# Our response to comments and questions

**Thank you very much,** we had a total of 57 responses to our survey. Below you will find our response to your questions, comments and concerns. Overall positive response average is 59%, this is higher than we expected so early in the year.

**Student questions** specific to the learning platform should always be referred to any Summit Teacher: Mr. Gary, Mr. Kreger, Mrs. Barlow, Ms. Frieri, Mr. Hostetler, Mrs. Hartman or Mr. Truskey.

**Response to general questions and comments regarding Summit Learning at TVASD:**

We implemented summit learning as a result of and in response to concerns which we have had in our middle school grade levels which include curriculum needs, academic performance, preparedness for high school courses and the lack of a middle school atmosphere where students are afforded the opportunity to interact on a regular basis with their teachers. Summit Learning has components which address all of these aspects along with being a teacher driven world class curriculum. We recognize that it is difficult at first and we expect that it will take time for students and teachers to feel comfortable with it. However I will say that at this point in time, our students, are ahead of that process according to our district level summit mentors with whom we talk to weekly. They recently paid a visit to our school to observe the classrooms and they left here extremely impressed with our students and their progress. We feel that the time investment will be worth the effort academically.

# Our response to comments and questions

In regards to the technology available to students: every student in grades 1-12 have their own iPad to use during the school day. We also have in each summit classroom, either desktop or laptop computers for student use. We are in the process of adding a couple of more computers to each summit class room. In addition to this, we have our computer labs as well. Access to technology will not prevent our students from learning. Students and parents may also access the platform from any device outside of school.

It is not possible to "skip" a grade with Summit Learning and students will never really be done with grade level content. The curriculum is very extensive and students and teachers will "never run out of things to do." The best approach is for students as they progress and move on is to take on the additional and challenge focus areas. Teachers may also add additional projects as the year moves on. I do encourage all students to slow down and remember, it is competency based learning, it is about learning in depth and a demonstration of learning. It's a marathon, not a sprint.

How does this differ from cyber school? The differences are many. Summit Learning at TVASD is not cyber school. Perhaps the biggest difference is that Summit Learning takes place in our class room where highly trained teachers deliver instruction, monitor and mentor students. Students also have peer interaction with their classmates and lastly, the summit curriculum is far superior in our opinion to any cyber school. This said, TVASD does offer two versions of our own cyber school however, Summit Learning is not one of them.

# Our response to comments and questions

Sometimes, the answers to test questions aren't found in the resources available. This may be true. Summit learning isn't about simply providing answers to test questions. It is about deeper understanding, making inferences, coming to conclusions, challenging students to think and become self-directed learners. Note taking is a valuable skill and one which we emphasize in the classroom. Yes, sometimes, students may need to seek additional information on their own. The good news is that students may retake content assessments and we only record the highest grade. Keep in mind that the content assessment questions will change each time but the concepts do not. When a student struggles with an assessment, they will be given the opportunity to meet 1 on 1 with their teacher or mentor to set a goal and develop a plan which will help them find resources and gain the knowledge necessary.

In regards to screen time. For the most part, it ends up being about 30% of the student time in class will be using technology. This of course varies. As we become better at using the platform and move deeper into learning, students will be spending less time on their device and more time working in the project areas. It is not all online learning.

Not all content is screened by our staff prior to it being on the learning platform unless it is placed there by our teachers. Our summit teachers do look ahead at the standards, objectives and projects however, the resources are virtually endless in Summit. However, all of the content is placed in the platform by the Summit Curriculum Team. If a student should happen to encounter something questionable, they should report it to their teacher immediately in accordance with our responsible use of technology guidelines. Also know that we do have extensive content filtering built into our network for this reason. Sometimes, things do slip through these filters.

