

**Online Survey of Parents
School District of Clayton
Final Report
May 12, 2012**

Number of respondents: 300

Mission -- Parents

3-point weighted scale points for each Mission Statement idea

Concept	3-point weighted scale points
Developing critical thinking skills in all students	331
Setting high academic expectations for students	275
Meeting the individual needs of each student	253
Preparing students to make a meaningful contribution to the world	250
Empowering students' academic achievement	248
Developing students of solid character	198
Partnering with families and the community	80

Evidence of each item (top answers only, as coded from open-ended responses)

Developing critical thinking skills in all students

Evidence	Number of mentions
Curriculum focuses on asking questions/challenging assumptions	24
Curriculum is more project-based/less memorization of facts	16
Higher test scores	13
Students are able to formulate and defend their ideas	9
Enhanced writing skills	6
More students are admitted to higher-level colleges	4
More students participating in competitions (science, engineering, writing, etc.)	4
Students are skilled in verbal discourse/ability to defend ideas verbally	4
Enhanced math curriculum	3
Enhanced science curriculum	3
Students are taught logic	3

Setting high academic expectations for students

Evidence	Number of mentions
Evidence that students are being challenged academically	22
Higher test scores	15
Higher percentage of students taking AP courses	10
More students are admitted to higher-level colleges	9
Programs/services provided to students who are in the middle, academically	4
District researches/utilizes newest teaching methods/practices/curriculum	4
Students demonstrate good citizenship/behavior	3
Improved grades	3
Success reported by alumni	3

Meeting the individual needs of each student

Evidence	Number of mentions
Teachers/school/district adapting teaching approaches to fit individual student needs	23
Individual plans are created/utilized for each student	20
Programs/services provided to students who are in the middle, academically	12
Students demonstrate a year's academic growth each school year	6
Evidence of improved communication with parents	5
Enhanced counseling services for students	5
A wider variety of courses are offered to meet individual student needs	5
Evidence that students are being challenged academically	4
Graduation rate	3
More students are accepted to higher-level colleges	3
Students are demonstrating higher academic achievement	3

Preparing students to make a meaningful contribution to the world

Evidence	Number of mentions
Expanded community service by students (general)	33
Success reported by alumni	13
Evidence that students have developed complex problem-solving skills	10
Evidence of greater acceptance of other cultures through community service/behavior	6
Students are demonstrating higher academic achievement	6
More students are accepted to higher-level colleges	6
More students are accepted to college (non-specific re: higher level)	4
Expanded community service by students (local)	4

Empowering students' academic achievement

Evidence	Number of mentions
Individual plans are created/utilized for each student	25
More students are accepted to higher-level colleges	9
Greater number of advanced courses available	8
Higher test scores	8
Evidence that students are setting individual goals and creating plans to achieve them	5
Evidence of high expectations of students by district	5
Presence of high-quality teachers	5
Grades/GPA	3

Developing students of solid character

Evidence	Number of mentions
Greater number of community service projects completed	20
Students demonstrate respectful behavior to all	15
Character traits/value (including less cheating) in evidence	13
Bullying is eliminated	8
Fewer discipline issues	3
Lower incidence of drug use	3

Partnering with families and the community

Evidence	Number of mentions
Evidence of enhanced/more open communication between school/district/teachers and parents	16
More family involvement with district/school	5
Individual plans are created/utilized for each student	4
Greater number of community service projects	4
Enhanced partnerships with business/community	4

Vision-- Parents

3-point weighted scale points for each Vision Statement idea

Concept	3-point weighted scale points
To ensure that all students have opportunities for academic success	441
To have all students achieve their highest academic potential, post-high school graduation	405
To create innovative educational strategies	213
To provide a real-world experience for students	165
To become a nationally recognized school district	130
To actively engage community members in the work and mission of the school district	73

Evidence of each item (top answers only, as coded from open-ended responses)

To ensure that all students have opportunities for academic success

Evidence	Number of mentions
Evidence of improved performance, serving “middle” students	26
Strong enrichment program	9
Strong programs for students who struggle	9
Offering students a wide variety of course options	8
Improvement in achievement/test scores	6
Access to extra assistance/tutoring	5
Having students who want to succeed	4
Providing adequate staff (number of staff members) at all levels	4
Evidence of yearly student progress	4
Allowing students to fail and learn from the experience	4
Results from surveys of parents/students/alumni, regarding their level of success	4
Making certain that all students are ready/have earned passage to the next grade	3
Increasing percentage of students accepted to college	3

