

MISD & YouthTruth

Board Meeting Debrief



Monday, February 8th 2021
Sonya Heisters, Deputy Director

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National Nonprofit

Surveyed over 1.6 million students

39 states

Mission: Feedback for continuous improvement

"We now have the information and expertise to better understand our students, catalyze changes, and monitor improvements."

– John Boyd, Superintendent;
Quincy School District, Washington

"YouthTruth staff is unbelievably responsive."

– Ben Daley, Chief Academic
Officer, High Tech High, California

"Our district and students are better off because of the student feedback results we have used to inform campus and district level planning."

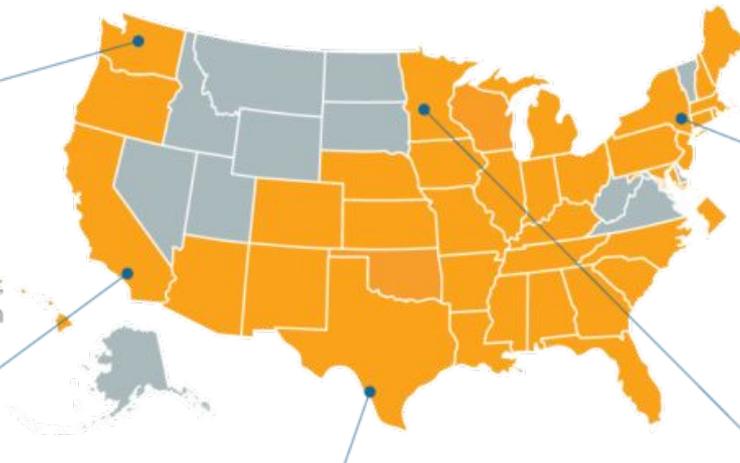
– Dr. Armando Ocaña, Director
Dropout Prevention and School Safety,
Rio Grande Valley, Texas

"YouthTruth is a great tool that gives school administrators important insight into their schools' performance."

– Dan Leibert, Principal,
Tech Valley High School, New York

"Our teachers have valued this information and have asked that we survey our students again this year so they can respond to the data."

