**Superintendents ESE Satisfaction Survey**

**Summary of Findings**

Prepared for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

February, 2012

# Survey Frequency Distributions

The following tables present frequency distributions for each section of the Superintendents ESE Satisfaction Survey. Of the 262 superintendents surveyed[[1]](#footnote-1), 189 responded, resulting in a response rate of 72%. The total number of valid responses varies throughout the survey for two reasons: (1) some respondents either intentionally or inadvertently did not respond to some of the survey questions, and (2) in all cases, “don’t know” and “doesn’t apply” responses were omitted prior to computing frequencies. For each question the response option that was chosen the most often has been highlighted.

1. **Your Experience as an Administrator**
2. **Please indicate your years of experience as of the current school year**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **I have been…** | **N** | **Less than one year** | **One year** | **Between 2 and 4 years** | **More than 4 years** |
| An administrator for… | 180 | 0.6% | 1.1% | 2.8% | **95.6%** |
| An administrator in this district for… | 188 | 11.7% | 6.9% | 26.1% | **55.3%** |
| An administrator in this state for… | 183 | 1.6% | 1.6% | 6.0% | **90.7%** |

1. **ESE Approach to District Engagement**
2. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements relative to ESE engagement with your district? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

| **ESE …** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Works proactively with my district to understand its needs | 174 | 12.1% | **43.7%** | 23.6% | 20.7% |
| Engages my district in a collaborative manner | 172 | 16.9% | **41.3%** | 27.3% | 14.5% |
| Provides effective support for educational improvement in my district | 167 | 11.4% | **47.3%** | 24.6% | 16.8% |
| Focuses on enhancing my district’s ability to support curriculum and instruction | 168 | 8.3% | **50.6%** | 25.6% | 15.5% |
| Offers my district a chance to provide input regarding policy and program development | 173 | 16.2% | **48.0%** | 21.4% | 14.5% |

1. **To what extent has ESE’s contact with your district focused on ensuring compliance as opposed to providing assistance?  Base your response on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Predominantly**  **Compliance** | | **n=170** | | | | | **Predominantly**  **Assistance** | |
| **25.3%** | 21.8% | 17.1% | 11.2% | 11.2% | 5.3% | 4.7% | 2.4% | 1.2% |

1. **ESE strives to strike an appropriate balance between compliance and assistance responsibilities. To what extent do you believe that ESE has achieved an appropriate balance?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **N** | **Far too focused on compliance** | **Too Focused on compliance** | **About right** | **Too focused on assistance** | **Far too focused on assistance** |
| 176 | 24.4% | **50.6%** | 25.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

1. **ESE Performance**
2. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding ESE’s performance relative to policies and programs? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

| **ESE …** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Promotes high academic standards through the state curriculum frameworks | 172 | **49.4%** | 43.6% | 4.7% | 2.3% |
| Has an effective system for district and school accountability | 173 | 11.6% | **44.5%** | 25.4% | 18.5% |
| Provides effective support for district and school improvement | 166 | 7.2% | 33.1% | **41.6%** | 18.1% |
| Has policies and programs that contribute to educator effectiveness | 170 | 4.7% | **45.9%** | 36.5% | 12.9% |
| Provides effective support for programs for English language learners | 147 | 8.2% | 32.0% | **33.3%** | 26.5% |
| Provides effective support for programs for students with disabilities | 164 | 13.4% | **43.3%** | 26.8% | 16.5% |
| Provides services in a coherent, well coordinated fashion | 166 | 5.4% | 31.9% | **34.9%** | 27.7% |
| Coordinates planning requirements to maximize benefits to districts | 164 | 2.4% | 26.8% | **43.9%** | 26.8% |
| Coordinates grants and aid awards to maximize benefits to districts | 165 | 10.3% | 33.9% | **38.8%** | 17.0% |
| Is effective in its efforts to improve the overall quality of public k-12 education | 170 | 7.1% | **52.9%** | 34.7% | 5.3% |

1. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding ESE performance relative to communication? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ESE …** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** |
| Provides information in a timely fashion | 172 | 22.1% | **53.5%** | 16.9% | 7.6% |
| Provides relevant information | 172 | 21.5% | **60.5%** | 15.1% | 2.9% |
| Provides accurate information in response to my questions | 161 | 36.0% | **45.3%** | 14.9% | 3.7% |
| Responds to inquiries in a professional and courteous manner | 169 | **58.0%** | 36.7% | 4.7% | 0.6% |
| Communicates proactively when there are important policy or regulatory changes | 171 | 28.7% | **53.8%** | 12.9% | 4.7% |
| Identifies and shares best practices with districts and schools | 172 | 7.6% | 38.4% | **39.5%** | 14.5% |
| Communicates effectively with districts and schools | 172 | 17.4% | **50.6%** | 22.7% | 9.3% |

1. **ESE Support for Educator Effectiveness**
2. **Please rate ESE support for school administrator effectiveness. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| Standards for the knowledge and skills that administrators must possess in order to obtain licensure | 162 | 13.0% | **48.1%** | 33.3% | 5.6% |
| Quality of ESE-delivered professional development for administrators | 154 | 5.8% | 27.3% | **45.5%** | 21.4% |
| Overall support for administrator effectiveness | 166 | 5.4% | 31.9% | **41.6%** | 21.1% |

1. **Please rate ESE support for teacher effectiveness. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| Standards for the knowledge and skills that teachers must possess in order to obtain licensure | 170 | 10.0% | **55.9%** | 26.5% | 7.6% |
| Quality of ESE-delivered professional development for teachers | 160 | 5.0% | 36.3% | **43.8%** | 15.0% |
| Overall support for teacher effectiveness | 168 | 4.8% | 35.7% | **40.5%** | 19.0% |

1. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**
2. **Please rate ESE support for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quality of ESE services to support…** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| Students’ readiness for college | 158 | 7.0% | 38.0% | **42.4%** | 12.7% |
| Students’ readiness for careers | 155 | 1.9% | 25.8% | **52.9%** | 19.4% |
| Curriculum development in your district | 166 | 3.0% | 27.1% | **45.2%** | 24.7% |
| Instructional improvement in your district | 164 | 0.6% | 25.6% | **46.3%** | 27.4% |
| Use of assessments in your district | 167 | 1.2% | 26.3% | **45.5%** | 26.9% |
| Use of data for district and school improvement | 171 | 6.4% | **42.1%** | 35.1% | 16.4% |

1. **Support for District and School Improvement**
2. **Please rate ESE implementation of district and school accountability requirements. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| Clarity of expectations for district and school performance | 170 | 11.8% | **47.6%** | 31.8% | 8.8% |
| Coordination of the accountability system | 168 | 6.0% | **38.7%** | 37.5% | 17.9% |
| Transparency of the process by which an accountability status is determined | 165 | 10.3% | **39.4%** | 35.2% | 15.2% |

1. **Please rate ESE support for district and school improvement. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| ESE assistance to support your district’s efforts to improve the performance of your level 3 schools | 70 | 14.3% | 25.7% | **37.1%** | 22.9% |
| ESE assistance to support your district’s efforts to improve the performance of your level 4 schools | 18 | 16.7% | **33.3%** | **33.3%** | 16.7% |
| ESE assistance to support your district’s efforts to improve the performance of all other schools in your district | 146 | 2.1% | 19.2% | **50.7%** | 28.1% |
| Efforts to improve coordination of accountability findings with supports for district and school improvement | 148 | 2.7% | 24.3% | **43.2%** | 29.7% |

1. **Student Support Services**
2. **Please rate the quality of ESE’s efforts related to student support services. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quality of ESE support for…** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| MCAS preparation and remediation programs | 162 | 2.5% | 34.0% | **42.0%** | 21.6% |
| Dropout prevention and recovery programs | 134 | 1.5% | 19.4% | **45.5%** | 33.6% |
| Student health and safety programs | 156 | 2.6% | 32.1% | **44.2%** | 21.2% |
| Bullying prevention programs | 168 | 7.7% | **39.3%** | 36.3% | 16.7% |

1. **ESE Vision and Goals**
2. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding ESE’s vision? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** |
| ESE has articulated a clear vision for educational improvement in Massachusetts | 165 | 15.2% | **58.2%** | 23.0% | 3.6% |
| I believe ESE’s vision will lead to educational improvement in Massachusetts | 162 | 11.7% | **53.7%** | 27.2% | 7.4% |

