



## **Savannah Chatham County Public School System**

### **Executive Summary Perceptions of the District: SCCPSS Climate Surveys School Year 2012-13**

#### **About the Climate Survey**

Since the 2007-08 school year, SCCPSS has implemented a series of online surveys to solicit feedback on key stakeholders' perceptions of the schools. The surveys were revised in the 2012-13 school year to better align with the goals of the District Accountability System and to target business partners and community members as well as parents.

Each survey consists of approximately 15 items distributed among four domains of interest – Academic Achievement, Fiscal Responsibility, School Safety, and Community Engagement. In the analysis that follows, survey results are reported as the average percentage of respondents who agree or strongly agree with the survey items within a given domain. All survey items are phrased as positive statements about the school or district, so agreement with the statement indicates a positive perception.

As results are analyzed, it is important to consider the context of each survey. The surveys for business partners and community members reference Savannah Chatham Public Schools as a whole, while the parent surveys reference the school their child attends. This may impact survey response patterns, as national data on school climate indicate that the public is more likely to express positive attitudes about their school than about the state of schools overall. In addition, the online survey format, low response rates at some schools, and the response bias inherent when respondents volunteer to participate in a survey are all factors which may influence the survey results.

Highlights from the 2012-13 SCCPSS Climate Surveys include:

#### **Business Partners**

- Eighty-one (81) of the district's business partners responded to the 2013 SCCPSS Climate Survey. This was the first year that business partners participated in the survey.
- Among the district's business partners, positive perceptions ranged from a low of 73% in the area of Fiscal Responsibility, to a high of 92% in the area of Academic Achievement.

- More than 90% of the district's business partners report that SCPSS works to ensure students achieve academic growth, and provides students with learning pathways to both college and the workforce. Less than 70% agree that the district keeps the community informed about ESPLOST, and keeps business partners informed about events, meetings, and future changes.

### **Community**

- Seven hundred and thirty community members (730) responded to the 2013 SCCPSS Climate Survey. This was the first year that the community at large participated in the survey.
- About 75% of the community members who responded to the survey either have a child who is currently enrolled in an SCCPSS school, or have a child who was enrolled in an SCCPSS school in the past.
- Among community members, positive perceptions of SCCPSS ranged from a low of 60% in the area of Fiscal Responsibility, to a high of 75% in the area of Academic Achievement.

### **Parents**

- Participation among parents continued a pattern of steady increase, rising to 5,930, with the number of parent responses in 2013 more than doubling the number of responses in 2010. These gains are due largely to the administration of the paper version of the parent survey in selected schools, and to principals' efforts to promote participation in the online survey.
- Parents report the highest overall satisfaction levels, with 89% expressing positive perceptions of Academic Achievement and Community Engagement; 88% expressing positive perceptions of School Safety; and 84% expressing satisfaction with Fiscal Responsibility.
- Parent satisfaction is at 83% or higher on all items of the survey. More than 90% of parents agree that teachers track their child's learning progress; that their child's school provides a safe learning environment; that they are treated with courtesy when they visit the school; that they are kept informed about school events and activities; and that the school encourages parent involvement.

