

April 12, 2019

# Highlights: K-12 Parent Aspirations

PRESENTED BY Neimand Collaborative & Artemis Strategy Group

#### ALIGNMENT

# Colorado aligns with the national findings, but with nuances that reflect the state and its education system.

## CHOICE

# THEY HAVE IT AND WANT MORE

Coloradans feel they have more education choice than the national average, but they aren't fully satisfied with what they have, and there is big room for improvement—especially in student fit.

### **PUBLIC DISTRICT-RUN SCHOOLS**

# THE PREFERRED CHOICE

The ideal public district-run school is preferred above charters and private schools—but most find it hard to find the ideal in experience, so they look for options in charter and private schools.

#### **PUBLIC DISTRICT-RUN SCHOOLS**

# INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IS KEY

Flexibility to educate students using different approaches that match learning styles receives the lowest rating compared to alternatives, negatively affecting perceptions of preparation for academic and career success.

### **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

# A VERY VIABLE OPTION

Parents with experience in public district-run schools see charters as a way to improve flexibility and fit, with a potential market share of 88% if parents could find the right fit.

### **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

# THE JURY IS STILL OUT

Only 38% feel charters are better than public schools and 41% feel they are the same—given the perceived performance of public district-run schools, there is room for improvement for all.

#### **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

# STUDENT FIT STILL MATTERS

Of those who would consider charter schools, 69% of that consideration is driven by some form of fit: approach to student, location and parent aspirations. ALIGNMENT

# There is a clear desire for student fit regardless of school type.

# DESIRE FOR FIT IN APPROACH DRIVES CHOICE

While a majority is relatively satisfied with traditional education, all feel there is something missing—developing whole skills in intellectual, social emotional and moral development.

# PUTS IN THE MISSING INGREDIENTS

Parents, regardless of their aspirational pathway, want a more personalized and flexible system that drives personal actualization—an achievement higher than academic performance.

# APPROACH IS MORE THAN ACADEMIC

High-quality academics and performance are the floor, but parent aspirations are higher and more comprehensive—school aspirations need a higher ceiling.

# WORK ON MORE APPROACHES

All parents want the choice of different education approaches that fit the way their child learns—but the desire is particularly stronger in urban areas where there are comparatively fewer parents on the traditional pathway.

# BIG INCREASES IN PERCEIVED PERFORMANCE

Student fit moves perceived student satisfaction from a D to an A; parent satisfaction moves from a C to an A-.



# FULL RESEARCH REPORT



## K-12 parent aspirations

Real Choices Colorado survey results



April 12, 2019



## Report contents

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# Methodology and sample characteristics



## Survey methodology

#### Median survey length for parents:

## An online survey among a cross section of Colorado parents conducted February - March 2019

**An oversample survey** among under-represented groups is still in process; the results for these oversample populations (Hispanic/Latino, Black, Native American) will be reported out separately.

This report is based primarily on the total Colorado sample of parents (n=658).



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- Have one or more children age 18 or younger living in their household
- Are fully or somewhat involved in their child(ren)'s education and school issues

Parents of more than one child are assigned\* one child to think about as they answer the survey questions, allowing even sub-sample sizes across student age groups.

Distribution of children (under 18) in household:



#### Assigned\* child distribution:



#### Representative of the Colorado population of parents engaged with child's education







College graduate

Post graduate

#### **Total Household Income for 2018**

	Less than \$35,000	11%
68%	\$35,000 to \$49,999	12%
20%	\$50,000 to \$74,999	17%
4%	\$75,000 to \$99,999	16%
6%	\$100,000 to \$149,999	23%
4%	\$150,000 to \$199,999	12%
1%	\$200,000 or more	6%
5%	Prefer not to say	4%
	Don't know	<1%



68%

20%

5%

#### Home Ownership Status



\*Adds to over 100% because multiple responses were allowed for race/ethnicity



# Respondents represent a range of education perspectives including public, private, charter and home schooling.



- 56% Neighborhood public school
- **19%** None of these

\$17. Which of the following early childhood education or care experiences is this child participating in?

\$18. Which of the following best describes your child's current school year) educational experience?

\$19. Is your child's current school an elementary, middle or high school?

S21. Is the school or early childhood educational program your child attends now a/an...?



#### Early childhood education (birth to 3 years) most often occurs outside a formal education setting. For all other age cohorts, public school is the most typical setting.