# Our response to comments and questions

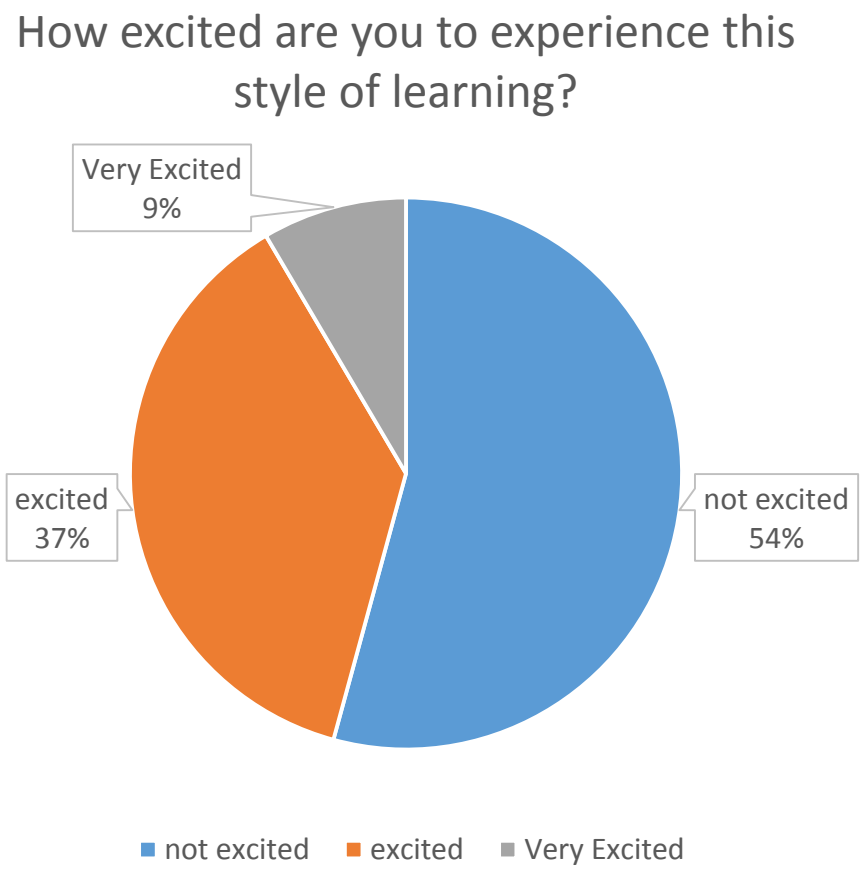
Could Personal Learning Time or PLT be scheduled so that students are in their content class with the content teacher? Due to teachers often teaching other non-summit classes, this is tough. We are beginning to schedule PLT days where students will have the freedom to select which content they need to work on and they will be able to go to that particular teacher for that time period. However, there will remain times when students during PLT may not be with the teacher of that content area but they are always with a Summit Teacher. Students are encouraged to communicate with their teachers if they need additional assistance, I'm certain we can accommodate their needs.

