

The following are answers to the last of four open-ended questions on the 2021 Budget Investments for Student Learning online survey. These results provide answers to the survey question listed below. The comments have not been edited for spelling or punctuation.

For publication on our website, comments that contain accusations/sensitive information, and/or profanity and identify or by nature of the reference could lead to the identification of the respondent or OSD personnel or students, have been removed and noted in brackets. The comments have not been edited for spelling or punctuation.

Normally our practice is to disaggregate survey data by demographic factors including race and school programming. We inadvertently did not do that in this survey and will do so in future surveys.

Please describe what you value about our school system, and/or what aspect of the system you would like to see improved.

Better electives in middle school for kids who don't do music. The robots and other classes are horrible choices. It would be great to see the home even classes for 7th and 8th graders and some other choices that are more interesting. My child has no interest in what they offer and it's difficult to push them in these classes

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

Well-being of the whole child (no politics or agendas)

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I'd like to see continued growth in community relations stuff!

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary

Social awareness and skills

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Greater time spent on emotional well-being!

Parent or guardian

Garfield Elementary

It's small and manageable size. Heightens responsiveness and builds community.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

No social justice or blm stuff. School is not the place for politics.

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

I would like to see more support for teachers

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary, Avanti High School

Low student to staff ratios

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary

Cultural awareness

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary

The system needs to use the resources available to create a flexible education system that adequately supports all students' learning needs. Our current approach is antiquated and one-size-fits-all. High quality, accurate and equitable education should be the focus. We need to inspire the next generation to create instead of creating cogs in a wheel.

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Boston Harbor Elementary, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I would love to see more opportunities for outdoor learning beyond the 4 walls of the classroom. I highly value alternative schooling options like CSI at Marshall but they need to be modeled into more classrooms and more ages.

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I value teachers who communicate often/openly with students and families and provided resources when assistance is needed. I value office staff that are highly responsive and are friendly and polite (believe me, some are not!).

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

My child has missed a year of social interaction, and is even MORE dependent on technology (phones, laptops) than ever before. I'd like the most focus on getting the kids socially and emotionally back on track and comfortable being around others. We can start busting out the advanced math and ELA curriculum next year.

Parent or guardian

Reeves Middle School

Stop talking about feelings & teach academics

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary, Capital High School

I would like to see increased communication from Capital high school from their administrators. Their level of communication regarding their students and the need to be in class has been lacking throughout the pandemic.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I'm really proud of how committed Oly school district is to equity and would love to see it continue to improve.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School

I would like to see less politically charged material/agenda in our classrooms, and in emails sent out by the district.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary

Communication needs to improve

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary, Washington Middle School

Despite everything, we feel connected to staff, other students, and the school community.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

Diversity of clubs and activities.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Value the perceived perseverance through the pandemic. With first grader being all virtual this past year, cannot substantively judge the educational experience offered or the outcome achieved. Was a lost year, and we are very disheartened with words like "hope" in a survey about how our student finishes his year. To the extent this intersects with budgeting: *please invest such that parents and students don't have to "hope" they can attend their school in person*.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

I value the caring staff. You are all wonderful.

Parent or guardian, Student
Garfield Elementary

The teachers did not assign enough work during COVID. They cancelled Zoom classes or ended early. Students felt like nobody cared if they learned anything, and that is still the perception among the families that you did NOT serve with a quality education. I don't value much of OSD as they catered only to the Teacher's Union and not to the students and families they were to serve. Also implement a Native Education program. Implement suicide prevention activities, as you have already killed off a few students through neglect and isolation.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Capital High School

We need the schedule in Olympia HS & Washington MS back to original schedule, so that kids can have sports and other activities after school. Olympia high school needs to be back to 7:45AM-2:22PM and Washington Middle School 8:15AM-2:47PM. Please put them back to normal schedule.

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

None at this moment.

Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary

Ensure students learn math and English (reading/writing). Enhance PE, art, and music programs. More field trips.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
Madison Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I think our schools do a great job with creating ideas of how to be more equitable and I would like to see some more creative ideas around the impact of racial prejudice that lands on our students of color. And that to me means real change in peoples perspectives and understanding of how they are showing their biases.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

It would be nice for high school students to take a class for just one semester. It is really hard to "try" something new when you have to stay in the class a full year.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Add more or different types of specialty teachers in elementary schools to enhance learning opportunities (foreign language...technology...science...sustainability)

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Help students in a safe environment where they can learn and be themselves without fear.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

i do not know what i value about our school system, at the moment. the continued changes to schedules is very disjointed, unorganized, and seemingly done via fiat.

