

2014-2015

CONNECTICUT SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT SURVEY

DATA BRIEF

Southington 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 Southington 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.

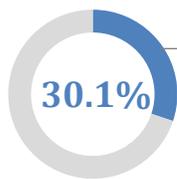
SECTION I: SURVEY DELIVERY AND RESPONSE

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 sample of parents selected to participate in the survey from the Southington Nexus District.

DELIVERY METHOD

Mail	627	Mail Non-Deliverable Rate	2.1% (n=13)
Email	87.1% (n=546)	Email Non-Deliverable Rate	4.2% (n=23)

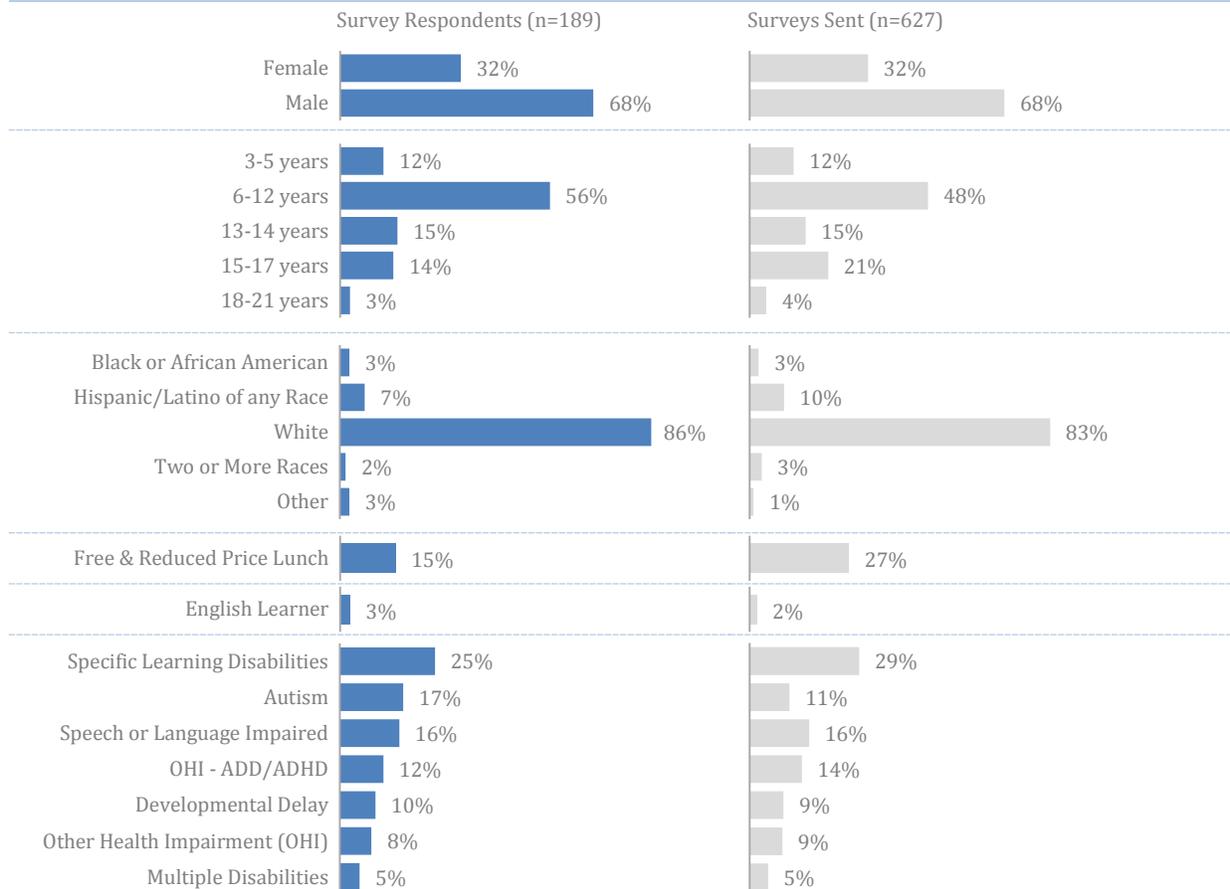
RESPONSE RATE



189 completed

63.5% Online
36.5% 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

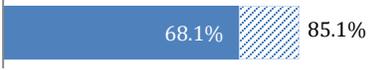
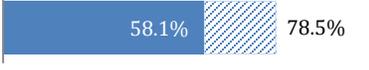
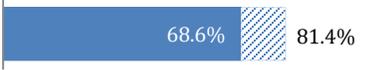
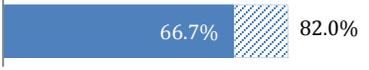
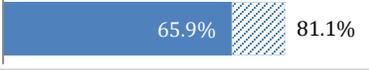
The 2014-15 survey included 38 items that asked parents to rate on a 6-point scale from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree” their experiences with their child’s special education program over the past 12 months.⁵ The following tables include bar charts that illustrate parents’ “high level of agreement” (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 Southington Nexus District are included in Appendix A.1.

	HIGH LEVEL OF AGREEMENT	TOTAL AGREEMENT
<i>Satisfaction with My Child’s Program</i>		
1. I am satisfied with my child’s overall special education program. [n=188]	48.9% 81.4%	92.0%
2. I have the opportunity to talk to my child’s teachers on a regular basis to discuss my questions and concerns. [n=186]	58.6% 83.3%	94.1%
3. My child is accepted within the school community. [n=188]	62.8% 86.2%	93.6%
4. My child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) is meeting his or her educational needs. [n=189]	50.3% 79.9%	87.8%
5. All special education services identified in my child’s IEP have been provided. [n=189]	56.1% 84.1%	91.5%
6. Staff is appropriately trained and able to provide my child’s specific program and services. [n=187]	56.7% 82.4%	89.3%
