

Summary of Open Enrollment Enterers July 2009

Overview

The survey of parents whose children reside outside the Madison Metropolitan School District attendance area and attend MMSD as an Open Enrolled student was conducted between December 2008 and February 2009. The source of the parent list was from MMSD 3rd Friday count data. A total of 154 surveys were mailed to households, representing over 167 students. Two attempts to contact households via mail were made two weeks apart. There were 35 households who responded to the survey representing a 23 percent response rate.

Descriptive Information

A large majority of families that responded attend Madison Metropolitan School District as continuing students that have moved outside of MMSD during the current school year. This is a practice allowed under the Open Enrollment statute. This proportion as represented by the survey respondents is consistent with the percentage found in the total Open Enrollment entering applicant pool for the 2007-08 school year, and is therefore considered a representative group.

Survey Responses

Parents who attend MMSD under open enrollment cite attending school with friends and curricular programs as the top responses, representing two of every three respondents.

	Attend with Friends	Curricular Program	Child's Choice	Closer to Work	After school programming	Closer to home	Environment	Closer to daycare
Percentage of Responses	22%	20%	17%	15%	9%	6%	6%	6%
Percentage of Respondents	38%	34%	28%	25%	16%	9%	9%	9%

The following are examples of comments relating to "Attend with Friends:"

- *When asked he said he wanted to stay at Kennedy.*
- *Child started at MMSD from start of her school and has a lot of friends. Did not want her to get any emotion separation especially she did when we moved away from family.*

The following are examples of comments relating "Curricular Program:"

- *Direct Instruction Reading program at Lapham Elementary, K-2 elementary program, integration of secondary alternative students (AERO)*
- *The Science Program at LaFollette H.S. appeared much more rigorous and accessible for advanced learning than the other Madison High School and of our home school district. My older daughter (LaFollette 2007) has felt very well prepared in the*

sciences at Brown University. She has been very competitive with students from around the world coming from very elitist private prep schools etc.

- *We were concerned that our child did not have the same academic rigor as those from Middleton and would be at a disadvantage, especially with regard to math preparations.*

The following is an example of comment relating “Child’s Choice:”

- *The new school district was/is not racially integrated and he was petrified to attend an all-white school as an African-American.*

The following is an example of comment relating “Closer to Work:”

- *I work in Madison and he would have been alone after school for hours - dangerously so. Also because we have an IEP consistency was extremely important and was too risky for his future to disrupt.*

MMSD Comparison Information

When compared to students that left the district a majority of students who leave the district to attend a non-resident public school district cite as a primary reason environmental and/or behavioral concerns, while students that enter MMSD via the Open Enrollment program very rarely cite such reasons.

Of the 22 Kindergarten students applying to enter the MMSD as new students via Open Enrollment for the 2009-10 school year 16 requested a specific school and 10 of those students were placed in their first choice of schools. Of the 53 high school students who applied to enter the MMSD via Open Enrollment this school year 34 requested a specific school and 15 were placed in their first choice of schools. (Requests were not granted due to a lack of space availability at West High School or because specific MMSD programs requested do not accept direct Open Enrollment applicants, i.e., SAPAR, Shabazz, Work and Learn Center.)