2014-2015

# CONNECTICUT SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT SURVEY

DATA BRIEF

Bolton Nexus District

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## INTRODUCTION

The Connecticut Special Education Parent Survey is the continuation of an ongoing collaborative effort between the Bureau of Special Education and the Connecticut Parent Work Group to collect information on family satisfaction and parents' involvement in their child's special education program.[1] The 2014-15 survey was sent to 18,634 parents of children receiving special education services, ages 3 through 21, across 56 school districts.[2] A total of 3,965 surveys were returned, representing a response rate of 21.3%. The survey is in its tenth year, with the 2014-15 school year marking the first year of a new three-year survey cohort cycle. The survey continues to serve as the chief instrument for collecting parent involvement data for Indicator 8 of the state's IDEA Part B State Performance Plan (SPP).[3]

## PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide survey results for the Bolton Nexus District in an easy-to-use format.[4] The intent is to highlight potential areas of strength for your district and areas that may need improvement. Your district's survey results, especially when used in conjunction with other data at your disposal, can provide insightful information for use in decision-making and improvement planning. A few tips for reviewing your survey data include the following:

- Use the survey delivery and response statistics to set the context of your data.
- Review the "total agreement" by survey item to get a general sense of how well your district is doing in each of the six topic areas of the survey.
- Contrast "total agreement" with "high-level agreement" in order to identify survey items where the total percentage may include a sizable lukewarm response (i.e., slightly agree).
- Examine parents' comments for areas of satisfaction, areas of concern, and suggested improvement steps.
- Consider how your district's results compare to the overall statewide results.

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[1] The Parent Work Group is a statewide stakeholder group that examines parent involvement data as an indicator of parent satisfaction for annual reporting to the Office of Special Education Programs.

[2] In the majority (n=45) of districts, surveys were sent to all parents of children receiving services. However, in 11 districts, a simple random sample of students was selected. (See Appendix B.1 for more information.)

[3] SPP Indicator 8 measures the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities. Survey item 10 is the primary measure for this indicator.

[4] The 2014-15 Connecticut Special Education Parent Survey Statewide Report will be available on the Department website in early 2016.

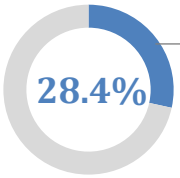
## SECTION I: SURVEY DELIVERY AND RESPONSE

In August 2015, the 2014-15 Connecticut Special Education Parent Survey was distributed to parents of children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Services Plan. Parents were mailed a survey packet, with some parents also receiving an email about the survey. All materials were available in English and Spanish, and the survey could be completed on paper or online. The survey deadline was September 18, 2015. The following graphics provide survey delivery and response statistics for the Bolton Nexus District.

### DELIVERY METHOD

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mail | 95 | Mail Non-Deliverable Rate | 4.2% (n=4) |
| Email | 96.8% (n=92) | Email Non-Deliverable Rate | 21.7% (n=20) |

### RESPONSE RATE

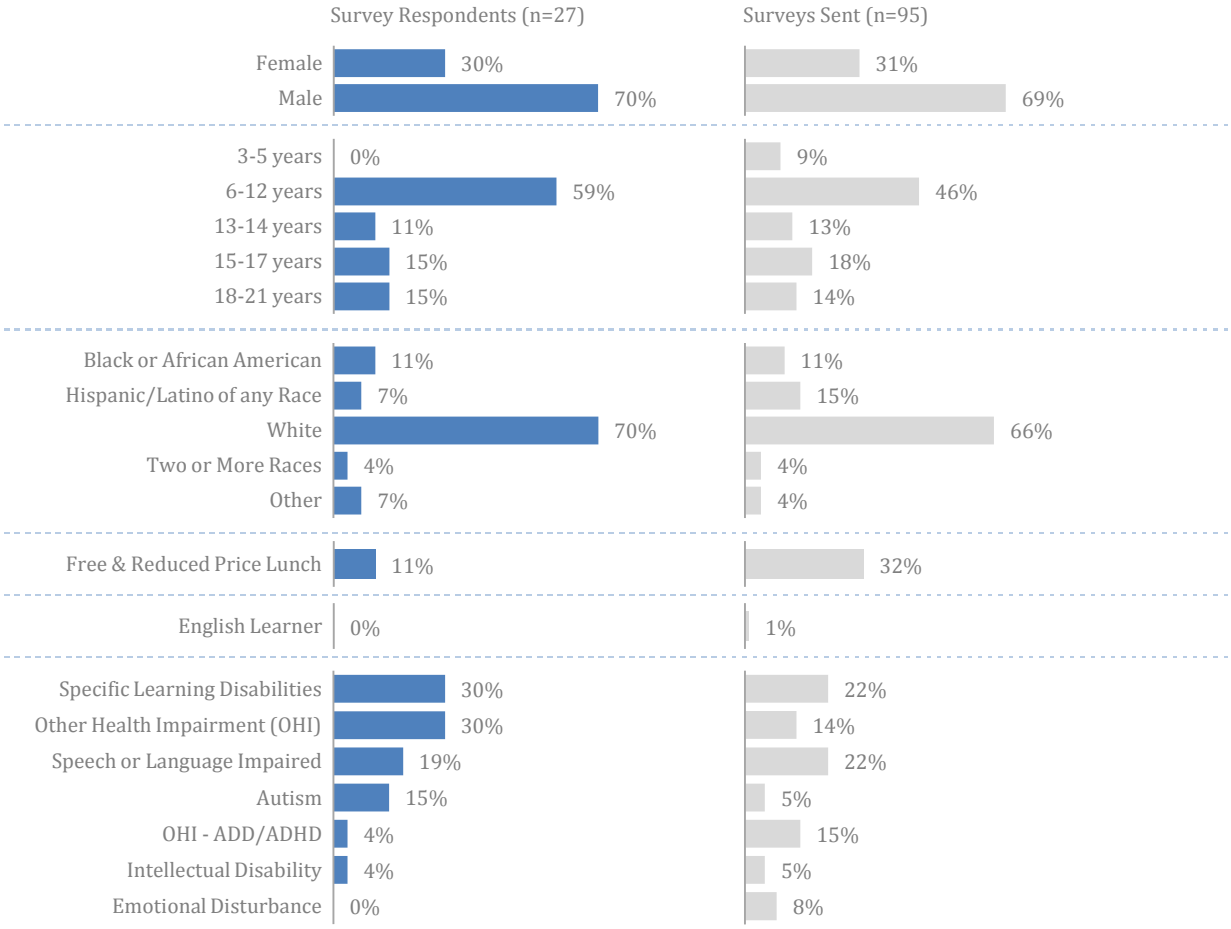



27 completed

66.7% Online

33.3% Paper

### CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS




Note: The disabilities displayed are those that are 5% or greater in the survey respondent group or the survey sent group.