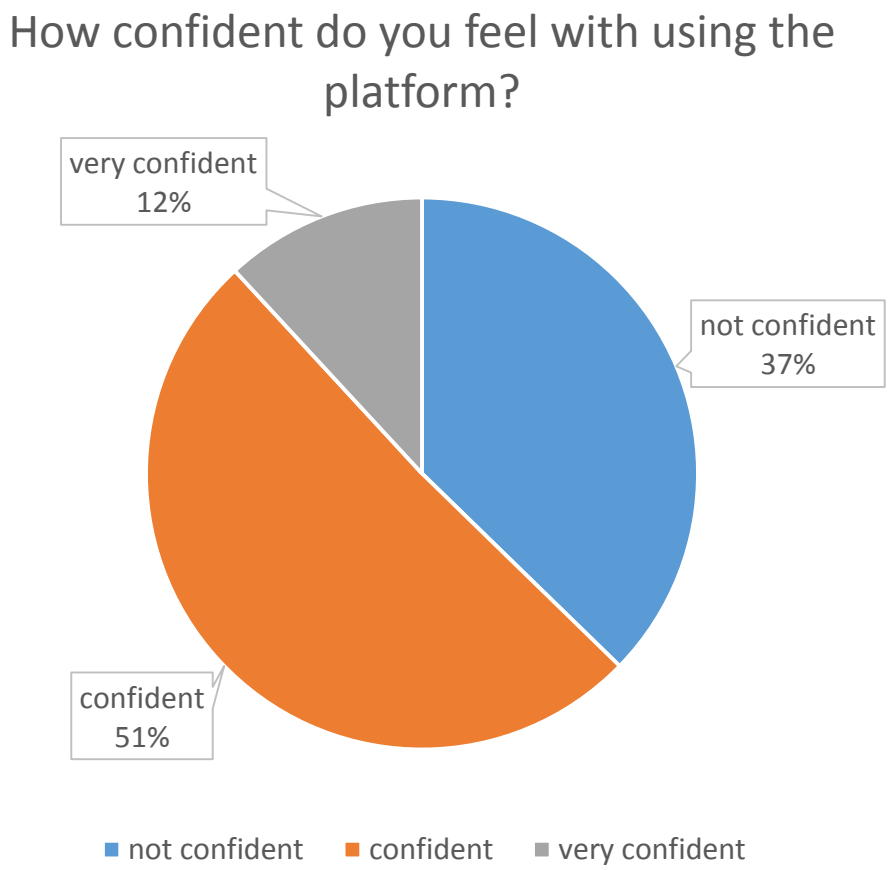
Summit is not solely dependent upon the internet. Students depending on where they are within a project will most likely have work to do independent of internet access. Likewise, teachers have lessons planned for such occasions should we not have internet access for some reason. We spent the past two years upgrading our internet in the entire building but we are prepared for an outage all the same.

Thank you again for your valuable feedback. We will do a similar survey in early December as we see growth, confidence and student engagement improve daily.

