

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

Introduction

The following text is a re-print of the narrative response to one of two budget survey prompts. The text is not edited, except to eliminate personally identifiable information or a comment that can be traced back to an individual. The first prompt, [Describe what you value about our school system](#), is reprinted here. The second prompt, [Describe any efficiencies that you would like the Superintendent to consider](#), is reprinted as a separate document.

Narrative Responses

Diversity of options. Lots of passion for educating.

- Operations Staff, Hansen Parent

Children first.

-Madison Parent, Madison Parent, Olympia Parent

Talented and gifted programming in elementary and middle schools and AP classes in the high school. I value our wonderful, well educated teachers and librarians.

I value the district's commitment to hire and retain highly-qualified teachers. Also: small class sizes, reading and math intervention, the goal to reach EVERY child, not just those who are "on their way" to college.

-LP Brown Elementary Teacher, Centennial Parent

I value the support felt of the district staff. I have worked in other places where there doesn't seem to be support of staff by district office personnel (feeling alone in the workplace is not a pleasant experience).

-LP Brown Other School Staff

Increase in school counselors has been great! Also appreciate the behavior technicians in each building. Student behaviors are getting more difficult and these supports are essential.

-Pioneer Other School Staff

Happy, supported and compensated staff. They deserve to be taken care of, so they can do the best job taking care of students.

-Olympia Parent, McKenny Parent, Washington Parent, Olympia Community Member

I value the time built in to the school day for teachers to collaborate about meeting student needs. I value (and wish there were more opportunities related to ELA) training for teachers. I value the supportive office staff.

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I value a clean classroom and clean hallways.

I value the school counselors.

I value the print and technology resources in the library.

I value being able to support students at the middle school level with intervention classes.

I appreciate that middle school ELA and Math have recently had a curriculum update.

-Washington Secondary Teacher

The investment in social emotional learning and differentiation in the curriculum in the classroom.

-Centennial Parent

I value OSD's elementary reading intervention program. Helping all students learn to read by grade 3 makes a huge difference in student outcomes for the next decade. Students who learn to read are more confident and capable in their learning. I think the district should support reading intervention teachers and para-educators.

- Elementary Teacher

The investments that directly impact students in a positive way. The investments that can reach the most students. The support for our struggling learners whether that is academics (reading and math intervention) and counselor and mental health supports.

Positive reputation, solid academics.

-McKenny Parent

Academic skill focus. Small school options and alternative school options. Teachers!

-Boston Harbor Parent, Community Member

Good reputation.

-Pioneer Parent

The resources that we currently have to support our students and how talented, dedicated, passionate and professional our faculty is.

-Olympia Other

People, people, people.

-Olympia Secondary Teacher

Safety

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

the community investment to make sure that our teachers and staff have been adequately compensated up to this point. Adequate staffing. Good communication from Superintendent and district office.

- Parent

There is a good sense of inclusion and a good sense of school pride. Various activities are respected: a student who is good in band/track/debate is celebrated, not just the football/basketball players.

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent

Support for students with special needs. Music programs

-Olympia Parent, McKenny Parent

A safe place where our students can learn not just academics but also social-emotional skills and how to be mentally healthy. This would be hard to do when teachers are overwhelmed and mental health/counseling resources are limited. Yes, the world needs intellectually capable people -- but I'd argue that our society would thrive more when its members are able to exercise high social-emotional capacity, even if we don't all have good reading/math skills. I know if I were forced to choose between the two for my own children, I'd choose social-emotional/mental health over intellectual prowess.

-Hansen Parent

Great place to work, Students and staff are awesome.

Opportunity to play in the orchestra, good teacher to student ratio

-McKenny Parent, Community Member

I value the quality of education at our schools. This includes the rigorous instruction from high quality teachers, a well-managed system from administrators and the strong support from the community.

-Olympia Secondary Teacher, Centennial Community Member, Centennial Parent

Certificated teacher librarians

-Olympia Secondary Teacher, Olympia Community Member, Pioneer Parent

I value the interaction teachers have with the students. I value that these interactions at a micro-level occurring day in and day out have the opportunity to make possible real change in a students life.

-Olympia Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

High academic achievement, community involvement, unique opportunities for learning, whole-child approach

-LP Brown Other School Staff, Madison Parent, Community Member

The strong commitment of creating a caring community to help students become their best selves which encourages a passion for learning and participation in making the future a better place for everyone.

-Olympia Parent

Teaching and learning

-Olympia Secondary Teacher, Olympia Secondary Teacher, Olympia Secondary Teacher, Olympia Secondary Teacher

Our students need caring adults that help to shape the whole child - a reader, a naturalist, an artist and musician, healthy, supported, listened to, nurtured. All of these forced choices above contribute to the health, education, and success of our children. Assumed "distance from the classroom" is seldom actually so, as all of these adults, from teachers to paras to nurses to custodians to librarians positively impact our students' lives.

- Secondary Teacher, Olympia Parent, Community Member

Libraries and librarians, music and art, teachers who care

-Capital Parent, Reeves Secondary Teacher

The teaching staff and support staff

-McKenny Parent, Parent

The people. Kids connect to so many of our staff. I say, let's do whatever we can to keep the people who work in our schools, so our students can have those adults and role models in their lives. Our music and art specialists, our custodians, our librarians, our nurses and counselors, our coaches. It takes a village.

-Reeves Secondary Teacher, Capital Parent, Reeves Other School Staff

Meeting the needs of all students through comprehensive program offerings-- general classroom instruction, academic enhancements, athletics/activities, and support services. Currently there is a good mix, if reductions are necessary they should be made across the board not eliminating an entire program.

-Capital Parent

Experienced teachers who care. Para educator support in classrooms.

-McLane Elementary Teacher, Elementary Teacher

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

People over new curriculum. Learning is first, please! It's the people -- teachers, libraries, counselors (mental health), and programs like art and music to educate the whole child.

