



VOICES FOR EDUCATION

COMMUNITY
CANVASSING
CAMPAIGN

2025

by Futuro San Antonio

Citywide findings from a seven-week deep-canvass capturing San Antonio families' perspectives on local schools, education system quality, and top priorities for improvement.

futuro-sa.org

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ABOUT

Futuro San Antonio

Futuro San Antonio is a leading force in public **education**, advancing community-driven solutions and building pathways for collaboration across charter and traditional schools—uniting families, civic leaders, and decision-makers.

Futuro partners with community advocates and families navigating public school options—including both traditional ISD and public charter schools—to advance access, equity, and accountability in education.

We amplify family voices to drive advocacy and policy solutions that create high-quality educational opportunities for every student in our city because decisions about schools should be shaped with families, not around them.



We are a San Antonio-based research-action organization that convenes education and political leaders and mobilizes students and families to advocate for data-driven policy solutions that ensure public education access, quality, and accountability.

By pairing deep listening at the door with polling, digital outreach, and in-person tabling, we bring into the conversation residents who are too often left out and we turn their perspectives into data local leaders can act on.



LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, **Daiana Lambrecht**

Dear Friends,

When I think about what drives our work at Futuro San Antonio, it always comes back to one thing: family voice. Parents and caregivers know better than anyone what's working—and what's not—for their children. Yet too often, their perspectives are ignored in the rooms where decisions about education are made.

This year, through our Voices for Education survey, hundreds of San Antonio families told us clearly: our education system is not meeting their expectations. Parents shared frustration over

gaps in literacy, concerns about chronic absenteeism, worries about student mental health, and the urgent need for stronger support for teachers. Families ranked these priorities, explained them in their own words, and offered solutions rooted in their lived experiences.

Their voices tell a sobering truth: our education system is failing too many children. But they also point the way forward—if we have the courage to listen and act boldly.

At Futuro San Antonio, we believe families are not just participants in the system, but the leaders who can transform it. Every door we knock, every conversation we hold, every survey we conduct brings us closer to a city where education equity is not a dream but a reality.

We also know we have an opportunity to not pass the buck, but to think seriously about how local government—our city council, county commissioners, and school boards—can drive meaningful change from our own locus of impact. The solutions don't have to come from somewhere else. They can and should be built right here in San Antonio, with families leading the way.

This work cannot happen in isolation. We need you—our partners, leaders, and neighbors—to stand with us. To not only acknowledge the gaps, but to join us in closing them. To ensure that student literacy, mental health, teacher support, and family engagement are more than campaign promises or passing conversations, but real priorities backed by action.

The families we organize are asking us to be brave. To act with urgency. To push beyond what is comfortable and fight for what is possible. I believe that together—with families leading and local government stepping up—we can build an education system worthy of every child in San Antonio.

With gratitude and resolve,

Daiana Lambrecht

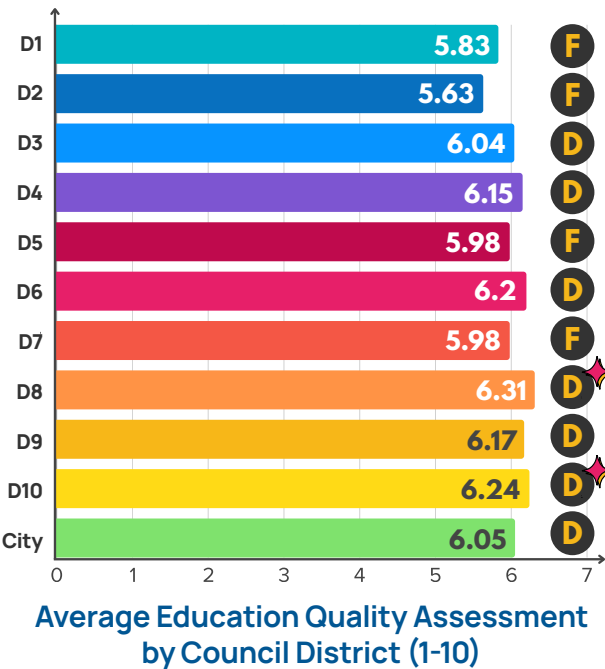
Executive Director, Futuro SA

EXECUTIVE Summary

Trained canvassers held story-based conversations at the door across all ten City Council districts and targeted households in every ZIP code within city limits, supplemented by tabling and digital outreach. **The result is a citywide snapshot grounded in real family experiences across traditional districts and public charter schools.**

Over seven weeks, we paired deep canvassing, a high-reach digital survey, and on-site tabling. Trained canvassers knocked 14,000+ doors and held story-based conversations across all 10 City Council districts. In parallel, a digital survey targeted 250,000 San Antonio parents via social media and media publications. To capture in-person responses from voters, we also tabled at polling places throughout the city during the canvass window.

Families tell a consistent story: they feel good about their own child’s school but are cooler on the system overall. On Question 2, the average satisfaction with a child’s school is 7.10 out of 10. On Question 3, the rating for San Antonio’s overall education system is 6.05—a trust gap that appears in every council district. Citywide quality ratings run from 6.31 in District 8 to 5.63 in District 2, signaling uneven experiences across neighborhoods.



When residents were asked to set priorities (Question 4), student literacy emerged as the clear first choice citywide. In open-ended responses, people broadened the agenda: safety and bullying prevention; fair, sufficient funding across neighborhoods; services for students with disabilities (especially dyslexia); stronger parent-school communication; better school meals; practical learning like financial literacy and career pathways; afterschool and early-childhood supports; and more counselors.

Together, these findings point to a community that values strong classroom instruction and wants the basics—safety, staffing, and clear communication—solidly in place.

In a city where fewer than one in seven residents typically vote in local elections, this seven-week deep-canvass (May 10–July 6, 2025) brought into the conversation people who are usually left out of policy decisions.

Deep Canvass

7 weeks
10 districts
14,000 doors
250,000 parents

Who Led This Work?

This survey initiative was led by Futuro San Antonio, a coalition of education professionals, families, and advocates committed to ensuring that every child in San Antonio has equitable access to high-quality public education. The organization centers its work on collaboration, research-action, and the amplification of community voice to expand access to transformative public school options, including both traditional public schools and public charter schools.

