



O'NEILL  
**Sea**  
odyssey



# o'neill **Sea** odyssey

2017-2018 survey results  
fall 2018



Central Coast Office:  
P.O. Box 1927 | Watsonville, CA 95077  
(831) 728-1356

.....  
With locations in the Bay Area & Sacramento

[www.appliedsurveyresearch.org](http://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org)



# Table of Contents

---

<b>About O'Neill Sea Odyssey</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Research Methodology</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Survey Design and Methodology .....	3
Demographic Data Collection .....	4
Data Analysis .....	4
<b>Data Highlights</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Results</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Student Participation and Demographics .....	6
Website and Teaching Materials .....	11
Program Ratings .....	13
Student Environmental Awareness .....	14
<b>Conclusions</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix I: Open-Ended Survey Responses</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Appendix II: Survey Instruments</b> .....	<b>23</b>
Teacher/Group Leader Survey.....	23
Student Survey .....	25
<b>About the Researcher</b> .....	<b>26</b>

# About O'Neill Sea Odyssey

---

O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) was incorporated in 1996 by wetsuit innovator and surfer Jack O'Neill as a nonprofit organization to provide unique ecology, navigation, and marine science learning experiences to regional students in grades 4 through 6. Since this time, more than 75,000 students have participated in the three-hour, hands-on learning event aboard the program's 65-foot catamaran in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and follow-up lessons in the Education Center at the Santa Cruz Harbor.

The primary purpose of the program is to foster awareness of environmental stewardship and personal responsibility among program participants. This is done by delivering an interactive curriculum that emphasizes the connections between land and sea through a multi-disciplinary approach including ecology, biology, and mathematics.

The OSO website (<http://www.oneillseaodyssey.org/>) provides extensive curriculum and learning materials that are designed to introduce students to the topics they will be learning in the program. Teachers and group leaders are encouraged to use these materials with their students before attending the program and afterwards as follow-up activities.

Student groups are required to complete a community service project to earn a trip on the OSO. A community service project encompasses a broad range of activities such as native plant restoration, beach or creek cleanup, homeless garden projects, community environmental awareness projects, school recycling programs, and letter-writing campaigns for environmental causes. Teachers and group leaders are required to submit proof of completion of a community service project, which can be done via the OSO website.

During the July 2017 - June 2018 program cycle, two surveys were administered to the groups participating in the program. Teachers and group leaders were asked to fill out a survey after participating in the program, to get their feedback on the organization and effectiveness of the program, program materials, and the OSO website. The Teacher Survey was revised for 2013-14 program cycle. A second survey was read aloud to the students that asked them (by a show of hands) about their knowledge of, and attitudes toward, the environment. This survey was administered to the students before and after the program, and thereby measured the amount of change in their environmental awareness. The Student Survey was revised in March 2014.

OSO has undertaken the analyses of these two 2017-18 surveys and other program data for use in evaluating the program, further planning, and developing funds for program expansion or replication.



# Research Methodology

## Survey Design and Methodology

In prior years, separate surveys were designed and distributed to different groups of program participants: group leaders, teachers and parents, students, and the OSO crew. For over 5 years, two surveys have been utilized: one was distributed to the teachers/group leaders, and another was administered to the students. Both the Teacher Survey and Student Survey were revised in 2013-14. Each survey is described below and copies are provided in Appendix II: Survey Instruments.

### Teacher/Group Leader Survey

Teachers and group leaders were asked to complete a short survey after attending the O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) program.

In this survey, teachers/group leaders were asked to evaluate the program based on how much they thought the students learned from each of the program areas, including three topics taught on the boat portion of the program, three topics covered in the classroom portion, and one question asking them to rate the students' overall learning experience.

Teachers/group leaders rated these program areas using a scale ranging from learned a lot, learned somewhat, to did not learn at all.



Teachers/group leaders were asked several questions about the OSO website and program materials available from it. They answered whether they had used the teaching materials provided before taking the trip, which online resources they used before the trip, which teaching materials were most helpful in the classroom, and whether they intended to use any of the online Learning Center or Teacher Packet

materials in the classroom after the trip. Finally, they were asked open-ended questions about whether there were any additional topic areas that would be helpful to include in the Sea Odyssey experience and if they had any additional comments.

### Student Survey

The Student Survey was designed to be read aloud to the students, and was administered to them before *and* after attending the program. Students were asked to raise their hands if they agreed with the questions (indicating a "yes" response), and the number of raised hands for each question were tallied.

The Student Survey included six questions. Three questions asked about their general knowledge:

- The ocean is important to my health.
- I know where storm drains lead.
- Most ocean pollution comes from land.

Three questions asked about their behavior:

- I pick up trash from the ground.

- I turn off the lights when I leave the room.
- I share what I know about protecting the environment and ocean with my friends and family.

After attending the program, students were also asked to raise their hand if they agreed with the same three general knowledge questions, if they plan to do the three behaviors listed above and if it was their first time on a boat in the ocean.

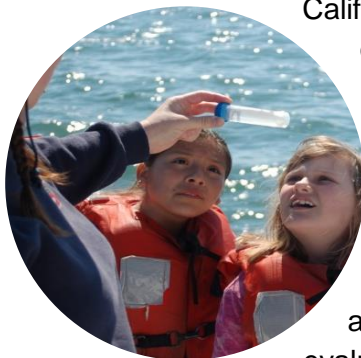
## *Demographic Data Collection*

In addition to filling out the survey, teachers/group leaders were asked to provide the name of their school or group, the number of students in their group, and the grade level(s) of their students. To determine the number of repeat participants, when students first arrived they were asked by a show of hands if they had previously participated in the OSO program.

## *Data Analysis*

In this report, most of the data in the analyses came from the OSO Teacher/Group Leader and Student Surveys. However, student ethnicity, level of English fluency, and enrollment in free or reduced price meal programs were estimated using percentages obtained from the DataQuest database of the

California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS). Using DataQuest, OSO obtained the percentages of each of these demographics for each school participating in this program. For each school group, these percentages were applied to the total number of students in that group to estimate the number of students with these demographics.



Some of the questions in the Teacher/Group Leader Survey were open-ended. Participants were asked to provide comments and suggestions for additional topics to be covered. Although these open-ended questions are not evaluated in this report, all of the responses are provided in Appendix I.

A census approach was used for both the Teacher/Group Leader and Student Surveys. In this type of survey approach, every teacher and student who participated in the program also answered the surveys (as opposed to giving the surveys to only a sample of the participants).

Note that demographic data were not available for every group and not every group answered all of the survey questions. For this reason, the number of groups or students reported in some analyses may differ from the total number of groups and students that participated.

# Data Highlights

---

## Demographics

- Between July 2017 and June 2018, 207 groups participated in the O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) program, representing 5,222 students. Group sizes ranged from 4 to 36 students, with an average group size of 25.
- The majority of groups came from Santa Cruz County (39%) and Monterey County (29%).
- Approximately 98% of groups were of students between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the program's target population.
- Half (50%) of students indicated it was their first time on a boat in the ocean.
- Based on population estimates, 62% of the students were Hispanic or Latino, 18% were White, 8% were Asian, Filipino, or Pacific Islander, 1% were African American, less than 1% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and 10% were of another race/ethnicity.
- It was estimated that 59% of the students attending the OSO program did not have English as their primary language, a slight increase since 2010-11.
- More than half (73%) of students were receiving free or reduced price meals.
- Approximately 60% of participating groups were lower income groups, 23% were middle income groups, and 17% were higher income groups.

## Website Use

- Sixty percent of all teachers/group leaders reported that they had used the online teaching materials provided on the website before their trip, and the vast majority of the teachers (90%) intended to use the online teaching materials in the classroom after the trip.
- When asked which online resource the teachers/group leaders used, 89% used the pre-trip education materials (teacher packets) followed by 74% using the safety and important information on the website. The online resource that teachers/group leaders identified as most helpful was the pre-trip education materials (84%).

## Program Ratings

- In every topic area, the vast majority of teachers/group leaders (between 94% and 100%) indicated that their students had "learned a lot."
- Of the three topics learned on the boat, 99% of teachers/group leaders thought students had "learned a lot" in the Marine Science station, 96% of teachers/group leaders thought students had "learned a lot" in the Sailing & Navigation station, while 98% of teachers/group leaders thought students had "learned a lot" in the Ecology station.
- Of the three topics learned in the classroom, the vast majority of teachers/group leaders again said that students had "learned a lot" in the Marine Science station (98%), followed by the Ecology station (97%), and the Sailing and Navigation station (92%).
- One-hundred percent of the teachers/group leaders reported that their students had "learned a lot" from the overall learning experience.

## Student Environmental Awareness

- The Student Survey showed that the OSO program was effective in promoting substantial increases in students' environmental awareness. Before participating in the OSO program, an average of 70% of students agreed with the survey questions overall. After attending the program, this percentage increased to 94%.
- When student surveys were divided by income level, results showed that all groups of students increased their environmental knowledge after attending the program. The students from lower (68%) and middle (73%) income groups generally had very slightly lower overall levels of agreement before the program

started than the higher (73%) income groups but all income groups agreed at between 92% and 94% by the end of the program.