1. **ESE has established the following six major goals: 1. Early grades literacy, 2. Middle Grades Numeracy, 3. College and Career Readiness, 4. Educator Effectiveness (in support of student learning), 5. Data Use (in support of district and school improvement), 6. District and School Turnaround**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **N** | **Very Aware** | **Somewhat Aware** | **Not Aware at All** |
| To what extent were you aware of the goals stated above? | 169 | 34.9% | **49.7%** | 15.4% |

1. **Based on your observation, what is ESE’s apparent level of commitment to each of its six major goals?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **N** | **High** | **Moderate** | **Low** | **None** |
| Increasing students’ literacy in the early grades | 168 | 26.2% | **49.4%** | 20.2% | 4.2% |
| Increasing students’ numeracy in the middle grades | 167 | 12.6% | **53.9%** | 26.9% | 6.6% |
| Improving student preparation for college or career | 168 | 22.0% | **53.0%** | 23.2% | 1.8% |
| Improving the effectiveness of educators in support of student learning | 170 | 29.4% | **41.2%** | 25.3% | 4.1% |
| Increasing data use to support district and school improvement | 170 | 38.8% | **47.6%** | 10.6% | 2.9% |
| Turning around the lowest performing schools and districts | 168 | **52.4%** | 35.1% | 9.5% | 3.0% |

1. **Each of ESE’s six major goals encompass a wide range of initiatives and accompanying tools and systems. Please rate the quality of ESE’s implementation of the selected tools and systems below**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| The 2011 ESE curriculum framework for English language arts | 158 | 26.6% | **49.4%** | 20.3% | 3.8% |
| The 2011 ESE curriculum framework for mathematics | 159 | 25.2% | **47.8%** | 23.3% | 3.8% |
| MassCore, ESE’s recommended high school curriculum for college and career readiness | 148 | 14.2% | **39.9%** | 35.1% | 10.8% |
| The educator evaluation framework | 162 | 9.9% | 30.2% | 26.5% | **33.3%** |
| Massachusetts Tiered System of Support | 143 | 8.4% | 27.3% | **39.9%** | 24.5% |
| The School Interoperability Framework, which automates state data reporting from your district | 135 | 8.9% | **33.3%** | 28.1% | 29.6% |

# Comparison of Level 1 and 2 Superintendents Responses with Level 3 and 4 Superintendents Responses

Below is a comparison of the 2011 ESE Satisfaction Survey results for superintendents from districts with level 3 and 4 schools with the results of superintendents from districts with only level 1 and 2 schools. The total number of valid responses varies throughout the tables for two reasons: (1) some respondents either intentionally or inadvertently did not respond to some of the survey questions, and (2) in all cases, “don’t know” and “doesn’t apply” responses were omitted prior to computing frequencies. For each question the response option that was chosen the most often has been highlighted.

1. **Your Experience as an Administrator**
2. **Please indicate your years of experience as of the current school year**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **I have been…** | **Level** | **N** | **Less than one year** | **One year** | **Between 2 and 4 years** | **More than 4 years** |
| An administrator for… | 1&2 | 143 | 0.7% | 0.7% | 2.8% | **95.8%** |
| 3&4 | 34 | 0.0% | 2.9% | 2.9% | **94.1%** |
| An administrator in this district for… | 1&2 | 148 | 11.5% | 7.4% | 25.7% | **55.4%** |
| 3&4 | 36 | 11.1% | 5.6% | 25.0% | **58.3%** |
| An administrator in this state for… | 1&2 | 145 | 2.1% | 0.7% | 6.2% | **91.0%** |
| 3&4 | 35 | 0.0% | 5.7% | 5.7% | **88.6%** |

1. **ESE Approach to District Engagement**
2. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements relative to ESE engagement with your district? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

| **ESE …** | **Level** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Works proactively with my district to understand its needs | 1&2 | 141 | 8.5% | **41.8%** | 27.0% | 22.7% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 30.0% | **50.0%** | 10.0% | 10.0% |
| Engages my district in a collaborative manner | 1&2 | 140 | 12.1% | **40.0%** | 31.4% | 16.4% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 40.0% | **46.7%** | 10.0% | 3.3% |
| Provides effective support for educational improvement in my district | 1&2 | 137 | 8.8% | **44.5%** | 27.7% | 19.0% |
| 3&4 | 28 | 25.0% | **60.7%** | 10.7% | 3.6% |
| Focuses on enhancing my district’s ability to support curriculum and instruction | 1&2 | 135 | 6.7% | **48.9%** | 27.4% | 17.0% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 16.7% | **60.0%** | 16.7% | 6.7% |
| Offers my district a chance to provide input regarding policy and program development | 1&2 | 141 | 14.9% | **47.5%** | 22.7% | 14.9% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 24.1% | **48.3%** | 17.2% | 10.3% |

