

## Press Release

# Perth Amboy Public Schools sharing initial findings of staff survey

### Most respondents pleased with education provided

(July 26, 2013) — On July 25, 2013, Perth Amboy Public Schools received the results of a survey seeking staff input on a number of prominent issues. Working with independent research and communication firm K12 *Insight*, the district's first Site-Level Climate Survey focused on academic preparation, student support, school leadership, faculty relations, parent engagement, school operations, and safety and behavior.

A total of 604 staff members — including 431 teachers — participated in the survey, which was open from June 10- 27, 2013. Staff received invitations to participate through their district email addresses, and the survey was available in both English and Spanish. The response rate for teachers was 55% (37% for all staff), which was quite high for the first engagement of this kind; however, because survey respondents self-selected to participate, these responses are not necessarily reflective of district staff as a whole.

Overall, most staff members (78%) rated the district as “excellent” or “good” with regard to the quality of education provided. Overall perception of student support was highly favorable (82% of responses), and 75% of staff held favorable views of school leadership. In addition, 85% of respondents agreed that collaboration is encouraged among teachers and staff, and 86% indicated that they feel respected and supported by other staff members at their schools. 81% of staff reported that they enjoy working at their school.

In response to questions about parent engagement, 88% of participating staff felt that parents are encouraged and welcome at their school, and 81% stated that they regularly communicate with parents about their child's academic achievements.

When asked to rank the top three district operations most critical to student education, respondents chose Central Office support of schools as the most important, followed by clean, well-maintained school buildings and school counselors. Participating staff were also asked to rate the most critical education programs for student achievement. English Language Development for English Learners ranked highest, followed by advanced academic programs and extracurricular activities.

“We want to thank everyone who took the time to participate and share their thoughts,” said Janine Caffrey, Superintendent of Schools. “We are committed to listening to everyone's voice and will continue to engage our community in these important, ongoing conversations.”

These preliminary findings will be combined with other district data to provide a complete report that will be accessible via the district website at <http://www.paps.net>.