Anticipated or Actual Experience with Public, Private, Charter and Home Schooling by Educational Stage



55% DO NOT expect their child to be in the same type of school from preschool through High School 45% expect their child to remain in the same type of school at each stage:

- 38% of parents expect their child to be in **public schools** for **PreK-12**
- 4% of parents expect their child to be in private schools for all stages of PreK-12
- 2% of parents expect their child to be in charter schools for all stages of PreK-12
- 4% of parents expect their child to be home schooled for all stages of PreK-12



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

S20. Please indicate the education settings your child has been in or that you expect them to be in for each of the general stages shown below. Select all that apply.





- 1. While three-quarters of Colorado parents say they had school choices in theory, only one in three say they had a real choice.
- 2. Parents like the schools their children are in, yet are also intrigued by charter and private school options, particularly if they are affordable.
- 3. Nevertheless, a third of Colorado parents say they would consider enrolling their child in a different school in the future and would consider all potential options but their strongest preference is for a district run public school.
- 4. Nearly half of Colorado parents would consider enrolling in a charter school if they could find one that was a good fit for their child.
- 5. A core belief for virtually all parents is that the best educational settings match the education approaches to the individual child's natural learning style.
- 6. Parents uniformly believe they know which educational approach fits their child best.



- 7. While academics are a critical dimension of quality schools, it is a comparatively unimportant dimension of the ideal young adult.
- Parents strongly prefer the Blended approach to education (over the Traditional and Student-Centered approaches) with more than four in 10 (46%) saying it would be the best fit for their child's learning style.
- The overwhelming majority of parents across Colorado demographics see the Student Fit Model as appealing for both themselves as parents and their children as students.
- For the majority of all types of parents, the Student Fit Model delivers best against the twin important goals of intellectual and emotional development.



- 11. Parents see two overwhelming dimensions describing the ideal young adult: a person with Life Skills who is Capable in guiding and controlling his/her choices and actions.
  - Some combination of Life Skills traits leading to a Capable individual best describe the journey to ideal young adulthood for 60 percent of all parents.
  - These aspirations for the ideal young adult apply to parents across all sub-populations for which we have a sufficiently large enough sample to analyze.
- 12. For parents, the pay-off to raising an independent, purposeful contributor to community revolves around feeling like a good parent through protecting their family, giving their children a better future and making important contributions to building a better community and world through raising productive citizens.
  - Parents see the journey to such an outcome imbued with feelings of excitement, pride, happiness and optimism from watching their student's progress toward the aspirational adult.
  - Parental aspirations are consistent across all sub-populations for which we have a sufficiently large enough sample to analyze.



- 13. While academics are important, only 5% of parents focus on Academic Skills and Achievement as an ideal pathway to actualizing their aspirations for their children.
- 14. Interestingly, the perceived contribution of the Student Fit Model concept toward the attributes and benefits of the top Ideal Young Adult pathway (Life Skills) is weaker than it is with nodes on other secondary pathways.
- 15. The Student Fit concept resonates with parents across all Ideal Young Adult pathways but most strongly with parents who focus on developing the social and emotional aspects of their children toward more self-actualized and inwardly confident young adults. This stands in contrast to the minority of parents who aspire to develop their children into more outwardly accomplished good actors.



# Importance of K-12 education

What parents expect



## Detailed Findings: Importance of K-12 education

- Assuming high-quality academic preparation, intellectual development among students – critical thinking, problem-solving, setting and pursuing goals – is considered the most important contribution <u>education</u> can make to developing the Ideal Young Adult. These are also important components of Life Skills and Adaptive Skills.
- 2. A core belief among virtually all parents is that the best educational settings match their education approaches to the individual child's natural learning style.
- 3. Parents want a combination of academic and social-emotional development; far fewer want a primary focus on academic achievement.



## Detailed Findings: Importance of K-12 education

- 4. But, seven in 10 parents want their children to learn how to fit into whatever approach is offered.
- 5. Parents uniformly believe they know which approach fits their child best. They also widely believe they understand which approach(es) their child's school/program offers, but are less certain about what other schools in their district offer.



Assuming high-quality academic preparation, Colorado parents identify elements of intellectual development (critical thinking, problem-solving and goal setting) as most important to prepare kids for future success; the goal is well-rounded adults who are self-reliant and prepared for the real world.



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q2. Assuming your child's high-quality academic preparation, what else should their school be providing to prepare them for future success? Select the top three in order of importance (#1, #2, #3).

Q3. In addition to core academics, thinking about the goals of education from kindergarten all the way through high school, which ONE of these is the most important outcome for you as a parent?



Most Colorado parents feel they understand their child's learning style and their child has a teacher who understands and adapts lessons to how they best learn at least to some degree; a similar number say they understand the different approaches to education available in other local schools.



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q1. Below are several statements regarding children and education. Still thinking of your child who is (INSERT ASSIGNED CHILD'S AGE), please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement.



