

SOUTHMOOR 2010 'Building Southmoor Together' TASK FORCE SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to everyone who filled out their BST Task Force survey! Nearly 200 people responded, which is an impressive return rate. The information you provided is extremely valuable and will play an important role in the next stage of our strategic planning efforts.

As you will see, overall results indicate that our community believes Southmoor is a good school with a strong sense of community. There is work to be done in several areas to become even better. A common theme emerging is the desire for the whole community to work together hand-in-hand to promote excellence in learning and achievement. Results indicate that most respondents believe the school provides a welcoming and safe environment where their children are receiving a quality education--over 90% of respondents feel welcome and safe at Southmoor, while 89% of community members agree or strongly agree that their children are receiving a quality education at Southmoor. These data will provide a firm foundation as we develop a strategic plan for moving to the next stage in managing the school's growth and improvement.

We also found areas where we are less united, and where more discussion is needed. We hope the results will help us approach this discussion in a thoughtful way, and provide a common set of questions we can work on together.

A more in-depth summary of how these results will direct strategies for moving forward will be formulated with the task force's continuing efforts. As progress is made, the community will be kept informed. If you have questions about the survey results, please comment on the BST website (www.southmoortogether.org)

Thank you again for helping to Build Southmoor, Together!

The Building Southmoor Together Task Force

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Long Range Vision and Values Questions

When I think of Southmoor at its best 3-5 years from now, here is what I see:

Common Themes:

- Desire for a blend of programs—HGT/GT/Traditional—collaboration & cooperation
 - Academic excellence for all students
 - A community that works together in harmony with a clear vision
 - Improved teaching methods, collaboration, and supports
 - Smaller class sizes/lower student:teacher ratio
 - Larger School, Expanded capacity in SE Denver
 - A neighborhood school with no HGT program
 - Increased parent involvement
 - More enrichment activities
 - Strong Leadership with a clear vision
- (see [appendix 1](#) for 'Southmoor at its best 3-5 years from now' themes with full responses included)

I think the core values of our school should be:

By frequency (top 8 keywords):

- LEARNING (25)
- EDUCATION (20)
- ACADEMIC (19)
- RESPECT (19)
- EXCELLENCE (18)
- COMMUNITY (13)
- DIVERSITY (10)
- INTEGRITY (9)

The teachers have drafted the following vision statement for Southmoor:

Inspire, Teach, Nurture, Learn

We, the Southmoor School community, inspire students for a future yet unseen. We teach a strong academic foundation, promote good character development, nurture the creative imagination of each student and instill a love of learning and a commitment to excellence.

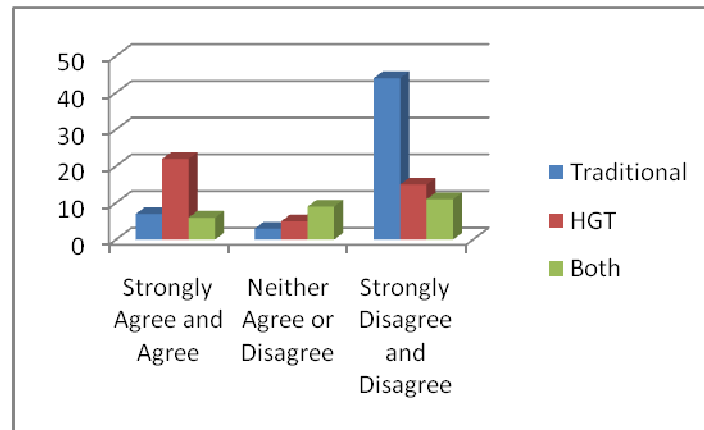
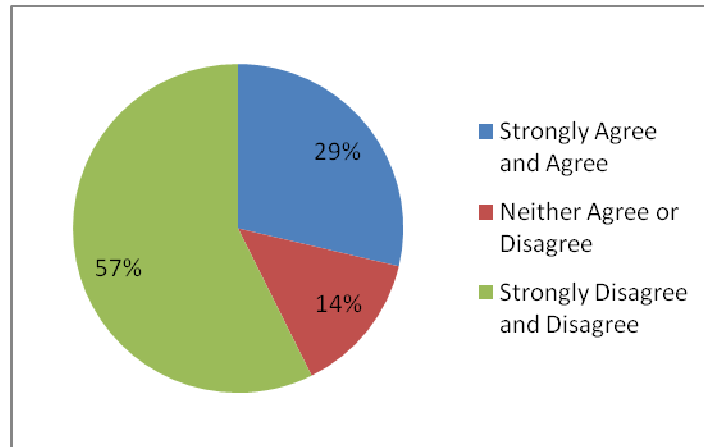
Provide additional comments below:

