

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Title	Post your answer to the question you selected.	I am a...	Star Rating	Exit Outcome Area
2	Increase Phy. Ed.	I want our district to emphasize the importance of improving the frequency of PE in all of our buildings. Being active improves physical fitness, as well as mental and emotional well-being. It is vital to the productivity of all children. Research has shown that even single bouts of aerobic exercise can benefit cognitive performance. More recently, brain studies involving physical activity has been linked to improved memory. Physical activity also works as a stress reliever. Regular exercise can increase self-confidence, it can relax you, and it can lower the symptoms associated with mild depression and anxiety. Exercise can also improve your sleep, which is often disrupted by stress, depression and anxiety. Work out a schedule that would allow K-5 to be active everyday. In the MS, start by moving back to having 6th grade PE everyday. Over time, work to return 7-8 to everyday PE. Not long ago, we did have 6-8 PE everyday. Increase the PE opportunities in HS. I want my children and all of our students to have the best opportunity to be successful. This includes being active on a daily basis to improve cognitive ability and reduce the stresses of school. PE addresses total wellness.	Employee	3.76	
3	The Big Picture	1. Accountability. They need to learn that they are held responsible for their decisions and actions. 2. Critical thinkers. They need to know how to think for themselves and not take everything they hear of read as the truth. 3. Global thinkers. They need to be aware of life outside the small town of Becker so they don't lose out on opportunities. 4. Communication. They need to be effective communicators including knowledge of body language, etiquette, politeness and eye contact when dealing with people. 5. Goal setting. Learn to set goals and work toward them while knowing what is realist and attainable. 6. Time and money management. They need to know how to manage money and time and knowing when to work and when to play and keep track of income and expenses. The curriculum that is taught is great but to be successful, they need to know how to survive in the big world we live in. If they don't have these skills, they have a greater chance of failing after graduation.	Parent	3.67	
4	What do we have to offer?	Becker schools need to allow teachers to teach in an innovative way without focusing solely on test scores and data. Although I believe teachers do a great job of getting all the necessary standards in, there is no longer time to carry out the projects and fun activities that kids remember throughout their lives. Projects will foster higher levels of thinking. Society needs scientists, analysts, and free thinkers, not multiple choice test takers. More variety will also be welcoming to students and hopefully build better connections with teachers. If Becker Schools want to be unique, they're going to have to step away from traditional models and get creative.... Every other district is already focused on tests scores. What do we have to offer?	Employee	3.63	

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5	Critical Thinking & Love of Learning	Learning how to think is much more important than learning what to think, especially in this tech age when kids can find information--and misinformation--easily. They need to know how to evaluate and apply that information far more than they need to memorize it. Skills like how to recognize biases (confirmation bias, selective thinking, etc.), logical fallacies, and similar concepts actively practiced on what they are learning will help them make good decisions throughout their lives. I also think it's crucial that kids don't lose the love of learning for its own sake. I don't think this means devising more fun learning activities so much as it means watching out for the many ways we inadvertently make learning a chore or a negative experience for kids. (Not negative experience as in challenging, which is ultimately positive to overcome, but more like ways in which we unintentionally punish mistakes rather than using them as opportunities to learn, just for one example, or when the learning is boring with little reason to be, such as busy work and fact memorization that isn't necessary or that can be accomplished in another way.)	Parent	3.61	Students will become self-directed learners, self-disciplined, and autonomous workers, while being critical thinkers with a drive for innovation and problem solving.
6	Students should know...	Our students need to learn how to problem solve to be successful.	Employee	3.57	
7	Remaining Relevant & Activities	It will be very important for the district to remain relevant by monitoring workplace needs as well as post secondary requirements to prepare students to meet these demands. Relevant skills and knowledge including technology, critical thinking, communication, innovation, problem solving, systematic analysis, global awareness, evaluation techniques all are and will continue to be relevant before and after graduation. I believe these skills and knowledge can be role modeled and taught pre-K to 12th grade. Continue to explore and partner with businesses and post secondary institutions to make sure the opportunities we are providing are building relevant skills. I believe it is important to offer a variety of opportunities including sports, drama, music, robotics, art, etc to allow students to explore their talents and participate on teams working for a common goal. Skills developed in these extracurricular activities transfer directly into modern day workplaces. Keep the focus on developing the potential of each student so their skills and knowledge remain relevant to society.	Parent	3.56	
8	Add value, utilize potential	Becker Students should first realize that they are a gift and their potential can be shared with this world in a positive way. They should know how to access information in a variety of formats, be inquisitive about the world around them, learn how to research and analyze information and innovate to provide solutions for problems we don't even have yet. Students should learn about coping skills and stress management as well as basic life skills of money and time management. Students should use their creative energies to focus on ways they can add value to this world and know that each one of them, regardless of background or circumstance has positive potential to share. This sharing requires great communication skills- not only verbally but also non-verbally. Students should continue to be provided opportunities to grow, use and enhance their interpersonal and mass communication skills.	Parent	3.52	