7. Special education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child’s IEP. [n=187]	57.8% 86.6%	94.1%
8. General education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child’s IEP. [n=188]	50.0% 75.0%	86.2%
9. General education and special education teachers work together to assure that my child’s IEP is being implemented. [n=187]	50.3% 78.1%	88.2%
<i>Participation in My Child’s Program</i>		
10. In my child’s school, administrators and teachers encourage parent involvement in order to improve services and results for children with disabilities. [n=186]	59.7% 80.1%	94.1%
11. At meetings to develop my child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP), I feel encouraged to give input and express my concerns. [n=188]	69.7% 86.7%	92.6%
12. I understand what is discussed at meetings to develop my child’s IEP. [n=187]	72.7% 94.1%	98.9%
13. My concerns and recommendations are documented in the development of my child’s IEP. [n=185]	58.4% 85.4%	91.4%
KEY: Strongly Agree Moderately Agree		

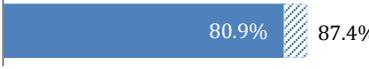
⁵ Parents were given the option of selecting “don’t know” on 11 survey items (4-9, 21, 25, 28, 29 and 34). This should be considered when comparing agreement levels across items.

	HIGH LEVEL OF AGREEMENT	TOTAL AGREEMENT
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Participation in My Child's Program (Continued)

14. My child's evaluation report is written in terms I understand. [n=187]		92.5%
15. Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for my child have been scheduled at times and places that met my needs. [n=188]		92.0%
16. At my child's PPT, the school district proposed programs and services to meet my child's individual needs. [n=185]		90.8%
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=186]		91.4%
18. I have received a copy of my child's IEP within 10 school days after the PPT. [n=186]		95.7%
19. If necessary, a translator was provided at the PPT meetings. [n=118]		90.7%
20. The translation services provided at the PPT meetings were useful and accurate. [n=111]		91.9%
21. The school district proposed the regular classroom for my child as the first placement option. [n=185]		84.9%

