

## Rockwall ISD 2008-2009 Survey Overviews

Six years ago, senior administrators in Rockwall embarked on an initiative to gather input from stakeholders, teachers, administrators, students, parents, and former employees to help in their efforts to improve the district. Utilizing written surveys allowed each group of stakeholders an opportunity to give their opinion about areas of the district including curriculum and instruction, technology, extra and cocurricular activities, district and school leadership and other areas that impact the quality of education. Data gathered from surveys would be utilized for planning and evaluating areas of the district.

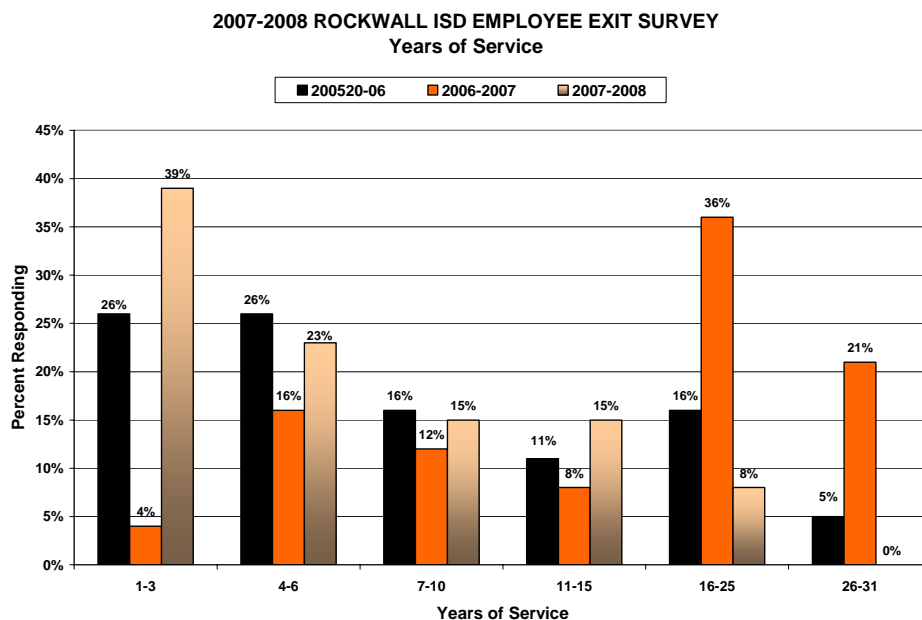
Rockwall ISD campus employees were surveyed first. The survey was administered to teachers, principals, building administrators, counselors, librarians, aides, and paraprofessionals. Input from the District Educational Improvement Committee was a large part of the survey development process as it was important to determine what information RISD stakeholders valued. In the spring of 2002, the Campus Survey of Attitudes was administered to campus level staff. Results from the survey proved to be valuable as campus improvement plans were developed for the next school year, and development and administration of the Employee Exit, Graduate, and Student surveys followed quickly in 2003 with input from district stakeholders. The last survey to be developed was the Parent Survey of Attitudes. Again, DEIC was consulted for input and review of the Parent Survey and the following winter, the Parent Survey was administered to all parents or guardians of Rockwall students.

Rockwall ISD is to be commended for their efforts to incorporate input from parents, employees, and students as they continually work to improve district.

