

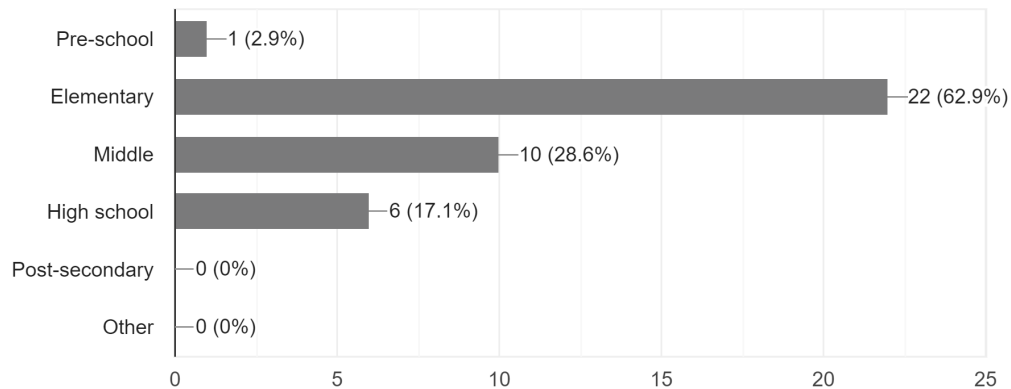
2022 CAC Survey - Findings

In May of 2022, the Palo Alto CAC sent out a brief survey to parents via the Palo Alto Special Education Discuss Google group. The aim was to gain information that might help us engage and support families better. We received 35 responses. This is a small sample of the community. Below is a summary of the responses.

– Question 1 AGE OF CHILD--

What grade is your (special needs) child in?

35 responses

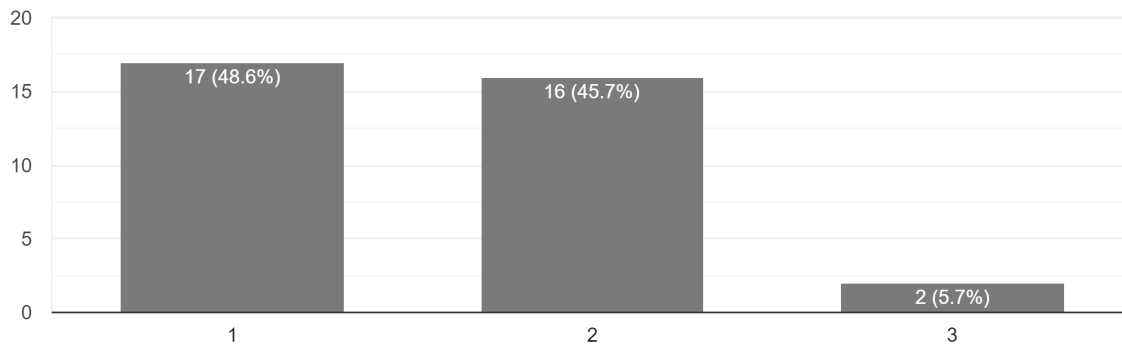


Finding: The majority of the respondents were parents of Elementary students. This tells us that we should prioritize engaging elementary parents.

–Question 2 FELLOW PARENTS–

The CAC hosts periodic in-person socials, for parents to meet and learn from fellow parents. Are you interested in attending this kind of social?