1. **To what extent has ESE’s contact with your district focused on ensuring compliance as opposed to providing assistance?  Base your response on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **N** | **Predominantly**  **Compliance** | |  | | | | | **Predominantly**  **Assistance** | |
| 1&2 | 140 | **27.1%** | 22.1% | 19.3% | 9.3% | 10.0% | 4.3% | 5.0% | 1.4% | 1.4% |
| 3&4 | 27 | 7.4% | **22.2%** | 7.4% | **22.2%** | 18.5% | 11.1% | 3.7% | 7.4% | 0.0% |

1. **ESE strives to strike an appropriate balance between compliance and assistance responsibilities. To what extent do you believe that ESE has achieved an appropriate balance?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Level** | **N** | **Far too focused on compliance** | **Too Focused on compliance** | **About right** | **Too focused on assistance** | **Far too focused on assistance** |
| 1&2 | 142 | 26.1% | **49.3%** | 24.6% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| 3&4 | 31 | 9.7% | **61.3%** | 29.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |

1. **ESE Performance**
2. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding ESE’s performance relative to policies and programs? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ESE …** | **Level** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** |
| Promotes high academic standards through the state curriculum frameworks | 1&2 | 139 | **50.4%** | 43.2% | 5.0% | 1.4% |
| 3&4 | 30 | **46.7%** | **46.7%** | 3.3% | 3.3% |
| Has an effective system for district and school accountability | 1&2 | 140 | 12.1% | **44.3%** | 24.3% | 19.3% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 10.0% | **46.7%** | 33.3% | 10.0% |
| Provides effective support for district and school improvement | 1&2 | 134 | 4.5% | 30.6% | **44.8%** | 20.1% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 20.7% | **48.3%** | 24.1% | 6.9% |
| Has policies and programs that contribute to educator effectiveness | 1&2 | 137 | 2.9% | **49.6%** | 35.8% | 11.7% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 13.3% | 33.3% | **36.7%** | 16.7% |
| Provides effective support for programs for English language learners | 1&2 | 114 | 7.0% | **36.8%** | 33.3% | 22.8% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 13.3% | 16.7% | **36.7%** | 33.3% |
| Provide effective support for programs for students with disabilities | 1&2 | 131 | 14.5% | **46.6%** | 22.9% | 16.0% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 6.7% | 33.3% | **43.3%** | 16.7% |
| Provides services in a coherent, well coordinated fashion | 1&2 | 134 | 4.5% | 33.6% | **35.8%** | 26.1% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 10.3% | 27.6% | **34.5%** | 27.6% |
| Coordinates planning requirements to maximize benefits to districts | 1&2 | 133 | 2.3% | 26.3% | **45.1%** | 26.3% |
| 3&4 | 28 | 3.6% | 32.1% | **42.9%** | 21.4% |
| Coordinates grants and aid awards to maximize benefits to districts | 1&2 | 133 | 10.5% | 35.3% | **39.8%** | 14.3% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 10.3% | 31.0% | **34.5%** | 24.1% |
| Is effective in its efforts to improve the overall quality of public K-12 education | 1&2 | 138 | 7.2% | **51.4%** | 37.7% | 3.6% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 6.9% | **65.5%** | 24.1% | 3.4% |

1. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding ESE performance relative to communication? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ESE …** | **Level** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** |
| Provides information in a timely fashion | 1&2 | 139 | 23.7% | **55.4%** | 15.1% | 5.8% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 16.7% | **46.7%** | 23.3% | 13.3% |
| Provides relevant information | 1&2 | 139 | 21.6% | **61.9%** | 15.1% | 1.4% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 23.3% | **56.7%** | 13.3% | 6.7% |
| Provides accurate information in response to my questions | 1&2 | 128 | 34.4% | **48.4%** | 14.1% | 3.1% |
| 3&4 | 30 | **46.7%** | 33.3% | 16.7% | 3.3% |
| Responds to inquiries in a professional and courteous manner | 1&2 | 136 | **58.1%** | 37.5% | 4.4% | 0.0% |
| 3&4 | 30 | **60.0%** | 36.7% | 3.3% | 0.0% |
| Communicates proactively when there are important policy or regulatory changes | 1&2 | 138 | 30.4% | **53.6%** | 12.3% | 3.6% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 23.3% | **56.7%** | 13.3% | 6.7% |
| Identifies and shares best practices with districts and schools | 1&2 | 139 | 7.9% | **38.8%** | **38.8%** | 14.4% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 6.7% | **40.0%** | **40.0%** | 13.3% |
| Communicates effectively with districts and schools | 1&2 | 140 | 17.1% | **49.3%** | 25.0% | 8.6% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 20.7% | **58.6%** | 13.8% | 6.9% |