Athletics and activities are great -- you can get that somewhere else.
-Washington Secondary Teacher

We have great teachers, libraries, and para support. Class sizes can become larger if we maintain the para support. Please keep the quality by maintaining the people. If you have to cut, cut activities and sports. Hold off on new curriculum and technology. The people make this District great.

-Washington Community Member

The quality of the teachers and librarians.

-Washington Community Member, Washington Community Member, Washington Community Member

The number of variety of programs available to students

-Olympia Secondary Teacher, Olympia Secondary Teacher

I value the people working in our district. We have incredible support from the community. Our students are amazing, incredible, inspirational. I value that Olympia is dedicated to the whole child, and that I have always felt supported as a teacher here.

-Olympia Secondary Teacher

Classes that prepare kids for college, college in the classroom, AP, the relationships my student has with his teachers -- I believe he gets good advice from them about both classwork and life choices.

-Olympia Parent

Close communities, low classroom sizes,

-McKenny Parent

Offering a wide variety of programs for all kids — academics, athletics, activities, social and emotional support, etc.

-Olympia Parent

Teachers, Librarians, Athletics/Activities

-McKenny Elementary Teacher, Boston Harbor Community Member, Capital Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

Teachers and small class sizes
-Centennial Parent, Centennial Elementary Teacher

Option Programs, arts, safe schools, staff

Teacher staffing first! Programs like counseling and mental health supports are important to school safety! I am excited about IB for all at Capital High. My daughter loves Second Step and PBIS at McLane.

-McLane Parent, Capital Community Member, Marshall Community Member

I value that our state is finally making progress on providing real salaries for the people who do the hard work of educating children.

I'm baffled as to why our district seems to think Music and Arts are "extra" instead of part of a normal curriculum. A teacher is a teacher - Arts, Music and P.E. teachers shouldn't be considered 'extra' - they should be part of the normal funding plan. It's absolutely insane to consider these extra positions. Districts that are smaller and have tinier budgets than OSD does manage to provide these types of classes - it leaves me concerned that the district is poorly managed.

-McKenny Parent

I value that our school system works hard to educate all students. I can't imagine cutting back on these services in that students are individuals and all services are needed to help educate the whole child. Cutting libraries, arts, music, athletics, office staff, custodians, etc.... these are services we can't do without.

-Centennial Elementary Teacher

As a teacher I have a lunch and planning period. I'm not required to watch students during their lunch/recess.

-McLane Elementary Teacher

Community support. Great families, excellent, dedicated teachers. Activities and athletics keeps kids connected and involved in positive activities

- Community Member, Community Member, Community Member, Community Member

I value small class sizes and counseling/emotional support by our counselors.

-Olympia Secondary Teacher

We need more music and art in the schools. Where is smaller class size and food service on here? Classes of 28-30 kids are way too big. Longer lunches, more nutritious foods are a top priority for growing healthy kids.

-Capital Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

I value the tradition of hard work and high standards. (Which I feel contributes to the high percentage of teachers who remain many years with the Olympia School District.) Where I work, there is pride in "going the extra mile" to help students succeed. There is pride in meeting with other teachers to discuss teaching goals and strategies and then implementing lesson plans that will use those strategies and reach those goals. There is also an atmosphere of kindness and encouragement.

-Marshall Secondary Teacher

The sense of family at each school

-Jefferson Parent, Capital Community Member, Elementary Teacher

Teacher staffing, class sizes, counseling support for our students from K-12.

-Olympia Secondary Teacher

Great experiences teachers

Robust music programs that begin in elementary school

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent

The support for the Arts, Attempts at small class sizes, quality teachers, activities and enrichments for students.

-McKenny Parent

People

We value our teachers and paraeducators. We also value our psychologist and school nurse. Please increase their hours and pay.

-Pioneer Parent, Washington Parent

Alternative education, good teachers, music and art education seen as important

-Olympia Parent

Strong academics, music programs, AP classes, programs to help struggling students. Core academics come first. Music is proven to support strong academic and social achievement and should remain a high priority for funding.

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-Olympia Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

The broad diversity of experience that is available in our schools. We have lost some of this variety over the years and are worse off for it. We need to stop this erosion. I would put the district in the untenable position of cutting the budget without cutting function.

- Community Member, Olympia Parent

Great programs in music all the way from K-12th grade. Experienced highly trained teachers in all subjects. Amazing performing music groups in high schools

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent, Jefferson Secondary Teacher

Excellent Teachers, small classes , specialists, enrichment activities , field trips, well maintained grounds, cleanliness.

-Centennial Student, Washington Other, Olympia Parent

Students need to feel that they belong in order to succeed. We need to offer choices that excite students so they can find what connects with them to keep them engaged.

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent

Everything listed above, with the exception of athletics and activities is crucial to the success of a educational school system.

-Roosevelt Elementary Teacher

We want kids to succeed.

-Madison Parent, Madison Other School Staff

Teachers!

Active community, supportive administrators, caring paraeducators.

-McLane Elementary Teacher, Boston Harbor Parent, Reeves Parent

Extra help for struggling students is readily available

-Pioneer Parent, Pioneer Other School Staff

With regard to order of value, it appears you are really wanting to know what should be given top priority and what should be cut. Given the understanding that ALL of the items you listed have value, here is my personal preference, in order of value, number 1 being most important and 13 being the least:

1. Music and/or Art

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2. Paraeducator Support
3. Custodial Services
4. Counseling and mental Health Supports
5. Reading and Math Interventions
6. Teacher Staffing
7. School Nurses
8. New Curriculum
9. Libraries
10. School Security
11. Grounds Maintenance
12. School Office Support
13. Athletics and Activities

-Olympia Community Member, Olympia Other, Olympia Parent, Avanti Parent

Our school system provides students with a well rounded education that includes things that can be considered “extras” but are really necessities for the education of the whole child (music and the arts, athletics, and library).

