

2023 Community Conversation via ThoughtExchange

Summer 2023 School Board Update

Agenda

History

Intent & Goals

Platform

Results & Longitudinal Data

Actions & Next Steps

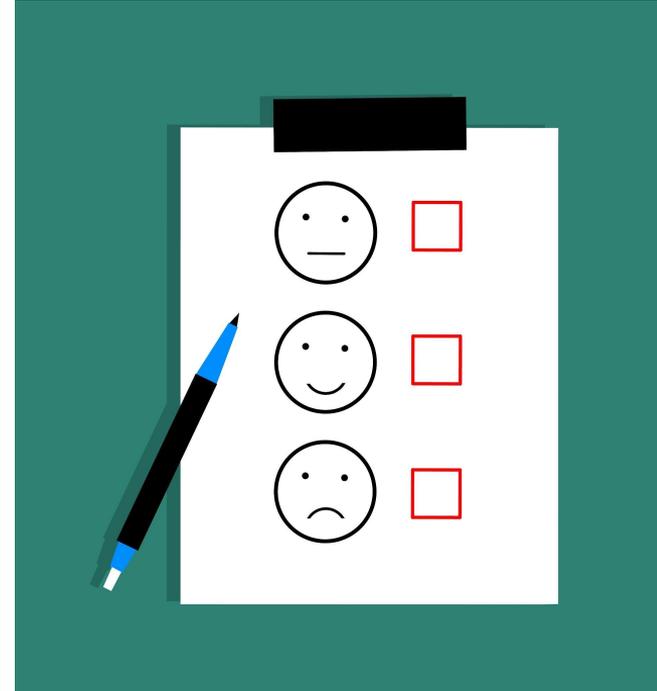
A community conversation using Thought Exchange is an open dialogue. It is different from the surveys done in previous years by hired professionals using a representative sample of our community.



Why Host a Community Conversation?

- Keep a **continuous dialogue and feedback** loop with the community.
- Define **areas of growth and improvement** that can be implemented alongside district vision, mission and overall priorities.
- Continue to **build trust** and an environment with **open lines of communication**.
- Continue to **collect longitudinal data** and also review against PDK poll of local public school ratings*.

*<https://pdkpoll.org/2022-pdk-poll-results/>



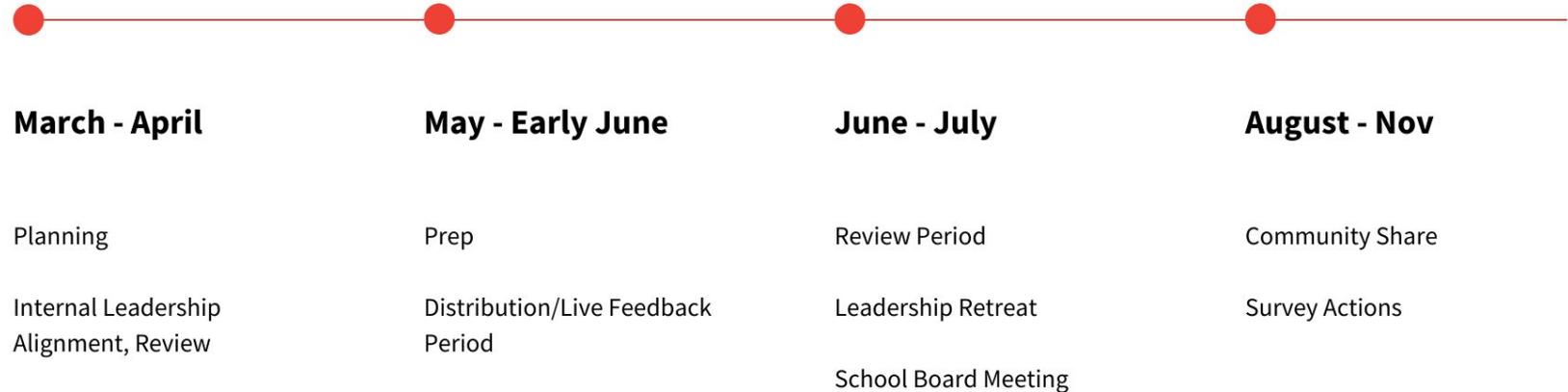
Survey History

The District had planned to conduct surveys in 2019, 2020, 2021 and then periodically in future years.

- 2021, survey conducted
- 2020, COVID-19 pandemic impacted the ability to administer a survey
- 2019, survey conducted

When	Focus	Format	Audience	Lead & Results
May 5 - May 12, 2021	General district performance, tax tolerance - pre-levy (second), continue to build trust and gain alignment on district future	~400 Phone calls One community forum held during this period in person not related but supported in person dialogue	Taxpayers (included those with/without children in the district)	Baker Tilly Results
June 25 - July 1, 2019	General district performance, tax tolerance - pre-levy (first try), new leadership and need for trust and gain alignment on district future	~422 Phone calls	Taxpayers (included those with/without children in the district)	Baker Tilly Results

2023 TIMELINE



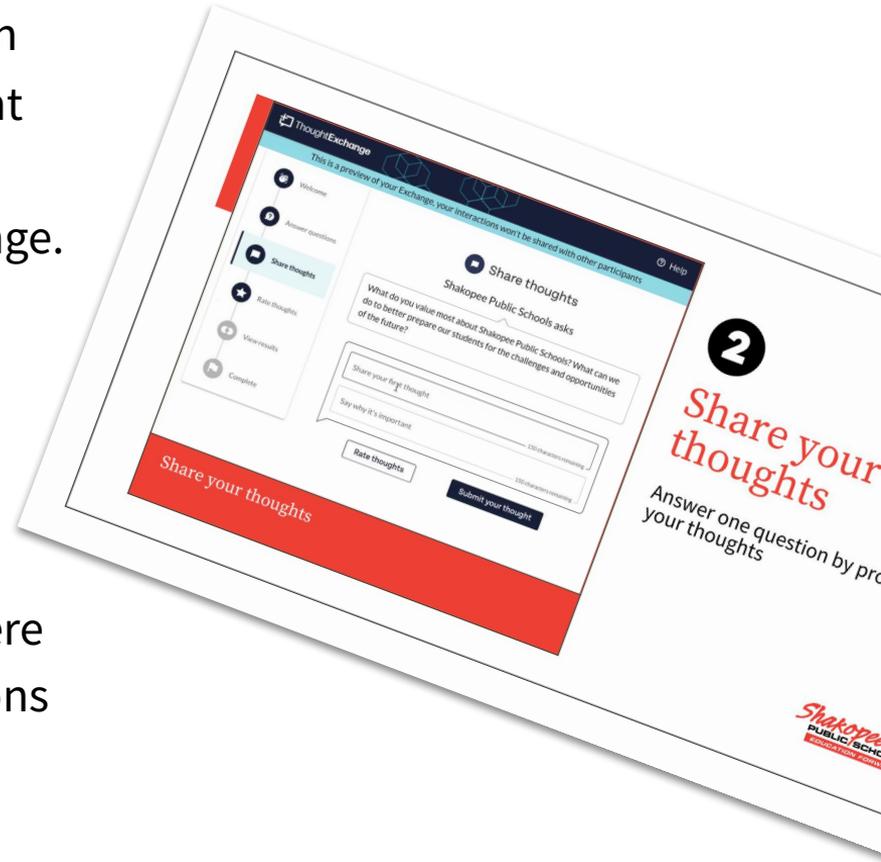
Audience

- District community, all taxpayers
 - Some questions were specific to parents/guardians.
 - While students and staff were not discouraged from joining the conversation, it was geared towards parents/guardians, community members and residents.
 - Separate staff and student engagement efforts are conducted throughout the year.



Format & Period

- In 2023, the goal was much more focused on overall growth and improvement, which lent itself to a combination of open-ended and closed-ended questions via ThoughtExchange.
- **ThoughtExchange Period:** May 17 - June 2, 2023
- **Format:**
 - One open-ended question
 - 20 close-ended survey questions
 - Combination of questions that were previously asked and new questions



Equitable Access & General Exposure

Exposure:

- Press Release/Formal Announcement
- Internal staff email
- Website (all schools, includes pop up)
- Chamber Weekly Biz Buzz
- Shakopee Valley News
- District e-newsletter
- Seesaw (Prek-5)
- Canvas (grades 6-12)
- Infinite Campus email
- Social media
- Building e-newsletters
- PELC/Elementary folders
- Trilby TV (select locations)
- PTO/Youth Org outreach

- The 2023 Exchange was available in various languages.
- Printed take home reminders (EC/Elementary) included translated content.
- Seesaw automatically translated general communications.
- Website content automatically translated general communications.
- Informational video included translated captions.

2023
Community Survey
**Share your
feedback**

it's as easy as **1, 2, 3!**



Results

2023 ThoughtExchange

Results - Participation

 Participants

947

Last activity: 23 days ago

 Thoughts

687

0.7 thoughts / participant

 Ratings

14,612

15.4 ratings / participant

 Ratings ratio

21

Ratings / thought

 Alignment

Low

[Explore](#)

-
- **265** additional respondents with thoughts than the 2021 survey.
 - 525 (or an additional 260) participants that were engaged in the Exchange than the previous year's survey (answered some/all survey questions, potentially shared feedback, ranked some thoughts).
 - A *ratings ratio* of 15 or greater shows **strong engagement**.
 - *Low alignment is to be expected* on a first mass community Exchange.
 - 1% participated using the **Spanish** translation feature.

