



HARVARD COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 50

Parent and Community Surveys

March 2019



ECRA Group
Education | Consulting | Research | Analytics



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2

DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS 4

QUALITY OF EDUCATION..... 6

TEACHING & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT..... 7

COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY RELATIONS 13

 Communication 13

 Community Relations 15

OPERATIONS..... 16

APPENDIX..... 17

 PARENT SURVEY..... 17

 COMMUNITY SURVEY..... 21





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the spirit of continuous quality improvement, the Harvard CUSD 50 Board of Education and Superintendent sought parent and community feedback in 2019 to measure progress achieved since the initiation of the 2016 strategic planning process. This information will provide insight to parent and community perceptions and highlight key areas of growth, as well as areas to focus additional effort. The parent and community surveys were conducted by ECRA Group, Inc. (ECRA) an educational consulting firm partnering with the District. Results are categorized into the following areas:

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1. Quality of Education
 2. Teaching & Learning Environment
 3. Communication & Community Relations
 4. Operations
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The top three highest rated questions by parents are listed below.

Question	Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree
I am an active participant in my child(ren)'s education.	92%
My child(ren) is well known by at least one adult who supports my child(ren)'s educational experience.	79%
Technology is integrated in curriculum and instruction.	76%

Additionally, the three lowest rated questions by parents are also listed below.

Question	Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree
The overall quality of education in the District.	48%
The School Board represents my needs and expectations.	45%
The District provides an education competitive with districts across Illinois.	36%





Executive Summary (Continued)

The top three highest rated questions by community members are listed below.

Question	Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree
District schools are safe.	66%
Facilities are well maintained.	64%
Teachers provide quality instruction to students.	53%

Additionally, the three lowest rated questions by community members are also listed below.

Question	Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree
The School Board represents my needs and expectations.	29%
Students are well prepared for state testing.	23%
The District provides an education competitive with districts across Illinois.	22%

Overall, parent and community ratings have increased significantly across most areas, compared to the 2016 survey. Areas of greatest improvement include perceptions of the future direction of the District and communication.





DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS

Survey data were collected in January of 2019. Parents and community members were surveyed online. In all, 652 stakeholders participated. The number of survey participants by stakeholder is reported in Table 1.

Table 1: Survey Responses

Stakeholder	Survey Responses
Parents	542
Community Members	110
TOTAL	652

Participants were asked to rate their level of agreement with various aspects of the District on a scale of 1 to 5: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Neutral (3), Agree (4), and Strongly Agree (5). Agreement questions were reported based on the percentage of stakeholders who selected *Agree/Strongly Agree* on each survey question. For the purpose of this document, a stakeholder was considered to agree with a statement if they selected either Agree (4) or Strongly Agree (5).

Comparisons to the 2016 surveys were highlighted throughout the report. Comparisons between the 2016 and 2019 results were made based on the percentage of stakeholders who selected *Agree/Strongly Agree* and were reported for all survey items where baseline data were available. Statistical analyses were conducted to determine whether any changes from the baseline results are statistically significant. Significant differences were noted with an asterisk (*). Frequencies, means, and standard deviations for all survey questions can be found in the Appendix.

Survey Key

A key for survey ratings, shown below, can be used to interpret relative strengths and areas for continued focus. The key is based on the percentage of stakeholders who rate an area *Good/Excellent* or *Agree/Strongly Agree* with each statement about the District. For this survey, positive ratings would be percentages greater than or equal to 75, mixed ratings as percentages including or between 51 and 74, and lower ratings as percentages less than or equal to 50.

Key

Positive rating ($\geq 75\%$)
Mixed rating (51%-74%)
Lower rating ($\leq 50\%$)





DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS (Continued)

The ECRA Industry Benchmark was included for the following questions to provide a comparison to industry norms:

- The overall quality of education in the District.
- The District is heading in the right direction.
- Teachers provide quality instruction to students.
- The District provides a well-rounded educational experience for all students.
- The social and emotional needs of students are being addressed.
- District administration makes decisions in the best interest of students.
- The School Board represents my needs and expectations.
- The School Board provides a clear direction for the District.
- There is transparent communication from the District.
- The District is fiscally responsible.
- Facilities are well maintained.
- District schools are safe.

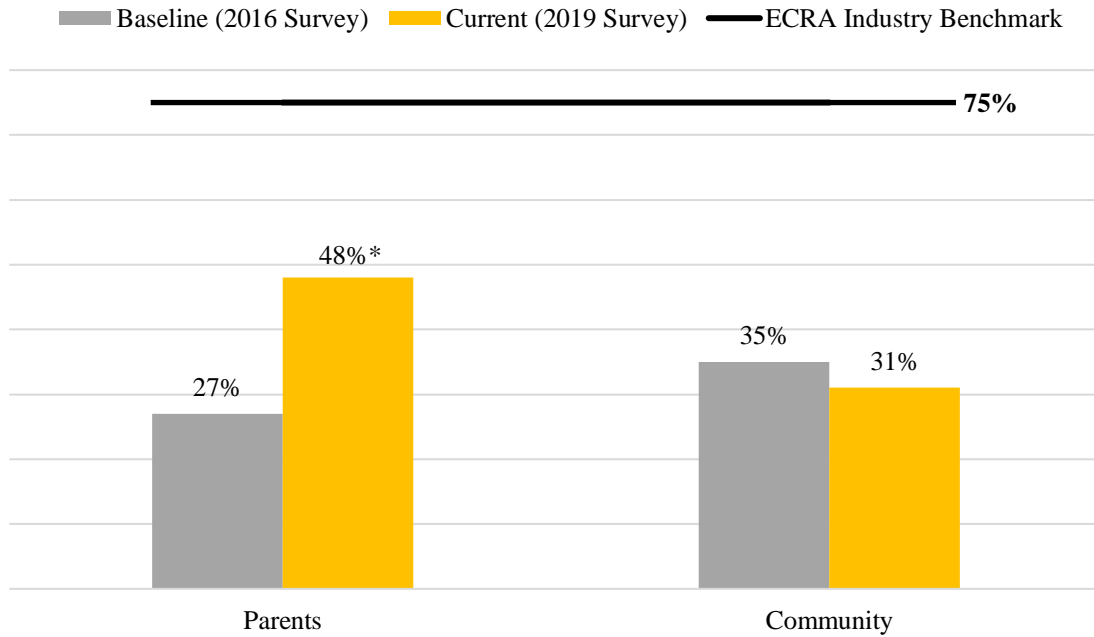




QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Forty-eight percent of parents rate the overall quality of education in the District as good or excellent, compared to 27 percent in 2016, as seen in Figure 1.

