

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 @6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Washington – Chairperson, Adrian Johnson – Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman (remote), Dean Antipas, Sean Corcoran (remote), Ian Thomas), Jay Weitlauf (remote), Jennifer White, Michael Whitney

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Denise Doolittle, Sam Kilpatrick (remote)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington – Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Review Of September 8, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: White, Whitney: To approve the meeting minutes of September 8, 2025, with the following corrections.
Item #5 – add SB
Item #3 – strike the bullets under Item #III
Add that the Board will continue to look at the SB site
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. Discussion re: School Climate Survey (Attachment #1)

Superintendent Austin, Dr. Mancini, and Denise Doolittle gave an overview of the School Climate Survey, showcasing data that aligned to the Strategic Plan Pillars and Key Performance Indicators.

IV. UPDATE re: ROBOTICS

Superintendent Austin noted the walk through:

- Several Board members suggested that we explore SBB as a potential site for Robotics. We followed up with the Fire Marshall and he gave us a list of items that he would need to make the decision.
- Sam, Clint, and the coaches were planning to visit the site
- Should we get the Fire Marshall approval, it would need to go to the Town Council

Superintendent Austin noted that the Robotics team is planning an open house for students and families mid-October for recruiting. Once they have the team, they would begin training. The official season begins early January.

Consensus of Board:

- Antipas – get a date for the SB site (within one week)
- Johnson – go back to last week’s plan for FHS and give it a week for SB site
- White – agree
- Whitney – agree
- Thomas – agree
- Ackerman – agree
- Weitlauf – agree
- Corcoran – agree

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Antipas: To adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.
PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY



**School Climate Survey
2025-2026**

GPS Strategic Plan Pillars

1

Accelerate Academic Achievement



2

Cultivate a Rich and Vibrant Learning Community



3

Strengthen Pathways that Develop Post Secondary Readiness



4

Attract and Grow A Skilled and Supported Workforce




5

Improve Operational Efforts and Increase Fiscal Responsibility



Key Performance Indicators

| Academics | Attendance | Behavior | College and Career Readiness | Communications & Climate  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Accountability Index | Average Daily Attendance | # of Incidents of In-School Suspensions | % On-track for Graduation | % of K-5 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult |
| DPI- ELA | % of Students Chronically Absent | # of Incidents of Out of School Suspensions | % Taking CCR Courses | % of 6-12 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult |
| DPI- Math | Average # of Staff Absences | | Postsecondary Entrance | % of Staff Reporting PD is Connected to Position |
| DPI- Science | | | 4-Year Graduation Rate | % of Parents Who Believe there are Opportunities for Caregiver Involvement |

Climate Survey Overview

| Elementary Surveys Provided | Elementary Surveys Completed |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Students: Early (K-2) | 708 (77%) |
| Students: Upper (3-5) | 815 (85%) |
| Staff | 223 (64%) |
| Parents | 472 |

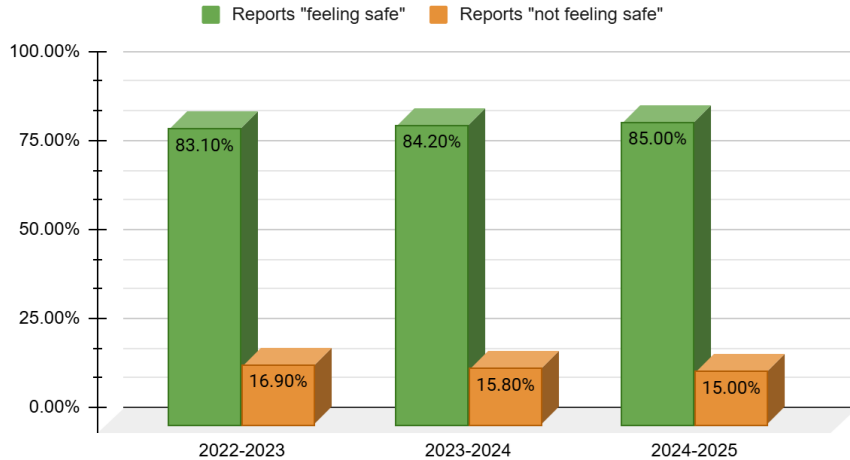
| Secondary Surveys Provided | Secondary Surveys Completed |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Students | 1252 (69%) |
| Staff | 132 (74%) |
| Parents | 200 |