Common Themes:

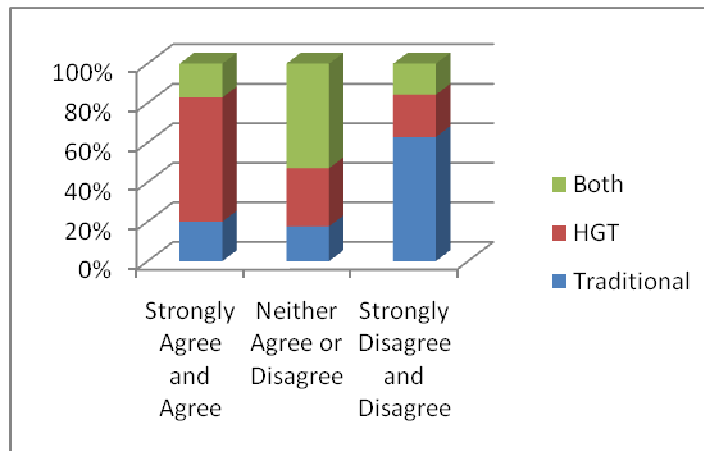
- Shorter, improve wording
 - Needs more specificity/specialization to Southmoor
 - Needs to address academic rigor, critical thinking and problem-solving skills
 - Would like it to address Southmoor's cultural diversity and development of a sense of community
 - We need to implement and internalize the vision
 - Keep as is
- (see [appendix 2](#) for 'Vision Statement' themes with full responses included):

Class Size and Student Teacher Ratio Questions

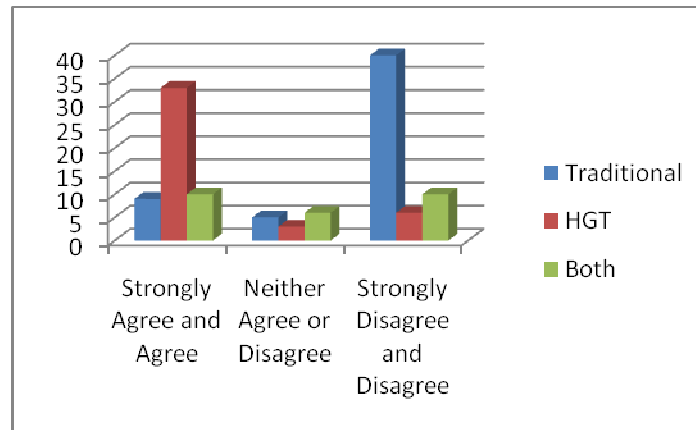
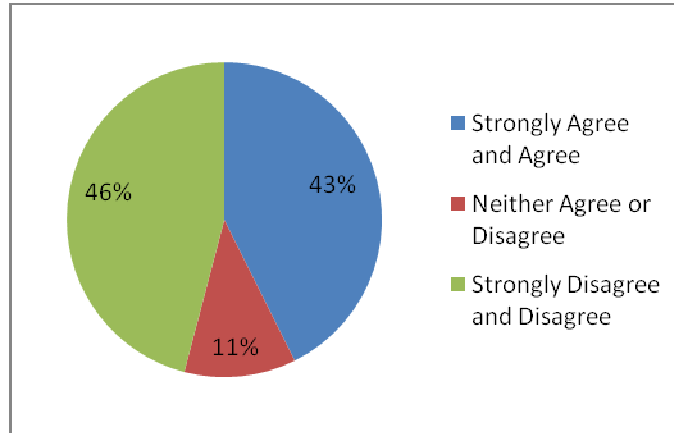
I am satisfied with the student-teacher ratio in Southmoor's classrooms.