Figure 1: The Overall Quality of Education in the District
Parent and Community, Percentage *Good/Excellent*



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*



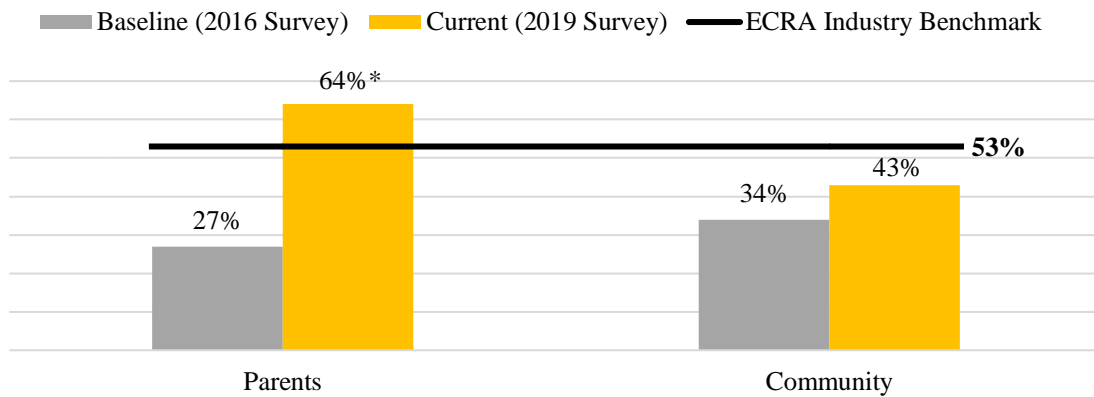


TEACHING & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

This section reports parent and community ratings related to various aspects of the teaching and learning environment.

Sixty-four percent of parents agree that the District is heading in the right direction, compared to 27 percent in 2016, as seen in Figure 2. This is the greatest improvement in parent ratings between 2016 and 2019. The percentage of community members that agree that the District is heading in the right direction also increased from 34 percent in 2016 to 43 percent in 2019.

Figure 2: The District is Heading in the Right Direction
Parent and Community, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*

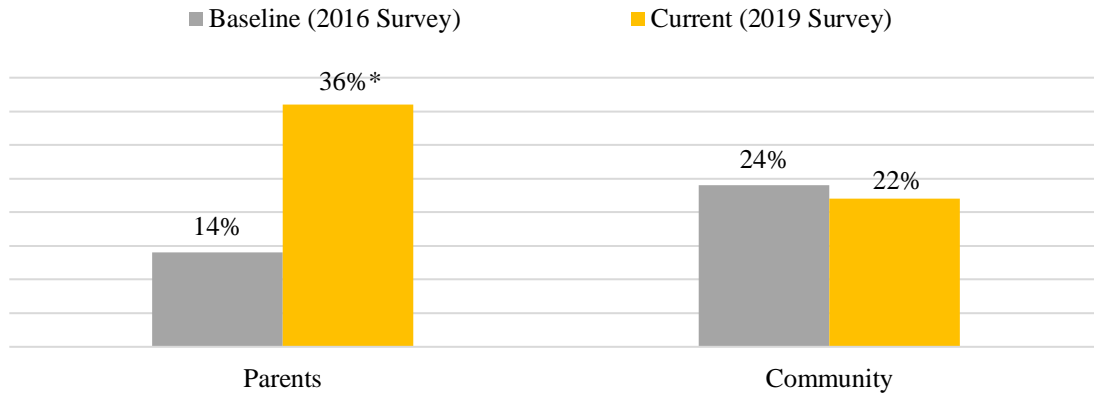




Teaching & Learning Environment (Continued)

Thirty-six percent of parents agree that the District provides an education competitive with districts across Illinois, compared to 14 percent in 2016, as seen in Figure 3. Twenty-two percent of community members agree that the District provides an education competitive with districts across Illinois, a slight decrease from 2016.

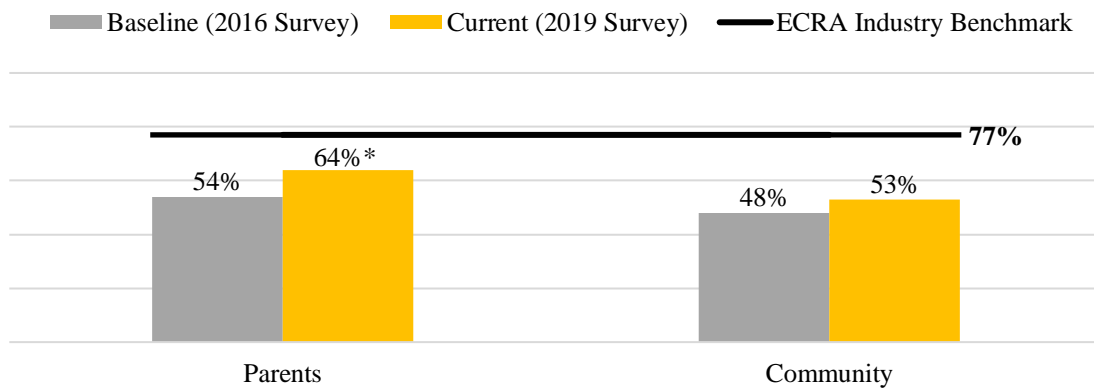
Figure 3: The District Provides an Education Competitive with Districts Across Illinois
Parent and Community, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*

Figure 4 illustrates that the perceptions of the quality instruction improved across parents and community members.

