Department of Education

NYC School Survey 2008-2009 Report

P.S. 163 Alfred E. Smith

Principal	Virginia Pepe
School Type	Elementary School
School Number	03M163

Dear Members of the School Community,

This report tells you what parents, teachers and students said about learning conditions at your school in our annual survey. This information is designed to support a dialogue among all members of the school community on how to make the school a better place for learning.

Taking the time to reflect on how well we serve children is an important step in improving our schools. Special thanks to all parents, teachers, and students who filled out a survey this year, and to those who work year-round to improve student learning.

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

What do the colors mean?

Green indicates high levels of parent, teacher, or student satisfaction compared to other schools. Red indicates low levels of satisfaction. In reviewing your school's results, you might look at how well the school performed in each survey category, how well the school did overall, where it has the greatest strength (green), and where it needs the most improvement (red).

Highest
Average
Lowest

How did your school perform on the survey compared to all elementary schools?

	Score out of 10	Your School's Comparison	Change from Last Year
Academic Expectations	*7.8*		↗
Communication	*7*		↗
Engagement	*7.5*		↑
Safety & Respect	*8*		↑

What are your school's strengths and areas for improvement?

	Parents	Teachers
Academic Expectations		
Communication		
Engagement		
Safety & Respect		

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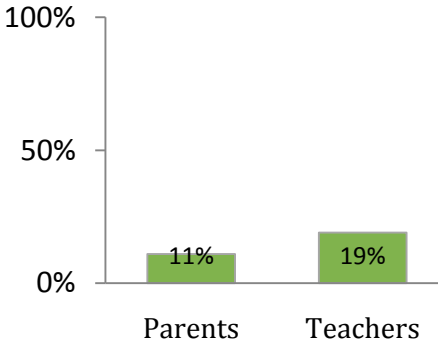
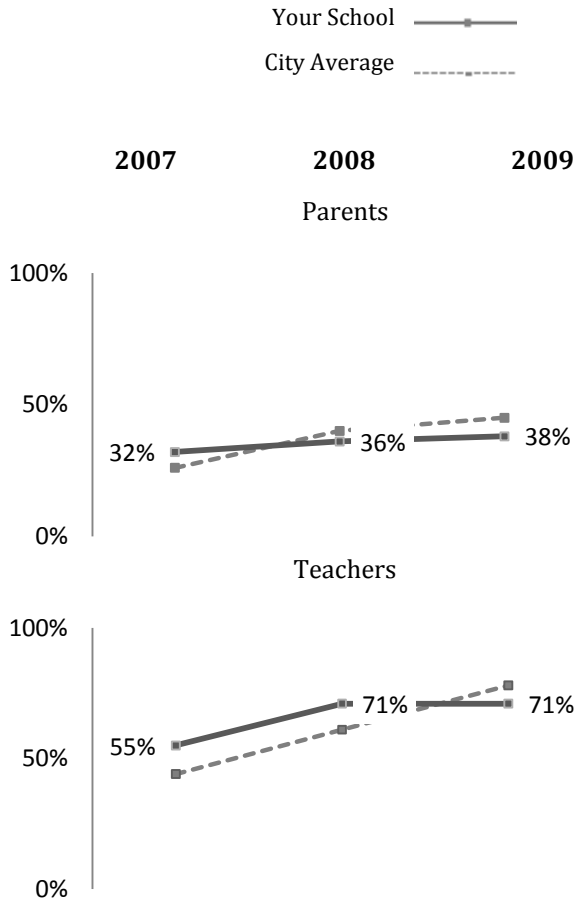
How do survey response rates at your school compare to the City average (2009)?

	Your School	City Average	% Points Difference
Parents	38%	45%	-7
Teachers	71%	73%	-2

Go Green: Who took the survey online?



How have response rates at your school changed over time?



For more information about response rates and other survey results, go to www.nyc.gov/schools/surveys.

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How has your school community answered important survey questions?