## SECTION II: SURVEY RESULTS

The 2014-15 survey included 38 items that asked parents to rate on a 6-point scale from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree" their experiences with their child's special education program over the past 12 months.[5] The following tables include bar charts that illustrate parents' "high level of agreement" (i.e., strongly agree and moderately agree), as well as a column with the percentage to express "total agreement" (i.e., plus slightly agree). Only the agreement response options are included to allow for a quick visual comparison across survey items; however, all response options for the Bolton Nexus District are included in Appendix A.1.

| | HIGH LEVEL OF AGREEMENT | | TOTAL AGREEMENT |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Satisfaction with My Child's Program* | | | |
| 1. I am satisfied with my child's overall special education program. [n=27] | 44.4% | 74.1% | 77.8% |
| 2. I have the opportunity to talk to my child's teachers on a regular basis to discuss my questions and concerns. [n=27] | 63.0% | 81.5% | 85.2% |
| 3. My child is accepted within the school community. [n=27] | 63.0% | 74.1% | 81.5% |
| 4. My child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is meeting his or her educational needs. [n=27] | 48.1% | 70.4% | 74.1% |
| 5. All special education services identified in my child's IEP have been provided. [n=27] | 63.0% | 77.8% | 85.2% |
| 6. Staff is appropriately trained and able to provide my child's specific program and services. [n=27] | 59.3% | 81.5% | 81.5% |
| 7. Special education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP. [n=27] | 59.3% | 81.5% | 88.9% |
| 8. General education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP. [n=26] | 57.7% | 73.1% | 80.8% |
| 9. General education and special education teachers work together to assure that my child's IEP is being implemented. [n=26] | 61.5% | 69.2% | 73.1% |
| *Participation in My Child's Program* | | | |
| 10. In my child's school, administrators and teachers encourage parent involvement in order to improve services and results for children with disabilities. [n=27] | 51.9% | 63.0% | 81.5% |
| 11. At meetings to develop my child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), I feel encouraged to give input and express my concerns. [n=27] | 59.3% | 70.4% | 77.8% |
| 12. I understand what is discussed at meetings to develop my child's IEP. [n=27] | 55.6% | 85.2% | 96.3% |
| 13. My concerns and recommendations are documented in the development of my child's IEP. [n=27] | 51.9% | 66.7% | 77.8% |

KEY: ■ Strongly Agree ▨ Moderately Agree

[5] Parents were given the option of selecting "don't know" on 11 survey items (4-9, 21, 25, 28, 29 and 34). This should be considered when comparing agreement levels across items.

| | HIGH LEVEL OF AGREEMENT | TOTAL AGREEMENT |
|---|---|---|
| ***Participation in My Child's Program (Continued)*** | | |
| 14. My child's evaluation report is written in terms I understand. [n=26] | 38.5% / 73.1% | 84.6% |
| 15. Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for my child have been scheduled at times and places that met my needs. [n=27] | 51.9% / 74.1% | 85.2% |
| 16. At my child's PPT, the school district proposed programs and services to meet my child's individual needs. [n=27] | 51.9% / 70.4% | 74.1% |
| 17. When we implement my child's IEP, I am encouraged to be an equal partner with my child's teachers and other service providers. [n=27] | 63.0% / 77.8% | 81.5% |
| 18. I have received a copy of my child's IEP within 10 school days after the PPT. [n=26] | 65.4% / 84.6% | 92.3% |
| 19. If necessary, a translator was provided at the PPT meetings. [n=21] | 52.4% / 61.9% | 76.2% |
| 20. The translation services provided at the PPT meetings were useful and accurate. [n=21] | 47.6% / 61.9% | 76.2% |
| 21. The school district proposed the regular classroom for my child as the first placement option. [n=26] | 38.5% / 57.7% | 57.7% |
| ***My Child's Participation*** | | |
| 22. My child has been sent home from school, but not suspended, due to behavioral difficulties. [n=26] | 7.7% | 7.7% |
| 23. My child has the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored activities such as field trips, assemblies and social events (dances, sports events). [n=27] | 70.4% / 85.2% | 85.2% |
| 24. My child has the opportunity to participate in extracurricular school activities such as sports or clubs with children without disabilities. [n=27] | 55.6% / 74.1% | 77.8% |
| 25. My child's school provides supports, such as extra staff, that are necessary for my child to participate in extracurricular school activities (for example, clubs and sports). [n=26] | 34.6% / 53.8% | 65.4% |
| ***Parent Training and Support*** | | |
| 26. In the past year, I have attended parent training or information sessions (provided by my district, other districts, or agencies) that addressed the needs of parents and of children with disabilities. [n=27] | 14.8% | 18.5% |
| 27. I am involved in a support network for parents of students with disabilities available through my school district or other sources. [n=27] | 14.8% | 18.5% |
| 28. There are opportunities for parent training or information sessions regarding special education provided by my child's school district. [n=25] | 24.0% | 24.0% |
| 29. A support network for parents of students with disabilities is available to me through my school district or other sources. [n=26] | 26.9% | 30.8% |