Safety

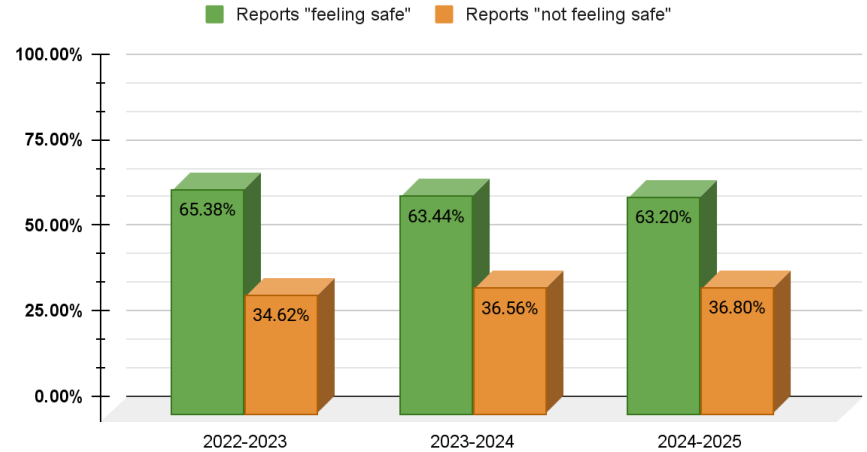
Elementary School Students

I feel safe in my classroom at school

Student Survey: Early Elementary

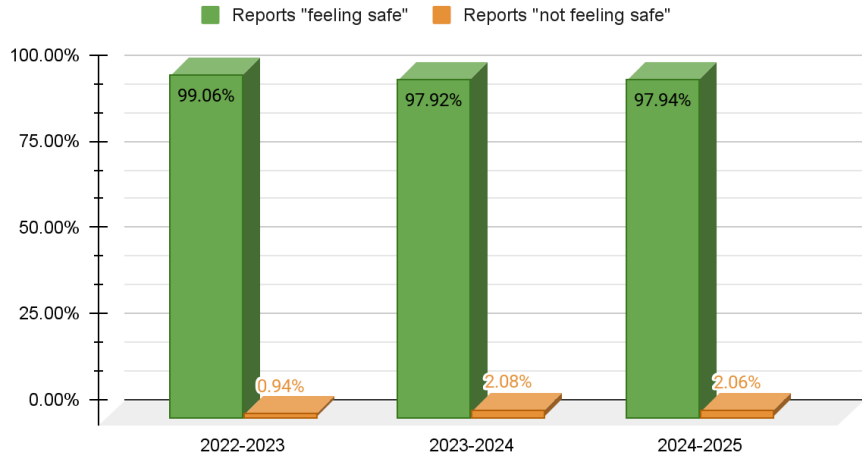


Student Survey: Upper Elementary



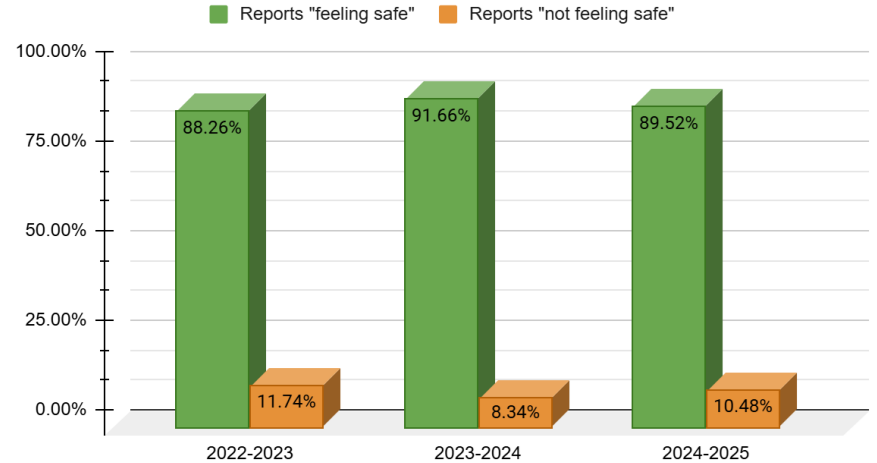
Elementary School Adults

Parent Survey: Elementary



The school is a safe and secure place for my child to learn

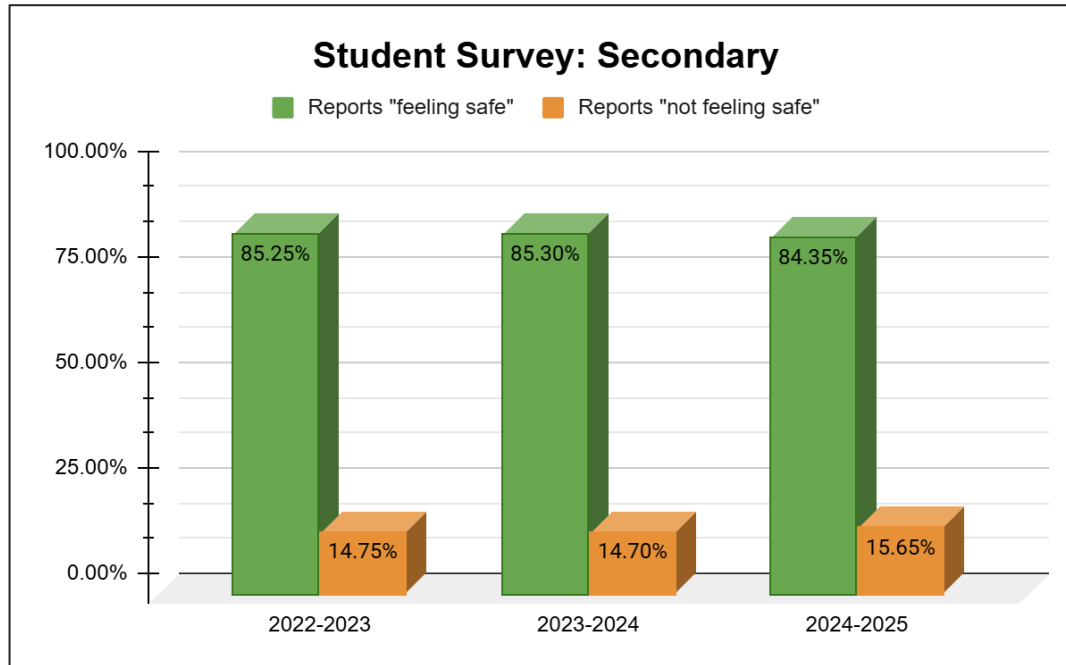
Staff Survey: Elementary



My building is safe and secure

Secondary School Students

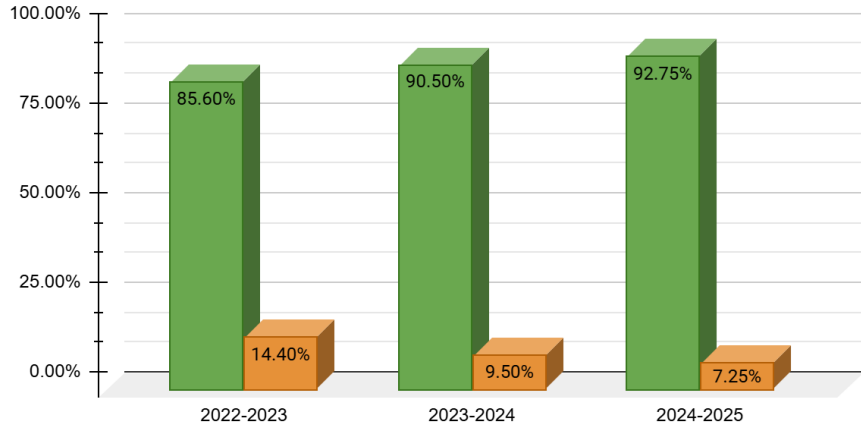