Figure 4: Teachers Provide Quality Instruction to Students
Parent and Community, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



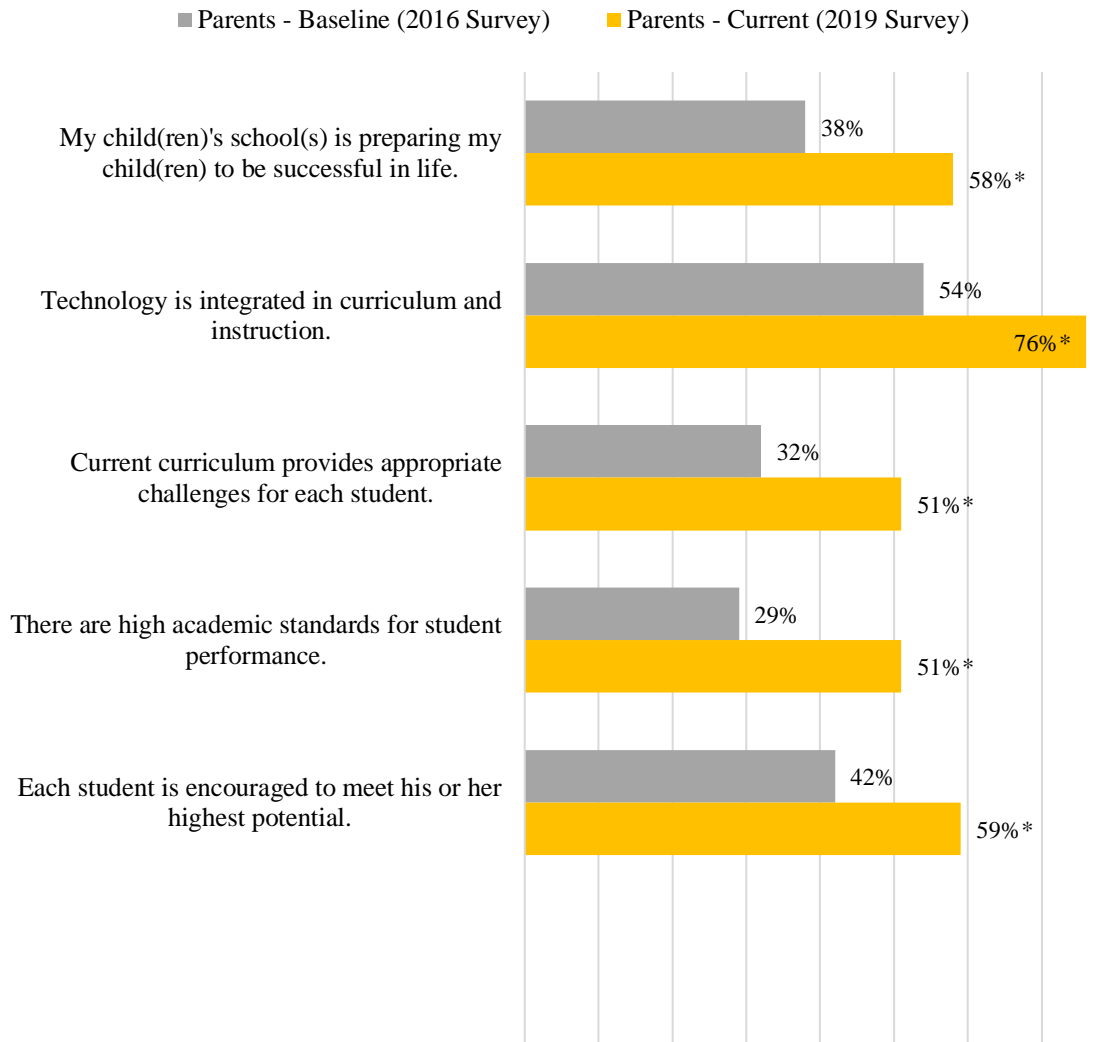
**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*



Teaching & Learning Environment (Continued)

The questions in Figure 5 were asked only on the parent survey. Most importantly, all ratings have increased significantly.

Figure 5: Agreement with Teaching & Learning Related Questions
Parent, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*

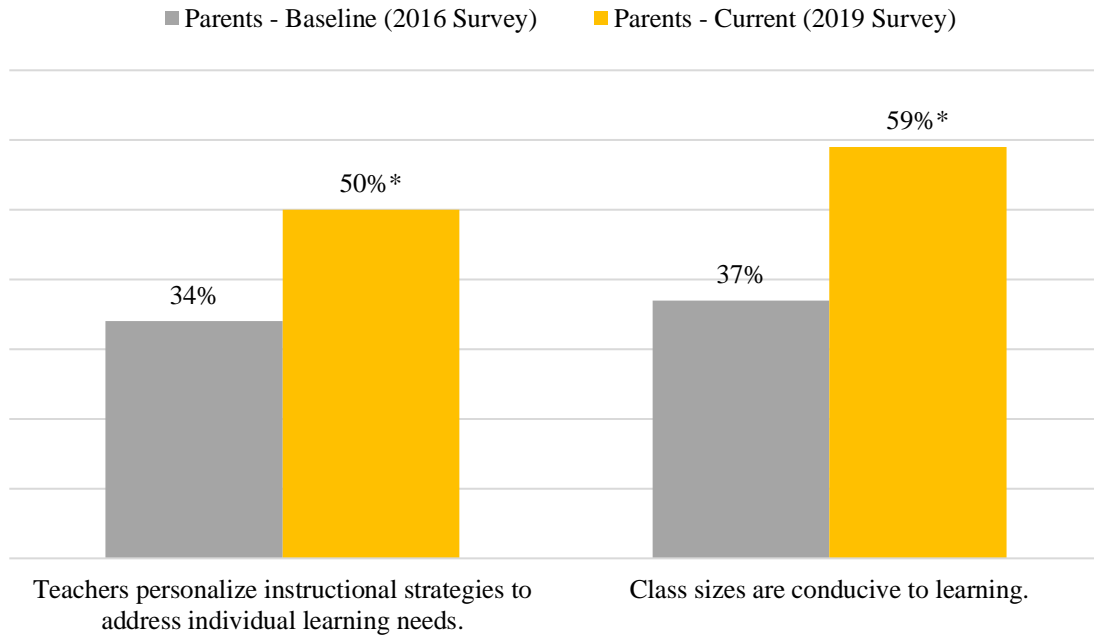




Teaching & Learning Environment (Continued)

The questions below were asked only on the parent survey. Fifty percent of parents agree that teachers personalize instructional strategies to address individual learning needs, compared to 34 percent in 2016, as seen in Figure 6. Favorable ratings related to class size also improved from 37 percent to 59 percent.