# Results

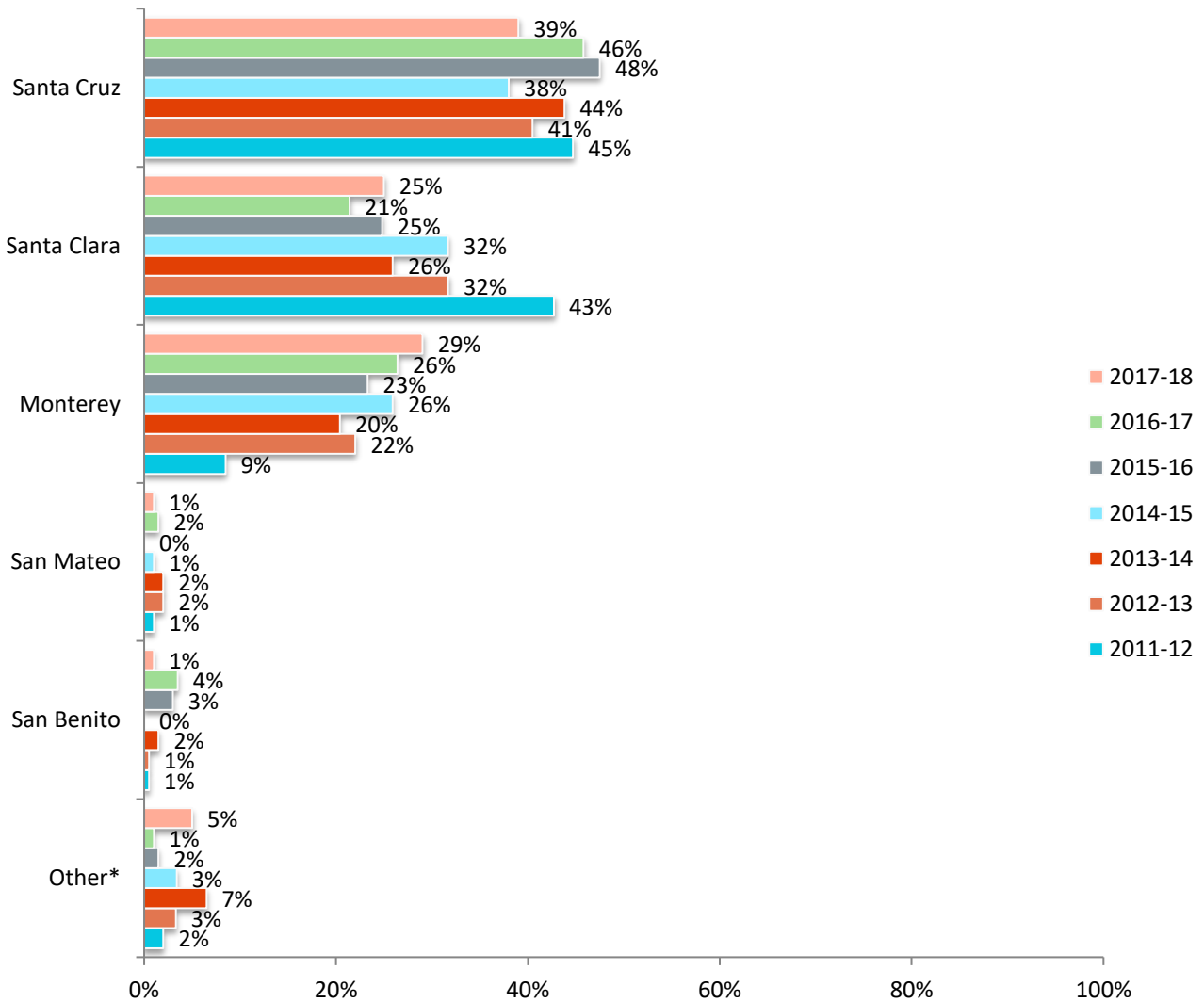
## Student Participation and Demographics

Between July 2017 and June 2018, 207 groups participated in the O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) program, representing 5,222 students. Group sizes ranged from 4 to 36 students, with an average group size of 25.

### Counties of Origin

Most groups came from Santa Cruz County (39%), Monterey County (29%), and Santa Clara County (25%). Between 2010-11 and 2017-18, these three counties have continued to be the most frequent origins of groups.

**Figure 1: Participating Group's County of Origin**



Source: O'Neill Sea Odyssey (2017-18 N=207; 2016-2017 N=201 groups; 2015-16 N=202 groups; 2014-15 N=205 groups; 2013-14 N=201 groups; 2012-13 N=205 groups; 2011-12 N=197 groups; 2010-11 N= 182 groups).

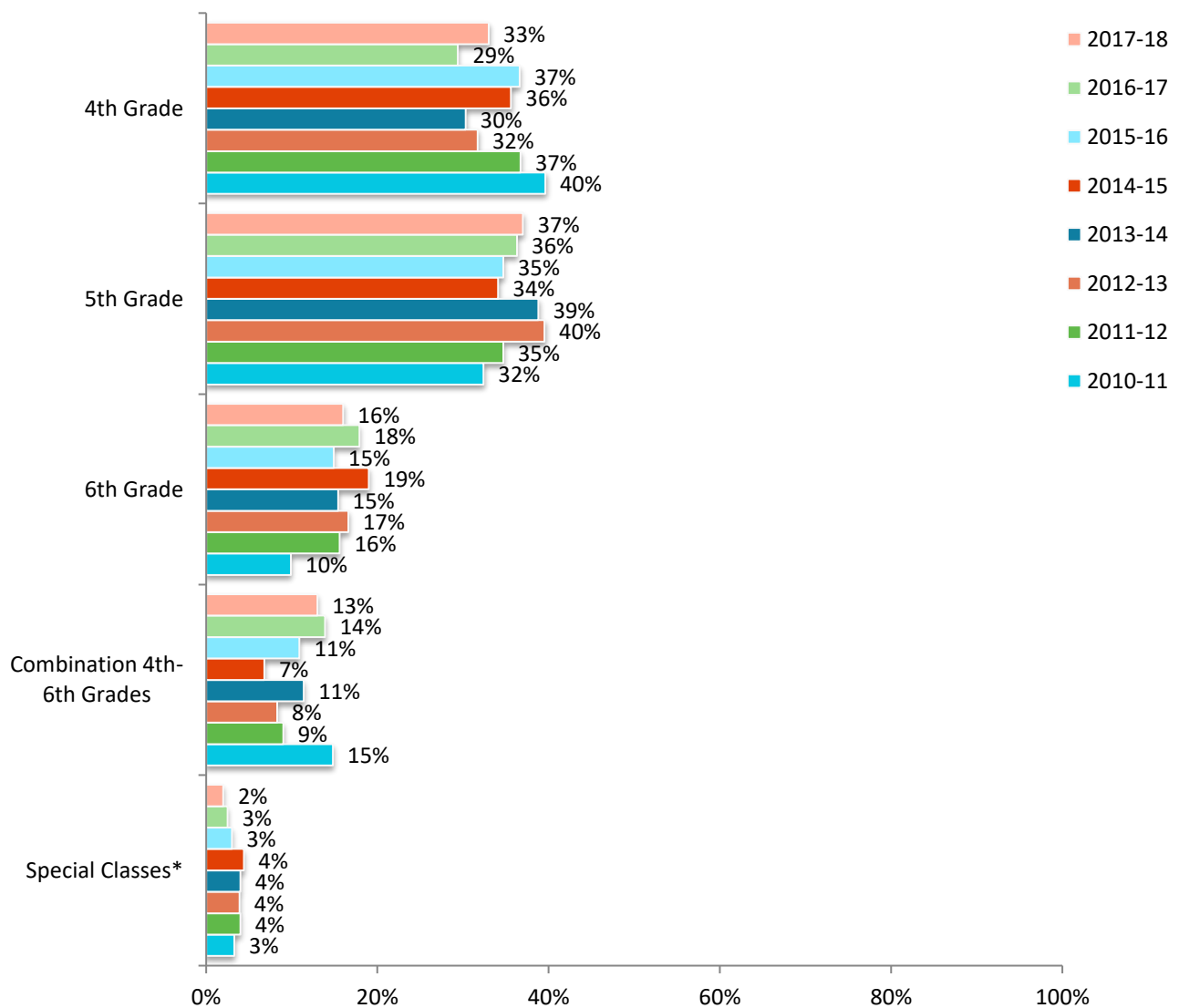
\* "Other" counties differ by year but includes the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Nevada, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Yolo and those where no information was available.

## Grade Levels

OSO's target population is students in the 4th through 6th grades and, in 2017-18, the majority of groups were in this grade range (86%). In 2017-18, the highest percentage of groups were from the 5th grade groups (37%), followed by 4th grade (33%), 6th grade (16%), and combined 4-6th grade groups (13%).

Most groups of students participated through schools, although a few came from community centers and day camps.

**Figure 2: Grade Levels of Groups**



Source: O'Neill Sea Odyssey (2017-18 N=207; 2016-17 N=201; 2015-2016 N=202; 2014-2015 N=205; 2013-14 N=201 groups; 2012-13 N=205 groups; 2011-12 N=197 groups; 2010-11 N=182 groups).