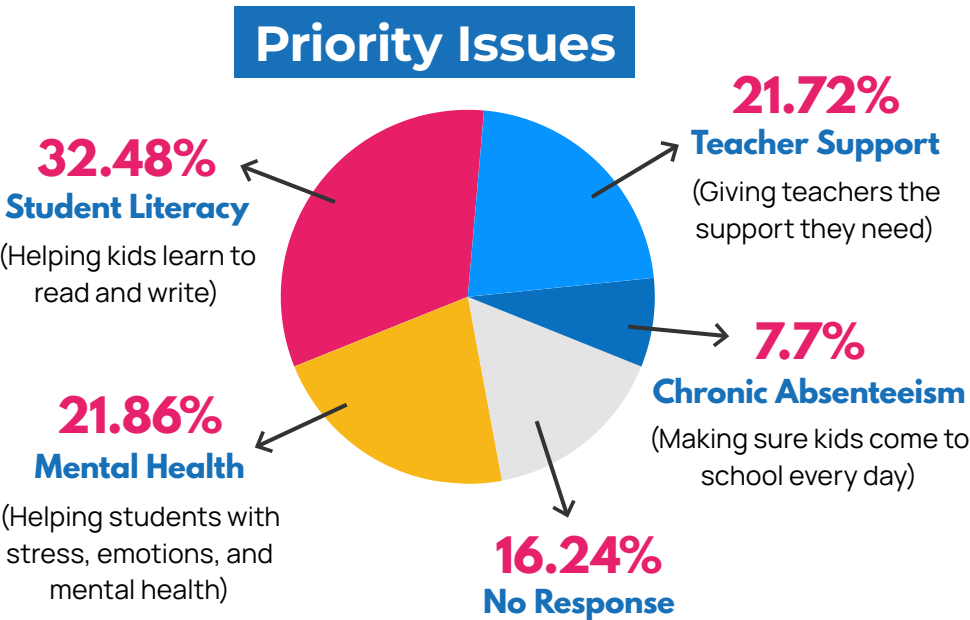


The survey was conducted by a team of 15 paid canvassers including members of Futuro who underwent rigorous deep canvassing training prior to being deployed in the field. This training equipped canvassers with the skills necessary to engage authentically with community members, gather meaningful input, and ensure that the data collected reflected the diverse perspectives of San Antonio families.

← ABOUT This Campaign

What is Deep Canvassing?

Deep canvassing is a research-backed method of community engagement that emphasizes relational, story-based dialogue as a means of persuasion and perspective-shifting.



Unlike traditional canvassing, which often relies on scripted messaging or rapid exchanges, deep canvassing centers on authentic conversations where both the canvasser and the community member share personal experiences, listen actively, and build mutual understanding. This approach is particularly effective in fostering empathy, reducing polarization, and sourcing solutions from the community.

ABOUT This Campaign

the persistent disparity in educational experiences and outcomes among students, particularly those from historically underserved communities. Respondents were invited to reflect on their satisfaction with their child's current schooling, the overall quality of education in San Antonio, and to share personal insights based on their lived experiences.

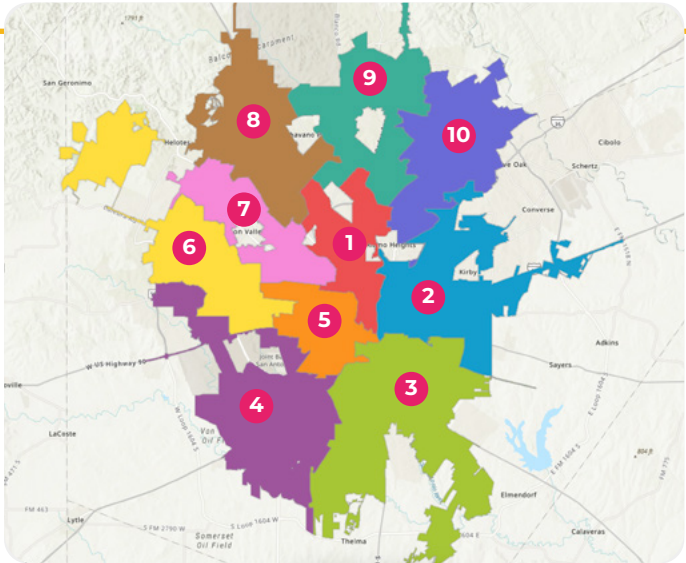
Our effort was grounded in the broader context of educational equity, specifically how systemic barriers such as underfunding, inconsistent quality across school districts, and limited access to high-performing schools disproportionately affect Latino, Black, and low-income students. The survey aimed to elevate parent and caregiver voices as essential data points to inform local decision-making and advocacy for transformative public school options. By centering the lived realities of families, the survey sought to identify both strengths within the system and areas in urgent need of policy reform and community investment.

Where We Canvassed

The survey was conducted across all 10 City Council Districts in the city of San Antonio and every zip code within the City of San Antonio city limits. This comprehensive outreach effort ensured representation from a diverse cross-section of the city's geographic, socioeconomic, and educational landscape.

Respondents residing in multiple public school districts provided survey responses, including:

- Southside ISD
- Alamo Heights ISD
- North East ISD
- Harlandale ISD
- Northside ISD
- Southwest ISD
- San Antonio ISD
- Edgewood ISD
- South San ISD
- East Central ISD
- Judson ISD



Additionally, responses were received from families whose children attend public charter school networks operating in the city, including:

- KIPP Texas Public Schools
- IDEA Public Schools
- Jubilee Academies

This wide-reaching canvassing effort enabled the collection of data that reflects the educational experiences and perspectives of families across traditional district schools and public charter schools alike.

What We Talked About

The central focus of this survey was to understand how San Antonioians perceive the quality and equity of K-12 public education across the city. The core issue addressed is

Canvassing Effort Timeline

The canvassing effort for the Voices for Education Survey took place over a seven-week period, between May 17, 2025 and July 6, 2025. During this time, trained canvassers engaged with families across San Antonio to collect survey responses. This timeline was strategically selected to capture community sentiment at the close of the academic year, allowing respondents to reflect on their experiences with the school system over the course of the year. The timing also supported outreach during a period of increased family availability, as many households were transitioning into summer schedules

MAY 17, 2025 - JULY 6, 2025

14,000 doors knocked

1,564 stories told

1,125 conversations



Demographics

48% with at least 1 child in a K-12 school

The survey captured responses from a diverse cross-section of San Antonio residents, with a specific emphasis on families engaged with the local K-12 education system. Among all respondents, 48.4 percent reported having at least one child currently enrolled in a K-12 school.