Figure 6: Agreement with Classroom Environment Related Questions
Parent, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*

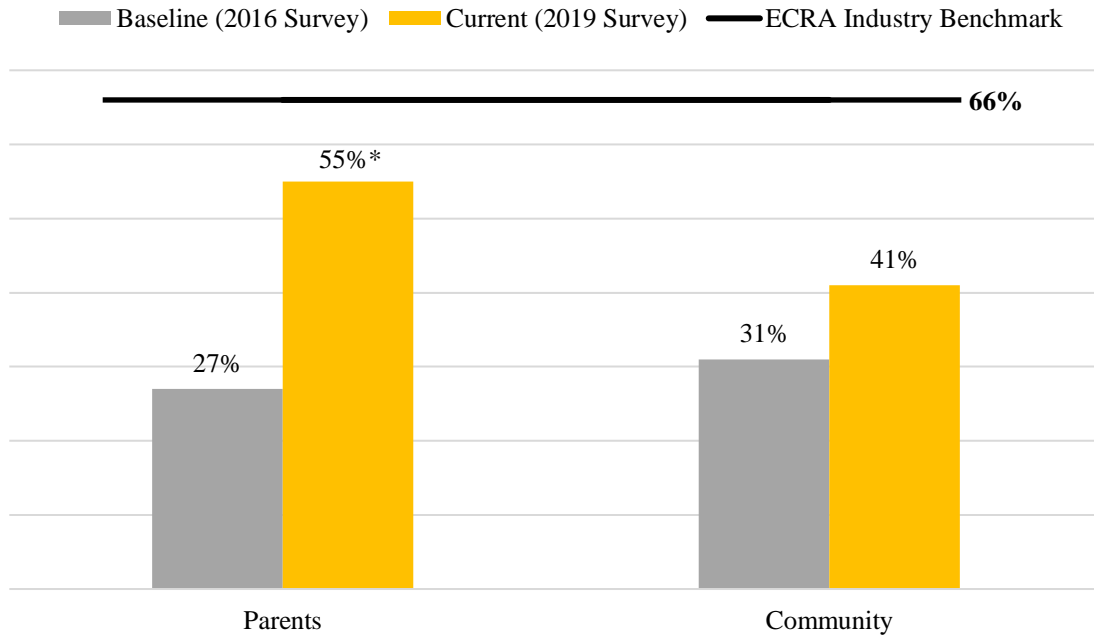




Teaching & Learning Environment (Continued)

Fifty-five percent of parents and 41 percent of community members agree that the District provides a well-rounded educational experience for all students. These ratings are an increase from 2016 for both parents and community members.

Figure 7: The District Provides a Well-rounded Educational Experience for All Students
Parent and Community, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*

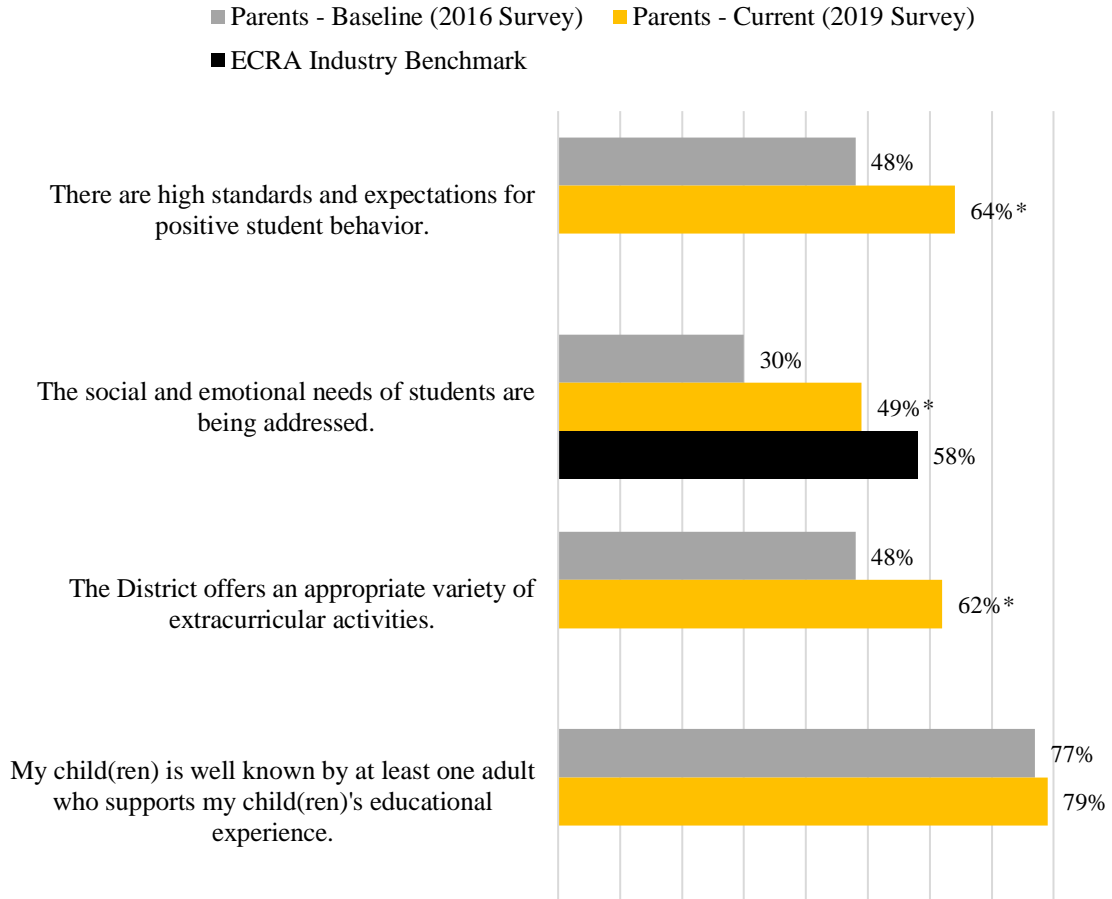




Teaching & Learning Environment (Continued)

Figure 8 reports items asked only on the parent survey. All items received higher ratings compared to the 2016 baseline.