To have all students achieve their highest academic potential, post-high school graduation

Evidence	Number of mentions
Percentage of students who enroll in/get accepted to college	20
Follow up/track progress of alumni	19
Percentage of students enrolling in prestigious colleges	19
Evidence that students have a plan for their future, whether or not that plan includes college	17
Success of students in college	14
Employment rate of Clayton graduates	7
Number/value of college scholarships earned	3
Evidence of advanced curriculum in the district	3

To create innovative educational strategies

Evidence	Number of mentions
Utilization of up-to-date teaching techniques	18
How the district compares to others nationally/around the world	7
Utilization of more real-world projects for students	5
Other districts come to Clayton to study our approaches/success	5
Each student has an individual plan for his or her academics and future	4
Improvement in overall student academic performance	4
District utilizes up-to-date technology in the classroom	4
Needs of all students are addressed by the district	3
District is no longer “teaching to the test”	3
Achievement gap is closed	3

To provide a real-world experience for students

Evidence	Number of mentions
More field trips (with a true educational purpose)	11
Evidence of active collaboration by the district/schools with businesses	8
More project-based learning	6
More community service experiences for students	5
Increase in internships available to students	5
Greater exposure to other cultures through programs at the district	4

To become a nationally recognized school district

Evidence	Number of mentions
Evidence via national rankings	21
Increase in placement in upper-tier colleges	8
Evidence that the best teachers want to work here	4
Number of positive media placements about the district increases	4
Follow up/track progress of alumni	4
School District of Clayton is studied by other districts	3
Student test scores improve	3

To actively engage community members in the work and mission of the school district

Evidence	Number of mentions
Evidence of partnerships with local businesses/business leaders	6
Increase in internships/mentors in the community	4
Increased participation by parents	3

Core Values -- Parents

3-point weighted scale points for each Core Value idea

Concept	3-point weighted scale points
Academic excellence	436
Teacher excellence	398
Integrity	182
Forward thinking	114
Academic diversity	90
Cultural diversity	75
Fiscally responsible	60
Transparency	36

Evidence of each item (top answers only, as coded from open-ended responses)

Academic excellence

Evidence	Number of mentions
Test scores	24
Higher percentage of students accepted into college	12
Higher percentage of students accepted into upper-tier colleges	10
Evidence that curriculum is leading-edge	7
Students are successful at college	7
Evidence that high-quality/modern teaching methods are being utilized	6
District provides a quality education to students of all academic levels	4
Data from alumni regarding their success	4
Grades/GPA	4
Higher percentage of students succeeding at local/regional/national competitions	3
Number of students enrolled in AP courses	3

Teacher excellence

Evidence	Number of mentions
District hires/retains only the best teachers	20
Tenure is eliminated/bad teachers are removed	17
Results from regular surveys of parents and students, regarding teacher performance	16
High percentage of teachers are able to motivate students	11
District provides extensive professional development opportunities for teachers	10
Test scores of students demonstrate teacher excellence	7
District only hires teachers who have a Master's degree	5
All district teachers are dedicated to students' needs/their profession	4
District uses performance-based evaluations for teachers	4

Integrity

Evidence	Number of mentions
District keeps its commitments	8
District makes the right choice for most students, even if it is not the easy/popular choice	5
All district employees act ethically	5
District employees are held accountable for their actions	4
No cheating by students	4
District is more open about its decisions	3
All students are treated fairly	3

Forward thinking

Evidence	Number of mentions
Evidence of updated teaching methods being utilized	11
District employs leading-edge curriculum	5
District hires/retains the best teachers	3
District has leading-edge classroom technology	3
Improved access to professional development for staff	3

Academic diversity

Evidence	Number of mentions
A variety of courses for students with different interests is available	11
Evidence that district is effectively serving the needs of all students, regardless of ability	7
Teachers adapt their teaching styles to fit the individual needs of students	4

Cultural diversity

Evidence	Number of mentions
Student body is multi-cultural (more so than now)	11
Curriculum includes instruction on different cultures/history/challenges	7
The district continues its participation in the Voluntary Transfer program	6
Teaching staff is ethnically and racially diverse	4

Fiscally responsible

Evidence	Number of mentions
District operates with a balanced budget	9
District effectively plans budget to avoid the need to cut programs/positions	6

Transparency

Evidence	Number of mentions
District is open with patrons, regarding difficult issues	3
All stakeholders are familiar with details of decisions made by the district	3