

# Advisory Board Meeting:

## Superintendent's Report



Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013

# Agenda

School Climate Survey

Status of Listening Tour + Upcoming Events

Public Commentary

Superintendent's Agenda Items and District Highlights

# School Climate Survey: Overview

## **To provide an objective view of the state of our schools, we provide survey findings for Camden City School District**

We conducted surveys across all schools in early June of 2013, gathering feedback on the following:

- Physical Environment
- Emotional Environment
- Teaching and Learning
- Relationships
- Community Engagement
- Staff and Student Morale

We received responses from:

- 5,458 students in grades 3-12 (95% response rate from students who were present during the in-school survey administration)
  - 2,529 elementary school students
  - 1,756 middle school students and 1105 high school students
- 936 educators, including 636 teachers, 93 administrators, and 207 classroom and school support staff (41% response rate from online survey)

# School Climate Survey: Overview

## **The Camden City School District is at a critical point in its history**

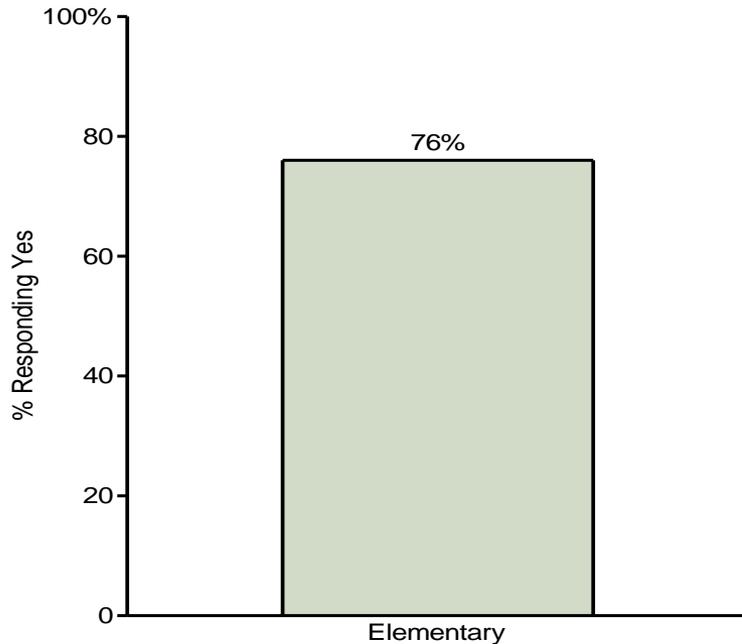
- A recent survey of our students indicated both a strong desire to learn and a high level of support from both parents and teachers
- At the same time, students identified serious issues with our schools, including:
  - Lack of challenge and academic rigor
  - Lack of respect among students
  - Unclean and unsafe school environments
- Moreover, these challenges are echoed in school staff member surveys
- We must change the course we are on by tapping into our students' desire to learn and better channeling parent and teacher supports

# School Climate Survey: **The Opportunity**

**Most positively, students articulated that they are excited to learn new things and they try hard to succeed**

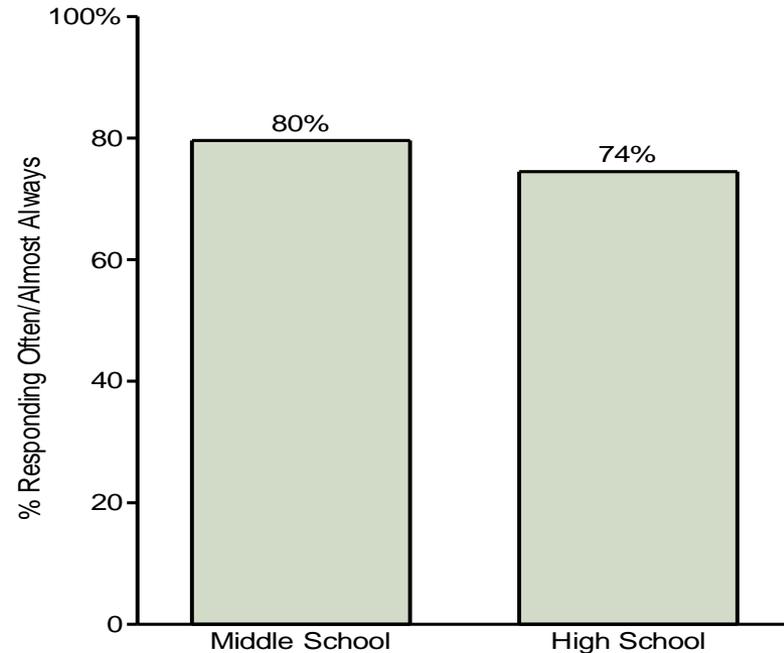
## **Elementary School Students:**

*I want to explore and learn new things*



## **Middle and High School Students:**

*Thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you try to do your best work in school?*