Parent or guardian

Reeves Middle School

I would like to see year around schooling implemented.

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

I value the other parents that care about their kids and provide a support network to help guide my children towards a positive future. Also, with three kids and more than 10 years of experience, I feel that the teachers that care and put in time are about 50/50. Teachers that just go through the motions should be let go or converted to assistants for the teachers that take the time with each child.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I would like to see more and longer recess

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I love the focus on kindness, multiculturalism, and growth mindset I've seen in elementary, and the same plus restorative justice in middle school. I ranked restorative justice as a middle priority only because I think a strong foundation in elementary may eventually obviate the need for a separate and dedicated restorative justice program in middle school.

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I value that we're paying attention to social and emotional needs. Funding that philosophy and making time for that work is imperative if we're going to be impactful. Thanks for all that you do.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

Lincoln Elementary

I value the teachers and staff and how hard they work to connect with the students. I'd like to see an improvement in reading and writing curriculum in elementary

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff

Garfield Elementary, Capital High School

Family focus, high academic standards and commitment for success, high graduation rate, a lot of academic support for student and families. Perhaps more after school tutoring opportunities with transportation.

Both parent and teacher
Garfield Elementary, Olympia High School

Extra curricular activities that promote socialization, enjoyment, and healthy competition.
Sports

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I value the caring staff and teachers, the seemingly strong interest in racial education. I worry about the c Students being challenged enough and the quantity of sugar given to kids. Im actually surprised that sugar is given to kids without even asking parents. Behavior and gut health is directly correlated. Also kids are still learning how to treat each other so expecting them to always know how to at these ages is asking a lot. They still need to be guided on behavior and parents can't do that when they are not there. This support should be provided and not dismissed when a child asks for help.

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary

I value that each school has it's own culture and community. I would like to see every school get a specialist everyday such as art, music, and PE for elementary students. I would like to see more mental health services for all kids.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
McKenny Elementary

perhaps a more robust and one-stop-shop online learning platform

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value the cultural competency initiatives, I think a lot more can and should go into social/emotional wellbeing.

Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I value a diverse in person learning environment. I value the staff and the teachers. I would like to see facilities improved. LP Brown is unsafe for kids walking too and from school as well as no parking for events. The school structure must be one of the oldest in the district for an elementary.

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary

Food and nutritional services

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

Access to technology programs is key as well as education on transitioning to adulthood. I would like to reiterate that I'm concerned that this survey is very biased by design. It seems to forcefully lead participants to rank items higher than they want to based on the options and layout. This will produce a survey that is not accurately representative of what the community wants. Producing a survey that forced feeds limited options is not the way.

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary, Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I do like the aspiration of building community but there is a disconnect somewhere.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Excellent teachers

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Good experience so far, especially with principals/upper level staff

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School

Kindness

Community Member

McLane Elementary, Capital High School

Small class sizes make a HUGE difference.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

Centennial Elementary, LP Brown Elementary

whole child is all talk in OSD. I'd like to see the staffing to back it up. EDI and supportive culturally competency in curriculum and with staff. You have teachers still using terminology from the 60s and biases that interfere with student development!

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

Improve on diversity

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I would like to see more support for Orla and I want to see neighborhood school non bias IEP support and non-discrimination for students who have IEP's and allowing them to be able to enroll there regardless. I would love to someday see a real high program that reaches out to families and involves them and offer services including school counseling, as that goes hand-in-hand. And I think void safety and mental health for everyone needs to be a focus (advisory etc) . We all have trauma from other events in our lives and Covid is a traumatic process we're

going through and we all need flexibility, IT support, mental health support, and flexible supportive schools that allow students to continue even if there are concerns with Covid in the community still.. And I think you need to figure out how you are going to require vaccines for Covid , Or separate students and staff, or require real ppe protection with fit test for airborne disease. 😊

Parent or guardian

Reeves Middle School, Avanti High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

We value the close-knit community but have watched OHS get the lion's share of investments and support for athletics. Our CHS athletes deserve better.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Mental health support is greatly needed at all levels.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

McLane Elementary, Capital High School

I value the quality of teachers in our district and the flexibility and strength they have demonstrated in this Covid crisis - lucky to be here. Social and emotional health in middle school especially- recognition of the critical role middle school plays - I sent my child to a private middle school for concerns about public middle school challenges.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Learning: Reading and Math

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

Exceptional Academics

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Student community engagement activities like athletics

Olympia High School

We value the teachers in my children's school. I would like to see that they have the staffing support to help with the scope of needs all students will have as in person school continues

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary

Positive learning environment / Love the teachers and counselors

Parent or guardian, Student

Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

We value the staff and faculty choices

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

Teachers are generally excellent. Administration has not done well coping with the changes and adaptations necessary in the last year. Real leadership is getting things done, and school administration has failed at this. All you seem concerned about is improving percentages in measurable categories that do not correlate to true student success, just administrator success.