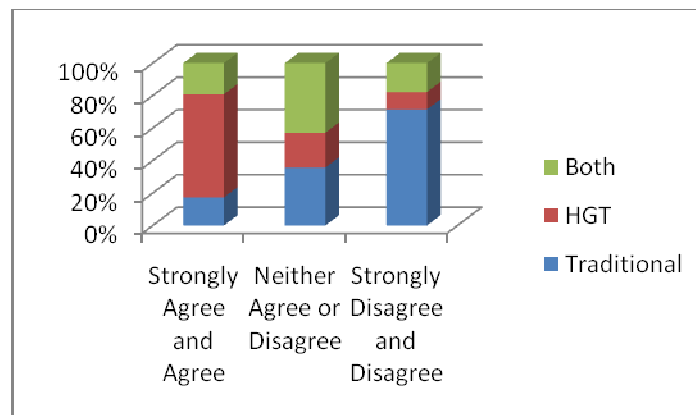
OR BY %



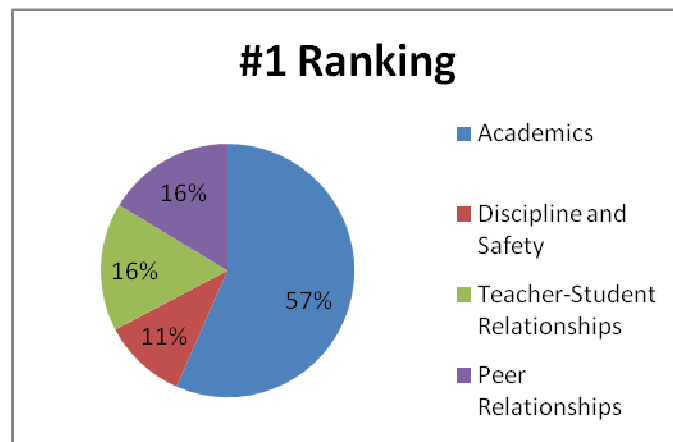
I feel the class sizes in the traditional program and the HGT program are equitable based on the program needs.



OR BY %



Top concerns regarding student-teacher ratios.



What are your ideas for best addressing class size and student-teacher ratio as we plan for the future of Southmoor?

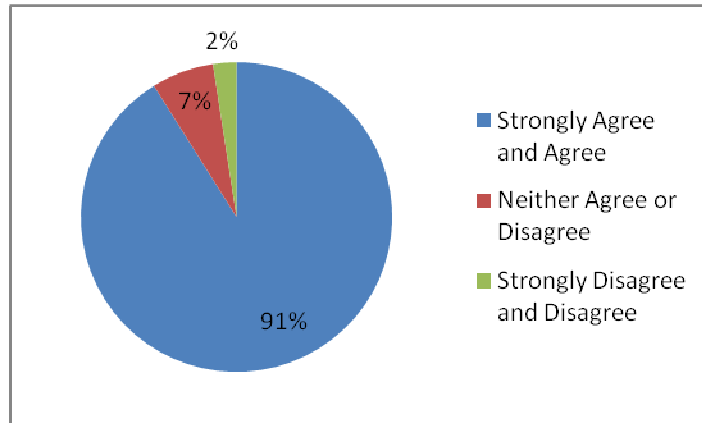
Common Themes:

- Eliminate Choice
- Change Boundaries
- Increase Physical Capacity of the School
- Integration of Programming (in some form)
- Ability Group/Differentiate instruction to meet all students' needs
- Move the HGT program (or change funding)
- Don't change HGT
- Lobby DPS for other solutions
- More volunteers

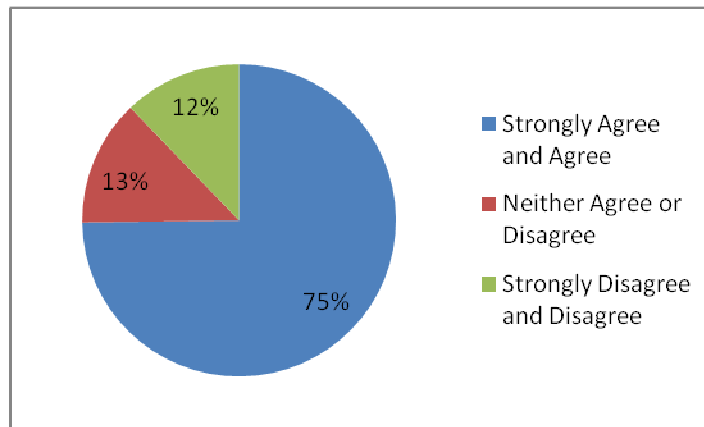
(see [appendix 3](#) for 'Class Size' themes with full responses included)

School Culture and Climate Questions

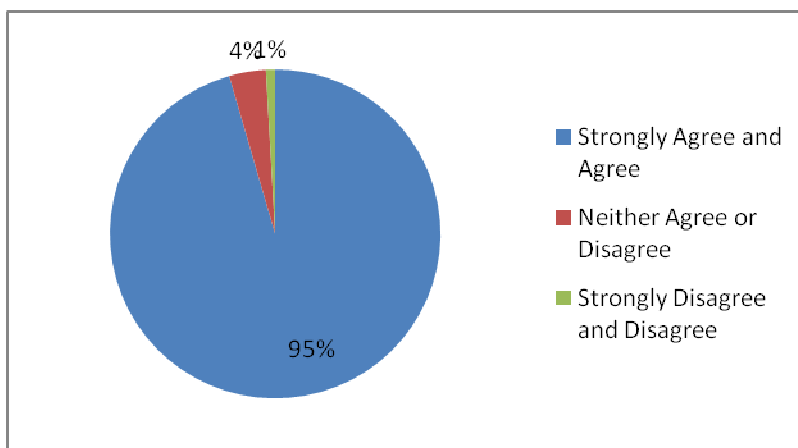
I feel welcome in the school.