My Child's Participation

22. My child has been sent home from school, but not suspended, due to behavioral difficulties. [n=162]		17.3%
23. My child has the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored activities such as field trips, assemblies and social events (dances, sports events). [n=187]		97.9%
24. My child has the opportunity to participate in extracurricular school activities such as sports or clubs with children without disabilities. [n=183]		93.4%
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=174]		70.1%

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=175]		40.0%
27. I am involved in a support network for parents of students with disabilities available through my school district or other sources. [n=172]		26.7%
28. There are opportunities for parent training or information sessions regarding special education provided by my child's school district. [n=179]		45.8%
29. A support network for parents of students with disabilities is available to me through my school district or other sources. [n=180]		38.9%

KEY: ■ Strongly Agree ▨ Moderately Agree

	HIGH LEVEL OF AGREEMENT	TOTAL AGREEMENT
<i>My Child's Skills</i>		
30. My child is learning skills that will enable him/her to be as independent as possible. [n=185]	55.7% 81.6%	88.1%
31. My child is learning skills that will lead to a high school diploma, further education, or a job. [n=186]	61.3% 82.8%	89.8%
<i>Transition Planning</i>		
32. I am satisfied with the school district's transition activities that took place when my child left Birth to Three. [n=33]	54.5% 78.8%	81.8%
33. I am satisfied with the way secondary transition services were implemented for my child. [n=39]	46.2% 64.1%	76.9%
34. When appropriate, outside agencies have been invited to participate in secondary transition planning. [n=33]	24.2% 36.4%	48.5%
35. The PPT introduced planning for my child's transition to adulthood. [n=37]	37.8% 54.1%	73.0%
36. The school district actively encourages my child to attend and participate in PPT meetings. [n=37]	75.7% 89.2%	91.9%
37. The PPT discussed an appropriate course of study at the high school for my child. [n=37]	62.2% 81.1%	91.9%
38. The PPT developed individualized goals for my child related to employment/postsecondary education, independent living and community participation, if appropriate. [n=36]	36.1% 47.2%	75.0%

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 189 surveys completed by parents in the Southington Nexus District, 43.9% (n=83) 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



Note: The comments of two respondents were not coded because the remarks could not be classified as either a reflection of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with their child’s program.

COMMENTS EXPRESSING SATISFACTION

- *The special education program at Southington High School is outstanding! I truly believe that my child is getting the best education.*
- *The special education program at Southington schools has been excellent. We are extremely happy with all the teachers and support resources provided over the years. Our child has truly benefited from the services. His progress with his education and meeting his goals has enabled him to perform at his expected grade level. He has become an independent student who really takes pride in his work.*
- *Overall, we have been very pleased with our experience. Any time a change in our daughter's IEP has been made it has been to her benefit. We feel the school system has advocated for her and continues to do so. Any concerns we have ever brought to her schools have been addressed to our satisfaction and we honestly feel they have done an amazing job of putting her needs first. Our daughter enjoys school and we feel this is a credit to the people that work with her. They are always encouraging her.*
- *The staff at DES were terrific in helping my son with his social, sensory, and speech skills. They have invaluable staff who have been wonderful in helping my son with his daily activities at school. They took extra steps to help him stay organized, put him in lunch bunches, and social groups to help him learn skills. They were very supportive of him. I feel blessed to have had my son in this school surrounded by those staff members.*
- *We have been very happy with the services our son has received. He has come a long way since he started an IEP. The Southington school system has been excellent. We work with individuals that truly care about our son’s success and are willing to work collaboratively with our family to ensure he attains his goals.*
- *I am confident that the skills learned by my son under the program are a real benefit for his education and learning. He has been successful in middle school as a result of this consistent, ongoing assistance under the program.*
- *This past year has been great. All of the meetings went very well and we are very happy with how everything went. Our child has improved so much this year and we hope each year will continue that way.*
- *Our experience so far has been very positive and our daughter feels like a fully participating member of her classroom.*
- *Overall, the individual classroom teachers have taken great care and interest in furthering our child's education. They continually modify and assist her learning based on the recommendations within her IEP. They consistently provide updates, feedback and answer specific education-based questions or concerns directly related to our child's IEP. Our child's educational experience had been very good. She is accepted, happy and well-adjusted, and enjoys school every day – which as a parent is what is most important.*

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.

