



## **Special Education Students Survey Summary Report**

Updated May 2, 2019

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## Introduction

The Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District conducted an online survey of its Special Education students in its New Campus and ACE programs to help guide its strategic planning. Other surveys are being conducted with Special Education parents, Career Tech Center students and their parents, as well as with local district superintendents and principals, and TBAISD staff.

A total **45** responses were received April 11 – 29, 2019.

Twenty-one attend the New Campus program, and 24 attend the ACE program.

Seven different local public school districts are represented in this sample, mostly from the Traverse City (29) district. Four students are from each of the Elk Rapids and Kingsley districts. Two students are from each of the Benzie, Buckley, Forest Area and Northport districts.

Seventeen are elementary grade students, 5 are in middle school, 3 are in high school, and 20 are post-high school.

Most of the students are male (33, or 73% of the 45).

Judging from the verbatim comments in response to the open-ended question on what they enjoy most about being a student at the TBAISD, at least one parent assisted their child to complete the survey.

## Proud to say they’re a student in their TBAISD program

Slightly more than half of the special education students (53%) responding to this survey are **“extremely or very proud” to say they’re a student in their TBAISD program**, including 30% who are “extremely proud.”

One-third reply “slightly proud” (34%).

More ACE students (58%) say they’re “extremely or very proud” than do New Campus students (45%).

Conversely, more New Campus students (40%) say they’re “slightly proud” than do ACE students (29%).

	<b>Total</b>	<b>New Campus</b>	<b>ACE</b>
Extremely proud	30%	35%	25%
Very proud	23%	10%	33%
Somewhat proud	14%	15%	13%
Slightly proud	34%	40%	29%
(n)	(44)	(20)	(24)

## Ease of transition from their home school to the TBAISD

Almost one-third of the special education students (31%) responding to this survey say the **transition from their home school to the TBAISD was “extremely or very easy,”** including just 11% who reply “extremely easy.”

One-third reply “slightly easy” (34%).

Many more ACE students (51%) say this transition was “extremely or very easy” than do New Campus students (just 410%).

Conversely, many more New Campus students (50%) reply “slightly easy” than do ACE students (21%).

	<b>Total</b>	<b>New Campus</b>	<b>ACE</b>
Extremely easy	11%	10%	13%
Very easy	20%	0%	38%
Somewhat easy	34%	40%	29%
Slightly easy	34%	50%	21%
(n)	(44)	(20)	(24)

## Expectations that education and experiences at TBAISD are preparing them for what happens after they graduate

### Preparing them for everyday life

Almost two-thirds of the special education students (64%) responding to this survey believe their **education and experiences at TBAISD are preparing them for everyday life**, including 42% who reply “definitely yes.”

Seventeen percent reply “no,” while 18% are “not sure.”

Many more ACE students (79%) reply “yes” than do New Campus students (48%). Conversely, more New Campus students (24%) reply “no” than do ACE students (12%).

	<b>Total</b>	<b>New Campus</b>	<b>ACE</b>
Definitely yes	42%	38%	46%
Probably yes	22%	10%	33%
Not sure	18%	29%	8%
Probably no	4%	5%	4%
Definitely no	13%	19%	8%
(n)	(45)	(21)	(24)

### Preparing them for work, employment and career

Almost two-thirds of the special education parents (62%) responding to this survey believe their **education and experiences at TBAISD are preparing them for work, employment and career**, including 44% who reply “definitely yes.”

Twenty percent reply “no,” while 18% are “not sure.”

Many more ACE students (84%) reply “yes” than do New Campus students (38%). Conversely, many more New Campus students (38%) reply “no” than do ACE students (just 4%).

	<b>Total</b>	<b>New Campus</b>	<b>ACE</b>
Definitely yes	44%	19%	67%
Probably yes	18%	19%	17%
Not sure	18%	24%	13%
Probably no	7%	14%	0%
Definitely no	13%	24%	4%
(n)	(45)	(21)	(24)

### Satisfaction with how technology is used in classes

Two-thirds of the special education students (67%) responding to this survey are **“completely or very satisfied” with how technology is used in classes**, including 49% who are “completely satisfied.”

Eleven percent are “slightly satisfied.”

There is no statistically significant difference between the percent of New Campus (62%) and ACE (71%) students who are “completely or very satisfied.”

Conversely, more New Campus students (19%) are “slightly satisfied” than are ACE students (just 4%).

	<b>Total</b>	<b>New Campus</b>	<b>ACE</b>
Completely satisfied	49%	57%	42%
Very satisfied	18%	5%	29%
Somewhat satisfied	22%	19%	25%
Slightly satisfied	11%	19%	4%
(n)	(45)	(21)	(24)



## What have they learned up to this point in their life

### Total special education students

Seven statements were evaluated by the special education students as to if they believe they have learned it at this point in their life.