– Tamara Berg-Beniak, Superintendent,
Pine Island Schools, Minnesota



Our work together over the past three years: Leading through Listening

2017-18: Spring

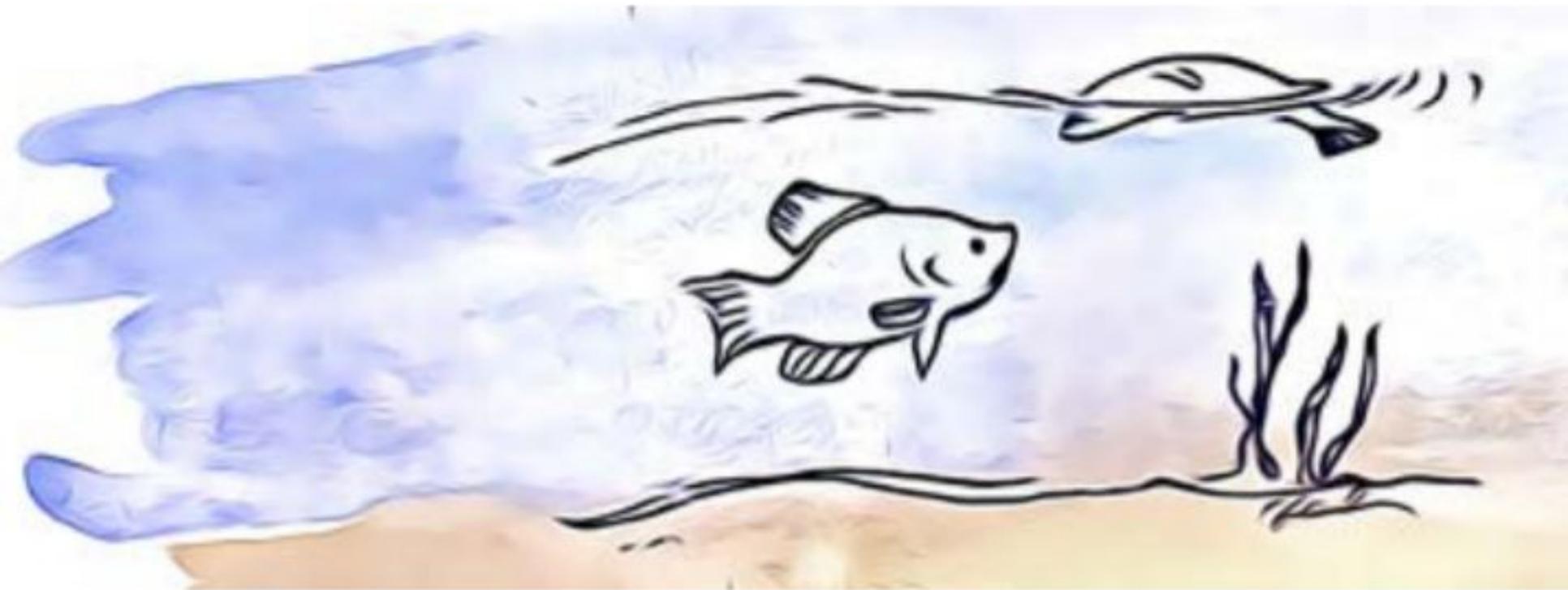
2018-19: Spring

2019-20: Spring → Fall 2020-21 (October)

RACIAL
EQUITY
INSTITUTE

THE GROUNDWATER APPROACH:

building a practical understanding
of structural racism



THE GROUNDWATER APPROACH

Who are we hearing from?

Over 8,000 MISD Community Members!

(8,815 to be exact)

6,744 students (88%) [range = 64%-100%]

1,465 parents & guardians (15%)

606 staff

+766, or nearly 10%, more responses than the previous YouthTruth survey administration

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

KEY
INSIGHTS
RELATED
TO
DISTRICT
GOALS

GOAL 1: Academics

GOAL 2: Human Capital & Staffing

GOAL 3: Safety & Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

GOAL 4: Budget, Facilities, and Finance

GOAL 5: Technology

GOAL 6: Communications

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MISD ratings in a comparative context

Color Key

**0th-24th
percentile**

**25th-49th
percentile**

**50th-74th
percentile**

**75th-100th
percentile**

DISTRICT GOAL 1

Academics: Design innovative learning environments while increasing academic rigor through aligned teaching and learning.

Goal 1: Academics

The majority of **students** (over 50%) across all levels rated positively in response to questions about student engagement and academic challenge.

Survey Theme	Elementary	Middle	High
Engagement	92% ↓ 2	60% ↑ 12	54% ↑ 15
Academic Challenge	56% ↑ 9	72% ↑ 8	62% ↑ 15

Color Key

0th-24th percentile	25th-49th percentile	50th-74th percentile	75th-100th percentile
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Goal 1: Academics

Ratings from all groups in response to questions about **academic expectations** fell in the top half, relative to YouthTruth's aggregate dataset.

- **Elementary School Students:** "Does your teacher ask you to keep trying when the work gets hard?"
- **Secondary School Students:** "Most of my teachers don't let people give up when the work gets hard."
- **Family:** "My school sets high expectations for students."
- **Staff:** "My school sets high expectations for students."

Group	Elementary	Middle	High
Student	73% ↓ 5	74% ↑ 7	52% ↑ 10
Family	86% ↑ 4	84% ↑ 5	75% ↑ 6
Staff	89% ↑ 9	87% ↑ 5	76% ↑ 10

Color Key

0th-24th
percentile

25th-49th
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50th-74th
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75th-100th
percentile

Goal 1: Academics

Ratings from all groups in response to questions about **education quality** fell in the top half, relative to YouthTruth's aggregate dataset.