-Garfield Elementary Teacher, McKenny Elementary Teacher, McLane Elementary Teacher, Olympia Community Member, Washington Community Member, Pioneer Community Member, Garfield Community Member, Jefferson Community Member, Capital Community Member

The range of options has always impressed me. Accommodation of different types of thinking, i.e. concrete-sequential to athletic to artistic. More consideration of previously marginalized groups/persons.

-Olympia Community Member, Olympia Community Member, Community Member

Focus is placed on students first!

-Garfield Elementary Teacher

Access to great instruction from highly skilled and experienced teachers. Music and the arts at an amazingly high level

-Centennial Parent

Commitment to excellence, inclusiveness, top ratings, results.

-McKenny Parent, Washington Parent

I value smaller classes sizes and quality educators

-Centennial Parent, Boston Harbor Parent, Parent

It's safety and outreach to every student.

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

-Capital Other School Staff, McLane Other School Staff

Our students....they're everything. They're why we are all here. And the truly outstanding staff that go above and beyond everyday, especially with our most challenging students.

-McLane Elementary Teacher, Other

OSD has a high proportion of dedicated faculty and staff. This means there is a continuity for families to invest in their children's education that is on par with much more affluent communities. Even if my family doesn't take advantage of unique offerings like ORLA and Lincoln Options, I do appreciate the intimacy that schools like Boston Harbor have offered my family. Things I won't compromise with my children and spouse's school/ work environment are safety and counseling. All the resources in the world won't help if there isn't a strong foundation for students and faculty to receive the care they need to focus on higher level priorities like academics and athletics.

-Boston Harbor Parent, Olympia Other

We are fourth generation patrons of the OSD. My husband and I purposely moved back here after our marriage to raise our family in this school district, The Golden Triangle. We value all items on the list and you can't truly pit one category above against another. Some are federal and state mandates.

This district has a reputation for instructional quality that includes athletics, music and fine arts. These programs should not be viewed as superfluous. They are fundamental in giving our students the competitive advantage they need for career and college, and wage sustaining jobs in Washington State. Nova Science has an episode that features early music education and the development of the brains of Einstein and other people. This rich educational environment is why families move to the OSD and pass levies supporting the OSD.

-Olympia Community Member, Washington Community Member, Community Member

Libraries are the heart of our schools, a place that provides equity amongst readers, a safe place for many - please do not take this precious place away from our kids.

-Garfield Parent, Garfield Elementary Teacher

We have a great set of teachers with their own unique set of skills. I believe our superintendent is doing a great job given the challenges our district faces.

-McLane Parent, Marshall Community Member

Librarians and Music/Arts teachers ARE teaching staff, and I value them working in their content areas for our kids.

-Olympia Parent, Roosevelt Parent, Reeves Parent

I value that the Olympia School District strives for excellence by encouraging student curiosity and students' desire to learn.

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

The people who really care about the kids!
-Centennial Elementary Teacher, Elementary Teacher

Everything! Thanks!
-Jefferson Parent, Parent

I value the strong secondary music and arts offered to our students and the low teacher to student ratio in our schools.
-Washington Secondary Teacher

I value educating the whole child. I think our students need a strong academic education (math, reading, writing, science) but the arts, music, and physical education need to be a part of the education.
-Garfield Elementary Teacher, Centennial Parent

Knowledgeable, caring, supportive staff.
Maintenance of high academic rigor and standards.
Student safety and support.
-Olympia Secondary Teacher

Supportive staff and families committed to student learning.
-Washington Secondary Teacher

I value that we have a clean place for all students to learn. This includes students who need counseling and support services. There needs to be enough staffing that students can get individual support from their teachers from time to time.
-Washington Secondary Teacher

I value our teachers... not the ones that come when they are supposed to and leave as soon as they can, but the teachers that show up for their students and co-workers. I value the teachers that make our school a better place.
-Capital Secondary Teacher, Capital Secondary Teacher, Secondary Teacher

The diverse program offerings, (IB) specifically.
-Capital School Administrator, Capital Community Member

Paraeducators
-Capital Other School Staff, Capital Other, Capital Other, Capital Operations Staff, Other School Staff

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

Choice should be based in EQUITY - The more students that would benefit over the smaller group

I value that answer regarding resources for kids isn't always no. I value that we try to find a way to make it work for all kids.

- Secondary Teacher

Competent, caring teachers

-Capital Secondary Teacher, ORLA Parent

It feels like family.

-Capital Secondary Teacher, McLane Parent

Comprehensive support for a wide range of student needs. A wide range of curriculum and staff to enable all types of knowledge and skill to develop.

-Capital Other School Staff

Importance of caring for staff to ensure that they are equipped to perform their jobs to the best of their capabilities.

-Capital Other School Staff

I value the wide range of choices students have to select from for classes and activities.

-Capital Secondary Teacher

I value the ability to build relationships with kids and help them grow as students and as people. The more kids, the more difficult that is to accomplish. Class size matters.

Highly qualified and capable teachers.

-Capital Secondary Teacher

How it seems like we really try to reach most students. It's not always easy or possible, but the effort is made

-Capital Secondary Teacher

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

Teaching staff and para educators
Athletics and music options
Community support

- School Administrator

Keeping teachers. This should be based on who excels at their job, not on seniority. Sometimes the younger less experienced teachers are the best with the students. They are more flexible and willing to make change.

-Centennial Other School Staff

I most value our students and staff. I think it would be prudent to avoid cutting teaching and other support staff to the greatest possible extent.

-Capital Secondary Teacher

I appreciate the direction we are going in terms of teaching and supporting the whole student. Teaching strategies for dealing with strong feelings, self advocacy re: mental health issues, teaching social skills etc. are just as important as academics if not more important

-Centennial Other School Staff

Excellent opportunities for students to engage in varies athletics and activities, art, and still have support.

-Capital Secondary Teacher, Capital Parent

Our school system values the individual and works on strengthening their challenges and reinforcing their talents. Para's do so much to work with individual students to help fill in gaps in their education. Music, art are valued as an integral part of the whole child.