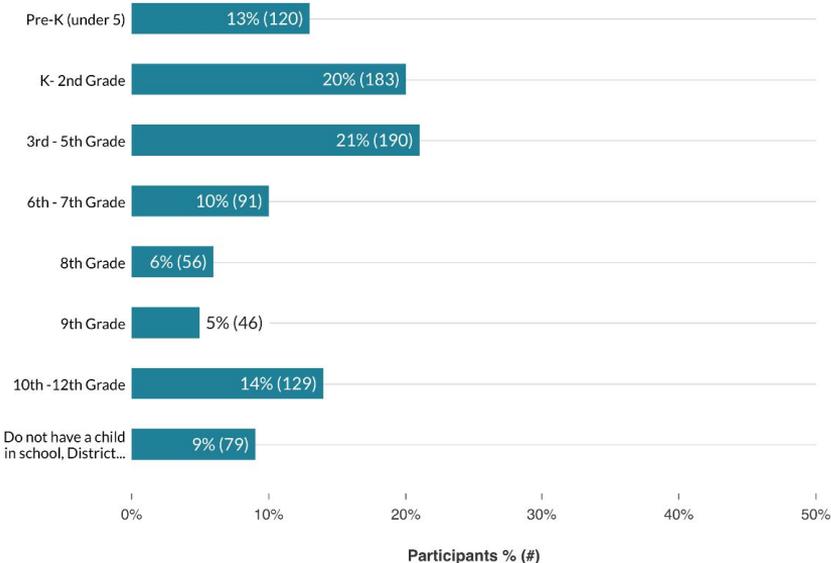
Results - Community Breakdown

Multiple Choice

Q1 In what grade is your youngest child?

Answered: 894

Not answered: 53



Close - Ended Questions

20 Questions - Includes Longitudinal Data Analysis

Focus: Performance

7 Questions - Includes Longitudinal Data Analysis

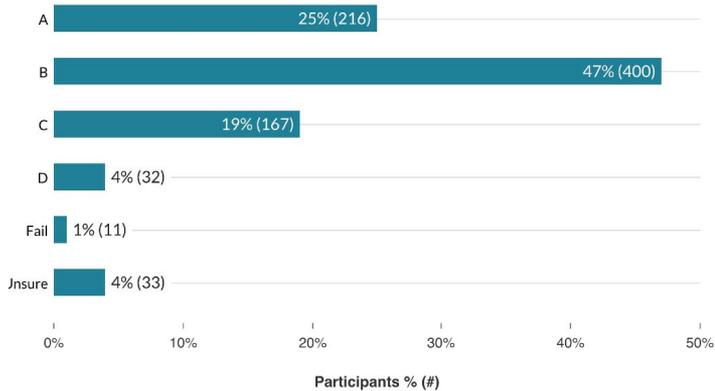
Grading the District

“Students are often given the grades of A, B, C, D and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the Shakopee Public Schools were graded in the same way.

What grade would you give to the public schools here?”

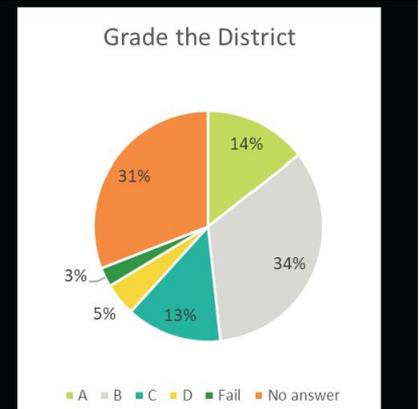
Results

2023



2021

- 48% of respondents give A and B grades to the School District.
- 7% gave D and F grades.
- 31% of participants could not offer a response.



72% of respondents gave A and B grades, which is 24% higher than the previous survey period. 2022 PDK data (next slide) = 54% of an A/B grade.

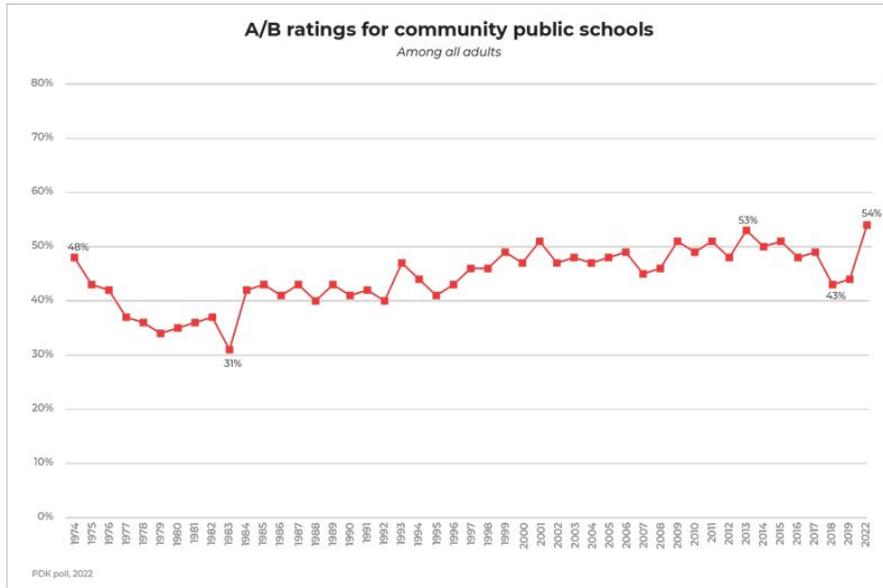
Only 5% gave a D or F grade, compared to 7% in the previous period.

Only 4% chose not to respond, compared to the 31% in the previous period.

2022 PDK Comparison

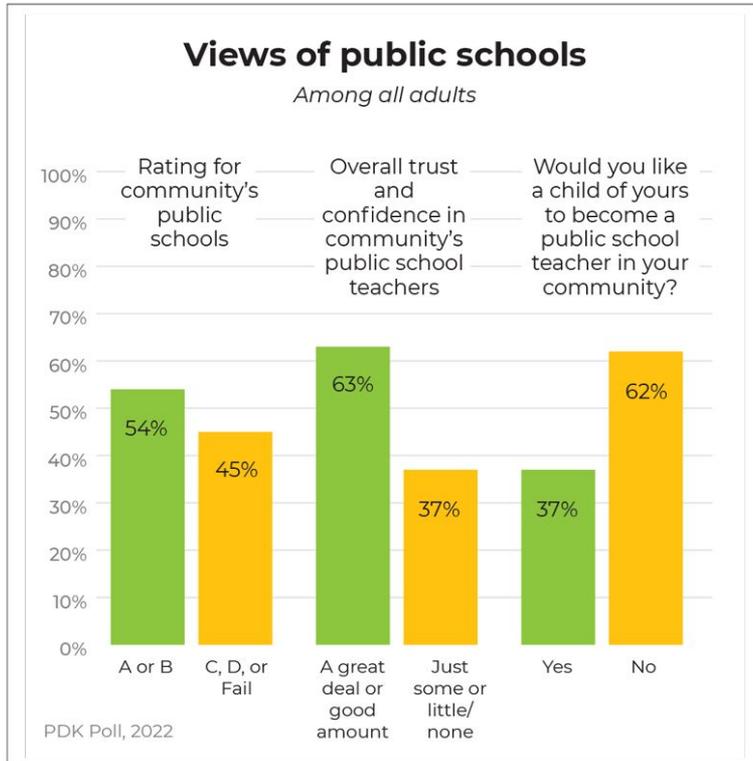
54th Annual PDK Poll

“Local Public School Ratings Rise, Even as the Teaching Profession Loses Ground.”



- Was conducted June 17-25, 2022, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,008 adults via the probability-based Ipsos KnowledgePanel®.
 - Data was weighted via iterative proportional fitting to benchmarks for sex, age, race/ethnicity, region, education and household income from the U.S. Census Bureau’s March 2021 Current Population Survey.
 - Results have a margin of sampling error of 3.3 points for the full sample, including design effects. Error margins are larger for subgroups, including 7.6 points for the sample of 179 public school parents.

2022 PDK Comparison



- 54% of all adults give an A or B grade to the public schools in their community, the highest percentage numerically in PDK polls since 1974, up 10 points since the question was last asked in 2019.
 - The previous high was 53% in 2013; the long-term average, 44%.