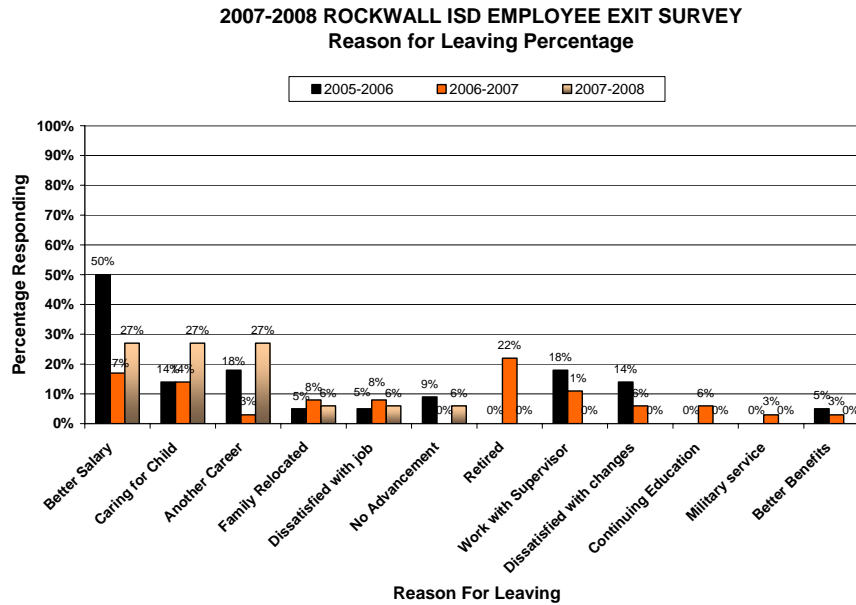
### Employee Exit Survey

The Employee Exit Survey was mailed to employees who separated during the 2007-2008 school year. The following charts show responses to the items on the survey.

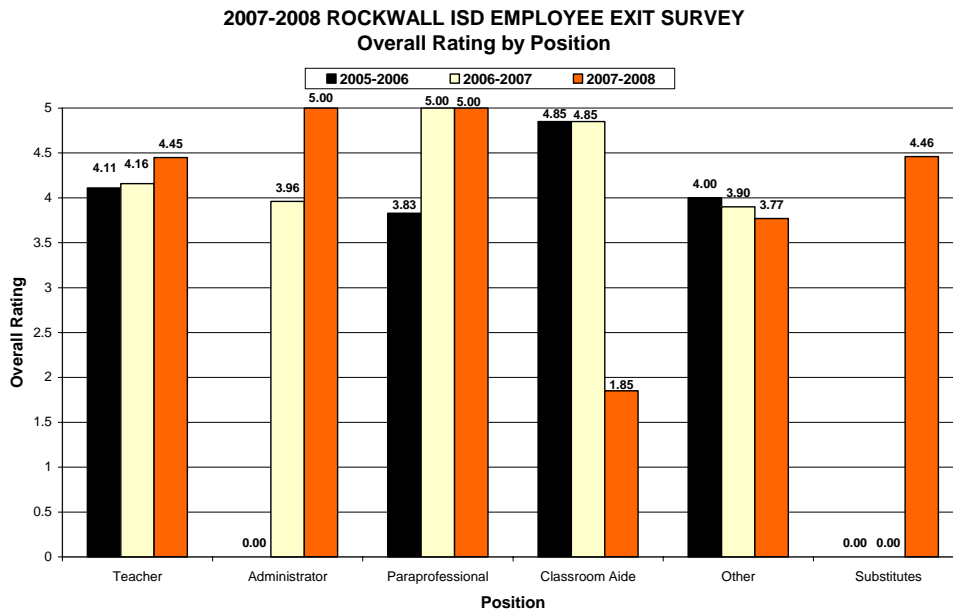
**Years of Service:** The majority of 2007-2008 responses indicated 1-6 years of experience. The majority of the prior year's responses indicated a level of experience of 16+ years.



**Reasons for Leaving:** Former employees were asked to indicate why they left Rockwall ISD. Former employees who held service jobs cited leaving for a better salary or another career. Former teachers who responded indicated that the primary reason for leaving was to stay at home with children.



**Overall Rating by Position:** Overall, the survey respondents indicated a high level of satisfaction with Rockwall ISD. Comparison to prior years can be viewed as consistent. The one exception, Classroom Aide, was impacted by a low number of respondents. Overall, there were no red flags to indicate a systemic problem.