I feel my trip to and from school is a positive/safe experience



Secondary School Adults

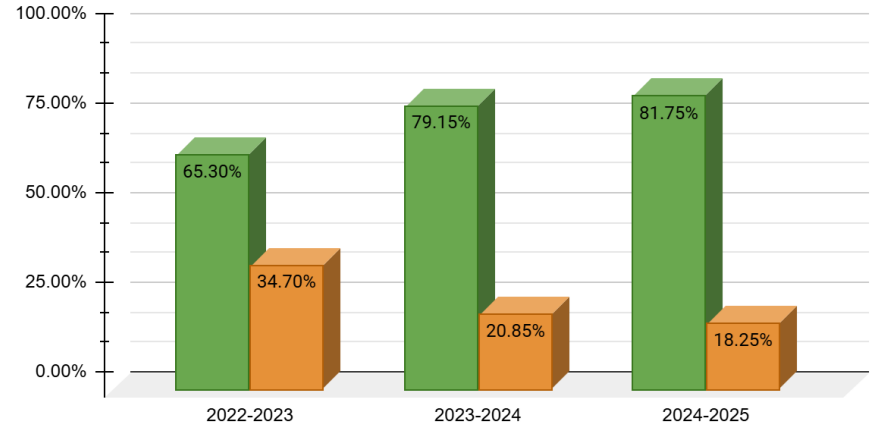
Parent Survey: Secondary

■ Reports "feeling safe" ■ Reports "not feeling safe"



Staff Survey: Secondary

■ Reports "feeling safe" ■ Reports "not feeling safe"



The school is a safe and secure place for my child to learn

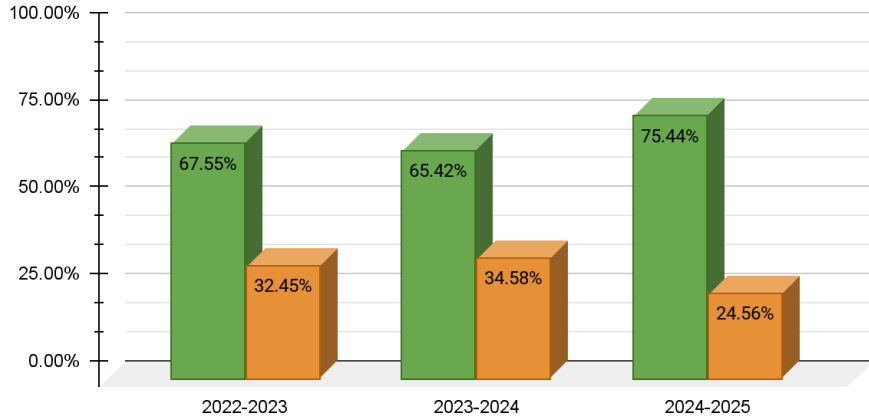
My building is safe and secure

Belonging

Student Survey: Elementary

Student Survey: Elementary

■ Reports "liking school" ■ Reports "not liking school"

