



# Parent Engagement Early Analysis Spring 2024

## Parent Survey

**370 parents** participated from 17 school sites providing over 5,000 data points of feedback. Again, the survey was designed around the assurance outcomes (Student Growth and Achievement, Teaching and Learning, Learning Support and Governance and Local Context). Areas of strength and areas for focus are highlighted preceding each visual representation of the questions.

### Areas of Strength

<p><b>Student Growth and Achievement</b> Satisfied with the Numeracy/Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% agree or strongly agree</li> </ul> <p>Satisfied with the quality of education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>79% agree or strongly agree</li> </ul>	<p><b>Teaching and Learning</b> Satisfied with child's teacher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly Agree &amp; Agree: 81%</li> </ul> <p>Satisfied with Leadership in the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly Agree &amp; Agree: 69%</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Supports</b> Our school community is caring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% agree or strongly agree</li> </ul> <p>Our school community is safe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>79% agree or strongly agree</li> </ul>	<p><b>Governance and Local Context</b> Opportunities to be involved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% agree or strongly agree</li> </ul> <p>Community and volunteer involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73% agree or strongly agree</li> </ul>

### Areas for Growth

<p><b>Student Growth and Achievement</b> Preparing my child for life outside of school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18% disagree or strongly disagree</li> </ul> <p>Students demonstrate mutual respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18% disagree or strongly disagree</li> </ul>	<p><b>Governance and Local Context</b> My perspective is valued by school staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13% disagree or strongly disagree</li> </ul> <p>My child feels connected to SPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13% disagree or strongly disagree</li> </ul>
<p><b>Learning Supports</b> Our school community is respectful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% disagree or strongly disagree</li> </ul> <p>Access to Mental Health supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9% disagree or strongly disagree with 29% neither agreed or disagreed</li> </ul>	





### Qualitative Responses Parent Survey:

When asked the question, “What else should we know?” The Division received 150 responses. The most common theme was words of encouragement or thanks towards staff and leadership. In terms of areas of focus, safe and caring learning environments were a central concern (19 comments/ 13%). These comments primarily surrounded the way students treat one another and the way schools respond to disrespectful behaviour. A number of issues specific to individual schools were included in the feedback (17 comments / 11%).

Concerns related to curriculum and instruction (14 comments/ 9%) included thoughts around increasing focus on academic rigor (literacy and numeracy), as well as concerns related to the demands of new curriculum and advocacy for appropriate course selection and guidance. Feedback related to learning supports and specialized programming (14 comments/ 9%) included themes of increased support for complex classroom learning needs and Educational Assistants.

When asked the question, “If I could send a message to Sturgeon Staff, it would be:” the Division received 151 responses. The key themes were positive messages of thanks and appreciation (88 responses /58%). 20 respondents commented around safe and caring learning environments (13%) with a strong emphasis on student behaviour and appropriate consequences at school. Comments focusing on curriculum and instruction (17 comments / 11%) encouraged schools to focus on high quality academics with consistent expectations for assessments.

*“Thank you for everything you have done. I feel like things are dealt with appropriately and with consideration to help guide students to become better citizens. All of my kids have had a very good experience with extra curricular options, field trips and a learning experience. Thank you again!”*

*“Thank you for all you do. I can’t imagine in 2024 how hard it is to teach! You are appreciated!!!”*

*“Keep on fostering an environment of inclusion and community. These kids really care about each other and that's a lifelong gift! We can see how much you care, thank you!”*

*“As a parent I value their hard work and my kids appreciate how they always put their best foot forward to create exciting learning opportunities. We are lucky to have them! Our administrative staff are the glue that keep our school together. Their knowledge of students, families, grades is exceptional - we are very lucky to have them!”*





## Parent Engagement Events

This year the Division conducted 6 parent engagement events with more than **195** participants and collected over 1,000 insights directly from parents. Insights from the events can be categorized into the following key themes:

**Caring staff in Connected Rural Communities:** Parents celebrated and acknowledged the care and attention of dedicated staff members in the context of connected, smaller school communities. A strong sense of community and belonging were evident throughout the comments

**Engaging Learning Choices:** Parents were very supportive of the wide variety of exceptional programming offered throughout the Division. Outdoor learning, STEAM education, Nutrition Programs, CTF and Option course offerings and extracurricular clubs, teams and activities were greatly appreciated.

**Enhanced Communication:** Parents recognized and celebrated the division's focus on improving communication at the school and division levels.

*Several parents commented on improved transportation which demonstrates marked growth from previous survey data.*

### What values are important to your school community?

Parents shared the importance of respect, community, inclusivity, trust and accountability, open and timely communication paired with accountability at school was important. When considering what impacted students' ability to display good citizenship, parents indicated media, technology, not feeling heard, low trust, and social or home influences were strong factors.

### School Community Values Across Sturgeon





**Key Themes by Community or Engagement Evening:**

<p>Gibbons &amp; Landing Trail School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Acceptance</li> </ul>	<p>Redwater &amp; Ochre Park School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Quality of education</li> </ul>
<p>Four Winds &amp; Morinville Public School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect</li> <li>• Kindness</li> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Inclusion</li> </ul>	<p>Guthrie, Namao &amp; Sturgeon Composite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Integrity</li> </ul>
<p>Camilla &amp; Sturgeon Heights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion</li> <li>• Outdoor Learning</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Accountability</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>	<p>Bon Accord &amp; Lilian Schick School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trust</li> <li>• Inclusion</li> <li>• Respect</li> <li>• Communication</li> </ul>

When asked what the division should prioritize in the 2024/2025 school year, parents reported insights around several key themes:

- *Prioritizing academic excellence*
- *Encourage engaging career paths*
- *Engaging learning. More time outdoors and less unstructured screen time*
- *Control classroom size and continue student supports*
- *Effective, consistent communication from the school level*
- *Demonstrate care for students and support diversity and inclusion*

**Future Engagements**

Emerging from the parent engagement evenings, was a desire to gain further understanding. As themes of inclusion were included in all engagement sessions, the Division will be hosting a follow-up parent engagement specifically inviting parents of students with diverse learning needs. The Division will also host an Indigenous parent engagement event. These follow-up engagements will allow the Division to capture a more fulsome understanding of parent perspectives and insights.