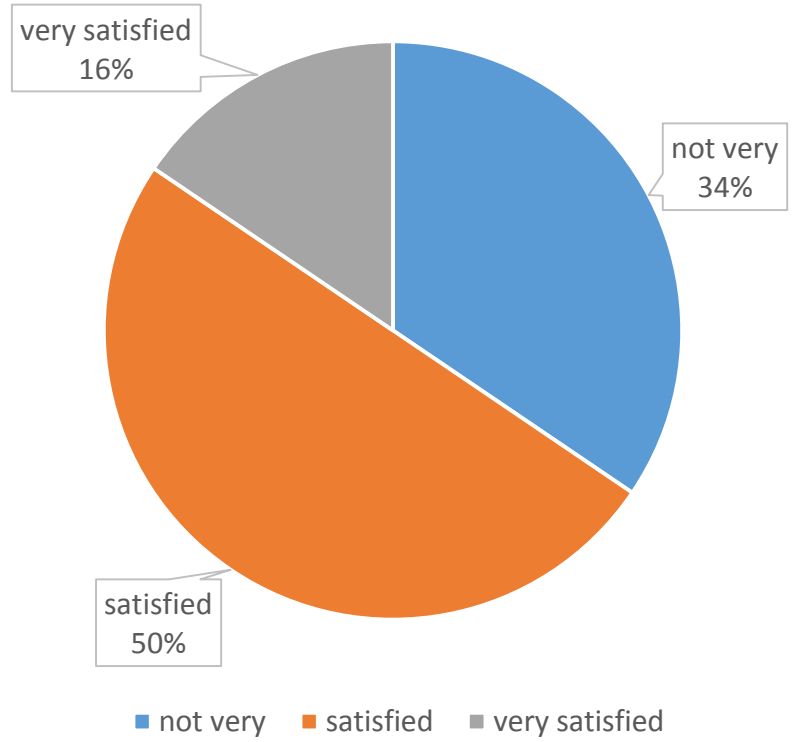
*Jeff Malaspino*

# Summit Learner Survey September 2017.
# Responses = 57

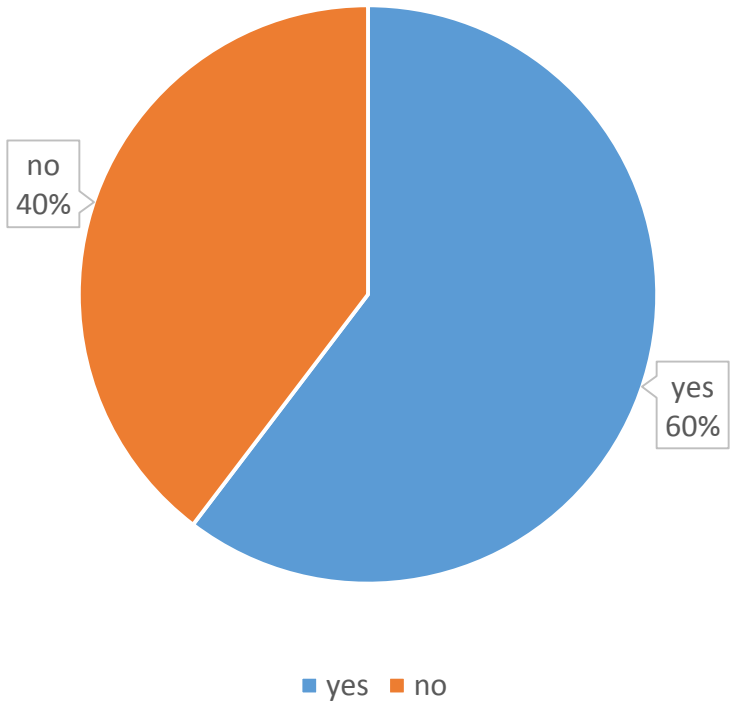


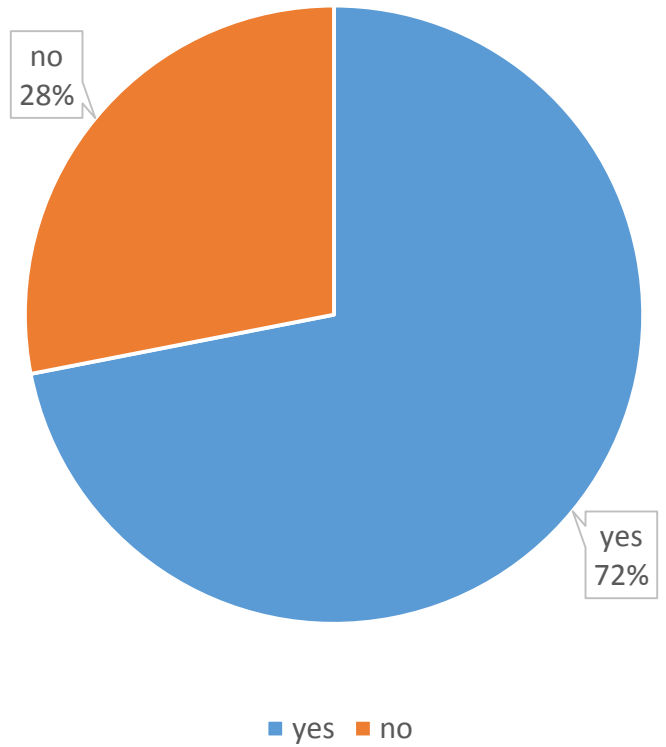
Overall how satisfied are you with understanding the grading system?



