

Rancho Santa Fe School District

Strategic Planning Survey Summary

2021-2022



**“Each day provides an opportunity
for powerful learning for both my
students and myself.”**



- *Teacher*



Purpose, Methodology, and Context

Purpose

A great strategic design empowers schools to make winning choices that are dynamic, clear, and firmly rooted in their school's values.

Values: A school's values (sometimes termed principles) are the timeless, essential, and immutable beliefs that guide your institution. Your values are the filter through which every key decision is made and are the foundation of your mission.

VISION: Strategic design always starts with identifying a vision: What success looks like for you and how you will know that you've achieved it.

MISSION: A mission is your core purpose. Your mission articulates what you exist to do and whom you serve.

Methodologies

- ❖ Elements of qualitative research synthesized in this report include:
 - Online **Student Survey** for Students in Grades 4-8
 - Online **Community Survey** for all adult stakeholder groups
- ❖ The surveys probed:
 - Overall **experience** at Rancho Santa Fe
 - Experience with **learning**, including specific elements of curriculum and program
 - **Priorities for the future** of the Rancho Santa Fe School District
- ❖ Included both quantitative (scaled) and qualitative (open-ended) items
- ❖ Preliminary data analyses conducted:
 - Overall (all respondents)
 - Filtered by group
 - Compared student to adult data

Community Survey

Community Survey Response Rates

Stakeholder Group	Total Responses	Invited Participants	Response Rate (as % of invited participants)
Students	351	385	92%
Current Parent/Guardian	137	369 total families	37% of families
Faculty/Staff/Administration	67	100	67%

Context

Rancho Santa Fe and the local, national, and global community have experienced several converging disruptions over the past two years, including:

- The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing disruptions to physical and mental health, daily living, work life, and community experience
- Learning disruptions and a shift to remote/online and/or hybrid learning
- Economic disruptions, resulting in financial hardship, and an uncertain financial future
- Social and political tensions in response to events highlighting disparate viewpoints on political issues
- Leadership transitions/Restructuring
- A sense of loss, grief, and frustration with the way things are versus the way things once were

Our analysis includes specific consideration of the impact of these conditions on respondent perceptions and experience as captured in the survey.

The Rancho Santa Fe Experience

Please rate your overall satisfaction with the school district.

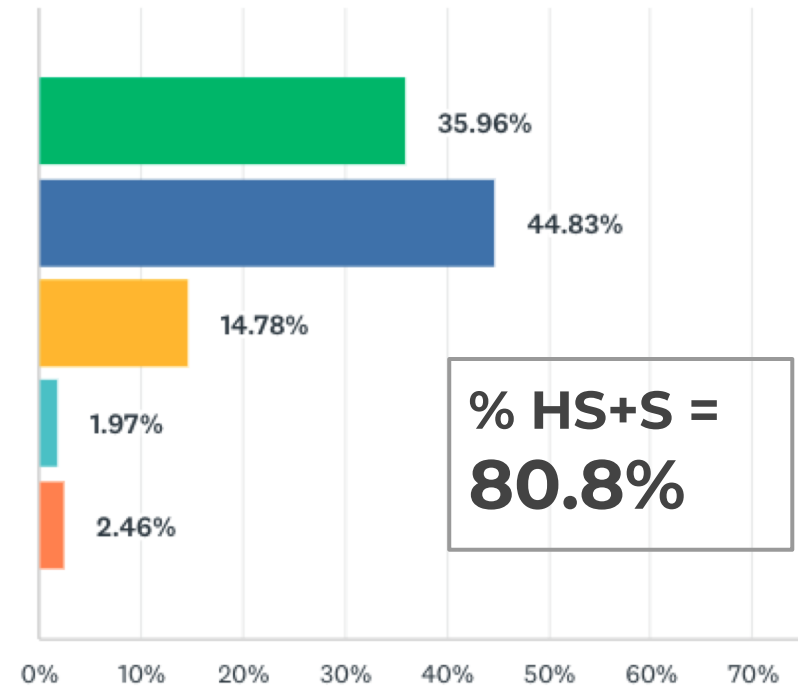
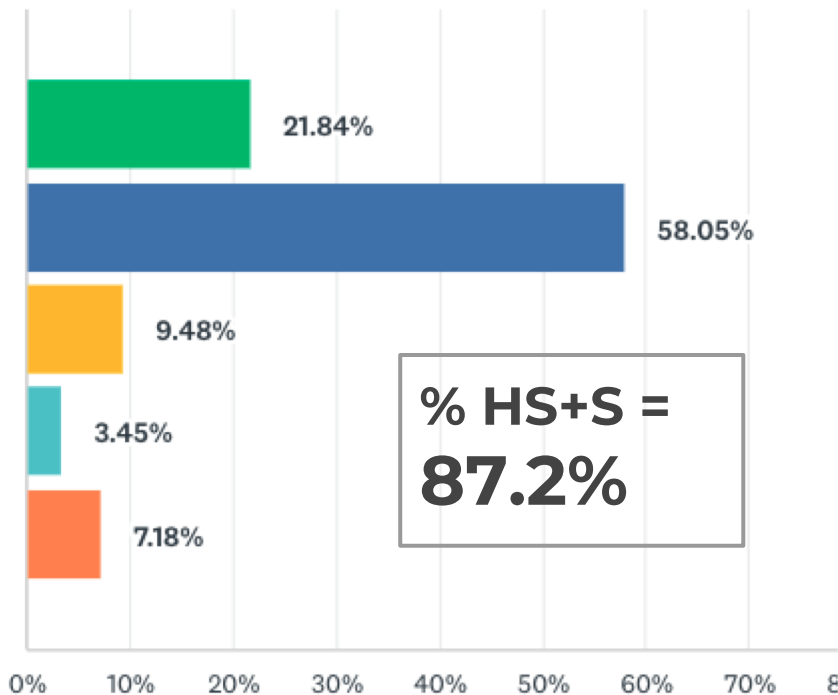
The Rancho Santa Fe Experience