## Actions

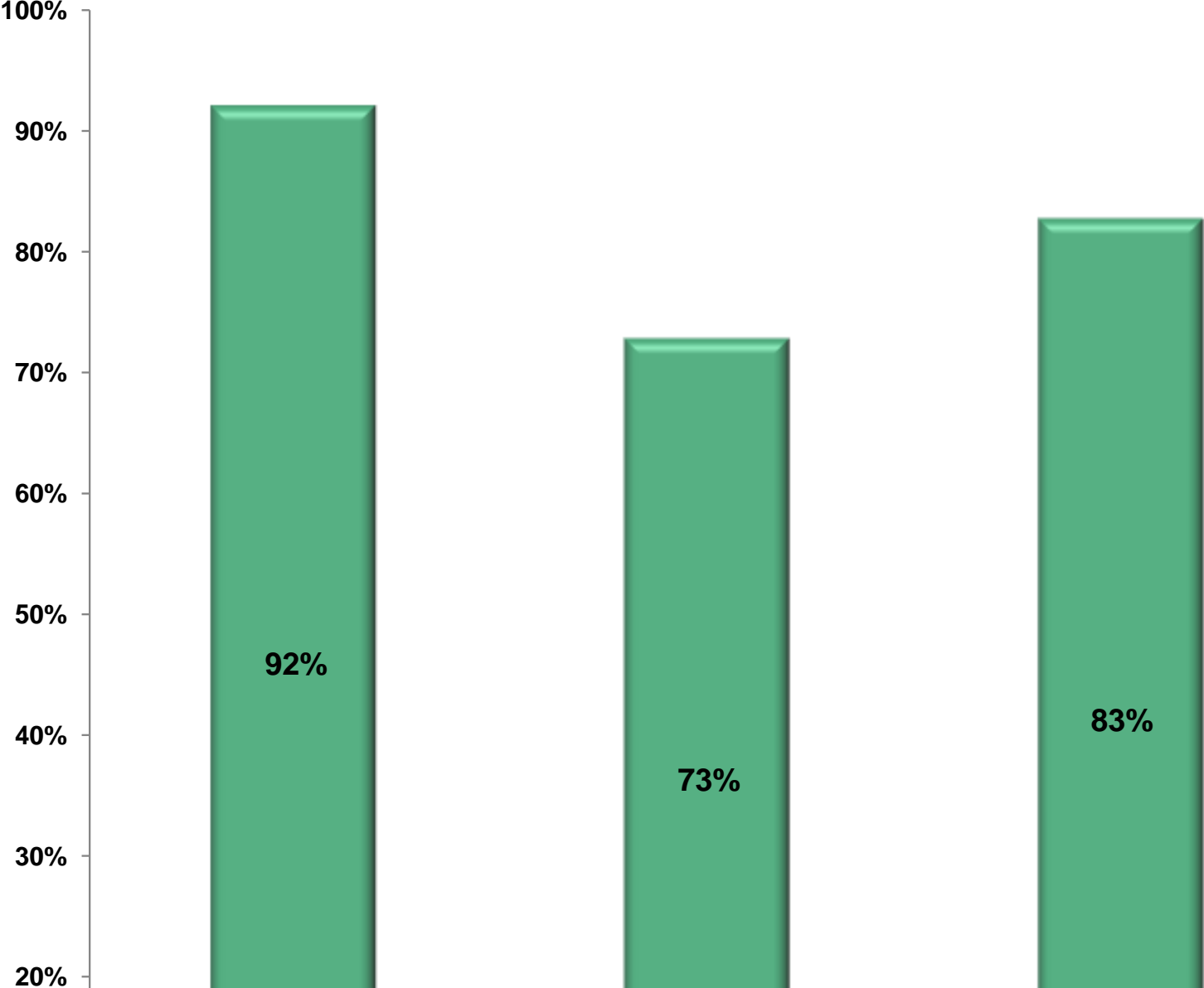
- Principals will provide academic achievement data on their school websites.
- Principals will share information regarding academic achievement and the new College and Career Readiness Performance Indicators (CCRPI) at their meetings with community and business partners.
- The Communications office will collaborate with Parsons, Inc. (Construction Program Manager) to establish greater community outreach for ESPLOST, including an ESPLOST website to be linked to the district website, as well as targeted community meetings and presentations on projects, priorities, and expenditures.
- In order to improve the timeliness of vendor payments, the Finance and Data and Accountability divisions will collaborate to provide improved access to staff training in the areas of purchase order entry and modification, budget monitoring, and district procedures, and will employ multiple strategies to ensure purchase orders are entered prior to the receipt of goods and/or services.
- Executive Director of Safe Schools will provide additional training for all staff in best practices in Emergency Preparedness, Crisis Management, and National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Facilities Management in collaboration with Executive Director of Safe Schools will install video intercoms and access door control systems at the front entrance of all elementary and K-8 schools. In addition, video surveillance systems will be deployed at schools that do not currently have them.
- Executive Director of Safe Schools will work in collaboration with Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), and other stakeholders to complete school safety site surveys at all schools.
- Senior Director of Support Services will continue to collaborate with schools and external stakeholders in providing district-wide Character Education training to students, families, and staff.
- The Communications office will create a series of videos entitled “District Discussions” regarding the topics of school safety and security, the budget, and school construction projects, and will promote and disseminate those videos via the District website, PTAs, SCCPSS Twitter feed, and the City of Savannah and Chatham County Government Television Channels.
- The Communications office will update its databases and distribution lists to ensure that we have email contacts for all Business Partners; that the Business Partners email database is targeted for all press announcements; and that an updated distribution list is generated for communication to area Neighborhood Associations.

