

Eisenhower International Elementary School  
Strategic Planning Survey Summary

**Introduction:**

In the spring of 2008, the stakeholders at Eisenhower International School (EIS) began the first steps in a strategic planning process. In the months of April and May, facilitators led brainstorming sessions which focused on delineating EIS' strengths and weaknesses and identifying areas needing improvement. Then, using the information gathered from the brainstorming sessions, facilitators sent out a survey to all EIS parents and staff. What follows below is a summary of the survey results, based on 238 responses. In each category only the top percentages are given.

1. The three words/phrases selected to best represent EIS are **language-oriented** (23% of respondents chose this phrase), **unique** (15%) and **diverse** (13%).
2. The five things that MOST contribute to EIS excellence are **active/committed parents** (17%), **second language** (11%), **quality of facility and staff** (11%), **academic excellence** (10%), and **high expectations** (8%).
3. **Building and Grounds:**

Statement	% Agree	% Neutral	% Disagree
The common areas of the EIS bldg. reflect our excellence	56%	21%	23%
The common areas of the EIS bldg. meet educational needs	70%	25%	4%
The exterior landscaping at EIS needs improvement	61%	26%	13%
EIS should have a Performing Arts Center	58%	25%	17%
The EIS bathrooms are satisfactory	24%	36%	40%
EIS should have a "green" bldg	59%	32%	9%
The EIS teachers' lounge needs to be updated	46%	48%	6%
The EIS playground needs improvement	27%	29%	44%
The overall infrastructure of the school is acceptable	59%	25%	16%

4. The three buildings and grounds areas that need the most urgent attention are **restrooms** (16%), **exterior/landscaping** (12%), and **performing arts center** (11%).
5. **Communication:** The best rated forms of communication are e-mails from **EIS-All** and **E-mails from Yahoo Groups**.
6. The following areas of **communication** were rated:
  - **Vitally Important:** Between the school administration & families; Between homeroom teachers & families; Between pullout teachers & families; and information for incoming parents.
  - **Fairly Important:** Between PTA & families; Between EIS foundation & families; About special EIS services; About EIS to general public; and About volunteer opportunities.

*Note: All percentages are rounded and may not equal 100%. "Agree" includes "agree" or "strongly agree" responses; Disagree includes "disagree" or "strongly disagree" responses. Neutral includes "Neutral/Don't know" responses.*

*Hundreds of valuable, open-ended comments were added by respondents. Because some are directed at specific programs or individuals, comments are not included in these results. However, the facilitators and school administration have reviewed the comments carefully and thoughtfully for future use.*

**7. Second Language Curriculum:**

Statement	% Agree	% Neutral	% Disagree
Appropriate 2nd language classroom materials are available	63%	26%	11%
Should add standardized Sp/Fr tests to state tests	47%	34%	19%
Children learn to communicate effectively in a 2nd language	83%	16%	1%
I would be interested in summer language programs	75%	21%	4%
English should be used less during the school day	47%	40%	13%
There is too much emphasis on standardized testing	56%	30%	14%
Overall, the exchange program is effective	62%	35%	3%
There should be more exchange opportunities for families	44%	49%	7%
I am familiar with the Culture Box program	58%	24%	18%
Children learn to respect different people and cultures	88%	11%	1%

**8. Pull-Out/Special Curriculum:**

Statement	% Agree	% Neutral	% Disagree
The music classroom & materials are adequate	57%	37%	7%
The science room & materials are adequate	22%	43%	35%
The art room & materials are adequate	35%	39%	26%
The physical education gym & equipment are adequate	55%	31%	14%
The gifted & talented program room/materials are adequate	15%	76%	9%
Resources for children with special needs are adequate	10%	80%	10%

**9. General Curriculum:**

Statement	% Agree	% Neutral	% Disagree
I would be interested in a year round calendar	37%	15%	48%
A longer school day would be effective	24%	20%	56%
School supplies requested by teachers are reasonable	68%	17%	15%
Too much time is spent on non-academic programs	11%	36%	53%
Children receive appropriate global awareness	68%	24%	8%
EIS should add another language	30%	31%	39%
The amount of homework is appropriate	53%	31%	16%
Homework effectively reinforces classroom learning	62%	26%	11%
The library is adequate	81%	15%	3%

**10. Curriculum needing most improvement (of 97 responses):**

Art – 25 responses, Science – 21, Math - 15, Grammar/Writing – 9.

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### 11. Health & Safety:

Statement	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Drop-off/pick-up system	60%	21%	20%
Enforcement of drop-off/pick-up system	50%	27%	23%
Amount of recess each day	37%	29%	35%
Emphasis on kindness & respect for others	78%	18%	4%
Classroom discipline in general	74%	19%	7%
Lunchtime procedure/time	52%	27%	21%
Cafeteria food	30%	37%	23%
Counseling services	45%	53%	3%
Handling of behavior issues	49%	40%	11%
Security of bldg.& grounds	72%	22%	6%

### 12. Behavior Consequences:

Statement	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Suspension of Recess	55%	10%	35%
Restricted Recess	72%	11%	18%
Time out in classroom	68%	12%	19%
Time out in another classroom	49%	22%	28%
Phone calls/notes to parents	93%	5%	2%
Detention (staying after school)	38%	23%	39%
Detention (before school)	33%	24%	43%

### 13. Technology:

Statement	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Children learn to excel in the information age	67%	25%	8%
Children learn keyboarding skills	77%	16%	8%
EIS teaches children to use mainstream software	50%	39%	11%
The EIS computer lab meets my expectations	41%	39%	20%
Classroom laptops should supplement Smartboards	48%	36%	16%
Technology is well-integrated into curriculum	30%	47%	23%
Children learn to use the Internet appropriately & wisely	48%	41%	12%
Children are exposed to too much electronic media at school	7%	36%	57%
Children should learn to function WITHOUT technology	22%	13%	65%
Technological expertise is key to future success	77%	14%	8%

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#### 14. School Support:

Statement	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Teachers need more opportunities for immersion training	64%	35%	1%
Families provide adequate support for teachers	72%	25%	3%
Additional classroom teachers are needed	21%	49%	29%
EIS should interact with immersion schools nationwide	80%	16%	4%
I understand the role of the PTA	80%	12%	7%
The PTA is effective	73%	25%	2%
I understand the role of the EIS foundation	48%	30%	22%
The EIS foundation is effective	43%	53%	4%

### What's Next?

The Strategic Planning Committee is currently developing a “framework” for the strategic plan. Parents and teachers will be invited to participate in the creation of the plan in a variety of different areas. Please watch for more information soon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dana Schuler Drummond at [lizjacknryn@yahoo.com](mailto:lizjacknryn@yahoo.com).

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