OVERALL satisfaction

All Students

All Adults

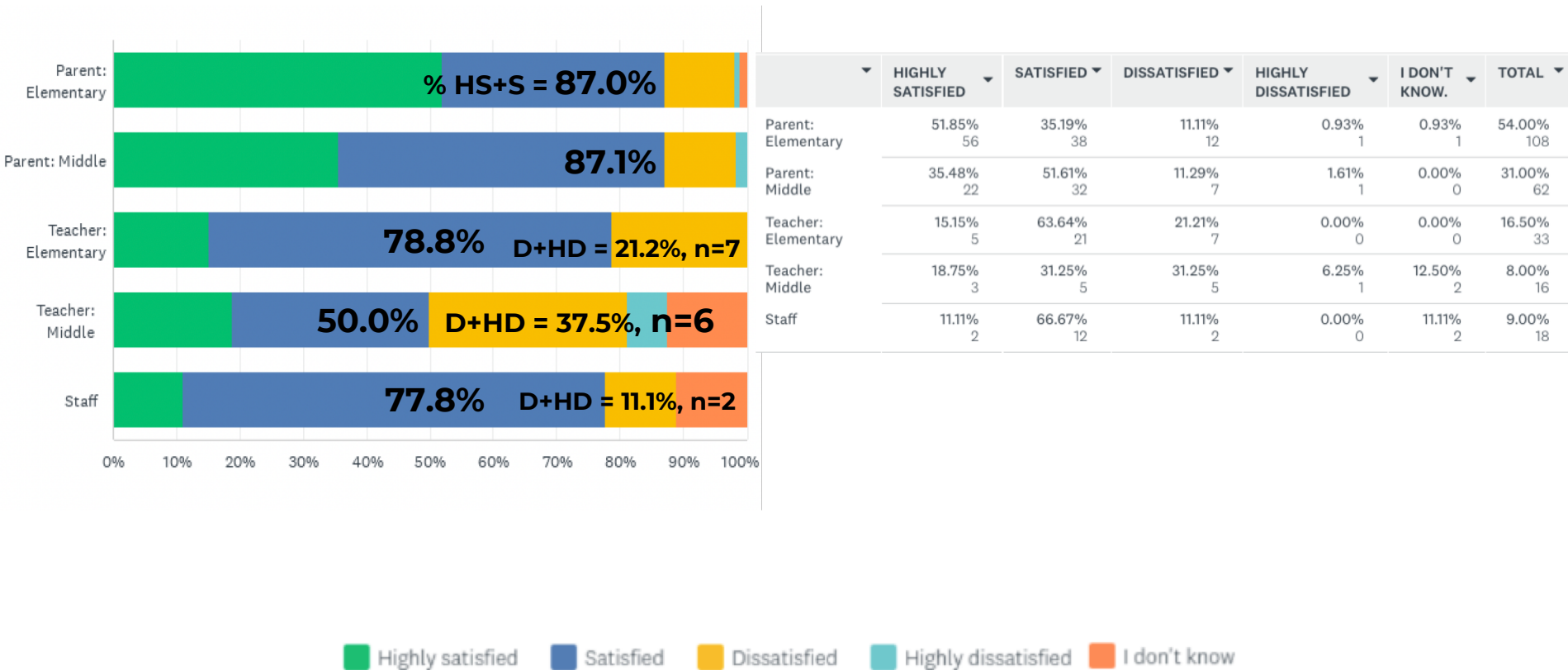
HIGHLY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	HIGHLY DISSATISFIED	I DON'T KNOW.	TOTAL	HIGHLY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	HIGHLY DISSATISFIED	I DON'T KNOW.	TOTAL
21.84%	58.05%	9.48%	3.45%	7.18%	348	35.96%	44.83%	14.78%	1.97%	2.46%	203
76	202	33	12	25		73	91	30	4	5	