Figure 8: Agreement with Social and Emotional Well-being Related Questions
Parent, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*



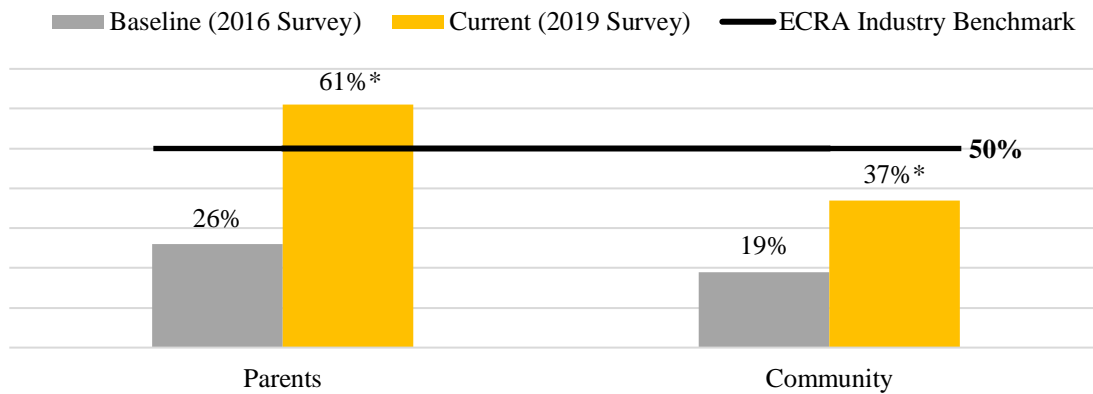


COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Communication

Figure 9 shows stakeholder ratings of District communications. The percentage of parents and community members that agree that there is transparent communication from the District has increased significantly since 2016.

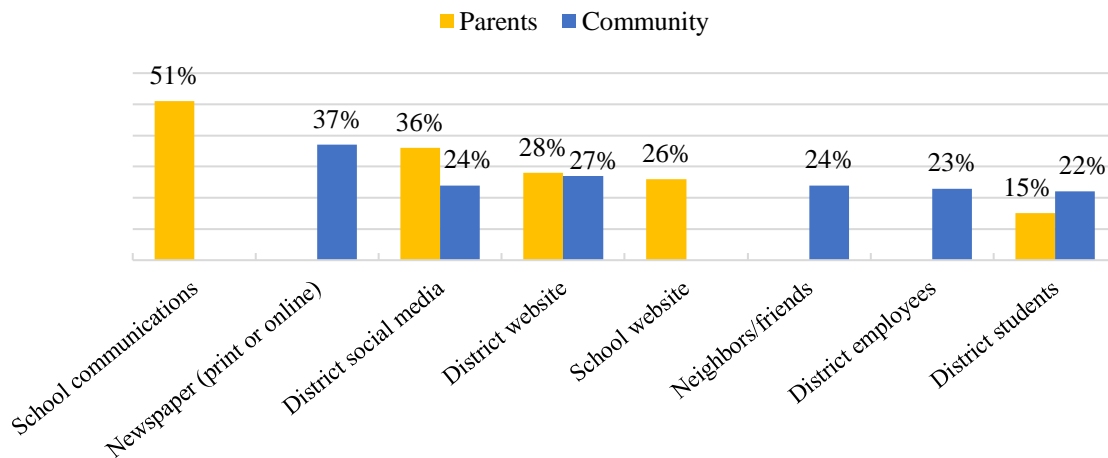
Figure 9: There is Transparent Communication from the District
Parent and Community, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*

Stakeholders were asked to select their two most important sources of District information. Responses selected by 15 percent or more in each stakeholder group are reported below. Frequencies and percentages for all sources of information are reported in the Appendix (Tables J & P).

Figure 10: Most Important Sources of Information
Parent and Community, Percentage Selected*