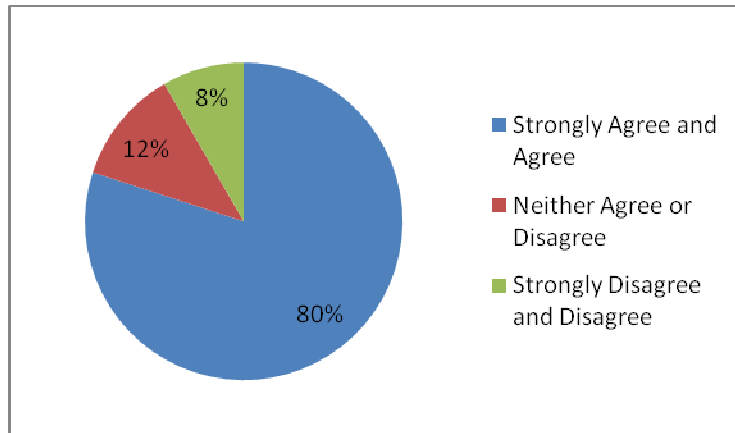
There is a strong sense of community at Southmoor.



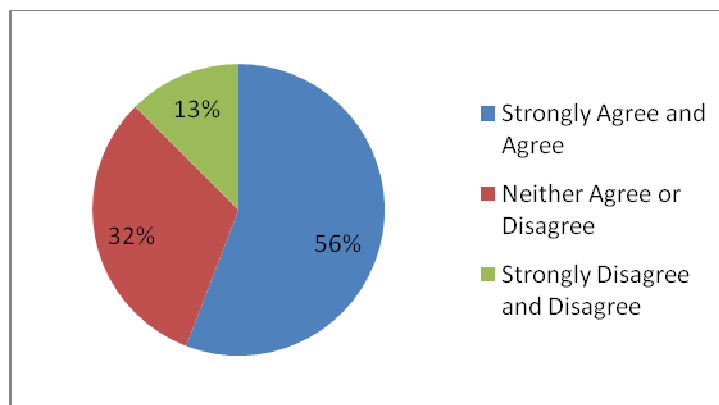
My child feels safe at school.



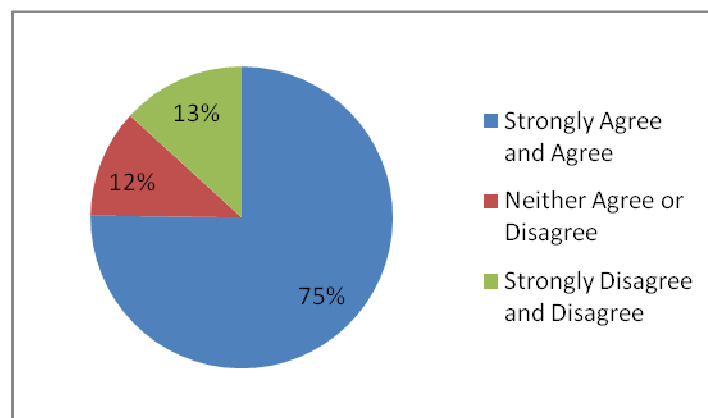
There are clear and consistent expectations for behavior at Southmoor.



The school takes prompt action when discipline issues arise.



Overall, there is a positive school culture and climate at Southmoor.



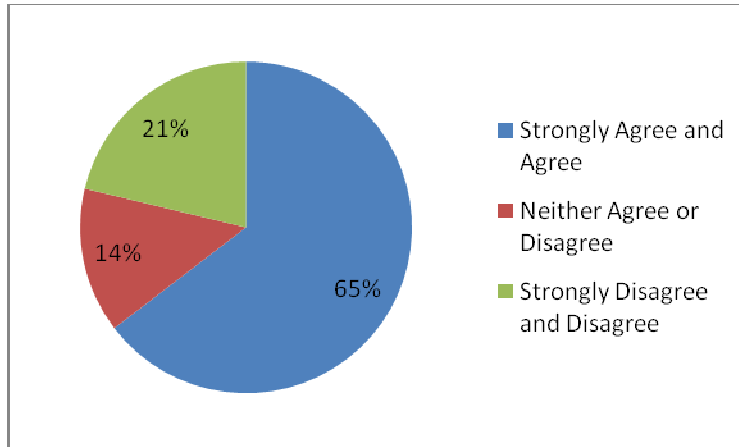
What would most improve the culture and climate of Southmoor and strengthen our community in the future?