- *The teachers and special education staff, speech language, and other support staff have been wonderful to my daughter at DES. The Hatton teachers were wonderful with my daughter. They gave her the proper attention and gave her different strategies to use for coping and social situations. The transition to DES was seamless and the staff have taken wonderful care of her. They have also been invaluable with providing support to help her with her social difficulties and giving me tools to use with her. I would not have wanted my daughter to be placed anywhere else. Every step of the way, they have been phenomenal.*
- *We are beyond appreciative and impressed with the level of attention, nurturing and discipline our son has received through Hatton Elementary School. His progress is overwhelming. From Board of Education partners to the principal to the teachers to the therapists, our son has received 100% personalized and dedicated services. Their only goal is to see him succeed as best he can. As parents, our role is as valued and essential as any educator or administrator in ensuring he meets the goals of his IEP.*
- *My child has learned so much thanks to his special education teachers. He has come a long way. He is talking so much more. He amazes me every day.*
- *The staff at Southington High School were caring, concerned and worked very hard with my daughter and I to see that she would be as successful as possible. My daughter is a success today because the staff at the high school recognized her need and gave her the most appropriate and consistent help and support. I will forever be grateful to her teacher. She created and maintained a wonderful working relationship with both my daughter and I, answered my emails within 24 hours and worked tirelessly to solve any issue that surfaced. High school was a wonderful, successful experience for my daughter, largely because of this teacher and the staff there.*

COMMENTS EXPRESSING DISSATISFACTION

- *The PPTs are always at the convenience of the school and teachers not the parents. I received a form letter with my son's name introducing his special education coordinator – no phone call, no email. Communication is extremely poor. We are having difficulties with the mainstream classrooms, with a lack of success and modifications and adherence to the IEP. Middle school and high school are a big disappointment.*
- *Southington has always been lacking in parent training opportunities and in the area of support in general. There is no SEPTA in town. Attempts to get one started have always been pushed aside by some members of the school system. There is an independently run support group for parents in town that is "advertised" through the school system but is not an official SEPTA.*
- *My district has had three different special education directors. Each time I have to start from scratch with every new director. Agreements made by prior directors are denied by new directors, which leaves my child without services. I am very very frustrated with the special education system. There are no checks and balances nor accountability unless you have the money to sue. This just seems unfair and unjust.*
- *Decisions are dragged out over months and it takes months to get PPT dates. The district seems to have returned to its previous approach of limiting services to help our kids.*
- *My child's school has not been compliant and has not followed his IEP. He is not being prepared for his post high school life. He has had an IEP since second grade and our experience in the high school is by far the worst one.*
- *I am disappointed with my child's overall experience with the special education system. She has had teachers that refused to follow her IEP, didn't believe that she needed the extra services, referred to her as lazy or manipulative, or said that they didn't have the time to modify her work or make special study guides that her IEP called for. During those times, her lack of progress was very evident. Overall, I think Southington has an extremely poor special education system.*
- *I would like my school to implement more dyslexia assistance for my child. I have asked for specific dyslexia testing and was told that there is no testing available through the school.*
- *I was very pleased with my daughter's teacher. However, her special education teacher was too worried about testing and statistics rather than working with my child. It takes a special person to teach special education and I didn't feel she was one of those people.*
- *In our experience, the frustrations we have is due mainly to staffing and communication. There seems to be a lack of consistency in special education staff which leads to large breaks in service. This has led to private tutoring provided by the school district and by us parents to maintain our child's program. The administration, while always responding to emails, tends to redirect questions and concerns versus addressing and documenting as needed.*