-Centennial Elementary Teacher, Centennial Parent

Sense of community and family and a genuine care for the kids' education

-Pioneer Parent, Other

The Arts and Music programs. The dedicated, compassionate staff. Forward-thinking mission and goals.

-Roosevelt Community Member, Reeves Other

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

The sense of community and collaboration among staff, families, and students.

-Garfield Elementary Teacher

Moving toward a more social emotional focus on students. Not about passing the state exam or graduating in 4 years, but healthy independent and prepared students.

-Capital Other School Staff

Growing up in the OSD k-12, and now being a staff member- I have always loved and appreciated how much our district has put a high value on Music and the Arts.

-Capital Secondary Teacher

The values of the staff and how they care about their job, environment and students.

-Capital Secondary Teacher, Capital Other

I value offering a wide variety of course offerings and holding onto our great groups of teachers.

-Capital Secondary Teacher

I value that our school system honors diversity and safety. I also value that our school has a lot of sports and activities for students to participate in. I also appreciate that our student body honors sports teams and we clap for them.

-Capital Other, Capital Other, Other

I value how hard our teachers work to help our students. They spend so many hours working to help our students! I value the people that I work with and the team that I have.

-Capital Other School Staff

People

-Capital Secondary Teacher

Highly qualified educators.

-Centennial Elementary Teacher, Centennial Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

Small Class Sizes. Lots of para, counselor, security support.

-Capital Secondary Teacher

More teachers, which results in smaller class sizes, and benefits everyone.

- Elementary Teacher, Parent, Community Member

My fellow students, while there are the select few that are annoying most will try and include others in their friend group and every seems to want to become friendly also a lot of teachers are very nice and understanding and use logical sense which is nice to.

-Olympia Student

I value the opportunities for all students to attend school at a place that best serves their needs.

-ORLA School Administrator

The kids need to come first and as such so do the adults who are here for the children.

-Centennial Elementary Teacher

All of the support given to students to ensure their academic success a love of school

-Pioneer Parent

I value our teachers, Paraeducator support, Behavior Tech, library, and school office support. I also value custodians and they make the school welcoming and clean. And I can't imagine not having a school nurse with so many medical issues that come up.....it seems important to have someone at least once a week.

-Lincoln School Administrator

I value lower class sizes and quality instructors.

-Centennial Elementary Teacher, Boston Harbor Community Member, Reeves Parent, Olympia Parent

I value teachers and para educators and behavior tech and our library. I also can't imagine not having a nurse at our school with so many medical issues and health emergencies. Even though I didn't choose custodial as much, our schools need to be clean and welcoming a SAFE.

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Our school district would be nothing without our incredible teachers and para educators and office support staff. Our children's mental health is so important and now more than ever we need counselors and behavior techs and lots of support staff.

-Lincoln Elementary Teacher, Lincoln Parent, Community Member

Smaller class sizes (although they seem to be getting bigger). Support of staff.

-Pioneer Parent

High-quality, caring teachers.

-Olympia Secondary Teacher

Inclusion

-Olympia Parent, Parent

The increased time and attention focused on social services in the schools, and valuing equally the social/emotional health of students!

-Lincoln Elementary Teacher, Elementary Teacher

teachers and support staff

-Lincoln Parent

I value our acknowledgement that students have a right to be taught and nurtured in a way that supports their emotional and social wellbeing. I value that the State Supreme Court demanded that public education be properly funded. I worry that the goal to be there, to show up, to make change in students' lives... life saving change will be reduced by the severe funding cuts that are projected. Class sizes should be going down, if we are truly to meet our childrens' needs. It seems overstating to say that children need adults. Need them. A lot of them. They deserve to feel seen, safe, supported, happy, challenged... they deserve to feel safe. If class sizes go up, so will students' insecurities, across all ages. Behaviors of concern will increase. I want to share a quote from a respectable psychologist, Roy Baumister, "The youth today are suffering from a misery of unimportance." They don't feel like they matter. Keeping schools staffed with professional, compassionate, skilled, and approachable staff is vital to students belief that they are safe, it is vital to fulfilling their right to an emotionally supportive education. If we lose staff, students will suffer emotionally and even physically. This whole situation isn't right, so heartbreaking to be asked to choose between vital, and crucial colleagues, functions, which are pertinent to student well-being. I love coming to work everyday, where I teach 70+ students a week. Part of my employment is funded through overload cert hours. I am used across four grade bands to serve students with target reading/phonics/writing support. I am also a half-time

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K/1 teacher. I can easily attest to the dynamic in the classroom and how it shifts when numbers are in the teens, versus the twenties. It truly is palpable. I saw it in every class I worked in the last 3 years as a paraeducator. CLASS SIZE MATTERS. In a big, impactful way. Please keep fighting for proper funding for our district. If this cut moves through, it will be detrimental to so many.

- Elementary Teacher

I value the people (teachers, Paras, office staff, bus drivers, custodians) who care about my child and protect and educate her. Those people and their relationship to my child and out family matter to me. I also care about equity in our school system and feel EVERY child deserves to have equal opportunity to learn, be it kids that are behind or kids that are highly capable and need extra challenges. I think it's important for all children to get a well-rounded education that specifically includes the arts (visual arts, music, AND performing arts) along with math, science, etc.

- Parent, Olympia Secondary Teacher, Community Member

Small class sizes and providing our children with the interventions and support they need.

- Parent

Wide variety of programs that allow many kids to succeed. This includes music and arts.

-Pioneer Other School Staff

Alternative educational programs; focus on mental health; focus on people vs. data/things

-Lincoln Elementary Teacher, Marshall Parent

I value the community connections we have, the music, teaching staff, paras, libraries, the office staff. These are the folks connecting with kids and families.

-Lincoln Elementary Teacher

Social emotional learning, mental health/counselors are paramount. The more we support our students with their mental health the easier every other job becomes. Teachers can handle larger classes of happy/healthy students and do more with any curriculum with students who are mentally prepared/able to be a part of a learning community.

-McLane Parent

Allowing community input in to consider during decision making.