### Number of Climate Survey Participants

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Business Partners				81
Community				730
Parents	2,670	5,412	5,735	5,930

■ Population surveyed beginning in 2013

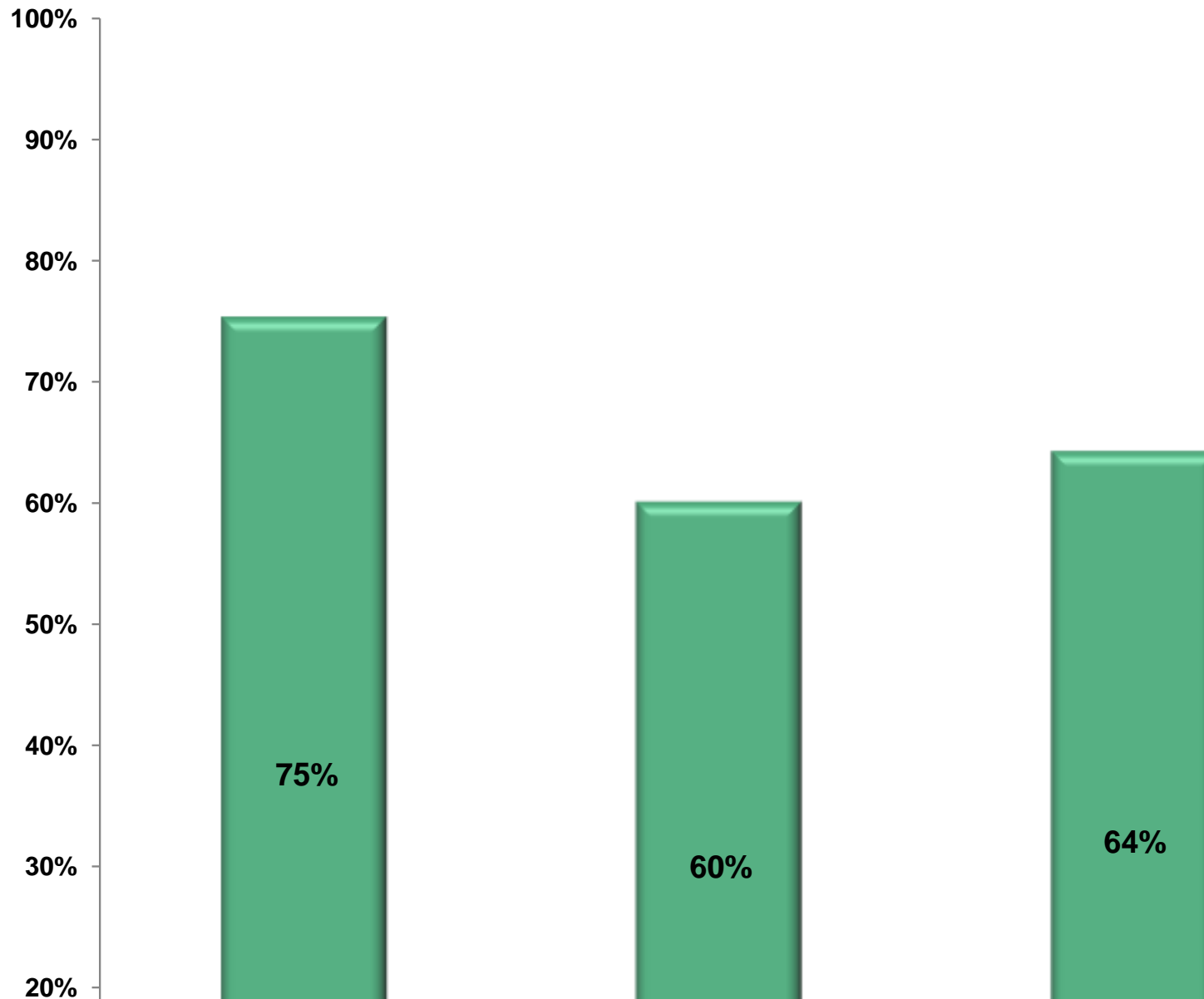
**Percentage of Business Partners Reporting Positive Perceptions of SCCPSS**