- *Our only complaint - and it is a large one - is the ESY offered. Our child had 1 weeks' worth of services offered. Not only was it not enough, it was actually detrimental to our child's well-being. We will have no choice but to seek private summer care/camp/sessions for summer 2016 which we will greatly struggle to afford.*
- *As a parent with two children in the special education system in Southington, I have felt isolated, uninformed, and unsupported many times in the last 12 months. I wish there were more resources available.*
- *For years, we have known that dyslexic students need individualized, systematic, multi-sensory instruction by individuals that are specifically trained in dyslexia. The Southington public schools are not doing this. They prescribe a one shoe fits all approach to any reading disability and very few of the special education teachers have training in dyslexia. The schools refuse to put the appropriate interventions in the IEP because they do not have qualified staff to provide this and they do not have the manpower to individualize instruction.*
- *PPTs are always scheduled during the teams' "team time" which is never convenient. Regular education teachers at the middle school level do not seem to know how to modify work and/or communicate with me about my child's progress/needs.*

APPENDIX A | SOUTHINGTON SURVEY FINDINGS

A.1 | SURVEY RESPONSE TABLE

A.2 | BOX-AND-WHISKER CHARTS

APPENDIX A.1: SOUTHLINGTON 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.	188	3.2%	3.2%	1.6%	10.6%	32.4%	48.9%	±	8.0%	92.0%	81.4%
2. I have the opportunity to talk to my child's teachers on a regular basis to discuss my questions and concerns.	186	1.1%	1.6%	3.2%	10.8%	24.7%	58.6%	±	5.9%	94.1%	83.3%
3. My child is accepted within the school community.	188	1.6%	1.1%	3.7%	7.4%	23.4%	62.8%	±	6.4%	93.6%	86.2%
4. My child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is meeting his or her educational needs.	189	4.2%	2.6%	4.8%	7.9%	29.6%	50.3%	0.5%	11.6%	87.8%	79.9%
5. All special education services identified in my child's IEP have been provided.	189	2.6%	2.1%	1.6%	7.4%	28.0%	56.1%	2.1%	6.3%	91.5%	84.1%
6. Staff is appropriately trained and able to provide my child's specific program and services.	187	3.2%	5.3%	1.6%	7.0%	25.7%	56.7%	0.5%	10.2%	89.3%	82.4%
7. Special education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP.	187	0.5%	1.6%	2.7%	7.5%	28.9%	57.8%	1.1%	4.8%	94.1%	86.6%
8. General education teachers make accommodations and modifications as indicated on my child's IEP.	188	0.5%	4.3%	5.3%	11.2%	25.0%	50.0%	3.7%	10.1%	86.2%	75.0%
9. General education and special education teachers work together to assure that my child's IEP is being implemented.	187	2.1%	1.6%	2.7%	10.2%	27.8%	50.3%	5.3%	6.4%	88.2%	78.1%
10. In my child's school, administrators and teachers encourage parent involvement in order to improve services and results for children with disabilities.	186	1.6%	2.2%	2.2%	14.0%	20.4%	59.7%	±	5.9%	94.1%	80.1%
11. At meetings to develop my child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), I feel encouraged to give input and express my concerns.	188	0.5%	3.2%	3.7%	5.9%	17.0%	69.7%	±	7.4%	92.6%	86.7%
12. I understand what is discussed at meetings to develop my child's IEP.	187	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	4.8%	21.4%	72.7%	±	1.1%	98.9%	94.1%
13. My concerns and recommendations are documented in the development of my child's IEP.	185	2.2%	4.3%	2.2%	5.9%	27.0%	58.4%	±	8.6%	91.4%	85.4%
14. My child's evaluation report is written in terms I understand.	187	1.1%	4.3%	2.1%	8.6%	26.2%	57.8%	±	7.5%	92.5%	84.0%
15. Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings for my child have been scheduled at times and places that met my needs.	188	2.1%	3.7%	2.1%	6.9%	17.0%	68.1%	±	8.0%	92.0%	85.1%
16. At my child's PPT, the school district proposed programs and services to meet my child's individual needs.	185	3.2%	1.6%	4.3%	5.9%	33.5%	51.4%	±	9.2%	90.8%	84.9%
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.	186	1.1%	2.2%	5.4%	12.9%	20.4%	58.1%	±	8.6%	91.4%	78.5%
18. I have received a copy of my child's IEP within 10 school days after the PPT.	186	2.2%	0.5%	1.6%	1.6%	12.9%	81.2%	±	4.3%	95.7%	94.1%
19. If necessary, a translator was provided at the PPT meetings.	118	8.5%	0.0%	0.8%	9.3%	12.7%	68.6%	±	9.3%	90.7%	81.4%
20. The translation services provided at the PPT meetings were useful and accurate.	111	7.2%	0.0%	0.9%	9.9%	15.3%	66.7%	±	8.1%	91.9%	82.0%
21. The school district proposed the regular classroom for my child as the first placement option.	185	4.9%	1.6%	1.6%	3.8%	15.1%	65.9%	7.0%	8.1%	84.9%	81.1%