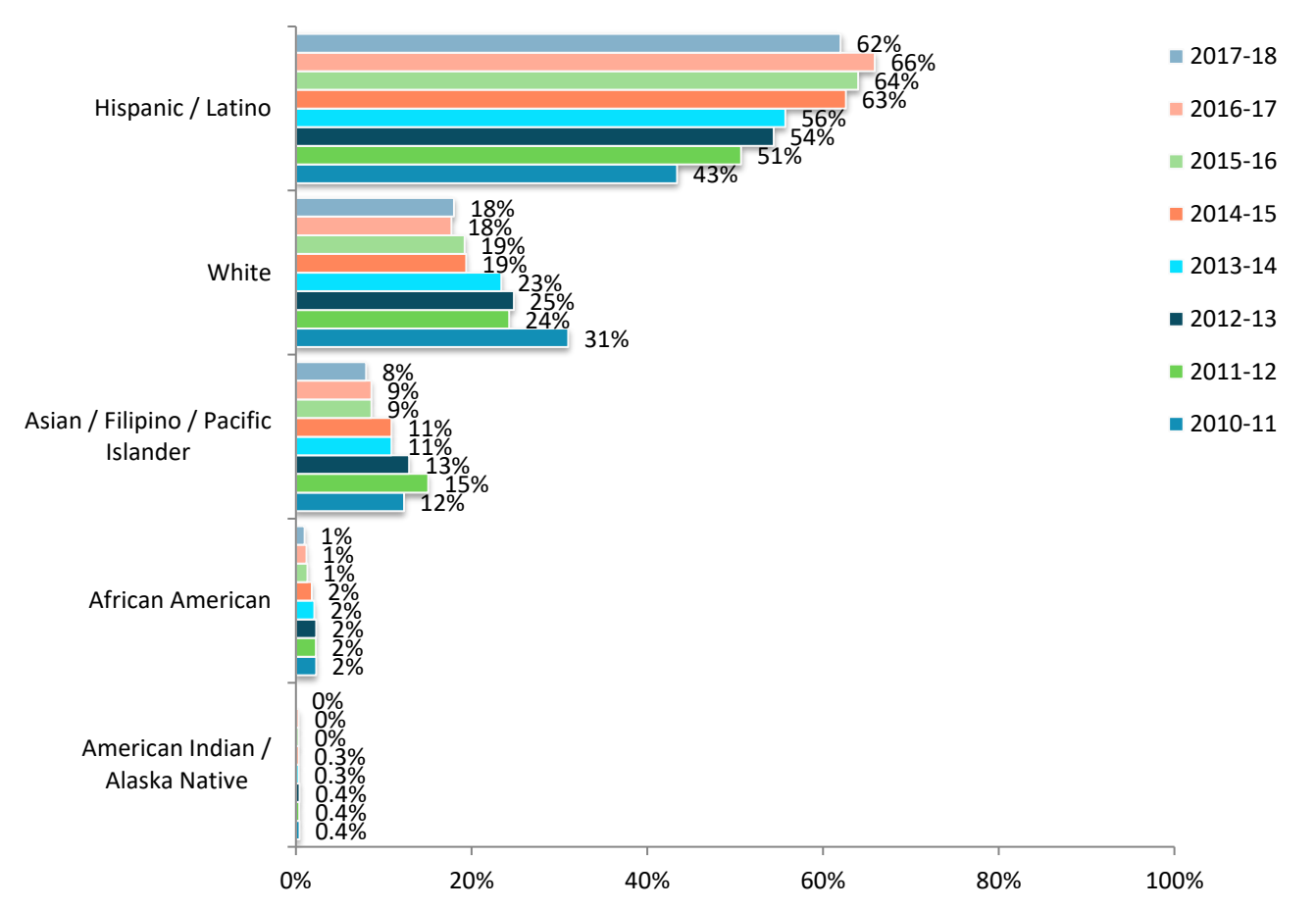
\* "Special Classes" refers to groups comprised of students in grades other than 4th through 6th.



## Race/Ethnicity

The race/ethnicity of participants was estimated using percentages obtained from the DataQuest database of the California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS), based on the year, school locations, and grade levels of the students. In 2017-18, it was estimated that 62% of the students were Hispanic or Latino, 18% were White, 8% were Asian, Filipino, or Pacific Islander, 1% were African American, less than 1% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and 10% were of another race/ethnicity.

**Figure 3: Race/Ethnicity of Students**



Source: Data provided by O'Neill Sea Odyssey, collected from State of California Department of Education, California Basic Education Data System, DataQuest database (2017-18 N=5,222; 2016-17 N=5,276; 2015/16 N=5,281; 2014/15 N=5,519; 2013-14 N=5,201 students; 2012-13 N=5,442 students; 2011-12 N= 5,661 students; 2010-11 N=4,852 students).

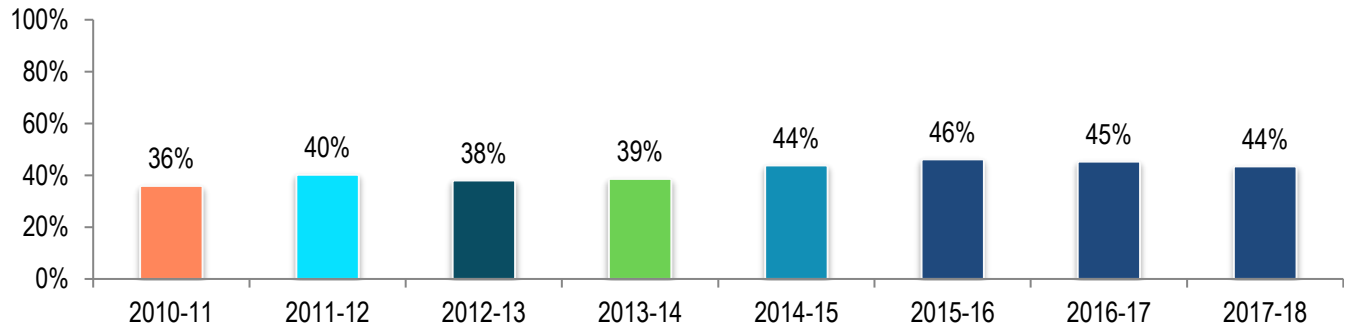
Note: The "Other" and "Multiple or No Response" categories are not shown in this figure. Percentages may not total 100% for this reason or due to rounding.

## English as a Second Language

Two categories of English proficiency were examined using percentages obtained from the DataQuest database. One category was English Learner (EL), which described students whose primary language was not English, and who had been determined to lack the English language skills necessary to succeed in the school's regular instructional programs. The other category was Fluent-English-Proficient (FEP), which described students whose primary language was not English, but who had met the district criteria for determining proficiency in English.

In 2017-18, it was estimated that 44% of students attending the OSO program were English Learners (EL), and 15% of student participants were Fluent-English-Proficient (FEP). The percentage of FEP students has remained relatively stable, hovering just over 10%. When the two groups were combined (EL + FEP), the result showed that in 2017-18, 59% of the students attending the OSO program did not speak English as their primary language, an increase from 46% since 2010-11.

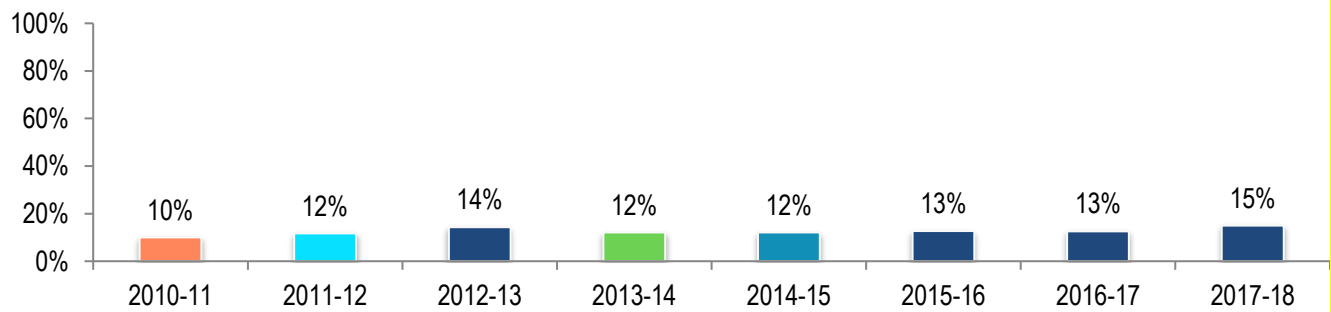
**Figure 4: Percentage of English Learner (EL)<sup>1</sup> Students**



Source: Data provided by O'Neill Sea Odyssey, collected from State of California Department of Education, California Basic Education Data System, DataQuest database (2017-18 N=5,222; 2016-17 N=5,276; 2015-16 N=5,155; 2014-15 N=5,519; 2013-14 N=5,201 students; 2012-13 N=5,276 students; 2011-12 N=4,863 students; 2010-11 N=4,852 students).

<sup>1</sup> "English Learner" includes students for whom there is a report of a primary language other than English on the state-approved Home Language Survey and who, on the basis of the state approved oral language (grades K-12) assessment procedures and including literacy (grades 3-12 only), have been determined to lack the clearly defined English language skills of listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing necessary to succeed in the school's regular instructional programs.

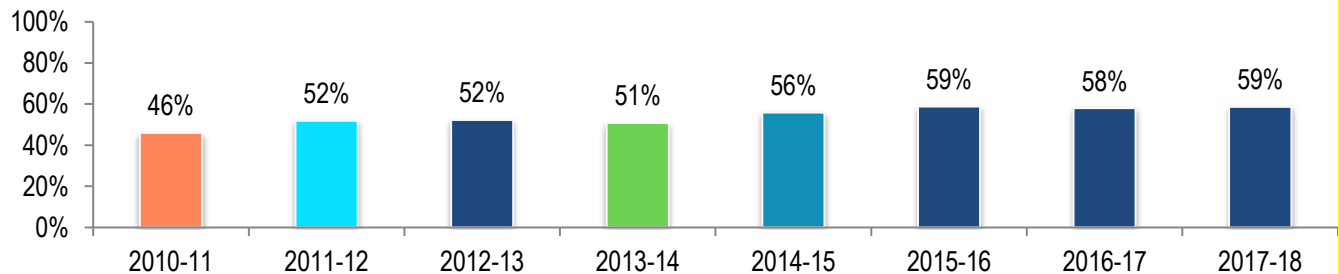
**Figure 5: Percentage of Fluent-English-Proficient (FEP)<sup>1</sup> Students**



Source: Data provided by O'Neill Sea Odyssey, collected from State of California Department of Education, California Basic Education Data System, DataQuest database (2017-2018 N=5,222; 2016-17 N=5,276; 2015-16 N=5,155; 2014-15 N=5,423; 2013-14 N=5,201 students; 2012-13 N=5,276 students; 2011-12 N=4,863 students; 2010-11 N=4,852 students).