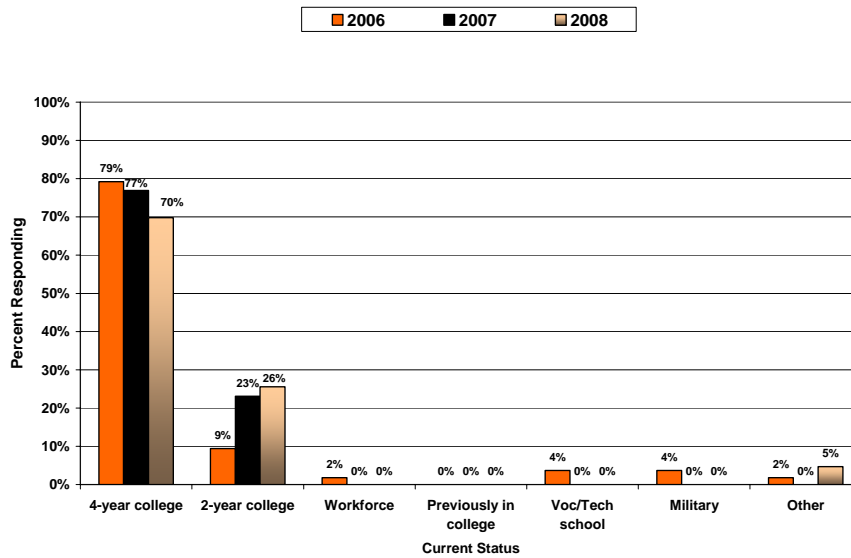


## Graduate Survey of Attitudes

Rockwall ISD values the input of former students as well as former employees. Graduate surveys were mailed to Class of 2008 graduates in December, 2008.

**What are you doing now?** The drop in 4-year college versus 2- year college can be partially linked to the current economic conditions. As the cost of college increases, the percentage of students staying close to home to focus on “the basics” may increase. The implication is that dual credit courses and AP credit will become more important to students looking to gain college credit to save tuition.

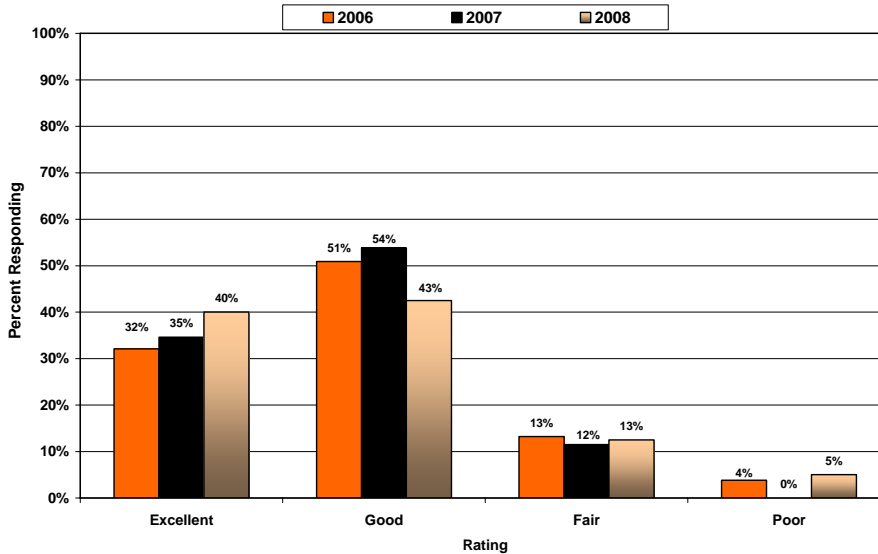
**2008 ROCKWALL ISD GRADUATE SURVEY OF ATTITUDES**  
What are you doing now?



**Overall, how would you rate the quality of education you received from the RISD?:** Over the past two years, the number of graduates rating the quality of education as “Excellent” or “Good” dropped slightly from 86% and 83%. However, 2008 graduates indicating that the quality of education they received was “Excellent” increased five percentage points.

