

Overview of the ESSA 2008 parent survey

The first mandatory Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) was held on 25 November 2008. Parents were invited to complete a survey after receiving their child's report outlining their results and achievements. Below are the results from over 2400 responses including over 970 written comments.

The ESSA unit would like to express its appreciation to parents for their valued feedback.

	% Strongly disagree	% Disagree	% No opinion	% Agree	% Strongly agree
1 The student report provides important information to support my child in future progress in science.	3	8	9	61	20
2 The student report provides information that is suitable and appropriate for parents and students.	3	7	6	66	19
3 My child has indicated that he/she enjoys science lessons at school.	6	17	12	47	18
4 I think that my child is interested in science.	5	15	11	49	19
5 I think that science is a difficult subject to learn in Years 7 to 10.	11	48	15	21	5
6 I think that science is a difficult subject to learn in Years 11 and 12.	10	29	24	27	10
7 I will encourage my child to study a science subject in Years 11 and 12.	3	10	24	37	25
8 I am interested in science.	3	10	15	48	24
9 I enjoyed science lessons when I was at secondary school.	5	15	7	51	22
10 I think it is important that all students learn science in Years 7 to 10.	2	2	4	41	50

11 My child is a boy = 51% girl = 49%

Many parents:

- believe that science is very important to develop necessary life skills
- appreciated the invitation to respond and the opportunity to provide feedback
- think that science should be taught by trained, enthusiastic, passionate teachers
- will encourage their children to do subjects for which they have aptitude and interest
- believe that science could and should be made more relevant to students and their lives
- are curious to know how schools and teachers will use the ESSA results to help their child
- want to know that students have been given opportunities to learn what is in the test at school
- think that the ESSA report provides excellent information about their child's progress in science
- would like copies of the test items to assist the analysis of the results (available through schools)
- believe that science lessons are more interesting when they include more hands-on practical activities.