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9	Excellence	My expectations are that my children taught the obvious basic fundamentals of education, but also how to find the information they need to solve a problem. I expect my children to use technology, as our society is moving more and more in that direction, but I do not want complete reliance upon it. I expect that my children will be respected and respect others. I expect the school to be a safe place for my children to be, both physically and emotionally. I expect Becker to continue to be a great district and be a front-runner in our children's education.	Parent	0	Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively apply life skills.
10	Be productive adults	Students should receive regular life information. They should graduate high school knowing how to budget funds, maintain and balance a checking account, file taxes, etc. Sometimes we get so caught up in getting them ready for college, we forget the basics of being an adult.	Parent	3.62	
11	What's important	Time in the day to teach students social skills and problem solving. More time to get to know the kids on a personal level.	Employee	3.59	
12	I don't know	Teaching how to use what your teaching us in real life problems	Student	3.54	
13	Cultural literacy and challenging academics	Due to rapidly changing demographics of our state and country, I believe it's imperative our children learn to become comfortable around others from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Today, employers not only look for advanced degrees but also at a candidate's ease of communication and cooperation with other from different religious ideologies and cultures. While growing up in a rural environment has its advantages, one drawback is that our kids are exposed to a fairly homogeneous population. To be successful in the larger world, most kids are going to need to be comfortable around and literate of people who come from a variety of different places and backgrounds.	Parent	3.51	
14	Answers	Becker students should know how to do household finances and budgeting. Even though many of us don't use checkbooks anymore, students need to understand how to balance how much money they are making and spending to prepare them for the real world. I think digital citizenship should be taught in younger grades instead of high school. Becker does a great job at communicating...phone calls,emails, texts and social media are used. If someone says they do not receive info they are mistaken. Less time on college readiness in middle school. The argument is to start preparing students, yet, I believe kids then believe they are either a vo-tech student and just focus on that. Maybe swap that out for digital citizenship.	Parent	3	
15	Preparing for Adulthood	I believe that our children should be prepared for entering adulthood upon graduation. I believe that current trends (i.e. technology) are important, but they should also be able to find information via other avenues than online (books, contacting a specific person, etc). I believe that they should be knowledgeable in financial matters as well from checking accounts, credit cards, saving for retirement, etc.	Parent	2.5	

