



NEWS RELEASE

Shakopee Public Schools Releases 2019 Benchmark Survey Results

August 12, 2019 (Shakopee, MN) - In the summer of 2019, members of our community participated in a survey about Shakopee Public Schools. The survey found favorable responses related to the overall quality of education in Shakopee schools and the teaching staff.

The survey, conducted by Baker Tilly, included a random sample of 422 registered voters in the district, who were contacted between June 25 and July 1. The random sample was designed to provide a representation of the district's registered voters, with controls for age, gender, race/ethnicity, parent status, and location, among other factors.

55% (232) of the interviews were conducted by landline, 28% (118) of the interviews were conducted by cell phone, and 17% (72) were conducted via the web. The interviewer asked questions about the performance of Shakopee Public Schools and for opinions and feedback on various district programs, initiatives and practices. The approximate margin of error is +/- 4.7%.

Highlights:

- 76% of respondents have trust and confidence in our teachers.
- 57% of respondents give A and B grades to Shakopee Public Schools.
- When asked what the district should do in order to earn an 'A' grade, out of the 320 respondents who shared their thoughts, the most commonly given responses from our participants were in reference to the impact the district has on its students, the quality of teachers, and fiscal issues [responses relating to budgets, spending, and property taxes].
- When asked about the school district's greatest strength, out of the 341 respondents who shared their thoughts, the most common response was in reference to the quality of teachers. This was followed by mentions of the district's impact on students, and positives associated with the diversity of the student body. Other frequent mentions included responses about the Academies of Shakopee.
- 57% of respondents gave A and B grades to the district's technology services.
- When compared with the schools respondents attended:
 - 50% of respondents say Shakopee schools are much better or somewhat better at encouraging critical thinking and creativity.
 - 50% of respondents say Shakopee schools are much better or somewhat better at preparing students for college.
 - 49% of respondents say Shakopee schools are much better or somewhat better at providing high-quality education.
- 60% or more of respondents gave Shakopee Public Schools ratings of excellent or good for extracurricular activities, academic achievement and the variety of courses.

“We contracted with Baker Tilly to conduct this survey because we want to hear from our community and use the feedback to improve our school district,” said Superintendent Mike Redmond. “The overall survey results provide a good benchmark to help us prioritize our improvement goals as well as track community concerns and perceptions over time.”

Highlights (continued):

- 21% of respondents gave A and B grades to the district for financial management.
 - 35% said their opinion has improved over the last 12 months.
 - 9% believe the financial management is getting worse.
- When asked about the biggest challenge facing the school district, out of the 386 respondents who shared their thoughts, the most commonly given responses from our participants were in reference to fiscal issues (budgets, spending, taxes, etc.), teacher quality, and diversity issues.

“Our district has made several changes to increase oversight and improve the financial direction of our district,” added Redmond. “For the year ending June 30, 2017, our budget reflected a total fund balance of \$1,067,255. The next year (ending June 30, 2018), our total fund balance increased to \$2,833,633. The fund balance for the year ending June 30, 2019 is projected to be at least \$3,472,586. Our Finance Department is doing great work. My hope is the community will recognize our efforts in this area in future surveys.”

The 2019 Benchmark Survey will be followed by annual surveys in 2020 and 2021. Thereafter, Shakopee Public Schools plans to conduct surveys every two-three years.

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