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Everything related to arts and humanities and body movement. Repeated intentionally.

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Lincoln Elementary, Avanti High School

The district's primary investment should support: fundamental skills education so that graduates enter the community prepared to be good, productive citizens, and can take care of themselves. Pandering to vocal minorities or the social event of the moment does not prepare our children.

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

I value the attitude of the school system here, and I do believe that they retain skilled professionals in their faculty. Although, I think there are many data trends that many public schools, ours included, that are ignored so that vocal minorities can be placated. Unfortunately, to the detriment of the majority of students and families. Couldn't the funds that went into that incredibly fancy remodel of the gym be better put into a larger budget for arts and sciences? You may come up with a litany of reasons why that remodel was appropriate, but was that really what most of the students and families would have wanted? I certainly hope someone reads all of this, but I'll never know. We consistently ignore data from other countries and how we're far behind. Please explain to me why that's a good idea.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

Good communication

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Academics, challenge students, no easy stuff

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Infant-Toddler Special Services

Advanced classes in high school. Need to integrate pats into elementary

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I value our teachers and their continued efforts to help our children. I wish our school district was better at communicating and plan making. Other districts seem to be leaps and bounds ahead of Olympia, even close, neighboring districts.

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary

Continue to advocate and normalize social justice

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Pioneer Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary

The teachers and paraeducators need to be expanded. There is no substitute for children getting attention from educators. If focus was learning more and less after school activities/sports then the day would start later to allow children to get the sleep they need.

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Not do the new sex ed stuff that passed

Parent or guardian

Thurgood Marshall Middle School

Diversity in economics, race, ethnicity, where we have it. We need to teach out kids more about equity and justice.

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School

Parent involvement

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

Please focus on mental health & conflict resolution

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

I value how inclusive and culturally aware our district is, so I do not think that is an area we need to put a lot of money in right now. As a mom of two high schoolers, I used to value the excellence shown in academics, but my trust and confidence has been shattered in this past year. I hope to see Olympia rise again to excellence. Please be strong and not afraid to lead in this area. These high schoolers only have a short time to be career, college and life ready. They do not have the time to waste another year. PLEASE return to a 5 day a week academic schedule as has been shown safe and necessary for our children. Thank you.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Please focus on tangible life and job skills. Consider adding a financial literacy course for Juniors and Seniors in High School.

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary

The reinvestment in the students and the staff

Parent or guardian, Student, Elementary Teacher

McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I appreciate the successful cooperation between the school board, staff, and the community to deliver good education opportunities to students and the address whole child needs and equity issues; I would like to see students do more academic work throught the school week, especially more reading and writing.

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School

Academics, clubs, and sports are the key drivers of developing students into productive adults. Get the politics out of the classroom - political party, racial profiling, gender profiling have no place in K-12 education. It is fine to teach about things, but not when it is driving at someones personal beliefs being good or bad. You need to start treating everyone equally regardless of race, gender, religion, political views, personal pronoun preferences etc. Stop treating groups differently and calling it restorative. Discrimination is discrimination. Spend taxpayer dollars to drive equal opportunities for all instead of different opportunities for some.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value high academic standards as well as having creative arts, physical activities and a sense of community to ensure the children are learning and growing in all aspects necessary to becoming happy, capable adults.

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary

School choice like what we have; would like more magnet opportunities

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary, Avanti High School

I value everything you all do on behalf of our children/your students.

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School

My Middle schooler needs and enjoyed the OT program at Reeves - I wish there would be

something like this at OHS where he will go next year - he will need some kind of support group.

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School

Cultural studies and emotional supports

Parent or guardian

Garfield Elementary

Responsiveness to my child's social/emotional needs during distance learning--created small group interaction to help reengage him in learning and it helped a lot.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I value clear communication and when asked to take a survey one that works and is practical with actual options that provide choices.