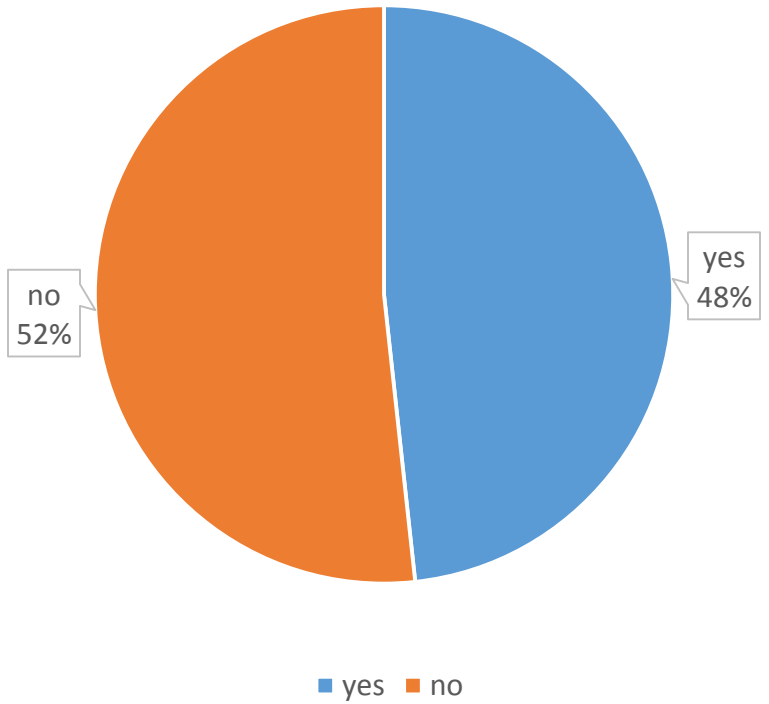

Do you feel as though the use of the iPad has allowed you to become a self-directed learner?



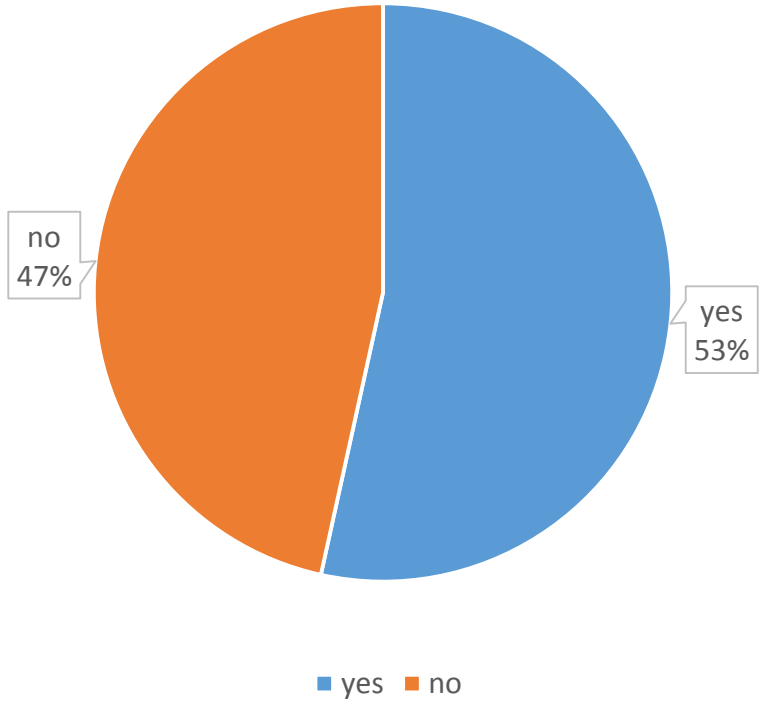
I feel proficient and comfortable using  google docs?



