

Sowams Elementary School



**Rhode Island Education Survey Suite
School Report 2012-2013**

SurveyWorks! 2012-2013 School Level Report

Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Section 1: Student Survey](#)

[Section 2: Parent Survey](#)

[Section 3: Teacher/Staff Survey](#)

Introduction to the 2013 SurveyWorks School Report

This report presents results from the 2013 SurveyWorks Student, Parent, and Teacher/Staff Surveys for this school. The surveys gather input from students, parents, and teachers and other instructional staff on elements of Rhode Island's Basic Education Program (BEP) including:

- Teaching and Student Achievement;
- Families and Communities;
- Safe and Supportive Schools, and
- Funding and resources.

Survey results are reported for each of these categories. These data are intended to be used to inform decisions at all levels-including the classroom, school, district, and state. The report is organized into three sections by survey population. Section 1 reports the findings from the Student Survey. Section 2 reports the findings from the Parent Survey. Section 3 reports the findings from the Teacher/Staff Survey. The findings are reported in tables showing the total number and percentage of individuals answering each item by school (or by district) and at the state level. The survey allowed individuals to skip over questions that did not apply to them or that they did not wish to answer. Therefore, the number of responses to any one question may vary. In order to protect individuals' rights to confidentiality, data for items with fewer than ten responses are not reported. In these cases, a dash (-) indicates that there are insufficient responses

Results from the 2013 SurveyWorks School Administrator Survey are provided in separate reports by LEA and/or LEA-type.

Participation Rates

The percentage of eligible individuals responding to each survey is an important piece of information when examining survey results. Low participation rates suggest that data should be interpreted with caution. Participation rates for this school, by survey, are indicated in the table on the right.

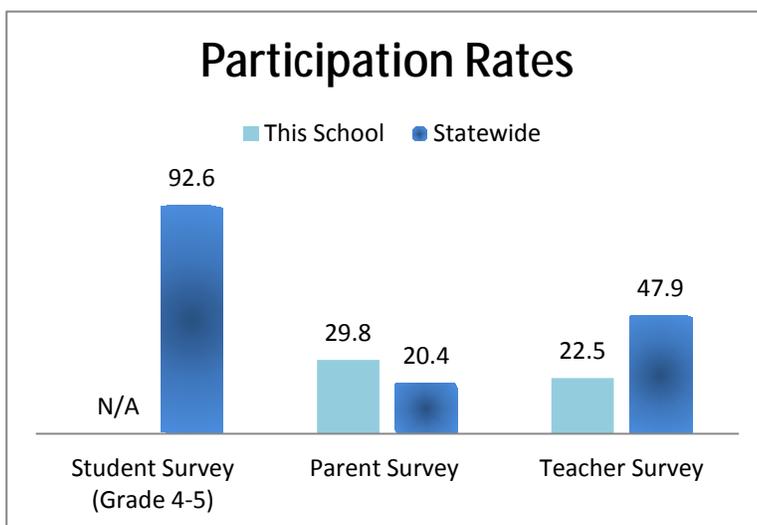
Navigating the Report

This report contains several navigation features. The Table of Contents contains active links to each of the main sections of the report. The Table of Contents for each section contains active links to subsections based on BEP category. In addition,

some pages have navigation buttons that allow the reader to see how a different survey population responded to a similar topic. For example, the page displaying students' responses to questions about teacher practices contains a navigation button that jumps to teachers' responses about teacher practices.

Data

Data files are available upon request. Please contact surveyworks@wested.org for more information. Survey results and related education data can be found on the RIDE InfoWorks website, <http://infoworks.ride.ri.gov>.