#### Colorado parents want a combination of academic and social and emotional development; far fewer want a primary focus on academic achievement.



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q1. PARENTS: Still thinking of your child who is (ASSIGNED CHILD'S AGE), please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement.



#### Parents want a variety of education approaches available to them but are less certain that local schools provide that variety.

**=Total Disagree** 

Disagree Completely Disagree Somewhat

Agree Somewhat Agree Completely =Total Agree

Public schools should offer a variety of approaches that fit the variety of individual needs and learning styles of children.

For my child to be prepared to be successful in college and their career, I need to make sure there is a good fit between their learning style and the educational approach in their schools.

Charter schools in my area provide different approaches to education to match students' learning styles.

Private schools in my area provide different approaches to education to match students' learning styles.

There are public schools in my district that provide different approaches to education to match students' learning styles.



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q1. Below are several statements regarding children and education. Still thinking of your child who is (INSERT ASSIGNED CHILD'S AGE), please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement.



Fitting the education approach to match the child's natural learning style is uniformly important to parents, yet seven in 10 Colorado parents also want their child to learn how to adapt to any/all educational approaches.





## School choice

Experience


# Detailed findings: School choice

- 1. While three-quarters of Colorado parents say they had school choices in theory, only one in three say they had a real choice.
- 2. The majority of all parents are at least reasonably happy with the schools their children attend:
  - Private and charter school parents are the most satisfied
  - Public school parents are less satisfied and home school parents are the least certain
  - Public schools score particularly low when it comes to the flexibility to educate students using approaches that match learning styles
- 3. Nevertheless, a third of Colorado parents say they would consider enrolling their child in a different school in the future.
- 4. The most important reasons influencing whether Colorado parents would change their child's school are the educational approach or philosophy of the school and evidence of academic success.



# Detailed findings: School choice and charter schools

- 5. A majority of Colorado parents would consider district-run public, charter-managed and private school options for their children but the strongest preference is for a district-run public school.
- 6. Just over a quarter of Colorado parents have had a child enrolled in a charter school.
- 7. Parents most commonly find out about charter schools through friends and family with children enrolled or through their own direct experience; news articles and stories are another important source.
- 8. Just over half of parents have a favorable impression of Colorado charter school operations and nearly four in 10 think charter schools are better than other public schools.
- 9. Whether favorable or unfavorable, the educational approach or philosophy of Colorado charter schools is the most common way parents form their impression.



# Detailed findings: School choice

- 10. Half of parents believe that Colorado charter schools are about the same or worse than charters in other states. Only two in 10 feel they are better.
- 11. Nearly half of Colorado parents would consider enrolling in a charter school if they could find one that was a good fit for their child.
- 12. While a quarter of Colorado parents say they feel very well informed about new local charters and development opportunities in their area, a third would like to be better informed.



### Nearly three-quarters of Colorado parents visited the school, a teacher or principal to learn about school options for their child.

#### Actions to learn about school options for child





# Three-quarters of Colorado parents considered at least one other school option but only about a third say they had a real choice.



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q30. How many school options did you consider at that time?

Q31. How much choice in approaches to education did you have when selecting this school for your child? Please select the statement below that best describes the process.



About two-thirds of Colorado parents agree that a choice of schools offering the same thing is not a real choice and feel most school districts only offer one approach to education.





School ratings are highest among private and charter school parents and lowest among public school parents; public schools score particularly low when it comes to the flexibility to educate students using approaches that match learning styles.

#### Current Colorado K-12 Parent Current School Rating: Excellent or Very Good





Just over half of parents of children NOT in public school are at least fairly certain the public schools in their district are as good as charter/private options, and slightly more say they would send them to public schools if they could get them in the one they wanted.

#### Perception of Public, Private and Charter Schools among Parents whose Child <u>Does Not</u> Currently Attend Type of School

=Total Disagree  Disagree Co	mpletely	Disagre	e Somewhat	Agree Somewha	t 📕 Agree Com	pletely =Total Agree
If I could get them in to the <b>public</b> school I want (either district or charter managed)*I would send my children to public schools. ( <b>Base: Child does not attend public school</b> ; N=251)	3	37% 13%	24%	36%	27%	63%
<b>Public</b> schools in my district are just as good as private or charter school options. ( <b>Base:</b> <b>Child does not attend public school</b> ; N=251)	45%	14%	31%	34%	21% 5	5%
lf I could afford it, I would send my children to <b>private</b> schools. ( <b>Base: Child does not</b> attend private school; N=585)	42%	20%	22%	31%	28%	59%
If I could get them in, I would send my children to <b>charter</b> schools. ( <b>Base: Child does</b> <b>not attend charter school</b> ; N=598)	50%	19%	30%	32%	18% 50%	

\*Note – this item was revised for Colorado with the clarifying statement: "either district or charter-managed"; base excludes students currently attending each type of school. Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q1. Below are several statements regarding children and education. Still thinking of your child who is (INSERT ASSIGNED CHILD'S AGE), please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement.