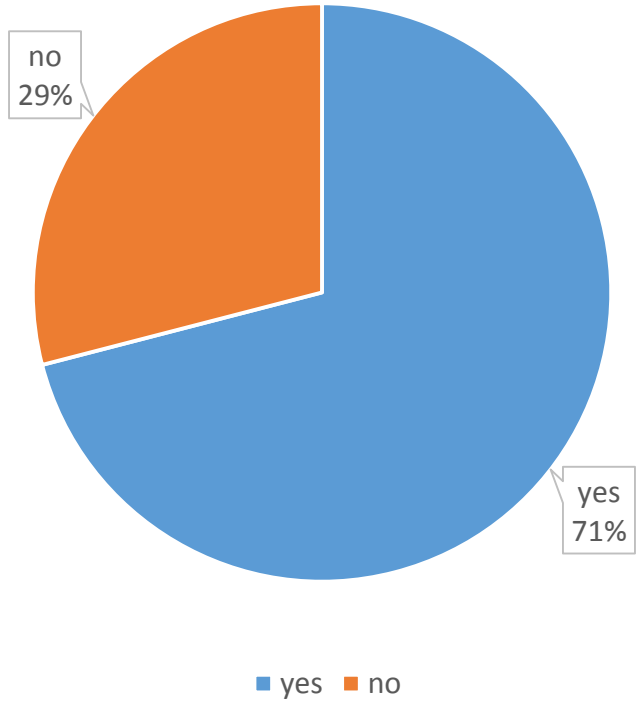

Would you recommend the Summit Schools on-line learning platform to students from other schools?



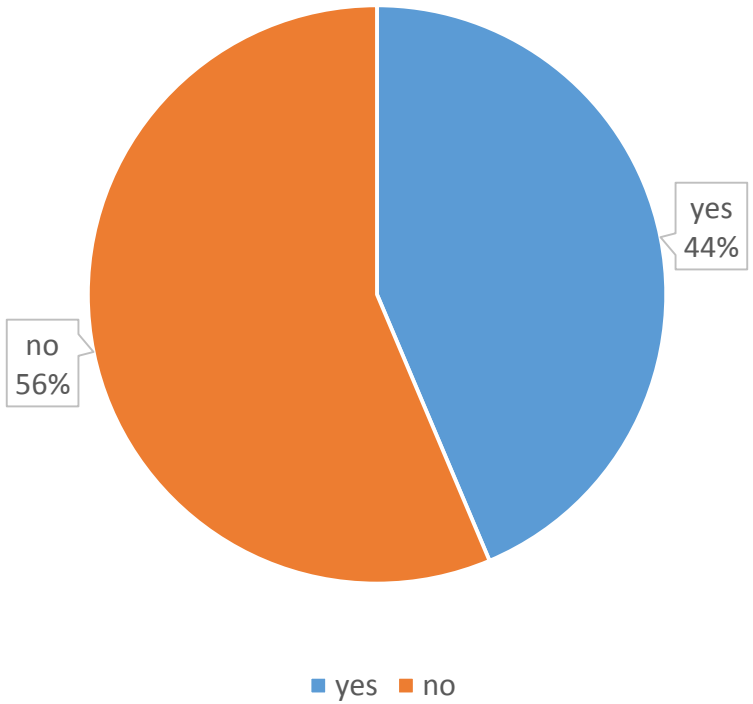
Was it helpful to spend the first week of instruction learning about Summit Schools?