2022 PDK Comparison

Multiple Choice

1 filter applied

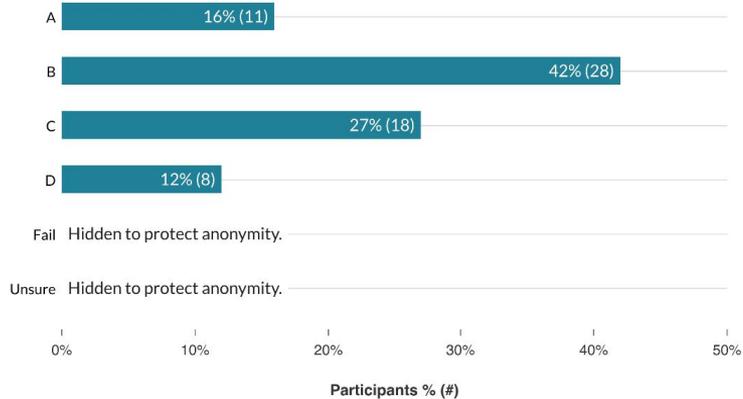
Q

Students are often given the grades of A, B, C, D and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose Shakopee Public Schools were graded in the same way. What overall grade would you give?

2

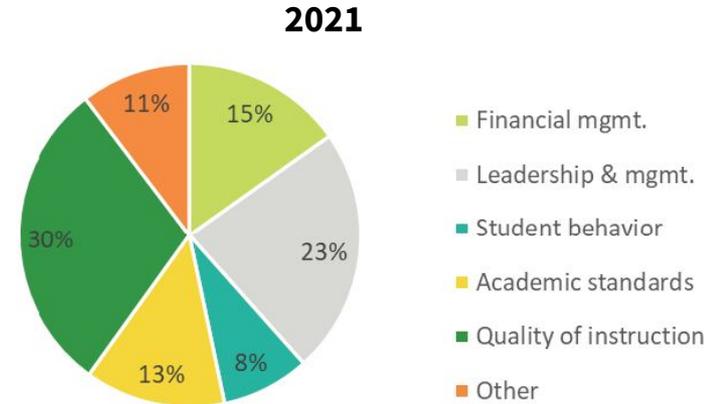
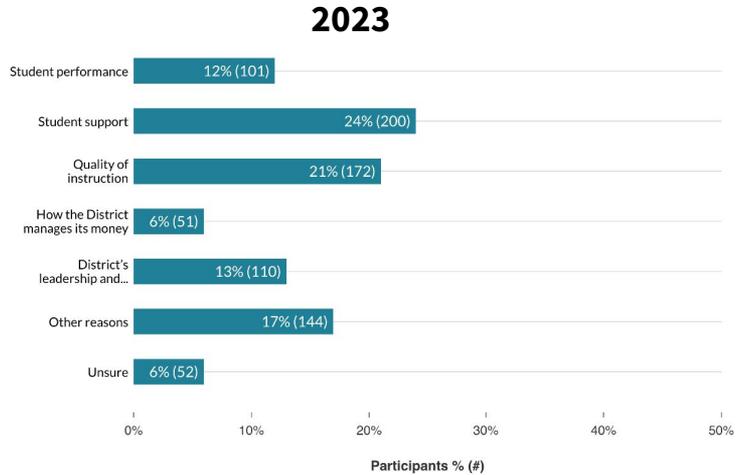
Answered: 67

Not answered: 12



- The boost in confidence in public schools in PDK data occurred among non-parents only; among K-12 public school parents, ratings of the local public schools are down 6 points from three years ago, although that's not a statistically significant change given sample sizes.
 - On another measure, public school parents are slightly less apt to give their own child's school an A or B grade than in 2019, 68% vs. 75%.

Reason for Grade



Student support and **student performance** were added to the 2023 question. Student behavior was removed from the 2023 survey. **Student support** received the most responses at 24%.

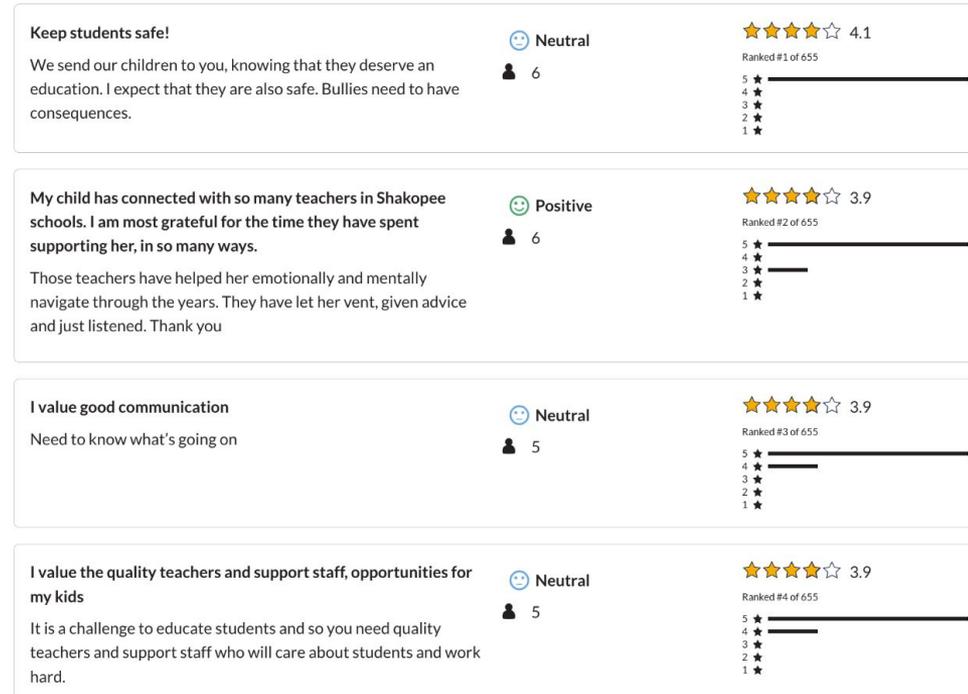
Quality of instruction as a reason went down 9% from the previous period.

Financial management as a reason also went down 9% from the previous period. **Leadership and management** responses went down from the previous period and reasons were allocated to other areas.

A larger portion of respondents chose “other” (6% more) than the previous period.

Reason for Grade - OTHER (144/17%)

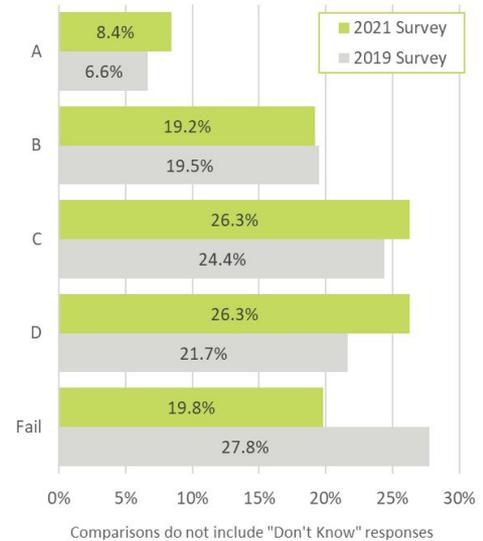
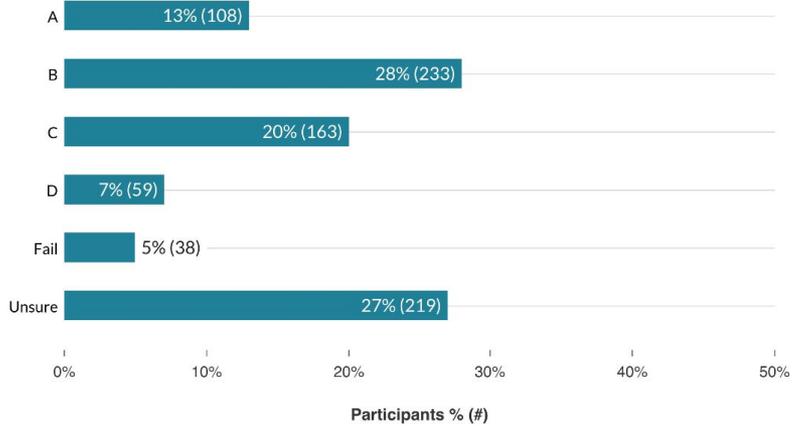
Thoughts By Rating



Given the format of survey, some respondents used the “other” selection to provide general feedback or comments not 100% directly related to the survey question. This is a very normal behavior and to be expected with the first district-wide ThoughtExchange.

Financial Management Grade

2023

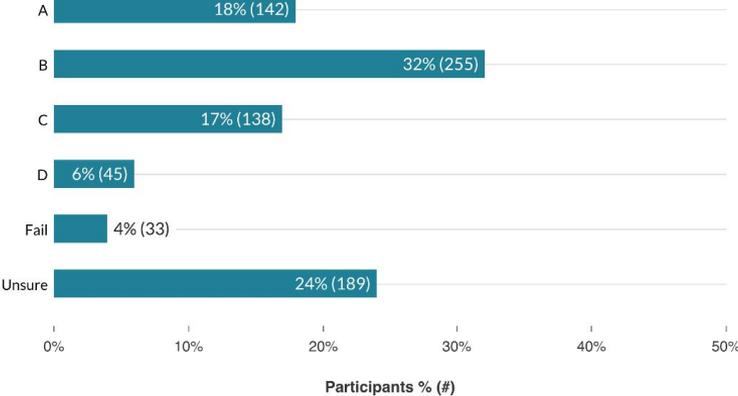


41% of respondents gave A and B grades, which is roughly 14% higher than the previous survey period.