**Respondents were allowed to select up to two options.*

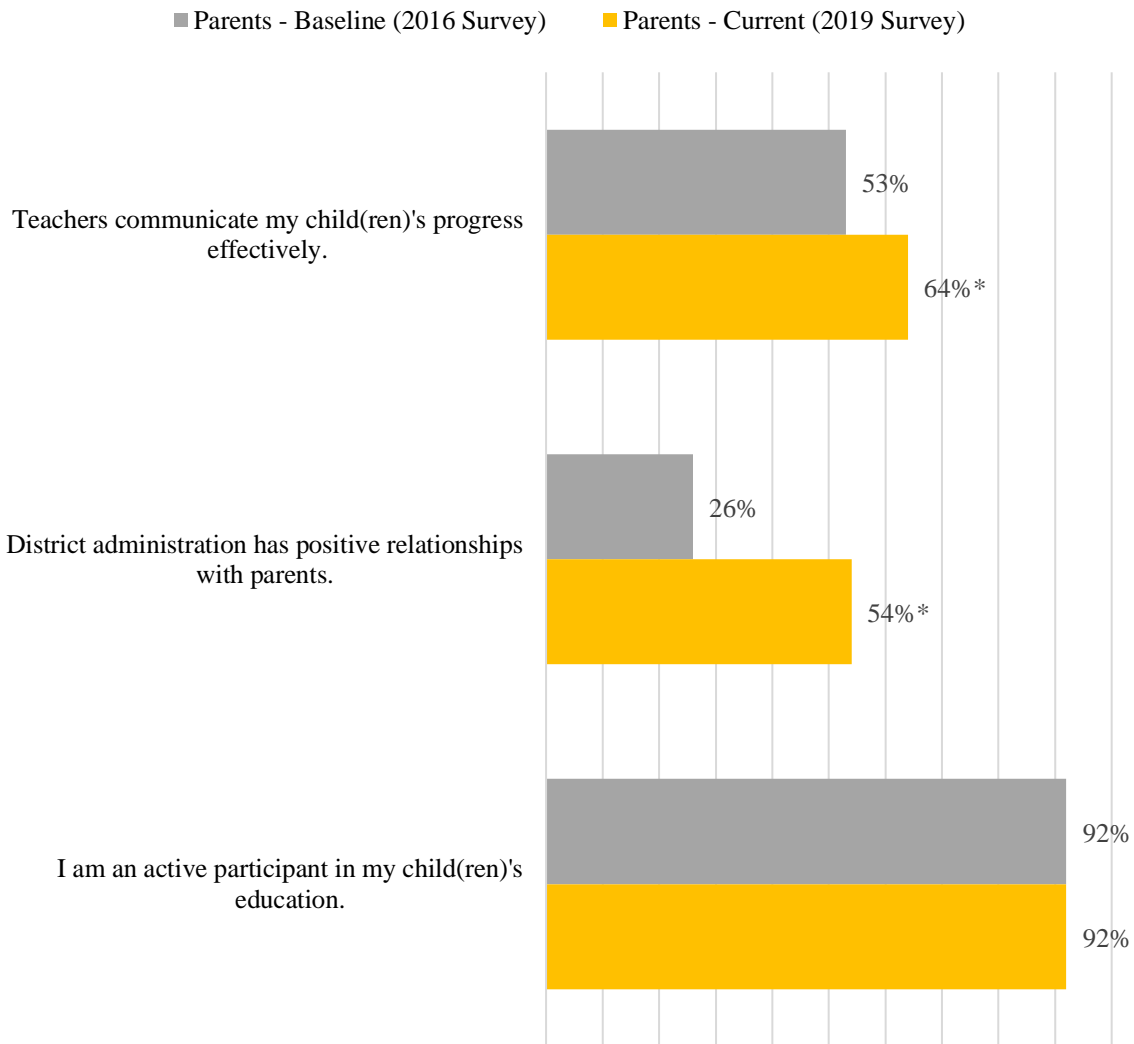




Communication (Continued)

The questions below were asked only on the parent survey. The greatest improvement is seen in parent perceptions of the relationships between District administration and parents. Specifically, favorable ratings increased to 54 percent in 2019, compared to 26 percent in 2016.

Figure 11: Agreement with Communication Related Questions
Parent, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*

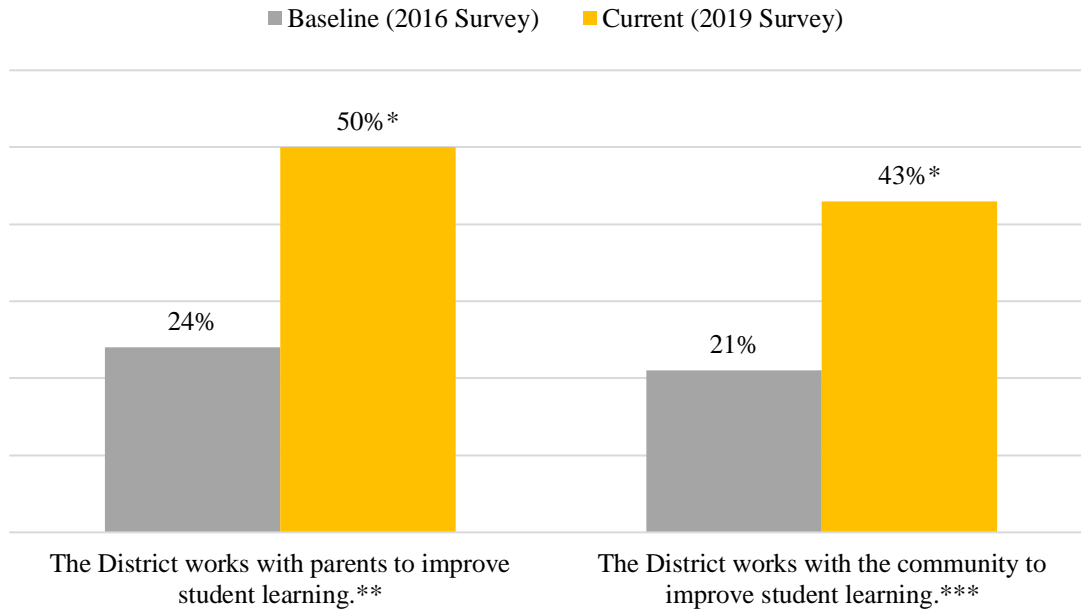




Community Relations

Fifty percent of parents agree that the District works with parents to improve student learning, compared to 24 percent in 2016, as seen in Figure 12. Forty-three percent of community members agree that the District works with the community to improve student learning, compared to 21 percent in 2016.

Figure 12: Agreement with Community Relations Related Questions
Parent and Community, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