Section 1: Student Survey

Introduction.....	4
Demographics.....	5
Teaching and Student Achievement.....	6
Teacher Practice.....	6
Homework.....	7
Student Engagement.....	7
College/Career Readiness.....	7
Safe and Supportive Schools.....	8
Breakfast.....	8
Physical Activity.....	8
Asthma.....	8
Time Home Alone.....	9
Technology Use for Entertainment.....	9
School Safety.....	9
Theft.....	10
Discipline and Equity.....	10
Bullying.....	11
Teacher-Student Relationships.....	12
Teacher-Student Respect.....	12
Personal Relationships.....	12
Student Violence.....	13
Alcohol.....	13
Smoking.....	13
Drug Usage.....	14
Drugs at School.....	14
Families and Communities.....	15
Parent Engagement.....	15
Parent Engagement in Post High School Plans.....	15
Out of School Time.....	15
Funding and Resources.....	16
School Facilities.....	16
School Resources.....	16



Section 1: Student Survey Introduction

In January 2013, public school students in grades 4-12 were invited to participate in the SurveyWorks Student Survey. Different versions of the Student Survey were used at the elementary (grades 4-5), middle (grades 6-8), and high school (grades 9-12) levels with age appropriate language and content for each group. This section of the report presents the elementary school Student Survey results for this school. Please note that many schools have students in more than one of these grade spans. These schools have more than one report.

The Student Survey was administered online in Rhode Island public schools from January 10, 2013 through March 15, 2013. To prevent unauthorized access to the survey or multiple entries, students used a randomly generated 7-digit access code distributed by the SurveyWorks Site Coordinator. To guarantee anonymity, students' personal information was not associated with the access codes.

This section of the report presents the students' responses. Data are provided for this school as well as for all students in comparable grades in Rhode Island public schools. Responses are reported as the percentage of students who responded to each item and the total number of students answering each item by school and across the state. In order to ensure anonymity, data for items with fewer than ten responses are not reported. In these cases, a dash (-) indicates that there are insufficient responses to report.

As noted in the introduction to the report, this school's Student Survey participation rate is N/A. The participation rate is calculated as the number of students who responded to the survey as a percentage of the total average daily membership of the school between October 1, 2012 and March 15, 2013 for the applicable grades, minus the number of students whose parents opted them out of the survey participation. The participation rates for schools that were not eligible or exempt is reported as "N/A".



This school did not participate in the student survey because it does not enroll students in any of grades 4-12.



Section 2: Parent Survey

Introduction.....	18
Demographics.....	19
Teaching and Student Achievement.....	21
Student Engagement.....	21
College/Career Readiness.....	21
Safe and Supportive Schools.....	22
School Safety and Climate.....	22
Discipline, Equity and Respect.....	22
Families and Communities.....	23
Parent Engagement.....	23
Parent Participation.....	24
Learning Opportunities.....	24
Involvement in Decision-making.....	25
Parent-School Partnership.....	25
Parent Involvement.....	26
Parent Involvement Frequency.....	26
Parent Engagement in Post High School Plans.....	26
Parent-Teacher Communication.....	27
School-Parent Communication.....	28
School Services.....	30
Community Support.....	30
Funding and Resources.....	31
School Resources.....	31



Section 2: Parent Survey Introduction

In January 2013, parents/guardians of students at all public schools in Rhode Island were invited to participate in the SurveyWorks Parent Survey. The Parent Survey was administered online and on paper from January 10, 2013 through March 15, 2013.

Parents who had multiple students in the same school were instructed to answer the survey only once based on their experience with the oldest child. Surveys were conducted anonymously. The Parent Survey asked about: the school facility and learning environment, school resources and activities, parent involvement, school-family communication, school safety, and college and career readiness issues.

This section of the report presents the parents' responses. Data tables are provided for this school as well as for parents statewide in Rhode Island. Responses are reported as the percentage of parents who responded to each item and the total number answering each item by school and across the state. In order to ensure anonymity, data for items with fewer than ten responses are not reported. In these cases, a dash (-) indicates that there are insufficient responses to report at the school level.