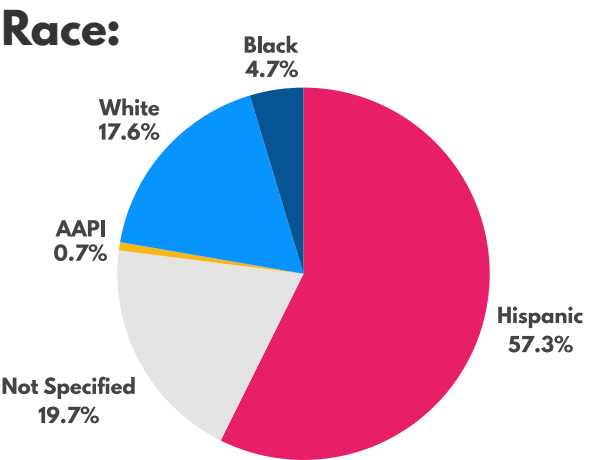
Average age of respondents: 45.3

The age of respondents ranged from 19 to 83 years old, with an average age of 45.3 years. This broad age range reflects a mix of young parents, mid-career caregivers, and extended family members actively participating in educational decision-making.

In terms of racial and ethnic identity, the majority of respondents identified as Hispanic (57.34 percent), followed by White (17.62 percent), Black (4.6 percent), and AAPI (0.71 percent). There was a 19.67 percent of respondents who did not identify as one of the categories above. This demographic distribution mirrors the cultural and ethnic composition of San Antonio and is indicative of the communities most directly impacted by the city's public education systems.

Gender representation in the survey skewed significantly toward women, with 63.9 percent of respondents identifying as female and 18 percent identifying as male. There was a 18.1 percent of respondents who did not identify as one of the categories above. This suggests that women, often in roles as primary caregivers, remain highly engaged in the education experiences and outcomes of their children.

Demographics



Gender representation:



SURVEY Findings

RATING SATISFACTION & QUALITY

Question #2

On a scale of 1 to 10, how satisfied are you with your child's education?

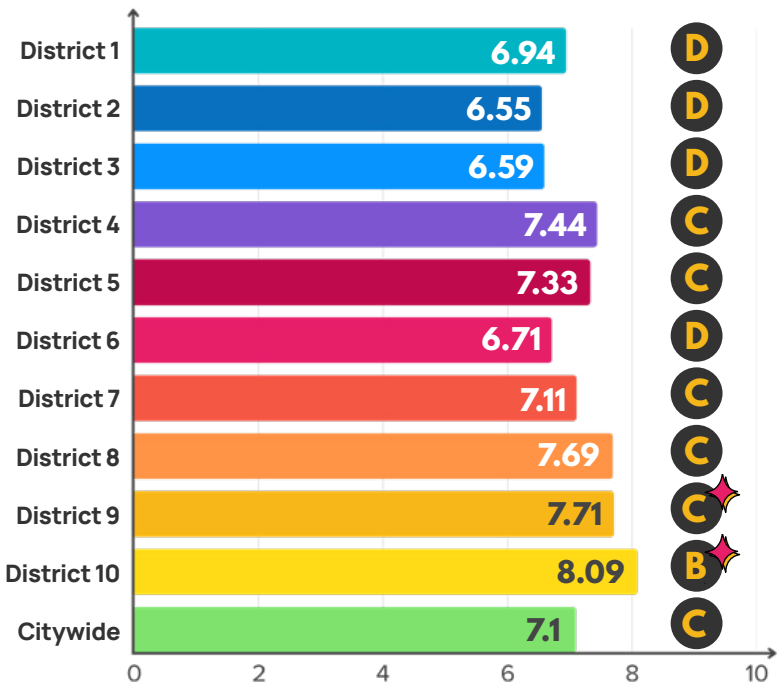
(1 = not at all, 10 = very satisfied)



Issues encountered with canvassing effort

Canvassers encountered significant challenges during their outreach efforts, primarily stemming from widespread immigration concerns, election fatigue, and a pervasive distrust toward individuals engaging in door-to-door communication. Immigration issues created heightened sensitivities within certain communities, leading some residents to avoid engagement altogether. Simultaneously, repeated election cycles contributed to a sense of political exhaustion, reducing the willingness of individuals to participate in discussions or receive information. Underpinning both of these factors was a broader climate of skepticism toward canvassers, with many residents expressing reluctance to interact due to concerns over privacy, safety, or the authenticity of the information being shared.

Understanding the Data



Average Satisfaction with Child's School by Council District (1-10)

How did each city council district rank the issue?

When asked to rate their satisfaction with their child's education on a scale of 1 to 10, respondents across all ten San Antonio City Council districts provided a range of responses reflecting both high and moderate levels of satisfaction. The citywide average score was 7.1, suggesting a generally favorable outlook on educational experiences among families.

The highest average satisfaction was reported in District 10 with a score of 8.09, followed closely by District 9 at 7.71 and District 8 at 7.69. These districts reflect the strongest levels of satisfaction and may indicate access to well-resourced or high-performing schools.

Understanding the Data

In contrast, the lowest average satisfaction was observed in District 2, which reported a score of 6.55, and District 3, with a score of 6.59. These ratings point to areas where families may face more challenges in the public education system or perceive lower quality in school offerings.

Districts 4, 5, and 7 scored above the city average, while Districts 1 and 6 remained slightly below but within a moderate range.

These findings underscore geographic variation in educational satisfaction that may correlate with broader issues of school funding, access, and district-level performance.

Layering Data

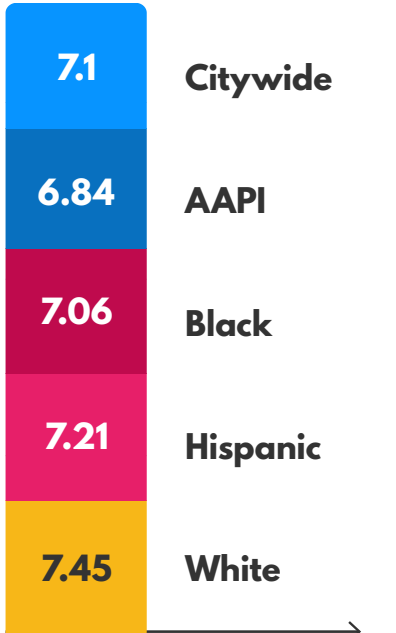
City Education Partners Year Impact Report: 3rd-8th grade STAAR Test

Across San Antonio, the average reading proficiency for grades three through eight is 48 percent, while the average math proficiency is 33 percent.¹ These citywide averages reveal an even more striking gap between parents' perceptions of school quality and the actual academic performance of students. Socioeconomic status plays a central role in shaping both outcomes and perceptions, making it essential to examine the data district by district.

SURVEY Findings

"My child's school is warm and welcoming. She receives the attention she needs and she gets to learn from and about a diverse peer group. The main issue in our city is that the state has been consistently underfunding our schools while adding more and more unpaid duties to our school staff and additional stress from state testing. In general our schools are very good."