Table is continued on the next page.

APPENDIX A.1: SOUTHTON 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.	162	77.2%	4.3%	1.2%	3.7%	4.3%	9.3%	±	82.7%	17.3%	13.6%
23. My child has the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored activities such as field trips, assemblies and social events (dances, sports events).	187	1.6%	0.5%	0.0%	3.2%	8.6%	86.1%	±	2.1%	97.9%	94.7%
24. My child has the opportunity to participate in extracurricular school activities such as sports or clubs with children without disabilities.	183	4.4%	1.1%	1.1%	6.0%	6.6%	80.9%	±	6.6%	93.4%	87.4%
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).	174	4.6%	2.3%	4.6%	5.7%	11.5%	52.9%	18.4%	11.5%	70.1%	64.4%
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.	175	44.0%	8.6%	7.4%	13.7%	9.1%	17.1%	±	60.0%	40.0%	26.3%
27. I am involved in a support network for parents of students with disabilities available through my school district or other sources.	172	53.5%	9.9%	9.9%	9.3%	10.5%	7.0%	±	73.3%	26.7%	17.4%
28. There are opportunities for parent training or information sessions regarding special education provided by my child's school district.	179	12.3%	6.7%	6.1%	12.3%	13.4%	20.1%	29.1%	25.1%	45.8%	33.5%
29. A support network for parents of students with disabilities is available to me through my school district or other sources.	180	8.9%	9.4%	6.7%	11.7%	9.4%	17.8%	36.1%	25.0%	38.9%	27.2%
30. My child is learning skills that will enable him/her to be as independent as possible.	185	3.2%	3.8%	4.9%	6.5%	25.9%	55.7%	±	11.9%	88.1%	81.6%
31. My child is learning skills that will lead to a high school diploma, further education, or a job.	186	4.3%	2.7%	3.2%	7.0%	21.5%	61.3%	±	10.2%	89.8%	82.8%
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.	33	12.1%	0.0%	6.1%	3.0%	24.2%	54.5%	±	18.2%	81.8%	78.8%
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.	39	10.3%	5.1%	7.7%	12.8%	17.9%	46.2%	±	23.1%	76.9%	64.1%
34. When appropriate, outside agencies have been invited to participate in secondary transition planning.	33	9.1%	3.0%	6.1%	12.1%	12.1%	24.2%	33.3%	18.2%	48.5%	36.4%
35. The PPT introduced planning for my child's transition to adulthood.	37	13.5%	5.4%	8.1%	18.9%	16.2%	37.8%	±	27.0%	73.0%	54.1%
36. The school district actively encourages my child to attend and participate in PPT meetings.	37	5.4%	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%	13.5%	75.7%	±	8.1%	91.9%	89.2%
37. The PPT discussed an appropriate course of study at the high school for my child.	37	5.4%	0.0%	2.7%	10.8%	18.9%	62.2%	±	8.1%	91.9%	81.1%
38. The PPT developed individualized goals for my child related to employment/postsecondary education, independent living and community participation, if appropriate.	36	8.3%	8.3%	8.3%	27.8%	11.1%	36.1%	±	25.0%	75.0%	47.2%