Common Themes:

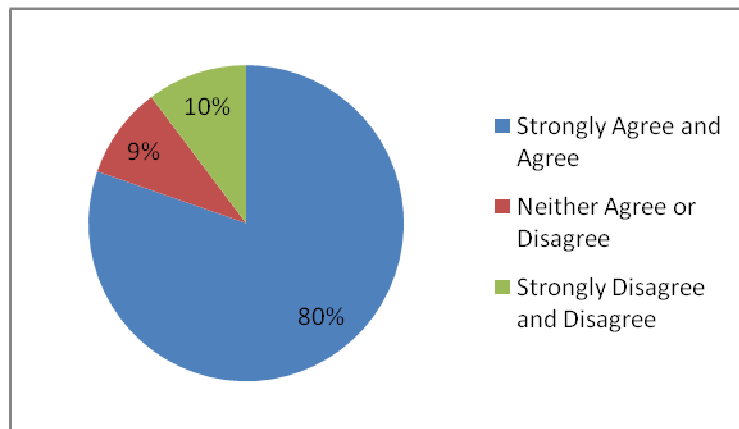
- **Bridge the Divide between the HGT and Traditional Programs**
- **Get Rid of HGT, integrate the programs or separate the budgets**
- **Keep HGT the way it is**
- **Improve Classroom Management, Behavior Plan, More Positive Behavior Supports**
- **Promote more intercultural understanding and respect, more community outreach**
- **Encourage Parent Involvement**
- **Strong Leadership, Better Communication and More Cohesive Staff**
- **Don't see any problems with School Culture/Climate beyond class sizes/space issues**
(see [appendix 4](#) for 'Culture' themes with full responses included)

Communication Questions

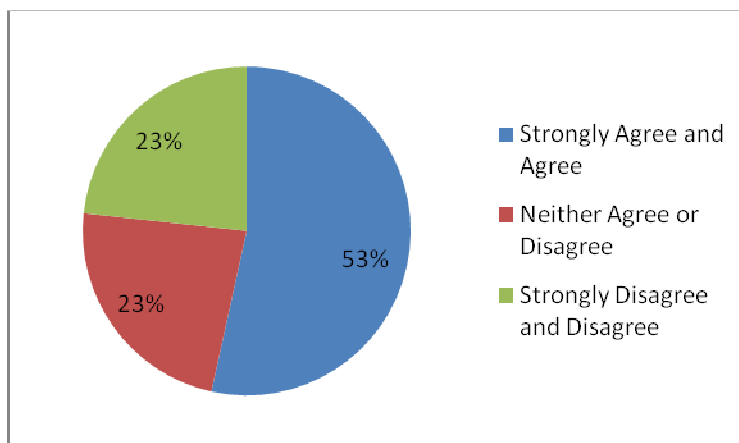
I am satisfied with the amount and quality of communication I receive about my child's progress.



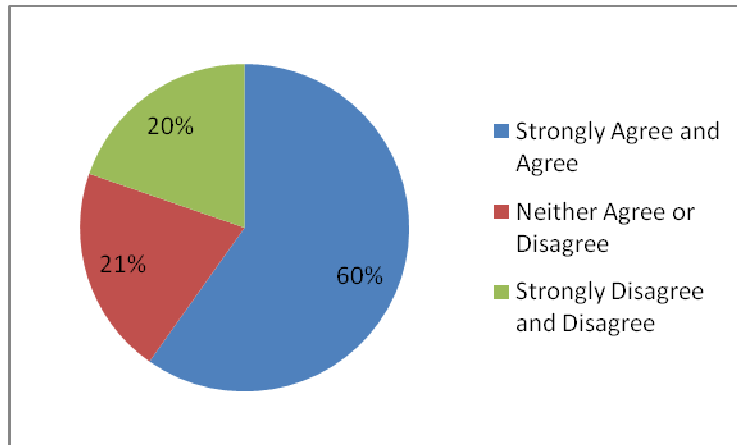
I am satisfied with the amount and quality of communication I receive from the school on school-wide issues.



I am satisfied with the tone and quality of comm. at school forums.



Overall, we communicate effectively and respectfully at Southmoor.



What do you think would improve the quality of communication between all members of the Southmoor community?

