

Eastern District "District Lines Survey" Report

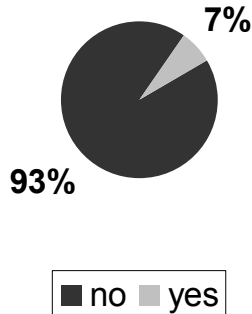
Surveys were made available from September 11, 2005 to November 1, 2005. Hard copies were handed out at the district meeting and the survey was available on the district site to fill out and email back in.

Totals: 44 surveys were sent received. 39 were turned in at the district meeting and 5 were emailed in.

1. All except for 1 director new what district they were supposed to be a member of.
2. Has your Eastern District Participation caused you any additional hardships in the following areas?

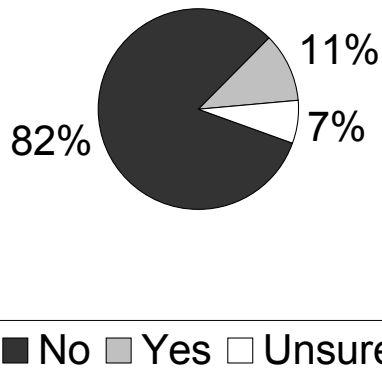
a. Financial Hardship 41 No , 3 yes

Does Eastern District Participation Cause You Any Additional Financial Hardships?



b. Distance (Mileage) 36 No, 3 Unsure , 5 yes

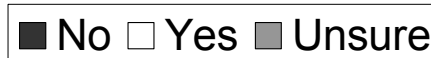
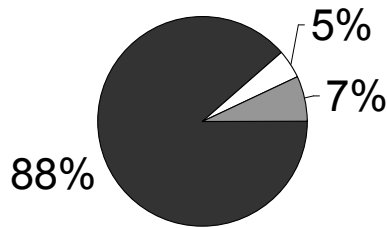
Does Eastern District Participation Cause You Any Additional Hardships Because of Distance or Mileage?



c. Level of Competition

39 No, 3 Unsure, 2 yes

Does Eastern District Participation Cause You Any Additional Hardships Because of The Level of Competition?



d. Other Hardships:

Written comments include:

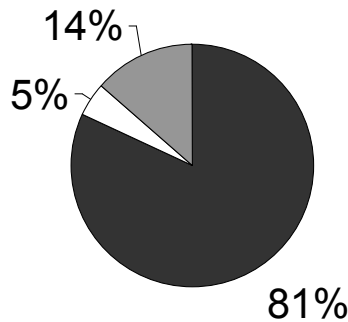
Date Conflicts

No exception should be made to any schools

3. Do you think the district should be divided into two smaller districts?

36 No. 6 Unsure. 2 Yes

Do you think the district should be divided into two smaller districts?



The following comments were made by directors:

Directors who marked Unsure

- No: The eastern district comprises a large geographical area, and although we have grown in the number of participating programs, I don't think we have enough school participants as of yet to support division. To my knowledge, committee chairs have always made compensation for schools who have to travel a longer distance. Although gas prices are rising, the crunch could be temporary in terms of cost of travel. I don't think we have enough leaders to organize a new district yet or enough participants to support the division. This is an issue, however, that should be revisited in a couple of years.
- Yes: The size of the district decreases the number of possible participants in our district honor bands and the larger programs overshadow the smaller programs. This is always going to happen to a certain degree, but the district is so large now that many smaller, rural programs don't stand a chance in getting students involved in district activities (honor bands.) If we don't divide, we need to add days to our district contest to facilitate more groups being able to participate and facilitate better judging (who can realistically objectively judge bands from 8am to 9pm???)!! ☺
- No sure. I think the biggest problem is in the West and N. West Districts. We need to make sure they can run their events in the black.
- I really don't like the idea of splitting our district (I think we're stronger in numbers), but I hate the idea of turning away Middle School Bands from Festival. If this is our only solution...let's find another solution.
- Sites for concert band festivals should be on a rotation. Example: 2004=Havelock H.S., 2005=Wilmington (Hoggard H.S.), 2006=Roanoke Rapids H.S., 2007=Jacksonville H.S.
- Our district is geographically large, but splitting up the district would cause massive redistricting for the eastern half of the state. This redistricting process would have to occur in order to balance the # of schools from district to district.