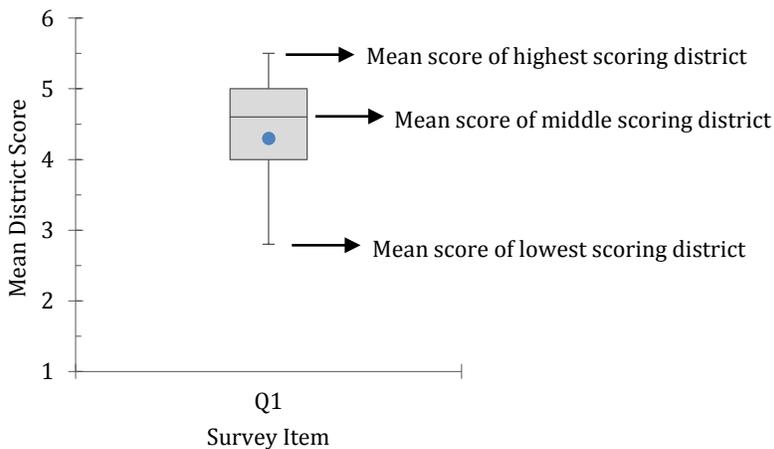
Note: High level agree = "moderately agree" + "strongly agree."

± Not a response option for this survey item.

APPENDIX A.2: SOUTHLINGTON 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.

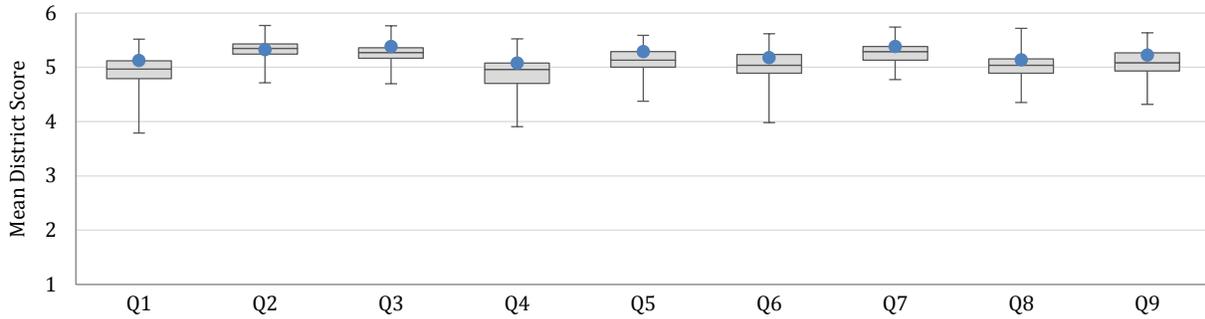
⁸ The response option of "don't know" was not included in the calculation of the mean score, as there is no intuitive ordering for this response.

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.