35 responses



1: Very Interested

2: Moderately Interested

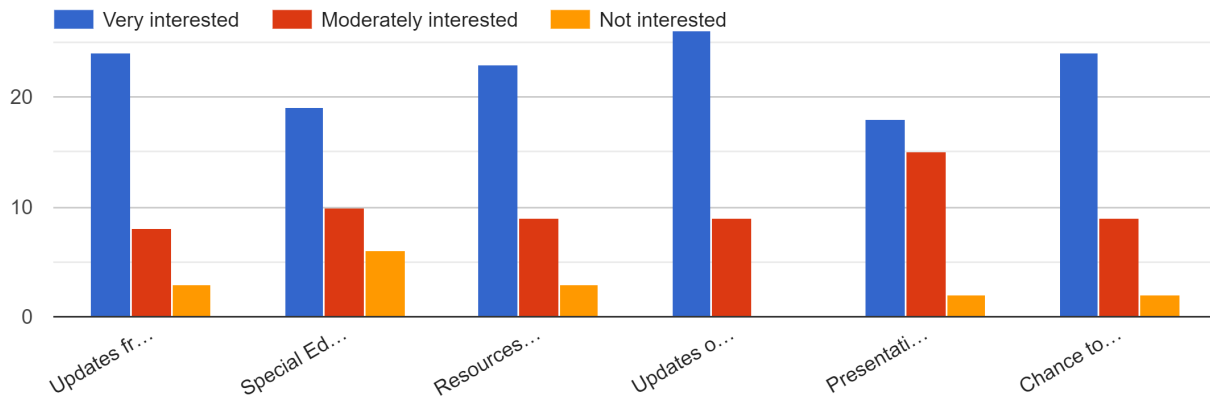
3: Not Interested

Finding: The majority of parents indicated they are interested in opportunities to meet and learn from fellow parents. (48% Very Interested, 46% Moderately Interested, 6% Not Interested)

The in-person events we organize that allow for mingling (such as Family Fun Day, Holiday Tea, school based and PTA-sponsored coffees) are very important.

–Question 3 CAC MEETING TOPICS–

The Palo Alto CAC holds monthly meetings that are open to the public. What is your level of interest in the following types of information discussed at these meetings?



(35 Responses)

Full text that is truncated above:

Updates from Special Education Director

Special Education community events

Resources & Parent education

Updates on current special education issues and how the CAC is advising the district

Presentations by guests on topics such as assistive technology, mental health, autism support, etc.

Chance to ask questions

Finding: Respondents indicated interest in ALL of the types of information discussed in CAC meetings. Level of interest/enthusiasm was in this rank order, from most to least.

(most)

1. Updates on current special education issues and how the CAC is advising the district
2. Updates from Special Education Director
3. Chance to ask questions
4. Resources & Parent education
5. Presentations by guests on topics such as assistive technology, mental health, autism support, etc.
6. Special Education community events

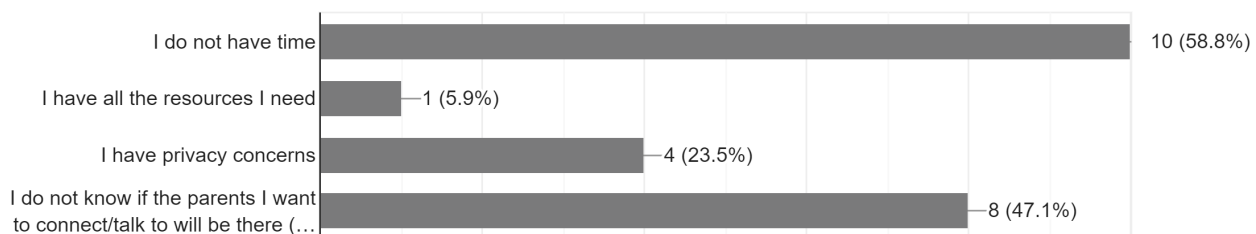
(least)

This reinforces that the CAC should continue providing updates on SpED, keep time for community events short, and make sure to include opportunities for asking questions.

– Question 4 BARRIERS TO ATTENDING EVENTS/MEETINGS—

If you are not interested in attending an in-person social or CAC meeting, what is your reason?

