

# BC Parents of Special Needs Kids - Action for Equitable Access to Education

## Survey Results

For

## **Abbotsford School District**

### Important Details:

This survey is not scientific, and should only be used as a reference point to further discussion regarding current opinions of parents who have children who have extra learning support needs in public bricks and mortar education in their community. Parents/caregivers who have children who are accessing a public bricks and mortar school (or had accessed in the past) were invited to participate via the survey being posted on a number of Facebook groups for parents who have children with disabilities. The survey was also posted on twitter and shared via email.

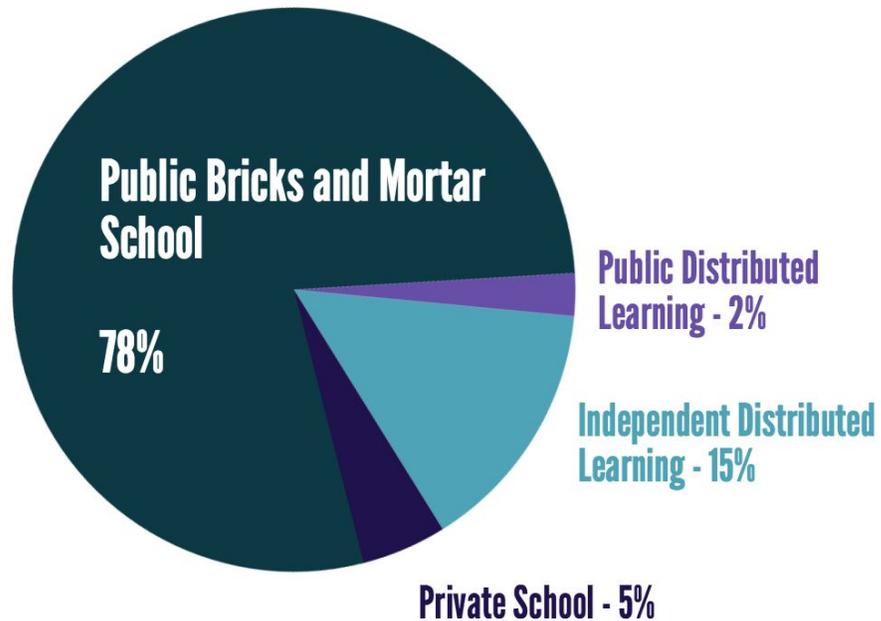
The survey was open for two weeks, and generated a total of 318 responses from across the province of British Columbia. Parents/caregivers were asked to identify their school district on the survey, and Abbotsford was one of the higher numbers of responses.

**A Total of 41 responses were received from parents/caregivers identifying themselves as being from the Abbotsford School District.**

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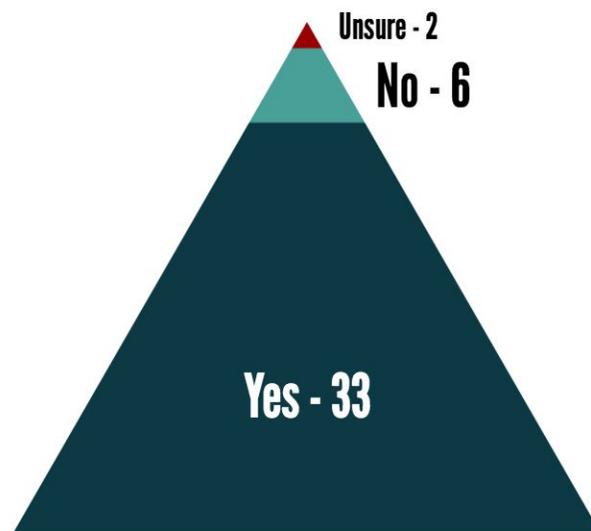
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Parents/caregivers were asked to identify what type of schooling their child was currently accessing.



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Parents/caregivers indicated whether or not their child currently has a designation/category.