- **High School Student:** "I am getting a high quality education at this school."
- **Family:** "My child is getting a high quality education at this school."
- **Staff:** "Students are getting a high quality education at this school."

Group	Elementary	Middle	High
Student	N/A	N/A	70% ↑ 10
Family	89% ↑ 8	87% ↑ 9	79% ↑ 7
Staff	93% ↑ 6	95% ↑ 4	83% ↑ 3

Color Key

0th-24th
percentile

25th-49th
percentile

50th-74th
percentile

75th-100th
percentile

Goal 1: Academics - Middle School Spotlight

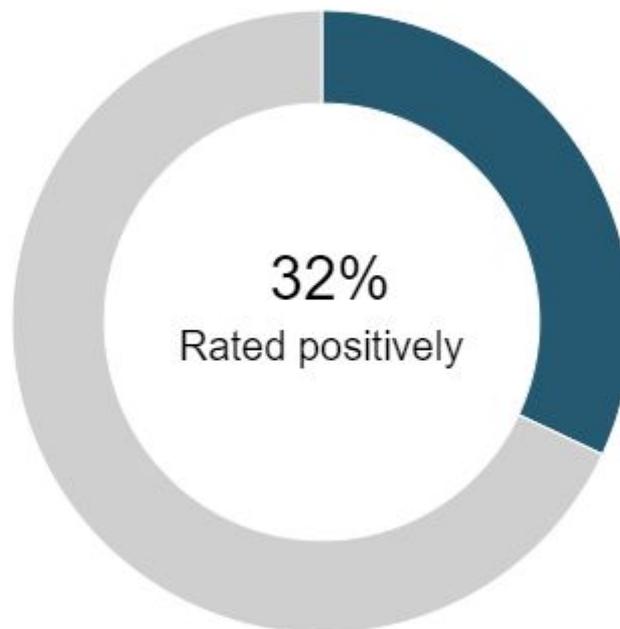
Compared to other participating middle schools, middle school students' highest rated question was: "I enjoy coming to school most of the time."

Academic Challenge Percent Positives: this table displays the percentage of respondents who chose a 4 or a 5 (4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree). - Overall

Question	Your District - Oct 2020	Your District - Apr 2019	Your District - May 2018	Typical YouthTruth school	Typical TX school	Share
In order to get a good grade, I have to work hard in my classes.	88%	80%	83%	84%	83%	 
The work that I do for my classes makes me really think.	68%	61%	66%	62%	62%	 
My teachers explain things in a way that I understand.	62%	54%	61%	57%	56%	 
My teachers give me assignments that really help me learn.	63%	54%	62%	56%	58%	 

Goal 1: Academics - Relevance: High School Spotlight

Only about 1 in 3, or 32%, of MISD high schools students surveyed feel that what they learn in class helps them outside of school.



DISTRICT GOAL 3

Safety & Social-Emotional Learning: Provide a safe and secure learning environment that supports the social and emotional well-being of our school community.

Goal 3: Safety & SEL

“Do you feel safe during school?”



Elementary



Middle



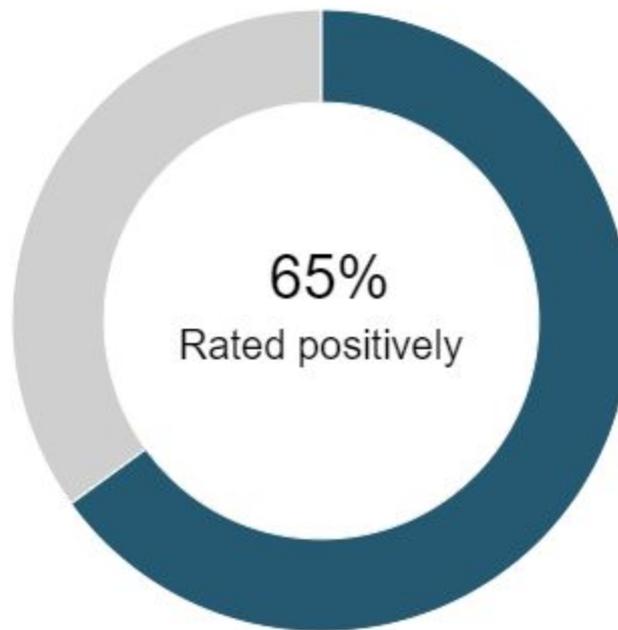
High

Goal 3: Safety & SEL (ES)

