Student Engagement Survey

Survey Results

Las Cruces Public Schools
October 30 – November 16, 2012
Overview

Engagement is the sense of connection that students have with their school and their studies. Students’ learning environment affects the degree to which they are engaged with their education. Interest in classroom activities, perceived relevance of subject matter, feeling safe at school, having defined career and education goals, variety and availability of extracurricular activities, and relationships with adults at school all impact the level of students’ engagement.

This study was conducted to accomplish three goals:

- Measure the level of engagement among students.
- Identify which groups of students are not engaged.
- Identify areas to help improve engagement.

With this information, we hope to improve conditions so that all students are fully engaged in the learning process. Students who are highly engaged in learning, along with those who are taught by an engaging teaching staff, are the students who are most likely to reach their full potential.
All LCPS middle and high school students were invited to complete the Engagement Survey. The web-based survey was administered using K12Insight's platform. The survey measured the following:

**Engagement Scale** was comprised of eight items that were specifically designed to measure each student’s level of engagement. On the basis of responses to these items, an “Engagement Score” was computed averaging the scores of the eight engagement items. Scores were classified as Not Engaged (less than 3.5), Engaged (3.5 to 4.5) and Highly Engaged (4.5 to 5.0).

**Learning environment items** assessed several areas related to engagement – safety, coursework, teacher and peer support, extracurricular and classroom activities, rules and policies, connections to adults, sense of belonging, and rules and policies.

**General Satisfaction** as ratings of satisfaction with experiences at school and consideration to drop out of school.
This study was conducted as a census survey. That is, all students in selected grade levels were invited and encouraged to participate, thereby giving all students an opportunity to express their views. If all students participate, a complete picture of engagement results and survey data will be highly accurate.

However, 100% participation is unlikely. Whether an individual completes the survey is related to his/her level of engagement. Those students who decline to participate generally include individuals who are less engaged in school. Therefore, low levels of participation:

- indicate low student engagement in general, and
- mean survey findings will overestimate the level of engagement.
Participation Rate

All students in grades 6-12 were given an opportunity to take the survey online at school. However, only 26% of these students participated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responding Group</th>
<th>Number of Responses (n)</th>
<th>*Max Possible Responses (Nmax)</th>
<th>Response Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>3,261</td>
<td>12,400</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This is an estimated number of students in grades 6-12. The actual response rate may be slightly higher or lower.
Engagement Items

Engagement items are presented in order from high to low using the average score of a Likert scale. Strongly Agree=5; Agree=4; Neither Agree nor Disagree=3; Disagree=2 and Strongly Disagree=1

- I have good friends at school. 4.6
- I try to do my best in school every day. 4.4
- My teachers believe that I can do well in school. 4.4
- I feel that my schoolwork is important. 4.4
- I am proud to go to this school. 4.3
- I feel safe at school. 4.1
- I am interested in what I am learning in school. 3.9
- I am praised for doing good work at school. 3.9
Overall Engagement

More than 90% of those secondary students who participated in the survey scored either Highly Engaged or Engaged. Less than 10% of the survey takers scored in the Not Engaged range. Scores were classified as Not Engaged (less than 3.5), Engaged (3.5 to 4.5) and Highly Engaged (4.5 to 5.0).

(n=3,261)
Engagement Indicators

I am proud to go to this school.
- Strongly Agree: 51%
- Agree: 34%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 8%
- Disagree: 2%
- Strongly Disagree: 2%
- Don't Know: 2%

I have good friends at school.
- Strongly Agree: 63%
- Agree: 31%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 4%
- Disagree: 1%
- Strongly Disagree: 1%
- Don't Know: 1%

I feel safe at school.
- Strongly Agree: 37%
- Agree: 42%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 14%
- Disagree: 3%
- Strongly Disagree: 2%
- Don't Know: 3%

I feel that my schoolwork is important.
- Strongly Agree: 52%
- Agree: 37%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 7%
- Disagree: 1%
- Strongly Disagree: 1%
- Don't Know: 1%
Engagement Indicators

I am praised for doing good work at school.

- Strongly Agree: 30%
- Agree: 42%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 17%
- Disagree: 5%
- Strongly Disagree: 2%

I am interested in what I am learning in school.