# A third of Colorado parents say they would consider enrolling their child in a different school in the future.



#### Likelihood to consider enrolling child in a different school in the future



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658) Q33. Parents sometimes change their child's school before moving from one stage of education to another - preschool, elementary, middle and high school. How likely are you to consider enrolling your child in a different school in the future?



The most important reasons influencing whether Colorado parents would change their child's school are the educational approach or philosophy of the school and evidence of academic success.

Total Unimportant Not at all important	hat Unimportant	Somewhat Import	ant 📕 Extremely Imp	ortant Total Important	Most Important
Educational approach/philosophy of the school	<mark>8%</mark> 2 <mark>%</mark> 6%	36%	55%	91%	33%
Evidence of academic success	<b>10%</b> 2 <mark>%8%</mark>	40%	50%	89%	30%
Things you have heard about the school through word of mouth	19% 6% 13%	47%	33%	80%	9%
Quality of the school facilities	<b>12%</b> 1 <mark>%11%</mark>	49%	38%	86%	8%
Quality of the school administrator	<mark>13%</mark> 2 <mark>%11%</mark>	43%	43%	86%	7%
Quality of school's information materials	<b>18% 3%</b> 14%	49%	32%	81%	6%
Something else					6%

Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q34: What is most important to you when deciding whether to enroll your child in a different school? Please rate the importance of each item listed below using the scale shown. Q35: Which ONE of these would you say is most important or is there something else that is most important?



# **Charter School Perceptions**

Experience



A majority of Colorado parents would consider district-run public, charter-managed and private school options for their children but the strongest preference is for a district-run public school.





Base: Colorado Parents (N=658);

CO K-12 Public School Parents (N=393); CO K-12 Charter School Parents (N=60); CO K-12 Private School Parents (N=44); CO K-12 Home School Parents (N=62) Q36: For each school type listed below, please indicate whether or not you would consider choosing that option for your child.



# Just over a quarter of Colorado parents have had a child enrolled in a charter school.



- I currently have a child enrolled in a charter school
- I have had a child enrolled in a charter school in the past but they are not currently in a charter school
- I have never had a child enrolled in a charter school, but I am relatively familiar with charter schools
- Not at all familiar





Parents most commonly find out about charter schools through friends and family with children enrolled or through their own direct experience; news articles and stories are another important source.

Ways to find out about charter schools





# Just over half of parents have a favorable impression of Colorado charter schools.



Impressions about charter school operations in Colorado

Base: Colorado Parents (N=658) Q39. What is your overall impression about charter school operations in Colorado?



# And, nearly four in 10 think charter schools are better than other public schools.



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q41. Would you say charter schools are better, worse or about the same as regular public schools overall?

Base: Colorado parents who say charter schools are better than public (N=249), Those who say charter schools are worse than public (N=65) Q42. In what specific ways do you think charter schools are [BETTER/WORSE] than regular public schools?



### Half of parents believe that Colorado charter schools are about the same or worse than charters in other states. Only two in 10 feel they are better.

#### **Opinion of Colorado charter schools** Ways in which Colorado charter schools are compared to other charter schools better or worse than other charter schools 45% Student outcomes 41% 42% Teacher guality 55% Better 41% Quality of administration Don't know 20% 50% 30% 40% Educational approach / philosophy 36% 40% Quality of the school facilities About the same Worse 16% 46% 4% 38% Range of choices available 50% 33% Input from parents / community 15% 1% Other 0% Better 1% Not sure Worse 0%

Base: Colorado Parents N=658)

Q43. Would you say Colorado charter schools are better, worse or about the same as charter schools in other places?

Base: Colorado parents who say Colorado charter schools are better than other charter schools (N=133),

Colorado parents who say Colorado charter schools are worse than other charter schools (N=27\*\*) **\*\*CAUTION**, SMALL BASE Q44. In what specific ways do you think Colorado charter schools are [BETTER/WORSE] than charter schools in other places?



# Whether favorable or unfavorable, the educational approach or philosophy of Colorado charter schools is the most common way parents form their impression.

#### Basis for impression of charter schools in Colorado



Base: Colorado Parents: Favorable (N=345); Neutral (N=235); Unfavorable (N=78) Q40. What is it that leads you to a [FAVORABLE/NEUTRAL/UNFAVORABLE] impression of charter schools in Colorado?



### Nearly half of Colorado parents would consider enrolling in a charter school if they could find one that was a good fit for their child.