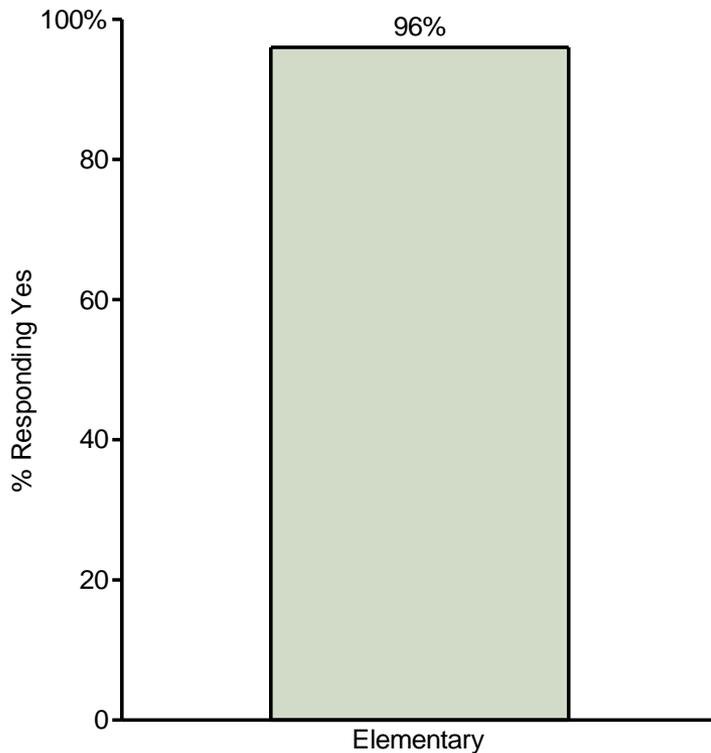


# School Climate Survey: **The Opportunity**

**Moreover, family support is strong for students in all grades**

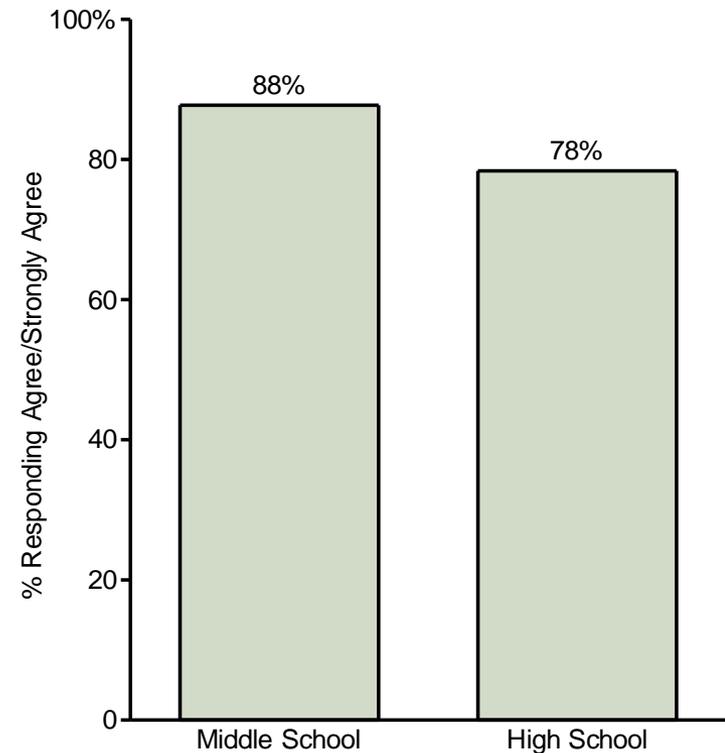
## **Elementary School Students:**

*My family wants me to do well in school*



## **Middle/High School Students:**

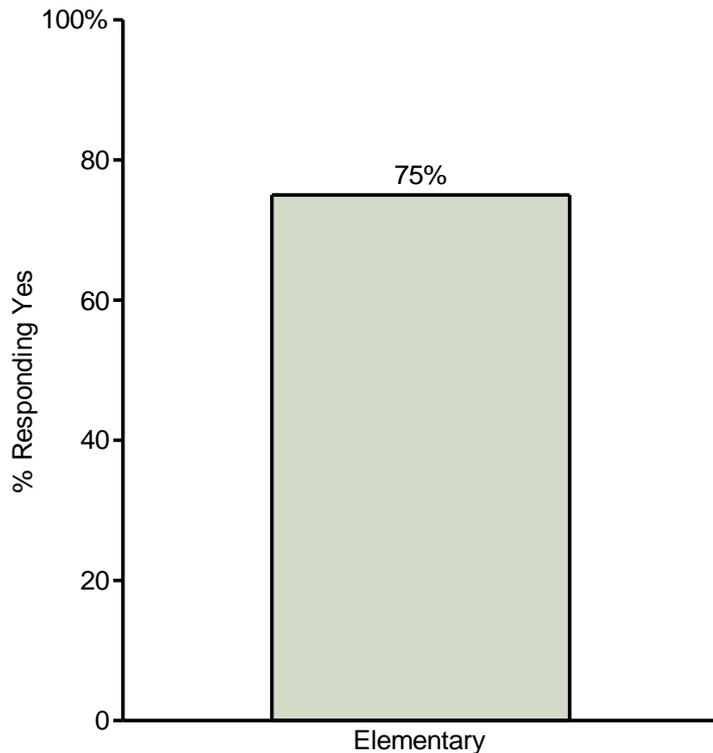
*My family wants me to do well in school*



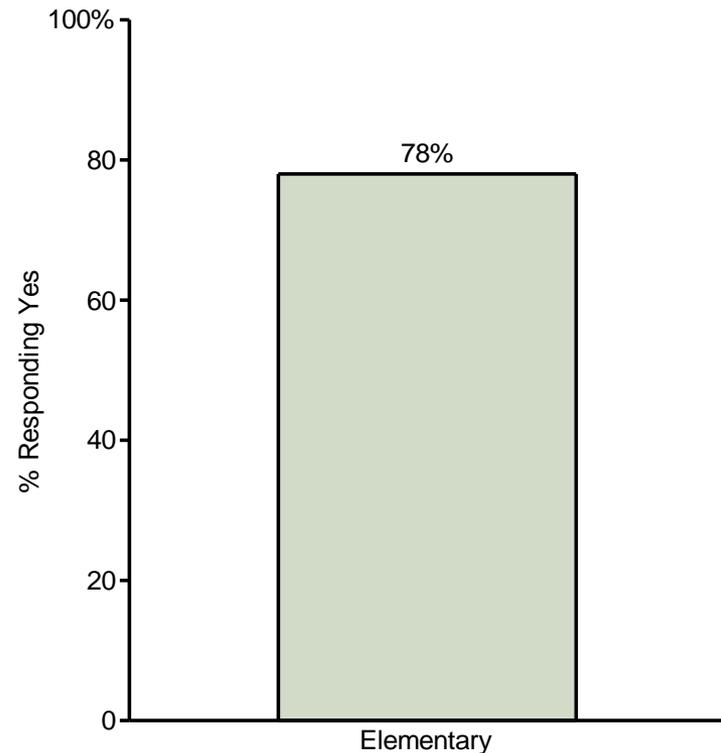
# School Climate Survey: **The Opportunity**