“I really feel like a part of my school’s community”

65% of students surveyed at Midlothian Independent School District responded positively to the following:

Do you feel like a real part of your school community?

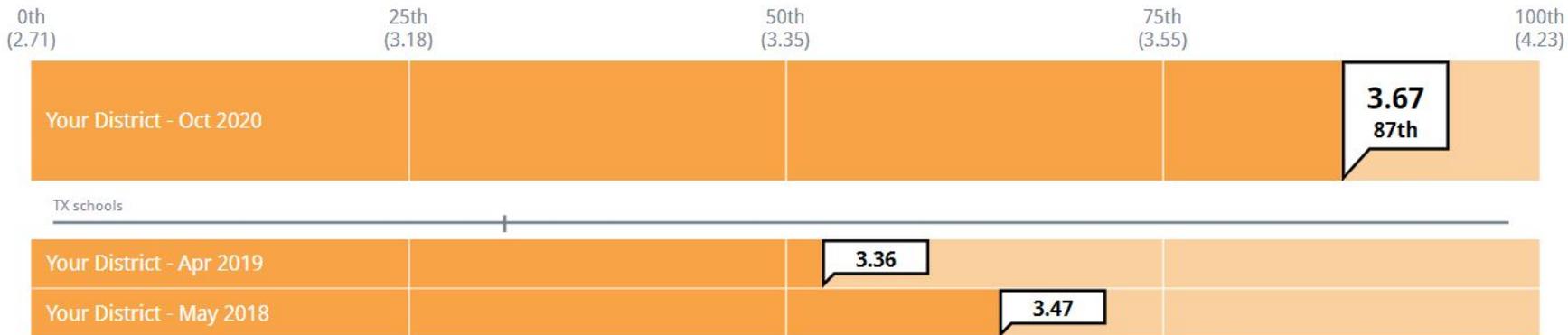


Goal 3: Safety & SEL (MS)

“I really feel like a part of my school’s community”

I really feel like a part of my school's community.

1 = Strongly disagree 3 = Neither agree nor disagree 5 = Strongly agree



Cohort: TXschools

Past results: On Off

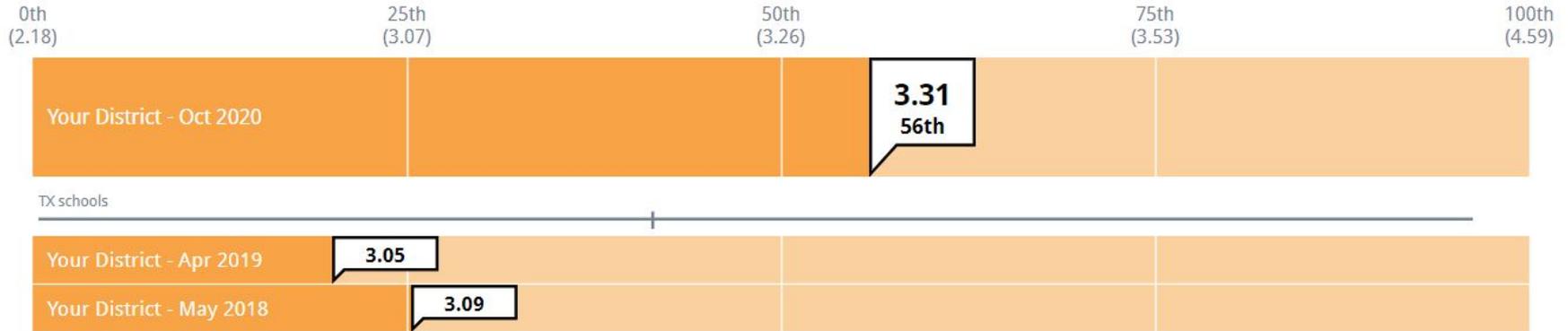
Subgroup: None

Goal 3: Safety & SEL (HS)

“I really feel like a part of my school’s community”

I really feel like part of my school’s community.