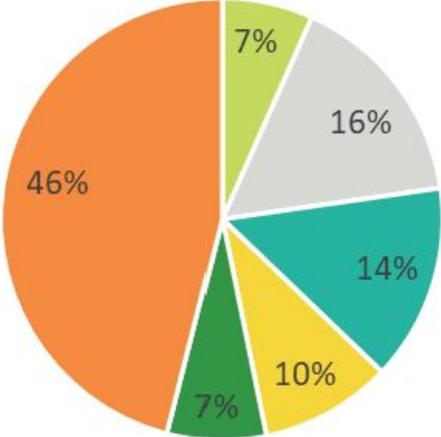
Only 12% gave a D or F grade, compared to roughly 45% in the previous period.

School Board Grade

2023



2021



■ A ■ B ■ C ■ D ■ Fail ■ No answer

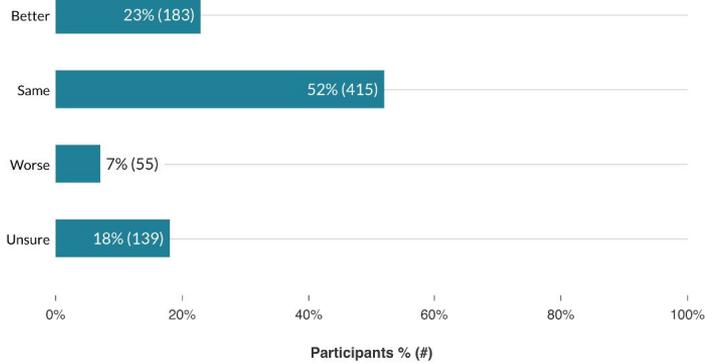
Only 24% of respondents felt they were unsure about providing a grade vs. the 46% that did not provide an answer in the previous period.

50% of respondents gave A and B grades, which is roughly 27% higher than the previous survey period

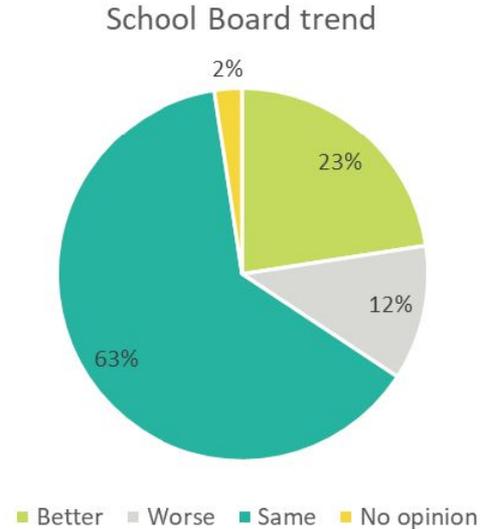
Only 10% gave a D or F grade, compared to roughly 17% in the previous period.

School Board Grade Trends - Last 12 Months

2023



2021



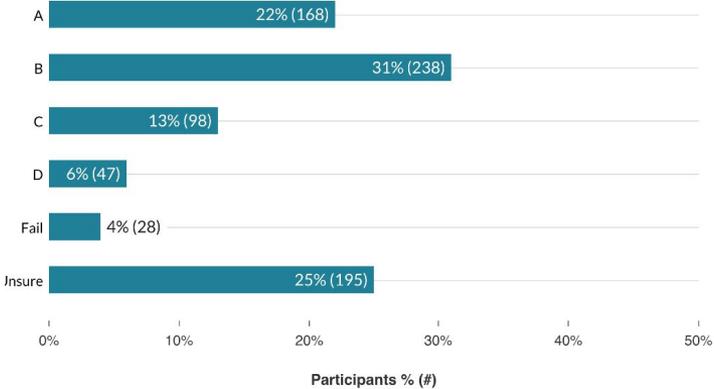
Roughly the same percentage of respondents in the 2023 Exchange and 2021 survey (23%) shared that there was improvement in the last 12 months of the survey period.

5% less respondents felt that performance got worse.

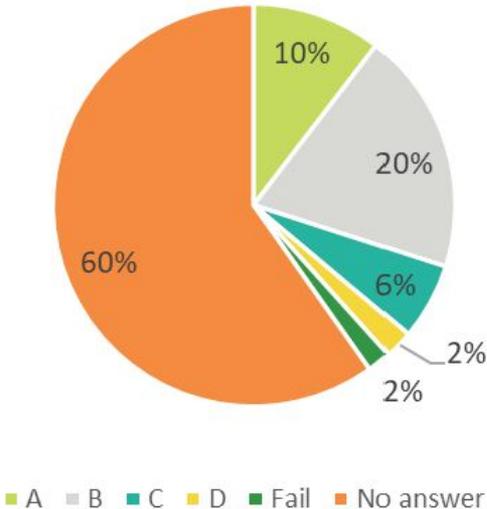
More 2023 respondents (18% vs. 2%) noted that they were unsure.

Superintendent Grade

2023



2021

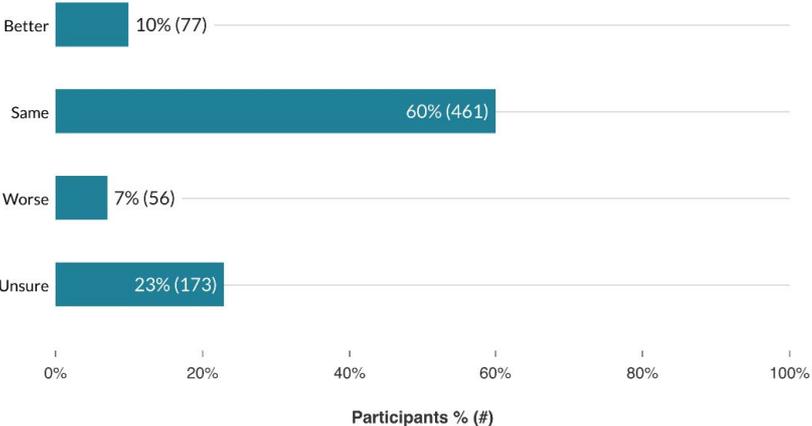


53% of respondents gave A and B grades, which is 23% higher than the previous survey period

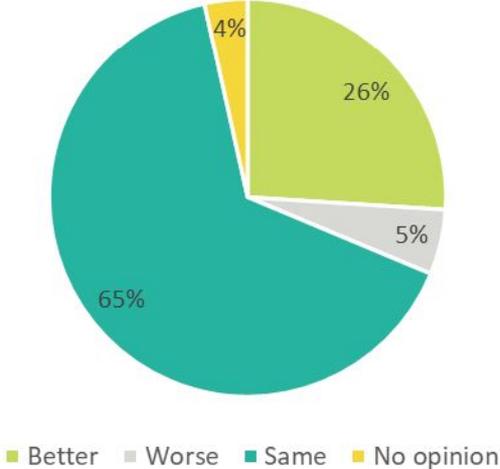
Roughly 60% of the 2021 respondents chose not to answer this question compared to 25% in the present Exchange (2023).

Superintendent Grade Trend - Last 12 Months

2023



2021



In 2021, there was a greater shift in the grade being better than the previous 12 month period (25% compared to 10% in the 2023 survey period).

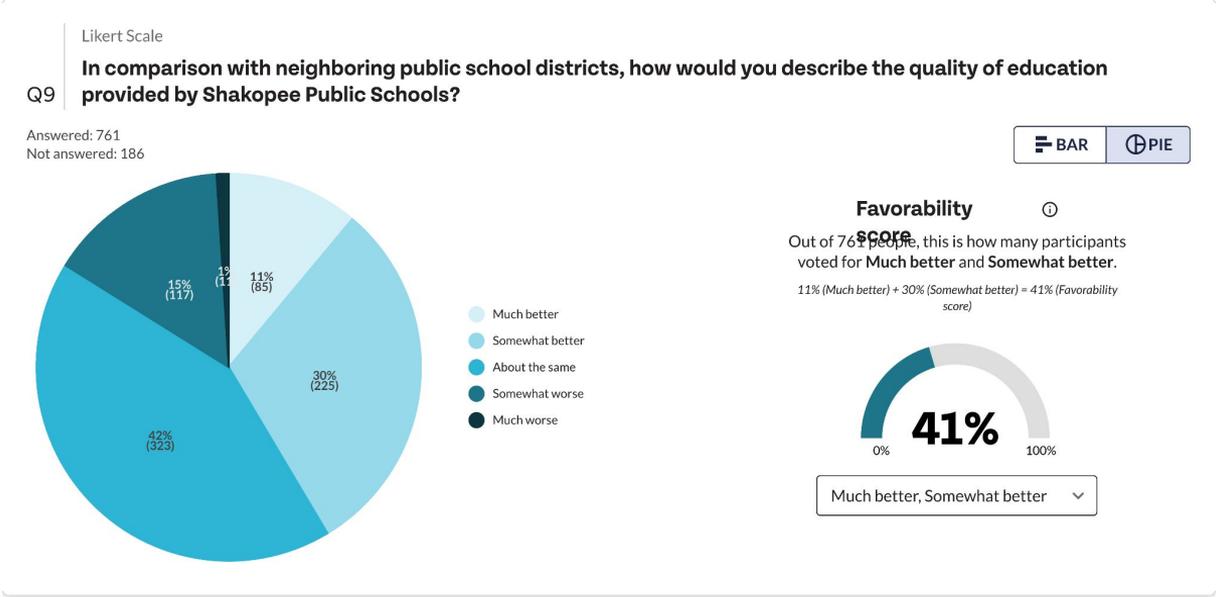
The percentages associated with grades staying the same, being worse or the respondent noting “unsure” has stayed roughly the same in 2023 compared to the 2021 survey period.