**Students also believe that their teachers care about them and provide help when needed**

**Elementary School Students:**  
*My teachers really care about me*



**Elementary Students:**  
*My teachers would give me help if I needed it*

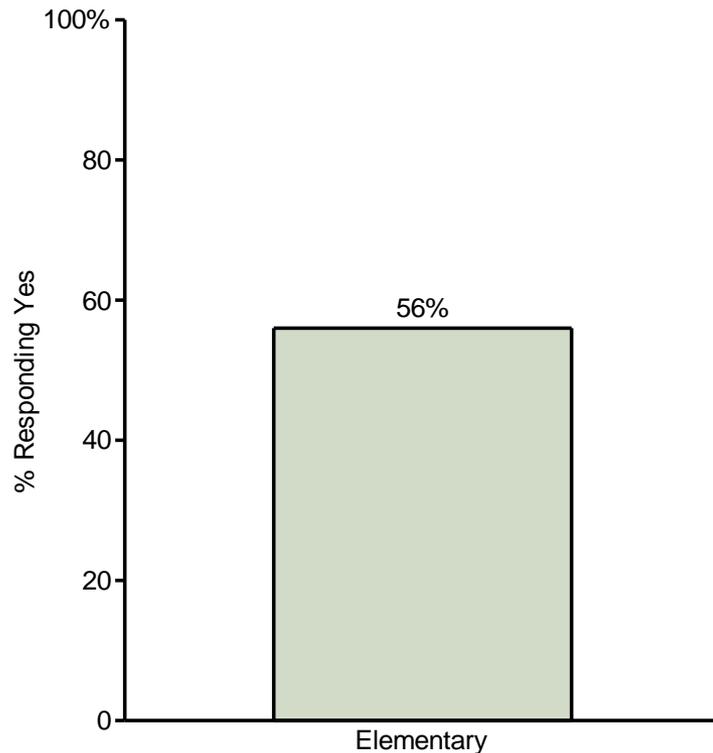


# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

**Despite this enthusiasm and adult support, many students do not find their school work engaging or interesting**

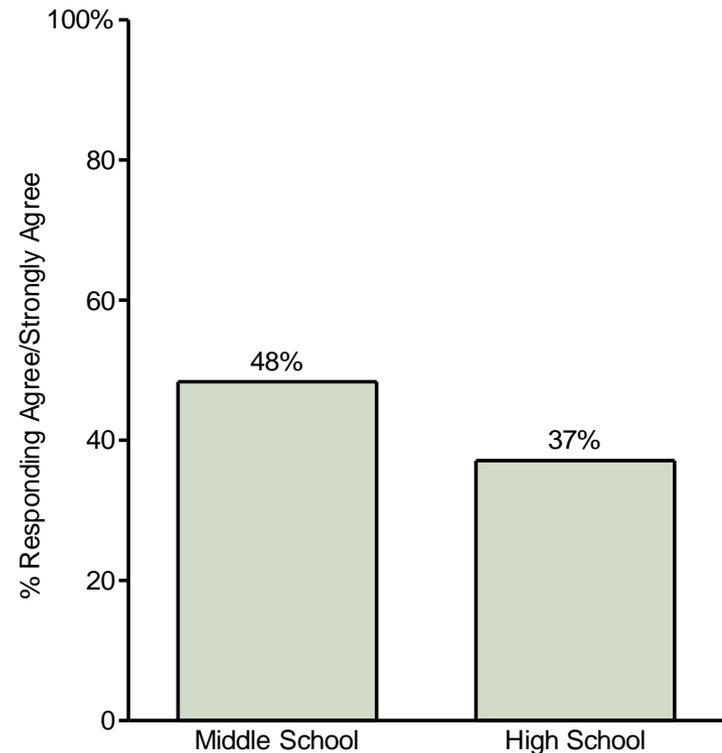
## **Elementary School Students:**

*My teachers make learning interesting*



## **Middle/High School Students:**

*My teachers make learning interesting*

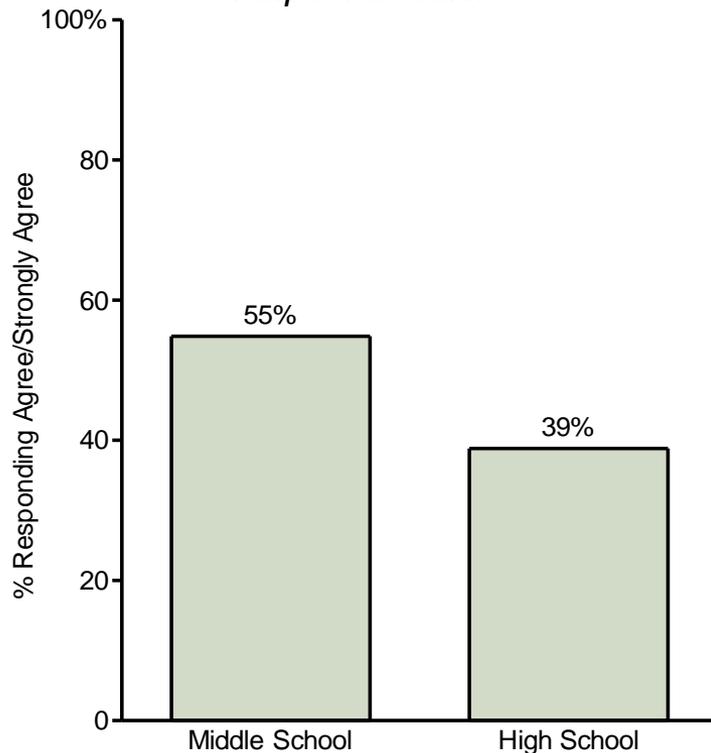


# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