KEY: ■ Strongly Agree ▨ Moderately Agree

| | HIGH LEVEL OF AGREEMENT | TOTAL AGREEMENT |
|---|---|---|
| ***My Child's Skills*** | | |
| 30. My child is learning skills that will enable him/her to be as independent as possible. [n=26] | 46.2% / 69.2% | 76.9% |
| 31. My child is learning skills that will lead to a high school diploma, further education, or a job. [n=27] | 40.7% / 74.1% | 85.2% |
| ***Transition Planning*** | | |
| 32. I am satisfied with the school district's transition activities that took place when my child left Birth to Three. [n=1] | 100.0% / 100.0% | 100.0% |
| 33. I am satisfied with the way secondary transition services were implemented for my child. [n=9] | 44.4% | 55.6% |
| 34. When appropriate, outside agencies have been invited to participate in secondary transition planning. [n=9] | 22.2% | 22.2% |
| 35. The PPT introduced planning for my child's transition to adulthood. [n=9] | 33.3% | 44.4% |
| 36. The school district actively encourages my child to attend and participate in PPT meetings. [n=10] | 20.0% / 50.0% | 80.0% |
| 37. The PPT discussed an appropriate course of study at the high school for my child. [n=10] | 30.0% / 50.0% | 70.0% |
| 38. The PPT developed individualized goals for my child related to employment/postsecondary education, independent living and community participation, if appropriate. [n=9] | 33.3% | 44.4% |

Note: Respondents were instructed only to answer item 32 if their child had transitioned from the Birth to Three System to Preschool within the past three years, and only to answer items 33-38 if their child was 15 years of age or older at their last PPT meeting.

Due to limited space on the bar graphs, the data label for "strongly agree" is not included if it is less than 15%.

KEY: Strongly Agree Moderately Agree

## SECTION III: PARENT COMMENTS

An open-ended section at the end of the survey asked parents to comment on their overall experience with their child's special education program. Of the 27 surveys completed by parents in the Bolton Nexus District, 55.6% (n=15) included written comments. The comments were classified according to a 4-point rubric: "1" if the comment conveyed complete dissatisfaction; "2" if mostly dissatisfied; "3" if mostly satisfied; and "4" if the comment conveyed complete satisfaction. The breakout along the 4-point rubric is provided below, followed by examples of parents' feedback.[6]

**RESPONDENTS' COMMENTS PER 4-POINT SATISFACTION RUBRIC**

### COMMENTS EXPRESSING SATISFACTION

- *The school encourages acceptance and respect. I feel that my child is gaining a wonderful education in an encouraging and accepting environment. His self-confidence and independence has certainly been very positively impacted due to the school system. As parents, we feel very blessed to be part of such an embracing community.*
- *Bolton Center School has been wonderful in helping our daughter get through middle school. Overall, she has been able to keep up with kids in the school.*
- *The Bolton District has been wonderful in working with my child and getting him the services he needs to be successful. They are positive and have a lot of patience to work with him, and they are a great support to me and my husband.*
- *The school staff and teachers have been great with my family. They are open and include us in every decision. I love Bolton Center.*

### COMMENTS EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION

- *They never allow time for parents to speak, discuss their concerns, or add input. Parents are not equal members of the team. Parents are expected to sit at a PPT and listen to each staff give a report and recommendations. Because staff put forth a recommendation, it is expected that the parents will simply agree. To this day the district refuses to accept my child's diagnosis thus they cannot make a plan that is appropriate for our child. The school bullies parents when they attempt to advocate for their children. We are very concerned for our child's future. We are watching our child fall further and further behind his peers.*
- *At every single request they tell parents no. All parents, not just me – unless parents are knowledgeable enough about the law to challenge them. I know they have threatened parents with taking them to due process over their requests so that parents withdraw their requests out of fear of the cost of due process. We are willing to do whatever it takes for our son, but many other parents do not have the monetary means to challenge the director and she knows that and takes advantage of it. All special education students are paying a very steep price.*
- *This district hinders the special education process every way possible. They bully families trying to exercise their rights. Yes, I can file a complaint but I am trying to keep my family afloat and do not have time for mountains of paperwork. Even scheduling meetings becomes a ridiculous game.*
- *My child has been a target for bullies. The school has not contacted the parents of the bully. When reports are made, the school turns on the victim. My child is now scared to report.*
- *There is a great deal of bullying that goes on. The staff make no attempts to foster relationships with typical peers.*

[6] Comments are reported verbatim with the following exceptions: 1) comments received in Spanish were translated; 2) silent corrections were made to improve readability; and 3) all identifying information was removed to maintain respondent confidentiality. In some cases, multiple excerpts may have been taken from one or more respondents' comments.