Highly satisfied Satisfied Dissatisfied Highly dissatisfied I don't know

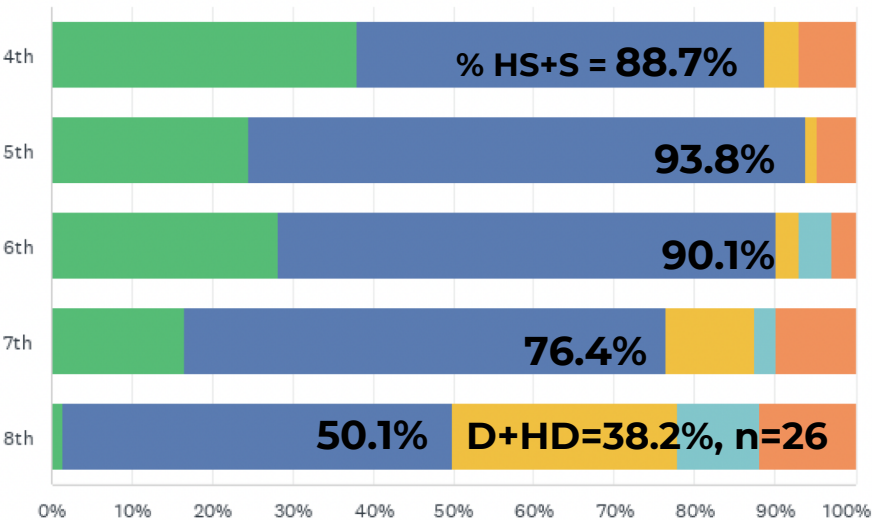
The Rancho Santa Fe Experience

Disaggregated Adults: OVERALL satisfaction



The Rancho Santa Fe Experience

Disaggregated Students: OVERALL satisfaction



	HIGHLY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	HIGHLY DISSATISFIED	I DON'T KNOW.	TOTAL
4th	38.03% 27	50.70% 36	4.23% 3	0.00% 0	7.04% 5	20.46% 71
5th	24.62% 16	69.23% 45	1.54% 1	0.00% 0	4.62% 3	18.73% 65
6th	28.17% 20	61.97% 44	2.82% 2	4.23% 3	2.82% 2	20.46% 71
7th	16.67% 12	59.72% 43	11.11% 8	2.78% 2	9.72% 7	20.75% 72
8th	1.47% 1	48.53% 33	27.94% 19	10.29% 7	11.76% 8	19.60% 68

■ Highly satisfied
 ■ Satisfied
 ■ Dissatisfied
 ■ Highly dissatisfied
 ■ I don't know

The Rancho Santa Fe Experience

“What are three words that come to mind when thinking about the Rancho Santa Fe School District?”

