

# *Peak To Peak K-12 Charter School*

## *Executive Summary 2006 – 2007 Parent Survey*



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## **PREFACE – Executive Summary Peak to Peak Parent Survey Report**

The Peak to Peak Accountability Committee conducted a parent/guardian survey during the second semester of the 2006-07 school year. This report (Executive Summary) contains a summary of the Parent Survey results. Additional information is available in the full report (2006 – 2007 Peak to Peak Parent Survey Report). In addition to the numerical section, the returned surveys contained detailed comments and questions regarding particular aspects of the School. These comments were compiled and forwarded to the President of the Board of Directors who will redistribute them to the appropriate individuals. Responses to the survey and comments are expected from the Board of Directors and School staff over the course of the next year (2007-08). Our School undergoes continual change and improvement. Some of the improvements will take time but stay tuned to the various communication methods (e.g. *Speak to Peak*, community-wide email, Board meeting minutes, Friday folders, website, *et cetera*) for information.

Additional information for each of the School levels (K-5/Elementary School, 6-8/Middle School, and 9-12/High School) is available at several websites. If you are interested in additional accountability information please follow one of the links listed below. We appreciate your participation and interest in these results.

Additional information:

[www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us) (School Report cards)

[www.bvsd.org](http://www.bvsd.org) (Links for Community, Annual School Reports)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Special thanks to Aaron Harber for leading the parent survey effort and the considerable number of hours he spent completing the quantitative analysis used in the final report.

Special thanks to the Peak to Peak Board of Directors for their energy and time focused on making Peak to Peak the best it can be.

Special thanks to the Peak to Peak teachers and staff for providing an exceptional educational opportunity for our students. Special thanks to the parents who spent the time to provide meaningful feedback which will help the school continue to improve.

Sincerely,  
Tahllee Baynard  
Peak to Peak Accountability  
Committee Chair (2005-07)  
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## Introduction

*“The purpose of the Accountability Committee (AC) is to provide information and analysis to the Peak to Peak Community and use that data to assess the school’s progress towards its mission”*  
- Stated Objective of the Accountability Committee, approved by Board of Directors, December 2005.

In response to the need to find and evaluate data to measure progress towards the mission of Peak to Peak, the Accountability Committee created a parent survey to collect numerical and descriptive data directly related to particular objectives within the Strategic Plan. The result of this survey, administered to the parents of Peak to Peak students in February 2007, is the subject of this report.

The Peak to Peak Strategic Plan is still in the development process. The specific themes and initiatives will be used by the entire school community in making decisions and formulating directives and policies for the operations of the school. Four specific themes tie directly to the school’s mission statement:

1. Provide an exemplary liberal arts college preparatory K-12 education that will challenge and inspire our students to fulfill their dreams.
2. Support students to become self-directed, active and responsible citizens who participate cooperatively and compassionately in school and the broader community.
3. Promote a safe, positive, and respectful school culture and environment where all members of the P2P community share their strengths.
4. Provide effective school management that encourages strong leadership, sound business practices, active community involvement, and ongoing organizational integrity.

In the normal processes of school business, some measurements exist that can determine how well the school is doing in fulfilling its mission and satisfying the goals set by the above themes. CSAP scores, AP grades, ACT scores and acceptances into colleges can all help to measure success towards academic goals while the annual climate survey conducted by the Boulder Valley School District can identify progress made towards school culture and school climate goals, to name a few.

The Accountability Committee identified a number of key indicators, or goals, for which no, or few, measurement(s) existed. Therefore, over the course of several meetings, discussions and reviews of existing data, the AC developed a series of statements for which it wanted evaluations from the parents of the students at Peak to Peak. The statements in the survey (listed here with the same letter used in the actual parent survey) correlate to the above themes as shown in the following table:

## Table of Strategic Themes to Survey Statements

<b>1. Provide an exemplary liberal arts college preparatory K-12 education that will challenge and inspire our students to fulfill their dreams.</b>
C. “My student receives the teacher and tutoring help necessary to master the required coursework”
D. “Peak to Peak has prepared my student well for his or her current level of coursework.”
F. “The School’s available technology (computers and audio-visual equipment) is adequate for learning.”
M. “Peak to Peak prepares my student so he or she scores to the best of his or her ability on State tests (CSAPs), college entrance exams and/or Advanced Placement tests”
P. “My student is receiving adequate guidance through the School to choose a college that best fits him or her.”
<b>2. Support students to become self-directed, active and responsible citizens who participate cooperatively and compassionately in school and the broader community.</b>
N. “The community service participation by my student had (or is having) a positive impact on my student and on the community.”
O. “My student has ample opportunities for positive extracurricular involvement through the School.”
<b>3. Promote a safe, positive, and respectful school culture and environment where all members of the P2P community share their strengths.</b>
E. “The Peak to Peak campus and physical facilities are adequate for learning”
G. “I provide financial support directly to the School at a level which is significant for my family”
H. “I am involved in meaningful ways in terms of volunteering at the School.”
J. “I am familiar with and understand the School’s Communication Pathways process.”
K. “When I have used the School’s Communication Pathways, the process has been effective in handling problems and addressing concerns.”
L. “I am well informed about School events and activities.
<b>4. Provide effective school management that encourages strong leadership, sound business practices, active community involvement, and ongoing organizational integrity.</b>
I. “I would encourage my friends and family to seriously consider enrolling their children at Peak to Peak”

Since much can be learned by requesting open-ended responses to issues facing Peak to Peak, the Accountability Committee included two additional questions in the survey; one very general and one specifically addressing financial and volunteer time support contributed to the school. For the general question, the AC then placed the written comments into one of 15 different categories with the following frequencies:

### Summary Table of Comments

<u>Comment Category</u>	<u>Strategic Theme Number</u>	<u>Number of Comments Received</u>
Calendar	1	19
Facilities / Cleanliness	3	41
Communication Pathways	3	54
Administration / Staff / Board	1	41
Academic Challenge / Expectations / Curricula / Character Ed	1	87
Technology	1	33
Community Service	2	15
Teachers (Either Specific or General)	1	80
Counseling Department	1	29
Extra-Curricular / Athletics	2	32
Traffic / Parking	3	8
Schedule / Course Offerings	1	18
Discipline	2	10
Kudos / Other	N/A	29
Other / Miscellaneous	N/A	<u>36</u>
Total		532

The Accountability Committee recorded all comments without regard to whether the comment was negative or positive, while ensuring that confidentiality was maintained. This record of all comments will be given to the President of the Board of Directors along with the qualitative analysis to provide a full summary of the survey results. These will aid in setting priorities, determining areas of focus, and distribution of resources. The committee recommends that the community continues to use the Communication Pathways to address issues in a professional and timely manner

For the open-ended question concerning the reason that parents are not contributing with either time (volunteering) or direct financial support, the AC again placed the written comments into one of 5 different categories for both volunteering and giving financially with the following frequencies:

### Reasons for Not Volunteering

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Time Limitations (job, kids, distance, timing)	80
No follow-up, poor coordination, never asked	40
Upset or Angry with School	13
Burned Out	5
Other	4
Total	142
Percent of All Survey Respondents	23 %

### Reasons for Not Contributing Financially

<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Personal financial Limitations	54
Upset with the School	28
No explanation of use of money	17
No follow up, no one asked	1
Other	4
Total	104
Percent of All Survey Respondents	17%

### **Strategic Themes and Related Survey Responses**

The following discussion relates the specific survey results to their Strategic Themes as determined by the Strategic Plan. Since this is the first year of generating this specific data, the Accountability Committee wishes to refrain from drawing hard and fast conclusions based solely on the survey data. It is invaluable data that can be replicated in the years to come and used to focus resources, energy and policies within the framework of the Strategic Plan and measurements taken in their entirety.

The survey responses are presented here with their average (mean on a scale of 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree) response and the total percentages of responses that agreed (plus strongly agreed) or disagreed (plus strongly disagreed), and the numerical tabulation of comments as they pertain to the Theme. The percentage of responses in the ‘uncertain’ category was omitted here, which results in the total not equaling 100%. This summary can be used to identify those areas that may require more / less attention in the future from administration, the board and the financial resources of Peak to Peak.