Focus: Education

4 Questions - Includes Longitudinal Data Analysis and One New Question

In comparison with neighboring public school districts, how would you describe the quality of education provided by Shakopee Public Schools?

Quality of Education

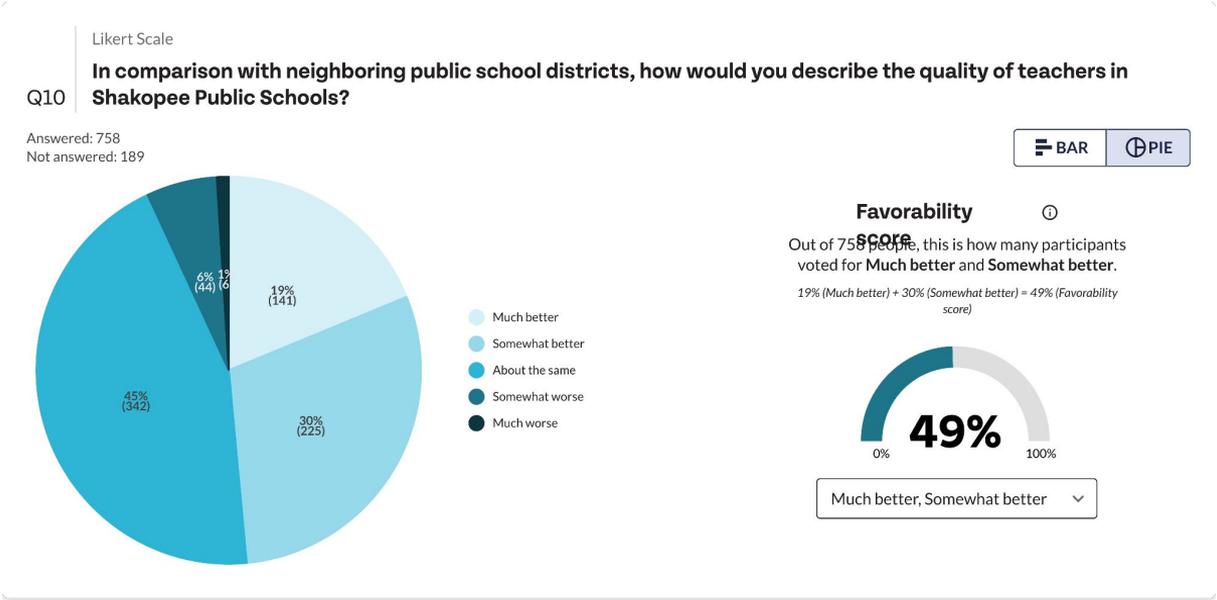


2021 Comparison:

41% stated that Shakopee provided a higher quality of education than neighboring districts compared to 23% in 2021.

A relatively comparable percentage (16% - 2023 to 13% - 2021) feel the quality of education is not as good.

Quality of Teachers



2021 Comparison:

49% said Shakopee provided higher quality teachers than neighboring districts compared to 23% in 2021.

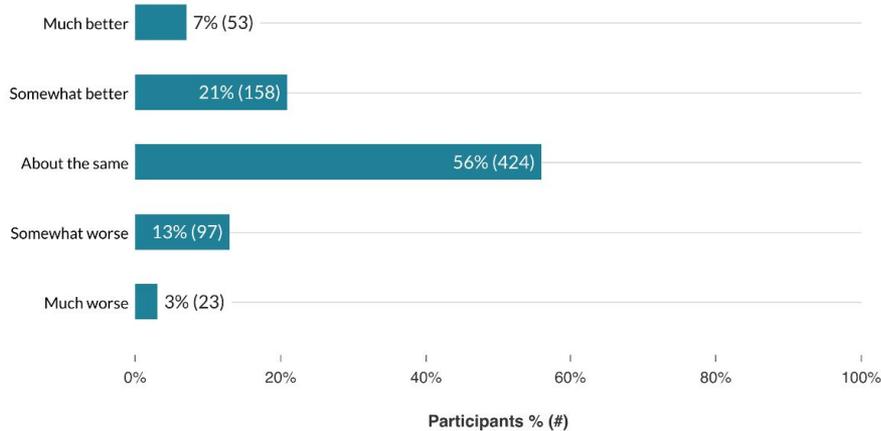
A relatively comparable percentage felt the quality of teachers is comparable or not as good as other districts from the 2021 to 2023.

NEW: Competitiveness of after-school activities and sports

Likert Scale

Q11 In comparison with neighboring public school districts, how would you describe the competitiveness of after-school activities and athletics offered by Shakopee Public Schools?

Answered: 755
Not answered: 192



Favorability



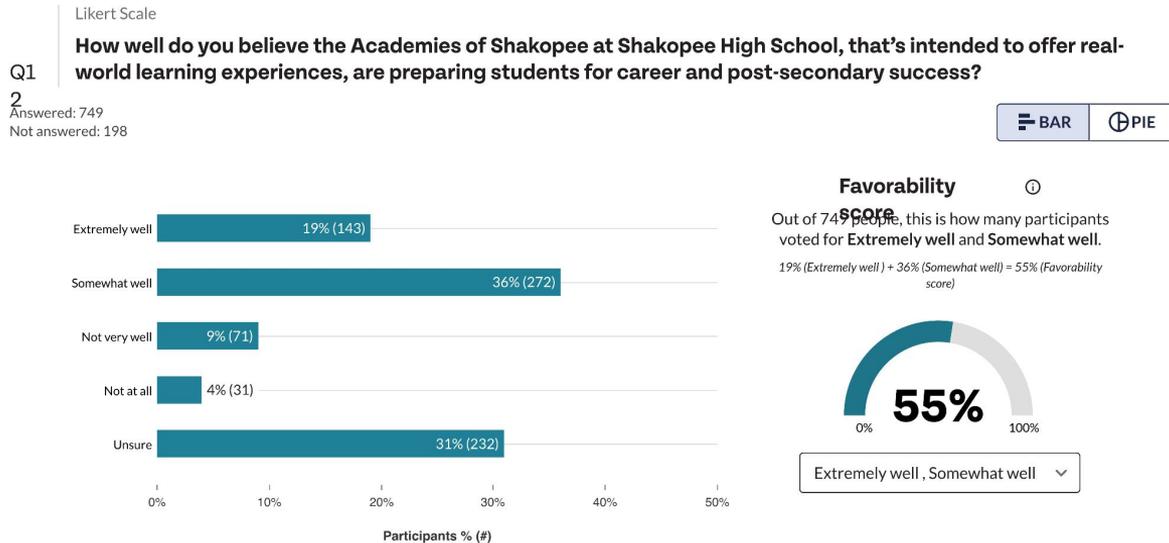
SCORE
Out of 755 people, this is how many participants voted for **Much better** and **Somewhat better**.

7% (Much better) + 21% (Somewhat better) = 28% (Favorability score)



Much better, Somewhat better

Academies of Shakopee



2021 Comparison:

55% said the Academies of Shakopee provided real-world learning experiences and prepare students extremely well/well compared to 47% in 2021.

A relatively comparable percentage felt preparedness was not very well or not at all preparing students from the 2021 to 2023.

The percentage of respondents that were unsure went down 10% from the previous survey period.

Focus: Connection

5 NEW Questions

NEW: Safe Environment

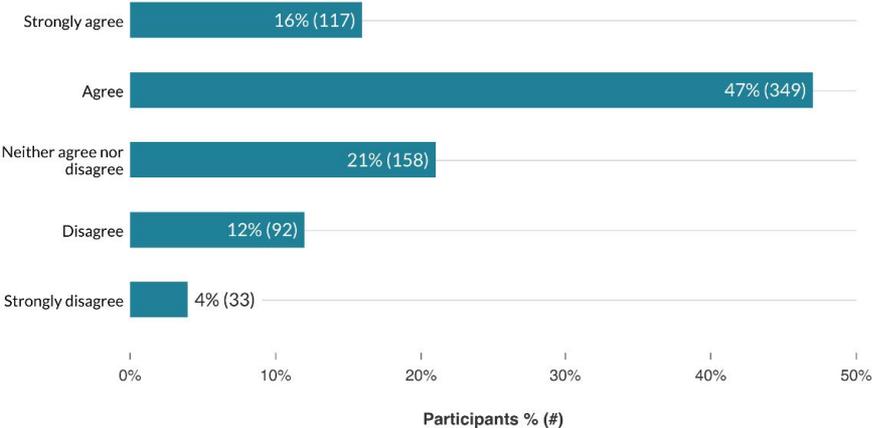
Likert Scale

Q1 I feel that my child is in a safe environment when attending school in the District.