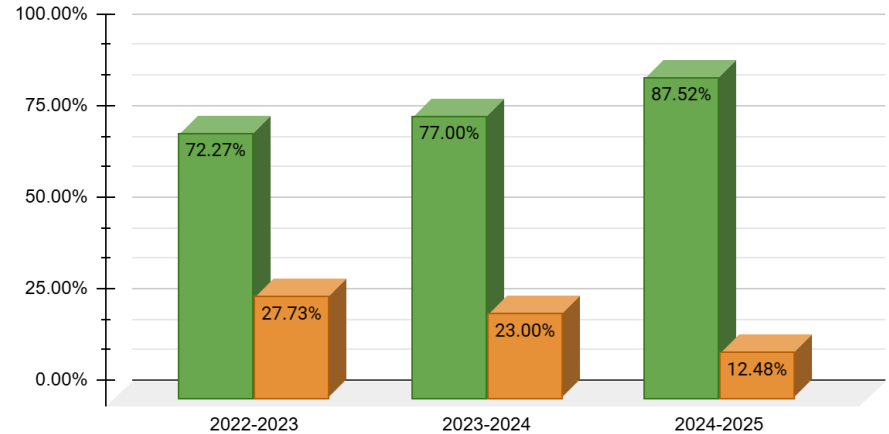


I like going to my school



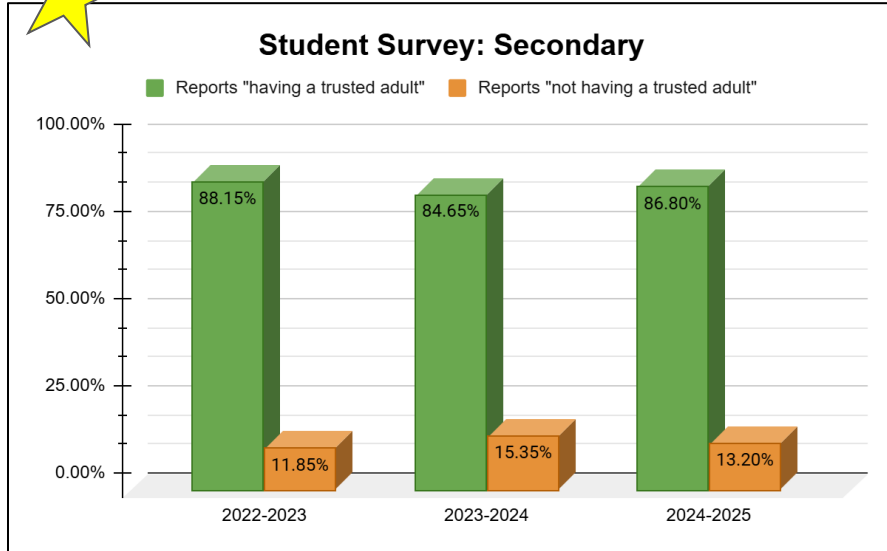
Student Survey: Elementary

■ Reports "having a trusted adult" ■ Reports "not having a trusted adult"

