



CONSULTATION 2025 | SUMMARIES & THEMES

FAMILY FEEDBACK 2025

Listen to Lead: Grow, reflect and improve in service of students and staff

SUMMARY

Families emphasized the need for focus on foundational education and student well-being, with common recommendations around reducing class sizes, enhancing safety measures, and supporting diverse learning needs. Suggestions include hiring more teachers, ongoing teacher training, improving communication between schools and home, and better school infrastructure. Many highlighted the need for a more robust curriculum that includes practical life skills. Families also call for enhanced student supports, such as mental health counseling and individualized learning plans, to foster a safe and inclusive learning environment.

PARTICIPATION

- ThoughtExchange was open from May 14 to 28, 2025.
- More than 16,000 people provided thoughts and feedback. 7,353 participated in the family survey.

KEY THEMES

- **Mental and Physical Health:** Participants talk about the importance of prioritizing mental and physical health for students, leading to improved well-being, academic performance, and societal contributions. Families want students to have less screen time, and more access to healthy buildings and outdoor activities.
- **Inclusive Education:** The emphasis on inclusive education is mentioned frequently, highlighting the need for tailored support for neurodiverse learners and those with special needs. Participants note the importance of small class sizes and the additional support staff, such as EPAs, to facilitate a better learning environment.
- **Teacher and Staff Support:** Families note the need for better support and resources for teachers and other educational staff. More administrative and logistical support would allow educators to focus on student learning. Greater respect and recognition of teachers' roles in student success are also emphasized for retaining quality staff.
- **Communication:** Effective communication between schools and families is consistently highlighted as an area for improvement. Participants advocate for direct, timely communication, especially concerning safety and academic progress. Daily updates and clear and consistent messaging about policies are seen as pathways to stronger school-community relations.
- **Curriculum Development:** Participants call for greater emphasis on practical life skills, financial management, critical thinking and career readiness. There is a call to incorporate more experiential learning, promoting real-world applications of classroom knowledge.



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STUDENT FEEDBACK 2025

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SUMMARY

Student responses highlight several ideas for making school more exciting and engaging. They suggest the inclusion of more clubs, sports, and creative activities such as painting and hands-on projects. Students say they want more personalized learning opportunities and frequent breaks. Students emphasize the importance of more field trips, physical activities, and teaching methods beyond textbooks. Moreover, fostering a respectful, supportive and inclusive environment, both socially and culturally, is crucial.

PARTICIPATION

- ThoughtExchange was open from May 14 to 28, 2025.
- More than 16,000 people provided thoughts and feedback. 5,082 participated in the student survey.

KEY THEMES

- **Interactive Learning:** Students say interactive learning makes school more engaging. Examples include adding more creative activities, diverse learning presentations, hands-on projects like designing posters, and simulation games. Students say these activities help them understand and better retain information.
- **Scheduled Breaks:** Students say frequent and scheduled breaks throughout the day and longer lunches would enhance relaxation and focus. They say breaks would alleviate stress, enhance learning, and give teachers more preparation time, all leading to an overall better school environment.
- **Life Skills Education:** Participants say they would benefit greatly for life after high school by learning more practical and relevant life skills including financial literacy, problem-solving and social-emotional learning.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** There is strong support for a wider range of extracurricular activities, including clubs, sports, arts, and special interest groups. These activities provide students with opportunities to pursue their interests, socialize, and develop new skills outside standard coursework. Students say these activities help manage stress and provide opportunities to participate in more diverse experiences which enriches the school experience.
- **Physical Environment:** Participants frequently mentioned the impact of the school's physical environment on their well-being. Suggestions include enhancing playgrounds, maintaining comfortable classrooms, and improving overall school infrastructure. The addition of restful and green spaces where students can relax and decompress were also highlighted. There is a belief that making these physical improvements fosters a more welcoming and positive learning experience.



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STAFF FEEDBACK 2025

Listen to Lead: Grow, reflect and improve in service of students and staff

SUMMARY

Responses from staff reveal a variety of themes, including better preparation and mentoring for new teachers, increasing specialized support staff, improving educational technology integration, reducing class sizes, ensuring adequate prep time and resources, and enhancing physical working conditions. Respondents also emphasize the importance of stronger leadership, accountability, streamlining administrative tasks, and implementing consistent behaviour management policies. There is a call for better mental health support, addressing overcrowding issues, and reallocating funds to directly benefit teaching and learning environments.