<sup>1</sup> "Fluent-English-Proficient" includes students whose primary language is other than English and who have met the district criteria for determining proficiency in English (i.e., those students who were identified as FEP on initial identification and students re-designated from Limited-English-Proficient (LEP) or English learner (EL) to FEP).

**Figure 6: Percentage of Students Whose Primary Language is Not English**



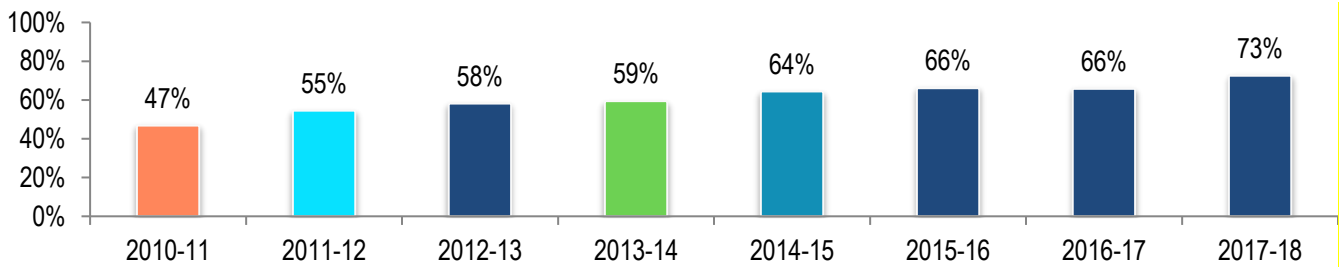
Source: Data provided by O'Neill Sea Odyssey, collected from State of California Department of Education, California Basic Education Data System, DataQuest database (2017-18 N=5,222; 2016-17 N=5,276; 2015-16 N=5,155; 2014-15 N=5,427; 2013-14 N=5,201 students; 2012-13 N=5,276 students; 2011-12 N=4,863 students; 2010-11 N=4,852 students).

Note: This analysis combines both English Learner (EL) and Fluent-English-Proficient (FEP) students.

### Free and Reduced Price Meals<sup>1</sup>

Enrollment in federal programs that offer free and reduced price meals to students was used to estimate the percentage of students whose families meet the income eligibility guidelines for these programs. Based on the percentages obtained from the DataQuest database, in 2017-18, 73% of the students who attended the OSO program were receiving free or reduced price meals, an increase from previous years.

**Figure 7: Percentage of Students Receiving Free or Reduced Price Meals**

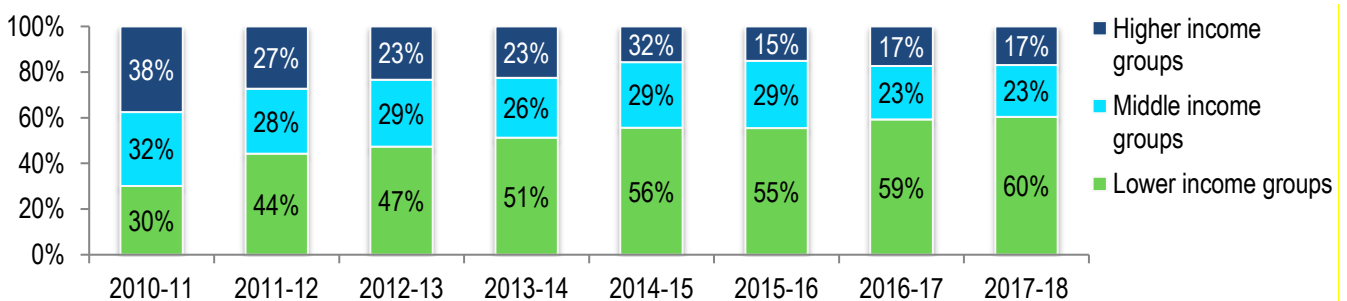


Source: Data provided by O'Neill Sea Odyssey, collected from State of California Department of Education, California Basic Education Data System, DataQuest database (2017-18 N=5,222; 2016-17 N=5,276; 2015-16 N=5,155; 2014-15 N=5,427; 2013-14 N=5,201 students; 2012-13 N=5,276 students; 2011-12 N=4,863 students; 2010-11 N=4,852 students).

The OSO program aims to make its learning experiences available to students from all economic backgrounds. The economic levels of the communities from which participating groups came were estimated using the percentage of students receiving free or reduced price meals. Groups with less than 1/3 of their students receiving this benefit were considered higher income, and groups with more than 2/3 of their students receiving this benefit were considered lower income. Groups that fell between these extremes were considered middle income groups.

Using this method of analysis, approximately 60% of participating groups were classified as lower income groups, 23% as middle income groups, and 17% as higher income groups in 2017-18 .

**Figure 8: Percentage of Groups Participating, by Income Level<sup>1</sup>**



Source: Data provided by O'Neill Sea Odyssey, collected from State of California Department of Education, California Basic Education Data System, DataQuest database (2017-18 N=207 groups; 2016-17 N=201 groups; 2015-16 N=201 groups; 2013-14 N=195 groups; 2012-13 N=205 groups; 2011-12 N=194 groups; 2010-11 N= 176 groups).

Note: Only groups that had data regarding the percentage of students receiving free or reduced price meals were included in this analysis.

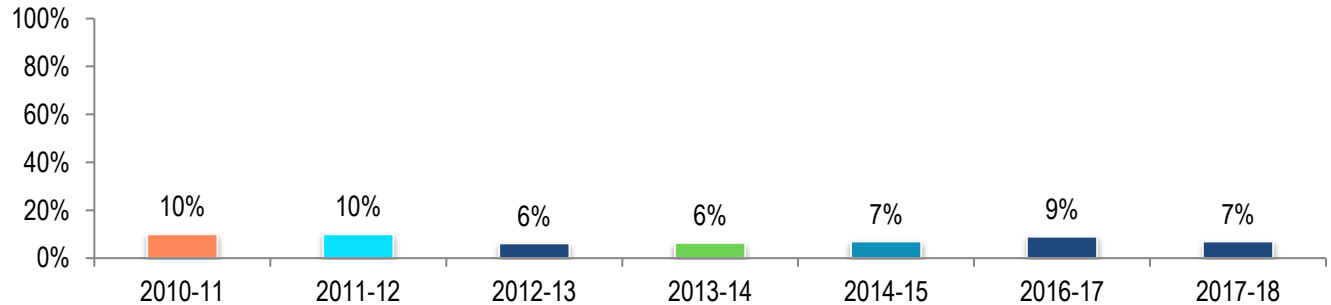
<sup>1</sup>Income levels of the groups were estimated using the percentage of students receiving free or reduced price meals in each group: In Higher Income groups, less than 33% of their students received this benefit; Middle Income groups had between 1/3 and 2/3 of their students receiving this benefit, and Lower Income groups had more than 2/3 of their students receiving this benefit.

<sup>1</sup> Only groups that had data regarding the percentage of students receiving free or reduced price lunches were included in this analysis.

## Repeat Students

In 2017-18, 7% of students had previously participated in the OSO program. The percentage of students repeating the program has stayed relatively stable this year from previous years.

**Figure 9: Percentage of Students Repeating the Program**

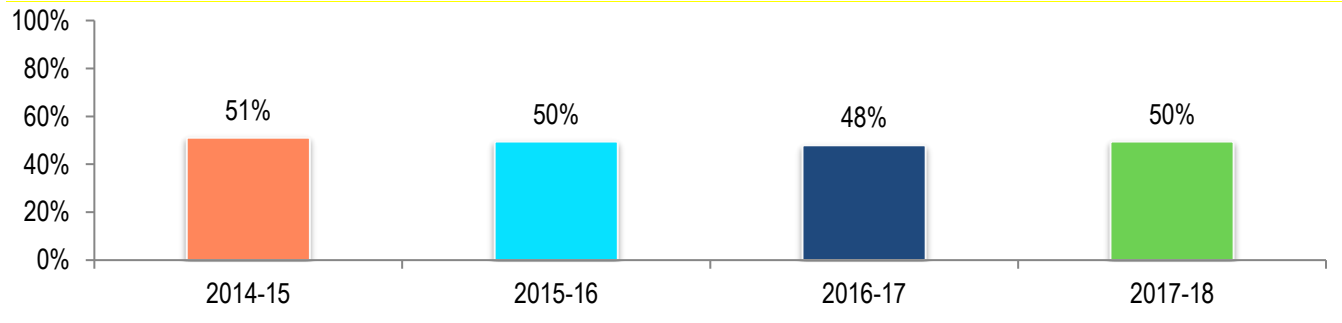


Source: O'Neill Sea Odyssey (2017-18 N=5,104; 2016-17 N=5,215; 2016-17 N= 5,215; 2014-15 N=5,039; 2013-14 N=4,849 students 2012-13 N=5,442 students; 2011-12 N=2,533 students; 2010-11 N= 4,852 students).