Opinion of enrolling own child in charter school



Base: Colorado parents who do not currently have a child enrolled in a charter school (N=561) Q45. Thinking about your own child/children...which of the following best describes your opinion about charter schools?



Over a third of Colorado parents believe that the ability of charter schools to understand and provide what their child needs would be the main reason it would be a good fit for their child.

Understands/Provides what my child needs		23%	· /	learning style, offer	
Curriculum/Course offerings match my child	9%	Suited to child:		academic program	
Child preference/happiness and fun	6%	36% (NET)	4	high-quality and	
Trained and/or able to meet special needs	3%			prepare him to becc an educated, wel rounded, critical	
Quality of Education	13%	Academic quality and			
Academic focus, challenge/rigor	8%	reputation:			
Reputation, selectivity or ratings	5%	25% (NET)		thinker."	
Educational and teaching philosophy	12%		- L		
Balanced/Well-rounded education	4%	Educational	1.0		
Matched my beliefs, values and/or traditions	4%	approach/philosophy:	$\sim$	"My child felt	
Focus on social, emotional intelligence/growth	2%	23% (NET)		comfortable in th	
Less test and/or score focused	2%			school. There was	
Location, close to home	12%	12%		strong example o	
School enviroment, facilities, resources	5%	Resources and offerings:		academic succes	
Class size	4%	22% (NET)			
Extracurricular and/or sports offerings				"A school where th	
Teacher/Administrator quality and attitude	13%	Staff quality: <b>13%</b>	$\sim$	teachers would actu	
Sense of caring, belonging and community	caring, belonging and community 5%		1 ]	help my child	
Fit with/Positive influence of peers, friends	4%	Community/		understand the mat	
School communication/interation with parents	2%	environment:		better."	
More diversity	2% <b>12% (NET)</b>		-		
Less diversity	1%			"It was close to ou	
Flexibility/Choices	5%			house and he ha	
Affordability/Cost	3%	Access and convenience:			
Availability/Able to enroll	Availability/Able to enroll 📃 2%			friends going there of	
School hours and schedule	1%	10% (NET)		they had Advance Placement classes	

Base: Colorado Parents: Not currently enrolled in a charter school but would consider one if there was a good fit (N=260) Q45. What would make it (charter school) a good fit?



While a quarter of Colorado parents say they feel very well informed about new local charters and development opportunities in their area, a third would like to be better informed.

#### Degree to which informed or aware of new local charters or development opportunities



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658) Q47. To what degree do you feel you have actively been informed/made aware of new charters in your area and/or opportunities to be involved in the development of a new charter school?



# Motivations

Ideal Young Adult Ladders

# Ideal Young Adult Development







# Values-based laddering approach

- A sequencing of questioning that fulfills a framework for understanding of decision-making and outcome evaluation:
  - Personal values serve as the end with rational attributes, benefits and their emotional consequences serving as the means to that end.
- Analyzing language and linkages between the physical and emotional aspects of decisions provides insight to the motivations that drive decisions.



Personal Values – the desired destination

Emotional Consequences – resulting from the benefits

Functional Benefits – from reaching educational outcomes



Rational Attributes – educational outcomes



# Detailed findings: Ideal Young Adult motivations

- 1. Parents see two overwhelming dimensions describing the Ideal Young Adult:
  - Life Skills
  - Capability
- 2. Life Skills revolves around a number of attributes, including being:
  - Honest and trustworthy
  - Respectful
  - Kind
  - Good judgment
  - Hardworking
- 3. Capability revolves around the higher order characteristics including:
  - Personal responsibility
  - Competence
  - Confidence
  - Personal license through empowerment and curiosity



# Detailed findings: Ideal Young Adult motivations

- 4. The highest order dimensions of the Ideal Young Adult center on three essential capacities:
  - Ability to contribute constructively to community, society and the world
  - Independence of mind and spirit
  - And, to a lesser extent, a sense of connection with others that ties to feelings of enthusiasm and comfort
- 5. Some combination of Life Skills traits leading to a capable individual best describes the journey to ideal young adulthood for six in 10 Colorado parents.
- 6. While academics are important, only 5% of parents focus on Academic Skills and Achievement as an ideal pathway to actualizing their aspirations for their children.
- 7. These aspirations for the Ideal Young Adult apply to parents across all subpopulations for which we have a sufficiently large enough sample to analyze.