***Strategic Theme 1: Provide an exemplary liberal arts college preparatory K-12 education that will challenge and inspire our students to fulfill their dreams.***

My student receives the teacher and tutoring help necessary to master the required coursework.	Mean= 4.24 Strongly Agree/Agree 87.1% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 7.2%
Peak to Peak has prepared by student well for his or her current level of coursework	Mean = 4.26 Strongly Agree/Agree 87.2% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 4.8%
The School’s available technology (computers and audio-visual equipment) is adequate for learning.	Mean = 3.65 Strongly Agree/Agree 64.6% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 15.4%
Peak to Peak prepares my student so he or she scores to the best of his or her ability on State tests (CSAPs), college entrance exams and/or Advanced Placement tests.	Mean = 4.02 Strongly Agree/Agree 76.6% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 4.9%
My student is receiving adequate guidance through the School to choose a college that best fits him or her.	Mean = 3.67 Strongly Agree/Agree 58.4% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 16.9%

<b>Comments:</b>		
School Calendar		19
Board/Admin/Staff		41
Academic Challenge		87
Technology		33
Teachers		80
Counseling		29
Schedule/Courses		<u>18</u>
Total		307

***Strategic Theme 2: Support students to become self-directed, active and responsible citizens who participate cooperatively and compassionately in school and the broader community.***

The community service participation by my student had (or is having) a positive impact on my student and on the community.	Mean = 3.89 Strongly Agree/Agree 70.9% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 7.9%
My student has ample opportunities for positive extracurricular involvement through the School.	Mean = 3.87 Strongly Agree/Agree 72.7% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 14.7%

<b>Comments:</b> Community Service	15
Extra Curricular Activities/Athletics	32
Discipline	<u>10</u>
Total	57

***Strategic Theme 3: Promote a safe, positive, and respectful school culture and environment where all members of the P2P community share their strengths.***

The Peak to Peak campus and physical facilities are adequate for learning.	Mean = 4.18 Strongly Agree/Agree 88.3% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 4.6%
I provide financial support directly to the School at a level which is significant for my family.	Mean = 4.04 Strongly Agree/Agree 82.6% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 11.7%
I am involved in meaningful ways in terms of volunteering at the School.	Mean = 3.90 Strongly Agree/Agree 74.4% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 16.4%
I am familiar with and understand the School's Communication Pathways process.	Mean = 4.16 Strongly Agree/Agree 83.1% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 7.7%
When I have used the School's Communication Pathways, the process has been effective in handling problems and addressing concerns.	Mean = 3.84 Strongly Agree/Agree 71.1% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 11.6%
I am well informed about School events and activities.	Mean = 4.24 Strongly Agree/Agree 87.9% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 7.0%

<b>Comments:</b> Facilities/Clean	41
Communication	54
Traffic/Parking	<u>8</u>
Total	103

***Strategic Theme 4: Provide effective school management that encourages strong leadership, sound business practices, active community involvement, and ongoing organizational integrity.***

I would encourage my friends and family to seriously consider enrolling their children at Peak to Peak	Mean = 4.43 Strongly Agree/Agree 89.6% Strongly Disagree/Disagree 2.4%
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## **Conclusion**

Clearly from the results of the survey, the Peak to Peak community is generally very positive about its school. It is very open to encouraging others to join the school, well informed about what is happening at the school, feel that students are challenged and prepared and give financially to the operations of the school. Results indicate that Peak to Peak is an excellent school for students focused on academics. The community also has very high standards for Peak to Peak and the qualitative analysis and comments reflects the parents' expectation for Peak to Peak to meet these high standards.

Results also indicate there are opportunities to improve the established Communications Pathway process, establish a stronger college guidance experience, continue to expand and enhance the community service and extracurricular activities offered, and enhance educational technology. However, the allocation of resources to address these identified areas for improvement will need to be based on the priorities of the School's Strategic Plan. The Accountability Committee will continue to monitor and communicate progress made against these and other benchmarks set for Peak to Peak Charter School. Additional communication to the community is expected from the School Administration and Board of Directors.