- Resident of District 1



Average Satisfaction Scores by Ethnicity (1-10)

Relationship of demographics and how issues were ranked

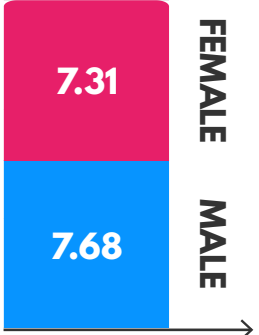
In addition to geographic analysis, satisfaction scores were disaggregated by ethnicity to better understand how different communities perceive the quality of their child's education. Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 10.

The highest average satisfaction was reported among White respondents, who rated their child's education at an average of 7.45, suggesting a strong level of satisfaction with their school experience. Hispanic respondents followed with an average score of 7.21, also indicating relatively strong satisfaction.

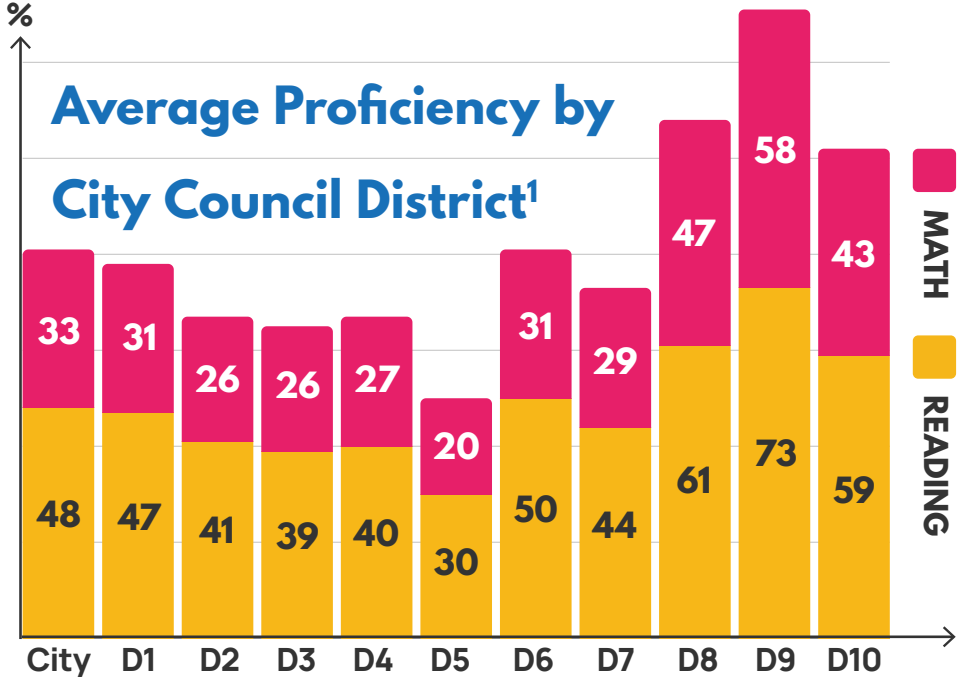
Black respondents reported an average satisfaction score of 7.06, slightly below the citywide average of 7.1. This suggests a moderately positive experience, though there remains room for improvement.

AAPI respondents reported the lowest average satisfaction at 6.84.

In evaluating satisfaction with their child's education, gender differences among respondents were modest but notable. Male respondents reported a weighted average satisfaction score of approximately 7.68, indicating generally favorable views of the educational experiences available to their children. Female respondents, by comparison, reported a slightly lower average score of approximately 7.31. While both groups expressed moderate to high satisfaction, the data suggest that women may perceive their child's educational environment somewhat more negatively than men. This gender-based variation may reflect differences in daily engagement with school systems, expectations, or personal experiences with educational institutions.



Satisfaction by Gender (1-10)



Perception vs. Reality

The contrast between perception and reality is evident across the city.

In some districts, such as District 9, high proficiency rates are paired with moderate parent satisfaction scores, suggesting that strong academic performance alone does not guarantee high ratings from families.

¹ Year Impact Report: 3rd-8th grade STAAR Test. City Education Partners, 2025



SURVEY Findings



Addressing these gaps requires transparent data, targeted investment, and community engagement to align reality with expectations and ensure all families have the opportunity to send their children to excellent schools.

Perception vs. Reality

Conversely, districts with lower academic results, such as District 5, sometimes report higher satisfaction from certain demographic groups, revealing that trust, school culture, and personal experience can outweigh academic data in shaping perceptions.

The socioeconomic divide between districts further influences both outcomes and parental views, with economically disadvantaged areas facing compounded challenges that affect student achievement and satisfaction alike.

“Since starting school, my kids have been a lot happier, and more social, which are things that they were struggling with. Of course they are learning to read and write, but the school has welcomed them and is getting them started for the right path to keep going up until high school. In certain areas, the education and school systems are better versus the less richer areas. It’s unfair in a sense, but it does all come down to public funding.”

- Resident of District 4

“They are doing great in school and their teachers, faculty and staff have been amazing. I think depending what school district you go to it may vary based on curriculum provided and the teachers and administration. What intervention is provided to help students bridge gaps and the way schools are run make a big difference. If schools don’t care enough about the kids that are falling behind and only see the funding provided for each student to the school that’s why we have so many kids that keep moving up with little to no knowledge gained.”

- Resident of District 5

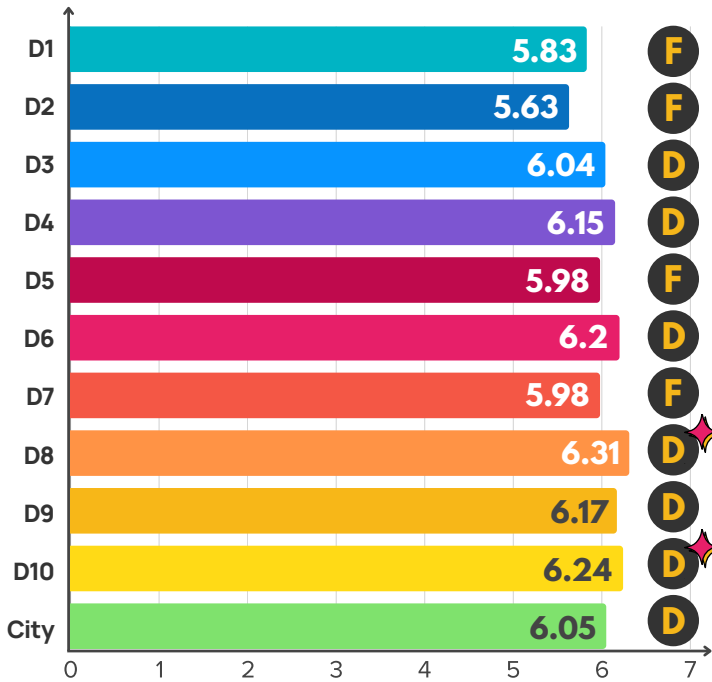


SURVEY Findings

Question #3

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the overall quality of education in San Antonio?
(1 = very bad, 10 = excellent)

Understanding the Data



Average Education Quality Assessment by Council District (1-10)

How did each city council district rank the issue?

Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of education in San Antonio on a scale from 1 to 10. **The citywide average score was 6.05, reflecting a moderately positive assessment of the educational landscape.** This indicates that while many families recognize strengths in the system, there is still significant room for growth and improvement.

Understanding the Data

Responses varied across council districts. The highest average rating was reported in District 8 at 6.31, followed by District 10 at 6.24 and District 6 at 6.2.

These districts may reflect areas where schools are perceived as more effective or better resourced.

Conversely, the lowest ratings came from District 2 with an average of 5.63 and District 1 at 5.83.

These figures suggest that families in these areas may experience or perceive more barriers to accessing high-quality education, such as inequitable school funding, resource shortages, or underperformance at the campus level.



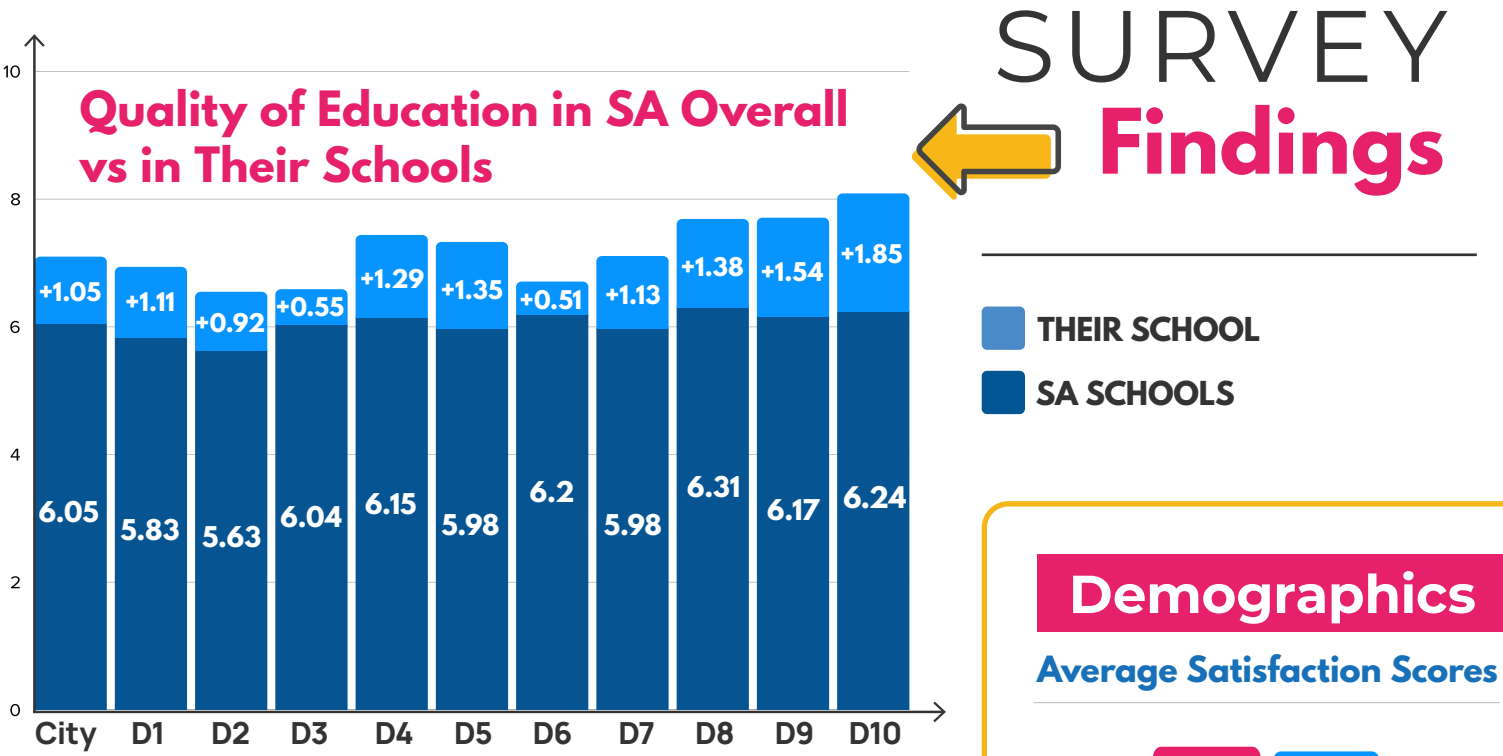
The largest discrepancy was seen in District 10 with a gap of 1.85 points, followed by District 9 at 1.54 and District 8 at 1.38. These significant differences may reflect greater confidence in individual schools—often charter or specialized programs—relative to broader district or citywide concerns. Even in districts with smaller gaps, such as District 6 (0.51) and District 3 (0.55), the trend remains: families generally trust the education their child receives more than the system as a whole.

This geographic variation in perception provides important context for targeted interventions and underscores the necessity of equitable investment in all neighborhoods.

Moreover, the consistent gap between local satisfaction and systemic critique highlights the importance of both supporting strong individual schools and addressing broader structural inequities across the San Antonio education ecosystem.

When analyzing the data further, a clear pattern emerges: respondents consistently rated the quality of their own child's education higher than the overall quality of education in San Antonio.

This suggests that while families may feel positively about their personal school experience, there is broader skepticism or concern about the system citywide. Across all ten council districts, the difference between satisfaction with a respondent's child's school and their perception of education in the city ranged from 0.51 to 1.85 points, with an average differential of 1.05 points.



Relationship of demographics and how education was ranked

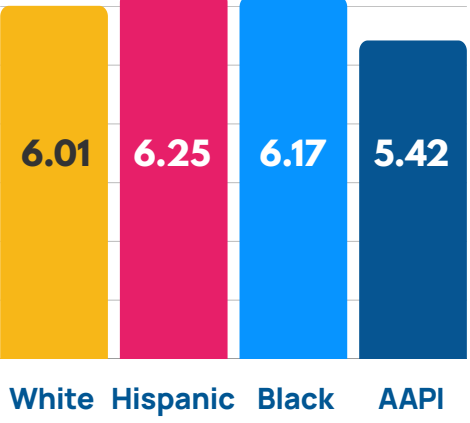
Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of education in San Antonio on a scale from 1 to 10. The weighted average satisfaction score among all respondents was 6.05, indicating a moderate level of confidence in the city's educational landscape. However, this citywide average masks significant variation across racial, ethnic, and gender groups.