**2008 ROCKWALL ISD GRADUATE SURVEY OF ATTITUDES**

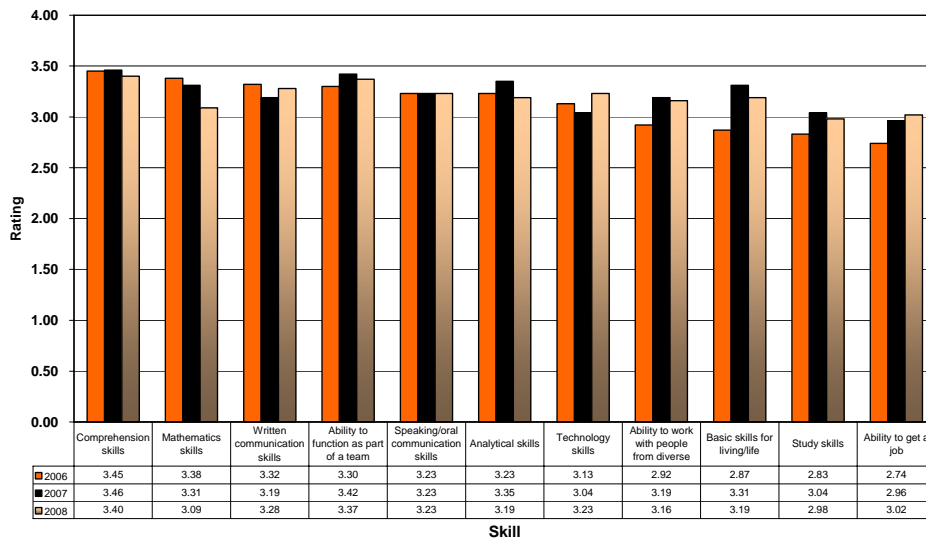
Overall, how would you rate the quality of education you received from the RISD?



**How well did your high school prepare you for.....:** The item consisted of eleven components. Many of the components are referred to as “21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills,” skills that students will need in order to be prepared for post-secondary college or careers. In particular, Study Skills, Mathematical Skills, and Ability to Work with People from Diverse Backgrounds, are areas of improvement. As “post-secondary readiness” expands to include 4-year college, 2-year college, technical training, military or careers, the “Ability to get a Job” item becomes more important.

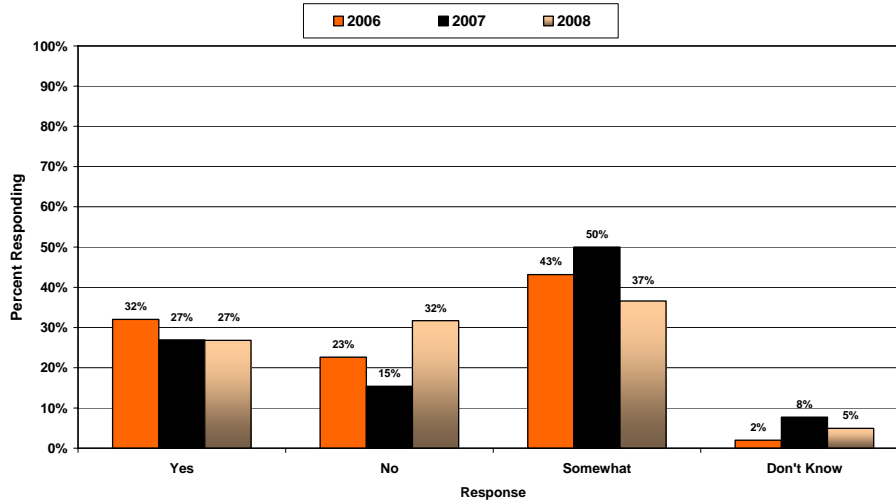
**2008 ROCKWALL ISD GRADUATE SURVEY OF ATTITUDES**

How well did your high school prepare you for...



**Did the high school elective courses allow you to explore career opportunities?** As students pursue college or career options after high school, exposure to career opportunities will be important to non-college bound students. The students responding “yes” continues to decline, while those students responding “no” doubled.

