

Thank You— *You Responded!*

Thanks to the many of you who responded to the first Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) national survey for Christian school parents. Nearly 2,500 parents responded to our online survey during the month of November 2007, and every region of the country was represented. We recognize that this survey was very general conceptually and that it did not allow for specific and personal comments on individual questions. However, the survey did provide good overall insight regarding parental perceptions of Christian schools.

Our survey asked parents to rank various aspects of the school their children attend on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 representing the highest rating and 1 representing the lowest rating. In our opinion, a score of 8, 9, or 10 reflects a high ranking, whereas a 1, 2, or 3 denotes a low ranking.

The top-ranked area of satisfaction, expressed by 89% of the parents, was the matter of the Christian school offering a “Safe Environment.” Only 1% of all respondents gave this area a low rating. To the next-highest-ranking category, “High Expectations for Students,” 84% of parents gave a rating of 8, 9, or 10. In third place, three different issues each garnered 83% of respondents giving their children’s schools a high rating: “Spiritual Development,” “Personal Attention to My Child(ren),” and “Disciplined, Courteous Environment.” The first two, “Spiritual Development” and “Personal Attention to My Child(ren),” each reflected a low rating by only 1% of the respondents, and just 2% of them assigned a low rating to “Disciplined, Courteous Environment.”

In addition to the specific issues above, we pursued three broader categories that we thought would provide a crucial overall view of Christian schooling by the respondent families. We first wanted to know their response to the issue of “Overall Academics” in their school; second, we asked them to note an “Overall Rating” of their school; and third, we sought their evaluation of the “Overall Value” they receive from their school on the basis of the tuition they pay. We believe that the subsequent overall view we gleaned is of particular importance.

We learned that 80% gave “Overall Academics” a high rating, whereas only three-quarters of 1% rated that category low. In response to the “Overall Rating of Your School,” 80% also gave a high rating, and only 1% rated it low. On the final of these three broad categories, “Overall Value You Receive from Your School on the Basis of the Tuition You Pay,” 75% assigned high ratings, whereas 2% entered low ratings.

Since this was the first ever survey of this type that ACSI has conducted with our member school families, we could not compare our numbers with baseline data to detect shifts or changes in family perceptions regarding the issues that were included. Consequently, it is our intent to survey periodically in the future to better assess the level of satisfaction in these vital areas.

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There are a number of other areas addressed in the survey that have not been reported in this edition of *Christian School Comment*. If you are interested in seeing the entire survey and its responses, please visit our website at www.acsi.org, where you will find a link to all the results.

Again—to each of you who took the time to assist in this data-gathering effort—please accept our thanks. We continue to commend you on your choice and, for many, your sacrificial commitment to providing Christian school education for your children.



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