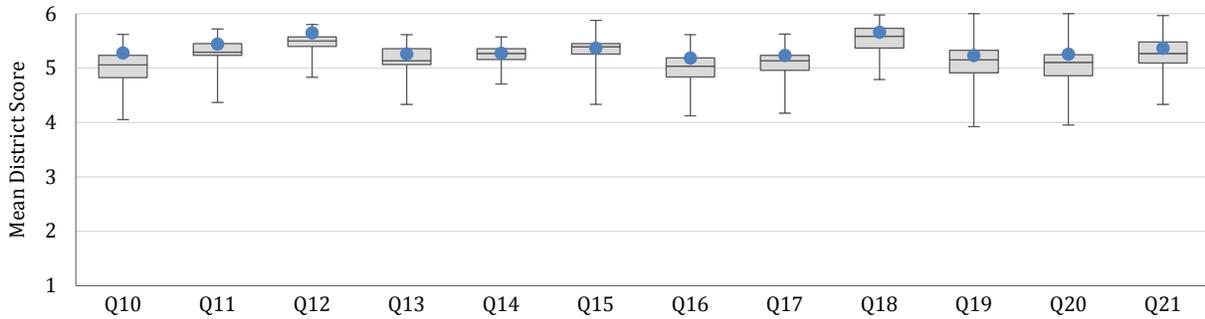
¹⁰ A substantial number of districts had five or fewer respondents on the transition planning items. As a result, 15 districts were excluded from calculations for survey item 32 and seven districts were excluded from calculations for survey items 33-38.

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

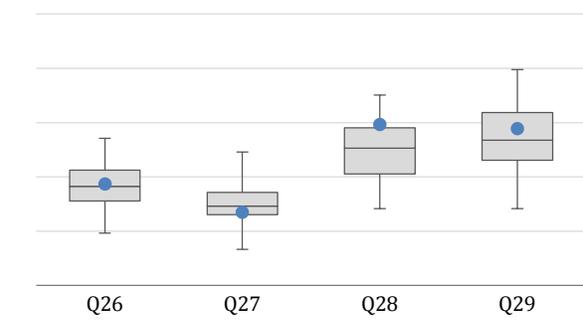
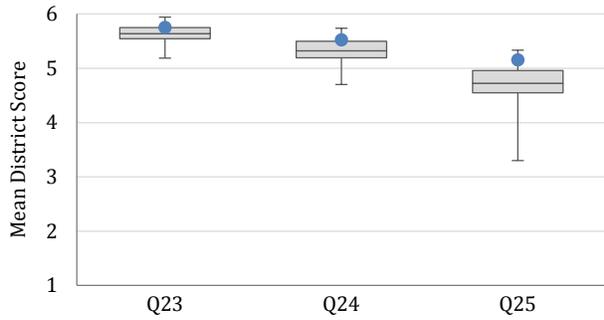
SATISFACTION WITH MY CHILD'S PROGRAM



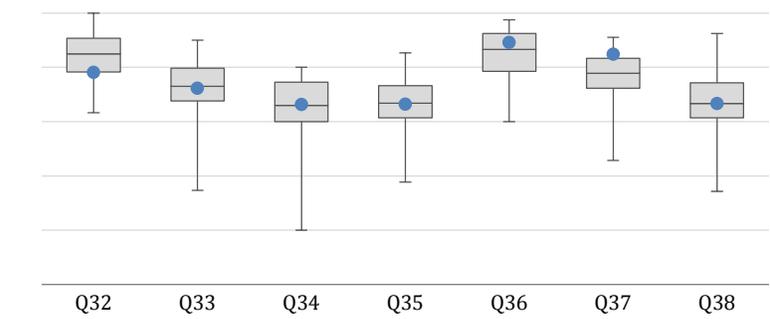
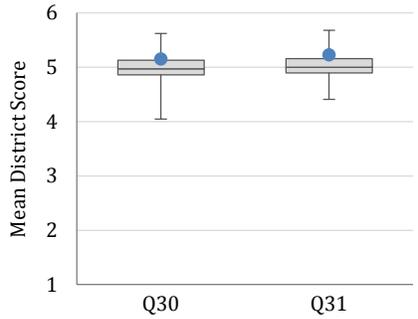
PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING MY CHILD'S PROGRAM



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.