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-Washington Other School Staff, Community Member, Parent

I love our involved families, dedicated teachers and the staff dedicated to enrichment opportunities like libraries, band and family support.

-Lincoln Elementary Teacher, Lincoln Parent

Smaller class sizes, para educator support, keeping employees long term.

-Washington Parent

I appreciate that OSD 111 tries to educate all students and keep up with changing demographics and new issues such as complications from social media and anxiety.

-Olympia Other School Staff, Olympia Community Member

Making sure that the students who already find a lack of positive family support have access to positive useful adult support at school.

-Capital Secondary Teacher

Teachers, and low class sizes

-Lincoln Community Member

Unique programs like REACH and JAMS, reasonable class sizes, Career and Technical Education, maintaining teaching staff.

-Jefferson Secondary Teacher, Jefferson Parent

Good programs for kids, good teachers, good class sizes

-Washington Parent

good teachers, small class size

-Washington Parent

We like the teachers, please dont get rid of them.

-Jefferson Parent

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Smaller class sizes than other states and schools

-Olympia Parent

We previously lived in Portland. Our children were falling through the cracks academically. Portland School System was broke and our daughters kindergarten class had 32 students and our 6th grader was in a class of 42 students, with only 1 teacher and no classroom support. Because we have children with special needs we knew that our children needed to be in a school system with smaller class sizes and classroom support, in order to be successful. I value the smaller class size and the additional staffing that can assist children in being successful. Having PE and Music (neither were available in Portland due to funding) has been so great to have for the children as well. In Portland our eldest was failing all her classes. Here in Olympia with a Para-educator and classroom support she has gone from D's and F's to A's and B's.... She is passionate about music and as an Autistic child, really has a difficult time connecting with other students, but in music she has a common ground and interest and an opportunity to connect with other children.

-Other School Staff, Parent, Parent

I really enjoy the classes and activities that this district has to offer. The Robotics club, and the class Has impacted a lot of students and is really important to have as an option.

-Capital Student

community support

-Capital Secondary Teacher, Community Member

I appreciate and value our focuses and goals as a district. We acknowledge that the academics are one part of our job, but the well-being and health is also I priority.

-Lincoln Elementary Teacher

Teachers and lower class sizes. Period. (I got a bit confused as I went through all your questions, but keeping the learning (student) daily classroom environment as good as it current state and numbers is the most important thing to me.

-Olympia Parent

I value our elementary school librarians. I am alarmed that Tumwater is considering eliminating them. In Oregon, my friend's school library is a disaster. Students are required to self-check books in and out. Many are just gone. No one repairs damaged books or keeps the collection current with new selections. She says the lack of a librarian has drastically reduced the

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children's love of books. Children have lost the specific skills taught by librarians including technology safety lessons.

-LP Brown Community Member, Elementary Teacher, Capital Community Member, Jefferson Community Member

I value that our school system is understanding the importance of the whole child. There are choices of schools that support different family values (alternative schools). There are high quality teachers, paras, and support staff.

-Lincoln Elementary Teacher

I value Libraries, Music and Art and PE these are things that people can access in the community, but many families are unable to afford these opportunities for their children. And if OLY is pushing toward whole child, these are important things to have in our schools.

-Centennial Parent, Centennial Other School Staff

The opportunities provided to new teachers to learn and grow

- Community Member

Experienced teachers.

-Madison Parent, Washington Parent

I value the community and my child growing and learning as a part of it. I also value the teachers as they care greatly and that makes the world of difference. I value the efforts on supports to accommodate children with different needs. I value the parents involvement, especially at Lincoln!

-Lincoln Parent, Lincoln Community Member

I value the efforts teachers make each day in providing a quality education to each of their students. I value principals who walk into classrooms each day as positive role models and examples of what it is to lead. I value the parents who actively participate and communicate for the needs of their children. I value our students who come to school each day expecting we will care for them and teach them everything they need to be successful in the next area of their life.

-Centennial Elementary Teacher

First, I value my job. I also value our commitment to building communities at our schools and providing for each student's needs.

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

-Reeves Secondary Teacher, Community Member

I value having my whole child educated. OSD is very good at academics, but we need more mental health support and SEL learning for ALL students. I value the best teachers and support staff. As the mother of a child with an IEP and one with a 504, I see value in supporting special ed students and programs that enrich their educational experience. While inconvenient we could use online resources for library access and community libraries, and please for the love of all things good stop changing the curriculums so often.

-Madison Other School Staff, Olympia Parent, Reeves Parent

The teaching staff, paraeducators, teacher libraries, and mental health specialist have the biggest student impact.

-Hansen Elementary Teacher

Low class sizes and great young teachers.

-McKenny Elementary Teacher

Paraeducator support and teacher staffing- without the professionals that are highly qualified and compensated fairly, with the lowest staff to student ratios possible, students would not be supported enough. Also, mental health services are difficult for families in need to access, so more services in school are needed to fill the gap that the community is not meeting at this time.

-LP Brown Elementary Teacher, Marshall Parent, Capital Parent

I always feel safe at school. I have taught at 4 odd schools in 31 years

- Secondary Teacher

I value the time and effort that any staff Teacher or Paraeducator puts into providing a healthy learning environment in a school setting. Being able to provide guidance or just being a positive role model is a key component to helping students succeed and mature more.

-Reeves Other School Staff, Other School Staff

Olympia has a high number of certificated and para professionals by ratio than many other districts. Maybe it's time to increase the ratio of students to staff by a little bit and use the extra resources to pay educators like Tumwater and North Thurston do.

The people

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

-Lincoln Parent

Lowest class size possible

-Garfield Elementary Teacher, Garfield Elementary Teacher

Small class size

-Hansen Elementary Teacher, Capital Parent, Hansen Community Member

Teachers

- Parent, Community Member, Student

Variety of programs available for students

-Capital Secondary Teacher

The schools within the district do an amazing job educating the children of Olympia, despite inequities and legislative incompetence.

The intervention programs you have for both reading and math.