The weighted average satisfaction score among White respondents was 6.01, suggesting a slightly below-average perception of the overall educational quality in San Antonio. Hispanic respondents, who represented the majority of the survey population, reported a higher average rating of 6.25. This figure may reflect stronger ties to or perceptions of community schools, but it also stands in contrast to their lower satisfaction with their own child's education, which averaged just 7.21. This discrepancy points to the complex ways Latino families experience and assess education locally—often balancing appreciation for school-level efforts with recognition of broader systemic challenges.

Black respondents rated the overall quality of education in San Antonio at 6.17, a moderate score that aligns closely with the citywide average. AAPI respondents, although fewer in number, reported the lowest average score for overall city education quality at 5.42, falling below their rating of 6.84 for their own child's school. This suggests that while these families may be highly-satisfied with their individual school experiences, they hold more critical views of the system as a whole.

Demographics

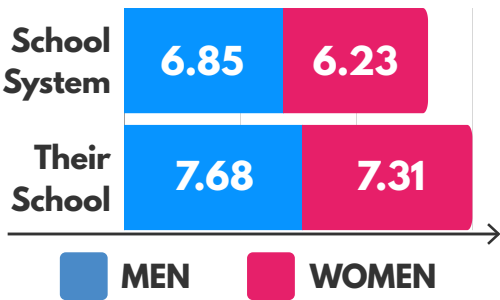
Average Satisfaction Scores



When comparing these scores to respondents' satisfaction with their own child's education, a consistent trend emerges.

This gap is particularly pronounced among AAPI and White respondents, with a difference of 1.42 and 1.44 points. The differences for Hispanic and Black respondents were 0.96 and 0.89 points, respectively.

Average Satisfaction Scores by Gender (1-10)



Gender differences reveal varying perceptions of education.

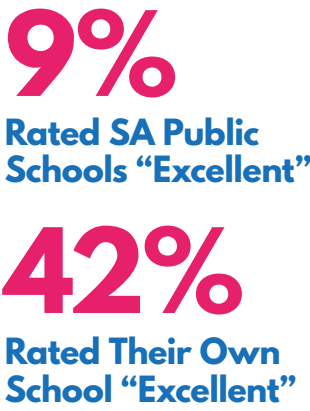
Men rated San Antonio's overall education quality higher (6.85) than women (6.23), and reported slightly greater satisfaction with their child's school (7.68 vs. 7.31). This suggests men view the system more optimistically, while women may evaluate their child's school experience more favorably.

Understanding the Data

Every racial and ethnic group rated their personal school experience more favorably than the broader San Antonio education system.

Futuro's latest polling also highlights why the citywide rating lands at 6.05 and why families tend to grade "their school" higher than "the system." Only 9% rated San Antonio's traditional public schools "excellent" overall, while 42% rated their own neighborhood schools very good or excellent. Northern districts scored higher locally than the Eastside/Southside, echoing our district-level variations.

These findings underscore a key theme throughout the data: Families tend to express more confidence in their immediate educational environment than in the system at large.



This discrepancy reflects trust in local educators and school-level relationships while acknowledging systemic inequities that persist across the broader educational landscape.

Addressing these gaps requires both school-level support and systemic reforms to build trust and equity across all communities in San Antonio.

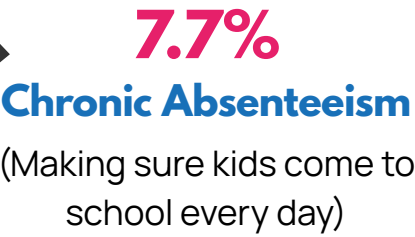
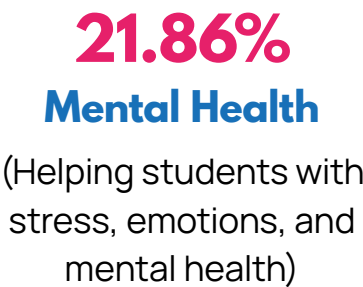
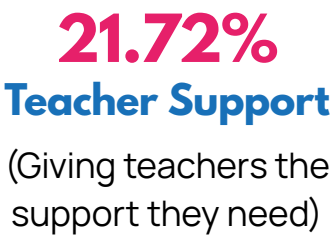
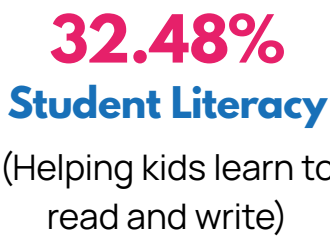


SURVEY Findings

TOP ISSUES

People in San Antonio have said these four issues in schools matter most.
Can you rank them from most to least important to you?

Priority Issues



ABOUT the Issues



Student Literacy

San Antonio faces significant literacy challenges: recent data shows only about 48 percent of students scored at or above grade level in reading during the 2023–24 school year, with little improvement over time. Adult literacy rates remain low, with an estimated 25 percent of adults either functionally or fully illiterate.

48%
of students reading at or above grade level

Mental Health

157%
increase in mental health referrals

In South San, Edgewood, and Harlandale ISDs, **referrals for mental health services rose by 157 percent** between fall 2020 and fall 2021, with anxiety, stress, and grief being the most reported issues. San Antonio ISD averages one counselor per 437 students. This is well above recommended levels and limiting access to support services.

Teacher Support

Teacher shortages persist in San Antonio with high vacancy rates, especially in special education and bilingual roles. A statewide survey finds that 66 percent of teachers report feeling overworked, and three-quarters feel undervalued. All are factors contributing to poor retention and morale.

75%
of teachers feel undervalued

Chronic Absenteeism

33%
of students in grades 3–8 chronically absent

In 2022, **33 percent of San Antonio students in grades 3–8 were chronically absent** (missing 10 percent or more of school days), a trend linked to lower academic outcomes and increased dropout risk. Policymakers warn that attendance directly impacts learning outcomes and school funding allocation.

