
Survey Methodology and Results

APPENDIX C

As part of our evaluation of K-12 Special Education, we wanted to gain a sense of whether parents of students receiving special education were satisfied with the services provided by the local education agencies in which their children were enrolled. To collect information, we conducted a survey of a small sample of parents from each of the eight local education agencies we visited through our case studies. (Local education agencies selected for case studies are described in Appendix A of our report.) We tied our survey to our other evaluation activities by asking some questions that were similar to those discussed in our focus groups and our case study interviews.

We sent questionnaires to the parents of 24 students who received special education from one of our case study districts during the 2010-2011 school year. To create our sample, we randomly selected three students from each of the eight local education agencies we visited. While the responses we received from our small sample are not generalizable to all parents, they helped give some insight into parent's feelings about special education in the case study districts.

Because we anticipated that parents would be unfamiliar with our office, we requested special education directors to e-mail or telephone the parents and alert them to the coming questionnaire. We mailed our questionnaire to the parents of selected students on November 5, 2012. The mailing included a cover letter, background information about the evaluation, the one-page questionnaire, and a postage-paid return envelope. We asked parents to return their questionnaires no later than November 15, 2012. We followed up by telephone with the parents who had not responded and mailed final reminders, along with a new copy of the questionnaire, on November 27, 2012. We ultimately received 11 responses for a response rate of 46 percent.

Special Education Parent Questionnaire

This questionnaire is to collect parents' opinions of special education in their school districts. It is part of an evaluation of special education requested by the Legislature. We will report only summary results from this questionnaire and **will not use your name in a final report or identify you as having answered** the questions. For the questions below, consider your child's special education services at «District» during the 2010-2011 school year. Contact Jody Hauer at jody.hauer@state.mn.us or 651-296-8501 with questions.

- 1. Please answer questions below about «Student_First_Name», and confirm here the first name of your child.** *(We use the name here only to make sure we have matched parents and students).*

(N=11)

100% Yes, this is my «SonDaughter's» name.

0% No, this name is incorrect. *(If incorrect, please write the correct name here.)* _____

- 2. Please answer the following questions about the individualized education program (IEP) written for «Student_First_Name».** *(On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "very well" and 5 being "very poorly," mark one in each row.)*

	Very Well				Very Poorly	Not Applicable or Don't Know
a. How well did the goals and short-term objectives in your child's IEP apply to your child's needs? (N=11)	82%	9%	9%	0%	0%	0%
b. How well did the IEP's goals and short-term objectives help you understand how your child progressed in school? (N=11)	82%	9%	9%	0%	0%	0%

- 3. In general, how satisfied were you with your child's IEP at «District»? *(On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "very satisfied" and 5 being "very dissatisfied," mark one.)*** **(N=11)**

Very Satisfied				Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable or Don't Know
82%	9%	9%	0%	0%	0%

- 4. In some situations, the number of students in special education that can be assigned to a single teacher is limited. How satisfied were you with each of the following?** *(Mark one in each row.)*

	Very Satisfied				Very Dissatisfied	Not Applicable or Don't Know
a. The number of students who were assigned to your child's special education teacher(s) (N=11)	64%	18%	18%	0%	0%	0%
b. The level of attention your child received from his or her special education teacher(s) (N=11)	64%	27%	0%	9%	0%	0%

(N=10)

10% Don't Know (Skip to Question 7.)

(N=1)

0%

0%

[illegible]

Please return in the postage-paid envelope by ***Monday, December 3, 2012.***