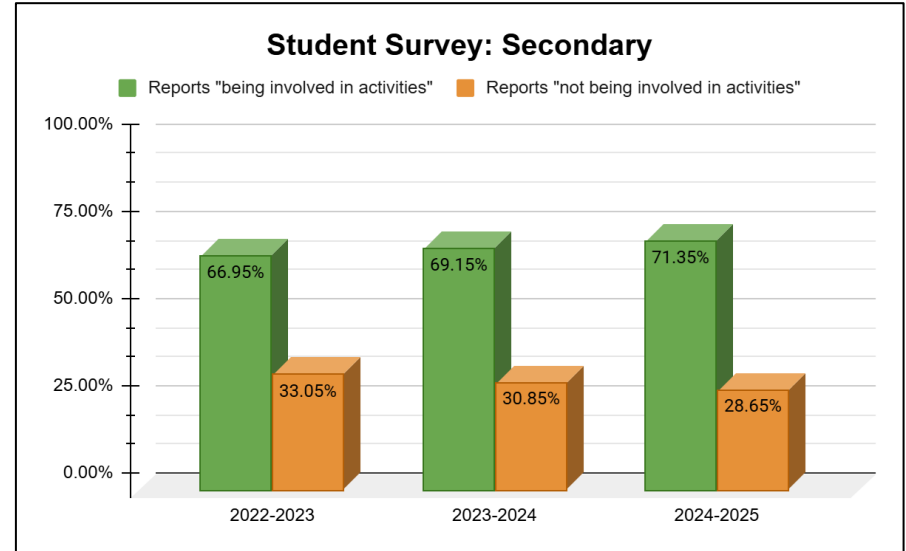


If I am sad, mad or worried, there is a trusted adult who can help me

Secondary Students



There are trusted adults in my school

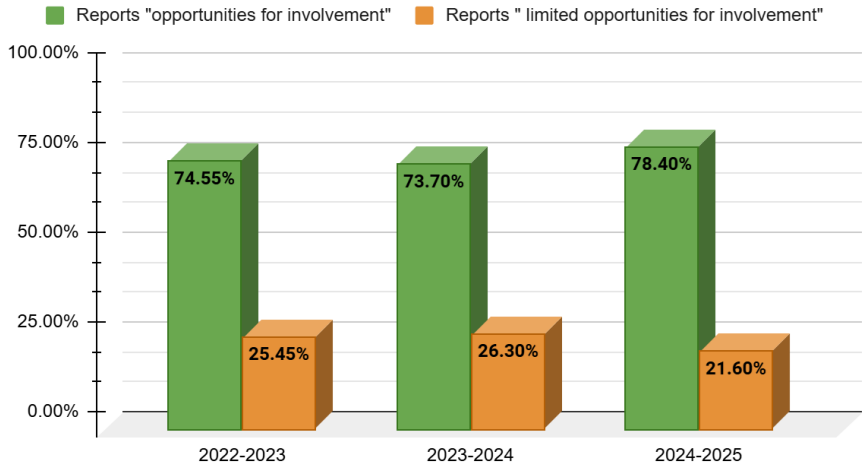


I am involved in extracurricular activities at some point during the school year

Secondary School Parents

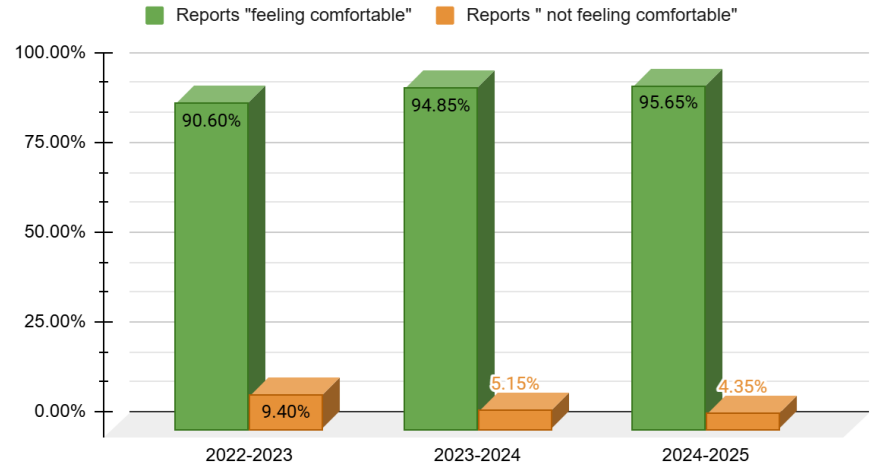


Parent Survey: Secondary



At my child's school, there are opportunities for caregiver involvement

Parent Survey: Secondary

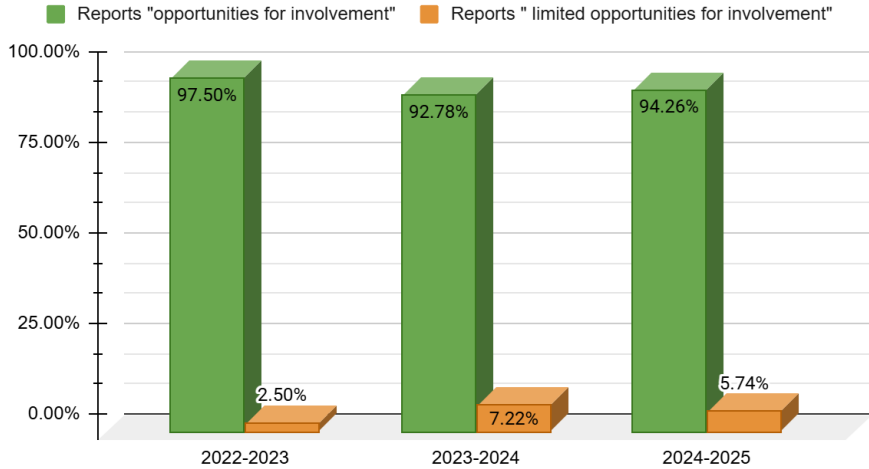


I am comfortable talking to my child's teacher