As noted in the introduction, this school's Parent Survey participation rate is 29.8%. The participation rate is calculated as the number of Parent Surveys received as a percentage of the total number of unique student addresses for the school. This method of counting families is more accurate than the total number of students in a school, but may overcount some families and undercount others. Data from schools with low participation rates should be interpreted with caution. Parent Survey results are not reported for any school where the total Parent Survey participation rate is less than 10%.



SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Demographics



Child's Grade Level

What grade is your child in?	This School		Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
Pre-K	0	0.0	468	2.1
K	7	12.1	2240	10.3
1st Grade	19	32.8	2232	10.2
2nd Grade	16	27.6	2182	10.0
3rd Grade	16	27.6	2364	10.8
4th Grade	0	0.0	2433	11.2
5th Grade	0	0.0	2285	10.5
6th Grade	0	0.0	1635	7.5
7th Grade	0	0.0	1165	5.3
8th Grade	0	0.0	1051	4.8
9th Grade	0	0.0	1004	4.6
10th Grade	0	0.0	950	4.4
11th Grade	0	0.0	985	4.5
12th Grade	0	0.0	822	3.8
Total	58	100.0	21816	100.0

Child's Gender

Is your child male or female?	This School		Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
Male	23	41.1	10411	48.8
Female	33	58.9	10924	51.2
Total	56	100.0	21335	100.0

Child's IEP Status

Does your child have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?	This School		Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
Yes	5	8.6	3707	17.4
No	53	91.4	17553	82.6
Total	58	100.0	21260	100.0

[Go to Table of Contents](#)



Education Attained

What is your highest level of education?	This School		Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
Some high school	0	0.0	1131	5.3
GED	0	0.0	912	4.3
High school	2	3.4	2636	12.3
Trade school	0	0.0	911	4.2
Some college	3	5.2	4399	20.5
Completed college	16	27.6	6505	30.3
Advanced degree	36	62.1	4193	19.5
I don't want to say.	1	1.7	761	3.5
Total	58	100.0	21448	100.0



SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Teaching & Student Achievement



Student Engagement

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	Total	This School %			Total	Statewide %				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree		Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
School staff keep my child interested in what they are learning.	49	4.1	2.0	42.9	51.0	19318	2.9	7.7	54.8	34.6

College/Career Readiness

The following questions are asked only of parents who are responding for a child in grades 9-12.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Total	This School %			Total	Statewide %				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree		Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
This school gives me information on ways to finance my child's college education through loans or scholarships.	-	-	-	-	-	3329	9.5	24.5	51.3	14.7
Teachers at this school expect my child to graduate from high school.	-	-	-	-	-	3423	2.1	1.5	28.5	67.8
Teachers at this school expect my child to go to college.	-	-	-	-	-	3192	2.4	4.3	30.7	62.6



SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Safe & Supportive Schools



School Safety and Climate

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Total	This School %				Total	Statewide %			
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
This school is a safe place.	57	3.5	3.5	31.6	61.4	21637	1.4	5.4	56.3	36.9
This school creates a respectful environment for my child.	57	3.5	1.8	19.3	75.4	21609	1.6	4.5	49.6	44.3
The main office staff members are friendly and helpful.	57	0.0	0.0	26.3	73.7	21646	2.3	5.6	45.7	46.4

Discipline, Equity, and Respect

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Total	This School %				Total	Statewide %			
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
School staff apply rules equally for all students.	39	10.3	0.0	48.7	41.0	14984	5.4	9.8	52.2	32.7
School staff respect me.	55	3.6	0.0	29.1	67.3	19527	2.1	2.7	51.4	43.8
School staff respect my child.	56	3.6	1.8	25.0	69.6	19704	2.3	3.6	50.8	43.3



SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Families & Communities



Parent Engagement

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Total	This School %			Statewide %					
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I know what my child is studying in his or her classes.	56	1.8	8.9	42.9	46.4	21572	1.5	7.0	55.4	36.1
I feel welcome at this school.	57	3.5	3.5	10.5	82.5	21764	1.6	3.6	45.6	49.2