**2008 ROCKWALL ISD GRADUATE SURVEY OF ATTITUDES**  
**Did the high school elective courses allow you to explore career opportunities?**



### **Campus, Student and Parent Surveys**

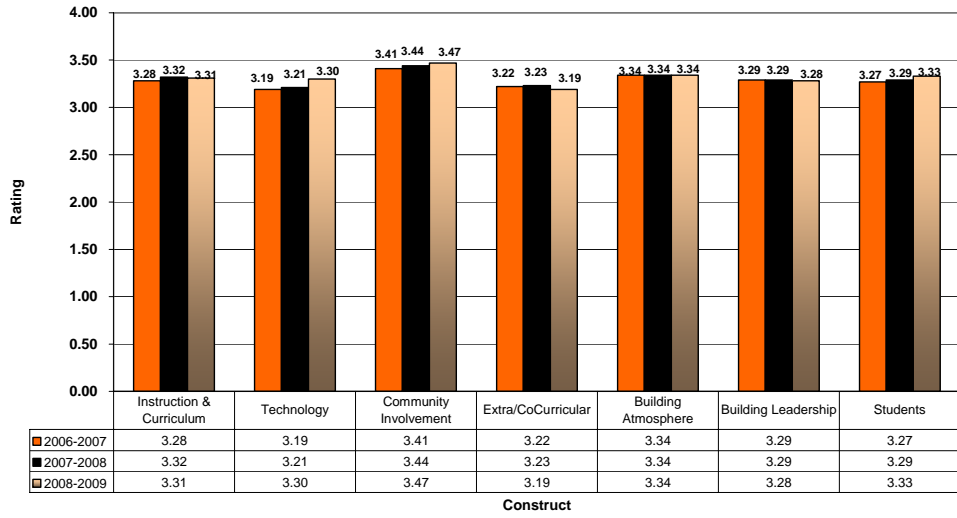
The Campus, Student, and Parent Surveys were administered at the beginning of the second semester in January and February of 2009. The surveys are divided into sections also known as “constructs”. Within each construct are items (questions or statements) that are developed to evaluate specific functions of that construct.

### **Campus Survey of Attitudes**

For the first time, the Campus Survey was offered online. 94.8% of the respondents indicated a preference for taking the survey online.

**Campus Survey of Attitudes – District Construct Comparison:** The chart shows the comparison of constructs over a three-year time frame. To maintain a high level of satisfaction requires constant attention and focus.

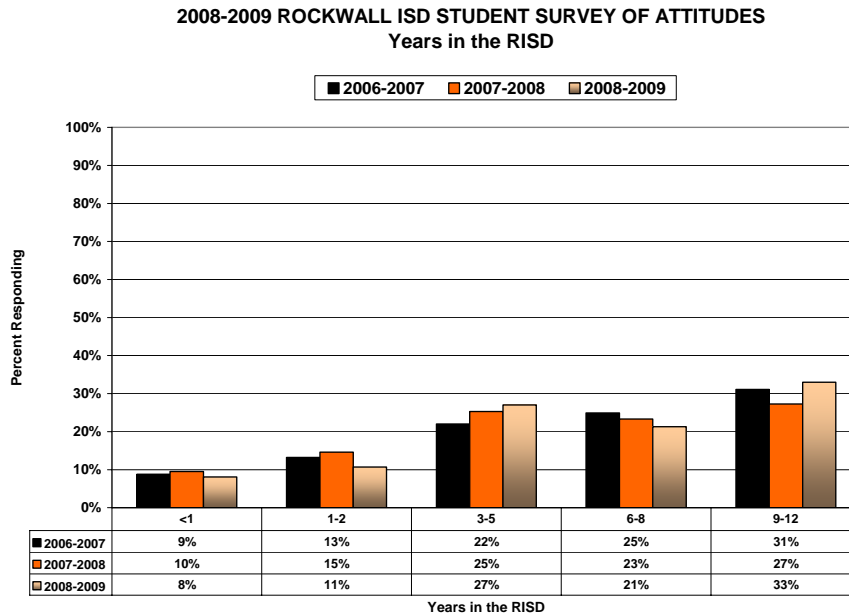
**2008-2009 ROCKWALL ISD CAMPUS SURVEY OF ATTITUDES  
District Comparison**



