

What do people think about public schools in 2021?

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 2021, 10,193 parents/carers, 3,747 staff and 19,678 students (Years 4 to 12) participated in the survey.

In 2021, 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 employed in early childhood schools and primary schools and lowest in students attending P-10 schools and high schools. Staff employed across all school types and parents/carers of students attending early childhood and specialist schools were most likely to report strong identification with their school (**Table 2**). School identification was lowest in students attending high schools and P-10 schools.

Table 1: Proportion of survey respondents satisfied* with public school education, by school type, 2021

	Colleges	High schools	P-10 schools	Primary schools	Early childhood	Specialist schools	All schools
Parent/Carer	77%	79%	76%	84%	87%	82%	81%
Staff	90%	88%	82%	92%	100%	82%	89%
Student	74%	63%	60%	78%	n/a	n/a	69%

n/a = not applicable

*Proportion of survey respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement: Parent/Carer: 'Overall I am satisfied with my child's education at this school'; Staff: 'Overall I am satisfied the students are getting a good education at this school'; Student: 'Overall I am satisfied I am getting a good education at this school'.

Table 2: Proportion of survey respondents reporting strong identification* with their school, by school type, 2021

	Colleges	High schools	P-10 schools	Primary schools	Early childhood	Specialist schools	All schools
Parent/Carer	60%	72%	75%	85%	92%	86%	79%
Staff	85%	89%	85%	90%	98%	91%	88%
Student	57%	53%	54%	76%	n/a	n/a	62%

n/a = not applicable

*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 a 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).

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

Education Directorate

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