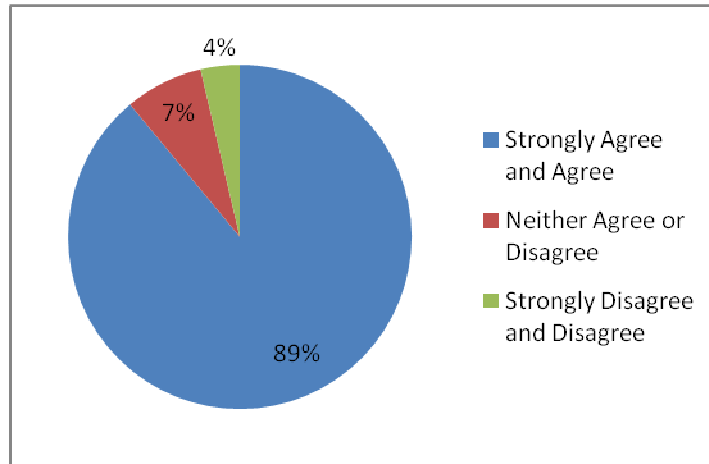
Common Themes:

- **More consistent and timely communication about school issues**
- **Improve Leadership Communication**
- **Improve Teacher-Parent Communication**
- **Improve report cards/teacher comments on report cards**
- **Alleviate the tension between the HGT and Traditional Programs, Set a Respectful Tone**
- **More community involvement with communication efforts**
- **Communication is going well at Southmoor**

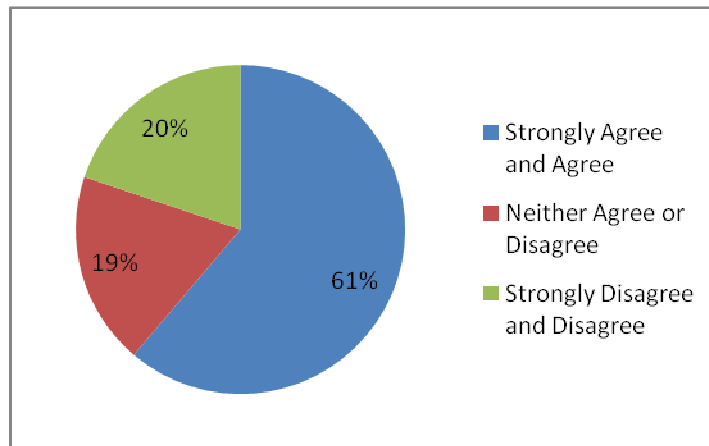
(see [appendix 5](#) for 'Communication' themes with full responses included)

Academic Program Questions

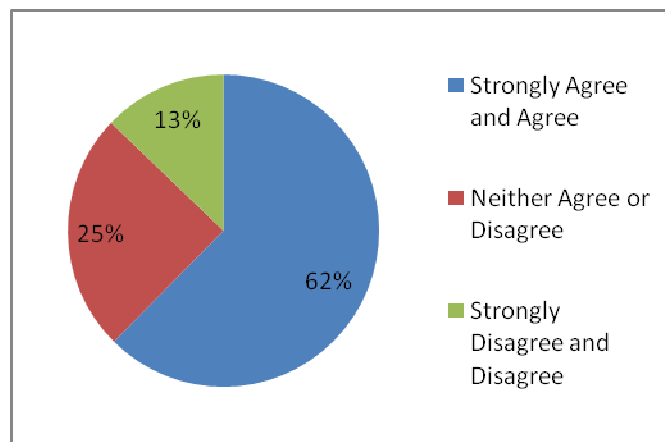
My child is receiving a quality education at Southmoor.



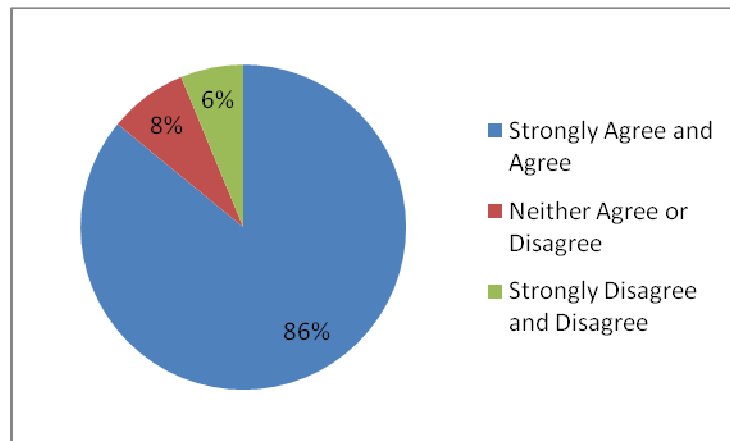
The HGT magnet program adds academic value to the entire school.