1. **ESE Support for Educator Effectiveness**
2. **Please rate ESE support for school administrator effectiveness. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  | **Level** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Standards for the knowledge and skills that administrators must possess in order to obtain licensure | 1&2 | 131 | 13.0% | **49.6%** | 31.3% | 6.1% |
| 3&4 | 28 | 10.7% | **42.9%** | **42.9%** | 3.6% |
| Quality of ESE-delivered professional development for administrators | 1&2 | 122 | 5.7% | 27.9% | **43.4%** | 23.0% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 6.9% | 27.6% | **55.2%** | 10.3% |
| Overall support for administrator effectiveness | 1&2 | 133 | 4.5% | 32.3% | **39.1%** | 24.1% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 10.0% | 33.3% | **53.3%** | 3.3% |

1. **Please rate ESE support for teacher effectiveness. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| Standards for the knowledge and skills that teachers must possess in order to obtain licensure | 1&2 | 137 | 10.2% | **56.2%** | 27.0% | 6.6% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 10.0% | **56.7%** | 23.3% | 10.0% |
| Quality of ESE-delivered professional development for teachers | 1&2 | 127 | 3.9% | 37.8% | **44.1%** | 14.2% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 10.0% | 33.3% | **43.3%** | 13.3% |
| Overall support for teacher effectiveness | 1&2 | 135 | 3.7% | 36.3% | **40.0%** | 20.0% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 10.0% | 36.7% | **43.3%** | 10.0% |

1. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**
2. **Please rate ESE support for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

| **Quality of ESE services to support…** | **Level** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Students’ readiness for college | 1&2 | 126 | 7.9% | 38.1% | **42.9%** | 11.1% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 3.4% | **41.4%** | **41.4%** | 13.8% |
| Students’ readiness for careers | 1&2 | 122 | 2.5% | 27.0% | **52.5%** | 18.0% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 0.0% | 23.3% | **56.7%** | 20.0% |
| Curriculum development in your district | 1&2 | 133 | 3.0% | 29.3% | **42.1%** | 25.6% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 3.3% | 20.0% | **60.0%** | 16.7% |
| Instructional improvement in your district | 1&2 | 131 | 0.0% | 23.7% | **47.3%** | 29.0% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 3.3% | 36.7% | **43.3%** | 16.7% |
| Use of assessments in your district | 1&2 | 134 | 0.7% | 26.1% | **46.3%** | 26.9% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 3.3% | 30.0% | **43.3%** | 23.3% |
| Use of data for district and school improvement | 1&2 | 138 | 5.1% | **42.0%** | 36.2% | 16.7% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 13.3% | **46.7%** | 30.0% | 10.0% |

1. **Support for District and School Improvement**
2. **Please rate ESE implementation of district and school accountability requirements. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| Clarity of expectations for district and school performance | 1&2 | 137 | 10.9% | **49.6%** | 31.4% | 8.0% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 16.7% | **43.3%** | 33.3% | 6.7% |
| Coordination of the accountability system | 1&2 | 136 | 5.9% | **39.7%** | 37.5% | 16.9% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 6.9% | **37.9%** | **37.9%** | 17.2% |
| Transparency of the process by which an accountability status is determined | 1&2 | 133 | 11.3% | **42.9%** | 32.3% | 13.5% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 6.9% | 27.6% | **48.3%** | 17.2% |