# Steps in developing a means-end framework

- Identification of major idea groupings at each level of the means-end hierarchy (via factor analysis) to create map nodes
  - Potential ideas generated from qualitative phase and other past research
- 2) Calculation of each node's relative power in shaping choice and loyalty (reach and relevance scores)
- 3) Calculation of the **relationship between each node across the four-level hierarchical map** (via correlation)
- 4) Development of the full "landscape" map
- 5) Identification of primary and secondary orientations or "pathways of thought" within the full map using reach, relevance and relationship scores

# Ideal Young Adult: Colorado Parent Perspective Hierarchical Base Map





# Ideal Young Adult: Colorado Parent Perspective Hierarchical Base Map







# Ideal Young Adult: Colorado Parent Perspective Independence through Life Skills (35%)





# Ideal Young Adult: Colorado Parent Perspective Contribution through Life Skills (19%)





# Ideal Young Adult: Colorado Parent Perspective Connection through Life Skills (6%)





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# Ideal Young Adult: Colorado Parent Perspective Purpose through Adaptive Skills (13%)





# Ideal Young Adult: Colorado Parent Perspective Connection and Purpose through Social Skills (12%)





# Ideal Young Adult: Colorado Parent Perspective Purpose through Civic Skills (10%)




### Ideal Young Adult: Colorado Parent Perspective Achievement through Academic Skills (5%)







## Life Skills is the dominant pathway across all stages and grows more prominent as children age.



Primary Parent Pathways by Age

Base: Colorado Parents (n=658), Age 0-5 (n=114), Age 6-10 (n=177), Age11-14 (n=189), Age15-18 (n=177)



Life Skills is the dominant pathway for public and charter K-12 parents but other pathways are also important, particularly for private and home school parents.

#### Primary Parent Pathways by type of K-12 Education



Base: Colorado Parents (n=658) ), Public K-12 School (n=393), Private K-12 School (n=44), Charter K-12 School (n=60), Home School with Majority K-12 Coursework (n=62)



## Life Skills is the dominant pathway across income and education levels.

#### Primary Parent Pathways by Income and Education Level



Base: Colorado Parents (n=658), Household income less than \$50K (n=153), Household income \$50K to less than \$100K (n=213), Household income \$100K or more (n=265), High school education or less (n=84), Some college education (n=153), College graduate or higher (n=421)



### Life Skills is the dominant pathway for suburban and rural parents but other pathways are also important, particularly among urban parents.

#### Primary Parent Pathways by Urbanity





## Life Skills remains dominant among Colorado Hispanic parents.

#### Primary Parent Pathways by Hispanic/Latino Origin





# Evaluation of educational approaches and Student Fit Model

Parent reaction

## Ideal Young Adult Development







## Detailed findings: the Student Fit Model

- 1. When viewed in isolation from the Student Fit Model, parents strongly prefer the Blended approach, with more than four in 10 saying it would be the best fit for their child's learning style.
  - But only a third say it describes their child's current learning environment.
- 2. The overwhelming majority of parents across all demographics see the Student Fit Model as providing for both their parental needs and their children's developmental needs.
- 3. Four in 10 Colorado parents say the Student Fit Model is extremely appealing.
  - Similarly, four in 10 parents say the Student Fit Model is extremely important to realizing the goals they have for their children from school.
- 4. Parents see the ideal balance of the three pillars (Traditional, Blended and Student-Centered) of the Student Fit Model as roughly equal with the Blended approach holding a slight plurality.



## Detailed findings: the Student Fit Model

- 4. For the majority of parents, the Student Fit Model delivers best against the twin important goals of intellectual and emotional development, particularly with respect to developing:
  - Balanced, well-rounded adults
  - Graduates who are successfully prepared for the real world by having the right skills for work and strong community values
  - Responsible adults able to take care of themselves
- 5. Parents say they would be strong advocates for the Student Fit Model.
  - Three-quarters of parents say they would advocate for the initial adoption of such an approach.



Almost half of Colorado parents find the Blended approach extremely appealing and a plurality say it would be the best fit for their child right now; a majority of those without a child in this environment think it is unavailable in their public schools or are unsure whether it's available.

One way to think about the range of approaches to education is how they combine social-emotional learning and academic learning. Listed below are descriptions of three different approaches characterized by their combination of social-emotional and academic learning.

Educational Approaches		Appeal	Best Describes Current Environment	Best Fit for Child Right Now	Approach Is Currently Available
<b>TRADITIONAL APPROACH</b> prioritizing academic instruction and achievement. Social-emotional development takes place through academic work, interacting with teachers and peers.	49%	26% <b>75%</b>	41%	21%	72% Yes 11% No 16% DK (n=411)*
<b>BLENDED APPROACH</b> prioritizing traditional academic instruction along with intentional activities that teach and support social-emotional development.	43%	47% <mark>90%</mark>	35%	46%	44% Yes 24% No 32% DK (n=450)*
<b>STUDENT-CENTERED APPROACH</b> prioritizing social-emotional development. Academic strength is built through student interests and knowledge is acquired through experiences in the classroom and the community.	42%	35% <b>77%</b>	18%	31%	<b>35% Yes</b> <b>33% No</b> <b>31% DK</b> (n=549)*
	Somewhat Appealing	Extremely Appealing Appealing			

Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q9. How appealing is this approach to you as a parent in terms of fitting your child's needs? Base: Colorado Parents, Not Home Schooling (N=596)

Q10. Which ONE of these best describes your child's current educational environment?

Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q11. If you had to choose, which ONE of these would be the best fit for your child right now?

\*Base: Colorado Parents, Not Current Approach (bases vary)

Q12. Is this approach currently available for your child in your local K-12 public schools?



## Parents across most pathways reflect the total Colorado parent population in finding the Blended approach most appealing.

One way to think about the range of approaches to education is how they combine social-emotional learning and academic learning. Listed below are descriptions of three different approaches characterized by their combination of social-emotional and academic learning.

#### Appeal of Educational Approaches by Pathway

TRADITIONAL APPROACH

prioritizing academic instruction and achievement. Social-emotional development takes place through academic work, interacting with teachers and peers. BLENDED APPROACH

prioritizing traditional academic instruction along with intentional activities that teach and support social-emotional development.

#### STUDENT-CENTERED APPROACH

prioritizing social-emotional development. Academic strength is built through student interests and knowledge is acquired through experiences in the classroom and the community.







Base: Colorado Parents (N=658); Life Skills Path (N=393); Civic Skills Path (N=67); Adaptive Skills Path (N=86); Social Skills Path (N=77); Academic Skills Path (N=35); Q9. How appealing is this approach to you as a parent in terms of fitting your child's needs?



### The Student Fit Model holds stronger appeal for parents (and for their children) than current Colorado school models.

=Total Unappealing (Net) Not At All Appealing Somewhat Unappealing Somewhat Appealing Extremely Appealing =Total Appealing (Net)



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q13. How appealing is this student fit model to you as a parent?

Q14. How appealing do you think this student fit model would be to students?

Base: Colorado Parents Who Have Not Implemented Student Fit Model (N=630)

Q17. How appealing is the current model your local school district is using to you as a parent?

Q18. How appealing do you think the current model your local school district is using to students?



Four in 10 Colorado parents say the Student Fit Model is extremely important toward achieving the most important outcomes to the K-12 public school system, although they are less than confident their district would implement the model.



#### Base: Colorado Parents (N=658)

Q15. How important is this student fit model in terms of achieving the most important outcomes in the K-12 public school system? Q16. How likely do you think your local school district would be to implement this student fit model?

Base: Colorado Parents Who Have Not Implemented Student Fit Model (N=630)

Q19. How likely are you personally to advocate for this student fit model to be adopted in your school district?



Most Colorado parents' ideal mix would be nearly equal across the three educational approaches in a district, with some skew toward the Blended approach.



Base: Colorado Parents (N=658), Pre-K (N=100), Elementary (N=203), Middle (N=124), High School (N=169) Q21. Now, thinking about ALL of the students and all of the schools in your local K-12 district, what do you think would be the ideal proportion of each approach to be offered in your school district if it were to adopt a student fit model?



Assuming high-quality academic preparation, the Student Fit Model is perceived to deliver on the most important additional school outcomes parents identified overall. While Intellectual development is still at the top, parents are more likely to rank Emotional development first when considering the impact of the Student Fit Model.



#### Most Important Goals Student Fit Model Goal as a Parent Will Most Help Foster

33%	35%	To develop kids into balanced, well-rounded adults
30%	25%	To successfully prepare kids for the real world
27%	22%	To develop kids into responsible adults who can take care of themselves
9%	<b>12%</b>	To produce kids that will achieve great things
2%	5%	None of these

Base: Colorado Parents (N=658);

Q2. Assuming your child gets high-quality academic preparation, what else should their school be providing to prepare them for future success? Select the top three in order of importance.

Q3. In addition to core academics, thinking about the goals of education from kindergarten all the way through high school, which ONE of these is the most important outcome for you as a parent? Q27. Assuming your child gets high-quality academic preparation, what else would the student fit model provide to prepare them for future success? Select the top three in order of importance Q28. In addition to core academics, thinking about the goals of education from kindergarten all the way through high school, which of these possible outcomes would the student fit model most foster?



