

Survey Finds Principals' And Teachers' Opinions On Quality Of School Much Higher Than Students'

(NAPSA)—What kind of grades do America's schools deserve? That's just one of the questions posed by an annual survey of the nation's educational landscape—and there's a strong difference of opinion among the three groups surveyed: principals, teachers and students.

The MetLife Survey of the American Teacher, 2001: Key Elements of Quality Schools examines how the groups evaluate their schools on key measures of an effective school environment, such as teacher quality, school building conditions, standards and expectations, and relationships between key groups. For example:

- 56 percent of secondary school principals and 39 percent of teachers—but only 25 percent of students—strongly agree that teachers in their school have high expectations for all students.

- 67 percent of secondary school principals and 48 percent of secondary school teachers believe that their school provides curricula that is challenging to students. However, only 23 percent of students describe their classes as “very challenging.”

- Secondary school teachers (28 percent) are less likely than elementary school teachers (46 percent) to give the teachers in their school an “A” in believing all children can learn.

- In secondary school, 87 percent of principals and 67 percent of teachers believe that their school is “very safe”—but just 47 percent of students feel the same way.

“*The MetLife Survey of the American Teacher* series brings forward the opinions and concerns of those on the educational front lines and is a good tool for learning about the current status of public education in the United States,” commented Robert H. Benmosche, chairman and chief executive offi-

- Only 25 percent of secondary school students strongly agree that teachers have high expectations for all students, compared to 39 percent of teachers and 56 percent of principals.

- 75 percent of secondary school principals and 60 percent of teachers describe their schools as “very clean,” but only 37 percent of students agree.

- While 80 percent of teachers and 89 percent of principals believe all children can learn, less than half (42 percent) of students report that teachers encourage them to do their best.



cer of MetLife. “As our nation’s schools educate the largest, most diverse student population in history, it is more important than ever that schools be inviting places in which to work and learn. By listening to teachers, students and principals, the survey provides insight into creating school cultures that support teachers and motivate students to learn and succeed.”

Key Elements of Quality Teaching for Today and Tomorrow is the 17th in a series of teacher surveys sponsored annually by MetLife. Survey topics change over the years to address salient issues—from reform to violence—but the premise remains the same: to give voice to those closest to the classroom.

In addition to *The MetLife Survey of the American Teacher* series, MetLife and MetLife Foundation support programs that improve the quality of teaching, extend education beyond the classroom, promote creativity and stimulate lifelong learning.

Full survey copies can be downloaded from the Internet at www.metlife.com or by writing to MetLife, Attn: Survey of the American Teacher 2001, P.O. Box 807, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10159-0807.