## Past Experience on a Boat

OSO has recently started asking students if their current experience was the first time they had been on a boat in the ocean. During the 2017-18 year, nearly 50% of students indicated this was their first time on a boat, similar to past years.

**Figure 10: Students Reporting this was their first time on a boat on the ocean**



Source: O'Neill Sea Odyssey (2017-18 N=2,560; 2016-17 N=2,083; 2015-16 N=5,233; 2014-15 N=5,481).

## Website and Teaching Materials

In 2002, OSO launched an extensive website to inform potential visitors about the program, cultivate volunteers, and encourage sponsorships. Once a trip is planned, teachers can log-in to the website to get pre-trip information and documents such as a program overview, discussion of learning goals, and a teacher packet. The 52-page teacher packet includes information and activities to help prepare students for the trip, including topics on marine biology, ecology, and navigation. The “View Data from Past Trips” function on the website allows teachers and students to see and learn what other classes have done for their community service project.

In their program material, OSO states that:

“...students who have been given an overview of their subjects before participating in the program benefit from a more in-depth educational experience.”

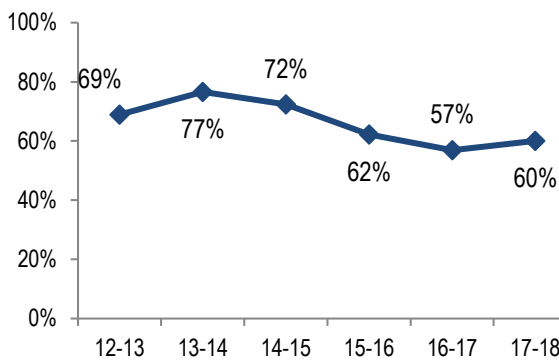
OSO, therefore, encourages teachers and group leaders to use the materials provided through the website with their students before participating in the program.

Teachers/group leaders were asked additional questions about the teaching materials available on the website.

- In 2017-18, 60% of all teachers/group leaders reported that they had used the online teaching materials provided on the website before their trip, continuing a decreasing trend since a high of 77% in 2013-14.
- The online resources used most often by teachers were the pre-tip educational materials such as teacher packets (89%), safety and important information (74%), and parent and teacher FAQ (64%).
- The vast majority (90%) reported that they intended to use the online teaching materials in the classroom after the trip. This result has stayed relatively stable over the past five years.

**Figure 11: Use of Website Teaching Materials**

**Did you use the teaching materials provided on the website before the trip? (Teachers/Group Leaders Who Answered “Yes ”)**



Source: Teacher/Group Leader Surveys (2017-18 N=185; 2016-17 N=167; 2015-16 N= 172; 2014-15 N= 181; 2013-14 N=167; 2012-13 N=189; 2011-12 N=176)

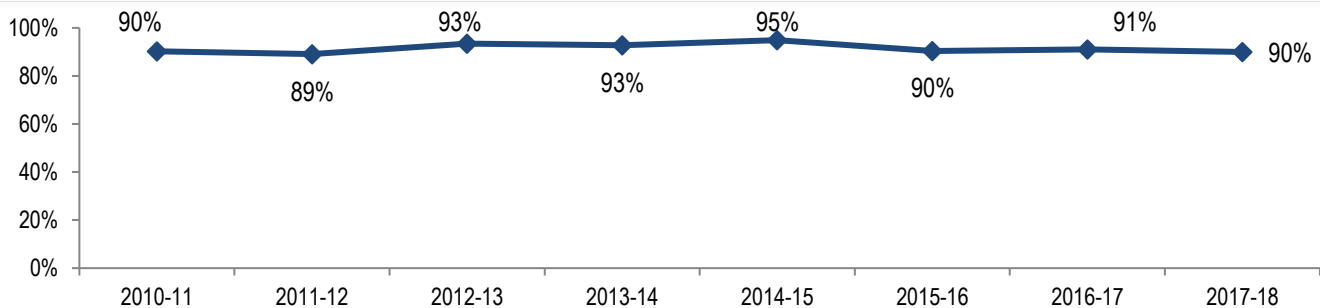
**If teaching materials on the website were used...**

	Online resources used before the trip	Most helpful in classroom
Pre-trip educational materials (teacher packet)	89%	84%
Expand your knowledge online learning center	24%	17 %
OSO curriculum booklet - English	50%	39%
OSO curriculum booklet - Spanish	3%	3%
Community service project help	22%	9%
Parent and teacher FAQ	64%	50%
Safety and important information	74%	56%

Source: Teacher/Group Leader Surveys (2017-18 N=111, 102)

Note: Teachers/group leaders were asked to select the top materials that were most helpful in the classroom.

**Do you intend to use the Online Learning Center or Teacher Packet Materials in the classroom after the trip? (Teachers/Group Leaders Who Answered “Yes ”)**



Source: Teacher/Group Leader Surveys (2017-18 N=173; 2016-17 N=167; 2015-16 N=166; 2014-15 N=176; 2013-14 N=167; 2012-13 N=167; 2011-12 N=174; 2010-11 N= 145; 2009-10 N=162; 2008-09 N=157).

## Program Ratings

Teachers/group leaders were asked to give their feedback on the quality and effectiveness of several topics that were covered in the program. Teachers/group leaders were asked, "Thinking about the children in the group and what was presented to them today, how much do you think the children learned from the following?" Respondents could answer learned a lot, learned somewhat, or did not learn at all.

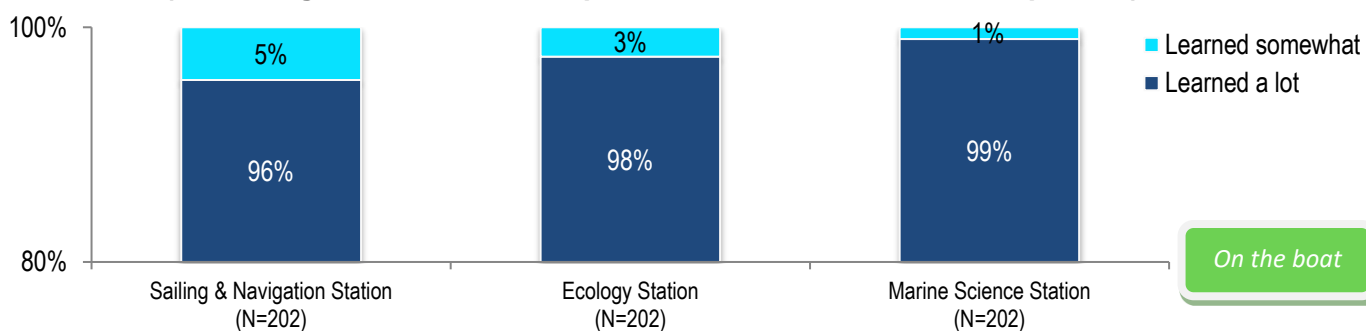
In every topic area, the vast majority of teachers/group leaders indicated that the students had "learned a lot." The percentage of teachers/group leaders who responded this way ranged from 95% to 99% across all topics.

- Of the three topics learned on the boat, between 96% and 99% of teachers/group leaders thought students had "learned a lot" in the Marine Science station, the Sailing & Navigation station, and the Ecology station.
- Of the three topics learned in the classroom, most teachers/group leaders again said that students had "learned a lot" in the Marine Science station (98%), followed by the Ecology station (97%), and the Sailing and Navigation station (92%).

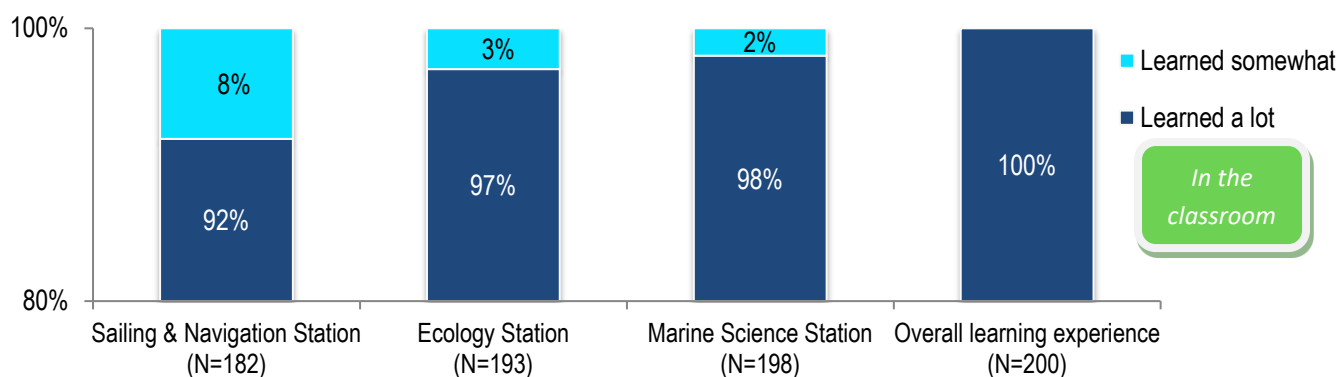
Virtually all of the teachers/group leaders (100%) reported that their students had "learned a lot" from the overall learning experience.

During the past seven years (2010-11 to 2017-18), the percentage of teachers/group leaders who reported that the students had "learned a lot" has been consistently high. It is important to note that due to the already high ratings of these topic areas every year, it was extremely difficult to demonstrate any further improvement across years.