My School
City Average

Percent of parents at your school who were satisfied or very satisfied with:

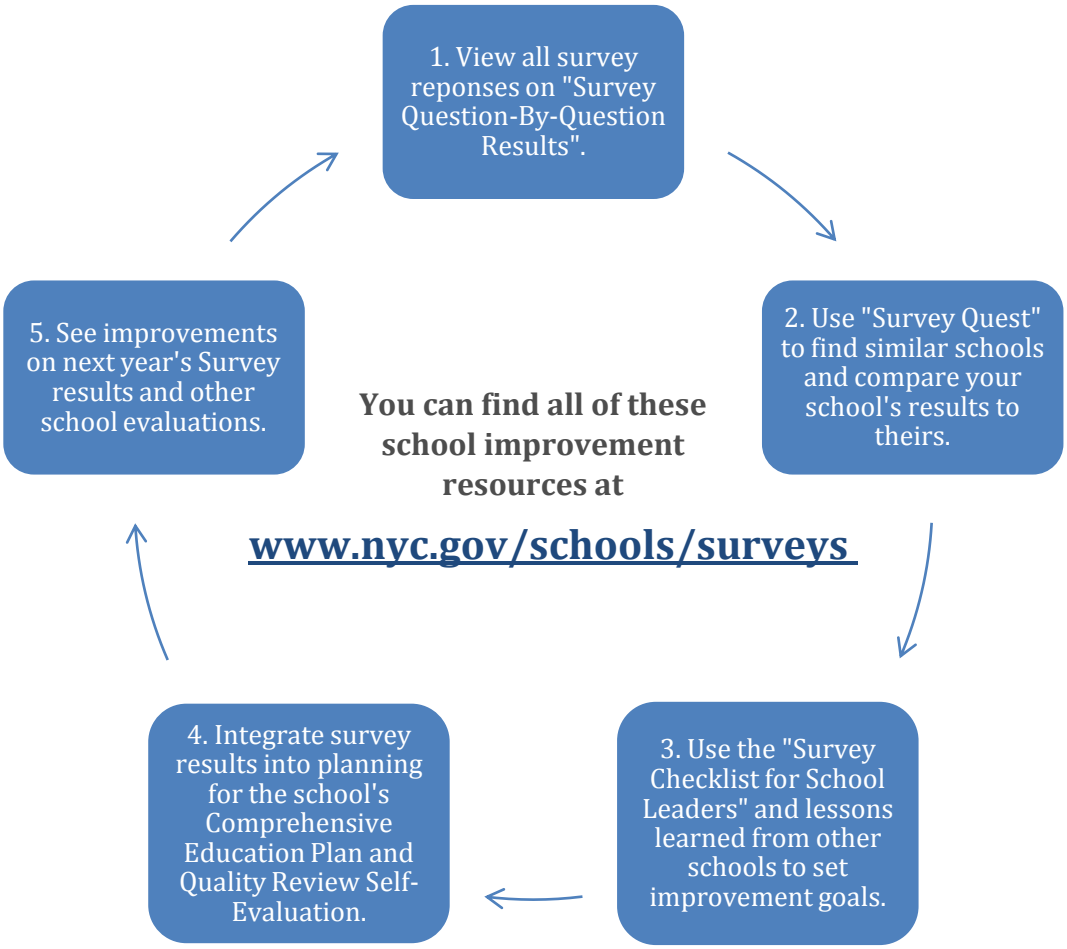
		2007	2008	2009
91%	The education my child has received this year.	93%	93%	**91%**
94%	My opportunities to be involved in my child's education.	90%	96%	**94%**
89%	How well the school communicates with me.	87%	82%	**89%**

Percent of teachers at your school who agreed or strongly agreed that:

78%	School leaders let staff know what is expected of them.	58%	79%	**78%**
81%	School leaders invite teachers to play a meaningful role in setting goals and making important decisions for this school.	48%	71%	**81%**
89%	Order and discipline are maintained at my school.	32%	72%	**89%**

How can you use survey results to improve your school?

You and your school community can use resources created by the Department of Education and the steps listed below to apply survey results to improve the school.



1. **Survey Question-By-Question Results** provide details about how parents, teachers, and students at your school answered all of the survey questions, where your school earned the highest marks, and where your school most needs to improve.