1 = Strongly disagree 3 = Neither agree nor disagree 5 = Strongly agree



Cohort: TX schools

Past results: On Off

Subgroup: None

DISTRICT GOAL 6

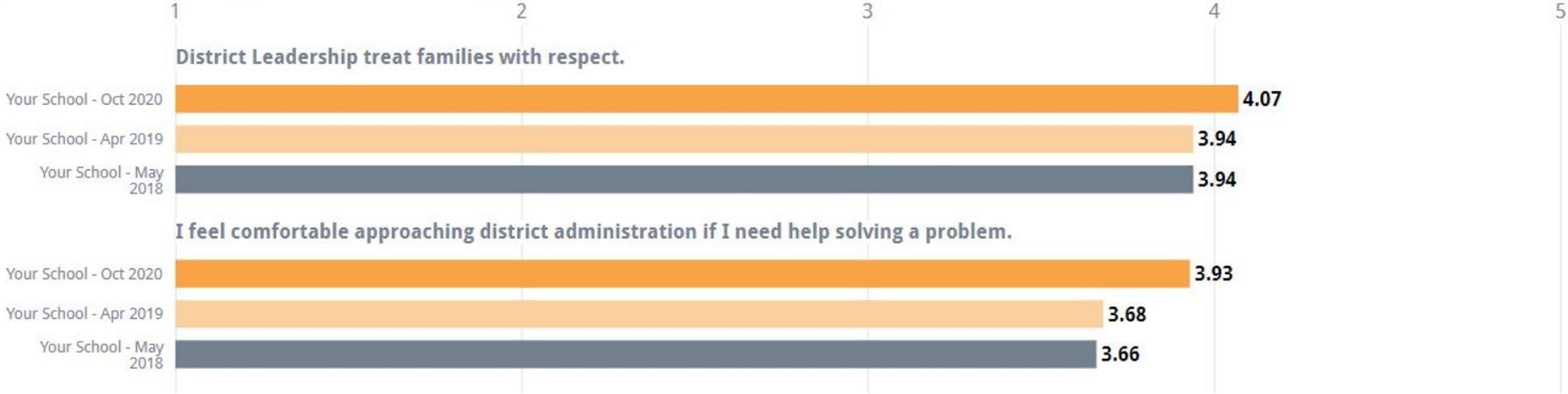
Communications: Build a strong foundation of the MISD culture through communication to empower all stakeholders.

Goal 6: Communication

Family Feedback for District Office

Responses Overall

■ Your School - Oct 2020 ■ Your School - Apr 2019 ■ Your School - May 2018



Goal 6: Communication

Staff Feedback for District Office

District Leadership treat staff with respect.



My district creates a positive work environment.



Information about district policies is disseminated to staff clearly.



I feel comfortable approaching district administration if I need help solving a problem.



Cohort:

Past results: On Off

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

HOW TO DO A YOUTHTRUTH DATA ACTION CYCLE:



Understand
Your Reports



Make Meaning
of Results



Set Goals



Plan for
Improvement



Close the
Feedback Loop

Start at: youthtruthsurvey.org/backpack

One word.



“To listen is to
lean in softly
with a willingness
to be changed
by what we hear.”

– Mark Nepo, poet

The exquisite Risk: Daring to Live an Authentic Life (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2005)

Image: Elementary Students at Evergreen School District (San Jose, CA) process and prioritize their YouthTruth data (2019).



THANK YOU

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