3

Answered: 749

Not answered: 198

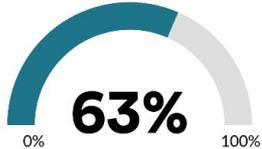


Favorability



Out of 749 people, this is how many participants voted for **Strongly agree** and **Agree**.

16% (Strongly agree) + 47% (Agree) = 63% (Favorability score)



Strongly agree, Agree

How does the feeling of safety correlate with a child's grade level?

In what grade is your youngest child?

	Pre-K (under 5)	K-2nd Grade	3rd -5th Grade	6th -7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th -12th Grade	Do not have a child in school, District...	Total
Strongly agree	2.7% (20)	4.1% (30)	3.3% (24)	1.2% (9)	1.1% (8)	<5*	1.8% (13)	1.4% (10)	15.6% (114)
Agree	7.1% (52)	9.3% (68)	12.4% (91)	4.5% (33)	2.5% (18)	2.1% (15)	7.7% (56)	2.2% (16)	47.7% (349)
Neither agree nor disagree	1.6% (12)	5.5% (40)	4.0% (29)	2.2% (16)	1.5% (11)	1.6% (12)	2.5% (18)	2.7% (20)	21.6% (158)
Disagree	0.8% (6)	1.6% (12)	2.7% (20)	1.9% (14)	1.2% (9)	0.8% (6)	2.1% (15)	1.4% (10)	12.6% (92)
Strongly disagree	<5*	<5*	0.7% (5)	0.8% (6)	<5*	<5*	1.0% (7)	<5*	2.5% (18)
Total	12.3% (90)	20.5% (150)	23.1% (169)	10.7% (78)	6.3% (46)	4.5% (33)	14.9% (109)	7.7% (56)	100.0% (731)

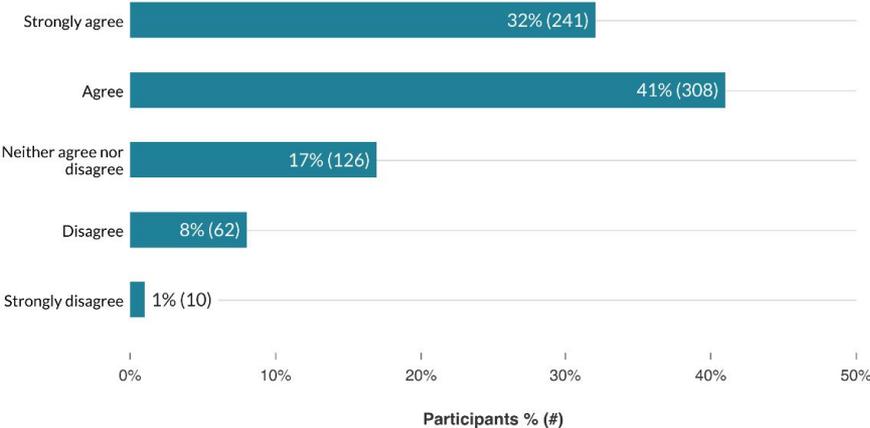
I feel that my child is in a safe environment when attending school in the District.

NEW: Priorities

Likert Scale

Q14 I feel that my child's learning and success is a high priority.

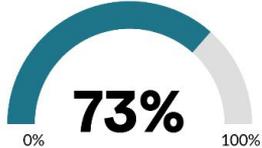
Answered: 747
Not answered: 200



Favorability ⓘ

score
Out of 747 people, this is how many participants voted for **Strongly agree** and **Agree**.

32% (Strongly agree) + 41% (Agree) = 73% (Favorability score)



Strongly agree, Agree ⌵

How does the quality of teachers rating correlate to the respondents view on education being a priority?

In comparison with neighboring public school districts, how would you describe the quality of teachers in Shakopee Public Schools?

	Much better	Somewhat better	About the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Total
Strongly agree	10.2% (75)	10.1% (74)	11.2% (82)	1.2% (9)	<5*	32.7% (240)
Agree	6.7% (49)	15.7% (115)	18.8% (138)	0.8% (6)	<5*	42.0% (308)
Neither agree nor disagree	1.1% (8)	3.3% (24)	11.1% (81)	1.6% (12)	<5*	17.1% (125)
Disagree	0.8% (6)	1.0% (7)	4.5% (33)	1.9% (14)	<5*	8.2% (60)
Strongly disagree	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*
Total	18.8% (138)	30.0% (220)	45.6% (334)	5.6% (41)	<5*	100.0% (733)

*Answers with less than 5 responses are hidden to protect anonymity.



NEW: Respect

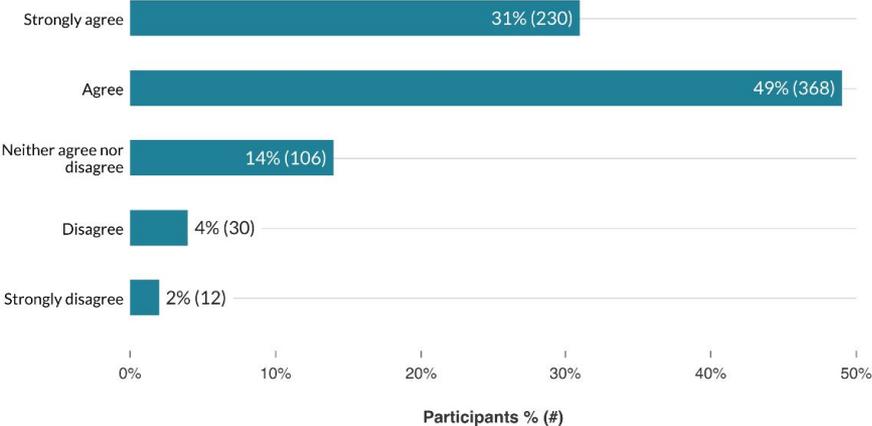
Likert Scale

Q1 **As a parent/guardian, I feel respected by school staff.**

5

Answered: 746

Not answered: 201



Favorability



Out of 746 people, this is how many participants voted for **Strongly agree** and **Agree**.

31% (Strongly agree) + 49% (Agree) = 80% (Favorability score)



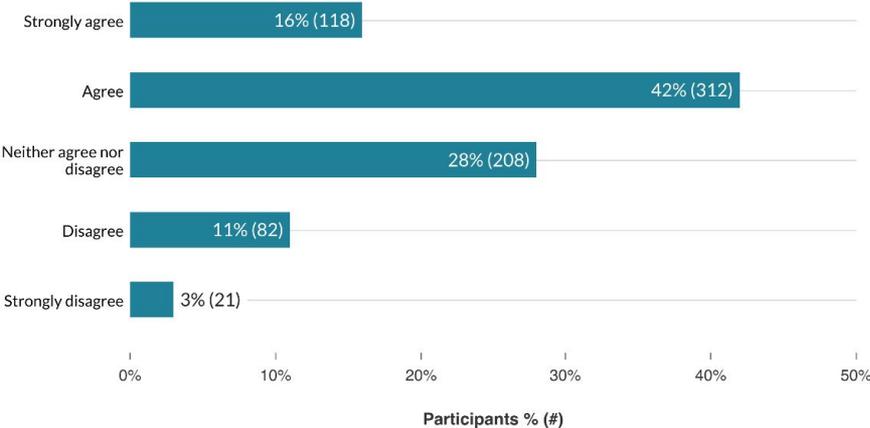
Strongly agree, Agree

NEW: Best Interest

Likert Scale

Q17 | **I believe school administration makes decisions that are in the best interest of students and families.**

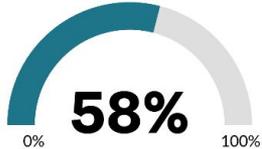
Answered: 741
Not answered: 206



Favorability ⓘ

SCORE
Out of 741 people, this is how many participants voted for **Strongly agree** and **Agree**.

16% (Strongly agree) + 42% (Agree) = 58% (Favorability score)



Strongly agree, Agree ⌵

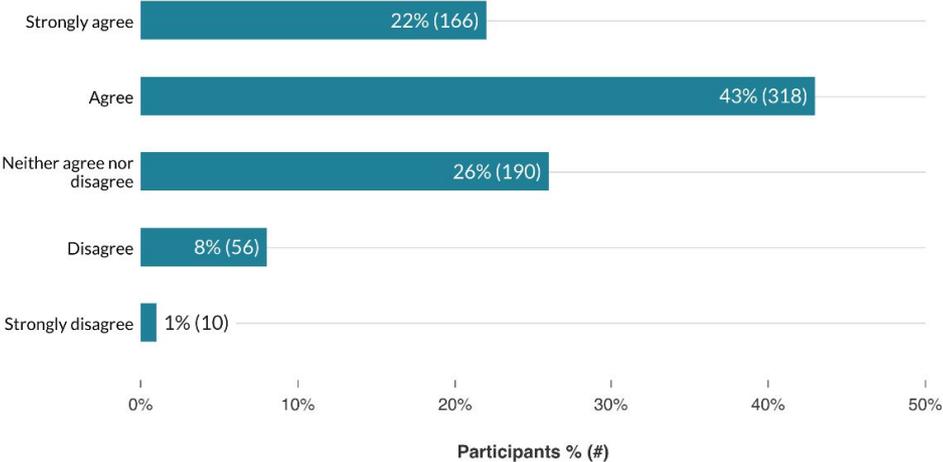
NEW: Saber Pride

Likert Scale

Q18 I am proud to have my child and family in Shakopee Public Schools.