- Strongly Agree: 29%
- Agree: 44%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 18%
- Disagree: 5%
- Strongly Disagree: 2%

My teachers believe that I can do well in school.

- Strongly Agree: 52%
- Agree: 34%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 8%
- Disagree: 2%
- Strongly Disagree: 1%

I try to do my best in school every day.

- Strongly Agree: 53%
- Agree: 36%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 8%
- Disagree: 1%
- Strongly Disagree: 1%
Where Should Efforts be Focused to Improve Student Engagement?

Fourteen aspects of the learning environment were examined to identify areas of focus to help improve engagement among students. Each area was rated on a five-point Likert scale, with higher values indicating greater satisfaction with that area.

The relationship between each student’s ratings and their overall engagement score was also examined. To do this, correlation coefficients were computed between the engagement scores and each learning environment item. A correlation coefficient is a measure of how strongly two items are related to each other. The value can range from -1.0 to 0 to +1.0. The closer to 1.0, the stronger the relationship.

Based on the combination of ratings and correlation with engagement, the areas were classified as high vs. low in ratings and high vs. low in relation to engagement (see table below). Those areas that were rated low, but had a strong correlation with engagement (red), should receive primary focus. The secondary areas are those that had high ratings and a strong correlation with engagement (yellow).
Where Should Efforts be Focused to Improve Student Engagement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Focus</td>
<td>These areas are highly related to Engagement, but were rated low. These items offer best opportunity for improving engagement.</td>
<td>Improvement in these areas may help with the overall work environment, but would have little impact on engagement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Focus</td>
<td>These areas are highly related to Engagement, and were rated favorably. Emphasis on these items may help improve engagement among some teachers.</td>
<td>District is performing well in these areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where Should Efforts be Focused to Improve Student Engagement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Relation To Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.85</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.27</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.19</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.09</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.11</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The teachers talk about interesting subjects in my classes. 3.82 0.6
My homework and other assignments are interesting to me. 3.37 0.59
My teachers spend enough time with me to help me do well. 3.85 0.55
I look forward to seeing what we will do in class each day. 3.71 0.58
The activities we do in class are fun and exciting. 3.55 0.55
The teachers make sure I am safe at school. 4.17 0.63
My classes are preparing me to do well in the next grade or after graduation. 4.42 0.59
My classes are teaching me skills that I need to be successful in life outside of school. 4.27 0.56
My teachers help me when I have difficulty in school. 4.08 0.57
I participate in class discussions and other activities. 4.07 0.5
The activities we do in class help me to learn. 4.19 0.59
I feel like I belong at this school. 4.09 0.56
My teachers care about how I am doing. 4.11 0.57

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relation To Engagement</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Primary Focus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Secondary Focus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where Should Efforts be Focused to Improve Staff Engagement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Relation To Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other students treat me with kindness and respect.</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I often study or do assignments with friends at school.</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My assignments are not too difficult for me.</td>
<td>3.59</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I participate in extracurricular activities like sports and clubs.</td>
<td>3.82</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am interested in the extracurricular activities that this school offers.</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rules at school are fair.</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have a lot in common with other students at this school.</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff at school know me by name.</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I go to school so I can get a good job.</td>
<td>4.63</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to graduate high school so that I can go to college.</td>
<td>4.78</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I attend school activities with friends.</td>
<td>4.08</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have to work hard to do well on my assignments.</td>
<td>4.37</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rules at school are expected to be followed by all students.</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relation To Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Focus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rating To Engagement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Engagement Drivers

1. I am proud to go to this school.
   - Strongly Agree: 51%
   - Agree: 34%
   - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 8%
   - Disagree: 2%
   - Strongly Disagree: 2%

2. I have good friends at school.
   - Strongly Agree: 63%
   - Agree: 31%
   - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 4%
   - Disagree: 1%
   - Strongly Disagree: 1%

3. I feel safe at school.
   - Strongly Agree: 37%
   - Agree: 42%
   - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 14%
   - Disagree: 3%
   - Strongly Disagree: 2%