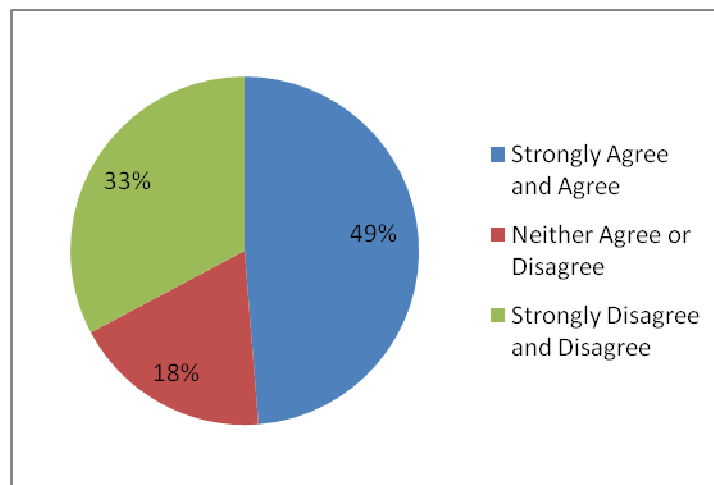
I feel there is a coherent curriculum that builds from year to year.



I would recommend Southmoor to others.



If the HGT magnet were not here, I would still want my child to stay at Southmoor.



What do you think would strengthen the academic program at Southmoor in the future?

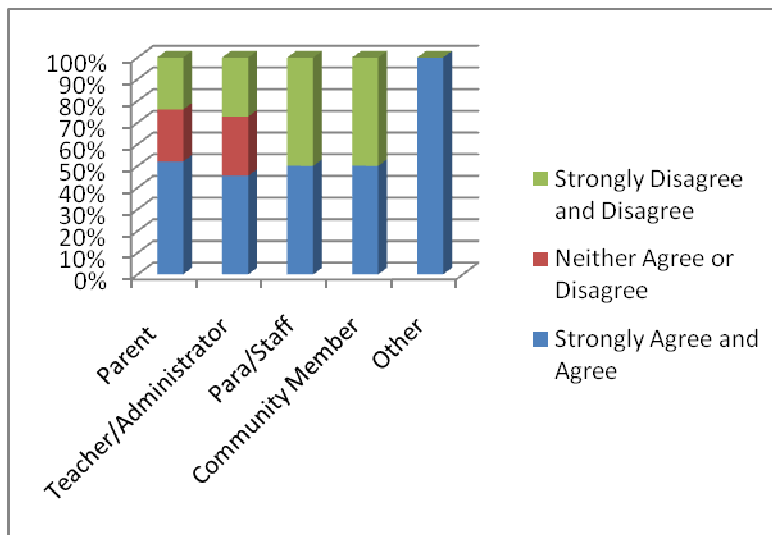
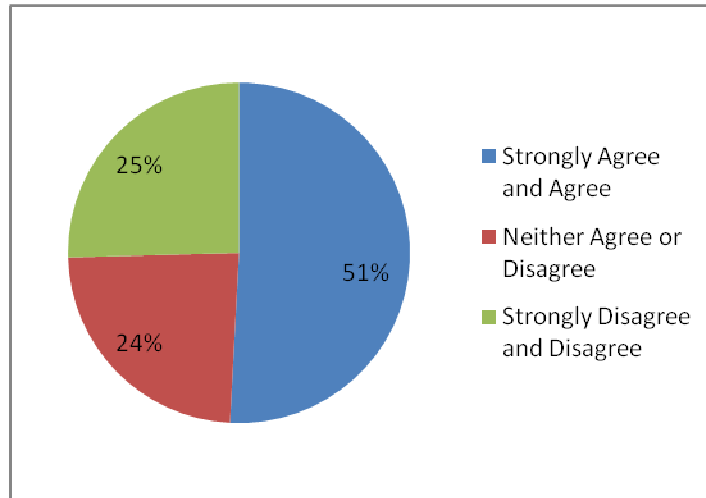
Common Themes:

- **More rigorous curriculum/curriculum changes/enrichment**
- **Differentiated Instruction/Individualized Instruction and Ability Grouping**
- **Smaller Class sizes/More Classroom Support**
- **More support for professional development, collaboration, teamwork**
- **Program Changes—HGT (stay vs. go) or Change of Program—integration in some form?**
- **Keep things the same**
- **More parent engagement**

