

OMB #:
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Public School Principal Questionnaire

Spring 2013

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To better understand the differences between the public and private schools, this survey asks about policies, practices, and working conditions in your school. It is part of a multi-year study that will examine how public and private school conditions change over time and throughout the District.

Q1. How long have you been the principal at this school? (✓ Check one)

- Less than 1 year..... ¹
- 1 to 2 years..... ²
- 3 to 4 years..... ³
- 4 to 5 years..... ⁴
- More than 5 years..... ⁵

Part 1: Admissions and Available Programs

The questions in this section ask about possible requirements for admission and the programs your school may offer.

Q2. Does your school have any criteria that are routinely used in admitting students?
(✓ Check one)

- Yes..... ¹
- No..... ² (Go to Question 4)

Q3a. Which of the following criteria does your school routinely use in admitting students?
(✓ Check all that apply)

- a. Interview..... ⁰¹
- b. Academic performance as measured by a test your school or your school system administers..... ⁰²
- c. Other indicators of academic performance..... ⁰³
- d. Disciplinary record..... ⁰⁴
- e. Extent of special needs..... ⁰⁵
- f. Essay..... ⁰⁶
- g. Neighborhood priorities..... ⁰⁷
- h. Sibling preferences..... ⁰⁸
- i. Children of faculty or board members..... ⁰⁹
- j. Other (please specify _____)..... ¹⁰

Q3b. What proportion of students who begin the school-year, finish the year still enrolled at your school?

_____ (percent)

Q3c. What percentage of students in your school are retained one or more grades between the time they enter and leave the school?
 _____ (percent)

Q4. Which of the following programs or facilities are available to students in your school?
 (☐ Check yes or no on each row)

	Yes	No
Special Instructional Programs		
a. Programs with specific instructional approaches (e.g., Success for All, Reading Recovery)	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
b. A foreign language program.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
c. Advanced placement (AP) courses (high school only)	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
d. International Baccalaureate (IB) program (high school only)	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
e. Instructional programs for non-English speakers...	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
f. Instructional programs for students with learning disabilities.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
g. Instructional programs for advanced learners or talented/gifted program.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
h. Music program.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
i. Arts program.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
Extra Curricular Activities		
j. After-school program.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
k. Before-school program.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
l. Athletics.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
m. Academic clubs.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
n. Performing arts.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
Supports for Struggling Learners		
o. Individual tutors.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
School Facilities		
p. Nurse.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
q. Lunches prepared at the school.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
r. Computer lab.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
s. Library/Media Center.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
t. Gym.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
u. Cafeteria.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²

v. Other (please specify _____).....

 ¹ ²

Q5. How would you rate your school on each of the following aspects?
 (✓ Check one box on each row)

	Excellent	Very Good	Adequate	Inadequate	Deficient	Does not apply to this school
School Facilities:						
a. Condition of the building(s).....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
b. The amount of space available for activities	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
c. Quality of science labs available...	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
d. Quality of computer facilities available	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
e. Quality and availability of textbooks and other instructional materials.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
f. Quality of your library.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
g. Access to computers and other educational technology (e.g., calculators).....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
h. Transportation for students to and from school.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
i. Accessibility for students with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Students and Parents:						
j. Student attendance and punctuality	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
k. Student preparation in subject areas	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
l. Student motivation to learn.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
m. Student behavior and/or discipline	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
n. Parental support for student learning	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Teachers and Instruction:						
o. Teacher expectations for how well students will learn.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
p. Provisions for low-performing students	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
q. The amount of instructional time in the school day.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
r. Instructional skills and abilities of teachers	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
s. Subject area expertise of teachers	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
t. Teacher attendance and punctuality	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
u. Teaching staff turnover.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
v. Teacher compensation.....	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

Q6. How much emphasis do you place on the following goals and objectives for your teachers?
 (☐ Check one box on each row)

	No or minor emphasis	Moderate emphasis	Major emphasis
a. Assisting all students to achieve high standards.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³
b. Using curricula aligned with high standards.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³
c. Using instructional strategies (e.g., hands-on activities, cooperative learning) aligned with high standards.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³
d. Participation in professional development activities.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³

Part 2: Classroom Instruction and Classroom Testing

This section focuses on the ways classroom instruction is organized at your school and how often testing occurs.

Q7. Schools sometimes organize instruction differently for students with different abilities and interests. Which of the following does your school do for students?
(✓ Check one)

- ¹ We offer differentiated courses in our core curriculum but students have open access to any course provided they have taken the required prerequisite(s).
- ² We offer differentiated courses and do differentiated grouping in our core curriculum.
- ³ We offer a variety of undifferentiated courses in our core curriculum, and students have open access to any course provided they have taken the required prerequisite(s).

Q8. For students who have difficulty learning at the same pace as their classmates, what proportion of these students are provided the following types of support?
(✓ Check one box on each row)

	All	Some	Few	None	Not Offered
a. Rely on teachers to provide extra help during regular class times.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
b. Counsel students to enroll in other schools.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
c. Use peers as instructors.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
d. Provide individualized attention from an adult other than the main classroom teacher.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
e. Computer-based instruction.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
f. Use differentiated instruction techniques.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
g. Other (please specify _____).....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵

Q9. For each grade listed below, please answer the following questions.

