

2020 Lincoln Academy Parent Survey Summary
9 April 2020

SAC would like to preface this report with expressing our appreciation for the amazing resiliency and dedication of our teachers and staff in navigating the current distance learning environment.

2020: 369 responses

2019: 309 responses **2018:** 320 responses, **2017:** 359 responses.

The new schedule for completion (Dec), Board review/ approval (Jan), and release date (Feb 9-26) worked well. Though we had a shorter survey window, the reminders went out perfectly and we had strong responses. Survey Monkey showed a strong uptick on days that reminders were sent.

General

Community, dedicated teachers, friendly and committed staff, and academic rigor were identified as key strengths and assets of Lincoln Academy throughout the survey.

Overall, I am satisfied with Lincoln Academy

2020: 96.5% (72.0% Strongly Agree, 24.4% Agree)

2019: 94.2% (79.4% Yes, 14.9% Most of the time)

2018: 94.19%

2017: 94.7%

Answer choices were changed to make the survey more uniform, but this does make comparison more difficult.

Communication is effective:

2020: 43.7% strongly agree, 48.6% agree

2019: 47.9% strongly agree, 45.5% agree

When broken down by individual communication method, virtually all means had the majority of responses in “Meets my Expectations”. Only Teacher/ Monday emails received over 25% in “ Exceed my Expectations”.

This is an area we are always working to improve and it will always be a moving target with changing technology and family dynamics. Some comments from families include:

appreciating the various modes of communication

concern about inconsistency between teachers

needing more reminders for important dates

wanting a source for more in-depth information

desire for streamlined teacher pages or more intuitive/helpful labeling

(Some families don't know where on the multiple pages to find

information and it seems to vary between grade levels.)
A SAC recommendation regarding communication of classwork is to find a system which auto-feeds content rather than requiring the time-intensive manual posting of information, especially in Middle School.

Academics

1. My student is reaching his/her Highest Academic Potential
2020: 85.4% (43.1 strongly agree, 42.3 Agree)
2019: 84.8% (41% strongly agree, 44% agree)
(No direct comparison in previous surveys. The prior wording was “My student is having a positive academic experience”.)
2018: 94.3% (51% strongly agree, 43% agree) had a positive academic experience.
2. My student receives the academic support he/she needs to be successful.
2020: 85.9% Strongly Agree or agree (44.3%, 41.6%)
2019: 87.3% Strongly agree or agree (46.2 %, 41.1 %)
2018: 91.2% Strongly agree or agree (62.6 Always, 28.6 Most of the time)

School staff has high expectations for my student(s).

2020: 65.6% Always, 26.2% Most of the time, 7.7% some of the time

2019: 64.5% Always, 27.9% Most of the time, 6.64% some of the time

SAC recommendations:

This would be a useful place to have the answers broken down by grade level.

Comments suggest that families feel more academic support for younger students and less for older students. If broken down, questions could be modified for the older students to reflect the push for more independence.

Regarding Homework: Due to responses suggesting that homework is unnecessary or burdensome, it would be valuable to remind incoming families especially of the homework expectation.

Regarding Rigor: For students entering in years beyond K/1, a discussion is recommended for families to understand where the student may face challenges based on incoming testing data.

Social/ Emotional

1. The Social Environment is positive for students.
2020: 86.0% Strongly Agree/agree (38.5% , 47.5%)
2019: 85.8 Strongly Agree/ Agree (38.1%, 47.7%)
2018: 90.6% Strongly Agreed, Agreed (46.1, % 44.5%)
Recommendation from SAC would be to communicate about new PBS and restorative justice emphases as they are developed, perhaps in a Letter from the Dean of Students, more info at Parent Academy, and/or

Family Support seminars.

We are interested to compare this data against Mr. Younkerman's student survey.

2. My student receives the SEL support needed.

2020: 81.3% Strongly agree/ agree (37.1, 44.2)

2019: 86.1% Strongly Agree/agree (40.9%, 45.2%)

2018: 92.1% Strongly agree/ agree (53.7%, 38.4%)

Families are unaware of support strategies and resources for students.

Families are unaware of how their students can access services and whether they will be notified.

SAC Recommendation: Create a Mental Health tab on the website which provides additional information such as introducing our team, explaining how students or families can access services, and informing families of the circumstances in which they are notified/ involved in the process.

Use info from Jeffco Mental Health page

Culture

1. Many of our families are unaware of the Diversity of LA.

SAC recommendation: This would be an opportunity for a Principal's Report on Diversity at Lincoln: "eg: Did you know that students in our school speak over 10 languages?" Provide diversity stats compared to neighborhood schools, comparable charters.

2. Though we have a great range of volunteer opportunities, we see a need to look at how we engage our single and working parents.

SAC recommendation: If we can create a one-stop-shop for classroom, PTO, committee opportunities, it would simplify families' search for where they can fit in their volunteer hours.

Safety/ Operations

1. Parking lot safety: many recommendations for new striping and/or additional staffing

2. Remarks regarding SRO. Parents are unaware that we do have an SRO and what his role is.

3. Communication on WatchDOGS. Recommendation: communicate that they are background checked, what their role is, how to volunteer, etc.

Concerns voiced regarding exclusion of non-father family members.

Experiences with 5/6 Format change

1. Families expressed a great deal of concern regarding the loss of art/music as it relates to Core Knowledge curriculum and what has set Lincoln apart from other schools.

Admin is addressing by requiring Art, Music, PE selections 1ea/yr

2. Also, many concerns were expressed revolving around communication/ support though some parents appreciated the push and guidance, noting that their children “got the hang of it eventually”.

Admin is addressing by returning Homerooms to 5/6

Logistics for Next Year

Add PreK

Separate PreK-4, 5-8 surveys?

SAC proposed either separate surveys or an additional level of skip logic where our general questions are also divided by grade level. There were many occurrences of families stating that their answer would be one way for younger students and different for older students. If we can eliminate any of our general questions to streamline, it may not be so onerous to answer the questions in multiple sections. Some of the burden is that the questions have not been easily answerable due to lack of consistent answer across age levels. This makes the survey feel burdensome.

3. Question specific:

Work on DSS pages

Redo ASH question- Did not allow for response AND comment

Correct Ms. Horn's categories

Move Satisfaction/Suggestion questions back to Main Section instead of end? We

anticipate more thoughtful answers before they have answered 100 questions. Also, it obscured the actual ending and homework code.

Create a separate pop-up for the homework pass code.

Change Satisfaction question back to Yes/ Most of the time.....?

Family Night/Seminar Recommendations:

Love and Logic

Mental Health (through Jeffco?)

Study Skills for younger grades

(Mrs. Gimple maybe on learning styles: visual learners, etc)

Positive Behavior/ Restorative Justice (next year)

Adolescent development