2. **Survey Quest** allows you to compare your school to similar schools that may have performed higher on particular survey questions or groups of questions. Your school can reach out to school leaders at high-performing schools to learn what they have done to get strong results.

3. **The Survey Checklist for School Leaders** helps schools set goals to improve response rates and increase parent, teacher, and student satisfaction. Setting goals with input from parents, teachers, and students is essential to improving learning conditions at schools.

4. The **Comprehensive School Education Plan (CEP)** and **Quality Review** are two opportunities for all members of the community to come together and examine school-wide improvement goals. In these and other planning activities, survey results provide useful information about conditions at schools that support learning and those that need to improve.

NYC Department of Education NYC School Survey 2008-2009	Your School's Question-By-Question Survey Results	P.S. 163 Alfred E. Smith Principal: Virginia Pepe School DBN: 03M163 Enrollment: 634 School Type: Elementary School

This report provides all questions and a summary of the responses that parents and teachers at your school provided on the 2009 NYC School Survey. This report can be used as a partner with the NYC School Survey Report.

Parent responses are listed first followed by teacher responses. Questions are assigned to and sorted by four categories: Academic Expectations, Communication, Engagement and Safety and Respect.

Who took the Survey at your school?

	Your School	City Average
P Parents	38% (195)	45%
T Teachers	71% (37)	73%

Please visit www.nyc.gov/schools/surveys to learn more about the surveys.

All numbers below are percentages. The most common answer is bolded to provide an at-a-glance sense of whether your school feels positively or not. Question scores are between 0 and 10, and the highest possible score is 10. The score can be found in parentheses after each question.

P Academic Expectations: *Parents feel the school encourages students to do their best by developing rigorous and meaningful academic goals.*

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your child's school or teacher?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
	Percent %				
The school has high expectations for my child. *(8.1)*	**45**	44	4	3	4
My child is learning what he or she needs to know to succeed in later grades or after graduating from high school. *(8)*	41	**48**	6	2	3
Answer this question only if you are a high school parent: This year, staff at my child's high school helped my child to select courses that he or she needs to graduate and to succeed after graduating. *(NA)*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

How satisfied are you with the following things about your child's school?	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
	Percent %			
The quality of your child's teacher(s) this year. *(8.2)*	**60**	29	7	4
The education your child has received this year. *(7.9)*	**48**	43	6	3
The level of assistance your child receives when he or she needs extra help with classwork or homework. *(7.6)*	**46**	41	10	3

P Communication: *Parents feel the school provides them with information about the school's educational goals and offers appropriate feedback on each student's learning outcomes.*

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your child's school or teacher?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
	Percent %				
The school clearly communicates its expectations for my child's learning to me and my child. *(7.8)*	39	**46**	9	2	3
My child's teacher(s) give helpful comments on homework, class work, and tests. *(7.9)*	**47**	39	10	3	2

Your School's Question-By-Question Survey Results

School DBN: 03M163

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your child's school?	Strongly Agree	Percent % Agree	Percent % Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Does Not Apply
I am satisfied with the response I get when I contact my child's school with questions or concerns. *(7.8)*	44	**47**	7	2	1
The school keeps me informed about my child's academic progress. (*7.9*)	45	**48**	5	2	0
The school contacts me when my child breaks school rules. *(8)*	31	**38**	2	0	29
The school contacts me to tell me about my child's achievements and successes. *(6.9)*	29	**51**	12	5	3

How often during this school year have you:	More than once a month	Percent % About once a month	Percent % Once every few months	Once or twice this school year	Never
received information about what your child is studying in school? *(8)*	38	**49**	8	6	0
received information on services for your child or for you, such as: tutoring, after school programs, or workshops you can attend to help your child? *(7.5)*	**45**	28	12	10	5

How satisfied are you with the following things about your child's school?	Very Satisfied	Percent % Satisfied	Percent % Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
How well your child's school communicates with you. *(7.6)*	41	**48**	11	1

P **Engagement**: *Parents feel engaged in an active and vibrant partnership to promote student learning.*

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your child's school?	Strongly Agree	Percent % Agree	Percent % Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Does Not Apply
I feel welcome in my child's school. *(8.3)*	**56**	39	4	1	0
My child's school makes it easy for parents to attend meetings by holding them at different times of day, providing an interpreter, or in other ways. *(7.7)*	43	**46**	7	3	2