Answered: 740
Not answered: 207

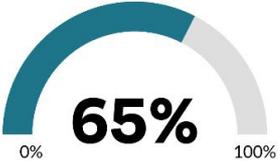
BAR PIE



Favorability ⓘ

score
Out of 740 people, this is how many participants voted for **Strongly agree** and **Agree**.

22% (Strongly agree) + 43% (Agree) = 65% (Favorability score)



Strongly agree, Agree ▾

Focus: Communication

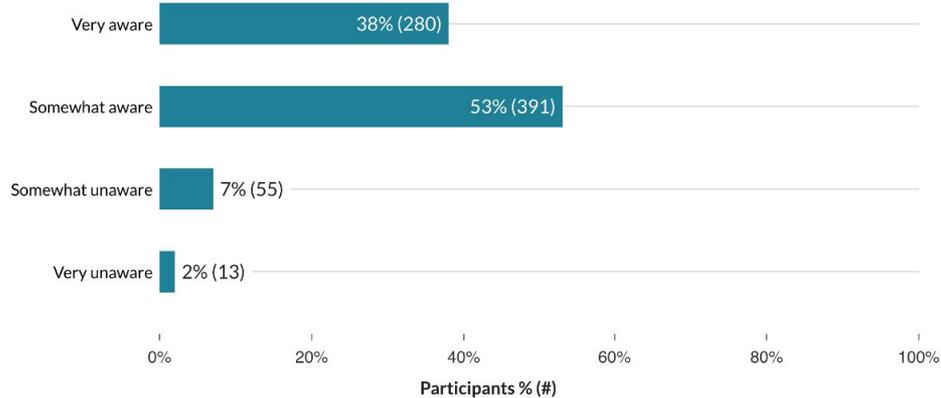
3 Questions - Includes Longitudinal Data Analysis

Communication - PreK-12 (ALL)

Multiple Choice

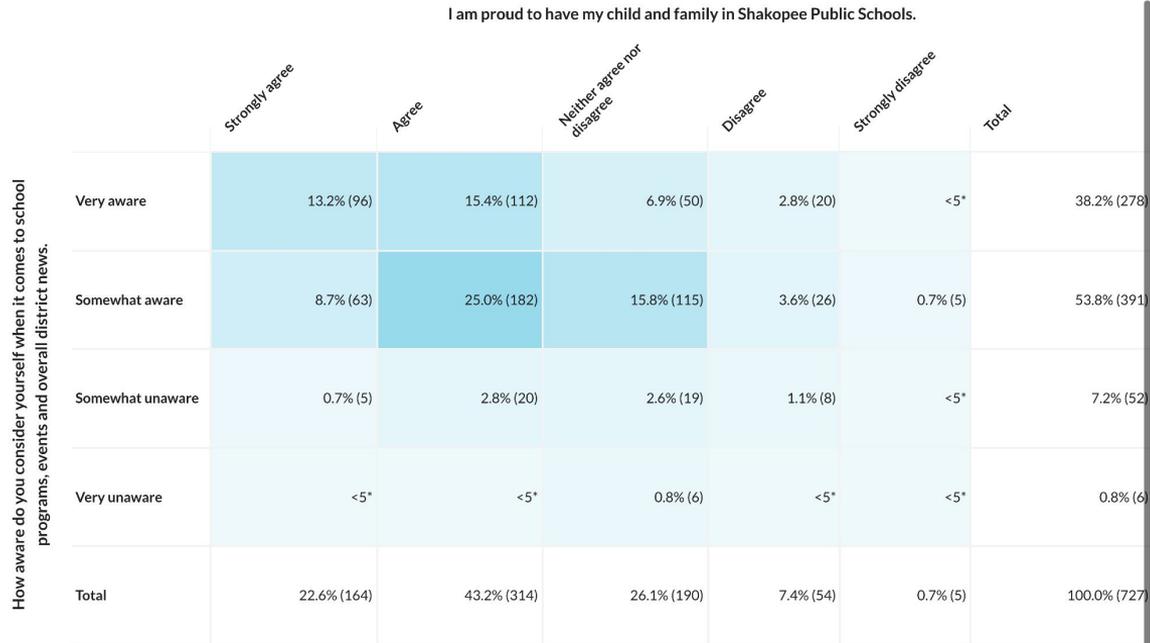
Q1 How aware do you consider yourself when it comes to school programs, events and overall district news.

9
Answered: 739



Overall awareness increased 28% since 2021, resulting in 91% stating they feel aware/somewhat aware.

How does awareness impact pride in our schools?



*Answers with less than 5 responses are hidden to protect anonymity.



How does awareness of district and school news correlate to grade level?



In what grade is your youngest child?

	Pre-K (under-5)	K-2nd Grade	3rd - 5th Grade	6th - 7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th -12th Grade	Do not have a child in school, District...	Total
Very aware	4.1% (30)	8.0% (58)	9.5% (69)	3.6% (26)	1.7% (12)	1.7% (12)	6.2% (45)	3.9% (28)	38.6% (280)
Somewhat aware	6.8% (49)	11.2% (81)	12.4% (90)	5.9% (43)	4.1% (30)	2.9% (21)	7.2% (52)	3.4% (25)	53.9% (391)
Somewhat unaware	1.4% (10)	1.4% (10)	1.0% (7)	0.8% (6)	0.8% (6)	0.7% (5)	1.4% (10)	<5*	7.4% (54)
Very unaware	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*	<5*
Total	12.3% (89)	20.6% (149)	22.9% (166)	10.3% (75)	6.6% (48)	5.2% (38)	14.8% (107)	7.3% (53)	100.0% (725)

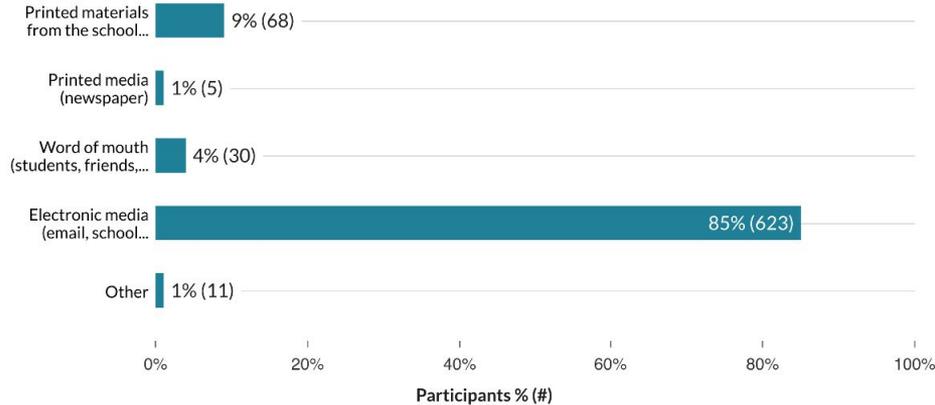
How aware do you consider yourself when it comes to school programs, events and overall district news.

Communication, PreK-12 (ALL)

Multiple Choice

Q2 From which of the following do you receive most of your information about the District?

0
Answered: 737



Electronic media increased by 50% from 2021.

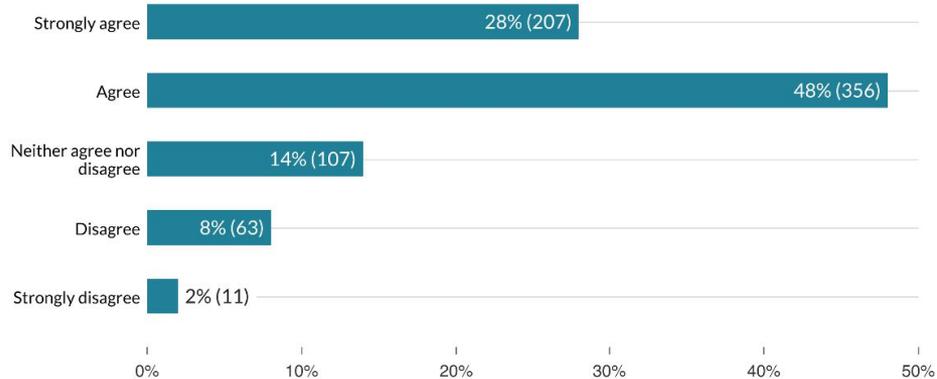
Printed materials decreased by 23% from 2021.

Communication - PreK-12 (ALL)

Likert Scale

Q1 | **As a parent/guardian, I receive consistent communication about my child's school community.**
6

Answered: 744



Open-Ended Question

What do you value most about Shakopee Public Schools? What can Shakopee Public Schools do to better prepare students for the opportunities and challenges of the future?