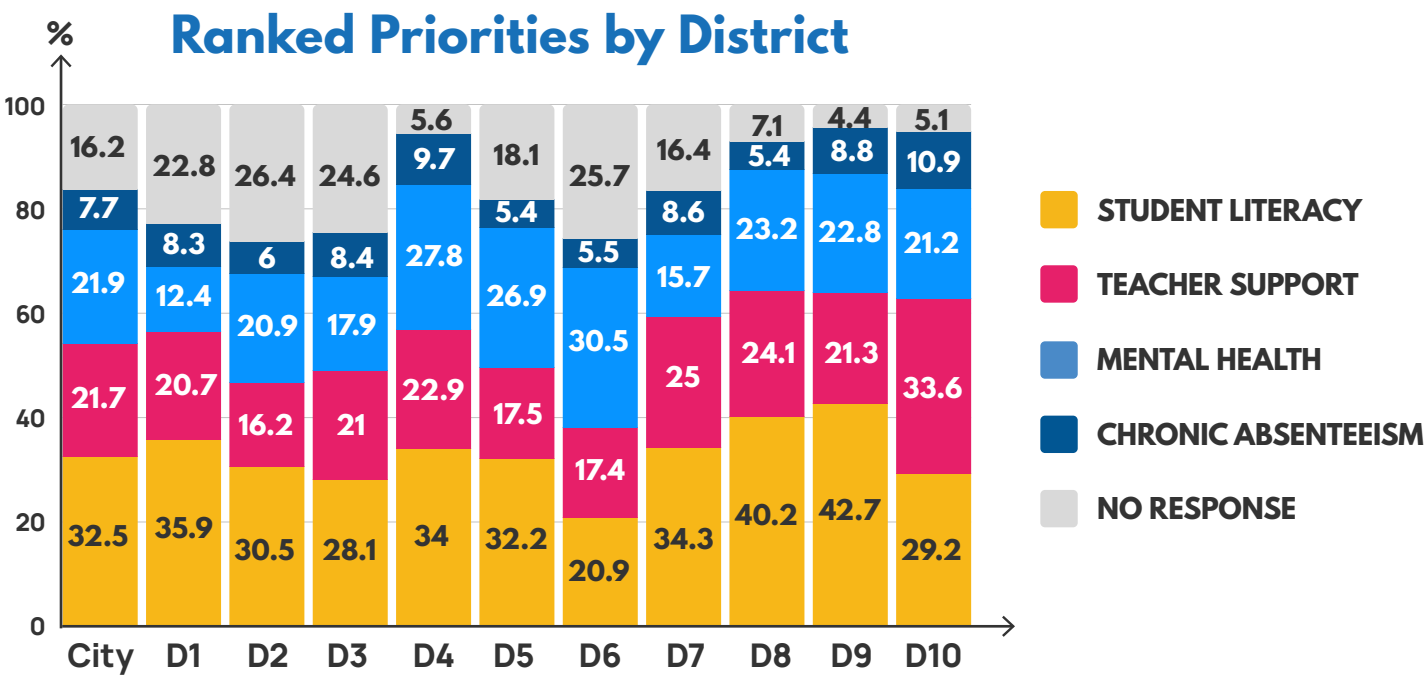
Understanding the Data

How did each city council district rank the issue?

Respondents were asked to rank the most pressing challenges facing San Antonio schools from a list of four critical issues: student literacy, teacher support, mental health, and chronic absenteeism. The analysis focused on the issue identified as the “most important” by each respondent.

“I believe that reading and writing are the core part of education building their foundation on this. Having more opportunities for the kids to learn this skill in different capacities is crucial. They should be allowed to journal outside in the morning or afternoons not just inside a classroom at the same time everyday.”

- Resident of District 7



Citywide, student literacy emerged as the most pressing concern, with 32.48 percent of respondents ranking it as their top priority. This finding underscores widespread concern about foundational academic skills and highlights the need for focused investment in early and ongoing literacy interventions.

Mental health was ranked most important by 21.86 percent of respondents, indicating strong community recognition of the emotional and psychological challenges students face. This concern ranked nearly equal to teacher support, which was selected by 21.72 percent of respondents. Together, these results suggest that families see the social-emotional environment of schools and the support structures for educators as nearly as urgent as academic outcomes.

ABOUT the Issues

Chronic absenteeism, although recognized as a significant issue in educational research and practice, **was ranked as the most important by only 7.7 percent of respondents.** While not seen as the foremost priority, this issue likely reflects broader concerns about student disengagement and the root causes that drive attendance challenges.

"I believe supporting teachers is foundational to addressing all other issues. If teachers are overworked, underpaid, and lack adequate support, it directly impacts their ability to effectively teach and address student needs. We need to see increased teacher salaries, robust mentorship programs for new educators, and better administrative support for managing classroom challenges, including student behavior. Investing in "Grow Your Own" programs and teacher residency initiatives could also help build a stronger, more stable teaching workforce. A respected and well-supported teaching profession is essential for quality education."

- Resident of District 6

Variation across council districts provides additional insight into localized priorities. District 9 had the highest proportion of respondents selecting student literacy (42.65 percent), while District 10 saw the highest ranking for teacher support (33.58 percent). District 6 had the highest prioritization of mental health (30.56 percent), suggesting regional differences in community experience and perception.

"I picked mental health because I've seen firsthand how much pressure kids are under these days; social media, academic stress, family issues. If a student isn't in a good place mentally and emotionally, it's incredibly hard for them to focus and learn. We need more school counselors and psychologists, not just for crisis intervention but for proactive support. Regular check-ins, mental health education integrated into the curriculum, and easy access to community resources would be huge. It's about supporting the whole child, not just their academic performance."

- Resident of District 8

Relationship of demographics and how education was ranked

When asked to rank the most pressing issues facing San Antonio schools, respondents across nearly all demographic groups identified Student Literacy as the top priority.

However, a notable exception emerged among **Black respondents, who ranked Teacher Support as the most important issue.** This distinction suggests a particular emphasis within the Black community on the conditions and resources necessary for educators to thrive. It may reflect concerns about teacher retention, training, and equitable staffing. These factors directly influence the quality of instruction and student outcomes.

This variation highlights the importance of tailoring policy responses to the specific perspectives and experiences of different communities. It also reinforces the need for interventions that are both **inclusive and responsive to diverse educational needs.**

Focus on Solutions

The most frequently selected issue among respondents in San Antonio was Student Literacy.

Literacy + Phonics Programs

A research-supported solution is to expand evidence-based reading programs, particularly those with explicit phonics instruction. Decades of studies, including the National Reading Panel, show that systematic phonics significantly improves outcomes, especially in early grades and for struggling readers. Phonics strengthens both decoding and comprehension by enabling students to access complex texts with confidence.

Engaging Parents + Families

Engaging parents as partners in literacy development can greatly boost student progress. Family reading nights, take-home materials, and interactive workshops equip caregivers with strategies to support reading at home. When empowered with these tools, parents can reinforce classroom learning and create a consistent, supportive environment for children.