-McLane Community Member, McLane Community Member

I appreciate the focus on kids.

- Other School Staff

Literacy, mental health, art, music, athletics, and activities are cornerstones of educational, social, and emotional growth and development. These are also the classes and places that heavily contribute to our district's new outcomes on student learning in addition to regular classes. PLEASE do NOT cut Library, Art, Music, Athletics, and Counselors!

-Marshall Secondary Teacher

The strengths placed by staff onto students who are struggling.

-Garfield Other School Staff, Olympia Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

We offer an a good education for the average to above average student.

-Olympia Secondary Teacher

I value an education system for students which is modern, sets them up for future success and is meeting them where they are. I value supporting highly capable students as well as math and reading intervention help. I value school nurses being in all schools to assist with insulin shots, asthma attacks and food allergy reactions. I value having a safe environment for kids.

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent

I think in our day-to-day operations at school it is most important that we focus first on the bare minimum and then consider what we are able to add to that bare minimum to enrich student's experiences at school. We're tasked with providing students a quality education--if we can provide art, music, library, and activities outside of school as part of that quality education that's great--but if we don't have the means to do so, I think it's most important that we provide students access to effective teachers who are equipped with a viable curriculum and adequate staffing supports (para-educators, custodial services, intervention specialists, etc.) so that they can help those students be academically successful without being overburdened by additional job duties.

-Boston Harbor Elementary Teacher

High-quality teachers working together to do what's best for our students.

-Olympia Secondary Teacher, Reeves Parent

The wide variety of neighborhood based schools that bring their own sense of place to education.

-Boston Harbor Elementary Teacher, McKenny Parent

I value the experienced teachers who have a passion for teaching, and the great results they achieve with the students.

Please do not cut counseling services, school psychologists, or teacher-librarians.

- Secondary Teacher

The commitment I see from staff at every level in our district.

-Garfield Elementary Teacher

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

The new focus on equity & outreach to the community, including students.

I value things that help schools run more efficiently and consistently from one to another.

-Olympia Parent, Other School Staff

I value the elementary and middle schools' care and concern for the whole well-being of the kids they teach!

-Reeves Secondary Teacher, Reeves Parent, Olympia Parent, Roosevelt Community Member, Madison Community Member

Providing an equal opportunity for all students to learn
Value of student safety

-Olympia Other School Staff, Olympia Community Member, LP Brown Community Member

Patrick Murphy's open leadership.
We are resilient.

-Lincoln Other School Staff, Olympia Parent

Highly qualified teachers.

-Jefferson Secondary Teacher

TEACHERS, OFFICE STAFF, STUDENT SUPPORT, SCHOOL NURSES, SCHOOL NURSES AND MORE FULL TIME SCHOOL NURSES!

-Centennial Other School Staff

The students and staff.

-Washington Elementary Teacher, Roosevelt Parent

Lower class sizes especially in our elementary classrooms.

-Hansen Elementary Teacher, Hansen Elementary Teacher

The most office staff work very hard and the school nurses are great but spread too thin. The classroom teachers, the specialists, and the district office admin are quality.

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

- Other, Capital Parent, Community Member

Great teachers and support staff for them to be able to deal with all the challenges in their job.

-ORLA Elementary Teacher

I love the advanced curriculum and the high schools running start/college in high school opportunities

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent, Centennial Parent

Teachers' quality and ethnic diversity

-Olympia Parent

Great community, dedicated teachers, small class sizes, amazing music program. We all work together for what is best for kids!!!!

-Olympia Parent, Elementary Teacher, Community Member

My children

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent

Amazing teachers

-Olympia Parent, Roosevelt Parent

School security should not be a disposable item and should not be on this list.

- Parent

Olympia School district is considered the best in the area.

Olympia's ability to attract and retain high quality teaching staff. Competitive pay is the best way to do that.

-Olympia Parent

Experienced staff and teachers; special ed support

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent

Total education of the student not only for test scores. Participation in the Math 4 Life program provided by the Education of the Thurston Chamber. Staff esprit de corps.

- Other

A well rounded education for our students, including PE, art, library, music, free time to explore and play (recess), compassionate and experienced teachers, social emotional learning, strong academics.

-LP Brown Elementary Teacher, McKenny Parent

Teachers are the first ones to notice when students are in trouble. They keep the campus safe and keep students engaged. The community of students can do a lot of custodial work as the Japanese schools do, but we need qualified teachers to lead the way. By the way, Librarians are teachers, paras are vital and after school activities help keep students connected to the community.

-Olympia Parent

The community spirit and the educational aspects of the curriculum. OHS gets and gives our students the highest scores in education and testing in the state and definitely in the county. The drive to make the kids achieve and become successful is evident and proof is shown within the student body. You don't get that many places.

-Olympia Parent, Olympia Parent, Parent

To prepare students academically to enter the next stage of their life whether it be in college, military or the work force but must learn to be accountable and responsible for their own actions.

-Olympia Parent, Community Member

My kid needed English and math support and because of the support they are doing well now

-Olympia Parent

Health, safety, and communication

-Olympia Parent, Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

Teachers and staff who genuinely care deeply about developing a community of learners who become our future. I am so happy the Elementary school is teaching the social/emotional curriculum. That is key to rounding out academics.

-Boston Harbor Parent, Olympia Parent

One aspect of the OSD that I value is the emphasis on exploring multiple alternative options for students at every level in the system. The high quality of both academic and musical education is a strong quality

-Olympia Parent

Music, Drama and art programs. Personalized support for instruction, flexibility for different learning styles. Valuing individual strengths and interests.

-Olympia Parent

I think we value students in Olympia- teachers, administrators, classified staff, and of course, parents. We have great community support and wonderful students.

-Olympia Secondary Teacher

Inclusion of the outliers (homeless students, mental health, etc.)

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent

Academic strength

-Olympia Parent, Centennial Parent

The great counselor at Marshall!

-Marshall Parent

Professional, well-trained staff with good support.