# APPENDIX A | BOLTON SURVEY FINDINGS

## A.1 | SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE

## A.2 | BOX-AND-WHISKER CHARTS

## APPENDIX A.1: BOLTON SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE

| | n | DISAGREE | | | AGREE | | | Don't Know | TOTALS | | HIGH LEVEL AGREE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Strongly | Moderately | Slightly | Slightly | Moderately | Strongly | | DISAGREE | AGREE | |
| 1. I am satisfied with my child's overall special education program. | 27 | 11.1% | 7.4% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 29.6% | 44.4% | ± | 22.2% | 77.8% | 74.1% |
| 2. I have the opportunity to talk to my child's teachers on a regular basis to discuss my questions and concerns. | 27 | 0.0% | 3.7% | 11.1% | 3.7% | 18.5% | 63.0% | ± | 14.8% | 85.2% | 81.5% |
| 3. My child is accepted within the school community. | 27 | 11.1% | 7.4% | 0.0% | 7.4% | 11.1% | 63.0% | ± | 18.5% | 81.5% | 74.1% |
| 4. My child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is meeting his or her educational needs. | 27 | 11.1% | 11.1% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 22.2% | 48.1% | 0.0% | 25.9% | 74.1% | 70.4% |
| 5. All special education services identified in my child's IEP have been provided. | 27 | 3.7% | 3.7% | 7.4% | 7.4% | 14.8% | 63.0% | 0.0% | 14.8% | 85.2% | 77.8% |
| 6. Staff is appropriately trained and able to provide my child's specific program and services. | 27 | 11.1% | 0.0% | 3.7% | 0.0% | 22.2% | 59.3% | 3.7% | 14.8% | 81.5% | 81.5% |
| 7. Special education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP. | 27 | 3.7% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 7.4% | 22.2% | 59.3% | 0.0% | 11.1% | 88.9% | 81.5% |
| 8. General education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP. | 26 | 3.8% | 3.8% | 3.8% | 7.7% | 15.4% | 57.7% | 7.7% | 11.5% | 80.8% | 73.1% |
| 9. General education and special education teachers work together to assure that my child's IEP is being implemented. | 26 | 0.0% | 3.8% | 7.7% | 3.8% | 7.7% | 61.5% | 15.4% | 11.5% | 73.1% | 69.2% |
| 10. In my child's school, administrators and teachers encourage parent involvement in order to improve services and results for children with disabilities. | 27 | 11.1% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 18.5% | 11.1% | 51.9% | ± | 18.5% | 81.5% | 63.0% |
| 11. At meetings to develop my child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), I feel encouraged to give input and express my concerns. | 27 | 14.8% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 7.4% | 11.1% | 59.3% | ± | 22.2% | 77.8% | 70.4% |
| 12. I understand what is discussed at meetings to develop my child's IEP. | 27 | 3.7% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 11.1% | 29.6% | 55.6% | ± | 3.7% | 96.3% | 85.2% |
| 13. My concerns and recommendations are documented in the development of my child's IEP. | 27 | 18.5% | 3.7% | 0.0% | 11.1% | 14.8% | 51.9% | ± | 22.2% | 77.8% | 66.7% |
| 14. My child's evaluation report is written in terms I understand. | 26 | 0.0% | 3.8% | 11.5% | 11.5% | 34.6% | 38.5% | ± | 15.4% | 84.6% | 73.1% |
| 15. Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for my child have been scheduled at times and places that met my needs. | 27 | 7.4% | 0.0% | 7.4% | 11.1% | 22.2% | 51.9% | ± | 14.8% | 85.2% | 74.1% |
| 16. At my child's PPT, the school district proposed programs and services to meet my child's individual needs. | 27 | 7.4% | 7.4% | 11.1% | 3.7% | 18.5% | 51.9% | ± | 25.9% | 74.1% | 70.4% |
| 17. When we implement my child's IEP, I am encouraged to be an equal partner with my child's teachers and other service providers. | 27 | 7.4% | 3.7% | 7.4% | 3.7% | 14.8% | 63.0% | ± | 18.5% | 81.5% | 77.8% |
| 18. I have received a copy of my child's IEP within 10 school days after the PPT. | 26 | 3.8% | 0.0% | 3.8% | 7.7% | 19.2% | 65.4% | ± | 7.7% | 92.3% | 84.6% |
| 19. If necessary, a translator was provided at the PPT meetings. | 21 | 19.0% | 0.0% | 4.8% | 14.3% | 9.5% | 52.4% | ± | 23.8% | 76.2% | 61.9% |
| 20. The translation services provided at the PPT meetings were useful and accurate. | 21 | 19.0% | 0.0% | 4.8% | 14.3% | 14.3% | 47.6% | ± | 23.8% | 76.2% | 61.9% |
| 21. The school district proposed the regular classroom for my child as the first placement option. | 26 | 23.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 19.2% | 38.5% | 19.2% | 23.1% | 57.7% | 57.7% |