***Difference from baseline is statistically significant ($p < .05$).**

** Only parents were asked this question.

*** Only community members were asked this question.



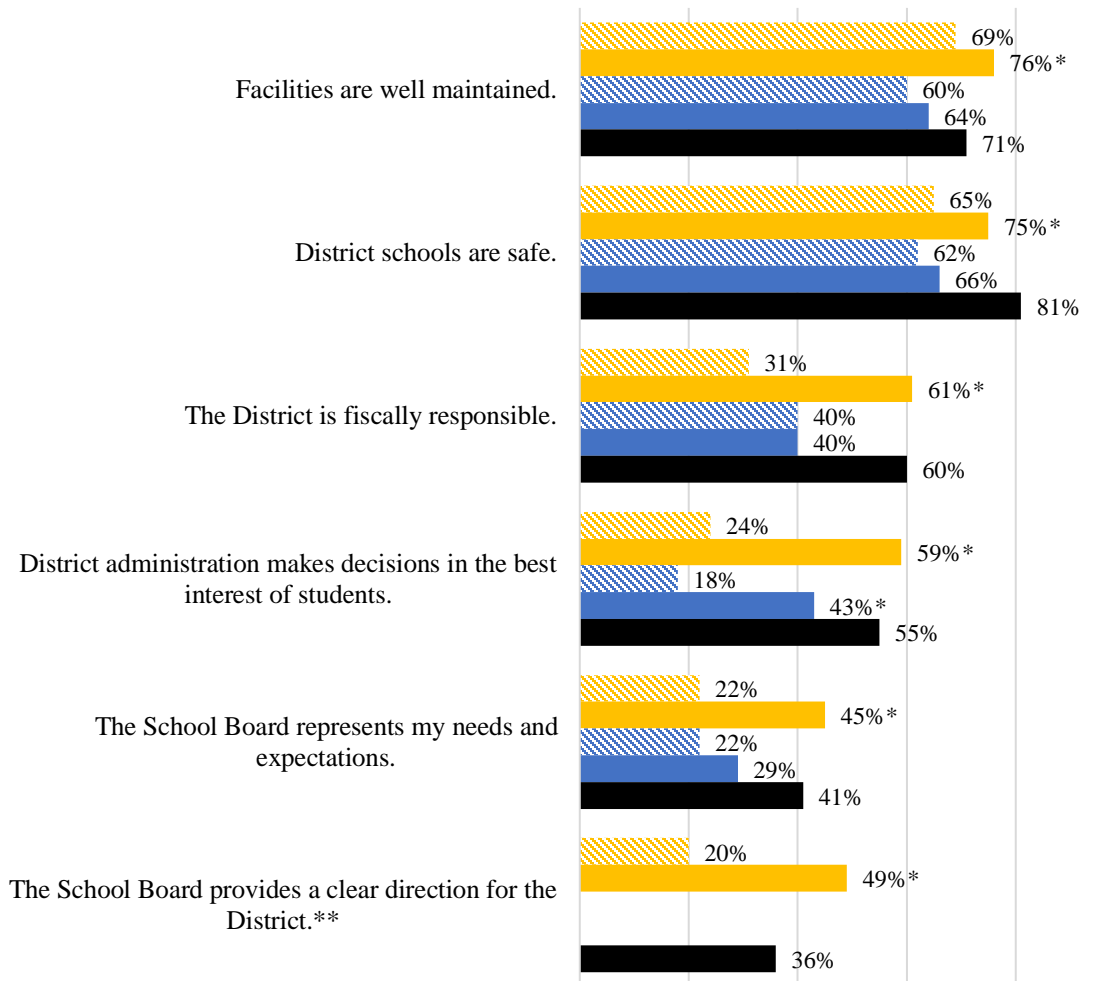


OPERATIONS

Overall, parent and community member ratings of District operations improved between 2016 and 2019, as seen in Figure 13. The greatest increase is in the percent of parents and community members that agree that District administration makes decisions in the best interest of students.

Figure 13: Agreement with Operations Related Questions
Parent and Community, Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree

- ▨ Parents - Baseline (2016 Survey)
- Parents - Current (2019 Survey)
- ▨ Community - Baseline (2016 Survey)
- Community - Current (2019 Survey)
- ECRA Industry Benchmark



**Difference from baseline is statistically significant (p < .05).*

*** Only parents were asked this question.*



APPENDIX

PARENT SURVEY

Table A: Parent Quality of Education Question*

Higher Percentage Indicates More Favorable Ratings, Sorted Highest to Lowest Percentage
(Scale 1-5, 1=Unsatisfactory to 5=Excellent)

Item #	Question	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent	Mean	SD	% Favorable Good /Excellent
1	The overall quality of education in the District.	3%	13%	36%	37%	11%	3.39	0.96	48%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table B: Parent Teaching & Learning Environment Questions*

Higher Percentage Indicates More Favorable Ratings, Sorted Highest to Lowest Percentage
(Scale 1-5, 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree)

Item #	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	SD	% Favorable Agree/Strongly Agree
15	My child(ren) is well known by at least one adult who supports my child(ren)'s educational experience.	1%	5%	15%	49%	31%	4.03	0.86	79%
17	Technology is integrated in curriculum and instruction.	1%	4%	19%	59%	16%	3.86	0.77	76%
2	The District is heading in the right direction.	2%	9%	25%	50%	14%	3.65	0.90	64%
5	Teachers provide quality instruction to students.	3%	9%	24%	49%	15%	3.64	0.95	64%
11	There are high standards and expectations for positive student behavior.	4%	12%	19%	47%	18%	3.61	1.05	64%
16	The District offers an appropriate variety of extracurricular activities.	4%	12%	21%	45%	17%	3.58	1.05	62%
13	Each student is encouraged to meet his or her highest potential.	3%	14%	24%	44%	15%	3.53	1.01	59%
10	Class sizes are conducive to learning.	3%	14%	25%	47%	12%	3.52	0.97	59%
4	My child(ren)'s school(s) is preparing my child(ren) to be successful in life.	5%	10%	27%	43%	15%	3.53	1.01	58%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.





Table B (Continued): Parent Teaching & Learning Environment Questions*
Higher Percentage Indicates More Favorable Ratings, Sorted Highest to Lowest Percentage
(Scale 1-5, 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree)

Item #	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	SD	% Favorable Agree/Strongly Agree
6	The District provides a well-rounded educational experience for all students.	5%	13%	26%	43%	12%	3.44	1.03	55%
12	There are high academic standards for student performance.	4%	14%	32%	39%	12%	3.41	1.00	51%
8	Current curriculum provides appropriate challenges for each student.	4%	15%	29%	40%	11%	3.38	1.01	51%
9	Teachers personalize instructional strategies to address individual learning needs.	6%	15%	29%	37%	12%	3.34	1.08	50%
14	The social and emotional needs of students are being addressed.	8%	16%	27%	37%	12%	3.29	1.13	49%
3	The District provides an education competitive with districts across Illinois.	8%	23%	33%	28%	8%	3.05	1.07	36%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding

Table C: Parent Communication & Community Relations Questions*
Higher Percentage Indicates More Favorable Ratings, Sorted Highest to Lowest Percentage
(Scale 1-5, 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree)

Item #	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	SD	% Favorable Agree/Strongly Agree
21	I am an active participant in my child(ren)'s education.	<1%	2%	7%	44%	47%	4.37	0.69	92%
18	Teachers communicate my child(ren)'s progress effectively.	4%	12%	20%	45%	20%	3.64	1.06	64%
17	There is transparent communication from the District.	6%	10%	23%	46%	16%	3.57	1.04	61%
20	District administration has positive relationships with parents.	5%	7%	34%	40%	14%	3.50	0.98	54%
19	The District works with parents to improve student learning.	5%	13%	32%	37%	13%	3.40	1.03	50%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.