	If your school has a THIRD grade, please answer (a) and (b):	If your school has an EIGHTH grade, please answer (a) and (b):	If your school has a TENTH grade, please answer (a) and (b):
a. How long is the typical full week of school?	____ hours and ____ minutes	____ hours and ____ minutes	____ hours and ____ minutes
b. During a typical full week of school, approximately how many minutes do most students spend on these activities at this school?			
(1) English, reading, or language arts	____ minutes per week	____ minutes per week	____ minutes per week
(2) Arithmetic or math	____ minutes per week	____ minutes per week	____ minutes per week
(3) Social studies or history	____ minutes per week	____ minutes per week	____ minutes per week
(4) Science	____ minutes per week	____ minutes per week	____ minutes per week

Q10. On average, how often do teachers in your school test the English, reading, or language arts skills of their students?

(✓ Check one)

- More than once a week.... ¹
- Weekly..... ²
- Monthly..... ³
- Quarterly..... ⁴
- Annually..... ⁵

Q11. Over the past few years, has the frequency of testing English, reading, or language arts skills at your school... (✓ Check one)

- Increased..... ¹
- Decreased..... ²
- Stayed the same..... ³

Q12. On average, how often do teachers in your school test the Arithmetic or math skills of their students? (✓ Check one)

- More than once a week.... ¹
- Weekly..... ²
- Monthly..... ³
- Quarterly..... ⁴
- Annually..... ⁵

Q13. Over the past few years, has the frequency of testing Arithmetic or math skills at your school... (✓ Check one)

- Increased..... ¹
- Decreased..... ²
- Stayed the same..... ³

Q14. Is your school a single sex school? (✓ Check one)

- Yes..... ¹
- No..... ² (Go to Question 16)

Q15. Which of the following classes are separated by gender? (✓ Check all that apply)

- a. Math classes..... ⁰¹
- b. English classes..... ⁰²
- c. Science classes..... ⁰³
- d. History classes..... ⁰⁴
- e. Music classes..... ⁰⁵

Part 3: Parental Involvement

This section asks about parental involvement in your school programs.

Q16. Does the school do the following for parents?
(✓ Check one on each row)

	Yes	No
a. inform them of their student's progress halfway through the grading period.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
b. notify them when their student is sent to the office for disruptive behavior.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
c. provide them with weekly or daily notes about their child's progress.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
d. provide them with a newsletter about what's going on in their child's school or school system.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
e. invite them to attend leadership workshops.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²

Q17. What proportion of parents participate in the following activities in your school?
(✓ Check one on each row)

	All	Some	Few	None	Not Offered
a. Parents speak to classes about their jobs.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
b. Parents participate in instruction.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
c. Parents attend parent/teacher conferences.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
d. Parents accompany students on class trips.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
e. Parents help out with sports activities.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
f. Parents attend open-houses or back-to-school nights.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵
g. Parents serve on advisory boards.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²	<input type="checkbox"/> ³	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/> ⁵

Part 4: Safety Measures

This section asks about whether your school utilizes certain kinds of safety measures.

Q18. Does your school currently have the following? (✓ Check yes or no on each row)

	Yes	No
a. A requirement that visitors sign in or check in.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
b. A process for screening students using metal detectors.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
c. A requirement that all or most of the students stay on school grounds during lunch.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
d. Drug sweeps.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
e. Daily presence of police or security persons.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²
f. Video surveillance.....	<input type="checkbox"/> ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> ²

Q19. During this school year (2012-13), how many students were:

Suspended: _____ (number)

Expelled: _____ (number)

Forced Transferred: _____ (number)

Part 5: DC Opportunity Scholarship Program

This section asks about your knowledge of and experience with the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program, administered by the Trust

Q20. How did you hear about the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program, the federally-funded scholarship program for students from low-income DC families administered by DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation (Trust)?

(✓ Check all that apply)

- a. I read or heard about the program in the media but do not know the details..... 1
- b. I talked to other principals about the program..... 2
- c. I have not heard of the program..... 3
- d. The Washington Teachers' Union provided information about the program..... 4
- e. Other (please specify _____)..... 5

Q21. In the past 5 years or since you became principal, have you made any changes specifically to encourage students interested in private schools (or the DC Opportunity Scholarship program) to remain enrolled in your school?

(✓ Check one)

- Yes..... 1
- No..... 2 (Go to Question 24)

Q22. Which of the following changes did you make specifically to encourage DC Opportunity Scholarship students to enroll in your school, remain enrolled in your school or to assist those that do enroll?

(✓ Check all that apply)

- a. Added parent orientation or meeting to describe school offerings and performance..... 01
- b. Offered additional courses (e.g., introduced a course in computer technology or art)..... 02
- c. Increased school safety provisions..... 03
- d. Adjusted disciplinary rules..... 04
- e. Altered class sizes..... 05
- f. Added tutoring or other special services to help improve academic achievement..... 06
- g. Participated in one or more school fairs..... 07
- h. Promoted your school through the use of flyers, radio ads, newspapers ads, or other methods of advertising..... 08
- i. Made efforts to improve the physical appearance of your school..... 09
- j.

Q23. Have you done any of the following to encourage DC Opportunity Scholarship students to stay at this school?

(✓ Check all that apply)

- a. Meet with parents to discuss how their child is doing..... ⁰¹
- b. Meet with teachers to assess approaches for helping the student succeed academically..... ⁰²
- c. Meet with the student to discuss issues that may be hindering their progress..... ⁰³
- d. Identify additional financial aid to meet family needs..... ⁰⁴

Q24. Since you have been principal at this school, what is your best estimate of the number of students that have left your school as a result of the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program?

(✓ Check one)

- a. None..... ¹
- b. 1-6..... ²
- c. 6-10..... ³
- d. 11-20..... ⁴
- e. 21-30..... ⁵
- f. More than 30..... ⁶
- g. Don't know..... ⁸

END: Thank you for completing this survey.