*Table is continued on the next page.*

## APPENDIX A.1: BOLTON SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE (CONTINUED)

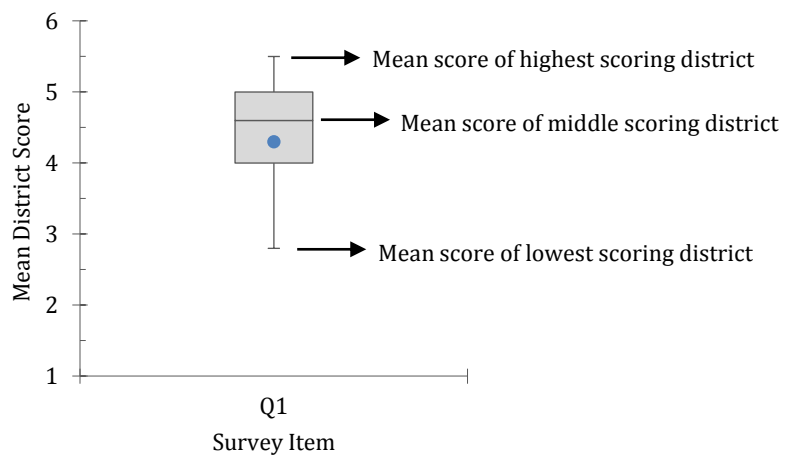
| | n | DISAGREE | | | AGREE | | | Don't Know | TOTALS | | HIGH LEVEL AGREE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Strongly | Moderately | Slightly | Slightly | Moderately | Strongly | | DISAGREE | AGREE | |
| 22. My child has been sent home from school, but not suspended, due to behavioral difficulties. | 26 | 84.6% | 3.8% | 3.8% | 0.0% | 3.8% | 3.8% | ± | 92.3% | 7.7% | 7.7% |
| 23. My child has the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored activities such as field trips, assemblies and social events (dances, sports events). | 27 | 7.4% | 7.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 14.8% | 70.4% | ± | 14.8% | 85.2% | 85.2% |
| 24. My child has the opportunity to participate in extracurricular school activities such as sports or clubs with children without disabilities. | 27 | 18.5% | 0.0% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 18.5% | 55.6% | ± | 22.2% | 77.8% | 74.1% |
| 25. My child's school provides supports, such as extra staff, that are necessary for my child to participate in extracurricular school activities (for example, clubs and sports). | 26 | 19.2% | 3.8% | 3.8% | 11.5% | 19.2% | 34.6% | 7.7% | 26.9% | 65.4% | 53.8% |
| 26. In the past year, I have attended parent training or information sessions (provided by my district, other districts, or agencies) that addressed the needs of parents and of children with disabilities. | 27 | 63.0% | 14.8% | 3.7% | 3.7% | 11.1% | 3.7% | ± | 81.5% | 18.5% | 14.8% |
| 27. I am involved in a support network for parents of students with disabilities available through my school district or other sources. | 27 | 44.4% | 14.8% | 22.2% | 3.7% | 11.1% | 3.7% | ± | 81.5% | 18.5% | 14.8% |
| 28. There are opportunities for parent training or information sessions regarding special education provided by my child's school district. | 25 | 40.0% | 4.0% | 8.0% | 0.0% | 16.0% | 8.0% | 24.0% | 52.0% | 24.0% | 24.0% |
| 29. A support network for parents of students with disabilities is available to me through my school district or other sources. | 26 | 19.2% | 7.7% | 11.5% | 3.8% | 15.4% | 11.5% | 30.8% | 38.5% | 30.8% | 26.9% |
| 30. My child is learning skills that will enable him/her to be as independent as possible. | 26 | 3.8% | 7.7% | 11.5% | 7.7% | 23.1% | 46.2% | ± | 23.1% | 76.9% | 69.2% |
| 31. My child is learning skills that will lead to a high school diploma, further education, or a job. | 27 | 7.4% | 0.0% | 7.4% | 11.1% | 33.3% | 40.7% | ± | 14.8% | 85.2% | 74.1% |
| Only complete the following question if your child has transitioned from the early intervention Birth to Three System to Preschool in the past 3 years. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32. I am satisfied with the school district's transition activities that took place when my child left Birth to Three. | 1 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% | ± | 0.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Only complete the following questions if your child was 15 years of age or older at his/her last PPT meeting. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33. I am satisfied with the way secondary transition services were implemented for my child. | 9 | 22.2% | 22.2% | 0.0% | 11.1% | 33.3% | 11.1% | ± | 44.4% | 55.6% | 44.4% |
| 34. When appropriate, outside agencies have been invited to participate in secondary transition planning. | 9 | 44.4% | 11.1% | 11.1% | 0.0% | 11.1% | 11.1% | 11.1% | 66.7% | 22.2% | 22.2% |
| 35. The PPT introduced planning for my child's transition to adulthood. | 9 | 22.2% | 22.2% | 11.1% | 11.1% | 22.2% | 11.1% | ± | 55.6% | 44.4% | 33.3% |
| 36. The school district actively encourages my child to attend and participate in PPT meetings. | 10 | 10.0% | 10.0% | 0.0% | 30.0% | 30.0% | 20.0% | ± | 20.0% | 80.0% | 50.0% |
| 37. The PPT discussed an appropriate course of study at the high school for my child. | 10 | 30.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 20.0% | 20.0% | 30.0% | ± | 30.0% | 70.0% | 50.0% |
| 38. The PPT developed individualized goals for my child related to employment/postsecondary education, independent living and community participation, if appropriate. | 9 | 55.6% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 11.1% | 22.2% | 11.1% | ± | 55.6% | 44.4% | 33.3% |

Note: High level agree = "moderately agree" + "strongly agree."
± Not a response option for this survey item.

## APPENDIX A.2: BOLTON BOX-AND-WHISKER CHARTS

The following box-and-whisker charts provide a visual snapshot (by survey item) of your district's mean score relative to the mean score of all other districts participating in the survey.[7] The mean district score represents the average parent response scaled from 1="strongly disagree" to 6="strongly agree."[8] An illustration of how to interpret your box-and-whisker charts is provided in the following diagram. A box for each survey item contains the middle 50% of districts and the median (middle) district score is represented by a black line within the box.[9] The "whiskers" on the box represent the minimum and maximum mean scores across all districts and your individual district is represented by a round dot (•). Thus, if your mean district score was inside the box, it would be considered an average rating; if your mean district score was in the lower "whisker," it would be considered a below average rating; and if your mean district score was in the upper "whisker," it would be considered an above average rating. Mean district scores were not calculated when five or fewer respondents in the district answered an item. If this was true of your district, a round dot (•) will be missing for those items.[10]

### How to Interpret Your Box-and-Whisker Chart




Contains the middle 50% of mean district scores on Question 1.

• Represents the mean score for your district on Question 1.

Result: The mean score for your district is below the mean score of the "middle" scoring district but is within the middle 50% of all mean district scores for this question.

Note: The mean district score represents the average response scaled from 1="strongly disagree" to 6="strongly agree."

[7] Survey responses from 11 districts were excluded due to the CSDE standard (n=20) for confidential reporting of district-level data.

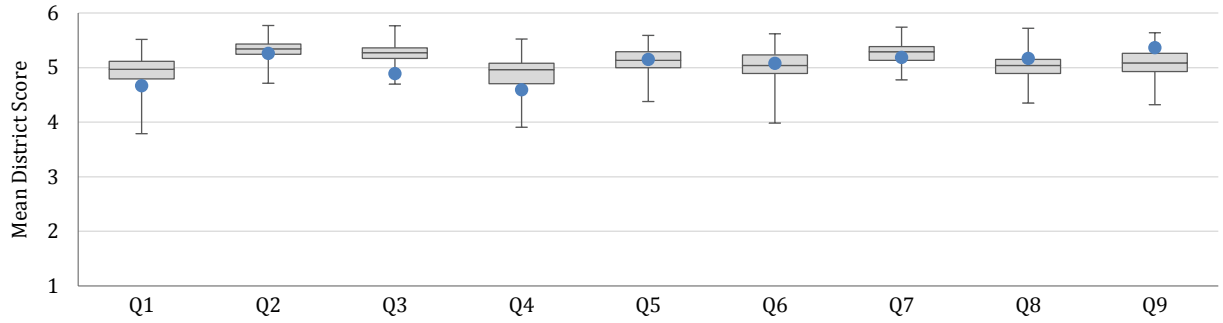
[8] The response option of "don't know" was not included in the calculation of the mean score, as there is no intuitive ordering for this response.

[9] Survey item 22 is negatively keyed (i.e., strongly agree is equivalent to a high level of dissatisfaction); therefore, this item was excluded from the analysis to maintain a consistent interpretation of mean scores.

