



## Our Children, Our Families Council Survey of Low-Income Parents in Private Schools

December, 2015



In November 2015, Our Children, Our Families Council staff partnered with the BASIC Fund, a nonprofit that provides scholarships to children in low-income families who want to attend private K-8 schools, to survey parents who participate in their program. The survey aimed to gather parents' input on how they describe success for their child, their perceptions of community assets and challenges, and any ideas they had for improving families' ability to thrive in San Francisco. The survey was distributed in Spanish and English at a family event at a private, parochial school in the Mission District. Below is a summary of who responded to the survey and a summary of their open-ended responses.

### ***Who Responded to the Survey\****

- 47 respondents, about 75% female
- Race/ethnicity of respondents: 23 Latino, 8 Other Asian, 4 African American, 2 Pacific Islander, 2 Other, 1 White
- First language of respondents: 17 English, 14 Spanish, 8 Tagalog, 1 Ethiopian, 1 other language (unspecified)
- Respondents' highest level of education: 13 some college, 11 high school diploma or GED, 11 college degree or higher, 3 certificate, 2 some high school
- Zip code respondents live in: 14 in 94110 (Mission), 5 in 94103, 2 in 94102, 2 in 94109, 2 in 94131, and one in each of the following: 94080, 94104, 94105, 94107, 94112, 94115, 94124, 94133, 94134, Daly City and South San Francisco

*Note: Not all survey respondents responded to each demographic question.*

### ***Summary of Survey Responses***

#### *Question #1: How would you describe what "thriving" or "success" looks like for your child/children?*

- That they are prepared
- Programs to keep my children busy so I can rest
- It's difficult to say what success looks like because there are lots of programs for public school children but not as many for private schools
- Success is going to a university
- A university graduate
- Education
- Good at reading and math
- Extracurricular activities, small classrooms, sports, good teachers. My child can succeed and thrive.
- Achieved goals in education, and making new and better ones.
- Happy, safe and healthy learning
- Since he started at Mission Dolores he is becoming a better student
- Success for my children would be knowing that I was able to provide them the best tools possible in achieving their goals
- Good grades, good college and a good job.
- It will depend on how much we as parents will be able to pay to send our children to school or college
- Getting good grades, motivation
- Feeling happy, provided for, good grades, always improving
- Growing up in a good value-oriented family and community; being a good citizen
- To see opportunities to grow in the community
- Education is the way for success of my child
- Having a great environment to learn; giving her the passion to succeed
- Superior education that leads to a career my child enjoys
- I think education for my children is the key to success in the future
- By supporting your children at home and take an active role in their educational experience; support your children academically
- My child is focused in class and is able to cooperate with their community; being able to improve in academics and

- overall society
- Success is to be able to learn and enrich themselves with education and nurture a good foundation while growing up
- A happy well-rounded child who could adapt in any and every environment
- Success is at least meeting the expectations for the grade my child is in
- I wish there were more free after school enrichment programs to keep them off the street
- Learning and understanding life. As a gentle person, to become successful in life. Enjoying what she would like to become.

*Question #2: What are the resources and assets that exist in your community to help your children and family thrive or succeed? Your community could be your neighborhood, a cultural or religious group, or peers that you feel connected to.*

- Libraries (x10)
- Afterschool programs, summer programs, tutoring (x10)
- Boys and Girls Club
- Church (x3)
- School (x4)
- Recreation center (x3); Park and Rec has served a major part in giving my children options/activities keeping them active and busy
- My family environment, which includes friends and relatives (x2)
- Neighbors (x2)
- Sports (x2)
- Parks, places to play sports
- Early childhood care
- Teachers available to talk to
- Getting involved with school's activities
- My fellow peers and parents working together to build relationships for the community
- Help from the BASIC Fund is a big help
- BASIC Fund has been my only asset that has helped me get my kids through a private school. I would not be able to afford it without their help.
- School and community connection that she has with her school
- Ethiopian community and churches are our primary resources
- There are not many resources in SF for working families – it is based on parent participation
- There are lots programs but they are prioritized for public schools only
- I don't have this information
- I am not aware of any that help the Hispanic families
- There are many that I don't remember but ones that have helped are MEDA and Compass
- Not very many, or maybe I am not aware of them

*Question #3: What are the challenges that make it difficult for your children and family to thrive or succeed?*

- High expenses/ high cost of living/money (x7)
- Language barriers (x 2)
- Housing services (x5)
- That there are more programs that have computer access so that they can do their homework
- More accessible transportation
- Living in a big city, I would say time and commute
- Lately we need more safety in our community
- It's difficult because there is no help ensuring our success
- Not being able to afford school
- How much time we spend at work
- Cost of afterschool
- Childcare when you have to work and have no support
- Not enough resources
- Supply of books and materials are not sufficient. Some are not up to date.
- Current class sizes; conflict resolution
- Additional resources and updated materials for SF Public Libraries
- The challenges of getting my stuff together. Tutoring.
- Nothing. Everything so far is incredible
- Living in such an expensive city makes it extremely difficult in being able to give my kids the opportunity to

- experience new things
- Being a single mom
- The challenges that make it difficult for my child to succeed are that everything is given to low-income people.
- The challenge I face is the lack of activities my child can participate in – everything is based on income
- I think the subject of child depression should be addressed more
- It is hard when there is nobody to support you
- Indecision; lack of self-belief; failure to recognize opportunities and use imagination
- Feeling unwelcome; lack of support
- Peer pressure on kids in our society in general
- Open, safe area for children to hang out with friends without adult supervision.
- Time – there does not seem to be enough time during the week to help with homework
- Lack of humanity. You will encounter humans but I see no humanity unfortunately

*Question #4:* What is one change you think the city of San Francisco and/or a community partner could make that would improve your children or family's ability to thrive or succeed?

- More affordable housing (x5)
- More education centers/programs for children (x5)
- Summer and afterschool learning programs (x4): There needs to be more summer programs that focus on work experience and community service; Implement more learning programs and activities at free or minimal cost, especially summer programs. Afterschool tutorial programs for those kids that need help with their homework/subjects.
- Create a lot of jobs; add more businesses or jobs (x2)
- Put more money into schools (x 2); help with tuition/ More scholarships so the children can continue their studies and realize their dreams (x2)
- Improved partnership and support from the City of SF towards schools such as Mission Dolores Academy
- Make connection with private schools
- Develop partnerships with teachers and school staff
- That equal priority is given to public and private schools
- Abundant bookstores at the schools and free or low cost lectures
- Better safety for our children
- Safety on our streets
- Music
- Interaction with peers to increase curiousness and awareness in the community and outside like other states or countries
- More libraries near our neighbors; maybe some affordable afterschool programs
- Having more jobs/work experience opportunity for teens would be a great benefit for teens to succeed
- Higher pay rate
- The City of SF should be fair whether to each student who is low-income or not low-income. Every parent worries hard for their family. It doesn't really matter how much money you make.
- More resources for children with disabilities
- Stop making it hard for working families to qualify for community resources. Do not punish those that do work.
- We need more parking spaces and more public transportation
- More connection with parents in school and community
- Can't think of anything at this time that I would need from the City of SF to help with the success of my child