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary

Effective, culturally appropriate curriculum

Parent or guardian

Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

The ideals of equality is beautiful and should continue to be enforced, from black lives to homelessness to others, just love one another

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

Uses community feedback

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

I value diversity of schools and offerings the most. Thank you for Lincoln, ORLA and Avanti!!!

Parent or guardian

Avanti High School

I would like to see integration of quality instruction and social-emotional support for all students. The two are not exclusive. Our students deserve rigor and classroom environments that support inclusiveness, social skills and cooperation.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Love the responsiveness to any issues in the classroom by teacher and principal

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

Good support for my child's needs. I would like to know in advance what my child will be learning for the whole year week by week in advance.

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

Well rounded education focused on academics but also arts and community service. Allow kids lots of different areas to explore to see what their interests are.

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary

The accelerated programs have been wonderful at motivating my children

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I value the school systems proactive approach to reach out for feedback and input from families. I also value the district wide effort to get information to families

Parent or guardian
Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

communication supports needed as well as family connections when making decisions

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher, Community Member
Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I appreciate the effort put into getting the students prepared for the next level in the fashion the OSD does. Elementary kids are fully ready for middle school, the middle school kids are fully ready for high school, and the high schools are preparing the kids for college or their career in tremendous ways. The main reason we moved to Olympia was the amazing schools and it is a great reflection of the hard work the educators and support staff do every day.

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary, Olympia High School

The most important thing is to leave the gender and race issues OUT OF THE CLASSROOMS. The completely misguided and ill-advised emails about critical race theory, etc., are enraging and alienating to the vast majority of us who are normal people who just want to get along with our neighbors and not have our lives interfered with or be told what to do think or that we are all secretly racist or privileged, when we are none of those things.

Parent or guardian
Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

They are amazing already, but i suggested for the teachers to get more support and help to get even better.

Parent or guardian
Thurgood Marshall Middle School

Special needs kids

Student

Boston Harbor Elementary

Academic excellence

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Quality of education

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

i value the education that our school system provides when you actually engage in-person with our students. no matter what branding you give to remote learning (2.0 or whatever nonsense); you can improve your communication to stakeholders (teachers and parents), which has been absolutely abysmal during this time period. sending our surveys and emails that have no substantive information is not helpful and is confusing and most of your communication begs questions, it's almost as if you do not have a communications staff that is (1) competent or (2) empowered. you need to improve here.

Parent or guardian

LP Brown Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

I value the teachers and staff, going out of their way to support my kids the best they can

Parent or guardian

Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I like that the elementary schools are incorporating things relevant to the social climate regarding race

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary, Olympia High School

Shift from a reliance on technology delivered print, i.e. emails and digitally delivered surveys as the primary way of communicating with families, asking for feedback and offering changes to current placements. If I can't access the internet or read English, how would I even know my child can now go to school four days a week?

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School

Offer varied instruction method and varied curriculum to meet the learning ability and/or interest of the students.

Parent or guardian

LP Brown Elementary, Capital High School

I appreciate the districts willingness to try new programs for students to find paths to the future. I would love to see all or more scholarships be awarded to students in need in senior year, especially students who are first - generation to reach milestones in their aspirations.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

wonderful staff that are capable of providing excellent education

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

IB program

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

Social interaction

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary

Great teachers and para-educators; I have generally been unimpressed with the highly capable options for students and hope these can be improved

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School

Like counseling availability. Like willingness to work with individual student needs.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Please make sure all students have a textbook for each class so they don't have to share one with another student.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

More opportunities for kids that are bored on Zoom when teachers are busy disciplining others.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

Better meal options

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

I value the low number of district office personnel. This provides more room for smaller class sizes and also shows the trust in the teaching force to do what's best for kids. We can make the biggest impact with our funds by lowering class sizes across the board.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher, Secondary Teacher
Washington Middle School

Academics

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

More education and less money wasted on teacher incomes

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I understand that there are new subjects in the news that no doubt some parents have requested (or demanded) action on. I'm happy to teach some lessons at home and I'm fine with some light course corrections to adapt to our changing world, but I wouldn't supplant important topics like reading and math with TOO much material on hot topics just to feel like we're doing something about it. At the elementary level anyway, a brief exposure might be the right dose...

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

I value that OSD is trying to meet the needs of today's students. I appreciate ORLA helping me give my kids a custom education. I recognize that this is still only possible because I don't have to work outside the home. I would like to see more of these flexible programs at the local schools.