1. **Please rate ESE support for district and school improvement. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  | **Level** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ESE assistance to support your district’s efforts to improve the performance of your level 3 schools | 1&2 | 41 | 9.8% | 22.0% | **41.5%** | 26.8% |
| 3&4 | 28 | 21.4% | **32.1%** | **32.1%** | 14.3% |
| ESE assistance to support your district’s efforts to improve the performance of your level 4 schools | 1&2 | 9 | 0.0% | **44.4%** | **44.4%** | 11.1% |
| 3&4 | 8 | **37.5%** | 25.0% | 25.0% | 12.5% |
| ESE assistance to support your district’s efforts to improve the performance of all other schools in your district | 1&2 | 118 | 0.0% | 19.5% | **51.7%** | 28.8% |
| 3&4 | 27 | 11.1% | 18.5% | **48.1%** | 22.2% |
| Efforts to improve coordination of accountability findings with supports for district and school improvement | 1&2 | 118 | 1.7% | 20.3% | **45.8%** | 32.2% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 6.9% | **41.4%** | 34.5% | 17.2% |

1. **Student Support Services**
2. **Please rate the quality of ESE’s efforts related to student support services. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quality of ESE support for…** | **Level** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| MCAS preparation and remediation programs | 1&2 | 130 | 3.1% | 33.8% | **41.5%** | 21.5% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 0.0% | 36.7% | **46.7%** | 16.7% |
| Dropout prevention and recovery programs | 1&2 | 102 | 2.0% | 20.6% | **42.2%** | 35.3% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 0.0% | 16.7% | **60.0%** | 23.3% |
| Student health and safety programs | 1&2 | 124 | 3.2% | 33.9% | **42.7%** | 20.2% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 0.0% | 26.7% | **53.3%** | 20.0% |
| Bullying prevention programs | 1&2 | 136 | 8.8% | **39.7%** | 33.8% | 17.6% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 3.3% | 36.7% | **50.0%** | 10.0% |

1. **ESE Vision and Goals**
2. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding ESE’s vision? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** |
| ESE has articulated a clear vision for educational improvement in Massachusetts | 1&2 | 132 | 14.4% | **58.3%** | 24.2% | 3.0% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 20.0% | **63.3%** | 13.3% | 3.3% |
| I believe ESE’s vision will lead to educational improvement in Massachusetts | 1&2 | 131 | 11.5% | **53.4%** | 28.2% | 6.9% |
| 3&4 | 28 | 14.3% | **60.7%** | 17.9% | 7.1% |

1. **ESE has established the following six major goals: 1. Early grades literacy, 2. Middle Grades Numeracy, 3. College and Career Readiness, 4. Educator Effectiveness (in support of student learning), 5. Data Use (in support of district and school improvement), 6. District and School Turnaround**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level** | **N** | **Very Aware** | **Somewhat Aware** | **Not Aware at All** |
| To what extent were you aware of the goals stated above? | 1&2 | 137 | 32.1% | **51.8%** | 16.1% |
| 3&4 | 29 | **44.8%** | 41.4% | 13.8% |

1. **Based on your observation, what is ESE’s apparent level of commitment to each of its six major goals?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level** | **N** | **High** | **Moderate** | **Low** | **None** |
| Increasing students’ literacy in the early grades | 1&2 | 136 | 25.0% | **50.7%** | 21.3% | 2.9% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 33.3% | **43.3%** | 16.7% | 6.7% |
| Increasing students’ numeracy in the middle grades | 1&2 | 135 | 11.1% | **55.6%** | 27.4% | 5.9% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 20.0% | **46.7%** | 26.7% | 6.7% |
| Improving student preparation for college or career | 1&2 | 136 | 22.8% | **52.9%** | 23.5% | 0.7% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 20.0% | **53.3%** | 23.3% | 3.3% |
| Improving the effectiveness of educators in support of student learning | 1&2 | 138 | 27.5% | **42.0%** | 26.8% | 3.6% |
| 3&4 | 30 | **40.0%** | 36.7% | 20.0% | 3.3% |
| Increasing data use to support district and school improvement | 1&2 | 138 | 35.5% | **50.0%** | 12.3% | 2.2% |
| 3&4 | 30 | **56.7%** | 36.7% | 3.3% | 3.3% |
| Turning around the lowest performing schools and districts | 1&2 | 136 | **52.9%** | 35.3% | 8.8% | 2.9% |
| 3&4 | 30 | **50.0%** | 36.7% | 13.3% | 0.0% |