**Figure 12: How much do you think the children learned from the following [Topic Areas]? (Percentage of Teachers/Group Leaders Who Gave These Responses), 2017-18**



Source: Teacher/Group Leader Surveys, 2017-18.



Source: Teacher/Group Leader Surveys, 2017-18.

**Figure 13: Comparison of Topic Areas (Teachers/Group Leaders Who Said the Children "Learned A Lot")**

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>On the boat</b>								
Sailing and Navigation station	97%	97%	94%	95%	94%	96%	97%	96%
Ecology station	96%	97%	98%	98%	96%	99%	96%	98%
Marine science station	98%	97%	96%	98%	98%	98%	97%	99%
<b>In the classroom</b>								
Sailing and Navigation station	94%	94%	91%	95%	98%	92%	94%	92%
Ecology station	97%	97%	94%	97%	98%	100%	95%	97%
Marine science station	98%	97%	97%	96%	99%	98%	98%	98%
<b>Overall</b>								
Overall learning experience	98%	100.0%	99%	99%	100%	100.0%	100%	100%

Source: Teacher/Group Leader Surveys, 2010-18.

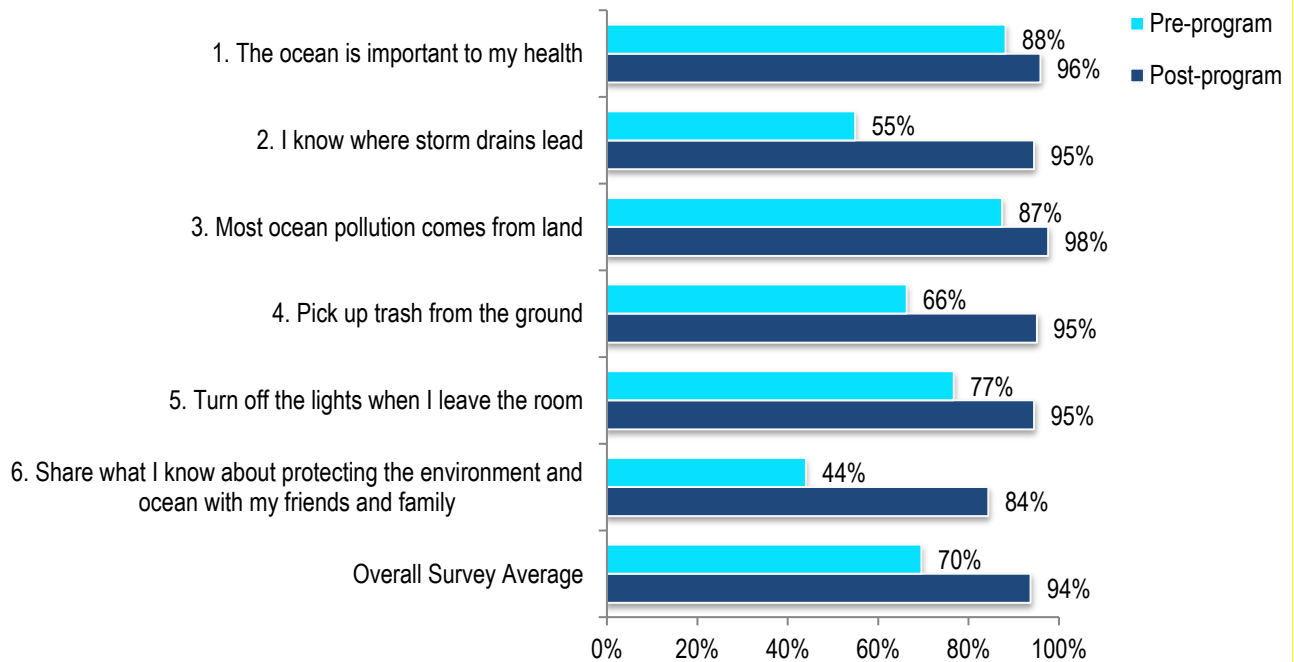
### Student Environmental Awareness

The Student Survey was read aloud to the students and was administered both before and after the program. The Student Survey included six questions regarding their general knowledge about the ocean and their future behavior regarding protection of the environment, energy conservation, and intention to share their knowledge about how to protect the environment with others. Students were asked to raise their hands if they agreed with the questions and the number of raised hands for each question was tallied.

The results showed that there were considerable changes in students' attitudes toward the environment after participating in the OSO program. Before participating in the OSO program, an average of 70% of students agreed with the survey questions overall. After attending the program, this percentage increased to 94%.

For each of the six individual survey questions, there were increases in the percentage of students who agreed with them after participating in the program. The largest increases occurred with Question 2, “know where storm drains lead,” a net increase of 40%.

**Figure 14: Percentage of All Students Who Agreed with Survey Questions, Pre- and Post-Program, 2017-18**



Source: Student Surveys, 2017-18 (N= 5,175 students).

In the 2017-18 school year, O'Neill Sea Odyssey posited the following outcomes: 1) 90% of students will have increased their awareness of and threats to watersheds and the ocean, 2) 90% of students are more likely to protect Monterey Bay and the ocean, and 3) 90% of students will advocate ocean and watershed stewardship to their friends and family. In the 2017-2018 school year, students moved from 77% to 96% in Outcome 1, 72% to 95% in Outcome 2, and 44% to 84% in Outcome 3.

### Effects of Economic Background

The Student Survey results were also analyzed to determine whether the economic background of students had any effect on their environmental awareness, both before and after participating in the program.

The first step was to determine how to identify students' economic backgrounds. As only limited information was collected about the groups attending the program, it was decided to use the percentage of students receiving free or reduced price meals as an estimate of the group's economic level. This percentage was then used to divide the groups into three income categories. Groups with less than 1/3 of their students receiving free or reduced price meals were considered higher income groups and groups with more than 2/3 of their students receiving this benefit were considered lower income groups. Groups that fell between these extremes were considered middle income groups.



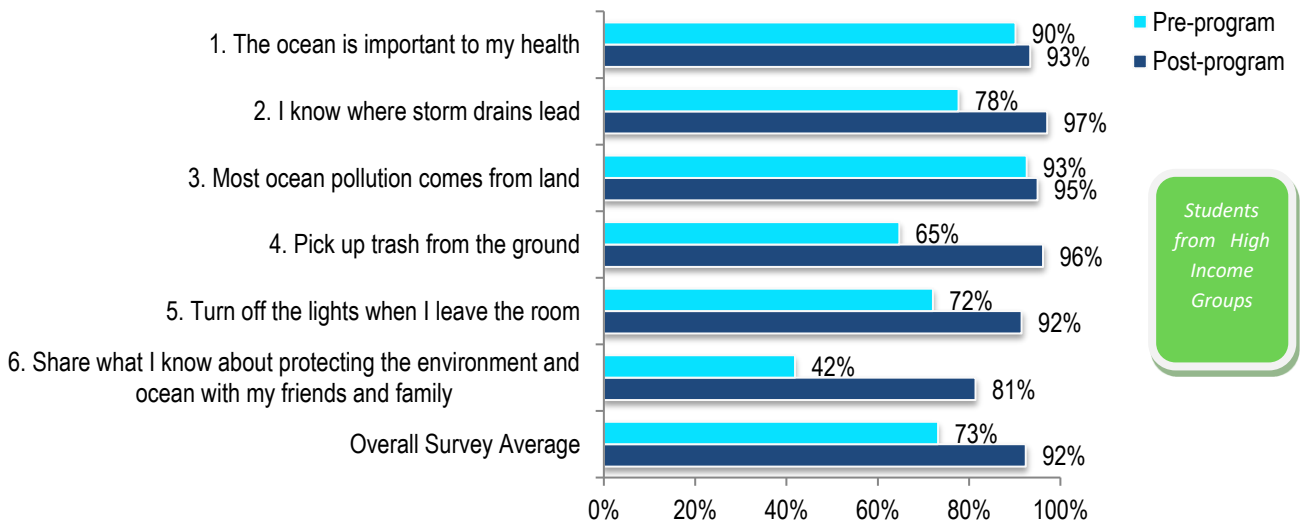
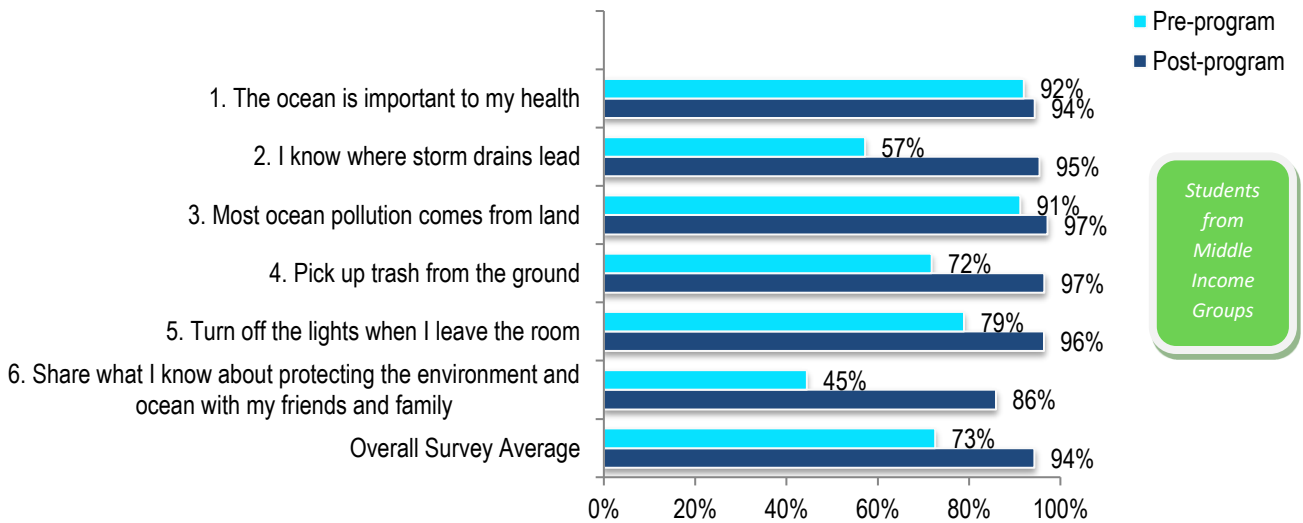
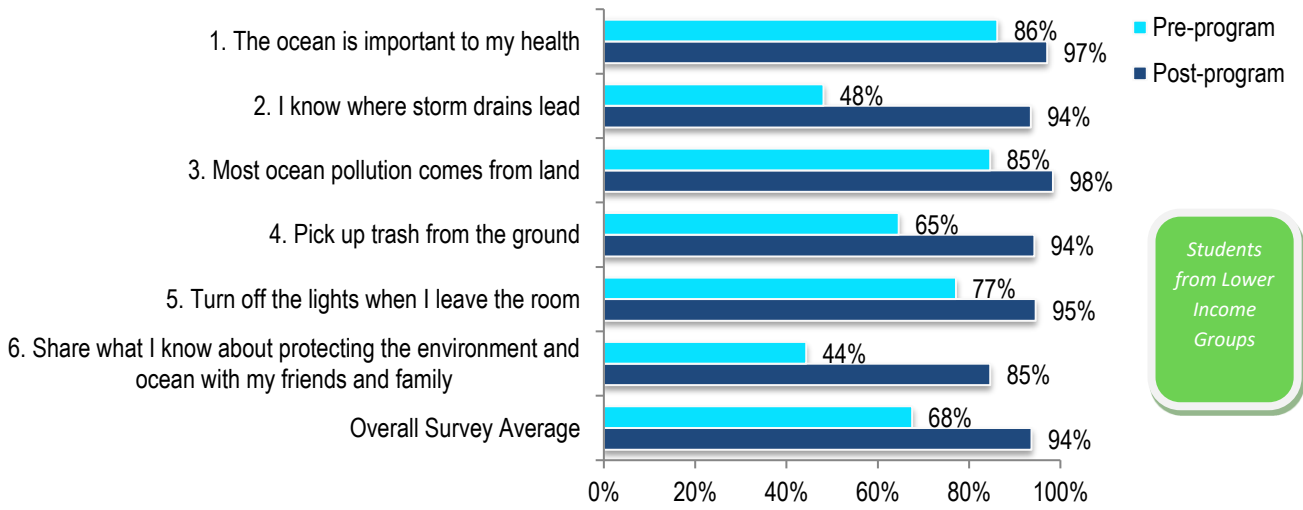
The following figures present the survey results for the students in lower, middle, and higher income groups. When these income categories were analyzed separately, all groups showed increases in the percentages of students who agreed with the survey questions after participating in the program. However, there were interesting differences between the groups.