## Business Partner Responses by Item

Percentage of Business Partners Reporting Positive Perceptions by Survey Item	2013
<b>Academic Achievement</b>	92%
SCPS works to ensure students achieve academic growth.	95%
The Passport to Excellence plan has provided a variety of learning options & opportunities for Chatham County families.	89%
SCPS provides students with learning pathways to both college & the workforce.	92%
<b>Fiscal Responsibility</b>	73%
SCPS manages taxpayer funds responsibly in order to serve its students.	71%
SCPS keeps the community informed about ESPLOST priorities, projects, & expenditures.	64%
SCPS uses its facilities efficiently & effectively.	74%
SCPS employs staff that are trained & effective in supporting student learning.	82%
<b>Safe Schools</b>	83%
SCPS provides a safe & secure learning environment.	89%
SCPS takes action to address disruptive student behavior.	76%
SCPS provides opportunities & options to prevent students from dropping out.	83%
<b>Community Engagement</b>	80%
Information about SCPS is easily accessible.	85%
SCPS encourages & supports business partnerships.	89%
SCPS keeps business partners informed about events, meetings, & future changes.	69%
SCPS engages the business community.	76%

## Percentage of Community Members Reporting Positive Perceptions of SCCPSS

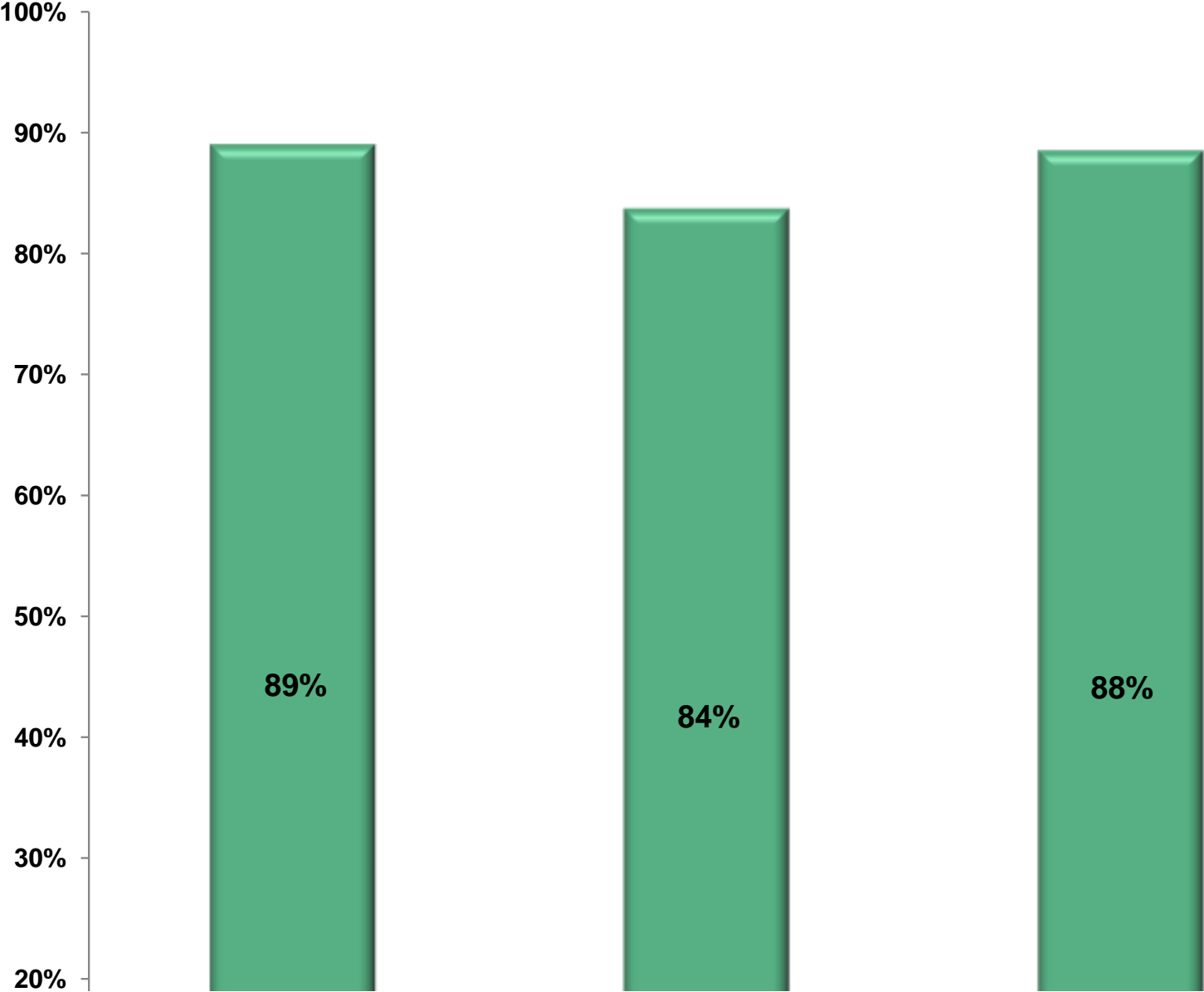


## Community Survey Responses by Item

Percentage of Community Members Reporting Positive Perceptions by Survey Item	2013
<b>Academic Achievement</b>	75%
SCPS works to ensure students achieve academic growth.	76%
The Passport to Excellence plan has provided a variety of learning options & opportunities for Chatham County families.	72%
SCPS provides students with learning pathways to both college & the workforce.	78%
<b>Fiscal Responsibility</b>	60%
SCPS manages taxpayer funds responsibly in order to serve its students.	50%
SCPS keeps the community informed about ESPLOST priorities, projects, & expenditures.	57%
SCPS uses its facilities efficiently & effectively.	56%
SCPS employs staff that are trained & effective in supporting student learning.	75%