Elementary School Parents

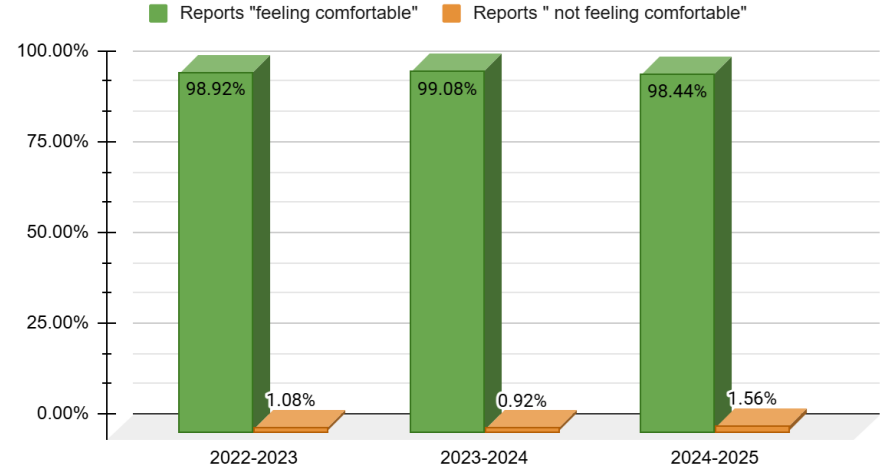


Parent Survey: Elementary



At my child's school, there are opportunities for parental involvement

Parent Survey: Elementary



I am comfortable talking to my child's teacher

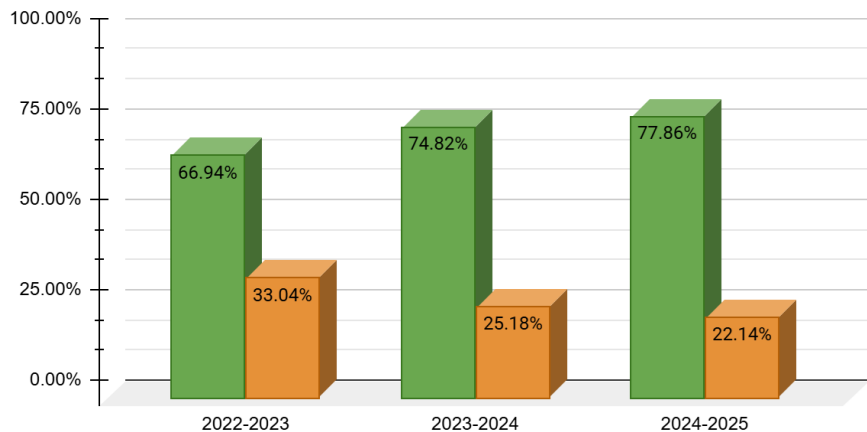
Respect & Inclusion

Elementary Students

This school provides books that show all kinds of people

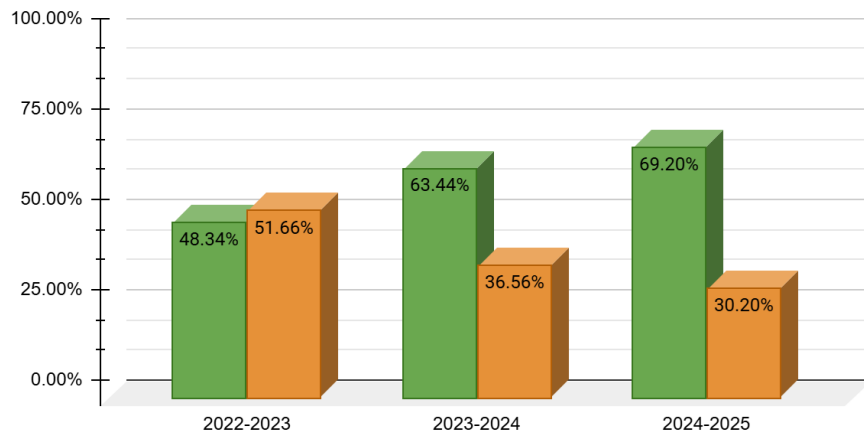
Student Survey: Early Elementary

Agrees Disagrees



Student Survey: Upper Elementary

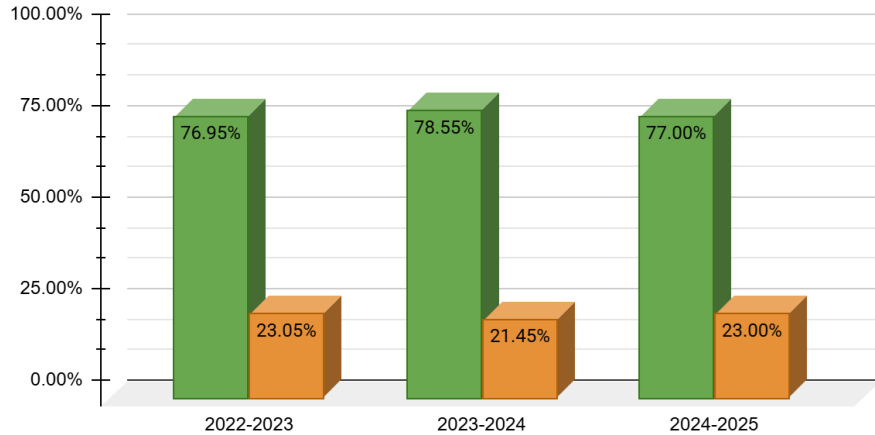
Agrees Disagrees



Secondary Students