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16	Improve STEM curriculum	Our nation's economy and work places are changing every day. Our children need to be prepared for those changes, which should include a greater emphasis on STEM curriculum. The district should devote adequate instructional time and resources to science in grades K-5. A quality science program in the elementary grades is an important foundation that can stimulate students interest in taking more science courses in middle school and high school and, possibly, in pursuing STEM disciplines and careers. The District should ensure that their STEM curricula are focused on the most important topics in each discipline, are rigorous, and are articulated as a sequence of topics and performances. Ideally, STEM curricula should be aligned across disciplines from grades K-12. To improve teaching and learning in the STEM disciplines, the district needs to enhance the capacity of K-12 teachers. STEM teachers should have a deep knowledge of their subject matter and an understanding of how students learning develops in that field.	Parent	3.71	
17	We could...	We need more enrichment opportunities during the school day for higher achieving students.	Staff	3.59	
18	Keep Music and Art. Prioritize STEM Courses	With reduced funding and tight budgets come cuts of all types. I think Becker should make sure to focus on having a variety of courses for its students in the future, to include music, art and skilled-coursework like metal/wood working, etc. Further, increased focus on STEM courses is only going to become more and more important in the future. I also agree with a number of parents on this site so far that have cited personal finance as an important factor. It concerns me greatly when districts begin to reduce the the types of courses being offered, and while often the administrators have no other choice, if there were ever an alternative to reducing the variety of courses, I would hope that it would be considered. I have noticed during my short time living in the district that the athletics program is incredibly high on the priority list (which is kind of fun for me to see, having grown up in a district with a wimpy athletics program!). While I understand that a strong athletics program can also help to bring in funds, I would expect that athletics would always take a back seat to a child's education. Education comes first, athletics second.	Parent	3.55	Students will have the opportunity to pursue expertise in areas of personal academic or career interest.
19	Add Classes	Becker High School is great, but I believe it should offer a few more classes than it does, such as French and German. The only Foreign Language classes offered are Spanish, and I believe BHS should be more well-rounded in the Foreign Language category. Also, I believe Music Theory should be offered. I've heard of Music Theory being offered in many other schools, why not in BHS? For people planning to go into a career in music after graduation, the only classes offered to prepare you for that are Band and Choir. Whereas if you're going into a STEM career after high school, there is an overwhelming amount of classes available for you to prepare for that. Therefore, BHS should offer more oppurtunities and classes for people who are passionate about Music, and Foreign Languages.	Student	3.54	

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20	People are unique	I just heard on MPR that Minnesota comes in dead last when compared to other states in its investment in public school counselors, social workers and mental health professionals. I believe it is crucial that Becker look at schools that have been very successful in mentoring students in the area of career, mental health, making choices, reducing stress, etc and pattern investment in personnel upon those successful schools.	Parent	3.69	The district will properly maintain up-to-date school environments where students are physically and emotionally safe and secure.
21	Expectations	I expect my children to be academically challenged in a safe learning environment. I expect Becker teachers to communicate to me if he/she feels my children are struggling with something or having any behavior issues. I expect the school district to enforce strict in-school and on-line bullying rules and appropriate punishments. Lastly, I expect that teachers do not engage in any sexist, racist or offensive jokes around kids.	Parent	3.56	
22	Mental health resources needed	Minnesota is ranked 48th in the nation for the ratio of school counselors to students. We have so many mental health needs that need to be addressed and don't have the resources to adequately do so. For students in grade K-5 there is a social worker for students on IEP's who need social work service. We have Behavior Interventionists for a small population of struggling students who are not on IEPs. For the majority of the general ed population, there is no person specifically to address the social/emotional needs of our youth. The middle school has one counselor for close to 700 students. The high school has 2 counselors for 900 students. The high school counselors work with college and career readiness, scheduling, online school options, college in the schools, PSEO, tracking academics and graduation requirements, ALC's, chemical health issues, summer school options, all while trying to make sure kids are emotionally healthy. As a district, we are not meeting the mental health needs of our kids.	Employee	3.53	
23	Improvement	I believe we need more mental health support in our schools. We need more Tanyas and Pat Browns in our buildings. Students NEED more help. I believe we need to do more to help kids that we think are Dyslexic. I think our district should give parents and teachers more guidance to help these kids.	Employee	3.51	
24	Expanding well-being and care for children & Families	Another tragedy in our community has meant our schools have had to bear the burden yet again not only in educating our youth but also providing crisis and mental health care. Out of necessary concerns for a separation between church and state, the professionals in our community with the greatest expertise in providing trusted and relational care precisely in these tragic situations were minimized in their potentially vital roles in our schools. It is thoroughly possible, I believe, in the event of such tragedies, to create a model of holistic care for our children and their families through the schools that takes into account their physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. A model like this could utilize the best of what our community has to offer in the trusted relationships that our ministerial community already has in cooperation with mental health professionals, who may not share the same level of relationship with our kids and their families. Most importantly, a model like this could also insure that spiritual care is provided in a certifiably professional, non-sectarian way, that is respectful especially for those who choose none when it comes to religious affiliation.	Parent	3.50	