How often during this school year have you:	More than once a month	Percent % About once a month	Percent % Once every few months	Once or twice this school year	Never
been invited to a workshop, program, performance, or other event at your child's school? *(8.9)*	**53**	27	13	5	2
talked with a teacher or other adult at your child's school to share with them important information about your child's learning? *(NA)*	**37**	26	26	10	2

My child participates in the following courses during the regular school day. *(Please mark all that apply.)* *(9.3)*

Percent %

84	Art	**85**	Music	33	Dance	5	Theater	28	Foreign language
66	Computer skills/ technology	12	Health	84	Physical education	1	None of these courses	1	Don't know

Your School's Question-By-Question Survey Results

School DBN: 03M163

My child participates in the following school activities before or after school. *(Please mark all that apply.)* *(4.7)*

Percent %

18	Art	28	Music	14	Dance	7	Theater	7	Foreign language
12	Computer skills/ technology	**33**	Team sports and clubs	24	Tutoring/ enrichment activities	29	None of these activities	2	Don't know

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	Percent % Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child's school offers a wide enough variety of courses and activities to keep my child interested in school. *(7.3)*	27	**54**	13	2	4

How satisfied are you with the following things about your child's school?	Percent % Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Your opportunities to be involved in your child's education. *(8)*	**47**	**47**	6	0

P **Safety and Respect**: *Parents feel the school creates a physically and emotionally secure environment in which everyone can focus on student learning.*

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your child's school?	Percent % Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Does Not Apply
There is an adult at the school whom my child trusts and can go to for help with a school problem. *(7.3)*	33	**53**	10	2	3

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your child's school?	Percent % Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is safe at school. *(8.5)*	**48**	47	4	0	1
My child's school is clean. *(8.1)*	38	**57**	4	2	1
Discipline is enforced fairly at my child's school. *(7.2)*	25	**52**	8	3	11

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	Percent % Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Answer this question only if your child's school has School Safety Agents: The presence and actions of School Safety Agents help to promote a safe and respectful learning environment. *(8.1)*	**48**	**48**	4	0

How often do you think the following problems occur at your child's school?	Percent % Never	Once in Awhile	Fairly Often	Very Often	Don't Know
Students threaten or bully other students. *(6)*	10	**54**	12	7	17
School staff are disrespectful to students. *(7.5)*	**34**	33	6	5	22
There is racial or cultural bias by school staff. *(8.6)*	**50**	17	3	3	27
There is conflict at my child's school based on race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or disabilities. *(8.8)*	**55**	19	3	1	22
Students use alcohol or illegal drugs during school. *(10)*	**74**	1	0	0	25
There is gang activity in my child's school. *(10)*	**79**	1	0	0	21

Your School's Question-By-Question Survey Results

School DBN: 03M163

P — Not Scored: *These questions appeared on the Survey but answers were not scored and did not affect the Survey or Progress Report scores.*

In which grade is your child at this school? Percent %

3	Pre-Kindergarten	14	Kindergarten	14	1st grade	15	2nd grade	**21**	3rd grade	15	4th grade	19	5th grade
0	6th grade	0	7th grade	0	8th grade	0	9th grade	0	10th grade	0	11th grade	0	12th grade

Which of the following improvements would you *most* like your school to make? *(Choose ONE.)* Percent %

7	More effective school leadership	10	More hands-on learning	**22**	More or better enrichment programs	10	More or better arts programs	9	More challenging courses
8	Better communication with parents	5	More teacher training	19	Smaller class size	2	More preparation for state tests	7	Less preparation for state tests

What are the BEST ways for your child's school or teachers to get information to you about your child's education? *(Mark as few or as many as apply.)* Percent %

35	Mail	69	E-mail	17	PA or PTA meetings, or similar meetings
82	Paper sent home with your child	15	School Website	11	School bulletin board
51	Phone	11	Parent Coordinator	1	Community or Citywide Education Councils
66	Parent Teacher Conferences	8	Other parents	0	Other organizations in your community