**Additionally, students do not believe their homework helps them learn or that their schools prepare them for college**

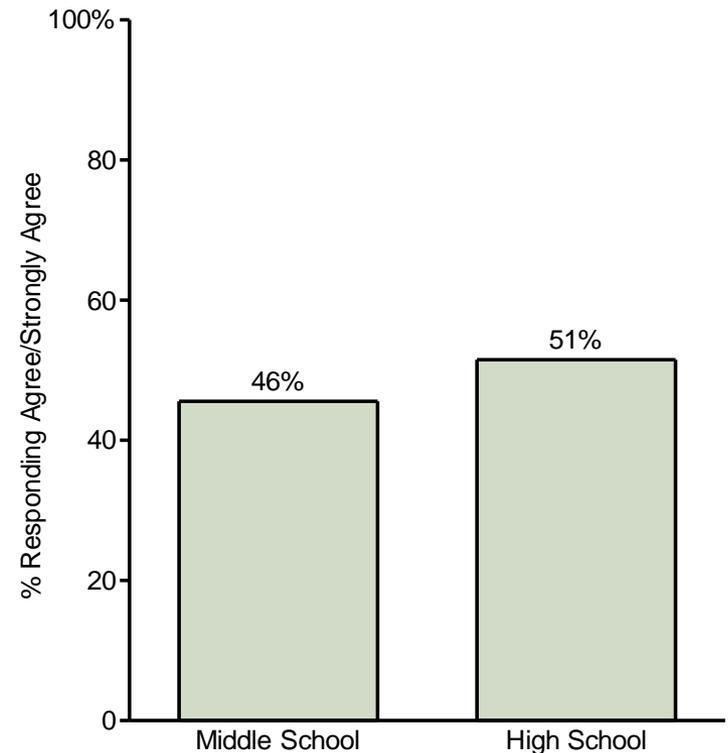
## **Middle/High School Students:**

*My teachers often assign homework that helps me learn*



## **Middle/High School Students:**

*My school is preparing me for college*

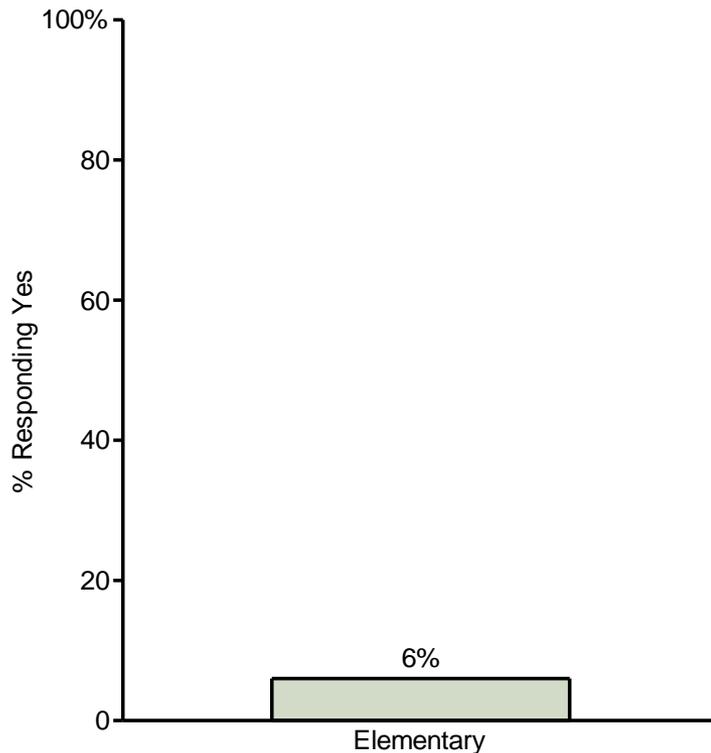


# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

**Students articulated various deficiencies with their school, the most prominent of which was poor student behavior**

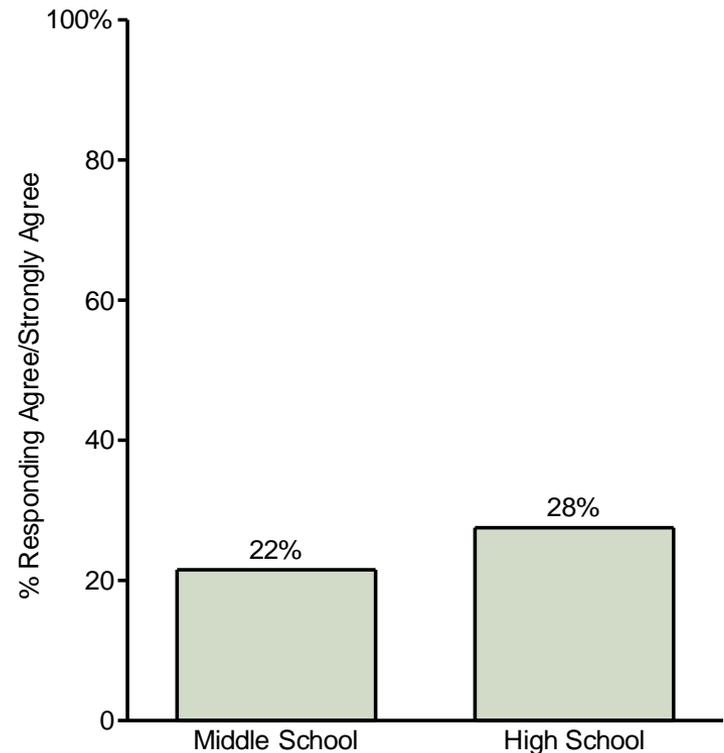
## **Elementary School Students:**

*Students at my school are well-behaved*



## **Middle/High School Students:**

*Most students in my school are well-behaved*

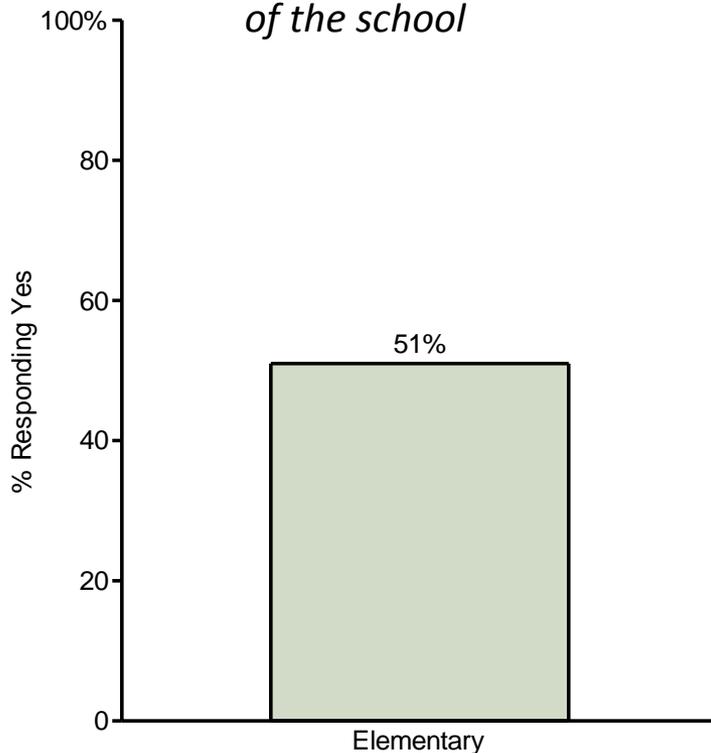


# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