4. I feel that my schoolwork is important.
   - Strongly Agree: 52%
   - Agree: 37%
   - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 7%
   - Disagree: 1%
   - Strongly Disagree: 1%
Engagement Drivers

- I am praised for doing good work at school.
  - Strongly Agree: 30%
  - Agree: 42%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 17%
  - Disagree: 5%
  - Strongly Disagree: 3%

- I am interested in what I am learning in school.
  - Strongly Agree: 29%
  - Agree: 44%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 18%
  - Disagree: 5%
  - Strongly Disagree: 2%

- My teachers believe that I can do well in school.
  - Strongly Agree: 52%
  - Agree: 34%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 8%
  - Disagree: 2%
  - Strongly Disagree: 1%

- I try to do my best in school every day.
  - Strongly Agree: 53%
  - Agree: 36%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 8%
  - Disagree: 1%
  - Strongly Disagree: 1%
Engagement Drivers

Other students treat me with kindness and respect.

- Strongly Agree: 20%
- Agree: 46%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 22%
- Disagree: 7%
- Strongly Disagree: 4%
- Don't Know: 2%

The teachers make sure I am safe at school.

- Strongly Agree: 40%
- Agree: 39%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 13%
- Disagree: 3%
- Strongly Disagree: 2%
- Don't Know: 3%

I go to school so I can get a good job.

- Strongly Agree: 69%
- Agree: 25%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 4%
- Disagree: 1%
- Strongly Disagree: 1%
- Don't Know: 1%

I want to graduate high school so that I can go to college.

- Strongly Agree: 82%
- Agree: 14%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 2%
- Disagree: 1%
- Strongly Disagree: 1%
- Don't Know: 1%

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't Know
Engagement Drivers

I attend school activities with friends.

- Strongly Agree: 39%
- Agree: 39%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 11%
- Disagree: 7%
- Strongly Disagree: 2%
- Don't Know: 2%

I often study or do assignments with friends at school.

- Strongly Agree: 23%
- Agree: 43%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 18%
- Disagree: 11%
- Strongly Disagree: 4%
- Don't Know: 2%

The teachers talk about interesting subjects in my classes.

- Strongly Agree: 24%
- Agree: 45%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 21%
- Disagree: 6%
- Strongly Disagree: 3%
- Don't Know: 2%

My homework and other assignments are interesting to me.

- Strongly Agree: 13%
- Agree: 35%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 28%
- Disagree: 14%
- Strongly Disagree: 6%
- Don't Know: 3%
Engagement Drivers

- My classes are preparing me to do well in the next grade or after graduation.
  - Strongly Agree: 51%
  - Agree: 40%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 6%
  - Disagree: 1%
  - Strongly Disagree: 1%
  - Don't Know: 2%

- My classes are teaching me skills that I need to be successful in life outside of school.
  - Strongly Agree: 47%
  - Agree: 37%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 10%
  - Disagree: 3%
  - Strongly Disagree: 2%
  - Don't Know: 2%

- I have to work hard to do well on my assignments.
  - Strongly Agree: 51%
  - Agree: 39%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 7%
  - Disagree: 2%
  - Strongly Disagree: 1%
  - Don't Know: 1%

- My assignments are not too difficult for me.
  - Strongly Agree: 17%
  - Agree: 40%
  - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 27%
  - Disagree: 9%
  - Strongly Disagree: 4%
  - Don't Know: 2%
Engagement Drivers

1. I participate in extra-curricular activities like sports and clubs.
   - Strongly Agree: 40%
   - Agree: 26%
   - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 10%
   - Disagree: 16%
   - Strongly Disagree: 6%
   - Don't Know: 2%

2. I am interested in the extracurricular activities that this school offers.
   - Strongly Agree: 33%
   - Agree: 33%
   - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 17%
   - Disagree: 9%
   - Strongly Disagree: 4%
   - Don't Know: 4%

3. My teachers spend enough time with me to help me do well.
   - Strongly Agree: 26%
   - Agree: 44%
   - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 19%
   - Disagree: 7%
   - Strongly Disagree: 3%
   - Don't Know: 2%

