

2013 Parent/Guardian Annual Survey Peak to Peak Charter School Executive Summary

For several years, the Accountability Committee has administered a parent/guardian survey to gauge parent sentiment regarding areas such as curriculum and instruction, student/staff relationships, learning environment and more. The 2013 survey was administered online from February 5 thru February 22, 2013 and had a 35% participation rate with 303 families completing the survey for 477 students (33% of students).

The 2013 survey included questions relating to the three Quality areas (Instruction, Relationships, and Learning Environment), as well as new questions regarding:

- Peak to Peak's Professional Development
- Communication Methods
- Various areas of Peak to Peak to determine what parents think the school does well and what areas they think need improvement

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments after each group of questions within a quality area, after most of the new questions, and at the completion of the survey.

Overall the 2013 survey results continue to show that Peak to Peak families are very positive about the school, are very grateful to the teachers and staff that make it a great place, and feel very fortunate that their child/children are at Peak to Peak. Most questions had a positive rating greater than 90%.

Parents also said there is room for improvement. The Quality of Instruction questions for the elementary level had an average positive rating of 89%, but have shown a decline over the past three years. Parents would still like to see additional extracurricular activities for their secondary students. The decline in the positive rating on the technology question, along with numerous comments, showed parents think the school needs new hardware, software, and technology training.

A new question on volunteering showed lack of time was the overwhelming reason some parents do not volunteer. At the middle school and high school levels, the Mandarin program is still causing concerns. Parents indicated that Peak to Peak excels in many areas, but needs improvement in the areas of staff salaries, parking/safety, and food services. Analysis of open-ended responses also showed:

- Concerns about Climate/Environment

- Middle School atmosphere could be more supportive and encouraging
- High School academic environment is stressful
- Parents would like to feel their voices are heard and would like a stronger sense of community
- Finances – Funding priorities are not well understood. For example, there is much confusion and misunderstanding regarding the role of CPD and its value to the school
- Communication – Parents find email the best method for general communication, but would like more consistent use of IC, classroom web pages, and fusion pages for their student

A comprehensive summary of the survey results is available on the website in the full report titled *2013 Parent/Guardian Annual Survey Results*.