T — Academic Expectations: *Teachers feel that the school encourages students to do their best by developing rigorous and meaningful academic goals.*

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your school?	Percent % Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The principal places the learning needs of children ahead of other interests. *(6.9)*	33	**47**	11	8
Curriculum, instruction, and assessment are aligned within and across the grade levels at this school. *(7.3)*	32	**54**	14	0
My school has high expectations for all students. *(7.9)*	**51**	38	8	3
Teachers in this school set high standards for student work in their classes. *(8.5)*	**62**	30	8	0
My school has clear measures of progress for student achievement throughout the year. *(7.8)*	**46**	43	11	0
This school makes it a priority to help students **develop** challenging learning goals. *(7.9)*	**47**	**47**	0	6
This school makes it a priority to help students find the best ways to **achieve** their learning goals. *(7.8)*	**51**	35	11	3
For high school teachers only: This school makes it a priority to help students select the best courses to achieve their college or career goals. (NA)	0	**50**	0	**50**

Your School's Question-By-Question Survey Results

School DBN: 03M163

Which of the following courses or activities are available to students at your school – and when are they available during the day?	Percent %		
	Offered as a regular school activity/course (*10*)	Offered before or after school or during free periods *(5.4)*	Not offered at all *(Not Scored)*
Art	**100**	0	0
Music	**100**	0	0
Dance	**51**	38	16
Theater	16	32	**59**
Foreign Language	**62**	14	43
Computer skills/Technology	**100**	16	3
Health	24	14	**59**
Physical Education	**95**	3	0
Sports Teams or Clubs	**57**	35	16
Tutoring/Enrichment Activities	**57**	41	5

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Percent %				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Does Not Apply
The principal has confidence in the expertise of the teachers. (*7*)	27	**59**	11	3	0
School leaders visit classrooms to observe the quality of teaching at this school. *(8.3)*	**49**	**49**	0	0	3
School leaders place a high priority on the quality of teaching at this school. *(7.7)*	43	**49**	5	3	0
Most teachers in my school work together to improve their instructional practice. *(7.1)*	**41**	38	16	5	0
Teachers in this school use student achievement data to improve instructional decisions. *(8.3)*	**54**	38	5	0	3
I have sufficient materials to teach my class(es), including: books, audio/visual equipment, maps, and/or calculators. *(7)*	**41**	32	14	8	5
My instructional materials are in good condition. *(7.7)*	42	**44**	11	0	3

T **Communication**: *Teachers feel the school provides them with information about the school's educational goals and offers appropriate feedback on each student's learning outcomes.*

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your school?	Percent %			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Schools leaders communicate a clear vision for this school. *(6.8)*	32	**43**	22	3
School leaders let staff know what is expected of them. *(7.1)*	35	**43**	22	0
School leaders encourage open communication on important school issues. *(6.7)*	33	**44**	11	11
The principal is an effective manager who makes the school run smoothly. *(5.7)*	14	**51**	27	8
I trust the principal at his or her word. *(5.8)*	22	**43**	22	14

Your School's Question-By-Question Survey Results

School DBN: 03M163

Based on your experiences during the current school year, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Percent %			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My school communicates effectively with parents when students misbehave. *(6.4)*	31	**33**	**33**	3

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	Percent %				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Does Not Apply
School leaders give me regular and helpful feedback about my teaching. *(6.4)*	19	**57**	11	8	5

How often during this school year have you:	Percent %				
	More than once a week	Once a Week	About Once a Month	About 3 or 4 Times each Year	Rarely or Never
had a conversation or corresponded with a parent of a student about the student's behavior? *(NA)*	9	**29**	**29**	23	11

How often during this school year have you:	Percent %					
	More than once a week	Once a Week	About Once a Month	About 3 or 4 Times each Year	Rarely or Never	Does Not Apply
communicated with **students** about their progress in class? *(NA)*	**41**	27	16	8	3	5
communicated with **parents** about their children's progress in class? *(6.3)*	16	14	**32**	30	5	3
sent parents written information on what you are teaching and what students are expected to learn? *(6)*	5	16	**38**	24	8	8
sent home information on services to help students or parents such as: tutoring, after-school programs, or workshops adults can attend to help their children in school? *(6.1)*	11	16	**27**	**27**	8	11