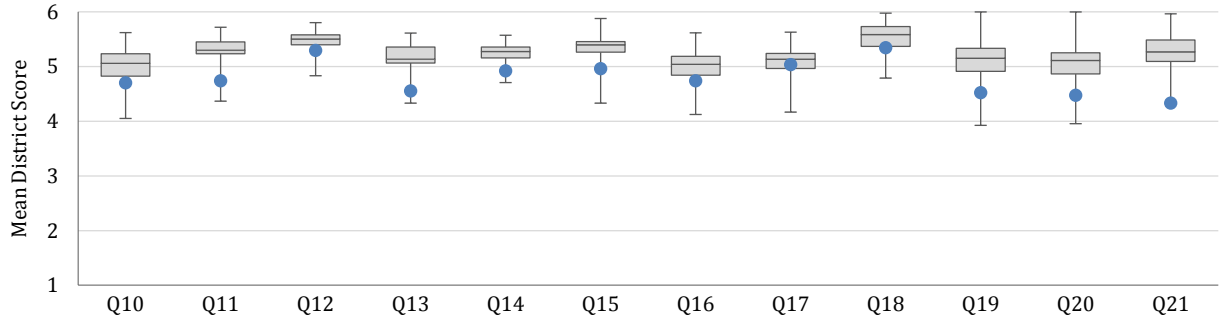
[10] A substantial number of districts had five or fewer respondents on the transition planning items. As a result, 15 districts were excluded from calculations for survey item 32 and seven districts were excluded from calculations for survey items 33-38.

## APPENDIX A.2: BOLTON BOX-AND-WHISKER CHARTS (CONTINUED)

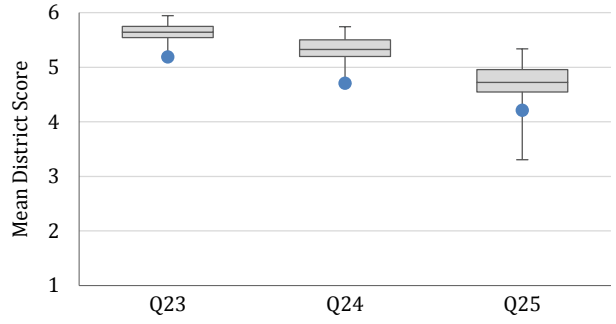
### SATISFACTION WITH MY CHILD'S PROGRAM



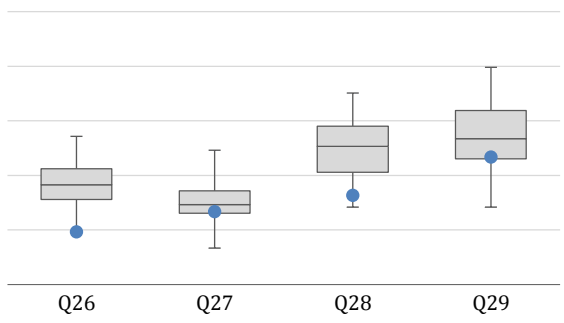

### PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING MY CHILD'S PROGRAM



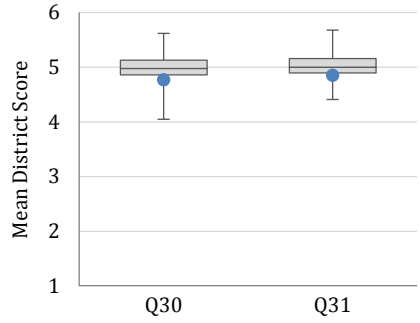

### MY CHILD'S PARTICIPATION



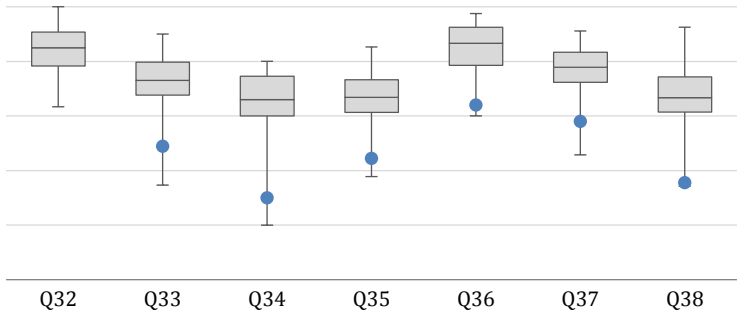

### PARENT TRAINING AND SUPPORT




### MY CHILD'S SKILLS




### TRANSITION PLANNING



# APPENDIX B | STATEWIDE RESULTS

## B.1 | RESPONSE RATE BY DISTRICT

## B.2 | STATEWIDE SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE

## APPENDIX B.1: RESPONSE RATE BY DISTRICT

| Nexus District | Surveys Sent | Surveys Received | Response Rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eastford | 27 | 16 | 59.3% |
| Rocky Hill | 272 | 103 | 37.9% |
| Region 15 | 538 | 203 | 37.7% |
| Region 13 | 286 | 106 | 37.1% |
| Marlborough | 56 | 19 | 33.9% |
| New Hartford | 59 | 20 | 33.9% |
| Sherman | 74 | 24 | 32.4% |
| Litchfield | 123 | 39 | 31.7% |
| New Canaan | 417 | 127 | 30.5% |
| Region 8 | 222 | 67 | 30.2% |
| Southington* | 627 | 189 | 30.1% |
| Sterling | 80 | 24 | 30.0% |
| Newtown | 471 | 140 | 29.7% |
| Barkhamsted | 45 | 13 | 28.9% |
| Simsbury | 612 | 175 | 28.6% |
| Bolton | 95 | 27 | 28.4% |
| West Hartford* | 821 | 231 | 28.1% |
| Region 14 | 180 | 50 | 27.8% |
| Hebron | 126 | 34 | 27.0% |
| Bozrah | 38 | 10 | 26.3% |
| East Haddam | 179 | 47 | 26.3% |
| Wallingford* | 568 | 146 | 25.7% |
| Glastonbury* | 508 | 130 | 25.6% |
| New Fairfield | 261 | 66 | 25.3% |
| Region 16 | 340 | 86 | 25.3% |
| Granby | 218 | 55 | 25.2% |
| Region 18 | 184 | 46 | 25.0% |
| Thomaston | 157 | 39 | 24.8% |
| Wethersfield | 568 | 138 | 24.3% |