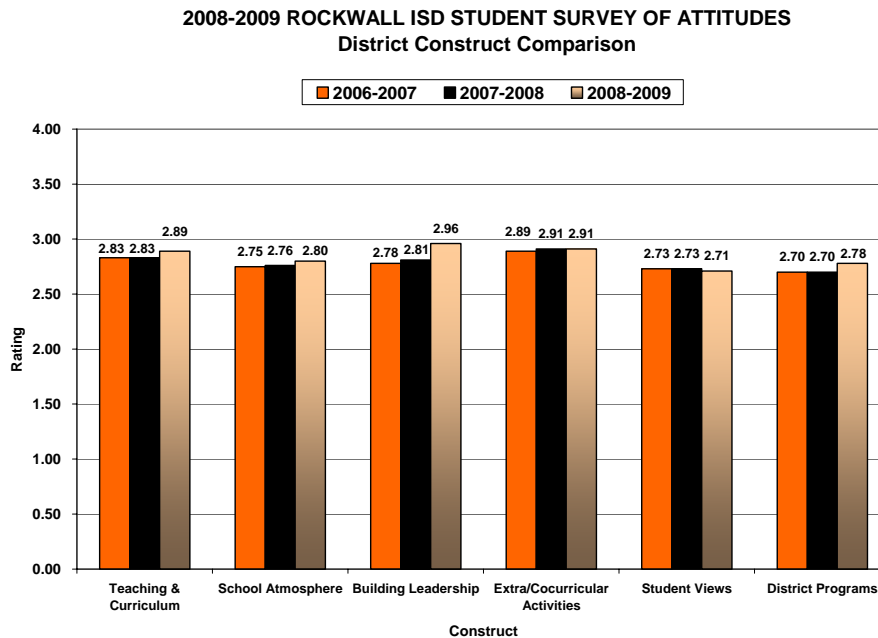
## Student Survey of Attitudes

The Student Survey of Attitudes was completed by students in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. The survey was administered in English classes on all campuses.

**Years in the RISD:** Nineteen percent of the students have lived in the RISD less than two years. While there was a slight increase in the number of students attending 9-12 years, students attending six to eight years declined.



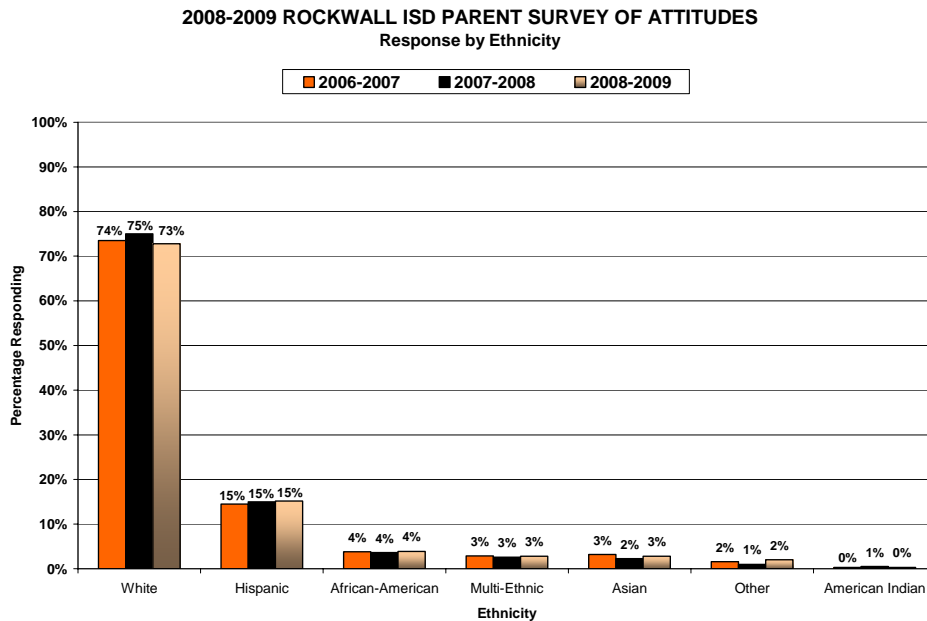
**District Construct Comparison:** Historically, the Student Survey satisfaction level has been lower than that of the Campus or Parent surveys. What is important to note is that the satisfaction levels are consistent – there is no significant decline in any of the constructs.