T **Engagement**: *Teachers feel engaged in an active and vibrant partnership to promote learning.*

To what extent do you feel supported by:	Percent %			
	To a great extent	To some extent	To a small extent	To no extent
your principal? *(7.1)*	**41**	**41**	11	8
other teachers at your school? *(8.2)*	**59**	30	8	3

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	Percent %			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My school offers a wide enough variety of activities or courses to keep students at my school engaged. *(8.1)*	**49**	46	5	0

Based on your experiences during the current school year, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Percent %			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Obtaining information from parents about student learning needs is a priority at my school. *(6.5)*	24	**51**	19	5
Teachers and administrators in my school use information from parents to improve instructional practices and meet student learning needs. *(6.8)*	25	**53**	22	0

Your School's Question-By-Question Survey Results

School DBN: 03M163

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Strongly Agree	Percent % Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Does Not Apply
School leaders invite teachers to play a meaningful role in setting goals and making important decisions for this school. *(7.3)*	**43**	38	14	5	0
School leaders encourage collaboration among teachers. *(7.8)*	**57**	27	11	5	0
This year, I received helpful training on the use of student achievement data to improve teaching and learning. *(7)*	32	**46**	8	8	5
The professional development I received this year provided me with content support in my subject area. *(6.7)*	35	**38**	8	14	5
The professional development I received this year provided me with teaching strategies to better meet the needs of my students. *(6.7)*	32	**38**	11	11	8

T

Safety and Respect: *Schools ensure that all members of the school community feel physically and emotionally secure, allowing everyone to focus on student learning.*

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Strongly Agree	Percent % Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Does Not Apply
Teachers in this school respect teachers who take the lead in school improvement efforts. *(7.6)*	**46**	41	8	5	0
Teachers in this school trust each other. *(6.9)*	35	**43**	16	5	0
Teachers in this school recognize and respect colleagues who are the most effective teachers. *(7.5)*	**46**	38	11	5	0

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Strongly Agree	Percent % Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Order and discipline are maintained at my school. *(7.1)*	30	**59**	5	5
I can get the help I need at my school to address student behavior and discipline problems. *(6.9)*	27	**59**	8	5
I am safe at my school. *(8.3)*	**59**	32	5	3
Crime and violence are a problem in my school. *(8.6)*	0	3	35	**62**
Students in my school are often threatened or bullied. *(7.1)*	3	11	**57**	30
Adults at my school are often disrespectful to students. *(7.9)*	8	0	38	**54**
Most students at my school treat teachers with respect. *(7.7)*	43	**49**	5	3
Most parents treat teachers at this school with respect. *(7.3)*	30	**62**	5	3
Students' use of alcohol and illegal drugs in school is a problem at my school. *(9.4)*	3	0	11	**86**
There are conflicts at my school based on race, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or disability. *(7.5)*	3	19	30	**49**
There is a person or a program in my school that helps students resolve conflicts. *(7.2)*	35	**46**	19	0
Gang activity is a problem **in** my school. *(9.4)*	3	0	11	**86**
My school is kept clean. *(7.6)*	**44**	**44**	6	6
Answer this question only if your school has School Safety Agents: The presence and actions of School Safety Agents help to promote a safe and respectful learning environment. *(8.4)*	**71**	16	6	6

Your School's Question-By-Question Survey Results

School DBN: 03M163

T **Not Scored:** *These questions appeared on the survey but answers were not scored and did not affect the survey or progress report scores.*

How often during this school year have you:	Percent % More than once a week	Once a Week	About once a Month	About 3 or 4 Times each Year	Rarely or Never
attempted to have a conversation with a parent but failed because you were not able to contact the parent or the parent did not respond or attend?	0	3	17	22	**58**

How long have you been a teacher? Percent %

3	Less than one year	19	1-3 years	30	4-10 years	14	11-15 years	**35**	More than 15 years

This year, what percentage of your students had at least one parent attend your Parent-Teacher Conferences? Percent %

6	0-25%	0	26-50%	3	51-75%	**74**	76-100%	17	Does Not Apply