- Community Member, Washington Secondary Teacher

OHS has an amazing music and arts program. The middle school needs art, not just choir and music. I like Bear time at OHS. The level of choice and engagement is wonderful.

-Olympia Parent, Reeves Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

Great learning community. From the fabulous front office people to the night custodian everyone works for the children.

-Roosevelt Other School Staff

smaller classrooms and teachers and support staff that are taken care of

-Roosevelt Other School Staff

I value the contribution our schools make to our community.

-Washington Community Member, Olympia Parent, Other

I value the commitment our teachers, custodians, paras, and other staff have to love on the students that come through the doors each day.

-Centennial Other School Staff, Other School Staff

I value the education kids receive from good, experienced teachers. Teachers that know how to manage a room of diverse kids. I value teachers that are professional, skilled and compassionate. I value support staff that eases the burdens on the teachers in a skilled professional manner. I value administrations that actively and efficiently manage the staff and students of concern. I value a district that sets policies that make sense and are enforceable, and one which provides efficient and consistent policy & procedure guidelines.

- Parent, Community Member, Other School Staff

I value small class sizes 23 students (or fewer) per teacher as well as Reading and Math Interventions. Counseling and Mental Health Supports, as well as School Nurses and Custodial Staff are highly important, along with Paraeducators.

-McLane Elementary Teacher

Music and art

-Olympia Parent, Avanti Parent

I value the OSD's focus on students. I value that the district supports those who have direct relationships with students (teachers, paraeducators, counselors) over the creation of new administrative positions. I value that the district still understands the importance of the arts, music, and innovative teaching/learning since those things lead to healthy communities that require less regimented curriculum, interventions, security, etc.

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

- Secondary Teacher

The range of options for my kids have been the best experience; Avanti and Freedom Farmers made a huge difference in two of my kid's lives. The music programs have also been incredible for my kids.

-Avanti Parent, Olympia Parent

The deep value of supporting all kids and the staff members to be successful contributors to our community by having a strong k-12 education system.

-Lincoln Other School Staff, Lincoln Parent

Teaching and training kids for the real world teach them life skills not random things they'll forget in 2 years

-Avanti Student, Student, Student

Access to different learning options for all students, recent strides toward equity in educational opportunities, many great staff & teachers

- Parent

Keep kids off the streets during the day

-McKenny Parent

Support for all activities and sports

-Capital Student, Student

As a parent, my children absolutely LOVE to go to school and I think that has a lot to do with the amazing staff members, administration and para educators that work and interact with my kids each day. I love that they feel safe, they can be themselves and that they are thriving in their education; they have purpose, goals and dreams about their future.

As a teacher, I'm proud that we are providing excellent educations to ALL types of learners, despite budget cuts. We make it work, no matter what. I love working for the Olympia school district and am proud of the work we are doing.

-Boston Harbor Elementary Teacher, Olympia Parent, Reeves Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

Transition services offered to students with IEPs.

-Olympia Community Member

Teachers and paras need to be number one otherwise our kids suffer.

-McLane Parent, Capital Parent

Inclusive learning environment.

-Centennial Parent

Please look directly at cutting administrative costs and administrative staffing which were not a part of this survey.

-Jefferson School Administrator, Capital Parent

Music and activities are what set our district apart. New curriculum is always full of holes, let's be content with what we have already purchased and invest in music and arts.

-Centennial Parent

Students need the teachers and support to help them succeed. It takes people not things to help them grow.

-Boston Harbor Elementary Teacher, Elementary Teacher

Any programs that serve the whole child and the adult who serve them. Large emphasis on child well being and learning beyond traditional academic skills.

-Centennial Parent

Progressive, educated teachers

-Centennial Parent, Washington Parent

The people, having appropriate staffing to run, teach, and maintain a building is paramount to student achievement. Please invest in the staff needed to help students achieve.

-Centennial Parent, Centennial Community Member

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

We put the student first which includes keeping paraeducator support staff who can help with reading and math intervention.

-Capital Parent, Washington Other School Staff

counselors, athletics (if it was more inclusive)

-Washington Parent, Olympia Parent

I value my academics and athletics the most.

-Olympia Student, Student

-

-Olympia Other

Reasonably small class sizes, alternative programs,

-Capital Parent

OSD has always put the needs of my child first. Admin and staff view parents as a partnership and not a hurdle to overcome. OSD has a high quality of education.

-Roosevelt Parent, Olympia Parent, Washington Parent

Currently nothing. When a parent has to fight for a year for their child to get the support they need, when it's clearly visible, that is doing nothing but wasting time and setting the child up for failure.

-Madison Parent, McLane Parent

dedication to student learning. teachers, paraeducators, and support staff are vital to our schools and support of our students and learning. strong and livable wages for teachers, paraeducators, and all school-related staff are important to support further and maintain in the midst of all these happenings.

-Reeves Operations Staff, Community Member

Music is needed! Do not cut this in any way. Elementary music is already at a bare minimum and instrumental programs are important.

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

-Boston Harbor Elementary Teacher, Pioneer Elementary Teacher, Hansen Elementary Teacher

I value that the school district provides schools with a variety of learning options.

-Lincoln Parent, Parent

I really value the real life classes at Oly, such as personal finance and other business or everyday related classes. Instead of a common math class, I decided to opt for Accounting, and I think it was a wildly massive investment far better than any math class. It teaches me real world stuff, such as business and how every aspect of money can connect with my life.

-Olympia Student

Teaching the whole child, nurturing all children, and empowering the next generation.

- Other

The support for individual needs, like in the alternative programs, and high standards for everyone.

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent

Higher pay for quality teachers, small classes, arts and music and sports. We know this is what is needed. There should be no more cuts to schools they are already bare bones.

-Capital Community Member, Pioneer Community Member

Orchestra program

-McLane Parent

The commitment to serving the whole child, social emotional learning, and an unwavering commitment to equity and inclusion.

