

Suggestion Box #2

Top 6 themes for each question

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Top 6 Themes – Question #1: What programs or opportunities would enhance students' educational experiences?

1. **After-School Tutoring & Enrichment**

A large number of responses highlighted the need for structured, in-person tutoring across all grade levels. Many also suggested expanding after-school enrichment clubs in areas like STEM, arts, music, and hands-on learning.

2. **Expanded CTE and Trade Programs**

There is strong demand for more Career and Technical Education offerings, such as culinary arts, welding, auto mechanics, construction, personal finance, and woodshop—particularly at middle and high schools.

3. **Life Skills & Home Economics**

Many respondents expressed the need to bring back life-skills-focused programs that teach cooking, budgeting, sewing, cleaning, and childcare to better prepare students for adulthood.

4. **Arts, Music, and Drama**

There were many calls for the return and expansion of music, art, and performing arts programs, especially at the elementary level, to support student creativity and engagement.

5. **Physical Education and Health**

Several suggestions stressed the need for licensed PE teachers and daily physical education, as well as all-weather tracks and athletic facilities to promote health and host community events.

6. **Mental Health & SEL Support**

Respondents emphasized the need for improved access to mental health services, better SEL programs (with some criticism of current ones), and support for students with behavioral needs.

Top 6 Themes – Question #2: What contributes to low reading and math scores, and how can we improve them?

1. **Behavioral Challenges & Disruptions**

One of the most frequently mentioned issues was student behavior disrupting learning for others. Many urged for better support systems and alternatives for chronically disruptive students.

2. **Inconsistent Curriculum & Instructional Fidelity**

Many cited frequent curriculum changes, lack of adherence to structured literacy or math programs, and inconsistent instructional practices across teachers and sites as major barriers to progress.

3. **Lack of Student Accountability & Motivation**

Respondents expressed concern over student apathy toward testing, a lack of buy-in, and policies that pass students along regardless of effort or achievement.

4. **Chronic Absenteeism & Low Parent Involvement**

Poor attendance among students—and sometimes staff—was seen as a core issue, often tied to a lack of home support and inconsistent reinforcement of educational expectations.

5. **Overtesting & Test Fatigue**

Teachers and parents expressed deep frustration with excessive assessments, noting that frequent testing leads to disengagement and does not reflect students' true abilities or progress.

6. **Need for Foundational Skills & Early Intervention**

Many noted that students are missing core foundational skills in reading and math, calling for a return to phonics-based instruction, structured remediation programs, and earlier, more targeted intervention.