



At a Glance

Results of the 2006 Parent Survey
June 11, 2007

Background of Survey

Since 2002 South Carolina has collected information on parental involvement and reported parent perceptions of their child's school on the annual school report cards. The parents of students in grades 5, 8, and 11, or the highest grade in elementary and middle schools are surveyed.

Historically, the results of the annual parent surveys between 2002 and 2005 have indicate an parents' overwhelmingly positive perception of the learning environment and social and physical environment of their child's school. In contrast, only two-thirds of parents responding to the surveys had a favorable view of home-school relations at their child's school.

Parents rated the following positive (among a number of factors):

1. Communication between teachers and schools and with the families of their students.
2. Learning environment and social and physical environment of their child's school.

Parents expressed concern over three issues:

1. Inclusion in decision-making
2. Receiving information about what their child should be learning
3. Discipline

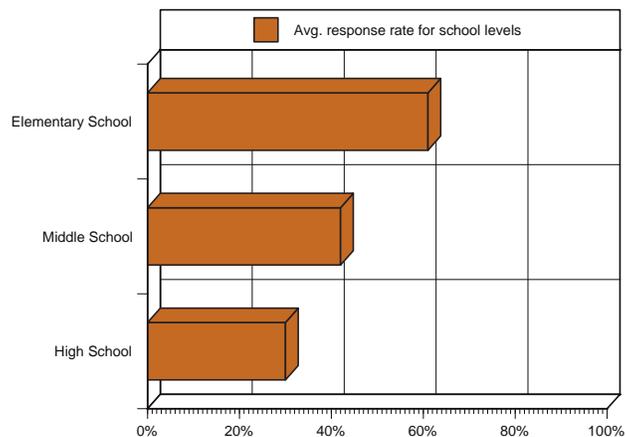
Obstacles to Parent Involvement

The work schedule of parents was consistently the greatest obstacle to their involvement in schools. Fifty-six percent of respondents stated that their work schedule made it hard to be involved. Other obstacles to parental involvement included:

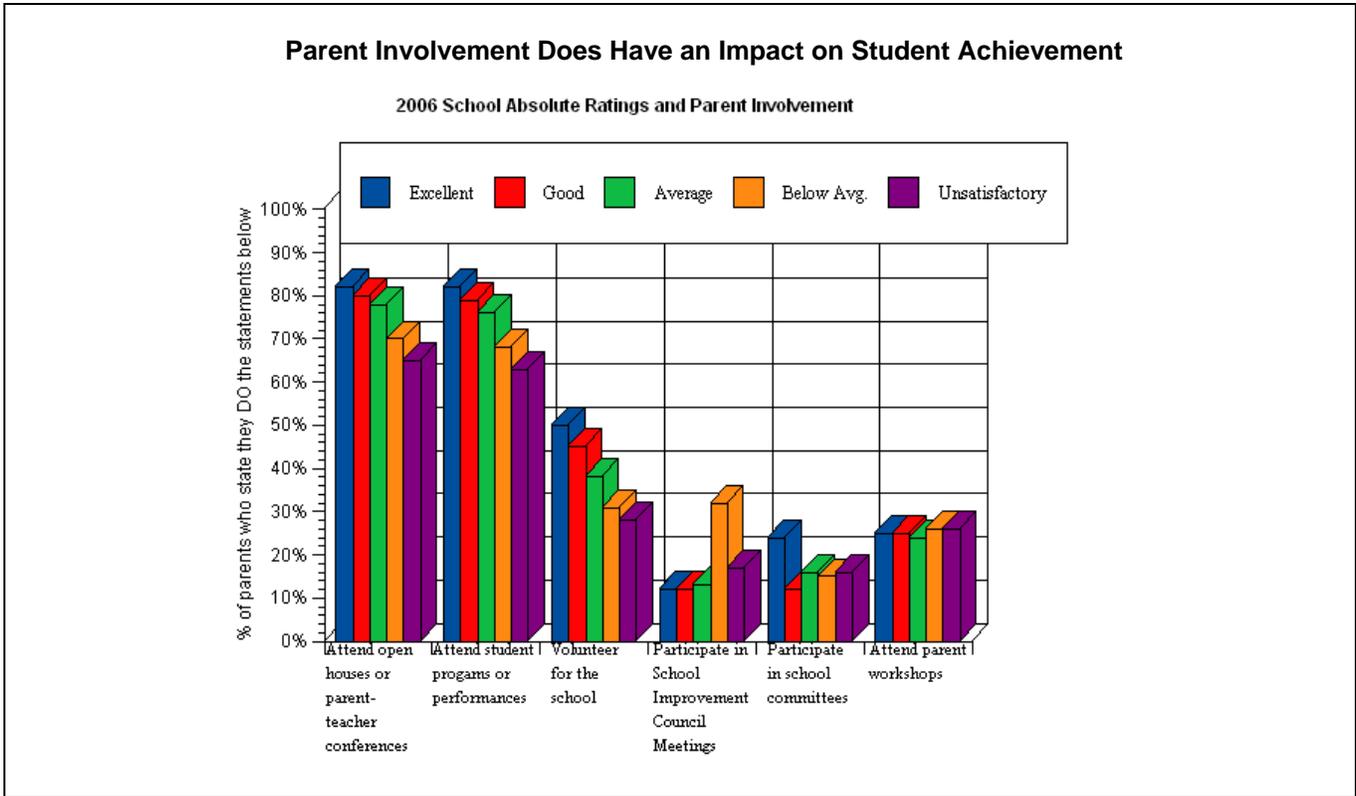
- Lack of transportation (13 percent)
- Family health problems (15 percent)
- Lack of available care for children or other family members (16 percent)

Results of 2006 Survey

- The total number of surveys returned in 2006 was 69,495 – a nearly four percent increase over 2005. Statewide, 1,035 schools participated in the survey.
- Parents who responded to the survey:
 - report higher than average income levels; parents from lower than average income levels were underrepresented in the survey.
 - were six times more lively to be women than men.
 - continue to have an overwhelmingly positive perception of the learning environment and social and physical environment of their child's school.
- Parental satisfaction with home and school relations was at an all-time high – 77 percent statewide.
- Parents continue to express concern over student behavior at their child's school. Only 55 percent of parents believe that students at their child's school are well-behaved.
- Less than 50 percent (47 percent) of the respondents believed that their child's school considered changes based on parental input.
- Over half (53 percent) of parents agreed that their child's teachers contact them to say good things about their child.



- Seventy-five percent of parents agreed that their child’s school gives them information about what their child should be learning in school.



- Parent satisfaction with learning environment, home and school relations, and social and physical environment of their child’s school declined as the Absolute rating of their child’s school declined and improved as the Absolute rating of their child’s school improved

Policy Implications

- The Education Oversight Committee recommends funding for the SC Department of Education to implement the Parental Involvement in Their Children’s Education Act.
- Results of the survey should be used to assist schools and school districts with parental involvement initiatives and in devising statewide parental involvement programs.

Additional Information

- For additional information about parent involvement, New Carolina has published a resource guide for South Carolina groups and individuals. “Increasing Parent Involvement in Education: A Resource Guide for South Carolina Communities” is available online at <http://newcarolina.org/PDF/Parent-Involvement-8.pdf>.

For additional information, contact the EOC at (803) 734-6148.

A complete copy of “Results of the 2006 Parent Survey” can currently be found online at <http://eoc.sc.gov>, under Publications.