The most interesting findings were the amount of change and effectiveness of the OSO program in teaching and encouraging environmentally-conscious behavior, relative to the groups' economic background. Before the program began, a smaller percentage of students from lower (68%) and middle income (73%) groups agreed with the survey questions overall, compared to students from higher income groups (73%). After participating in the program, the students from lower and middle income groups increased agreement to the same levels as their high income peers. After participating in the program, 94% and 92%, respectively, of students from lower, middle, and higher income groups agreed with the survey questions.

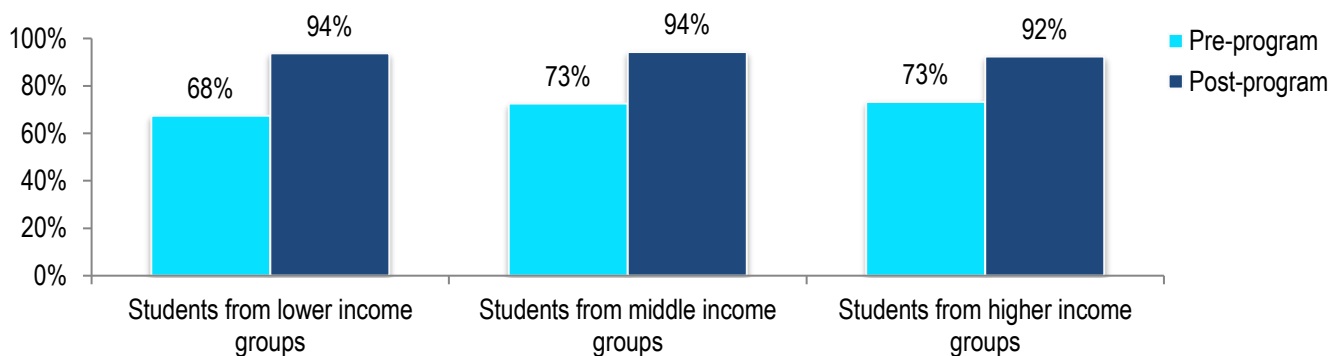
When specific survey questions were examined, the question that showed the largest difference related to economic background was Question 2, "I know where storm drains lead." For this question, students from lower and middle income groups demonstrated a greater amount of change between pre- and post-program surveys (net change of 26% and 22%, respectively) compared to students from higher income groups (net change of 19%).

Overall, most students, regardless of economic status, were more confident in their knowledge of the where storm drains led, reported that they would behave in ways to protect the environment, and that they would share this knowledge with their friends and family members after participating in OSO.

**Figure 15: Percentage of Students Who Agreed with Survey Questions, Pre- and Post-Program, by Income Level, 2017-18**



Source: Student Surveys, 2017-18. Lower income students: N=3,157 students. Middle income students: N= 1,202, Higher income students: N=816 students. Note: Only groups that had data regarding the percentage of students receiving free or reduced price meals were included in this analysis.

**Figure 16: Students' Overall Survey Averages, Pre- and Post-Program, by Income Level**

Source: Student Surveys (2017-18: Lower income students: N=3,157. Middle income students: N= 1,202, Higher income students: N=816.)  
 Note: Only groups that had data regarding the percentage of students receiving free or reduced price meals were included in this analysis.

## Conclusions

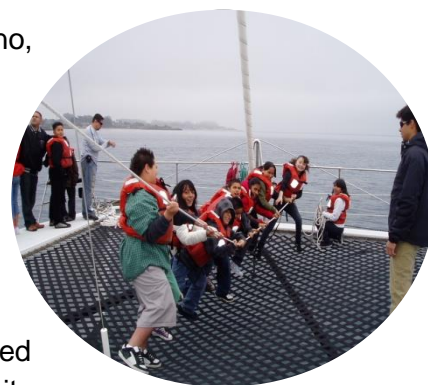
### Student Participation and Demographics

During the 2017-2018 program cycle 207 groups participated in the O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) program, representing 5,222 students. The average group size was 25.

The demographics of the groups and students who participated in the OSO program were similar to previous years. The majority of groups came from Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Monterey Counties (93%), and the majority of groups (98%) were comprised of students in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Half (50%) of all students indicated it was their first time on a boat in the ocean.

It was estimated that a third (62%) of the students were Hispanic or Latino, 18% were White, and 20% were of other races/ethnicities. The percentage of English Learners (EL) was 44%, and 15% of students were Fluent-English-Proficient (FEP). When these two groups were combined, the results show that 59% of the participating students did not have English as their primary language.

More than half of the students (73%) were receiving free or reduced price meals. By using the percentage of students receiving free or reduced price meals in each group as an estimate of the group's economic level, it was determined that approximately 60% of participating groups came from lower income communities. Please refer to page 10 for more information.



### Website and Teaching Materials

Slightly more than half (60%) of teachers and group leaders indicated that they used the website materials with their students *before* participating in the program, continuing a downward trend in recent years. The vast majority of teachers (90%) reported that they intended to use the online teaching materials in the classroom after the trip, similar to past years.

Open-ended response questions in the survey asked teachers/group leaders to suggest any topic areas that would be helpful to include in the Sea Odyssey experience and if they had any additional comments. The responses to these questions are available in Appendix I.

### *Program Ratings*

Based on the Teacher/Group Leader Survey results, the OSO program was evaluated extremely positively. In every topic area, the majority of teachers/group leaders (92% to 99%) indicated that the students had “learned a lot.” All of the teachers/group leaders (100%) reported that their students had “learned a lot” from the overall learning experience.

### *Student Environmental Awareness*

The Student Survey showed that there were substantial changes in students’ environmental knowledge and behavior after participating in the program. Before participating in the OSO program, an average of 70% of students agreed with the survey questions (indicating that they knew a lot about the ocean and storm drains and behaved in environmentally responsible ways), which increased to 92% - 94% after attending the program.



The Student Survey results were also analyzed to see whether economic background had any effect on students’ survey responses. Student groups were divided into three income levels (lower, middle, and higher) and all three income groups’ survey responses were analyzed.

In a change from last year, all income groups saw similar improvement in their agreement with the overall survey results. Before the program began, lower, middle, and high income groups agreed with the survey questions overall (all three groups were between 68% and 73%). After participating in the program, students from all income groups demonstrated similar levels of improvement, agreeing 94% of the time.