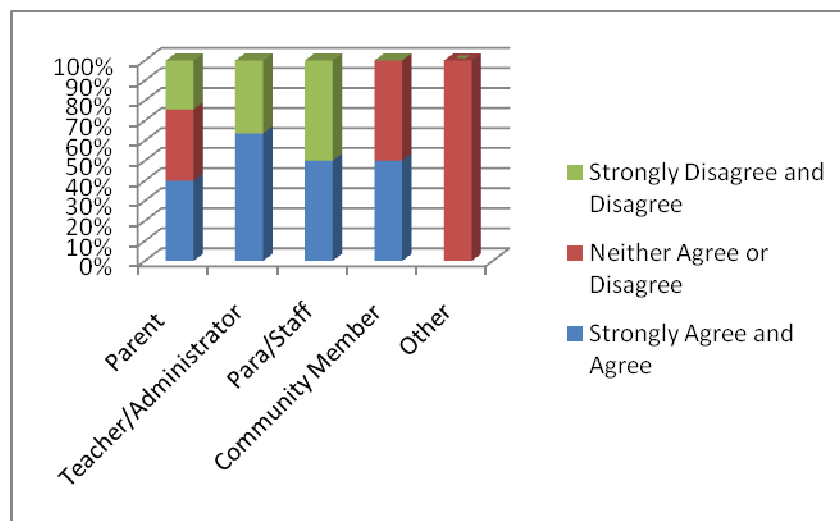
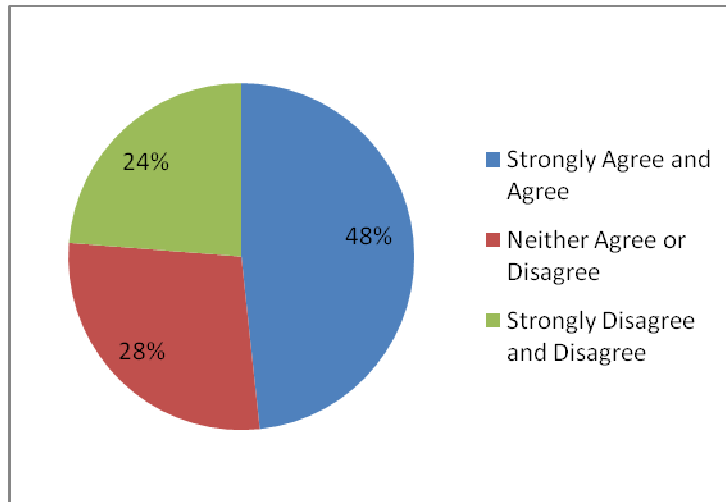
(see [appendix 6](#) for 'Academic Program' themes with full responses included)

Leadership Questions

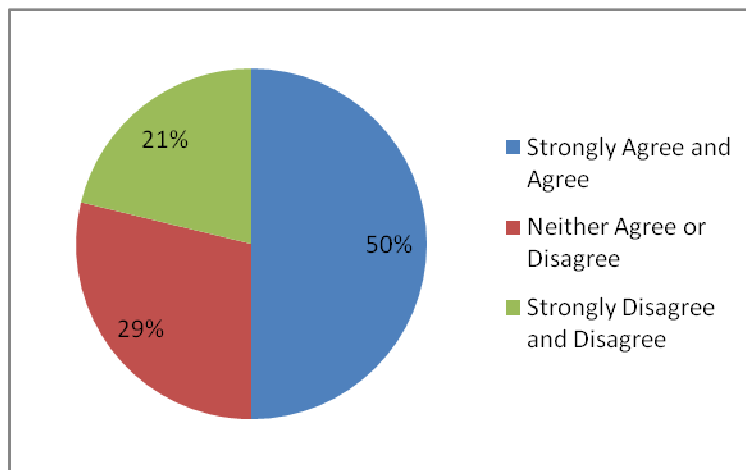
The principal provides effective leadership for the school.



The principal has the support he needs from the community to do his job well.



The school is heading in the right direction.



What ideas do you have for strengthening the leadership at Southmoor?

Common Themes:

- **Have a Strong Vision, Direction, Core Values, New Ideas**
- **Understanding of best practices, drive & enthusiasm for excellence**
- **Understanding of HGT/Traditional situation-active problem-solving to alleviate the tensions between programs**
- **Be Assertive**
- **Strengthen leadership-teacher relationships and build a more collaborative staff**
- **Improved Communication & Follow-through--better parent relationships and communication with the community on important issues**
- **Better support for Leadership, great job under circumstances, continuation of task force**
(see [appendix 7](#) for 'Leadership' themes with full responses included)