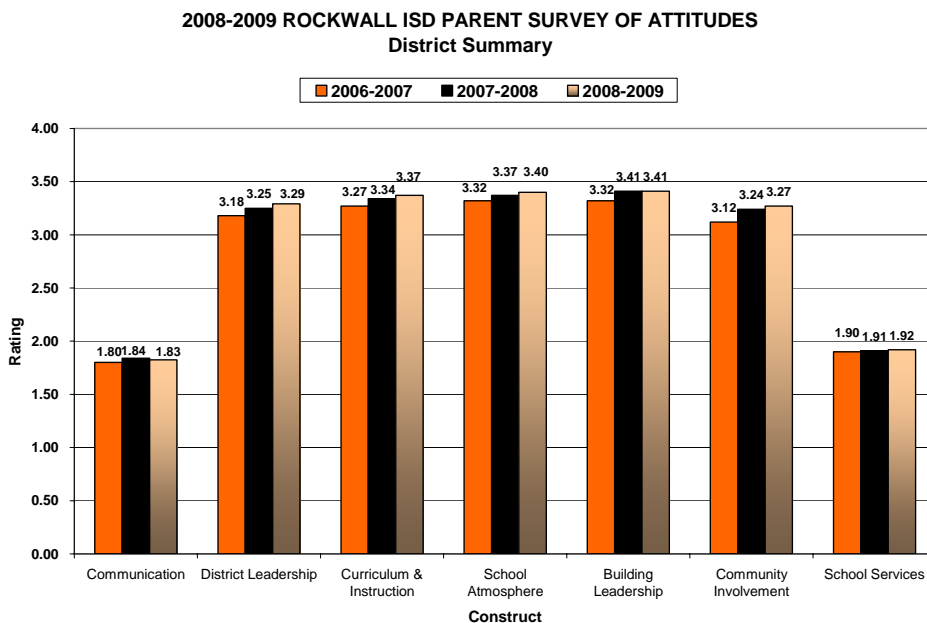
## Parent Survey of Attitudes

The Parent Survey of Attitudes was distributed to all parents of students in RISD. At the elementary school level, the surveys were sent home with the students along with a reply envelope. Secondary surveys were mailed to the student's home. Spanish surveys were provided to ESL students for parents.

**Response by Ethnicity:** Rockwall ISD makes a special effort to survey parents of all ethnicities. For Spanish-speaking parents, a Spanish survey is made available. Over 25% of respondents are of an ethnic background other than White.



**District Summary:** With the exception of one construct, every construct showed growth in satisfaction levels. Parents continue to show a high level of satisfaction overall.



### **Most Important Issues Facing Rockwall ISD**

In addition to the survey items, parents/guardians were asked to identify the most important issues facing Rockwall ISD. Respondents could mark more than one item.

Issue	Percent Responding
Quality Education	56%
Classroom Management	17%
Student Discipline	14%
Updated Technology	13%
School Finance	10%
Student Dropouts	4%

### **Respondents Wanted More Information:**

Parents/guardians were also asked what topics they desired more information. Respondents could mark more than one item.

Topic	Percent Responding
Extra/Cocurricular Activities	49%
Subjects Taught in School	47%
Opportunities for Involvement	25%
District Policies	11%