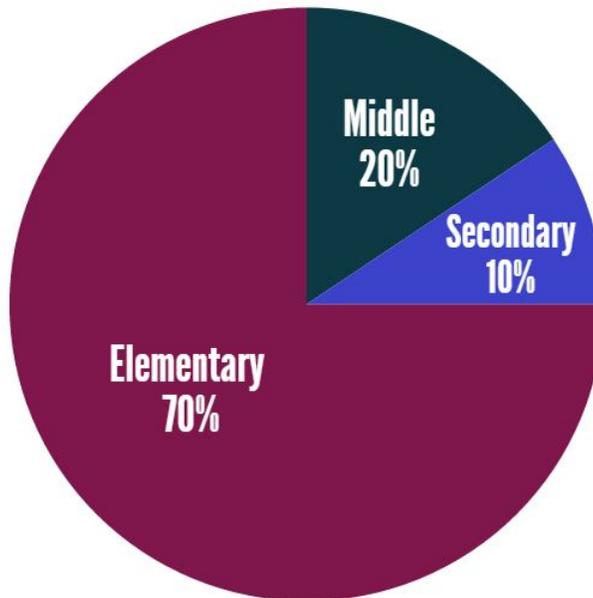


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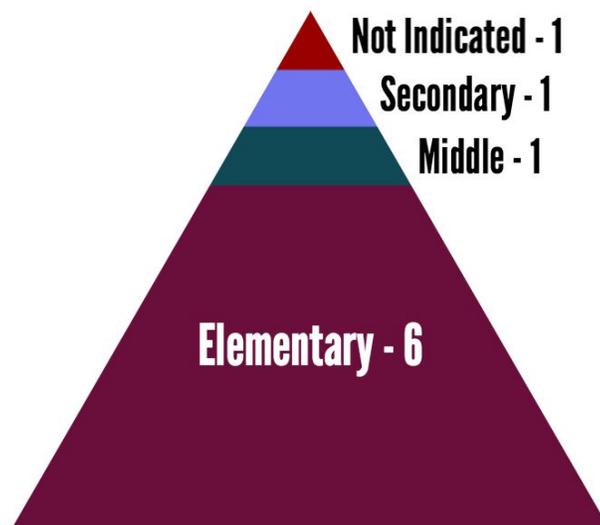
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Parents/Caregivers were asked to indicate the current grade level of their child.



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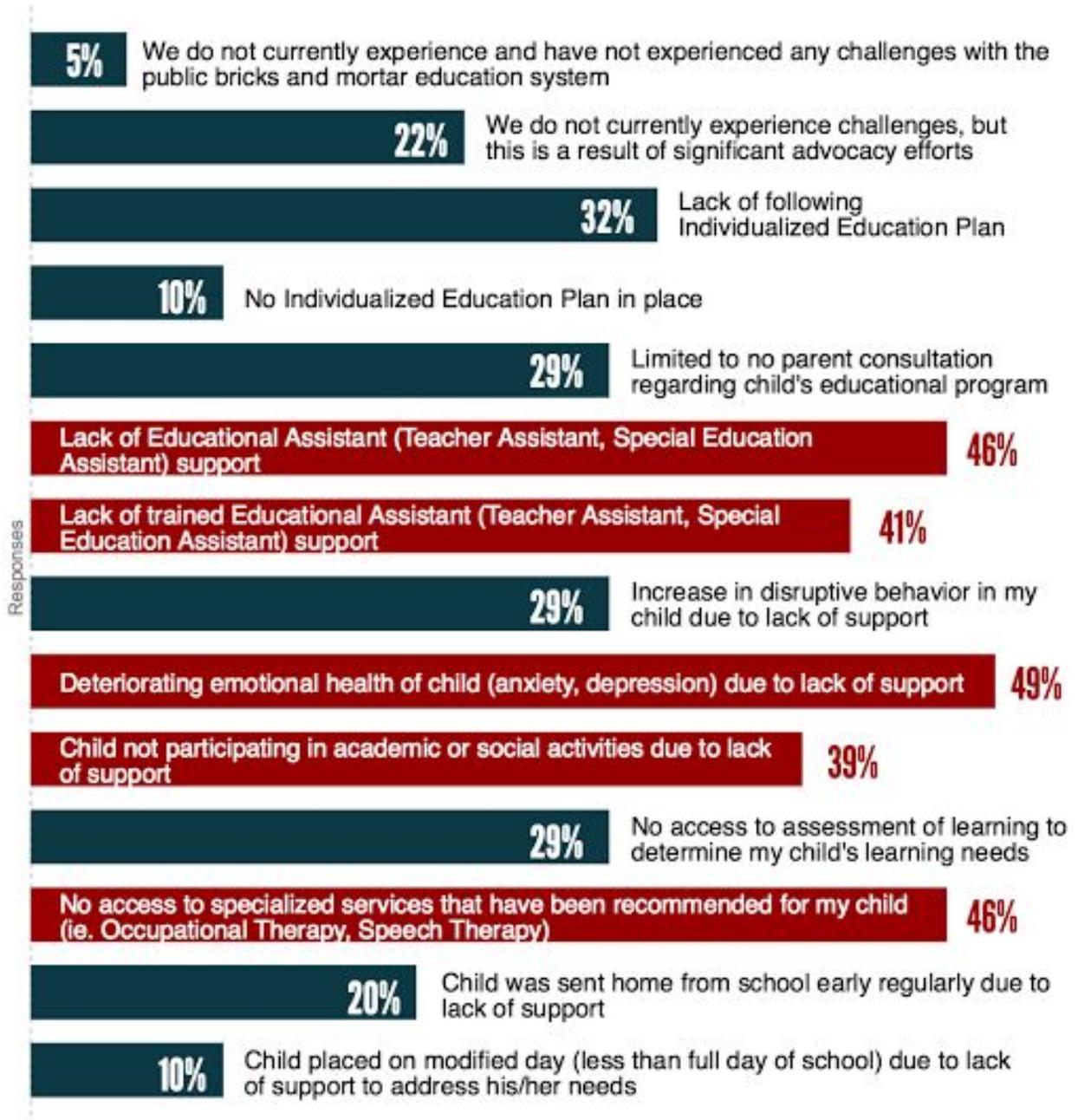
**9 parents/caregivers indicated** they had removed their child from public bricks and mortar school in Abbotsford, this is the breakdown of the last grade level their child attended. (Elementary: grade K to 5; Middle: grade 6 - 8; Secondary: grade 9 - 12)



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Parents/caregivers were asked to identify the challenges they experience(d) in public bricks and mortar schools. Participants were allowed to indicate multiple checkboxes.