### *Summary*

Overall, the program was very well attended by the target population of students; the program materials were frequently used; and the program was very highly regarded by teachers/group leaders. In addition, Student Survey results suggest that the OSO program succeeded in bringing all students to a higher level of environmentally-conscious behavior and knowledge despite some factors (such as economic background) that may have limited how much environmental awareness a student had before attending the program.

# Appendix I: Open-Ended Survey Responses

---

## What additional topic areas do you think would be helpful to include in the Sea Odyssey experience?

- More parts of the ship
- My student would have loved even more info on the food chain/web - specifically: sharks!
- No improvement needed! This is so well done and teaches a lot in a short time!
- No suggestions. This is an incredible experience.
- None - this is such a phenomenal experience
- None at this moment
- None at this time
- None!
- None, great presentations. Very engaging and insightful.
- None, I think the current topics are perfect, very engaging.
- None, what you know is fabulous!
- Not at this time.
- Not sure
- Nothing
- Nothing I can tell.
- Nothing, this was great!
- Nothing. It's great as it is.
- Our new NGSS curriculum focuses on how structures help organisms survive.
- Perfect, you have it dialed
- Perhaps an interactive plan by building a part where students synthesize their learning by connecting a current negative behavior to a positive ocean friendly behavior.
- Plastics in the ocean and effect on animals
- Seabirds?
- Sound Pollution, Sonic se, commercial ships.
- Thank you!
- The chart used in classroom w/plankton would be great to have in the packet.
- The pre-trip packet is a little scattered, so we only used parts of it. It might be more helpful if it was set up more as a lesson plan to use about the three topics.
- They do a good job of covering the basics.
- This kids had a lot of questions re: dredging of the harbor.
- This seems to engage all.
- unsure at this time
- Very comprehensive!
- Vocab cards/visuals for ELL students (ecology station in classroom)
- We watched Shallow Seas of Planet Earth.
- What kinds of careers can our students learn about? Career path information: How can they pursue careers related to ocean/conservation? Etc.
- What special protectively are derived from the national sanctuary?
- When doing navigation/looking at charts, it would be helpful to show kids where their school is in the chart, for reference/scale
- Would be great to align w/current 6th grade science standards. Great activities.
- You cover so much, it is perfect as is.
- Your program is thorough, can't think of anything.

**Do you have any additional comments?**

- Thank you!
- Thank you!
- Thank you!
- Thank you!
- Thank you! My class had a great time
- Thanks for a great opportunity. We all loved it!
- Thanks for another amazing learning experience!
- Thanks for everyone's friendly attitude and demeanor!
- Thanks for making this experience great for our kids. You rock!
- Thanks! My 19th year! We appreciate you hosting 35 on boat/36 students in last 4 main streamed & one fighting brain cancer.
- Thanks!!
- The afternoon went quickly and smoothly. This is always a well organized field trip. Leaders are very informative and patient with the students. Thank you!
- The kids take away so much. Thank you for all you do.
- The length of each lesson is perfect and the lessons are informative. Students LOVED the class on plankton.
- The program is the best field trip we take - every time! The teachers are amazing, the boat is amazing.
- The program was well organized. I liked the demonstrations that were done in the classrooms.
- The Spot is a very active camp that completes several community service projects a week as well as field trips and games. Due to our schedule it is challenging to find time for the classroom materials. This is probably my 8th time as a supervisor taking a camp aboard the ship and it ALWAYS enhances our summer and awareness. Thank you!
- The students really enjoyed the lessons and being on a boat for the first time.
- The students were able to build on their existing knowledge of degrees of a circle & protractors to relate to the compass. They were able to add to their knowledge of the coastal region learned in ELD, and connect ocean pollution to air unit on space junk.
- The students were inspired, especially by Lauren. Thank you so much!
- These kids had a blast!
- They love seeing what they're learning about come "alive"
- This was a great experience for my 4th grade students. Thank you
- This is a wonderful important learning experience!
- This is always a favorite, thank you!
- This is always such an amazing experience. I'm so grateful my students are able to benefit from this program. We always have such wonderful teachers/docents, too. Thanks so much!
- This is my 3rd time here, and today the first to see the sail go up and the first going farther out into the ocean. This was also the first time I was able to persuade the whole class to come on this field trip! Thank you for inviting us to the O'Neil Sea Odyssey! Lots of fun!
- This is such an important experience for students. We can learn a lot in the classroom, but being out on the Sea Odyssey sail boat and experiencing the fragile eco system helps them truly build empathy for our oceans. Not that they care more, back in the classroom we can go farther. THANK YOU!
- This is very informative field trip for our students.
- This one of the most powerful outside learning experiences I know of. The leaders were fantastic!
- This trip was great!
- This was absolutely amazing! I'm so glad my students were able to experience this! Thank you!
- This was amazing! So well paced and full of rich language & learning
- This was an amazing experience for students.

- This was an awesome experience!
- This was wonderful!!! Thank you so much!
- This year we decided to front load your program and use it as a kick off for our marine ecology program which we will build on throughout the year. Curious to see which is most effective.
- Tried to run the website slideshow, but it kept saying "not available"
- Very comprehensive program.
- We also viewed the videos on each topic
- We had a great time here, thanks!
- We had an amazing time! Thank you
- We love OSO!
- We really appreciate your time/energy/care. Thank you
- Well organized - thank you!
- Wonderful as always!
- Wonderful program! Keep up the awesome work you do!
- Wonderful program! Very enthusiastic teachers & knowledgeable. Thank you!
- You all are AWESOME! My students have been so lucky to have this experience w/you all. Next time introduce yourselves including your career choice/area of study. We are a college and career school, so it's good for students to hear career options YOU ROCK! Thank you!
- You all do the most wonderful job every year!
- You guys are so awesome. We are lucky to be a part of this every year. Thank you so much.
- You guys rock! I LOVE this trip every year. It is a blessing to be a part of your program.
- You have a wonderful crew who engage the students and make them conscious of the environment. Thank you!

# Appendix II: Survey Instruments

## Teacher/Group Leader Survey

Teachers and group leaders were asked to fill out a short survey after attending the Sea Odyssey program. Earlier versions of the Teacher/Group Leader Survey were administered in previous years and were refined to reflect the significant topics of interest.



School name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### TEACHER/GROUP LEADER SURVEY

We would appreciate your comments on your Sea Odyssey experience. Please take a few minutes to complete this very important survey.

Thinking about the children in the group, and what was presented to them today, how much do you think the children learned from the following?	Learned a lot	Learned a little	Did not learn at all
<b>On the boat:</b>			
1. Sailing & Navigation station: electronic technology and other tools for navigation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Ecology station: Sanctuary characteristics, marine life and habitats.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Marine science station: life cycles, food station, balance that helps maintain life in the sea.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>In the classroom:</b>			
4. Sailing & Navigation station: Latitude, longitude, and basic geometry as it relates to navigation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Ecology station: water cycle and watershed, ocean pollutants, solutions to pollution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Marine science station: plankton identification food web information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Overall learning experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please turn page over to complete the survey questions.





8. Did you use the teaching materials provided on the website before the trip?

- (1) Yes                       (2) No (Skip to Question 11)

9. If yes, please check the box to indicate which online resources you used before the trip.

- a. Pre-trip educational materials (teacher packet)
- b. Expand your knowledge online learning center
- c. OSO curriculum booklet- English
- d. OSO curriculum booklet - Spanish
- e. Community service project help
- f. Parent and teacher FAQ
- g. Safety and important information

10. If you used the online resources, which materials were the most helpful in the classroom?

(Please select your top 3).

- a. Pre-trip educational materials (teacher packet)
- b. Expand your knowledge online learning center
- c. OSO curriculum booklet- English
- d. OSO curriculum booklet - Spanish
- e. Community service project help
- f. Parent and teacher FAQ
- g. Safety and important information

11. Do you intend to use the online Learning Center or Teacher Packet materials in the classroom after the trip?

- (1) Yes                       (2) No

12. What additional topic areas do you think would be helpful to include in the Sea Odyssey experience?

---

13. Do you have any additional comments?

---

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this important survey.**

## Student Survey

The Student Survey used in this program cycle was modified from previous versions and refined to reflect topics of interest. This survey was designed to be read aloud to the students, and was administered to them before *and* after attending the program. Students were asked to raise their hands if they agreed with the questions (indicating a “yes” response), and the number of raised hands for each question were tallied.



School name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT SURVEY

Please conduct the survey verbally and count a show of hands for positive responses.

1) Raise your hand if you agree with the following:

	Pre Trip	Post Trip
The ocean is important to my health		
I know where storm drains lead		
Most ocean pollution comes from land		

2) Raise your hand if: (Pre measures current behavior and Post measures planned future behavior)

	"I ..." Pre Trip	"I plan to..." Post Trip
Pick up trash from the ground		
Turn off the lights when I leave the room		
Share what I know about the protecting the environment and ocean with my friends and family		

3) POST ONLY – Raise your hand if you agree with the following:

	Post Trip
This was my first time on a boat on the ocean	

## About the Researcher

---



Applied Survey Research is a nonprofit social research firm dedicated to conducting and using community-based research to help people build better communities. Since 1980, ASR has employed best practices for survey research, assessment, and evaluation in order to better serve public and private agencies, health and human service organizations, cities and county offices, school districts, institutions of higher learning, and charitable foundations.

### Watsonville Office:

P.O. Box 1927

Watsonville, CA 95077

Tel: (831) 728-1356 - Fax: (831) 728-3374

### San Jose Office:

1871 The Alameda, Ste. 180

San Jose, CA 95126

Tel: (408) 247-8319 - Fax: (408) 260-7749

[www.appliedsurveyresearch.org](http://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org)