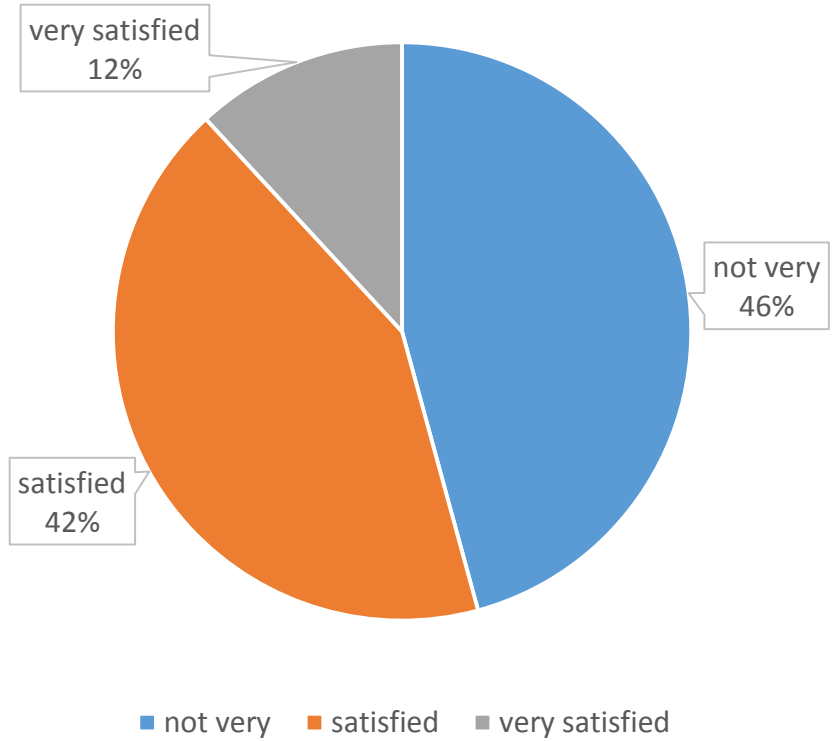

Do you understand where to find the items you need on the learning platform?

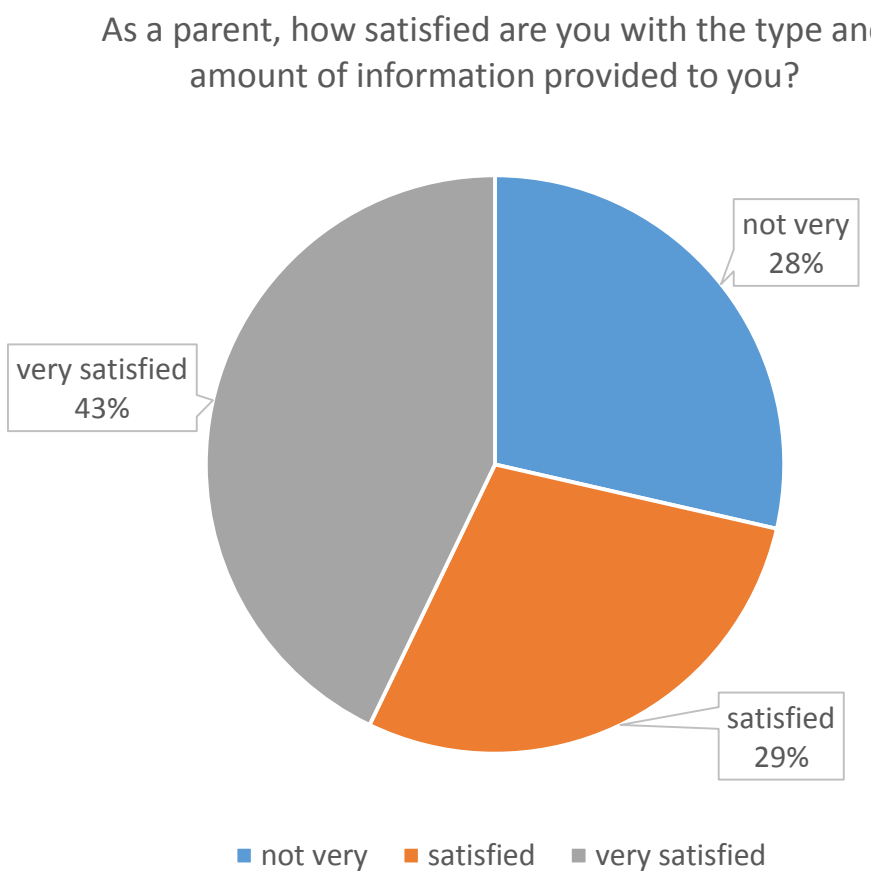


Do you need more guidance with what is expected of you as a learner?




Overall how satisfied are you at this point in time with the Summit Learning Experience?




As a parent, how satisfied are you with the type and amount of information provided to you?
not very 28%
satisfied 29%
very satisfied 43%
not very
satisfied
very satisfied