| Nexus District | Surveys Sent | Surveys Received | Response Rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| Region 17 | 340 | 80 | 23.5% |
| East Lyme | 366 | 85 | 23.2% |
| Bethel | 338 | 78 | 23.1% |
| East Windsor | 231 | 48 | 20.8% |
| Region 7 | 116 | 23 | 19.8% |
| Madison | 384 | 74 | 19.3% |
| Andover | 21 | 4 | 19.0% |
| Naugatuck* | 530 | 96 | 18.1% |
| Stamford* | 1,044 | 189 | 18.1% |
| Windsor | 633 | 113 | 17.9% |
| Preston | 113 | 18 | 15.9% |
| Plymouth | 253 | 40 | 15.8% |
| Meriden* | 950 | 143 | 15.1% |
| East Hampton | 178 | 26 | 14.6% |
| Norfolk | 21 | 3 | 14.3% |
| Montville | 336 | 46 | 13.7% |
| Cromwell | 242 | 33 | 13.6% |
| Enfield* | 613 | 79 | 12.9% |
| West Haven* | 736 | 95 | 12.9% |
| Putnam | 196 | 25 | 12.8% |
| Colebrook | 24 | 3 | 12.5% |
| Plainfield | 308 | 37 | 12.0% |
| Norwich* | 694 | 78 | 11.2% |
| Voluntown | 65 | 7 | 10.8% |
| Hartford* | 1,481 | 152 | 10.3% |
| USD 1 | 184 | 18 | 9.8% |
| USD 2 | 85 | 2 | 2.4% |
| **Total** | **18,634** | **3,965** | **21.3%** |

Note: Districts are sorted in descending order based on their response rate.
A (*) indicates that in this district, a simple random sample of parents of children with an IEP or Services Plan were selected to receive the survey. A confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 2% were used to determine the sample size.

## APPENDIX B.2: STATEWIDE SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE

| | n | DISAGREE | | | AGREE | | | Don't Know | TOTALS | | HIGH LEVEL AGREE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Strongly | Moderately | Slightly | Slightly | Moderately | Strongly | | DISAGREE | AGREE | |
| 1. I am satisfied with my child's overall special education program. | 3,928 | 5.8% | 3.6% | 3.1% | 9.3% | 32.6% | 45.6% | ± | 12.5% | 87.5% | 78.2% |
| 2. I have the opportunity to talk to my child's teachers on a regular basis to discuss my questions and concerns. | 3,921 | 2.2% | 1.9% | 2.7% | 8.9% | 24.6% | 59.8% | ± | 6.7% | 93.3% | 84.4% |
| 3. My child is accepted within the school community. | 3,908 | 2.5% | 2.5% | 3.3% | 8.0% | 23.8% | 60.0% | ± | 8.3% | 91.7% | 83.8% |
| 4. My child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is meeting his or her educational needs. | 3,948 | 5.9% | 4.0% | 4.1% | 10.4% | 30.3% | 44.8% | 0.6% | 13.9% | 85.5% | 75.1% |
| 5. All special education services identified in my child's IEP have been provided. | 3,904 | 4.1% | 3.4% | 3.6% | 8.0% | 26.2% | 53.2% | 1.5% | 11.1% | 87.4% | 79.4% |
| 6. Staff is appropriately trained and able to provide my child's specific program and services. | 3,902 | 4.9% | 3.6% | 3.6% | 8.6% | 25.1% | 52.1% | 2.1% | 12.1% | 85.8% | 77.2% |
| 7. Special education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP. | 3,895 | 2.5% | 2.4% | 2.6% | 8.1% | 23.3% | 58.5% | 2.5% | 7.6% | 89.9% | 81.8% |
| 8. General education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP. | 3,865 | 4.0% | 3.3% | 4.2% | 11.8% | 24.6% | 46.8% | 5.2% | 11.6% | 83.2% | 71.4% |
| 9. General education and special education teachers work together to assure that my child's IEP is being implemented. | 3,864 | 3.6% | 3.2% | 3.8% | 10.9% | 23.5% | 50.1% | 4.9% | 10.6% | 84.5% | 73.6% |
| 10. In my child's school, administrators and teachers encourage parent involvement in order to improve services and results for children with disabilities. | 3,940 | 4.5% | 2.9% | 4.5% | 13.3% | 23.5% | 51.3% | ± | 11.9% | 88.1% | 74.8% |
| 11. At meetings to develop my child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), I feel encouraged to give input and express my concerns. | 3,920 | 3.1% | 2.7% | 2.8% | 7.4% | 19.3% | 64.8% | ± | 8.5% | 91.5% | 84.1% |
| 12. I understand what is discussed at meetings to develop my child's IEP. | 3,914 | 1.3% | 1.1% | 2.3% | 5.7% | 22.8% | 66.8% | ± | 4.6% | 95.4% | 89.6% |
| 13. My concerns and recommendations are documented in the development of my child's IEP. | 3,892 | 3.7% | 2.7% | 3.6% | 8.5% | 24.0% | 57.5% | ± | 10.0% | 90.0% | 81.5% |
| 14. My child's evaluation report is written in terms I understand. | 3,892 | 2.2% | 2.4% | 3.3% | 9.6% | 25.8% | 56.7% | ± | 7.9% | 92.1% | 82.5% |
| 15. Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for my child have been scheduled at times and places that met my needs. | 3,913 | 2.4% | 2.0% | 3.3% | 6.6% | 20.8% | 64.9% | ± | 7.8% | 92.2% | 85.7% |
| 16. At my child's PPT, the school district proposed programs and services to meet my child's individual needs. | 3,935 | 4.3% | 4.1% | 4.3% | 11.4% | 25.8% | 50.2% | ± | 12.6% | 87.4% | 76.0% |
| 17. When we implement my child's IEP, I am encouraged to be an equal partner with my child's teachers and other service providers. | 3,901 | 3.5% | 3.0% | 4.6% | 10.9% | 23.4% | 54.6% | ± | 11.2% | 88.8% | 77.9% |
| 18. I have received a copy of my child's IEP within 10 school days after the PPT. | 3,897 | 2.3% | 1.5% | 1.8% | 4.1% | 14.0% | 76.3% | ± | 5.6% | 94.4% | 90.3% |
| 19. If necessary, a translator was provided at the PPT meetings. | 2,339 | 10.2% | 0.8% | 2.0% | 7.8% | 12.6% | 66.6% | ± | 13.0% | 87.0% | 79.2% |
| 20. The translation services provided at the PPT meetings were useful and accurate. | 2,192 | 10.8% | 0.8% | 2.3% | 8.9% | 14.6% | 62.6% | ± | 13.8% | 86.2% | 77.2% |
| 21. The school district proposed the regular classroom for my child as the first placement option. | 3,830 | 5.6% | 2.0% | 2.0% | 4.3% | 15.0% | 63.1% | 8.1% | 9.5% | 82.3% | 78.1% |