17 responses

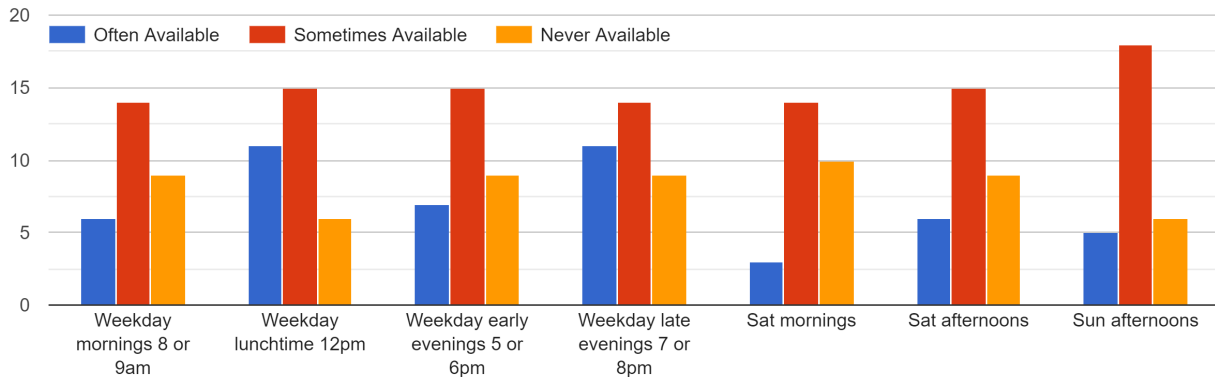


Finding: Most parents (59%) who don't come to meetings say it's because they don't have time. CAC should try to schedule events at the times more parents report they are available.

A significant number (47%) of parents who don't come to meetings/socials say it is because "I do not know if the parents I want to connect/talk to will be there (autism families, high school families etc.)" CAC will work on publicizing local support groups, such as through [this list that we compiled](#).

—Question 5 AVAILABILITY—

What would be your availability for the following meeting times?



(29 responses)

Finding: Most people answered 'sometimes available' for all of the presented times.

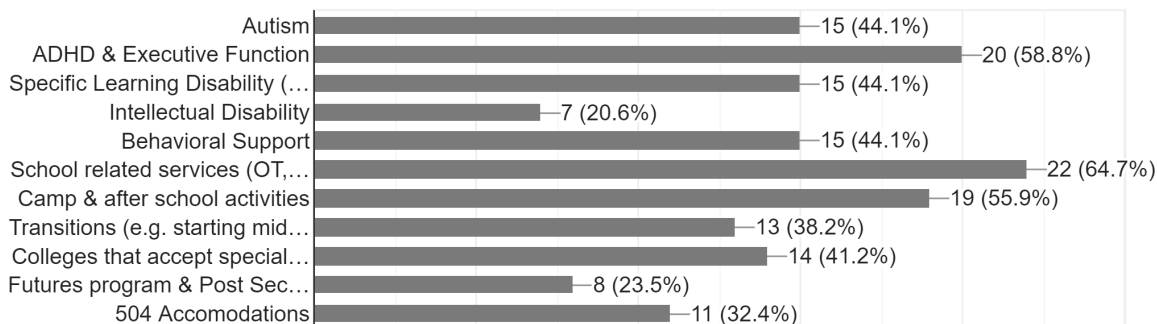
- Most popular times seem to be
 - Weekday lunchtime 12pm
 - Sunday afternoons
 - Evenings 7/8
- Least popular times are
 - Weekday mornings 8/9
 - Weekday early evenings 5/6
 - Saturday mornings
 - Saturday afternoons

CAC has changed meeting times to lunchtime and/or evening 7pm. For other events, we should consider 8-9am Elementary, 9-10am Secondary, occasional Sunday afternoon.

—Question 6 TOPICS OF INTEREST —

Which of the following topics are you interested in? (check all that apply)

34 responses



Full text that is truncated above:

Specific Learning Disability (e.g. Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dysgraphia)
School related services (OT, SLP, APE, ESY, Assistive technology PATCH, etc.)
Transitions (e.g. starting middle school)
Colleges that accept special needs students
Futures program & Post Secondary

Finding: There was an interest in ALL of the topics we presented on the list.

- There was a notably high interest in:
 - ADHD & Executive Function (59% overall, 63% for elementary respondents)
 - School related services (OT, SLP, APE, ESY, Assistive technology PATCH, etc.)
 - Camp & after school activities
- The interest in “Futures program & Post Secondary” and “Colleges that accept special needs students” were surprisingly high, considering that the majority of respondents have elementary students
- CAC will consider all of these topics (especially the highest interest ones) candidates for Parent Ed or topics to be presented on by experts during public CAC meetings, as well as SpEd director updates. CAC is actively pursuing Parent Ed opportunities relevant to parents.