The Rancho Santa Fe Experience

All Students: Three words to describe Rancho Santa Fe

Most frequent
responses:
(n=328)

Fun: 11.3%
Helpful: 4.3%
Kind: 3.4%
Safe: 3.1%

Amazing Strict Great Creative Education Enjoyable Small class
Educational Rich Friendly Happy Kind Respectful
School Clean Fun Community Helpful Friends
Safe Homework Learning Boring Good Respect Nice big
Interesting Exciting Pretty Cool

Elementary School -- 4-5:
(n=123)

Fun: 17.0%
Kind: 5.6%
Good: 4.1%
Great: 3.3%

Middle School -- 6-8:
(n=204)

Fun: 7.4%
Helpful: 5.4%

The Rancho Santa Fe Experience

All Adults: Three words to describe Rancho Santa Fe

Most frequent
responses:
(n=191)

Community: 6.8%
**Small:
5.8%**
**Caring:
4.7%**

Entitled potential Excellent Beautiful Organized High
Small class size Education Small Opportunity
Community Great teachers Caring Personal safe
professional Unique Academics staff Excellence Great

Learning at Rancho Santa Fe

Think of a time you observed powerful learning at Rancho Santa Fe School District. What about it made the experience powerful and memorable?

Learning at Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Themes

Students:

Engaging (47.2%)

Learning/ Challenging (19.5%)

Fun/Social (16.1%)

Parent/Teachers:

Learning (35.0%)

Experiences (29.3%)

Feeling (16.6%)

Individualized (14.7%)

Collaboration (14.0%)

Learning at Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Student Themes

- **Engaging (47.2%)**

- Walk-throughs, science class, dissections, class discussions, personalized, writing class, teaching methods are fun, teacher made it fun and engaging, she made songs and jingles about it, the way she taught it really helped me, state project, collaboration, science discovery day, taught me new things, diversity of activities, history class, conversations with the teacher, projects, camp pali, fun and exciting, acting stuff out

8th grade student: “It was powerful when we went on a field trip to a mission. I felt that it was very engaging to see everything in person and having hands-on activities.”

8th grade student: “I enjoy when teachers make classes interesting and about more than just learning. [He] taught us real life lessons and not just academic things.”

Learning at Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Adult Themes

- **Learning (35.0%)**

- Writing (talking to teacher and seeing product), parent/teacher conference, teacher going above and beyond, writing workshop, teacher understanding the student, connection with teacher, advanced classes and intervention, individualized, teacher collaboration time, student collaborating with each other using academic language, younger grades learning from older grades, vocabulary, medical science, reading and writing workshop

Teacher: “Students were respectfully collaborating on a task together, using academic language in their exchanges, and engaged in the task.”

Parent: “Parent teacher meeting are always magical to me cause students get to reflect what kind of students they are , who they are , how they learn and receive feedback for teacher and parents . Also band and choir performances make my heart explode with Joy .”

Learning at Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Adult Themes

- **Experiences (29.3%)**

- Science day, ocean week, performances, volunteering in classroom, conferences, middle school science, elementary science lab, student council raises for need outside of school, dj's presentation, theatre, walk throughs, mission, wax museum, field trip, friday on the field

Parent: "I believe the most powerful learning/growing opportunities occur when students of different learning styles come together for a common goal. The communication station lunch club has been a powerful and inspirational resource in fostering inclusion, and providing a space for true understanding of how we are all alike and different. It has been one of my favorite memories these past several school years."

Parent: "I remember when the second graders did a poetry unit and presented their work to parents. The poetry itself was a great educational experience but so was the act of presenting it- the fact that this starts at such a young age before they are self-conscious was wonderful to see"

Learning at Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Adult Themes

- **Feeling (16.6%); Individualized (14.7%); Collaboration (14.0%)**
 - Feeling: Engaged, valued, respected, flourish, thrive, love learning, excited, challenged, passion, confidence, focus, growth, empowered, motivated
 - Individualized: Catered, growth, one on one, small group, connection, advanced, individualized, high achieving, special coaching time, intervention, what kind of learner, challenged, adapted for my child
 - Collaboration: Voices were heard, reflection together, articulate thoughts while respecting and processing opinions, small group, services provided by team, discuss

Parent: “The teachers have really taken the time to understand and learn about my children’s strengths and weaknesses inside and outside of the classroom.”

Teacher: “I really enjoy learning from my colleagues and professional development. I love the feeling of learning something new that will better my teaching and then being able to go back to my classroom and really try it out.”

Parent: “Every time I think I’m going to have to fight to get a service for my son, his team ... already have a plan and take action. I also love the community of parents and the education foundation events that help foster the connections between parents. The fact that there was a 1st grade back to school party was amazing.”

