

What do people think about public schools in 2019?

Each year, the Education Directorate surveys stakeholders about their satisfaction with public education. School identification (a sense of belonging or connection to the school) is also measured. In 2019, 15,143 parents/carers, 3,716 staff and 20,318 students (Years 4 to 12) participated in the survey. Year 4 students were included for the first time.

In 2019, a high proportion of parents/carers, staff and students reported that they were satisfied with public school education (**Table 1**). Satisfaction was highest in staff working in colleges and primary schools and lowest in students attending P-10 schools and high schools. Staff across all school types and parents of children attending early childhood and specialist schools were most likely to report that they identified with their school (**Table 2**). School identification was lowest in students attending P-10 schools and high schools.

Table 1: Proportion of survey respondents satisfied* with public school education by school type in 2019

| | Colleges | High schools | P-10 schools | Primary schools | Early childhood | Specialist schools | All schools |
|--------------|----------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Parent/Carer | 81% | 82% | 78% | 87% | 89% | 89% | 85% |
| Staff | 96% | 88% | 79% | 93% | 90% | 90% | 90% |
| Student | 80% | 70% | 64% | 82% | n/a | n/a | 74% |

*Proportion of survey respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: 'Overall, I am satisfied with my child's education at this school' (Parent/Carer); 'Overall, I am satisfied the students are getting a good education at this school' (Staff); 'Overall, I am satisfied I am getting a good education at this school' (Student). n/a = not applicable.

Table 2: Proportion of survey respondents reporting strong identification* with their school by school type in 2019

| | Colleges | High schools | P-10 schools | Primary schools | Early childhood | Specialist schools | All schools |
|--------------|----------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Parent/Carer | 53% | 63% | 68% | 81% | 84% | 85% | 73% |
| Staff | 90% | 89% | 86% | 91% | 92% | 90% | 89% |
| Student | 55% | 51% | 51% | 76% | n/a | n/a | 60% |

*Using a 5-point scale from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree), respondents indicated their agreement with the following statements
Parent/Carer: 'Belonging to this school community is important to me'. 'I am happy to be a part of this school community'. 'I feel a strong connection at this school'.
Staff and Student: 'Being a part of this school is important to me'. 'I am happy to be part of this school'. 'I feel a strong connection with this school'. 'I feel I belong at this school'. 'I care about this school'. A mean score not including 'Don't Know' responses was calculated. Measures are reported as the proportion of respondents reporting strong identification (a mean score of 3.5 or above) with their school. n/a = not applicable.

Note that in 2019 the item "I feel a strong connection to this school" was added for the first time to the Parent/Carer measure of School Identification. It is therefore not advisable to compare 2019 proportions to previous years.

How do we use the survey results?

Surveys from all ACT public schools are collated to provide an indication of educational outcomes and quality of the learning environment. The data are used to inform government policy and underpin school improvement practices. The school-level results contribute to the school improvement process within each ACT public school. Overall results for each school are reported in their annual school board report.

Further Information

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