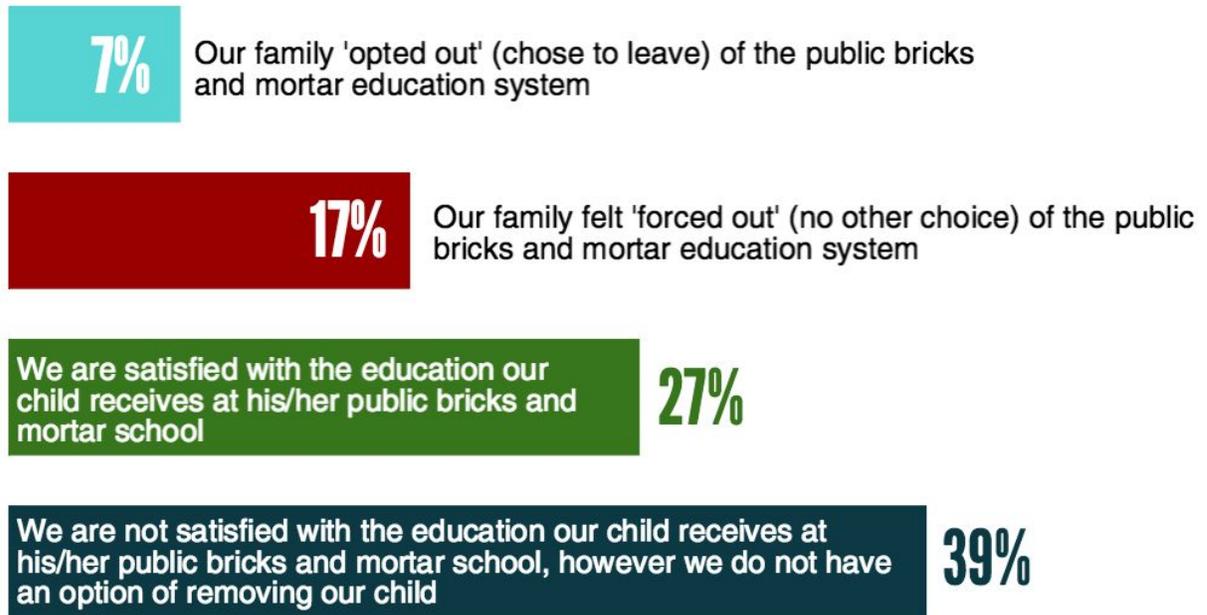
One parent/caregiver indicated "Other" providing the following comment:

*"Shared EA time with too many other kids, some of whom have no designation."*

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Parents/caregivers were asked to share which statement was most accurate regarding their experience with public bricks and mortar education for their child.



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Parents and Caregivers were invited to share any other comments regarding public bricks and mortar education in the Abbotsford School District.

#### Comments from Abbotsford Respondents

1. Classrooms need more EA support. Too many kids piggybacking the funding of one designated child
2. We have had a lack of support, no Ot or slp help in school of any kind, although it's needed. my son has an autism designation. The school lacks communication , safety bullying procedures , and a continuous revolving door of his EAs - four this year .
3. The anxious behaviors and self-harm that were happening consistently in the public brick and mortar school have diminished as my child has been home. The emotional health of my child was severely affected by the lack of modifications and lack of appropriate support in the public school. The school tried basic Behavior modification and sensory modifications but only minimally. The brick and mortar schools need a wider lens of what children with differences need and they also need.

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4. The school system does not understand the needs of my child and, while they have been open to suggestions from our community team for modifications, there is insufficient staffing support, proper training for staff, and lack understanding due to minimal knowledge of how to help my child succeed.
5. Our son is currently doing very well in school but there were many challenges in early elementary school with staff who were not trained to deal with his specific needs. We did eventually end up with a terrific EA in grade 3 who made a world of difference for him. They are out there but hard to find!
6. My child has type 1 diabetes. So far care has been great. There were 2 days that had to be missed because there was no back EA trained.
7. Lack of 'educated supporters' at recess and lunch. Not enough supervisors with any conflict resolutions skills or educational background with children.
8. There needs to be more funding from the government for public education!
9. Next year we will not be doing brick and mortar. It will be a hybrid of brick and mortar and virtual school. and yes I feel forced out from lack of support.
10. We constantly feel let down by the public education system. Our child is suffering.