Specific Elements of Learning

For each of the following subject or program areas, tell us how **important** you feel the subject is to your overall education.

For each of the following subject or program areas, tell us your level of **satisfaction**. Satisfaction in a subject means that you are pleased with what you are learning. The subject is interesting and at the right level of challenge for you.

Please rate how **important** you feel the subject or program is to your child's overall education.

Please rate how **satisfied** you are with the instruction in the following subject or program areas.

Specific Elements of Learning

Elementary School Importance and Satisfaction of Subject Areas and Programs

	Students		Adults	
Math	95%	85%	99%	80%
Reading	87%	93%	100%	90%
Writing	86%	86%	100%	85%
Science	74%	83%	99%	76%
Social Studies	72%	81%	94%	90%
PE	79%	83%	88%	95%
Enrichment in the Arts (Music, Art, Drama)	67%	89%	90%	89%
Engineering	65%	64%	92%	78%

Includes Important and High Importance / Satisfied and Highly Satisfied
(Ratings of “Not-Applicable” excluded)

Specific Elements of Learning

Middle School Importance and Satisfaction of Subject Areas and Programs

	Students		Adults	
	Important	Satisfied	Important	Satisfied
Writing	93%	81%	100%	84%
Math	91%	80%	100%	73%
History/Social Studies	85%	87%	99%	95%
Reading	84%	81%	100%	86%
Science	83%	75%	100%	83%
Science Electives (Medical Sciences, Robotics)	86%	83%	95%	95%
Spanish	84%	71%	89%	95%
PE - Team Sports / General PE / ISPE	84% / 57% / 88%	93% / 50% / 99%	93% / 76% / 86%	83% / 86% / 96%
Student Council	77%	76%	80%	97%
History Electives (Historic Mock Trials, Model UN)	69%	71%	82%	88%
Electives in Engineering/Coding	68%	69%	90%	80%
Electives in the Arts (Music, Art, Drama)	67%	90%	81%	89%

Includes Important and High Importance / Satisfied and Highly Satisfied
(Ratings of “Not-Applicable” excluded)

The Future of Rancho Santa Fe

As we work together to design the future of Rancho Santa Fe School District, what do you feel the District needs most and what do you believe is most important for the future?”

The Future of Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Themes

Students:

Classroom (43.5%)

Administration/Rules (27.9%)

Social (27.3%)

Parent/Teachers:

Instruction/Curriculum (31.7%)

Leadership (25.3%)

Climate (24.7%)

Social (21.5%)

The Future of Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Student Themes

- **Classroom (43.5%)**

- More electives, advanced classes, teachers, field trips, projects, more activities, interesting topics/classes, practical electives, hands-on, fun, outdoor learning/time, rocketry, robotics, field trips, challenged with sports, classes, and electives; projects, advanced programs for science and reading, more activities, outdoor, fun activities, intriguing lessons, engineering, hands on, more language, more elective options, science discovery day, more books, hands on science experiments, 2-4 person learning groups

6th Grade Student: "I think our school should include more projects to show our thinking. I'm okay with taking notes and reading to learn information but, I wish we could also display our thinking in a variety of ways. This helps me remember things better and learn more."

6th Grade Student: "... I also think that the teachers should also instead of just teaching us and giving us information, learn our strengths and weaknesses so they could improve our reading, or writing, or anything else that would need that one on one experience to fully understand."

The Future of Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Student Themes

- **Administration/Rules (27.9%)**

- Discipline, less rules, dress code, supervision at recess/break, tardies, balls on the playground, recess activities, cleanliness/trash, food choices, supervisor to go to if feel kid is left out, more freedom as to playtime, new and more recess play equipment, cleaner, more rule enforcement, more activities at recess, study option for breaks, impactful discipline—assemblies don't work, consequences for actions, kids should pick up trash, more art on campus

7th Grade Student: "I think the school should just continue what they're doing and make sure to take action on the kids who disrespect other kids. I also think maybe we should be less strict on dress code. I agree with rules but maybe they can be lessened."

5th Grade Student: "Honestly I love this school but I really think you should add more stuff to play at recess."