4. My teachers help me when I have difficulty in school.
   - Strongly Agree: 35%
   - Agree: 45%
   - Neither Agree nor Disagree: 13%
   - Disagree: 4%
   - Strongly Disagree: 2%
   - Don't Know: 1%
Engagement Drivers

I participate in class discussions and other activities.
- Strongly Agree: 32%
- Agree: 49%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 12%
- Disagree: 4%
- Strongly Disagree: 2%

The activities we do in class help me to learn.
- Strongly Agree: 39%
- Agree: 45%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 12%
- Disagree: 3%
- Strongly Disagree: 1%

I look forward to seeing what we will do in class each day.
- Strongly Agree: 21%
- Agree: 33%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 29%
- Disagree: 10%
- Strongly Disagree: 5%

The activities we do in class are fun and exciting.
- Strongly Agree: 24%
- Agree: 37%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 18%
- Disagree: 11%
- Strongly Disagree: 8%

The rules at school are fair.
- Strongly Agree: 24%
- Agree: 37%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 18%
- Disagree: 11%
- Strongly Disagree: 8%

Legend:
- Green: Strongly Agree
- Blue: Agree
- Dark Blue: Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Orange: Disagree
- Red: Strongly Disagree
- Grey: Don't Know
The rules at school are expected to be followed by all students.

- Strongly Agree: 46%
- Agree: 36%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 8%
- Disagree: 4%
- Strongly Disagree: 3%
- Don't Know: 2%

I feel like I belong at this school.

- Strongly Agree: 40%
- Agree: 37%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 12%
- Disagree: 4%
- Strongly Disagree: 4%
- Don't Know: 3%

I have a lot in common with other students at this school.

- Strongly Agree: 32%
- Agree: 40%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 14%
- Disagree: 6%
- Strongly Disagree: 4%
- Don't Know: 4%

My teachers care about how I am doing.

- Strongly Agree: 38%
- Agree: 40%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 13%
- Disagree: 3%
- Strongly Disagree: 2%
- Don't Know: 4%

Staff at school know me by name.

- Strongly Agree: 27%
- Agree: 33%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 18%
- Disagree: 8%
- Strongly Disagree: 5%
- Don't Know: 9%
Have you considered dropping out of school?

A small percentage of survey takers responded positively to whether or not they have considered dropping out of school. Of those who scored as “Not Engaged,” 29% responded that they have considered dropping out.
Satisfaction With School Experience

More than 90% of students who took the survey are Very Satisfied or Satisfied with their school experience. Of those who scored as Not Engaged, 50% are Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied with their school experience.

(n=3,238)
Participation by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

- Asian: 5%
- African American: 1%
- Hispanic or Latino: 3%
- Multi-racial: 0.3%
- Native American: 18%
- Pacific Islander: 6%
- White: 63%
- Other: 4%

- Male: 49%
- Female: 51%
Participation by School

- Sierra Middle School: 22%
- Vista Middle School: 18%
- Camino Real Middle School: 16%
- Lynn Middle School: 15%
- Mesa Middle School: 13%
- Mayfield High School: 9%
- Centennial High School: 4%
- White Sands Middle School: 3%
- Oñate High School: 0%
- Las Cruces High School: 0%
- Picacho Middle School: 0%
- San Andres High School: 0%
- Zia Middle School: 0%
- Arrowhead Early College High School: 0%
Themes from Open-Ended Responses

Please share any additional comments you may have about your school.

Comments

A number of students noted that they felt like they belonged in school and that they were happy at their schools.

Students felt like the students were nice and there was not a lot of bullying going on.

A handful of students did feel like they were picked on or embarrassed by teachers and students when they gave the wrong answer in class, and one child noted that “teachers try to publicly reward smart kids and this makes others resentful.”

A few students noted that kids gang up on other kids and say rude things to each other.

A few students noted that they should have a better lunch menu and longer lunch time.
**Themes from Open-Ended Responses**

Please share any additional comments you may have about your school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A handful of students requested specific classes to be offered at the school, while others noted the small number of electives offered as compared to other schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A number of students mentioned that teachers are kind and understanding and help students when they do not understand something.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A number of students said that teachers and friends make them feel better when they are sad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fair number of students reported feeling safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many projects was a theme recorded by a number of students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>