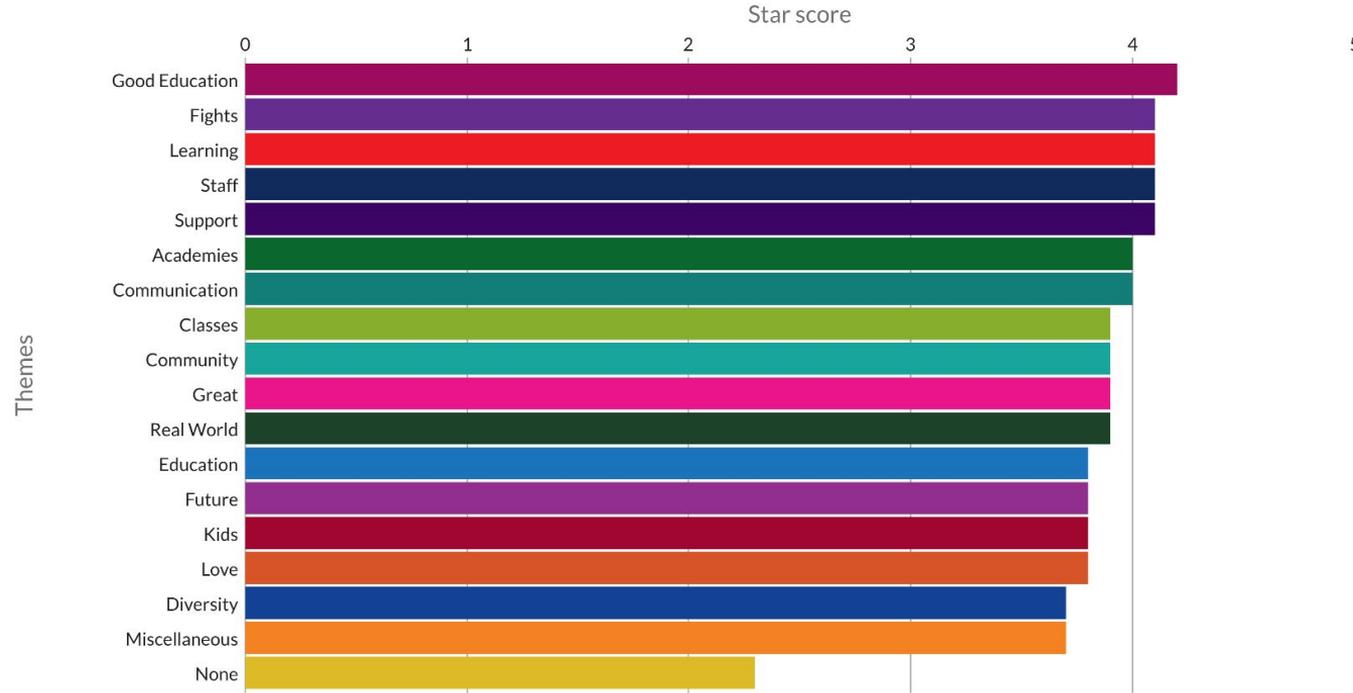
Summary

A quick overview of the main thoughts

The responses to the asked question demonstrate a wide range of opinions and values regarding the quality of education in Shakopee. Many respondents highlighted the importance of quality teachers, diverse learning opportunities, and support for students with special needs. Others noted the need for more resources, such as increased funding for support staff, better safety measures, and more activities for middle school students. Additionally, many respondents expressed the need for more accountability and responsibility for students, as well as better English support for Thai-speaking students. Overall, the responses demonstrate a desire for quality education that meets the needs of all students.

Common Topics by Theme

Ratings do not indicate positive/negative feedback, but simply topic of conversation



Top Themes by Relevance

1 Teaching quality

Teaching quality is an important factor in providing quality education to students. Quality teachers are essential for providing a supportive learning environment, engaging students in their learning, and helping them to reach their full potential. Quality teaching also involves having a variety of classes that fit the needs of different learning styles, providing resources for students to succeed, and having teachers who are dedicated to their students. Quality teaching is essential for providing students with the best educational experience possible.

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2 Support staff

Support staff is an essential part of any school system, as they provide the necessary resources and assistance to ensure that students are able to learn and grow in a safe and supportive environment. Support staff can include counselors, social workers, psychologists, and other professionals who are dedicated to helping students succeed. They provide guidance and support to students, as well as helping to create a positive learning environment. Support staff also helps to ensure that students have access to the resources they need to succeed, such as technology, textbooks, and other materials. Without the support of these professionals, students would not be able to reach their full potential.

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3 Facilities

The Facilities category is important because it provides the physical environment in which students learn. Quality facilities can help create a safe and comfortable learning environment, as well as provide access to the necessary resources and technology for students to succeed. Facilities can also help create a sense of community and connection between students, teachers, and staff.

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4 Diversity

Diversity is an important aspect of education, as it allows students to learn from different perspectives and experiences. It also helps to create an inclusive environment where all students feel respected and valued. Diversity in the classroom can also help to foster understanding and empathy, as students learn to appreciate and understand different cultures and backgrounds. Finally, diversity can help to create a more equitable learning environment, as students of all backgrounds can access the same resources and opportunities.

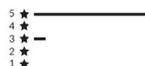
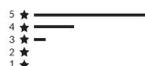
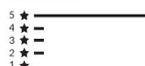
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5 Relationships

Relationships are an important part of the educational experience, as they provide a supportive environment for learning. Teachers are the main interface between students and the school district, and they are responsible for creating a safe and nurturing environment for students to learn. Relationships between staff and students are essential for students to feel safe and supported, and for teachers to understand the best way to teach the class. Quality relationships between staff and students can also help to build a sense of community and provide students with the opportunity to develop important social skills.

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Highest Rated Themes

<p>I value the wonderful teachers.</p>	<p>😊 Positive 26</p>	<p>★★★★★ 4.5 Ranked #1 of 687</p> 
<p>The quality of teachers that my children have had over the years it top notch. They all seem to know my kids and care about their education. Having a good relationship with teachers is essential for lifelong learning.</p>	<p>😊 Positive 26</p>	<p>★★★★★ 4.5 Ranked #2 of 687</p> 
<p>A safe environment where teaches have a passion for their students It important for growth to feel safe and respectful</p>	<p>😊 Positive 22</p>	<p>★★★★★ 4.5 Ranked #3 of 687</p> 
<p>I value Teachers. They are the backbone of the district.</p>	<p>😐 Neutral 29</p>	<p>★★★★☆ 4.4 Ranked #4 of 687</p> 
<p>Teachers They are invaluable</p>	<p>😊 Positive 29</p>	<p>★★★★☆ 4.4 Ranked #5 of 687</p> 

General Summary of Highest Rated Thoughts

Participants of a survey about Shakopee Public Schools value the teachers and staff the most, as they are the backbone of the district and interact with students daily.

They also appreciate the diversity of the student body, the character curriculum, and the academies model at the high school.

Participants expressed a need for more staff, smaller class sizes and better pay for teachers.

They also highlighted the need for more discipline and accountability, as well as career exploration opportunities and life readiness classes.

Finally, they emphasized the importance of safety and respect between teachers, students and parents.



General Summary of Lowest Rated Thoughts

Did not generate conversation/feedback

Participants in this survey expressed a variety of opinions about Shakopee Public Schools.

Those participants with the lowest rated thoughts felt that the Academies were not working, and that there should be more electives and less red tape.

Others felt that there should be more emphasis on academics and less on social emotional learning, and that the school should stay neutral in all aspects of life.

Additionally, participants with the lowest rated thoughts felt that the school should not promote special interests or groups, and that teachers should not share their political affiliations.



Common Ground & Differences - Topics Identified

- Real World Learning and Academies/Valuing Diversity
 - 125/110 respondents on each side
- Support Staff/ Valuing Diversity
 - 81/39 respondents on each side
- Education Kids/Supporting Kids
 - 145/145 respondents on each side

These are the areas we will dive deeper into on each side (A/B) in our action item review.



I value the quality teachers and support staff at my child's school. I value the opportunity my children have to be challenged in their learning. Many kids are struggling and it seems to be an opportunity for growth. Students need to learn to type earlier and have access to real keyboards. Continue to challenge them. Make them more rounded. Quality opportunities. Allows for greater and more specific advancement. This is our first year in the school district. The district has weathered controversy, Covid, and financial crisis. The district is stable and setup well for future success.

What will we do with the data? What's next?

- Share with leadership and building administrators. Continue to make improvements in critical areas such as:
 - Student learning and assessment for learning
 - Instructional leadership and overall quality of education
 - District leadership and focus
 - School board alignment and engagement
 - Equity
 - Community relations and partnerships
 - Communications, relationship opportunities and touchpoints
 - Financial stability and performance
 - Impact within the community
- Incorporate into systems and structures, and school year efforts.
- Define additional areas in need of community input, further exploration including any untapped audience areas or topics that would benefit from additional conversation.
- Share with the community in the fall and upcoming newsletter, which will include an interactive website to review select data.
- Discuss during August 7, 2023 Board Development.
- Add to future longitudinal data collection and community engagement opportunities.