

the condition of education 2002



INDICATOR 40

Parents' Attitudes Toward Schools

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2002*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2002*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002025>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Office of Educational Research and Improvement



Community Support

Parents' Attitudes Toward Schools

In 1999, half of all children in grades 3–12 had parents who reported that they were “very satisfied” with their child’s school, their child’s teachers, the school’s academic standards, and the school’s order and discipline.

Parents’ opinions of their children’s schools provide an indicator of the perceived relative health of U.S. education. Examining parents’ level of satisfaction with schools can help to define perceived problems within America’s schools.

The percentage of children in grades 3–12 with parents who reported they were “very satisfied” with their child’s school decreased from 56 percent in 1993 to 53 percent in 1999. In contrast, the percentage of those with parents who reported they were very satisfied with their child’s teachers, the school’s academic standards, and the school’s order and discipline remained similar (see supplemental table 40-1).

In 1993, the percentage of children with parents who were very satisfied with their child’s school, the school’s academic standards, and the school’s order and discipline was higher as household income increased. This relationship was not evident in 1999. The percent-

age of children with parents who were very satisfied with these three areas in 1999 was higher for those with the highest and lowest family income levels than for those at the middle income levels.

In 1993, Black children in grades 3–12 were less likely than their White peers to have parents who reported that they were very satisfied with their child’s school, child’s teachers, the school’s academic standards, and the school’s order and discipline. However, between 1993 and 1999, the percentages of White children with parents who reported being very satisfied decreased, while the percentages of Black children with very satisfied parents remained similar. Due to these changes, the percentages of White and Black children with very satisfied parents were similar in 1999. Among all racial/ethnic groups in 1999, Hispanic children had the highest percentage of parents who were very satisfied with the four areas assessed (see supplemental table 40-1).

NOTE: The categories for family income are current dollars, which have not been adjusted for inflation. Caution should be exercised in comparing satisfaction levels between 1993 and 1999. Data include both public and private school students in grades 3–12.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), “School Safety and Discipline” survey, 1993 and “Parent Interview” survey, 1999.

ATTITUDES TOWARD SCHOOL: Percentage of children in grades 3–12 whose parents were very satisfied with their schools, by family income: 1993 and 1999



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Note 1
Supplemental Table 40-1

Parents' Attitudes Toward Schools

Table 40-1 Percentage of children in grades 3–12 with parents who were very satisfied with various aspects of the school their child attends, by selected family characteristics: 1993 and 1999

Characteristic	Child's school		Child's teachers		School's academic standards		School's order and discipline	
	1993	1999	1993	1999	1993	1999	1993	1999
Total	55.9	52.9	58.3	56.8	58.4	56.8	58.5	58.2
Race/ethnicity								
White	57.2	53.3	58.9	56.9	59.8	56.7	59.7	58.0
Black	49.3	49.0	53.7	53.6	52.4	55.4	54.1	55.6
Hispanic	57.9	57.6	60.5	62.1	58.0	61.3	58.0	63.3
Other	53.5	47.6	58.9	52.6	58.3	51.7	57.5	55.9
Household income								
\$10,000 or less	49.6	56.6	57.3	62.5	54.9	60.7	57.0	62.6
\$10,001–20,000	54.4	50.0	58.3	56.5	54.2	55.9	54.5	55.0
\$20,001–35,000	55.3	49.2	58.2	54.8	58.2	54.3	58.5	55.2
\$35,001–50,000	57.4	52.3	57.7	54.6	59.6	55.0	59.4	57.0
More than \$50,000	59.8	55.0	59.3	57.4	62.3	58.2	61.4	60.1
Parents' highest education level								
Less than high school	56.6	58.0	61.5	61.8	56.9	61.3	59.0	64.0
High school diploma or equivalent	54.5	51.7	58.9	56.1	56.9	56.0	57.4	56.1
Some college, including vocational/technical	53.8	49.1	55.3	54.4	56.6	53.9	56.0	54.5
Bachelor's degree	59.8	52.8	60.9	57.9	62.7	56.6	62.5	59.5
Graduate/professional degree	60.1	58.7	59.1	58.7	63.2	61.1	63.2	63.7
Family structure								
Two biological/adoptive parents	57.1	55.3	58.5	58.6	59.2	58.2	59.4	60.5
One biological/adoptive parent	51.8	50.2	56.7	54.7	55.9	55.6	55.6	56.4
One biological/adoptive and one stepparent	51.0!	51.4	66.5!	55.8	40.3!	54.4	47.2!	55.5
Other relatives/step- or foster parents	63.0!	46.7	65.2!	53.5	62.3!	54.8	63.6!	55.7
Urbanicity								
Live inside urban area	55.4	54.4	57.9	57.9	58.7	58.5	59.1	61.3
Live outside urban area	56.4	52.8	59.9	55.6	57.9	55.5	55.7	54.1
Rural	56.8	49.2	58.3	54.9	58.0	53.4	59.0	52.8

!Interpret with caution; standard errors are large due to small sample size.

NOTE: Included in the total but not shown separately are children from other types of family structures. See *Supplemental Note 1* for the definition of urbanicity.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), "School Safety and Discipline" survey, 1993 and "Parent Interview" survey, 1999.

Parents' Attitudes Toward Schools

Table S40 Standard errors for the percentage of children in grades 3–12 whose parents were very satisfied with their schools, by family income: 1993 and 1999

Household income	1993	1999
\$10,000 or less	1.9	2.2
\$10,001–20,000	1.4	1.8
\$20,001–35,000	1.4	1.1
\$35,001–50,000	1.4	1.4
More than \$50,000	0.9	1.0

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), "School Safety and Discipline" survey, 1993 and "Parent Interview" survey, 1999.

Parents' Attitudes Toward Schools

Table S40-1 Standard errors for the percentage of children in grades 3–12 with parents who were very satisfied with various aspects of the school their child attends, by selected family characteristics: 1993 and 1999

Characteristic	Child's school		Child's teachers		School's academic standards		School's order and discipline	
	1993	1999	1993	1999	1993	1999	1993	1999
Total	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5
Race/ethnicity								
White	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7
Black	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.2
Hispanic	1.8	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.5	1.2	2.1	1.3
Other	3.5	2.4	3.1	2.3	3.3	2.4	4.1	2.4
Household income								
\$10,000 or less	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.6	2.0	2.3	1.9
\$10,001–20,000	1.4	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.1	1.6
\$20,001–35,000	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.0
\$35,001–50,000	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.2
More than \$50,000	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9
Parents' highest education level								
Less than high school	3.1	2.2	3.2	1.9	3.3	2.0	4.0	1.8
High school diploma or equivalent	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.1
Some college, including vocational/technical	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
Bachelor's degree	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3
Graduate/professional degree	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.2
Family structure								
Two biological/adoptive parents	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.7
One biological/adoptive parent	1.3	1.1	1.5	0.8	1.3	1.3	1.9	0.9
One biological/adoptive and one stepparent	33.9	1.6	23.6	1.4	25.8	1.4	31.8	1.4
Other relatives/step- or foster parents	6.6	3.3	6.7	3.3	6.4	3.1	6.4	3.5
Urbanicity								
Live inside urban area	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7
Live outside urban area	1.4	1.6	2.2	1.6	1.8	1.5	2.1	1.6
Rural	1.8	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.1

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), "School Safety and Discipline" survey, 1993 and "Parent Interview" survey, 1999.