PARTICIPATION

- ThoughtExchange was open from May 14 to 28, 2025.
- More than 16,000 people provided thoughts and feedback. 3,814 participated in the staff survey.

KEY THEMES

- **Workload Management:** Participants frequently mentioned the challenge of managing workload effectively due to inadequate prep time, excessive administrative tasks, and the need for more support staff. Real-time data logging and unnecessary paperwork are seen as pressure points affecting productivity. Staff say that managing these aspects will contribute to improved teacher well-being and, consequently, student success.
- **Educational Support:** Those who participated say there's a need for robust educational support structures, including mentoring for new teachers, specialized professionals, and effective inclusion policies. Staff emphasized the importance of mentoring newly appointed teachers and providing consistent support for students and teachers. The role of specialized support personnel like SLPs, psychologists, and behavioural specialists was noted as essential for student success.
- **Class Size & Composition:** Many underscored the impact of class size and composition on educational outcomes and teacher workload. Participants said smaller class sizes or additional staff to assist with larger groups would facilitate better classroom management and individualized attention to students. Staff say smaller classes lead to fewer disruptions and create a more conducive learning environment.
- **Leadership & Administration:** Participants say school leaders need to be more proactive, visible, and supportive of staff needs. They mentioned issues with some current school leadership not adequately addressing problems, which affects morale and trust. Better communication, accountability, and less time spent on non-essential administrative tasks were seen as necessary improvements.
- **Resource Allocation:** Participants highlighted the need to review funding priorities, with suggestions to reallocate funds towards areas showing critical needs, such as targeted interventions for learners. Adequate funding for educational technology, preparation, and instructional resources was viewed as essential to enhance teaching effectiveness and student learning outcomes.



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COMMUNITY FEEDBACK 2025

Listen to Lead: Grow, reflect and improve in service of students and staff

SUMMARY

The responses highlight several key priorities, including addressing population growth and overcrowding, improving school infrastructure, and enhancing teacher retention. Many respondents emphasize the need for better lunch programs for students, increasing mental health supports, and reducing violent and disruptive behaviour with enforceable codes of conduct. There is also a strong call for integrating more physical activity and digital literacy into the curriculum, enhancing student engagement, and ensuring safer, healthier learning environments through infrastructure investments and better classroom resources.

PARTICIPATION

- ThoughtExchange was open from May 14 to 28, 2025.
- More than 16,000 people provided thoughts and feedback. 354 participated in the community survey.

KEY THEMES

- **Support staff:** Participants stressed the urgent need for hiring more support staff in schools, to provide regular check-ins, monitor behavior, and support diverse learning needs. There were several mentions of creating specialized training programs for staff, including emotional and cultural competency. Participants also suggested better utilization of volunteers and involving community members to assist in day-to-day activities.
- **School Safety:** Safety in schools was a prevalent theme, with participants emphasizing the need for clear consequences for inappropriate behaviour. Issues such as bullying, violence, and vape/smoking were frequently cited, along with the importance of safe physical spaces and transportation. Participants also stressed the need for safe and inclusive learning environments for students and staff, where everyone feels respected and valued.
- **Healthy Meals:** Many participants advocated for improving the quality of school meals, suggesting in-house kitchen facilities and a formal feedback loop for meal quality. The connection between healthy food and academic performance was strongly emphasized, highlighting how proper nutrition is foundational to student success.
- **Curriculum Development:** Participants discussed the need for curriculums to evolve to meet modern challenges, including the integration of emotional well-being and hands-on workshops into core curricula. Reducing the reliance on screen time and promoting digital literacy and citizenship were also noted. The sentiment was that curriculum development must be adaptive to prepare students for a rapidly changing world.
- **School Infrastructure:** Participants highlighted the need to proactively address enrolment growth. Pressures. The need for more modern amenities was noted, as well as retrofitting schools with environmentally sustainable systems was also noted. Investing in infrastructure is crucial to accommodate growing student populations and to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment. There were also mentions of how infrastructure plays a role in maintaining staff morale and student well-being.



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