Table D: Parent Operations Questions*
Higher Percentage Indicates More Favorable Ratings, Sorted Highest to Lowest Percentage
(Scale 1-5, 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree)

Item #	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	SD	% Favorable Agree/Strongly Agree
22	Facilities are well maintained.	2%	4%	18%	53%	22%	3.88	0.88	76%
23	District schools are safe.	1%	5%	19%	54%	21%	3.88	0.85	75%
24	The District is fiscally responsible.	3%	5%	32%	48%	13%	3.63	0.86	61%
25	District administration makes decisions in the best interest of students.	4%	8%	29%	47%	12%	3.54	0.95	59%
27	The School Board provides a clear direction for the District.	3%	9%	39%	39%	10%	3.43	0.90	49%
26	The School Board represents my needs and expectations.	5%	10%	40%	34%	11%	3.36	0.97	45%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table E: Please mark the school(s) your child(ren) attend(s). (n=462)*

	Frequency	Percent
Crosby Elementary	231	50%
Jefferson School	133	29%
Washington School	96	21%
Harvard Jr. High	141	31%
Harvard High School	158	34%

* Parents were allowed to select more than one option to reflect more than one child.

Table F: How many years have you resided in this community? (n=481)*

	Frequency	Percent
0 to 4 years	82	17%
5 to 10 years	81	17%
More than 10 years	318	66%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table G: Which of the following options best describes your child(ren)'s academic performance? (n=461)*

	Frequency	Percent
Below grade level	82	18%
At grade level	293	64%
Above grade level	183	40%

* Parents were allowed to select more than one option to reflect more than one child.



Table H: Does your child, or any of your children, receive special education services? (n=460)*

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	95	21%
No	365	79%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table I: Does your child, or any of your children, receive English Language Learner (ELL) services? (n=457)*

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	42	9%
No	415	91%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table J: What are your TWO most important sources of information about Harvard Community Unit School District 50? (n=481)*

	Frequency	Percent
Newspaper (print or online)	20	4%
Neighbors/friends	43	9%
District website	137	28%
School communications	246	51%
District students	72	15%
District publications	37	8%
School website	127	26%
School meetings and events	46	10%
District employees	35	7%
School Board meetings	6	1%
District social media	175	36%

* Respondents were allowed to select up to two options.





COMMUNITY SURVEY

Table K: Community Quality of Education Question*

Higher Percentage Indicates More Favorable Ratings, Sorted Highest to Lowest Percentage
(Scale 1-5, 1=Unsatisfactory to 5=Excellent)

Item #	Question	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent	Mean	SD	% Favorable Good/Excellent
1	The overall quality of education in the District.	9%	22%	38%	28%	4%	2.94	1.01	31%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table L: Community Teaching & Learning Environment Questions*

Higher Percentage Indicates More Favorable Ratings, Sorted Highest to Lowest Percentage
(Scale 1-5, 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree)

Item #	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	SD	% Favorable Agree/Strongly Agree
4	Teachers provide quality instruction to students.	5%	10%	32%	42%	11%	3.43	1.00	53%
2	The District is heading in the right direction.	11%	12%	34%	32%	12%	3.22	1.15	43%
5	The District provides a well-rounded educational experience for all students.	9%	23%	27%	37%	3%	3.03	1.05	41%
6	Students are well prepared for state testing.	15%	32%	30%	23%	0%	2.60	1.01	23%
3	The District provides an education competitive with districts across Illinois.	14%	38%	26%	18%	3%	2.59	1.05	22%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table M: Community Communication & Community Relations Questions*

Higher Percentage Indicates More Favorable Ratings, Sorted Highest to Lowest Percentage
(Scale 1-5, 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree)

Item #	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	SD	% Favorable Agree/Strongly Agree
8	The District works with the community to improve student learning.	10%	25%	22%	35%	9%	3.08	1.16	43%
7	There is transparent communication from the District.	10%	25%	27%	27%	10%	3.02	1.15	37%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.





Table N: Community Operations Questions*
Higher Percentage Indicates More Favorable Ratings, Sorted Highest to Lowest Percentage
(Scale 1-5, 1=Strongly Disagree to 5=Strongly Agree)

Item #	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	SD	% Favorable Agree/Strongly Agree
10	District schools are safe.	4%	4%	25%	47%	20%	3.73	0.97	66%
9	Facilities are well maintained.	2%	7%	27%	45%	19%	3.71	0.92	64%
12	District administration makes decisions in the best interest of students.	10%	21%	26%	34%	10%	3.13	1.15	43%
11	The District is fiscally responsible.	12%	19%	29%	30%	10%	3.07	1.18	40%
13	The School Board represents my needs and expectations.	16%	21%	34%	19%	10%	2.85	1.20	29%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table O: How many years have you resided in this community? (n=70)*

	Frequency	Percent
0 to 4 years	10	11%
5 to 10 years	6	6%
More than 10 years	78	83%

* Percentages may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table P: What are your TWO most important sources of information about Harvard Community Unit School District 50? (n=94)*

	Frequency	Percent
Newspaper (print or online)	35	37%
Neighbors/friends	23	24%
District website	25	27%
School communications	7	7%
District students	21	22%
District publications	6	6%
School website	12	13%
School meetings and events	1	1%
District employees	22	23%
School Board meetings	6	6%
District social media	23	24%

* Respondents were allowed to select up to two options.