Tutoring + 1:1 Support

High-dosage tutoring and individualized one-on-one reading support offer a powerful avenue for improvement. Personalized instruction allows educators to target skill deficits, monitor progress, and adjust strategies in real time. Research shows these interventions can accelerate learning by several months, particularly when provided consistently.

After-School + Summer Programs

Furthermore, expanded after-school and summer programs are essential to preventing learning loss, especially for students with limited access to enrichment. High-quality programs that blend literacy instruction with engaging activities sustain growth, bridge school-year gaps, and keep students connected to supportive learning environments.

By integrating these strategies into a coordinated literacy framework, school systems can create a multi-layered approach that addresses both instructional quality and the broader ecosystem influencing student achievement. This comprehensive model fosters equitable access to effective literacy instruction, strengthens partnerships between schools and families, and ensures that all students, regardless of background, have the opportunity to develop the reading skills necessary for long-term academic and personal success.



ABOUT the Issues

Residents named a wide set of needs **beyond the four ranked issues.**

Families and community members shared a wide range of priorities through their written feedback. While individual perspectives varied, several recurring themes emerged that highlight both urgent needs and long-term opportunities for improvement in San Antonio's schools. The most common write-ins included:



- ✦ School safety and bullying prevention
- ✦ Fair and sufficient funding across the city
- ✦ Services for students with disabilities, especially dyslexia
- ✦ Stronger parent-school communication
- ✦ Better school meals
- ✦ Addressing uneven resources between neighborhoods
- ✦ Reducing rising out-of-pocket costs for families, including supplies and fees
- ✦ Maintaining universal breakfast
- ✦ Offering learning that feels practical and connected to real life, such as:
 - » More math and science enrichment
 - » Hands-on STEM activities
 - » Courses like financial literacy, résumé and job application skills
 - » Pathways into trades
- ✦ Expanding afterschool program options
- ✦ Increasing early childhood and child-care support, including for educator-parents
- ✦ Adding more campus counselors

The future of San Antonio's children depends on our shared commitment to access, equity, and accountability in education.

Every student deserves the opportunity to attend a high-quality school that meets their needs, and every family should have a voice in shaping the policies and decisions that affect their children's futures. Now is the time for bold and courageous action that engages our community more deeply, amplifies family voices, and drives real change in classrooms across our city.

Advancing access begins with removing barriers that prevent students from reaching their full potential.

Families can take an active role by learning about the full range of school options available, engaging in conversations with educators and decision-makers, and sharing their own experiences to inform policy. Parents and caregivers should be encouraged to speak at school board meetings, participate in district advisory committees, and connect with others who share the same goal of improving education for all.

Equity is achieved when every student, regardless of zip code, background, or income, has the same

opportunity to succeed. This requires collaboration among parents, educators, lawmakers, and community organizations. Lawmakers must prioritize funding and policies that address achievement gaps and ensure resources are distributed where they are needed most. Community organizations can help by creating safe spaces for honest dialogue, sharing data that exposes inequities, and holding institutions accountable for delivering result.

Accountability means that schools, districts, and elected officials are responsible for the outcomes they promise. The community should insist on transparent reporting of student performance, teacher effectiveness, and budget spending. Parents and community members can call on leaders to make evidence-based decisions that put students first, and they should not hesitate to demand change when systems fall short.

CALLS TO Action



CALLS TO Action ➡

There are many ways to take **meaningful** action today:



Become a member of our Parents Advocacy Group to connect with other families and drive grassroots change from the ground up.

The challenges in our education system are real, but they are not insurmountable.

By working together, speaking out, and taking collective action, we can ensure that every student in San Antonio has the opportunity to learn, thrive, and succeed. The time to act is now.



Join Futuro San Antonio's Policy Roundtable to help shape education policy in ways that reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.



Apply for our Future Leaders Academy to gain the skills, knowledge, and network needed to become a champion for education in San Antonio.

Parent Advocate

Hello neighbors,

My name is Bianca Mendoza, and I am the proud mom of three amazing children here in San Antonio. I have lived in this city for 14 years, and I have fallen in love with its culture and the way our community prides itself on being a great place to raise a family. That spirit became especially important to me when, in the middle of my college career, two of my three children were born. I suddenly found myself balancing school, caring for my children, and planning for our future. As a new mother and San Antonian, I spent countless hours researching schools to make informed decisions about where to lay down roots, because access to the best education for my children was my central focus. I remember it being an intimidating process, and even today, finding the right educational fit is a challenge for me and for many families.



The unfair truth is that too many families are not afforded the same options. That is what led me to become an education advocate. I have come to see that there is a real crisis in our city when it comes to public education, both in traditional ISDs and public charter schools. After graduating from UTSA in 2017 with a degree in math, I built a career in data and analytics, and I am especially excited to share Futuro's Voices for Education report because it combines two of my greatest passions: data and advocacy. This report not only highlights how San Antonians view our public schools, but also tells the story of families who are struggling and believe our students deserve better.

The data shows a strong connection between historically economically disadvantaged City Council districts and lower satisfaction scores. Yet even in more affluent districts—where academic outcomes are higher—families report only moderate satisfaction, signaling that schools are not fully meeting expectations. When comparing these perceptions with student outcomes, a gap emerges: **many families express satisfaction without realizing the broader academic challenges facing our city.** For example, more than half of students in grades 3-8 are not reading on grade level.

The report also asked families to rank education issues by importance. The results are clear: literacy is the top concern across San Antonio. This is a crisis - but one we can address. Thanks to Futuro San Antonio's Voices for Education survey, we now have actionable data and insights to identify families' priorities and drive meaningful change across districts.

San Antonio children-our children-will spend more than 2,300 days in school from their first day of kindergarten to their last day as a senior. During those 2,300 days, no one is better positioned or more determined to advocate for them than their families. But parents and guardians cannot do this alone. There is much work to do and progress to be made. We need our school and local leaders to step up and meet us at the table. We must be strategic and work together on real solutions.

If you are a parent, an educator, or simply a San Antonian who believes we can, and must, do more when it comes to public education, I am asking you: will you join us? Now is the time to act.

Bianca Mendoza

Family Advocate



GRATITUDE + Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all of our parents and community leaders for their support to not only engage San Antonians in our Voices for Education effort this summer but for continuing to champion for education changes in our city so that more students can continue to prosper.

Thank you to our elected and city leaders who continue to make bold, courageous decisions on behalf of students regardless of political agendas or external pressures.

Thank you to our San Antonio educators and school leaders who show up everyday for students and families and who consistently seek opportunities to grow and provide excellence.

Thank you to our community partners, funders, and board members for supporting our vision and helping to make this critical work possible.



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