- Other, Community Member

The Olympia School District is amazing. They really care for their students, teachers, staff, and family members. I love how most of the teachers really want their students to not only excel academically, but socially and physically. They want to make great community members ready for their next chapters in life.

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

-Olympia Student, Other

I appreciate the approach the district is taking with the new strategic plan. It is more of a "whole child" approach. I would like to see the budget align with those outcomes. We need more counselors at all levels.

-Centennial Parent

High quality teaching.

-Roosevelt Parent

The teachers make a world of difference in the school's community and the kids' lives. The class sizes are fine where they are but any larger would make it harder for both the teachers and kids.

-Madison Community Member, LP Brown Elementary Teacher, Garfield Community Member, Jefferson Community Member, Capital Community Member

Quality teachers (including librarian teachers) paraeducators and support/intervention classes. I also value an efficient support staff in the office, as well as building custodians who are available when needed.

-Washington Other School Staff

The arts programs are SO SO important to the community. You have no idea how many students benefit from having an outlet to not have to be so stressed all the time.

-Olympia Student, Student

Choices

-Lincoln Parent

So far we've only been to Lincoln. Will be strong super in actual academics in middle school. So hopefully that will be available.

-Lincoln Parent

Now my child is in 2nd grade I like everything. Teachers are nice. School staff helpful.

-Madison Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

Good quality teachers and support staff.

-Olympia Parent, Roosevelt Other School Staff

I value my teacher colleagues above all else. That's the bottom line. Make cuts to technology and other things that we do not need in order to run a school. Do not cut our teachers.

-Madison Elementary Teacher, Madison Parent

I value the inclusiveness and acceptance. Overall the students and teachers are always including everyone and trying to make oly high a place for everyone

-Olympia Student

The teachers in the classrooms. They inspire kids to learn, do their best, and grow every single day. It never ceases to amaze me how much my child's teacher do to connect with each child in her classroom as well as the parents.

-Centennial Parent

I value the good and open relationships between the parents, the teachers and us, the Paraeducators.

- Other School Staff

The high quality of education you strive to deliver.

-Olympia Parent

Allowing teachers to teach freely, librarians and paras to support.

- Parent, Secondary Teacher, Community Member

Freedom Farmer program
Racial justice and social justice priorities

-Olympia Parent, Lincoln Parent

Quality instruction, alternative programs, support for all students and levels of abilities. Activities and new equipment are nice things to have, but dedicated teachers and staff are what make our

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

schools excellent. I hope that preserving staff jobs without cuts to salaries and benefits will take priority during any budget deficit.

-Lincoln Parent

High quality, professional teachers, ESPs, paraeducators, and staff

- Community Member

That every students is supported and able to learn.

-ORLA Parent

The teachers, curriculum and sports/athletics. We also must have clean and safe schools so the kids can get the most out of being at school.

-Capital Parent, Capital Parent

Community.

An emphasis on the mental health needs of the students. I value that we have strong libraries. I value that there's an emphasis on the whole student. I value that we have a crisis response team. I saw that recently in action when my son's teacher died.

I value the agency and autonomy principals and teachers and librarians are given.

I value the social emotional support provided at the school.

I really value Accelerated Reader. Our PTA funds it. Now that there's a tech levy, I'd like to see the district pick that up and make it available, if the school wants to adopt it, for all students in grades.

-Pioneer Parent

Focusing on the social-emotional well-being of students and the focus of becoming a productive citizen.

- Community Member

How much the community can be involved.

-Pioneer Parent, Parent

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

This survey was too long to get valuable results. I tried to stop halfway through because it was taking too long.

Please reconsider your survey length and structure.

I value the resources dedicated to students who need a little extra help in our system.

-Madison Parent, Madison Parent

I value a well rounded experience that gives children opportunities to grow in the ways that interest them and give them an outlet for creativity. I also value security and a wonderful and committed teaching staff that is not over stretched.

-Olympia Parent, Washington Parent, McKenny Parent

The teaching staff that have worked with my child.

-Olympia Parent, Roosevelt Parent

The professional support from specialists (psychologist, counselor, nurse, speech therapist, physical therapist, behavior specialist, experienced teachers).

-Garfield Elementary Teacher, Elementary Teacher

I value safety and equality and fairness w education and proper fair punishment for kids not just letting the sports kids get away w everything and punishing the different ones for lesser offenses. The gross way that high school does this is sick. Also stop spending so much money on sports that most kids can't even participate in

-Community Member

High standards. High expectations. Help for those who need it but also pushing advanced students as well.

-Roosevelt Parent

When facing our school system the worth of the community is important to weigh. Every child/parent has a story to share. Our administration/ teaching staff is vital to guide and navigate strengths/weakness and find ways to support families with learning challenges.

-Roosevelt Other School Staff

I value a balanced curriculum that focuses on student growth. I value quality teachers that understand they have the primary mission for student growth.

Describe what you value about our school system: Answers submitted as of 4/5/19

-Centennial Parent, Centennial Parent, Centennial Parent

I value a school system that has the resources to provide necessary care and learning for students. All items in this survey are required to make that happen. Our schools are already short staffed. Every person who has a job in the "investments" listed above has an important role in a safe and functioning school. If removed, any of those "investments" in a school setting and the children of our communities will be in a less safe, less functional school environment.

- Elementary Teacher

I value a school system that is able to create an accurate budget, not a budget that has built in cushion plus contingency line items.

-Lincoln Elementary Teacher, Lincoln Parent

I value student centered learning. Having staff that feels valued and supported will lead to better relationships with students. Having proper para support will lessen the need for reading and math intervention. Also, increasing library access and art/music will help the overall development of our students.

-Lincoln Parent

Diversity in students, diversity in programs. A fair amount of engaged educators outnumbering those that aren't.

-Capital Parent, Community Member

I appreciate the parent/community support our district receives. I feel with the new cuts that may take place next year we need to respect what our parents/community value as they are our biggest supporters. We need to be about the students and student learning. We need to continue to support all school with the necessary tools to provide interventions for ALL student success.

- Elementary Teacher