**In addition, many students report not feeling safe both inside and outside of their school...**

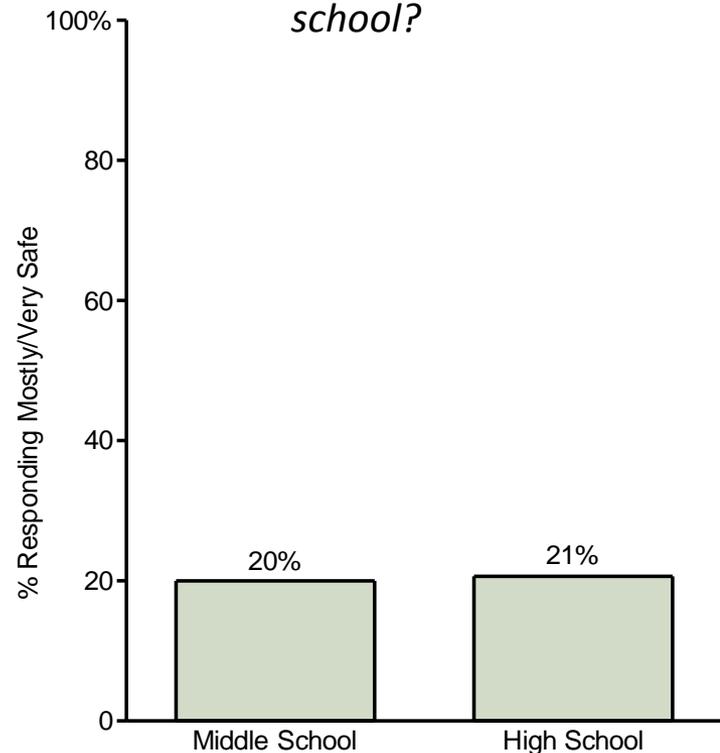
## **Elementary School Students:**

*I feel safe in the hallways and bathrooms  
of the school*



## **Middle/High School Students:**

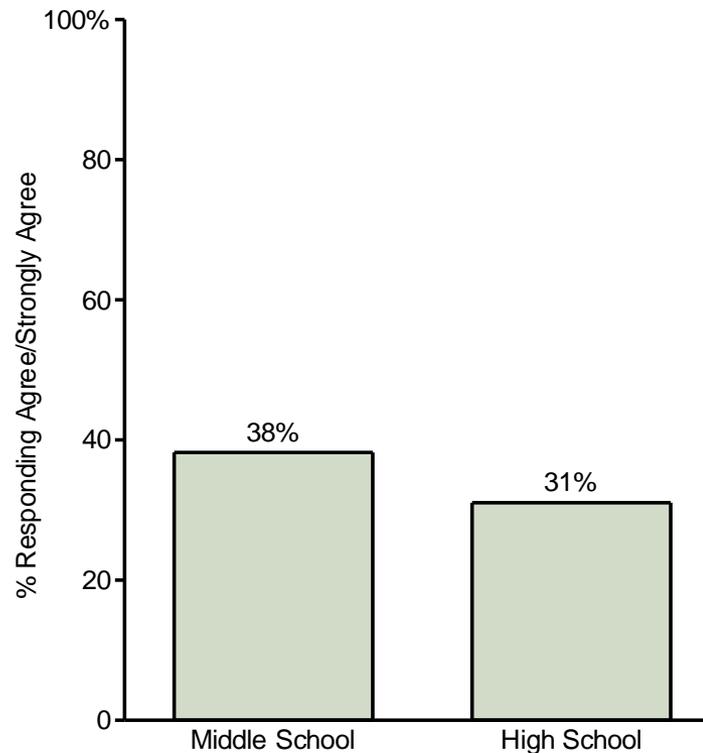
*How safe do you feel outside around the  
school?*



# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

**...that violence is a significant problem in middle and high schools...**

**Middle/High School Students:**  
*Violence is a problem at my school*

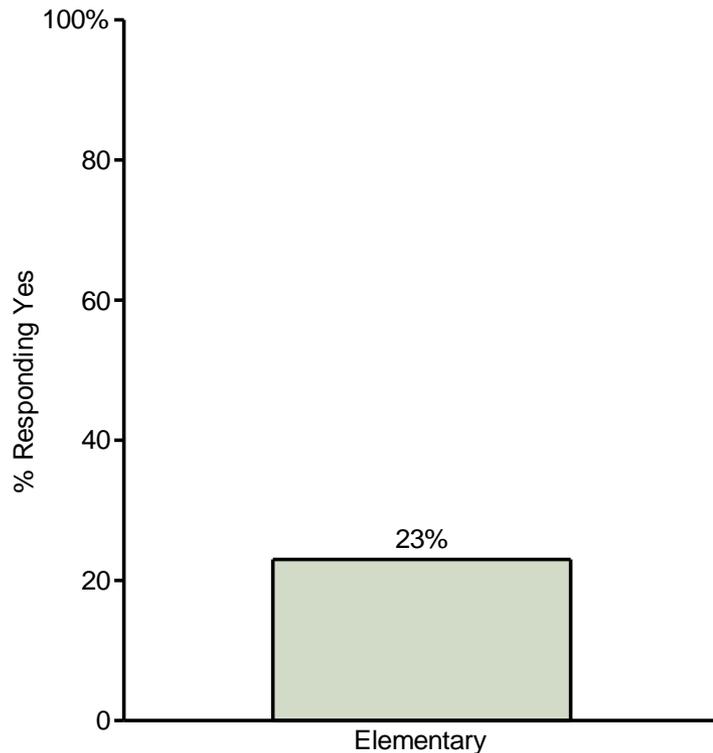


# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

...and that buildings are not clean.

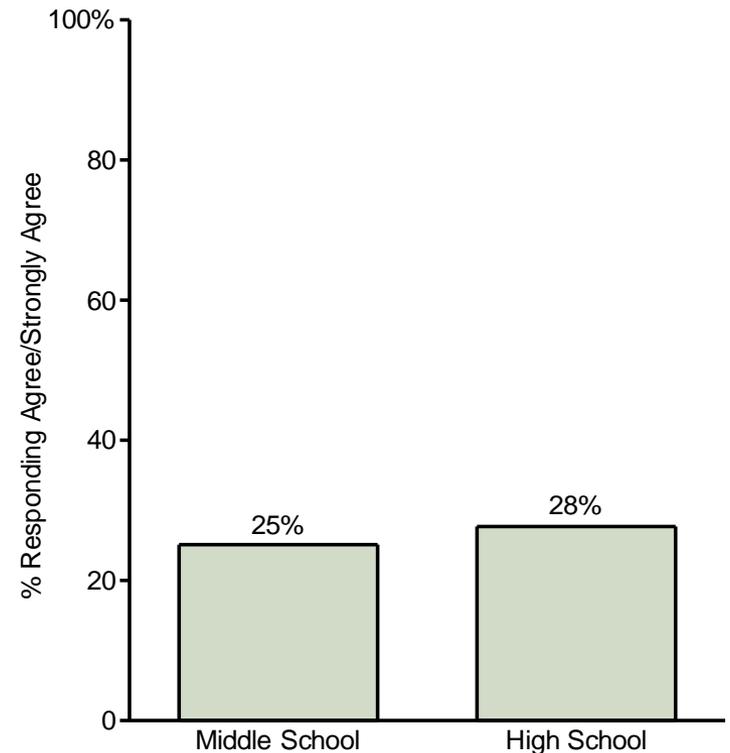
## Elementary School Students:

*My school is kept clean*



## Middle/High School Students:

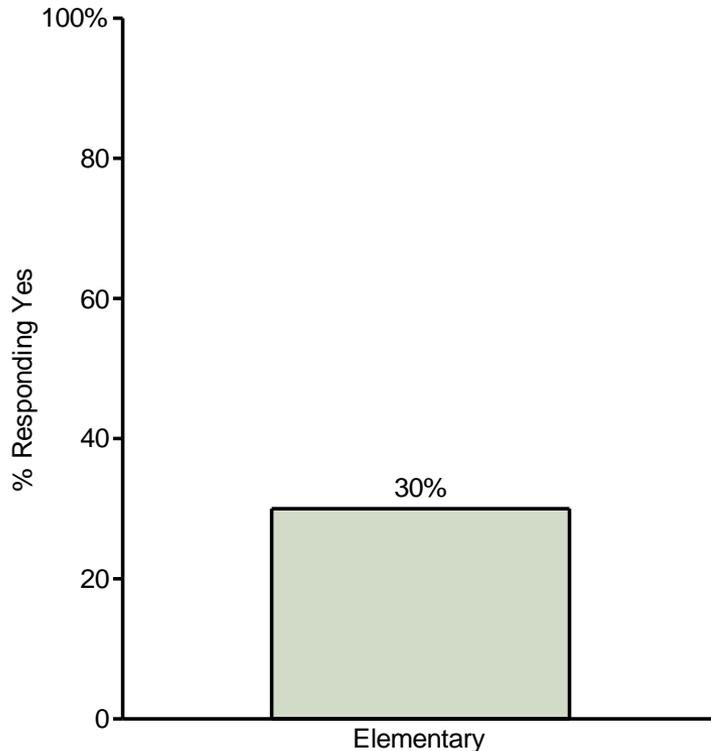
*My school is kept clean*



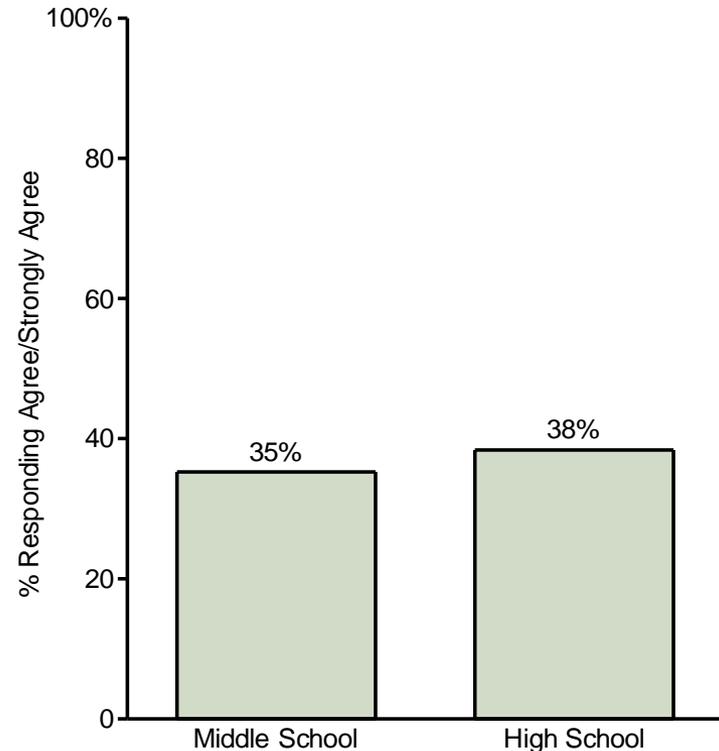
# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

Perhaps most disconcerting is the finding that almost a third of students wish they went to a different school

**Elementary School Students:**  
*I wish I went to a different school*



**Middle/High School Students:**  
*I wish I went to a different school*

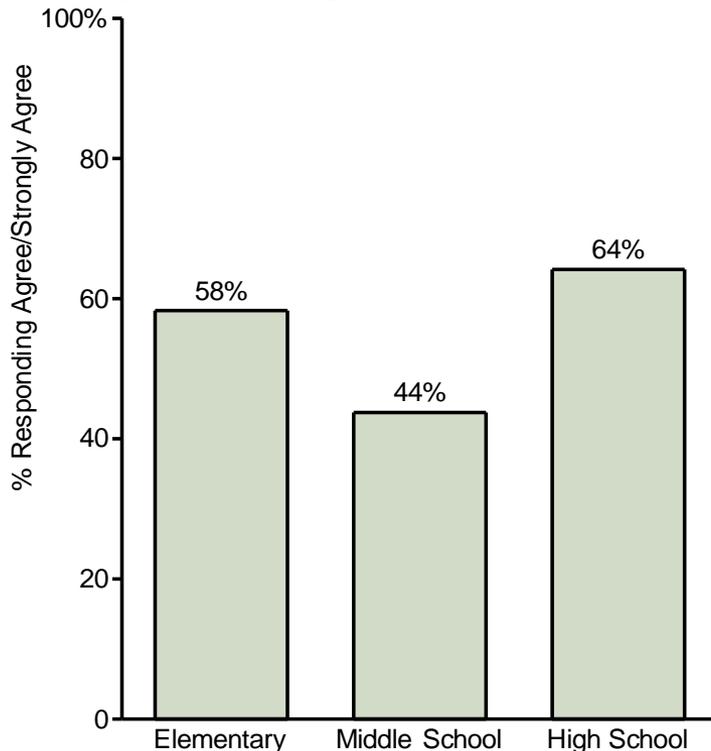


# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

**Staff members echo these challenges and report that schools lack the necessary ingredients for a culture of achievement**