Directors who marked Yes

- When it comes to all district band the students from the north eastern part of the state are very unlikely to make the audition. Last year we started our own area wide honor band just to address that issue. I hate driving to Greenville every year to sit and judge students for HOURS when none of my kids every make it. It also becomes increasingly difficult to encourage them to audition when they know going in that they aren't going to make it.
- Distance from the Wilmington area for our students is far from home. We should have some counties from the South Eastern and Eastern join together to form a new district. This will also solve our Middle School Concert Fest. Problem. 1st district in Greenville 2nd in the Wilmington area.

Directors who marked No

- I can't provide 13 of anything.
- Denied Johnston County's request for membership for 2004. These counties participate in some not all Eastern District events=Vance, Granville, Henderson, Franklin. Generally they participate in All-District Clinic and Auditions but do Concert Festival in Central District. Geographically, these counties should not participate in Eastern District events.
- To simple divide this district in 2 would not give enough participation to satisfy the financial needs of each district. One (or both) would need to pull areas from other districts as well.

- I have always enjoyed the association of the other schools in the Eastern District and our affiliation with ECU. Our district has become very organized and seems to get stronger each year. Even though I am in the Southeastern corner of the state, I am willing to do whatever necessary to remain in the present Eastern District. Thanks for the opportunity for input.
- Keep it the same!
- I don't think it would be wise to divide the District. While the district is competitive I feel the students get a lot out of going to Greenville and ECU for district. I don't know if splitting them would give the students the same experience.
- Keep it the same!
- Leave it up to the BDs on the boarders to apply to move/change districts.
- Although wouldn't hurt us, I think northeastern area schools would be in a bind.
- No Changes.
- It would be good to get a more diverse group of leaders that represented more counties.
- We do not need to divide into two smaller districts. Where is this coming from?
- If it is not broke, don't fix it!
- Even though our district is rather large geographically, it is not so large in terms of population. I feel dividing into 2 smaller districts may compromise the effectiveness of our current alignment, weaken the quality of the All-District Bands and perhaps weaken our influence at the state level. I do feel that allowing bands from other districts to participate in our district functions should be considered something we allow on a rather limited basis.
- Many years of planning and refining have gone into making the Eastern District one that other districts look up to an emulate. I believe it would be a Big Mistake to split the district on the basis of inconvenience! I feel strongly that the Eastern District's tradition of excellence has helped all of us strive to become more organized and improve our band programs. I would like to see our district continue to grow stronger in numbers and excellence as we show the other districts our united resolve to be a leader in our state's band association. The Eastern District should be proud to continue in a tradition of excellence! We need to continue forward not backward!
- I do feel strongly that Franklin, Granville and Vance Counties should not be allowed to participate in Eastern District events. They participate in All-District events only to have student winners wince the Central District competition is usually much tougher. I am not in favor, however, of splitting our original district. If we are forced to split the district, the obvious division would be for Craven, Carteret, Onslow, Pender and New Hanover to be grouped together geographically. I then worry if the northern end of the district could be self-sufficient since the strong band programs traditionally are in the southern portion of the Eastern District.

Summary

Unfortunately not a lot of data was collected to make this important decision. I think the reason the survey totals are low is there is not a large overwhelming push to split our district. The largest concerns deal with three main areas;

1. Distance to travel to any event that is not held at ECU
2. The disparity that some directors perceive because of the lack of students that make all district.
3. Directors that feel like every group in our district should have the opportunity to go to festival even if that means going to a 4 day festival.

Our executive board will have to address these concerns. At this time the majority of our district feels that we should remain as one district.