

# Preference for C&A vs. Open House

- Survey Question: If you attended your school's open house in the past, which would you prefer moving forward?
- 94% of respondents prefer the Connect & Assess format moving forward.

# Difficulty of Delayed First Day

- Survey Question: Connect & Assess meetings mean delaying the first day of school for PreK-5 families one day. On a scale of 1-5, how difficult was this for your family?
- 74% of respondents stated this was not difficult.
- 16% of respondents stated this was a 2-3 level of difficulty for their family.
- 7% of respondents stated this was a 4-5 level of difficulty for their family.

## Here are some sample comments:

- “I enjoyed meeting the teacher with less chaos. The open house in previous years was significantly more difficult to get to know the teacher and the teacher to meet the students.”
- “As a parent, I love connect and assess! As a PTSO leader, an open house is easier to have a table with volunteers to talk about PTSO. As a kid, my student loved the one on one time with the teacher but missed the opportunity to see friends that comes with an open house.”
- “In the four years we have been attending RDLS, this was by far the best experience we’ve had when it came to starting school.”
- “I liked the connect part of connect/assess, being able to schedule a 1:1 appointment. I think the focus should be on building a relationship with the student instead of assessing them before school starts. I can understand how assessment data could help teachers plan prior to the school year, but it seemed forced. It was kind of disappointing considering how much the students are already assessed throughout the year.”
- “I don’t understand why the two days for these meetings couldn’t have both been the week before the start of school. Delaying the start for K-5 a day puts families in a difficult spot when they are expecting to send kids back on that Tuesday.”
- “Personally I am grateful for the time given to assess. I felt good with the teacher’s attentiveness and the notes she took on my kid and the other students’ learning.”



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## **Staff Survey Results**

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# Staff Survey Participation

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- Total: 65 responses
- By school:
  - Centennial: 19 responses
  - RDLS: 14 responses
  - Sheridan Hills: 13 responses
  - STEM: 19 responses



# Staff Satisfaction with C&A Format

Survey Question: Overall how did you feel about Connect & Assess?

Highly Valuable/Somewhat Valuable/Not Valuable

- 86% of respondents selected “Highly Valuable.”
- 12% of respondents selected “Somewhat Valuable.”

Survey Question: I recommend we continue Connect & Assess next year.

Yes/No

- 94% of respondents selected yes.
- 5% of respondents selected no.

## Here are some sample comments:

- “I really liked this. It was like a pre-conference, and I feel like when it comes to conferences this fall, I will be able to talk more in depth about students’ achievement and behavior.”
- “I liked doing the Connect & Assess. If we are going to continue with it, more time needs to be given to get our classroom ready. With all of the meetings (district and building) I feel like we lost time to prepare our room.”
- “The first day went much more smoothly because students felt comfortable finding their classroom, knowing their teacher, etc. This is due I believe to the one-on-one time they had during Connect & Assess. The all-school events of past years are so chaotic that students still feel lost on the first day.”
- “Thank you! I had the opportunity to connect and welcome each family and ensure proper paperwork and truly listen to them! This was such an effective way to begin the school year compared to an open house style. It truly fits the Richfield goal of radical hospitality!”
- “The day right before school should only be morning Connect & Assess. We need the afternoon to get ready for the first day of school.”
- “Loved being able to connect with families. I learned things about my students and families that I wouldn’t have been aware of before the first conference in the fall or even at all. It also gave the families (especially families who speak another language) one on one time that they don’t typically get during open house.”

# Future Considerations

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- These were one-time surveys to measure the success of our new process with Connect & Assess.
- Based on the overwhelmingly positive response, we plan to continue with Connect & Assess days at the elementary level to the extent possible.
- We do not plan to repeat these surveys unless it becomes necessary.

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**Questions/Comments**

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