<b>Safe Schools</b>	64%
SCPS provides a safe & secure learning environment.	70%
SCPS takes action to address disruptive student behavior.	54%
SCPS provides opportunities & options to prevent students from dropping out.	68%
<b>Community Engagement</b>	68%
Information about SCPS is easily accessible.	75%
SCPS encourages & supports community involvement.	71%
SCPS keeps the community informed about events, meetings, & future changes.	69%
SCPS engages the neighborhood communities.	55%



# Percentage of Parents Reporting Positive Perceptions of Their Child's School



## Parent Survey Responses by Item

Percentage of Parent Reporting Positive Perceptions by Survey Item	2013
<b>Academic Achievement</b>	89%
Teachers at (my child's school) track my child's learning progress.	92%
My child's learning activities & assignments are challenging & appropriate for his/her level.	89%
Teachers at (my child's school) work with my child to meet his/her individual learning needs.	87%
(My child's school) offers the support programs & services needed to meet my child's learning needs.	88%
<b>Fiscal Responsibility</b>	84%
Teachers at (my child's school) have access to the materials & resources needed to help my child learn.	87%
SCPS provides parents an opportunity to review & offer feedback on budget priorities for the school year.	75%
(My child's school) is properly cleaned & well maintained.	88%
<b>Safe Schools</b>	88%
(My child's school) provides a safe learning environment.	91%
The staff at (my child's school) take action to address disruptive student behavior.	87%
(My child's school) uses specific methods & strategies to promote positive student behaviors.	88%
I am aware that (my child's school) practices for & is prepared in the event that an emergency situation occurs.	88%
<b>Community Engagement</b>	89%
(My child's school) treats me with courtesy when I visit.	93%
(My child's school) keeps me informed about school events & activities.	92%
at least every 2 weeks.	83%
(My child's school) supports & encourages parent involvement.	91%
(My child's school) is responsive to parents' questions, concerns, & feedback.	87%