*Table is continued on the next page.*

## APPENDIX B.2: STATEWIDE SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE (CONTINUED)

| | n | DISAGREE | | | AGREE | | | Don't Know | TOTALS | | HIGH LEVEL AGREE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Strongly | Moderately | Slightly | Slightly | Moderately | Strongly | | DISAGREE | AGREE | |
| 22. My child has been sent home from school, but not suspended, due to behavioral difficulties. | 3,312 | 75.2% | 5.0% | 1.8% | 3.2% | 4.5% | 10.3% | ± | 81.9% | 18.1% | 14.9% |
| 23. My child has the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored activities such as field trips, assemblies and social events (dances, sports events). | 3,882 | 2.4% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 3.5% | 10.3% | 81.5% | ± | 4.7% | 95.3% | 91.8% |
| 24. My child has the opportunity to participate in extracurricular school activities such as sports or clubs with children without disabilities. | 3,780 | 6.0% | 1.7% | 2.7% | 5.0% | 11.0% | 73.6% | ± | 10.4% | 89.6% | 84.6% |
| 25. My child's school provides supports, such as extra staff, that are necessary for my child to participate in extracurricular school activities (for example, clubs and sports). | 3,609 | 9.5% | 2.5% | 3.5% | 6.8% | 12.6% | 40.1% | 25.0% | 15.5% | 59.5% | 52.7% |
| 26. In the past year, I have attended parent training or information sessions (provided by my district, other districts, or agencies) that addressed the needs of parents and of children with disabilities. | 3,502 | 46.1% | 6.9% | 7.3% | 9.4% | 10.3% | 20.1% | ± | 60.3% | 39.7% | 30.3% |
| 27. I am involved in a support network for parents of students with disabilities available through my school district or other sources. | 3,421 | 52.6% | 7.3% | 7.9% | 9.2% | 8.7% | 14.2% | ± | 67.8% | 32.2% | 23.0% |
| 28. There are opportunities for parent training or information sessions regarding special education provided by my child's school district. | 3,753 | 17.6% | 4.6% | 5.8% | 9.5% | 11.9% | 18.4% | 32.2% | 28.0% | 39.8% | 30.3% |
| 29. A support network for parents of students with disabilities is available to me through my school district or other sources. | 3,700 | 14.7% | 4.4% | 5.2% | 8.7% | 10.5% | 20.2% | 36.2% | 24.4% | 39.4% | 30.7% |
| 30. My child is learning skills that will enable him/her to be as independent as possible. | 3,834 | 4.8% | 4.2% | 4.4% | 10.4% | 25.2% | 51.0% | ± | 13.4% | 86.6% | 76.2% |
| 31. My child is learning skills that will lead to a high school diploma, further education, or a job. | 3,735 | 5.7% | 3.2% | 4.0% | 10.7% | 22.5% | 53.8% | ± | 12.9% | 87.1% | 76.4% |
| Only complete the following question if your child has transitioned from the early intervention Birth to Three System to Preschool in the past 3 years. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32. I am satisfied with the school district's transition activities that took place when my child left Birth to Three. | 543 | 8.3% | 1.8% | 2.4% | 6.8% | 15.3% | 65.4% | ± | 12.5% | 87.5% | 80.7% |
| Only complete the following questions if your child was 15 years of age or older at his/her last PPT meeting. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33. I am satisfied with the way secondary transition services were implemented for my child. | 917 | 10.3% | 5.3% | 6.4% | 12.0% | 26.8% | 39.1% | ± | 22.0% | 78.0% | 66.0% |
| 34. When appropriate, outside agencies have been invited to participate in secondary transition planning. | 848 | 13.0% | 4.1% | 5.5% | 9.3% | 13.1% | 28.1% | 26.9% | 22.6% | 50.5% | 41.2% |
| 35. The PPT introduced planning for my child's transition to adulthood. | 893 | 13.5% | 6.6% | 7.1% | 11.8% | 25.3% | 35.7% | ± | 27.2% | 72.8% | 61.0% |
| 36. The school district actively encourages my child to attend and participate in PPT meetings. | 911 | 5.9% | 1.4% | 2.6% | 7.5% | 18.4% | 64.1% | ± | 10.0% | 90.0% | 82.5% |
| 37. The PPT discussed an appropriate course of study at the high school for my child. | 907 | 7.8% | 4.3% | 4.6% | 9.7% | 25.0% | 48.5% | ± | 16.8% | 83.2% | 73.5% |
| 38. The PPT developed individualized goals for my child related to employment/postsecondary education, independent living and community participation, if appropriate. | 887 | 15.2% | 5.2% | 6.1% | 14.1% | 23.3% | 36.1% | ± | 26.5% | 73.5% | 59.4% |

Note: High level agree = "moderately agree" + "strongly agree."
± Not a response option for this survey item.