What Superintendents Think: AASA Student Health and Youth Development Survey Results

AASA’s Children’s Programs
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About AASA’s Children’s Programs

Focus Areas: Equity and Systems Change
AASA’s Children’s Programs department is centered on work that drives systems change and increases educational equity. We are committed to equity in educational opportunities and outcomes, reducing racial disparities, and aiding and assisting those children most in-need. Our work supports superintendents and school system leaders to drive meaningful systems change at the district-level by improving and redesigning the policies, practices, and structures in education.

Strategy: Air and Ground Campaign
AASA’s Children’s Programs department employs a coordinated two-pronged strategy to catalyze change, our "Air and Ground Campaign." The Ground Campaign includes direct, intensive, on-the-ground interventions and technical assistance with a select number of districts in each of our Levers for Change. The Air Campaign is our robust, multi-faceted communication strategy that raises awareness, shares lessons learned, and promotes best practices to education leaders across the country.
AASA’s Children’s Programs
Levers for Change

We are currently engaged in Air and Ground Campaigns that drive systems change to increase equity in the following areas:

• Childhood Bereavement
• Children's Health Insurance
• Coordinated School Health
• Expanded Learning Opportunities
• Healthy Eating and Active Living
• Innovative Professional Development Redesign
• School Breakfast
• School Discipline Reform
• Youth Development
Survey Background

District Leaders’ Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors about Health and Student Well-Being

• Sent on August 13, 2014 to 4712 AASA members
• Closed on September 5, 2014
• Response rate: 5.56% (262 members)
Survey was divided into two parts...

- Health
- Student Achievement and Success
Which health topic do you think superintendents were MOST concerned about?

A. Dental problems
B. Hunger
C. Mental health
D. Allergies
QUESTION

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A. Dental problems
B. Hunger
C. Mental health
D. Allergies
Mental Health Discussion

• What do you think prompted this survey response?
• What mental health issues are students in your district facing and bringing to school?
• What is being done in your schools to address student mental health needs?
Mental Health Resources

• Coalition to Support Grieving Students, www.grievingstudents.org – resources for parents, teachers, administrators, and other school staff when students have experienced a loss

• National Association of School Psychologist, www.nasponline.org – general mental health resources for educators, families, and students

• Child Mind Institute, www.childmind.org – resources for parents to help them help their children
QUESTION

Which superintendents were most likely to indicate that hunger was a pressing issue?

A. Superintendents who have 5 or fewer years’ tenure.

B. Superintendents who have more than 5 years’ tenure.
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B. Superintendents who have more than 5 years’ tenure.
Hunger Discussion

• How do you address hunger in your schools?
• Why do you think hunger is an issue for superintendents with longer tenure in a district?
• What programs or practices do you have in place to address hunger or food insecurity for students in your district?
Hunger Resources

- Hunger in Our Schools: Share Our Strength’s Teachers Report, [http://www.nokidhungry.org/additions/educators](http://www.nokidhungry.org/additions/educators)
- Food Research and Action Center, [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)
QUESTION

Which health concern did NOT make it into the top 5 of “next pressing health issue in your district”?

A. Childhood Obesity
B. Allergies
C. Bullying
D. Mental Health
E. Hunger
F. Drugs and Alcohol
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A. Childhood Obesity  
B. Allergies  
C. Bullying  
D. Mental Health  
E. Hunger  
F. Drugs and Alcohol
Bullying Discussion

• Why is bullying no longer a ‘top 5’ issue?
• Has the bullying problem been ‘solved’?
• How are districts dealing with cyberbullying or students using social media to bully other students or school staff?
Bullying Resources

- Dept. of Health and Human Services, [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov) – resources on bullying prevention for everyone
- GLSEN, [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org) – resources for LGBTQ students and allies, school climate information, and GSA support
Which of the following issues did only 2 people say was a health concern in their district?

A. Diabetes
B. Flu
C. Physical Fitness
Which of the following issues did only 2 people say was a health concern in their district?

A. Diabetes
B. Flu
C. Physical Fitness
What do you think was identified as the MOST pressing issue related to student achievement and success in your district?
A. School discipline/school climate
B. College and career readiness
C. Gaps in achievement
D. Funding/resources
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A. School discipline/school climate
B. College and career readiness
C. Gaps in achievement
D. Funding/resources
Achievement Discussion

• How are you addressing achievement in your district?
• What resources have been shown to be effective with your students?
• When do you begin to notice the gap? Is it evident in kindergarten or does it show up later?
Achievement Resources

• AASA and College Summit’s ‘Driving K-12 Reform through a College-Access and Success Agenda’ for all students: http://www.aasa.org/uploadedFiles/Resources/College-Going_Data/College-Going%20Culture%20Toolkit_final.pdf

QUESTION

Which group of superintendents were most likely to say that inadequate services and supports for families and youth were a major concern?

A. Superintendents in rural districts
B. Superintendents in urban districts
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A. Superintendents in rural districts

B. Superintendents in urban districts
Family and Student Supports Discussion

• What would be the most important/helpful/useful family-student support for the people in your district?
• How do you currently support students and families?
• Why do you think family and student support is important?
Family and Student Supports

Resources

• AASA partners with the Coalition for Community Schools and works to integrate a focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development

http://www.communityschools.org/
Which topic resonated most equally across districts of all kinds?

A. Teacher professional development
B. College and career readiness
C. School discipline
Which topic resonated most equally across districts of all kinds?

A. Teacher professional development
B. College and career readiness
C. School discipline
College and Career Readiness Discussion

• What does ‘college and career ready’ mean to you?
• What are you doing to make sure your students graduate ready for college or career training?
College and Career Readiness Resources

• AASA has worked with Ready by 21 for almost a decade to improve the odds that all children are ready for college, work, and life by the age of 21. Ready by 21 assists collective impact efforts across the country and has resources to help build partnerships, set bigger goals, get better data, and take bolder actions: www.readyby21.org
Which of the following issues did only 2 people say was an achievement concern in their district?

A. Apathy
B. Testing
C. Technology
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A. Apathy
B. Testing
C. Technology
Join us!
AASA’s Children’s Programs

• Apply for alternative school breakfast funding – applications due March 13.

• Participate in the Coordinated School Health cadre. Email kjackson@aasa.org.

• Read *Creating a Culture of Health Through Superintendent Leadership*, Issue 1