# Student Fit Model and parent motivations



## Detailed findings: Student Fit Model and parent motivations

- 1. Interestingly, the perceived contribution of the Student Fit Model toward the attributes and benefits of the top Ideal Young Adult pathway (Independence through Life Skills) is....
  - Less strong than it is it is with nodes on other secondary pathways
  - Significantly lower than the percentage of parents who feel those attributes and benefits are foundational to the Ideal Young Adult
    - Much higher for those on the pathway leading from Life Skills to Contribution through Self-Actualization and Healthy Relationships
- 2. Those parents who rate the secondary pathways of Social Skills and Civic Skills have a much more vital connection with the Student Fit Model in terms of realizing their goals for their children.
- 3. The Student Fit concept resonates with parents across all Ideal Young Adult pathways but most strongly with parents who focus on developing the social and emotional aspects of their children toward more self-actualized and inwardly confident young adults. This stands in contrast to the minority of parents who aspire to develop their children into more outwardly accomplished good actors.



## Detailed findings: Student Fit Model and parent motivations

- 3. Importantly, even though the fit is less strong with the Life Skills pathway parents, the Student Fit Model is still popular and seen as important.
- 4. Along the way, parents seek feelings of excitement, pride, happiness and optimism from watching their students progress toward the aspirational adult.
- 5. For parents, the pay-off to raising an independent, purposeful contributor to community revolves around feeling like:
  - A good parent through protecting their family and giving their children a better future
  - They are making important contributions to building a better community and world through raising productive citizens

## Ideal Young Adult Development







## Student Fit Model contribution to the Ideal Young Adult (IYA)

- The Student Fit Model (description below) was assessed in terms of the level of contribution to each of the Attributes and Benefits of the IYA.
  - Attribute and Benefit node scores for the Student Fit Model are shown for each ladder on the following pages.

Now, please read the following description of a model some communities use to provide education options for students and families:

When selecting schools, many families want to know the approach a school uses to educate students so they can fit the education to their child—not their child to the education.

Some local school districts only offer one approach to education, even if they offer a choice of schools. Parents can feel like having a choice of schools offering the same thing is no choice at all for their children. They feel they should have a variety of approaches in their local schools that fit the variety of individual needs and learning styles of their children.

Other local school districts might use a **student fit model**. This makes sure that families and students have the opportunity to match learning styles with the education approaches of their teachers, classrooms and schools. In some districts, some schools provide one approach to education and other schools provide different ones. In other districts, there are classrooms and teachers providing the different approaches within the same schools.

With the **student fit model** families can match the approach to education with the way their child learns best so that students are best prepared for success in college and career.

### Ideal Young Adult and Student Fit Model: Parent Motivations Independence through Life Skills (35%)



### Ideal Young Adult and Student Fit Model: Parent Motivations Contribution through Life Skills (19%)



Parent Motivations (Values)



#### Ideal Young Adult and Student Fit Model: Parent Motivations Purpose through Adaptive Skills (13%) artemis Parent Motivations (Values) **Good Parenting** Young adult Productive citizen aave my children a better Purposeful future True to beliefs and values Purpose am closer with my family Leads a meaningful life have protected my family Well-rounded am able stay true to my Take responsibility for their lives Lifelona learner beliefs and values Use common sense feel good about myself as a Use good judgement Competent parent Function well in the real world Capable feel at peace with my life Handle failure and rejection Confident and circumstances Demonstrate self-discipline Capable Responsible am contributing to a better Be well-behaved and polite Smart society Respect themselves and others Empowered have accomplished Demonstrate intearity Curious something valuable Adapt to new situations easily Find a good job feel a sense of pride Develop healthy relationships Be motivated to be successful Build their sense of self-worth Become independent Healthy **Real-World** Contribute to community/society Be a well-rounded individual Relationships Aptitude Demonstrate leadership skills Have a sense of purpose Handle conflict and disagreements Parent Emotions Choose and make good friends **Enthused & Relaxed** Is a critical thinker Relevance Node scores\* Reach Fortunate Нарру Is a self-directed Real-World Aptitude 63%/**36%** 6.1/5.2 Satisfied Reassured learner Proud Relieved Healthy Relationships 60%/**41%** Has confidence to 6.0/5.3 Optimistic Fulfilled explore new ideas 81%/**40%** Adaptive Skills 6.4/5.3 Hopeful At ease Is resilient Excited Comfortable Is internally motivated **Adaptive Skills** Joyful Relaxed to learn \*Among parents who identify most strongly with Enthusiastic Secure ls resourceful the Purpose through Adaptive Skills Ideal Young ls adaptable Adult pathway; Student Fit Model in bold





### Ideal Young Adult and Student Fit Model: Parent Motivations Achievement through Academic Skills (5%)







## Appendix

Sample detail and additional charts



## Political and civic engagement

#### Have Participated in Activities Related to Political or Societal Issues