## Percentage of Parents Reporting Positive Perceptions of Their School: Elementary Schools 2013

	N	Academic Achievement	Fiscal Responsibility**	School Safety	Community Engagement
Bartow	75	94%	90%	96%	93%
Bloomingtondale	59	93%	91%	94%	94%
Butler	336	90%	93%	91%	90%
CEMCO	44	80%	83%	83%	82%
Gadsden	50	95%	96%	91%	96%
Garden City*	640	94%	94%	93%	93%
Gould	80	89%	86%	87%	93%
Haven*	96	92%	91%	92%	91%
Heard	81	93%	82%	92%	91%
Hodge*	209	93%	94%	95%	95%
Howard	73	88%	86%	93%	89%
Jacob G Smith	72	89%	90%	95%	92%
Juliette Low*	235	96%	90%	96%	96%
Largo-Tibet	56	82%	88%	87%	89%
Marshpoint	190	92%	94%	93%	92%
Pooler	50	85%	67%	75%	82%
Port Wentworth	57	90%	88%	90%	94%
Pulaski	43	91%	94%	84%	89%
Shuman*	193	92%	92%	88%	91%
Southwest	73	87%	87%	87%	83%
Spencer*	174	99%	98%	93%	97%
Thunderbolt*	98	96%	92%	91%	94%
West Chatham	229	90%	89%	93%	90%
White Bluff	35	94%	89%	91%	91%
Windsor Forest	50	89%	92%	91%	86%
Elementary Total	3298	92%	91%	92%	92%

\*School administered paper version of parent survey

\*\*School results exclude District-specific item on opportunities to provide feedback on budget priorities

**Percentage of Respondents Reporting Positive Perceptions of Their School: K-8 & Middle Schools 2013**

	<b>N</b>	<b>Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Fiscal Responsibility**</b>	<b>School Safety</b>	<b>Community Engagement</b>
East Broad*	228	92%	88%	88%	90%
Ellis	75	95%	76%	94%	90%
Garrison	208	81%	80%	77%	85%
Georgetown	95	87%	88%	87%	90%
Godley Station	155	83%	89%	88%	88%
Hesse	96	91%	81%	93%	92%
Isle of Hope	81	90%	85%	85%	92%
<b>K-8 Total</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>89%</b>
Bartlett*	225	90%	77%	85%	87%
Coastal	107	78%	90%	79%	79%
DeRenne	26	80%	92%	64%	75%
Hubert*	131	90%	90%	88%	88%
Mercer	73	76%	75%	65%	73%
Myers*	136	85%	66%	90%	84%
Oglethorpe	38	92%	96%	95%	99%
Southwest	38	69%	82%	67%	70%
West Chatham	77	65%	66%	55%	62%
<b>Middle Total</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>82%</b>

\*School administered paper version of parent survey

\*\*School results exclude District-specific item on opportunities to provide feedback on budget priorities

**Percentage of Respondents Reporting Positive Perceptions of Their School:  
High Schools & Other Education Centers 2013**

	<b>N</b>	<b>Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Fiscal Responsibility**</b>	<b>School Safety</b>	<b>Community Engagement</b>
Beach	93	94%	90%	94%	93%
Groves	43	73%	63%	76%	71%
Islands	113	75%	80%	83%	84%
Jenkins	43	83%	71%	70%	78%
Johnson	49	68%	72%	73%	71%
New Hampstead	66	77%	88%	78%	80%
Savannah Arts	136	85%	82%	89%	89%
Savannah High	163	91%	92%	93%	93%
Windsor Forest High	64	72%	69%	70%	76%
Woodville	23	92%	86%	93%	95%
High Total	793	83%	82%	85%	86%
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CGCA	15	96%	88%	100%	95%
Early College	32	86%	97%	87%	93%
Twilight Program	2	50%	75%	75%	70%
Other Total	49	88%	93%	90%	93%

\*School administered paper version of parent survey

\*\*School results exclude District-specific item on opportunities to provide feedback on budget priorities

Note: Sum of school-level student survey responses does not equal district-level student participation reported, as specific school information was not recorded for a small number of students.