The Future of Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Student Themes

- **Social (27.3%)**

- Uplifting teachers, buddies/buddy system, inclusion, diversity, helping kids, being kind to others, emotional connections, give support to students who need it, more social freedom, buddy system, more mental health, keep watch on kids who don't have friends, teach kids to be good humans, discipline and education about actual world and social issues, more inclusive, more connections, future to be kind and organized, help with anxiety, fun grade level activities, more middle school activities and opportunities to contribute to ideas, emotionally connecting events, chances to get make friends outside of main circle, stop bullying club, school spirit

7th Grade Student: "The school needs more emotionally connecting events. The middle school and elementary are often separated, even before Covid. Most of the time, only siblings and their friends know people in other grades. What's most important for the future is building social skills..."

7th Grade Student: "I think it is important that schools will continue to be a welcoming and friendly place. I would love if some of the courses we take would help us learn some more things for later in life."

The Future of Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Adult Themes

- **Instruction/Curriculum (31.7%)**

- High standards and expectations, excellent teachers, creative learning, social skills, safety, STEM for girls, student focus when one falls behind, reading specialist, coding/engineering, topics outside standard core, field trips, fun experiences, advanced/honors, fundamentals and stretch minds, agility, adaptability and innovation, enrich the academics, support teachers, environment of fun and innovation, spark creativity and learning, celebrate different learning styles, collaborative thinkers, respect authority, heard, nurture whole children, meet each student where they are, individualizations, communicating differentiation that is occurring, growth mindset

Parent: “I believe that striking a happy medium between academic growth and social/emotional growth is incredibly important. Coming out of the uncertainty of the pandemic years, I think having a safe place to learn and grow could not be more important.”

Parent: “The district needs to focus on preparing our students academically for the ever evolving future, focused on agility, adaptability, and innovation.”

The Future of Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Adult Themes

- **Leadership (25.3%)**

- Support, responsibility of good citizenship, leadership, training, mentorship, student leadership expectations, integrity, empathy, thoughtfulness, trust between board and staff, respect, model respect, stop minority influence, empower, connection, clear direction, accountability, communication, vision, follow up, consistency, responsive

Staff: "...The teachers, staff, and community need to align expectations and work to create an environment that fosters the growth of children."

Teacher: "Stronger connection between staff, community and admin."

Parent: "Growth in leadership, integrity, empathy, thoughtfulness... R. Roger Rowe would be best served right now by striving to get better at the qualities that can not be measured on standard school tests. Humor, creativity, integrity, compassion, generosity, kindness, determination, courage... etc"

The Future of Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Adult Themes

- **Climate (24.7%)**

- Culture, respect, relationships, community, morale, trust, supportive, valued, empathy, inspired and happy, acknowledgment, curiosity, respect of staff from parents, community, sense of ownership, listen and involve, school bonding, partnership, communication, united, appreciation

Parent: "Appreciation and respect of the school staff. Keep up the good work."

Teacher: "... I think that the children are happy, smart, curious, supported, cared for, and feel safe. I truly believe that it is a really great place for a child to grow and develop."

Teacher: "There is a disconnect between the key stakeholders of our school. Communication, transparency, voice, respect and support need to be at the forefront before we are able to jointly focus on a new vision for RSF. Excellence again will come from all the stakeholders coming together."

The Future of Rancho Santa Fe

Primary Adult Themes

- **Social (21.5%)**

- Social-emotional learning, inclusion, connection, good morals, social skills, inclusive, supporting, lunch clubs, SEL programs, character development, curious, supported, cared for, safe, inclusiveness, personal responsibility, parents interacting, buddy system, parent small group discussions, arts, bullying, social separation of groups, supervision, social hierarchy, global awareness, social justice, 3 R's in practice, kind people, respect, responsibility, resiliency, positive student culture, circles for SEL, compassionate students, anti bullying, accountability

Teacher: “The 3 R's, Responsibility, Respect, and Resiliency need to be a central theme in all programming that we do. Campus service days should be done by every K-8 student to help foster a sense of ownership that this is their school...”

Parent: “Fostering a trusted, collaborative, and inclusive environment for students, staff, and families. Implementing the CASEL 5 framework to build whole child wellbeing.”