Parent Engagement - Continued

How often do you do the following?	Total	This School %			Statewide %					
		Never	A few times per year	Monthly	At least weekly	Total	Never	A few times per year	Monthly	At least weekly
I help my child with homework.	53	0.0	0.0	3.8	96.2	21395	3.8	7.7	10.0	78.6
I talk with my child about school.	56	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	21615	0.3	1.5	3.2	95.0
I visit my child's classroom.	57	1.8	49.1	24.6	24.6	21351	16.8	62.1	12.9	8.2
I read with my child.*	42	0.0	2.4	0.0	97.6	6511	1.0	1.5	4.0	93.5

* This question is only asked of parents answering for a student in grades PK-2



Go to Table of Contents

SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Families & Communities



Parent Participation

Do you attend these types of school-related events at this school? Select all that apply.	This School		Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
Parent-teacher conferences	56	98.2	16545	81.0
Special events (college nights, open houses, fundraisers, etc.)	40	70.2	12606	63.5
Plays, concerts, dances	43	75.4	11503	57.9
Book fairs	55	96.5	9365	47.2
Sporting events	9	16.1	5676	29.4
Parent Teacher Association or Parent Teacher Organization meetings	29	51.8	6037	31.0
Workshops or trainings about how to help my child	6	10.7	3454	17.9
Department Nights (math night, literacy night, science fairs, etc.)	31	54.4	4702	24.2
Field trips	34	59.6	5978	30.7
School Improvement Team meetings	2	3.6	1415	7.4
Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings	6	10.7	2989	15.5
After-school program events	35	61.4	6008	30.9
Other	0	0.0	605	3.2
I am not aware of any of these.	0	0.0	652	3.4
Total	56*	--	19110*	--

*For "choose all that apply" items, the total may not equal the sum of response options, and the percentages may not total 100%.

Learning Opportunities

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Total	This School			Statewide					
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
My child is learning as much as he or she can at this school.	57	3.5	17.5	31.6	47.4	21522	3.2	14.9	49.8	32.0
This school has high expectations for my child.	56	1.8	8.9	39.3	50.0	21378	2.3	10.7	51.6	35.4
My child's homework helps him or her do better in school.	55	3.6	7.3	43.6	45.5	21449	1.9	8.1	54.1	35.9

[Go to Table of Contents](#)

SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Families & Communities



Involvement in Decision-making

Does this school involve you in these types of school-level decisions? Select all that apply.

	This School		Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
Fundraising/event planning	37	75.5	10385	55.2
School rules	9	18.4	5741	30.8
Before and after school programs	24	48.0	6325	33.9
School programs	13	26.5	5894	31.7
Choosing curricula	4	8.2	1775	9.8
Budget	11	22.4	2119	11.7
Facilities	3	6.1	1749	9.6
I am not aware of any of these.	8	16.3	5983	32.1
Total	49*	--	18641*	--

*For "choose all that apply" items, the total may not equal the sum of response options, and the percentages may not total 100%.

Parent-School Partnership

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Total	This School %			Statewide %					
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
This school views parents as important partners.	57	3.5	1.8	15.8	78.9	21457	1.8	5.9	50.2	42.1
This school and I have the same goals for my child.	56	3.6	3.6	46.4	46.4	21443	1.7	7.0	52.8	38.5



SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Families & Communities



Parent Involvement

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	Total	This School %				Total	Statewide %			
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Many parents I know help out at this school.	57	0.0	3.5	38.6	57.9	20891	5.0	23.8	49.4	21.7

Parent Involvement Frequency

How often do you do the following?	Total	This School %				Total	Statewide %			
		Never	A few times per year	Monthly	At least weekly		Never	A few times per year	Monthly	At least weekly
I volunteer in my child's classroom.	56	8.9	51.8	14.3	25.0	21062	71.4	21.3	3.6	3.7
I volunteer at this school.	56	7.1	41.1	19.6	32.1	21118	54.5	31.7	7.2	6.6