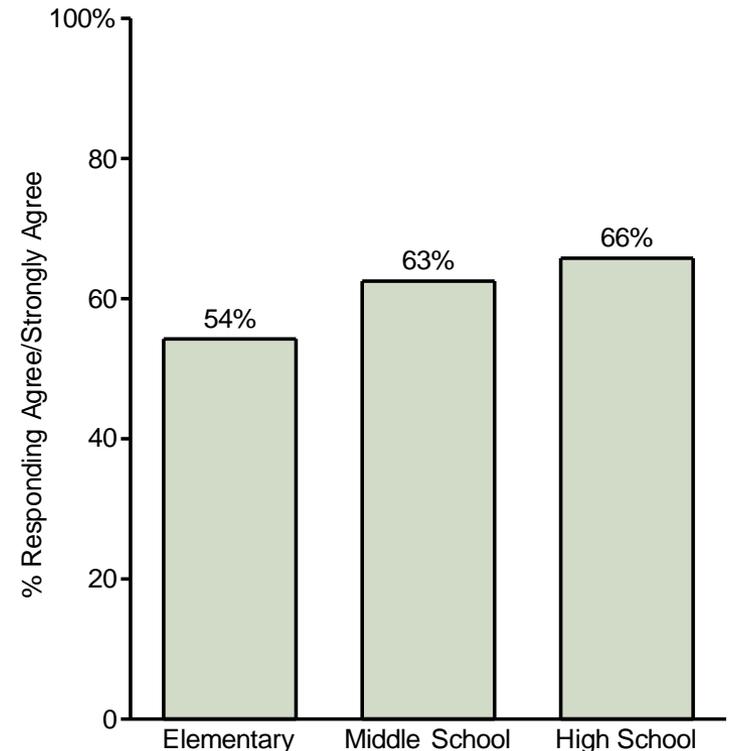
## **Staff Members:**

*The school community has high expectations of all students*



## **Staff Members:**

*Teachers have close working relationships with each other*

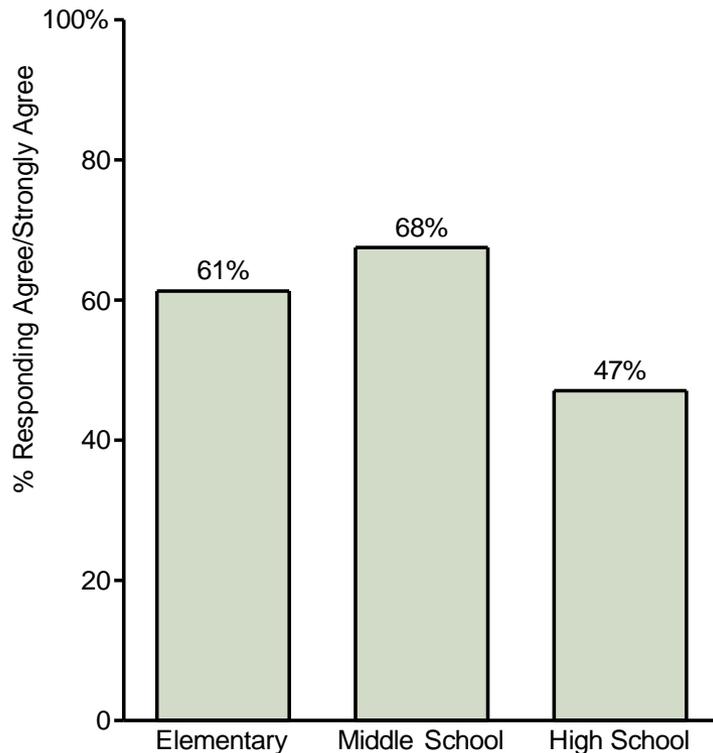


# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

**Moreover, staff members spend a lot of time attending to student emotional needs and have difficulty motivating them**

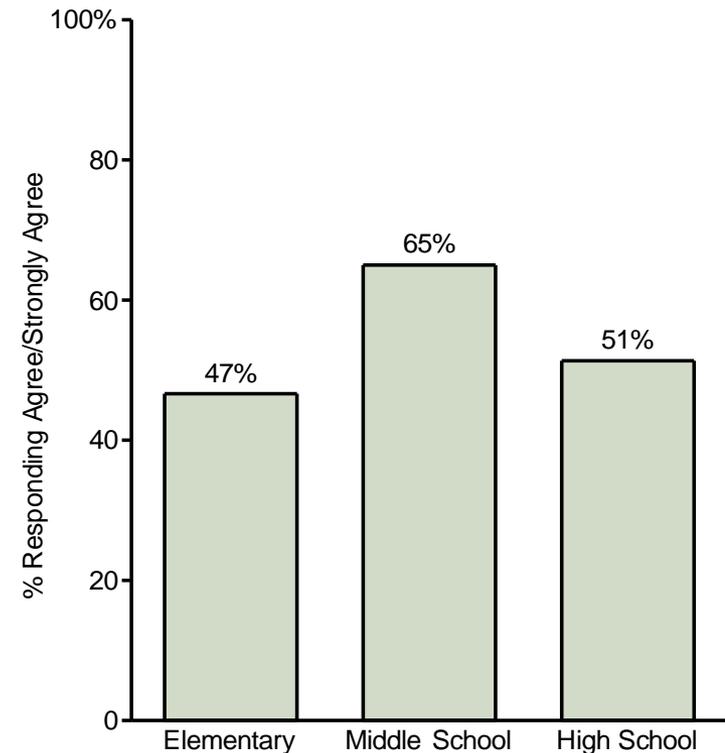
## **Staff Members:**

*I spend a great deal of time dealing with students' social and emotional troubles.*



## **Staff Members:**

*Some students at this school just cannot be motivated to do the work.*

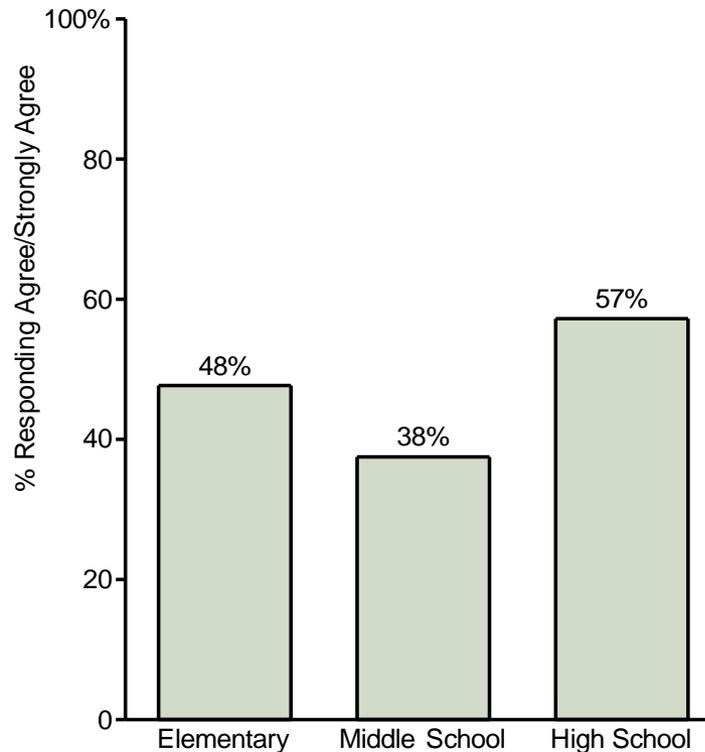


# School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

**Presented with many challenges, school staff report that they do not have the tools required to do their job**

**Staff Members:**

*I have access to the tools I need to do my job.*



# Immediate Actions Taken

**The district has taken immediate actions to address these concerns, but much work lies ahead**

- School Safety
  - Safe Corridors: partnership with Camden County Police Department, Mayor and local community
  - Updated school safety plans
  - Added over 100 new security cameras
- Lack of Resources
  - ~\$5 million of investments made for new textbooks
  - Technology pilot @ Woodrow Wilson, East Camden Middle School and Cream Family School
- School Cleanliness
  - Enhanced preparation for the start of the school year

# Agenda

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Status of Listening Tour + Upcoming Events

Public Commentary

Superintendent's Agenda Items and District Highlights

# 100-Day Listening Tour: **Events Held**

**School Visits**

**Faith-based  
Events**

**Homeowner /  
Neighborhood  
Events**

**School Programs  
(e.g., Early  
Childhood Night)**

**Community At-  
large Events**

# Listening Tour: **Upcoming Events**

## **Town Halls**

The purpose of the Town Hall events is to provide an opportunity for us to listen and address questions and concerns from concerned Community members across Camden.

