

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Raising Highly Capable Kids™ is a 13-week program designed to help parents raise healthy, caring, and responsible children. The program teaches parents about the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets. The sessions encompass the Search Institute's eight asset categories: Support, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, Constructive Use of Time, Commitment to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competence, and Positive Identity; as well as other helpful activities, presentations, conversation starters, and tips for practical application at home. The goal of the program is to help parents acquire a set of skills, experiences, relationships, and behaviors related to the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets.

Currently, the Raising Highly Capable Kids™ program is being implemented in 32 communities across nine states; California, Colorado, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. This evaluation examined the implementation and impact of parent participation in Raising Highly Capable Kids™ at three sites: Fort Worth, TX; San Antonio, TX; and Santa Ana, CA. Across the three sites, approximately 300 parents who participated in the program in 2014-15 were included in this evaluation. Programs were delivered by trained facilitators during the 2014-15 school year. There were some variations in program delivery: some programs were facilitated by counselors and school staff; some were led by community organization staff; and some were facilitated by parents who had been participants in the program during the past several years.

Data were collected using a combination of surveys and focus groups/interviews with participating parents and facilitators. The following conclusions and recommendations may be drawn based on the data analysis:

### CONCLUSIONS

- **Nearly all participants found the program to be a positive learning experience.**

Survey and focus group findings show that participating parents found the program to be well-implemented and valuable in terms of the content being offered. Facilitators concurred that program content was well-organized, easy-to-deliver, and meaningful to participants.

- **Participation led to parents increasing their understanding of the importance of the developmental assets.**

Parents particularly saw the value of promoting commitment to learning, promoting positive values through communication and modeling, and understanding the importance of having neighbors and other adults in their children's lives who care about them. Parents were also more likely to seek parenting advice from others after attending the program. Effect sizes ranged from small to medium.