

Parent Survey on Student Engagement

Louisville Middle School
Louisville, CO



COLORADO
Department of Education

Parent surveys are one way to give your parent community an avenue to share their perspectives while allowing the school staff to target areas in which they are looking for feedback. Louisville Middle School distributes a comprehensive Parent Survey on Student Engagement at the end of the first semester, with shorter parent surveys sent out multiple times a year.

The surveys are quick and efficient way to a school to collect data that is then used in decision-making. Those involved in the survey process include building administrators, front office staff, parent volunteer coordinator, parent volunteers, PTA/PTO, and the parent community. It takes about two hours to create the survey, and two hours to evaluate the data and decide what the next steps should be.

There are four steps involved in developing and utilizing a Parent Survey on Student Engagement. Step 1 is to utilize school decision-making bodies (teacher leadership and SAC) to create/revise the survey—surveys are updated every day as schools should be looking for different or expanded information from parents. Step 2 is to send the survey to all households through School Messenger. A follow-up link should be sent a week later to increase responses. Step 3 is to gather results and share meta-data via graphs with the parent community, first in SAC and then in the school bulletin. It's important to share the same data with teaching staff prior to sending it out to the parent community and to keep parent comments with teachers' names internal as to not violate confidentiality. Step 4 is to discuss the results of the survey with the school's decision-making bodies and to act on the results.

Surveys provide clues as to how many parents are engaged with the school—the better response rate, the greater the number of engaged parents! Data also provides tracking information on the students to see what clubs, sports, and other school activities/organizations they are involved with. The Parent Survey on Student Engagement helps Louisville Middle school staff ensure that all students feel connected to school, thus promoting students' social-emotional needs and well-being.