

# **Middle School SSESS Project**

March, 2006

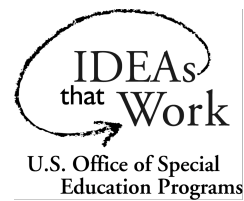
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## **NSSE Parent Opinion Survey**

### **Technical Report 13**

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## **Purpose of Study**

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The purpose of this study was to evaluate the changes in perceptions of parents regarding quality of school/parent/community relations, quality of instructional programming, support for student learning, and the school climate and environment for learning before and three years after the SSESS model was implemented (between the 2001-02 and 2004-05 school year).

## **Research Method and Instrument Description**

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This study consisted of administering, in May 2002 and 2005, a survey to all parents/guardians of students attending the school in order to identify changes in their perceptions regarding quality of school/parent/community relations, quality of instructional programming, support for student learning, and the school climate and environment. The survey used was the National Study of School Evaluation's *Parent Opinion Inventory*.

In 2002 the *Parent Opinion Inventories* were provided to a school administrator who set up a survey booth during the parent-teacher conference asking parents to complete the survey.

In 2005 the *Parent Opinion Inventories* were provided to a school administrator who was responsible for distributing the surveys to all students to take home and return. The survey maintained participant anonymity, as there were no survey characteristics or questions that distinguish between parents. Students were given 8 school days to return the surveys from home. When returned to each student's home room, the surveys were kept safe and transported to the central office.

The National Study of School Evaluation's *Opinion Inventories* were developed through a process that included a review of "literature related to high performing systems of teaching and learning" (Fitzpatrick, 1996) and focus groups representing urban, suburban, and rural schools across the United States. The variables were then field tested in three locations - New England, the mid-Atlantic region, and the Southwest. These field tests resulted in revisions that further improve the variables, which were then reviewed by a second panel of focus groups, representing school districts across the United States and regional school accreditation commissions. Further improvements were made to the instruments - formatting, sequencing, a minor changes in items. The final result was a 78 variable, 5 point Likert type scale, including *Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, and Strongly Disagree*, with a *Does Not Apply or Don't Know* option.

**Reference**

Fitzpatrick, Kathleen, A. (1996). *The Administrator's Manual For The NSSE Opinion Inventories*. Schaumburg, Ill.: National Study of School Evaluation.

**Response Rate**

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Middle School NSSE Parent Opinion Survey Response Rate

Year	Total Students	Parent Response
2002 (Grades 7-9)	1233	370 (30%)
2005 (Grades 7-8)	901	141(16%)

## Introduction

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This document reports the results of a survey called the *Parent Opinion Survey*, produced by the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE). The NSSE is a non-profit educational research and development organization founded in 1933 by the six regional school accreditation commissions in the United States. The survey is designed to collect parent perceptions on the following topics: Quality of the Instructional Program; Support for Student Learning; School Climate and Parent/School Relationships; Student/School Relationships; Resource Management; and School Organization and Administration. This survey was administered to teaching staff in the spring of 2002 and 2005. Comparison of the difference in parent perceptions between the years 2002 with 2005 may provide a meaningful measure of school change.

For the purpose of making these survey data more understandable, this report consists of 3 segments. Each segment reports the survey results of 2002 and 2005 in a different way, representing 3 different views of the same data.

### **Segment 1: Statistically Significant Results**

*Segment 1* reports survey items in which there was a statistically significant difference between results of 2002 and 2005. Each item reported on consists of:

1. An item question.
2. A table representing the percentage of respondents for each choice.
3. A chart that visually displays the percentage of respondents that chose *Agree/Strongly Agree* and *Disagree/Strongly Disagree*.

### **Segment 2: General Survey Results**

*Segment 2* reports all basic data related to each survey question in table form. Data on each item consists of:

1. Percentage of respondents who chose *Agree/Strongly Agree* and *Disagree/Strongly Disagree*.
2. Percentage of respondents who chose each of the survey options.
3. The *mean* of the response distribution.
4. The *standard deviation* of the response distribution.

5. The *median* of the response distribution.

**Segment 3: Results at a Glance – The Middle Half of the Response Distribution**

*Segment 3* consists of a graphic display of the middle half of all responses for each item. The item question and median is also included.