Student Survey: Secondary

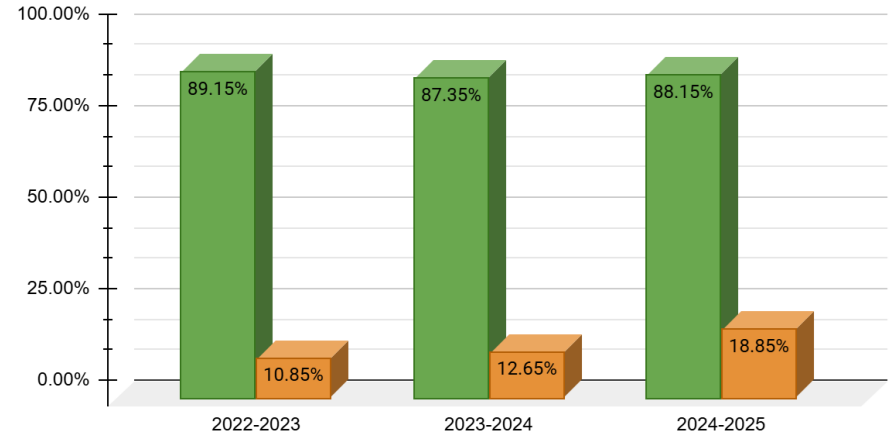
Agrees Disagrees



I am able to select high level courses

Student Survey: Secondary

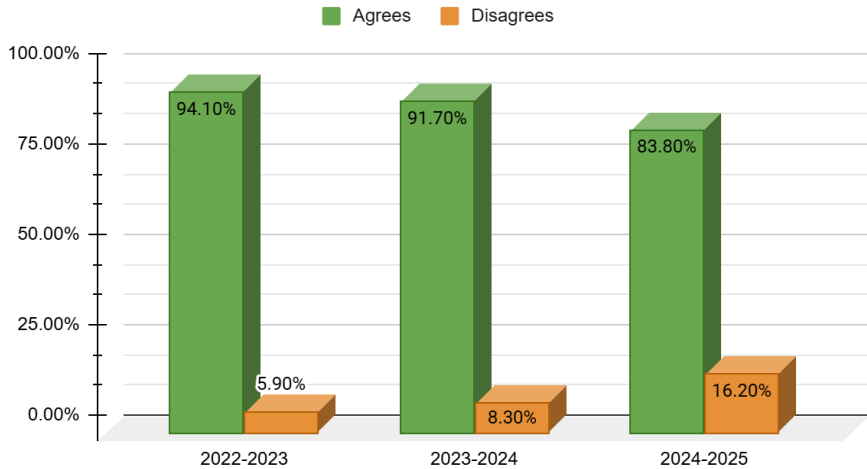
Agrees Disagrees



My teachers help me to try my best

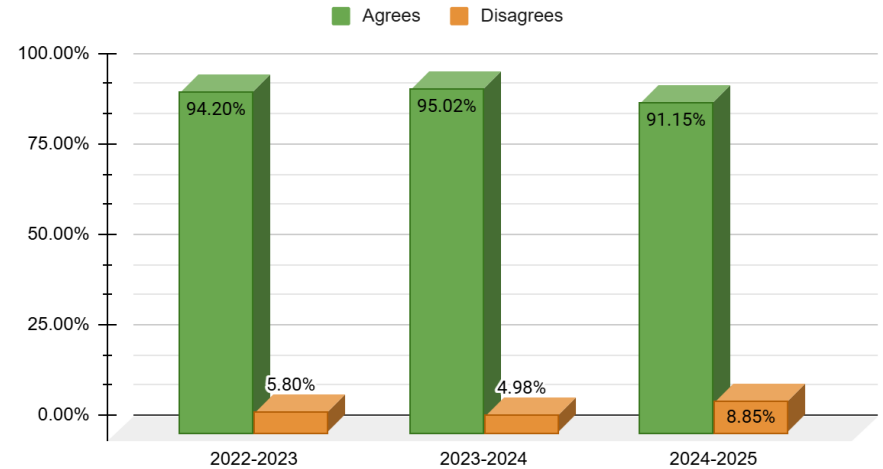
Elementary School Staff

Staff Survey: Elementary



Our building fosters an appreciation of student diversity and respect for each other

Staff Survey: Elementary

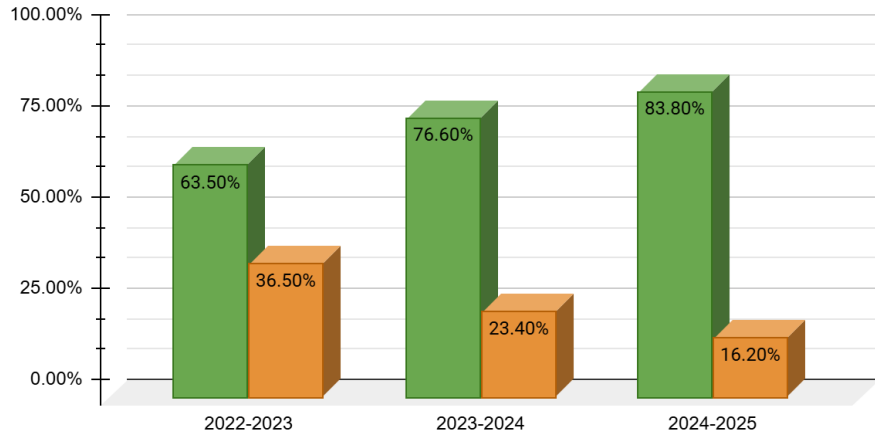


The staff respects all colleagues regardless of their race, ethnicity, or culture