Parent Engagement in Post-High School Plans

The following questions are asked only of parents who are responding for a child in grades 9-12.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Total	This School %				Total	Statewide %			
		Never	A few times per year	Monthly	At least weekly		Never	A few times per year	Monthly	At least weekly
I talk with my child about career plans.	-	-	-	-	-	3535	1.1	14.8	32.5	51.7
I talk with my child about going to college.	-	-	-	-	-	3554	1.7	13.1	30.4	54.8

[Go to Table of Contents](#)

SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Families & Communities



Parent-Teacher Communication

How do you communicate with your child's teacher(s)? Select all that apply.	This School		Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
In person	50	87.7	14372	68.8
Parent-teacher conferences	50	87.7	13485	65.4
Written notes sent with the child	46	80.7	12934	62.5
E-mail	53	93.0	11723	58.4
Phone/voicemail	17	29.8	9386	46.3
Parent portal (e.g., schoolnotes.com or other online site)	1	1.8	2257	11.5
Mail	1	1.8	1391	7.1
Text message	23	41.1	8772	43.3
Social networking site (e.g. Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc.)	0	0.0	373	1.9
Website	4	7.1	1456	7.4
Newsletter	12	21.4	2950	14.9
Total	56*	--	19748*	--

*For "choose all that apply" items, the total may not equal the sum of response options, and the percentages may not total 100%.

Parent-Teacher Communication - Continued

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	This School					Statewide				
	Total	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
It is easy for me to communicate with my child's teachers if I need to.	57	1.8	0.0	19.3	78.9	21339	1.6	3.9	42.5	52.1
I understand my child's report card.	53	0.0	5.7	39.6	54.7	21483	1.2	3.9	51.9	43.0



SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Families & Communities



School-Parent Communication

What is/are the best method(s) for this school to contact you? Select all that apply.

	This School		Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
Phone/Voicemail	51	89.5	19145	89.8
E-mail	56	98.2	15360	74.9
Notes sent with your child	44	77.2	13929	66.5
Parent-teacher conferences	44	77.2	12419	60.0
Newsletter	18	32.1	4859	24.3
Mail	21	37.5	7143	35.3
Text message	23	41.1	8772	43.3
Parent portal (e.g., schoolnotes.com or other online site)	6	10.7	2761	14.0
PTA/PTO meetings	9	16.1	3007	15.1
Community bulletins	7	12.5	1703	8.6
Social networking site (e.g., Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc.)	1	1.8	1659	8.4
Website	11	19.6	2758	14.0
Total	56*	--	19747*	--

*For "choose all that apply" items, the total may not equal the sum of response options, and the percentages may not total 100%.

[Go to Table of Contents](#)

SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Families & Communities



School-Parent Communication - Continued

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Total	This School			Total	Strongly Disagree	Statewide		
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree			Strongly Agree	Disagree	Agree
It is easy for me to communicate with my child's principal if I need to.	57	3.5	0.0	19.3	20987	2.9	6.2	50.1	40.8
This school contacts me if my child does something well.	55	7.3	27.3	41.8	20674	9.5	27.0	39.5	24.0
This school contacts me if my child is having a problem with class work.	53	1.9	11.3	49.1	20279	4.7	16.0	50.1	29.1
This school contacts me if there is a problem with my child's behavior.	53	1.9	3.8	43.4	20254	1.8	4.7	51.6	41.9
This school responds quickly to my requests or concerns.	56	3.6	1.8	26.8	20877	2.5	7.2	51.5	38.8
This school tells me about events happening in school.	57	0.0	1.8	24.6	21186	2.4	6.3	51.2	40.2



SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Families & Communities



School Services

Has this school made you aware of these types of school-level services? Select all that apply.	This School		Statewide	
	#	%	#	%
Arts programs (music, dance, art, theater)	43	76.8	8958	45.7
Sports	21	37.5	8423	43.0
Counseling	25	44.6	6172	31.8
Academic enrichment (chess club, robotics club)	44	78.6	5479	28.5
Tutoring programs	5	9.1	5240	27.0
Before or after-school programs	49	87.5	12841	64.1
Parent support groups	9	16.1	4236	21.9
Homework club	3	5.5	4507	23.2
Family literacy programs	2	3.6	2991	15.5
I am not aware of any of these.	1	1.8	3406	17.5
Total	56*	--	19256*	--

*For "choose all that apply" items, the total may not equal the sum of response options, and the percentages may not total 100%.

Community Support

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	Total	This School %			Statewide %					
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The community supports this school.	57	0.0	1.8	24.6	73.7	21197	1.4	7.2	57.2	34.2



SurveyWorks Parent Survey 2012-2013

School-State Comparison Report

Funding & Resources



School Resources

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Total	This School %				Total	Statewide %			
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
This school has enough classroom supplies (e.g., books, paper, desks).	56	1.8	3.6	55.4	39.3	21269	3.9	16.2	57.9	21.9
This school has enough computers.	54	5.6	29.6	44.4	20.4	20553	7.0	28.4	50.3	14.4
This school is well-maintained.	57	0.0	1.8	43.9	54.4	21613	2.4	8.3	54.5	34.8



Section 3: Teacher/Staff Survey

Introduction.....	33
Demographics.....	34
Teaching and Student Achievement.....	37
Teacher Practice.....	37
Components of Grading.....	39
Homework.....	40
Student Engagement.....	40
Teacher Collaboration.....	40
Coordination With Other Staff.....	41
Departmental Meetings.....	41
Educator Relationships.....	42
Teams and Advisories.....	42
Safe and Supportive Schools.....	44
Library Access.....	44
School Safety.....	44
Discipline.....	44
Student Violence-Physical Harm.....	45
Student Relationships.....	46
Equity and Respect.....	46
Professional Climate and Evaluation.....	47
Professional Climate.....	47
Workload.....	48
Vision and Input.....	48
Teacher Decision-making.....	49
Families and Communities.....	50
Parent Involvement Strategies.....	50
Parent Involvement.....	50
Parent-Teacher Communication.....	51
Parent-Teacher Conferences.....	52
Community Support.....	52
Funding and Resources.....	53
School Facilities and Resources.....	53
Planning Time.....	54
Adequacy of Planning Time.....	54
Staff Development Frequency.....	54
Desired Staff Development.....	55
External Support.....	56



Section 3: Teacher/Staff Survey Introduction

This section of the report presents a series of tables created from the Teacher/Staff Survey responses for this school. In order to ensure anonymity, data for items with fewer than ten responses are not reported. In these cases, a dash (-) indicates that there are insufficient responses to report at the school level.

To maintain the anonymity of survey participants, teacher/staff responses to demographic questions are grouped and presented at the local education authority (LEA) level and not reported at the school level. The demographic data for teachers from district-authorized charter schools are reported with their districts. Demographic data for teachers from state-operated schools and state-authorized charters are reported together. Responses to all other items are reported at the school level as the percentage and total number of teachers/staff who answered each item at this school, as well as statewide.

As noted in the introduction, this school's Teacher/Staff Survey participation rate is 22.5%. The participation rate is the number of teachers/staff who responded to the survey as a percentage of the eligible teachers/staff at this school. The number of eligible teachers/staff come from one of two data sources. School principals were asked to provide the number of teachers and instructional staff. For those schools that provided the data, these numbers are used. For schools that did not provide this information, staffing data are provided by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

Teacher/Staff Survey data are only reported for schools where at least 10 teachers/staff responded.



This school did not achieve the minimum of 10 teacher responses needed to display Teacher Survey responses.