1. **Each of ESE’s six major goals encompass a wide range of initiatives and accompanying tools and systems. Please rate the quality of ESE’s implementation of the selected tools and systems below**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| The 2011 ESE curriculum framework for English language arts | 1&2 | 128 | 27.3% | **50.8%** | 18.0% | 3.9% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 20.7% | **44.8%** | 31.0% | 3.4% |
| The 2011 ESE curriculum framework for mathematics | 1&2 | 128 | 25.0% | **51.6%** | 19.5% | 3.9% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 23.3% | 33.3% | **40.0%** | 3.3% |
| MassCore, ESE’s recommended high school curriculum for college and career readiness | 1&2 | 117 | 11.1% | **41.9%** | 35.9% | 11.1% |
| 3&4 | 30 | 23.3% | **33.3%** | **33.3%** | 10.0% |
| The educator evaluation framework | 1&2 | 131 | 9.2% | 29.8% | 25.2% | 35.9% |
| 3&4 | 29 | 13.8% | **34.5%** | 31.0% | 20.7% |
| Massachusetts Tiered System of Support | 1&2 | 113 | 8.8% | 29.2% | **38.9%** | 23.0% |
| 3&4 | 28 | 7.1% | 21.4% | **42.9%** | 28.6% |
| The School Interoperability Framework, which automates state data reporting from your district | 1&2 | 106 | 8.5% | **34.0%** | 29.2% | 28.3% |
| 3&4 | 27 | 11.1% | **33.3%** | 22.2% | **33.3%** |

# Comparison of 2009 and 2011 Survey Results

The following tables present a comparison of frequency distributions from the 2009 and 2011 Superintendents ESE satisfaction survey for each question that appeared in both surveys. The total number of valid responses varies throughout the tables for two reasons: (1) some respondents either intentionally or inadvertently did not respond to some of the survey questions, and (2) in all cases, “don’t know” and “doesn’t apply” responses were omitted prior to computing frequencies. For each question the response option that was chosen the most often has been highlighted.

The 2009 and 2011 results were tested for significant differences using a chi square test. A finding of a significant difference between the two results indicates that changes in responses from 2009 to 2011 are not likely due to chance. In all cases, the significance level was set at .05. If a 2009-2011 comparison was significant the word “yes” will appear in the significant column, if the results are not significant the word “no” will appear.

1. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements relative to ESE engagement with your district? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ESE …** | **Year** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Significant** |
| Provides effective support for educational improvement in my district | 2009 | 172 | 3.5% | 29.1% | **37.2%** | 30.2% | Yes |
| 2011 | 167 | 11.4% | **47.3%** | 24.6% | 16.8% |
| Focuses on enhancing my district’s ability to support curriculum and instruction | 2009 | 174 | 2.3% | 22.4% | **38.5%** | 36.8% | Yes |
| 2011 | 168 | 8.3% | **50.6%** | 25.6% | 15.5% |
| Offers my district a chance to provide input regarding policy and program development | 2009 | 166 | 7.2% | **39.2%** | 28.9% | 24.7% | Yes |
| 2011 | 173 | 16.2% | **48.0%** | 21.4% | 14.5% |

1. **To what extent has ESE’s contact with your district focused on ensuring compliance as opposed to providing assistance?  Base your response on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **N** | **Predominantly**  **Compliance** | |  | | | | | **Predominantly**  **Assistance** | | **Significant** |
| 2009 | 163 | **38.0%** | 26.4% | 13.5% | 7.4% | 8.0% | 3.1% | 2.5% | 1.2% | 0.0% | No |
| 2011 | 170 | **25.3%** | 21.8% | 17.1% | 11.2% | 11.2% | 5.3% | 4.7% | 2.4% | 1.2% |

1. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding ESE’s performance relative to policies and programs? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ESE …** | **Year** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Significant** |
| Promotes high academic standards through the state curriculum frameworks | 2009 | 175 | 25.1% | **58.3%** | 13.1% | 3.4% | Yes |
| 2011 | 172 | **49.4%** | 43.6% | 4.7% | 2.3% |
| Has an effective system for district and school accountability | 2009 | 175 | 8.6% | **39.4%** | 33.7% | 18.3% | No |
| 2011 | 173 | 11.6% | **44.5%** | 25.4% | 18.5% |
| Provides effective support for programs for English language learners | 2009 | 157 | 5.1% | 17.2% | 38.2% | **39.5%** | Yes |
| 2011 | 147 | 8.2% | 32.0% | **33.3%** | 26.5% |
| Provides effective support for programs for students with disabilities | 2009 | 174 | 6.3% | **39.1%** | 31.0% | 23.6% | No |
| 2011 | 164 | 13.4% | **43.3%** | 26.8% | 16.5% |
| Provides services in a coherent, well coordinated fashion | 2009 | 174 | 3.4% | 20.7% | **44.8%** | 31.0% | No |
| 2011 | 166 | 5.4% | 31.9% | **34.9%** | 27.7% |
| Is effective in its efforts to improve the overall quality of public K-12 education | 2009 | 173 | 6.4% | 35.3% | **41.6%** | 16.8% | Yes |
| 2011 | 170 | 7.1% | **52.9%** | 34.7% | 5.3% |

1. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements regarding ESE performance relative to communication? Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ESE …** | **Year** | **N** | **Strongly Agree** | **Somewhat Agree** | **Somewhat Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Significant** |
| Provides accurate information in response to my questions | 2009 | 175 | 22.3% | **51.4%** | 23.4% | 2.9% | Yes |
| 2011 | 161 | 36.0% | **45.3%** | 14.9% | 3.7% |
| Responds to inquiries in a professional and courteous manner | 2009 | 177 | 41.8% | **48.0%** | 7.3% | 2.8% | Yes |
| 2011 | 169 | **58.0%** | 36.7% | 4.7% | 0.6% |

1. **Please rate ESE support for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quality of ESE services to support…** | **Year** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** | **Significant** |
| Curriculum development in your district | 2009 | 162 | 3.1% | 13.6% | 41.4% | **42.0%** | Yes |
| 2011 | 166 | 3.0% | 27.1% | **45.2%** | 24.7% |
| Instructional improvement in your district | 2009 | 159 | 1.9% | 12.6% | 39.0% | **46.5%** | Yes |
| 2011 | 164 | 0.6% | 25.6% | **46.3%** | 27.4% |
| Use of assessments in your district | 2009 | 163 | 5.5% | 13.5% | **44.8%** | 36.2% | Yes |
| 2011 | 167 | 1.2% | 26.3% | **45.5%** | 26.9% |

1. **Please rate ESE implementation of district and school accountability requirements. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Year** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** | **Significant** |
| Clarity of expectations for district and school performance | 2009 | 172 | 9.3% | **54.1%** | 30.2% | 6.4% | No |
| 2011 | 170 | 11.8% | **47.6%** | 31.8% | 8.8% |
| Coordination of the accountability system | 2009 | 170 | 3.5% | 17.6% | **44.7%** | 34.1% | Yes |
| 2011 | 168 | 6.0% | **38.7%** | 37.5% | 17.9% |
| Transparency of the process by which an accountability status is determined | 2009 | 160 | 6.3% | 33.8% | **40.6%** | 19.4% | No |
| 2011 | 165 | 10.3% | **39.4%** | 35.2% | 15.2% |

1. **Please rate ESE support for district and school improvement. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Year** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** | **Significant** |
| ESE assistance to support your district’s efforts to improve the performance of all other schools in your district | 2009 | 119 | 2.5% | 12.6% | 40.3% | **44.5%** | Yes |
| 2011 | 146 | 2.1% | 19.2% | **50.7%** | 28.1% |

1. **Please rate the quality of ESE’s efforts related to student support services. Base your responses on your district’s recent experience with ESE.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Quality of ESE support for…** | **Year** | **N** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** | **Significant** |
| MCAS preparation and remediation programs | 2009 | 163 | 4.9% | 23.9% | **43.6%** | 27.6% | No |
| 2011 | 162 | 2.5% | 34.0% | **42.0%** | 21.6% |
| Dropout prevention and recovery programs | 2009 | 135 | 3.0% | 14.8% | 34.1% | **48.1%** | No |
| 2011 | 134 | 1.5% | 19.4% | **45.5%** | 33.6% |
| Student health and safety programs | 2009 | 156 | 5.1% | 28.8% | **45.5%** | 20.5% | No |
| 2011 | 156 | 2.6% | 32.1% | **44.2%** | 21.2% |

1. The total number surveyed represents the total number of superintendents for whom we could establish communication. That is, superintendents with undeliverable email addresses and those who “opted out” of the web-based survey program were excluded. All efforts were made to remedy undeliverable addresses before exclusion. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)