Secondary School Staff

Staff Survey: Secondary

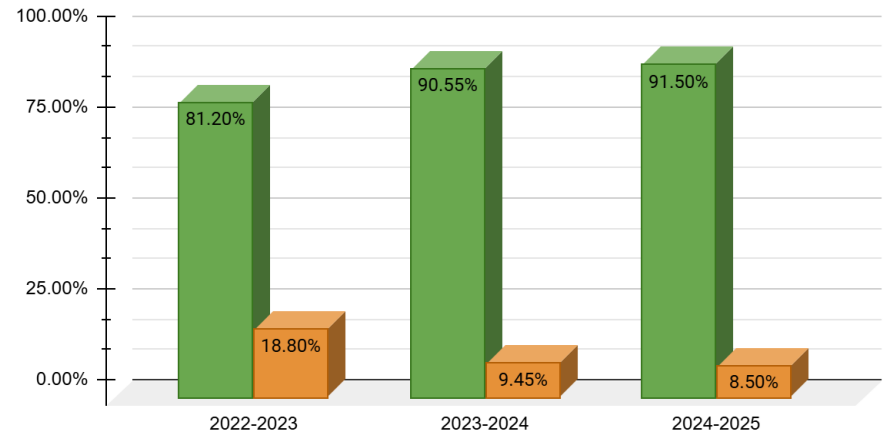
Agrees Disagrees



Our building fosters an appreciation of student diversity and respect for each other

Staff Survey: Secondary

Agrees Disagrees



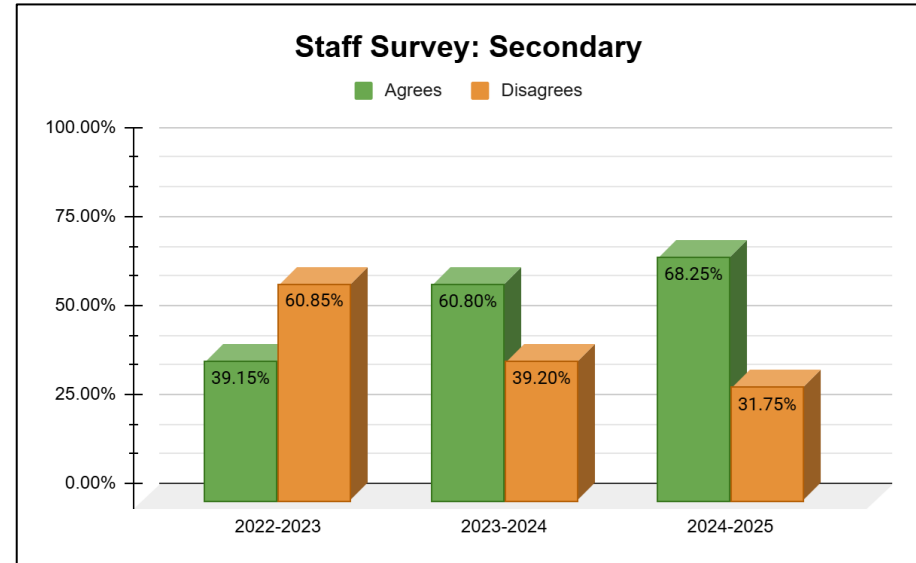
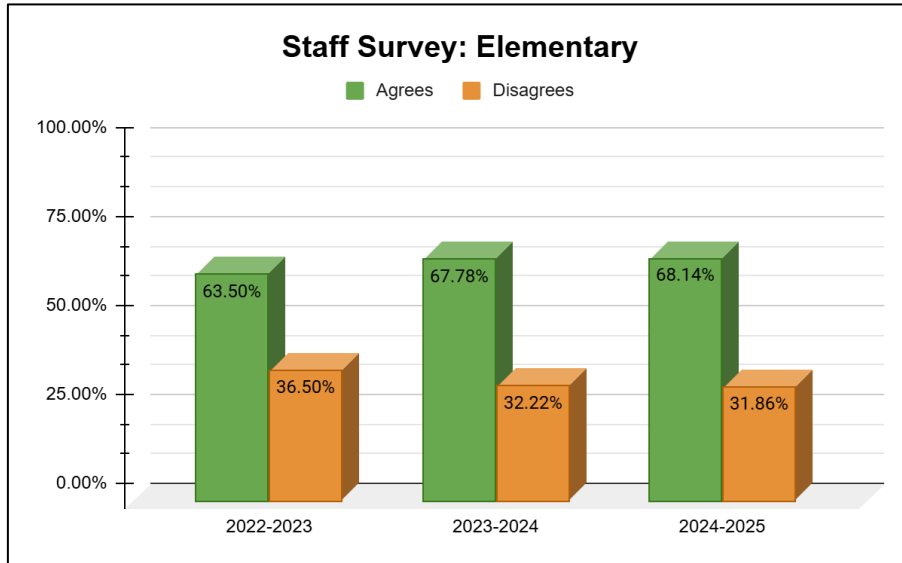
The staff respects all colleagues regardless of their race, ethnicity, or culture

Professional Growth



Professional Development

I am able to participate in professional development directly related to my job



Takeaways with a Focus on KPI's

- The percent of K-5 students who can identify a trusted adult has increased by 15.25% since 2022.★
- The percent of 6-12 students who can identify a trusted adult is 1.35% less than in 2022, but showed a 2.15% increase from last year (2023) ★
- The percent of staff reporting PD is connected to their positions has slowly increased by 4.64% at the elementary level since 2022, while a dramatic increase of 20.1% at the secondary level is noted since 2022 ★
- The percent of caregivers that believe there are opportunities for involvement has decreased by 3.24% at the elementary level since 2022, while a 3.85% increase is noted at the secondary level ★
- We will examine the practices currently in place in order to make adjustments to improve survey completion
- While parents/guardians overwhelmingly agreed students were safe, safety will always be a priority