The statement with the highest percentage of “yes” responses is “It is important to volunteer and to help other people” (91%).

Six of the seven statements have “yes” responses from at least three-fourths of the total 45 special education students responding. Moreover, all seven statements have “yes” responses from at least half of the total 45 special education students responding.

The statement with the least percentage of “yes” responses is “I can peacefully resolve conflicts” (51%).

(n = 45)

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Not yet</b>
I can successfully work with other people as part of a team	82%	18%
It is important to volunteer and to help other people	91%	9%
I can peacefully resolve conflicts	51%	49%
I can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations	79%	21%
I am comfortable trying to stop people from bullying others	77%	23%
My life has a purpose	74%	26%
I am optimistic about my own future	86%	14%

### New Campus students

Six of the seven statements have “yes” responses from at least 70% of the total 21 New Campus students responding, topped by “It is important to volunteer and to help other people” with 90% of the New Campus students. “I can peacefully resolve conflicts” is the only statement with more New Campus students replying “not yet” (57%) than “yes” (43%).

(n = 21)

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Not yet</b>
I can successfully work with other people as part of a team	71%	29%
It is important to volunteer and to help other people	90%	10%
I can peacefully resolve conflicts	43%	57%
I can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations	76%	24%
I am comfortable trying to stop people from bullying others	86%	14%
My life has a purpose	70%	30%
I am optimistic about my own future	86%	14%

### ACE students

All seven statements have “yes” responses from at least 59% of the total 24 ACE students responding, topped by “I can successfully work with other people as part of a team” and “It is important to volunteer and to help other people,” both with more than 90% “yes” replies.

(n = 24)

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Not yet</b>
I can successfully work with other people as part of a team	92%	8%
It is important to volunteer and to help other people	91%	9%
I can peacefully resolve conflicts	59%	41%
I can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations	82%	18%
I am comfortable trying to stop people from bullying others	68%	32%
My life has a purpose	77%	23%
I am optimistic about my own future	86%	14%

## Experiences at TBAISD

### Total special education students

Sixteen statements were evaluated by the special education students for if they experienced it in their time at the TBAISD.

The statement with the highest percentage of “yes” responses is “At least one adult at my school that I can count on to help and support me if I need assistance” (95%).

Five other statements received “yes” responses from at least 90% of the total 45 special education students responding.

Thirteen of the sixteen statements have “yes” responses from at least three-fourths of the total 45 special education students responding. Moreover, all 16 statements have “yes” responses from at least two-thirds of the total 45 special education students responding.

The statement with the least percentage of “yes” responses is “Classes that allow me to explore interesting topics in-depth” (67%).

### New Campus students

Five of the 16 statements received “yes” responses from 90% of the 21 New Campus students responding.

Ten of the sixteen statements have “yes” responses from at least three-fourths of the 21 New Campus students responding.

The statement with the least percentage of “yes” responses is “A school environment safe from bullying” (55%).

### ACE students

Nine of the 16 statements received “yes” responses from 90% of the 24 ACE students responding.

Fourteen of the 16 statements have “yes” responses from at least three-fourths of the 24 ACE students responding.

The statement with the least percentage of “yes” responses is “Classes that allow me to explore interesting topics in-” (71%).

**Total special education students responding** (n = 45)

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Classes or subjects relevant to my life	70%	30%
Classes that allow me to explore interesting topics in-depth	67%	33%
Classes and assignments that are not so easy and require me to study more and work harder	77%	23%
Teachers who expect my best effort	93%	7%
Teachers who are clear about how I am expected to behave	90%	10%
Teachers who have high expectations for students like me	84%	16%
Teachers explain so I understand	81%	19%
Teachers who give me clear feedback about how to improve	88%	12%
Respectful teachers who are positive role models	91%	9%
Teachers and other staff who know me well and care about me as a person	93%	7%
Teachers and staff who make me feel that I have an important contribution to make to my school	74%	26%
Teachers and counselors who communicate with me and my family regarding my education	91%	9%
Opportunities to get to know people of different backgrounds	81%	19%
A school environment safe from bullying	69%	31%
A school environment that feels safe	79%	21%
At least one adult at my school that I can count on to help and support me if I need assistance	95%	5%