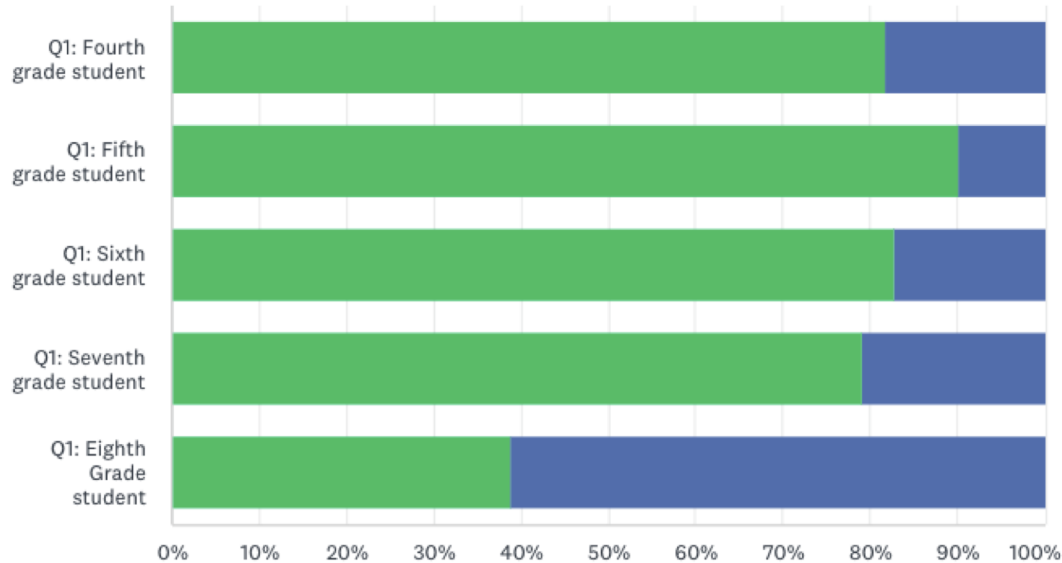
Teacher: “We should prepare our students to be global citizens, collaborative thinkers, and kind people.”

Learning at Rancho Santa Fe

Do you feel your child's overall learning environment supports his/her social and emotional growth?

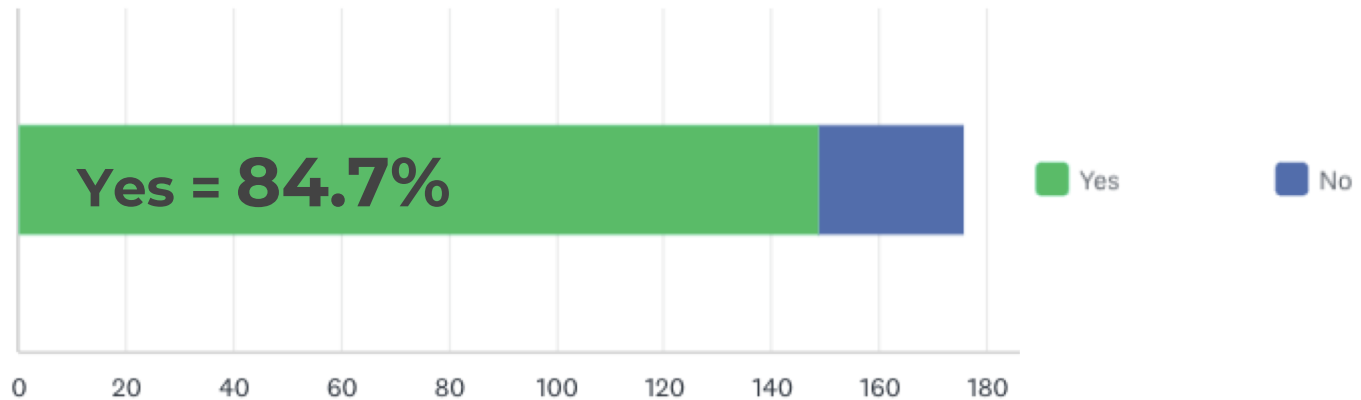
The Rancho Santa Fe Experience

Disaggregated Students



**All Students
Yes = 74.6%**

All Adults



Actionable Steps

- ❖ Review strategic planning survey with the School Board, Teachers/Staff, and Parent Group.
- ❖ Strategic Design Committee is working to determine the core values that are the foundation of the Rancho Santa Fe School District.
- ❖ Strategic Design Committee will facilitate discussion/focus groups to work with all educational partners to clarify core values and to begin drafting a vision and mission statement.
- ❖ The values, vision statement, and mission statement will go through several iterations as the purpose of the Rancho Santa Fe School District is discussed and defined.