Parent or guardian
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Please hire appropriate staff for both in-person learning and those that wish to remain in distance learning. Ensure that kids and families at risk or with special needs receive the support they need. If OSD does include mental health as a service provided for students and staff, please hire clinicians to do that work and develop a policy to address the liability of those services.

Parent or guardian
Madison Elementary

Teachers

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Teachers who appear truly invested in each child's progress. Improve teacher support.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I would like the district to work on more consistency. More consistent curriculum, more consistent delivery of curriculum, more consistent expectations for students and staff from building to building...

Parent or guardian

Boston Harbor Elementary, Olympia High School

Academics, clubs, and athletics are valued. Please continue to improve academics and educational opportunities for students. Please don't take away time spent on academics for diversity or social justice training.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

I appreciate the inclusion of social/emotional learning in homeroom classes at the high school and think we should continue to do so in the future

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher

Olympia High School

I would like to see improved cultural sensitivity integrated across the curriculum.

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value the teachers that make sure their students feel loved, safe, and cared about. Having a teacher that believes in you can make all the difference for a student.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

I value communication to parents from the school/teacher/district so, as a parent, I can supplement and advocate for my kid. I'd like to see more tailored instruction meeting children's needs instead of playing to the lowest common denominator and saying the other kids understand so "they're fine". Kids that need more direct support on either end of the educational spectrum should have the opportunity to get that support. (I do like the idea of offering zoom support for kids in the evenings. My question is: will all kids have access to bring their school computers home to be able to engage in this support?)

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary, Madison Elementary

I like the school's quick response to social justice matters and making clear that certain behavior is unacceptable (bigotry, etc). You try to be as inclusive as possible and encourage the students to be the same.

Parent or guardian, Student

Capital High School

I don't have at this moment

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary

The fact that we are able to weigh-in via surveys like this.

Parent or guardian, Community Member, Public Health Professional, Highly Infectious Pathogen Emergency Response Specialist
McKenny Elementary, Olympia High School

academic record

Parent or guardian, Student
Jefferson Middle School, Olympia High School

Improve math and science curriculum so standards are catching up to other countries. Focus on academics and support students to attain higher standards. More schooling throughout the year with intermittent breaks, rather than a long summer break.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Communications between parents and teachers are well established. More out of classroom extracurricular activities are needed.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary

more anti-racism training for students, teachers, and administrators

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

I would love for a better way to access my kids assignments and grades. Schoology/Skyward is not all that great.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary, Capital High School

I'd like to see more availability of resources for children with special needs

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value the focus on inclusion and social awareness. I would like to see a better focus on faculty enrichment to enhance their ability to empathize for, and identify with, students with learning disabilities.

Parent or guardian
McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School

Welcoming district, our experience at ORLA has been great!

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Better electives in middle school for kids who don't do music. The robots and other classes are horrible choices. It would be great to see the home even classes for 7th and 8th graders and some other choices that are more interesting. My child has no interest in what they offer and it's difficult to push them in these classes

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

Invested interest.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

Foreign languages are important and a great use of diversity oriented funds.

Parent or guardian

Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Increased focus on anti-racism and social justice. I value the communication teachers and administrators demonstrated during distance learning.

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School

Improvement in special education programs

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

School's value is in existing as a safe space dedicated to learning and growth. Set an expectation of self-discovery and learning excellence. Promote what supports that goal and mitigate/remove what does not.

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Capital High School

Kids safety, increase police presence at school

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary

Social emotional staff increase at the high school!!!! Not just career counseling

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

McKenny Elementary, Capital High School

The high school administration suffers from a lack of accountability and needs to update their communication from behaving as if none of the families have divorced parents and only

contacting a child's mother for things. It's rude, sexist, and impractical. Special ed support for kids with ADD/ADHD is largely performative, late, and with a focus on ableist language that pressures students to come up with their own strategies when they are already struggling.

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary, Olympia High School

More after school/summer tutoring or education resources

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

I value the teachers and staff at the schools. They need to have the tools available for them to teach our children.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

The teachers are wonderful! It would be great to lower class sizes and increase the number of social workers/ mental health providers. I also worked in a school in another state that had an AMAZING school-based health center with a full time RNP. It was funded in partnership with the local hospital and with federal grants and Medicaid. It would be fabulous to see a program like this in our high schools.