**New Campus students responding** (n = 21)

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Classes or subjects relevant to my life	67%	33%
Classes that allow me to explore interesting topics in-depth	62%	38%
Classes and assignments that are not so easy and require me to study more and work harder	81%	19%
Teachers who expect my best effort	90%	10%
Teachers who are clear about how I am expected to behave	90%	10%
Teachers who have high expectations for students like me	81%	19%
Teachers explain so I understand	71%	29%
Teachers who give me clear feedback about how to improve	85%	15%
Respectful teachers who are positive role models	86%	14%
Teachers and other staff who know me well and care about me as a person	90%	10%
Teachers and staff who make me feel that I have an important contribution to make to my school	67%	33%
Teachers and counselors who communicate with me and my family regarding my education	90%	10%
Opportunities to get to know people of different backgrounds	76%	24%
A school environment safe from bullying	55%	45%
A school environment that feels safe	67%	33%
At least one adult at my school that I can count on to help and support me if I need assistance	90%	10%

**ACE students responding** (n = 24)

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Classes or subjects relevant to my life	74%	26%
Classes that allow me to explore interesting topics in-depth	71%	29%
Classes and assignments that are not so easy and require me to study more and work harder	73%	27%
Teachers who expect my best effort	95%	5%
Teachers who are clear about how I am expected to behave	90%	10%
Teachers who have high expectations for students like me	86%	14%
Teachers explain so I understand	91%	9%
Teachers who give me clear feedback about how to improve	91%	9%
Respectful teachers who are positive role models	95%	5%
Teachers and other staff who know me well and care about me as a person	95%	5%
Teachers and staff who make me feel that I have an important contribution to make to my school	82%	18%
Teachers and counselors who communicate with me and my family regarding my education	91%	9%
Opportunities to get to know people of different backgrounds	86%	14%
A school environment safe from bullying	82%	18%
A school environment that feels safe	91%	9%
At least one adult at my school that I can count on to help and support me if I need assistance	100%	0%

## Grade education received from TBAISD

Almost three-fourths of the special education students (73%) responding to this survey **award a grade of A or B to the education they have received from the TBAISD**, including 50% who give an A grade.

Seven percent give a failing F grade, while another 14% assign a D grade.

More ACE students (83%) award a grade of A or B than do New Campus students (60%). Conversely, more than a third of the New Campus students (35%) give a grade of D or F to the TBAISD, compared to just 8% of the ACE students.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>New Campus</b>	<b>ACE</b>
A	50%	50%	50%
B	23%	10%	33%
C	7%	5%	8%
D	14%	20%	8%
F	7%	15%	0%
(n)	(44)	(20)	(24)

## Enjoy most about being a TBAISD student

Here are the special education students unaided verbatim responses (separated for New Campus and ACE students, and then sorted alphabetically) when asked what they enjoy most about being a student at the TBAISD:

**Summary: Socializing with their friends is the most frequently cited attribute of what they enjoy most about being a student at the TBAISD, especially among the ACE students.**

### New Campus students

(n = 18)

- ❖ All the new opportunity
- ❖ Chromebooks
- ❖ Don't know
- ❖ Going to gym
- ❖ Great
- ❖ I can learn at my own pace
- ❖ I have improved a lot
- ❖ Inside recess, playing Uno attack with Ms. Dawn
- ❖ My daughter tells me that she likes going to New Campus because the kids are like her. I like that she doesn't have to act out to be different and now she can learn.
- ❖ None
- ❖ Not good
- ❖ Nothing
- ❖ Nothing
- ❖ Science, and my friends, and my teachers
- ❖ Seeing my friends
- ❖ Seeing my teachers
- ❖ Teachers help me to be better and I get to sort things
- ❖ That I get good education, and I have good teachers



**ACE students**

(n = 23)

- ❖ Beer
- ❖ Being on Tone of voice and Attitudes for School Ground and Cooking for Assistant for work.
- ❖ Being out in the community
- ❖ Being out in the community and learning new things everyday.
- ❖ Being outdoors
- ❖ Getting to learn new things and be with friends
- ❖ Great learning experience, great place to learn from teachers and the expectations they receive from me. great learning opportunity.
- ❖ I get to see all of my friends.
- ❖ I like it because it is fun
- ❖ I like that I get to go out a lot of times in the community
- ❖ I like the teachers there they are help me out and I know they are there for me and they are the best teachers
- ❖ Learning how to cook
- ❖ Making new friends
- ❖ Meeting new people
- ❖ Meeting other people not from my local area.
- ❖ See more student during school and after school. and enjoying having fun with student conversation.
- ❖ Socializing
- ❖ The classis and the teachers and school and BATA
- ❖ The conversations I have with my peers and teachers regardless if it is important or just small talk. I am not entirely fond of being in ACE but I am very fond of the staff that work with me and my peers I have made.
- ❖ The friends I made
- ❖ The independents we have
- ❖ The teachers and being out in the community
- ❖ What I enjoy might about my school are the loving people that are so nice and sweet to me all the time.