## **Focus Group Events**

The purpose of the Focus Group events is to ensure that we have an opportunity to listen and address questions and concerns from the people who directly play a role in the lives of Camden students.

# Listening Tour: Town Halls

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**Creative Arts Morgan  
Village Academy**  
**Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**6pm**

**Bonsall Elementary School**  
**Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**6pm**

**Woodrow Wilson High  
School**  
**Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**6pm**

**Molina Elementary School**  
**Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**6pm**

# Listening Tour: Focus Group Events



**Student Chat**  
**Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Teacher Talk**  
**Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> &**  
**Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Parent Roundtable**  
**Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Support Staff Huddle**  
**TBD**

# Annual Preschool Night & Parent Fireside Chat



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## District Highlights: “We Can Do This”



After a successful kickoff celebration that took place on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, the “We Can Do This” committee is one step closer to providing high quality athletic facilities to Camden High School students!

A huge shout-out goes to Mr. Stan White, the Mayor, the Advisory Board – particularly Ms. Davis, Committee members and the entire community for their hard work and support.

## District Highlights: **Breast Cancer Walk**

The Camden High Marching Band participated in the annual Breast Cancer Walk this past Sunday. We congratulate on a job well done and will continue to support their community service efforts.

# District Highlights

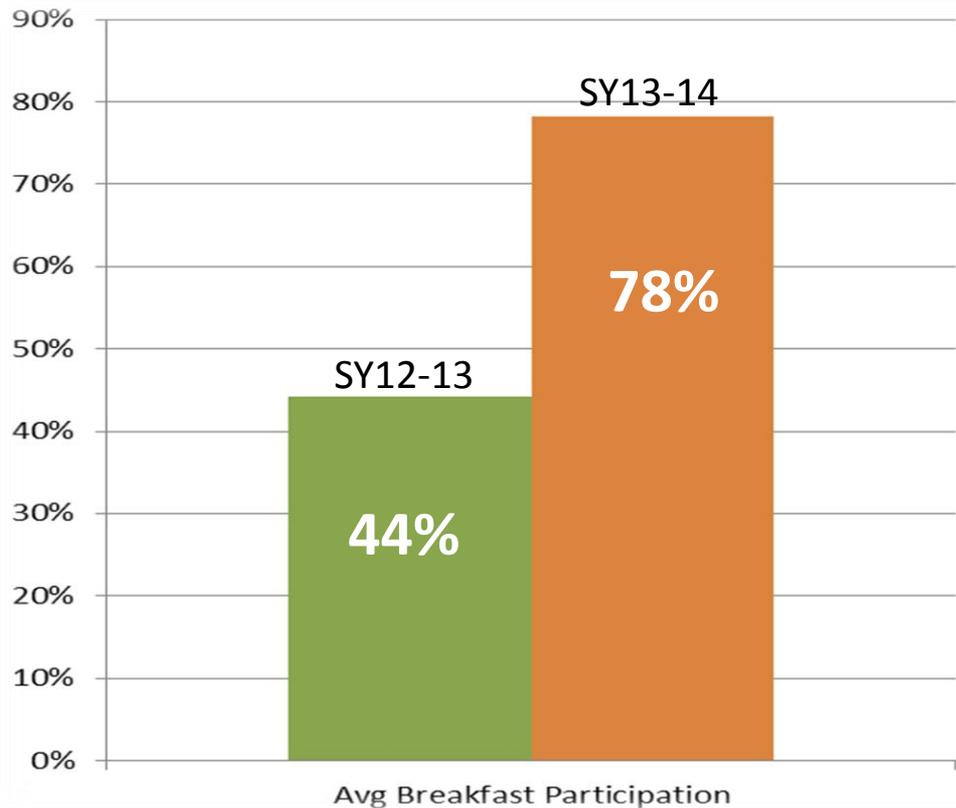
- Student Growth Objectives (SGO) training on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Catto Family School to ensure teachers are setting ambitious goals for their students (pg. 10)
  - All principals and other administrative staff (e.g., Supervisors, Directors, Vice Principals)
- Math & Literacy Afterschool Program @ Woodrow Wilson (pg. 18)
  - November – January
- Extended Academy Program @ Cream Family School (pg. 28)
  - Principal, 10 teachers, 3 paraprofessionals, 2 school security officers

# District Highlights

- School Based Youth Services (pg. 43)
  - Cultural Cohesion Awareness focus @ Woodrow Wilson (4 events)
- Health Services (p. 44)
  - Free flu shots: flu clinic for pre-school students (December 4 & 11) @ ECDC
- Fundraisers (pg. 57)
  - Woodrow Wilson, East Camden MS, Pyne Poynt, Bonsall, Catto, Davis, Sumner, Cramer, Forest Hill, Yorkship)

# District Highlights: **Breakfast In the Classroom**

## District Breakfast Participation % Current Year vs. Prior Year



# District Highlights: **Leader Ledger and Teacher Times**

## **Leader Ledger**

We launched our first issue of the Leader Ledger last week! Leader Ledger is published every Monday and contains helpful information for principals and vice principals

## **Teacher Times**

The Teacher Times will be used to communicate helpful information to our teachers

We will continue to explore innovative and meaningful ways that enable us to disseminate information efficiently to school leadership and instructional staff

## District Highlights: **October District Retirees**

**We would like to thank the following people for their contribution to Camden students and community at-large:**

Othello Berry, Drop Out Prev Officer - 26 years

Marva Gatlin, Clerk @ Creative Arts - 26 years

Deborah Johnson, Supervisor of Research & Planning - 37 years

Rosalind Hunley, Clerk @ Sumner - 30 years

Luther Long, Custodian E Mechanic- 26 years

Harry McCoy, Teacher of Computer @ Wiggins - 34 years

Paul Mulle, Teacher of Science @ Wiggins - 41 years

Anthony Oglesby, Custodian E Mechanic - 12 years

Gladys Schneider, Early Childhood - 40 years

# **End of Superintendent's Report**