Parent or guardian

LP Brown Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

accepting of parental input

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary

looking at the whole child. Not every student goes to college

Parent or guardian

Boston Harbor Elementary, Olympia High School

I don't know much about the entire school district, but at Garfield Elementary, the caring and support that children and families receive is excellent, however, I do believe that having more teachers and smaller class sizes could help facilitate learning in every subject, especially when it comes to the events like that of this past year. I know my children have felt that there was too much noise at times with 20 other children all trying to understand and to all be heard by their

educators and I as a parent had to deal with the frustration of that as well as trying to console them. Issues with not getting time to actually share and learn are in every part of their learning.

Parent or guardian

Garfield Elementary

That children are treated with empathy and respect. We can always improve our efforts to be more inclusive.

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary

I value the knowledge they teach the kids. I teach values at home. Leave the parenting to the parents please.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I value access to programs designed to help kids stay the course from grade school through high school.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Reeves Middle School

Lower cost before and after school programs for working parents

Parent or guardian
Madison Elementary

I value the teachers and para educators.

Parent or guardian
McKenny Elementary

The option for year round schooling is awesome.

Parent or guardian
Madison Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Avanti High School

I value that my daughter will graduate after next year and I will never have to worry about how OSD celebrates mediocrity again.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Positive experiences with teachers and school staff, looking forward to more onsite instruction when it can be safely expanded.

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary

Supportive and supported staff; quality of teaching and schools. More after school programs would be great.

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

Our school has excellent teachers and needs more teachers and classes.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Students to teacher ratio. Smaller class size

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I value that the school system is free. I would love to see the teachers and staff receive more support so that they could in turn support the students better

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

I value the respect that is fostered at McKenny elementary school.

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary

I appreciate the programs that are provided for children who are learning at an accelerated pace, but would like to see more programs that offer exploration like the CSI program. Unfortunately, not many are able to join this program due to space and that is sad to see because there are so many kids left out who would otherwise thrive in these types of programs that focus on science and social studies in the local community.

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary

I'd like to continue to see supports for those struggling to keep up and expanded options for science, trips, music, etc (Items not necessarily related to testing scores).

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

Help for kids who are struggling.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Olympia High School

academic

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary

Distant learning. I would like Distant learning as a permanent option.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff, Community Member

LP Brown Elementary, Capital High School

I think everything about CES is fine

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

I'd like to see significant systemic improvements in proactive support for students who are struggling academically. I'd also like support to continue or expand for our food service program, including any extra staffing or infrastructure needs they have. Plus, support for removing unnecessary sugars (chocolate milk, soda) and expanding the district's ability to purchase local, whole ingredients.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Having sit next to my children while in class, I am appalled with the lack of professionalism and political bias displayed by some of the teachers. These teachers are adding to the division we are currently experiencing nationwide by inserting their views as the right views. The students would greatly benefit from teachers who have been trained on how to teach without sharing political views and how to walk the students through viewing issues from multiple perspectives. (Real Example-showing several political cartoons displaying Republicans as racists idiots and then showing 1 anti-Democrat cartoon and joking about how that 1 cartoon made the lesson nonbiased. Another teacher had an anti-police assignment.) The school's job is not to indoctrinate the students but help them become free thinkers.

Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School, Olympia High School

I would like to see more emphasis on a variety of career options other than just college. The reality is that we need to support all paths and create a more inclusive educational system that offers opportunities to try out a variety of careers and skills.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value the district's academic focus and the supportive student culture.

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I value the schools commitment to community, and would like to see more programs like HAP.

Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary

I appreciate the anti-racism communications to students and families and the science learning opportunities provided to students. I'd like teachers at the middle school level to have better skills at dealing with kids, both male and female, that challenge them instead of giving up and reinforcing a damaged relationships as though it's only the kid's fault because they 100% confident that they're an excellent educator.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Learning model currently needs vast improvements to become successful. Kids don't need to repeat days of learning to get xtra times in classes maybe students are able to get webinar

instruction during real time classes on days they are in remote vs in person The current model has one group (virtual) going 3-days a week to the same curriculum and that is time not well spent and learning half the curriculum. This is a waste of time for all. Look into what is working in USA and do that. Be resourceful and not following one health director out of state or a gov looking for popularity. We need to support kids and not by babysitting them due to a government benchmark

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I like that the OSD wants all children to have equal access to education. I would like to see less focus on social issues and more focus on teaching the basics that a child needs to succeed in life after the school-age years.

Parent or guardian
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Curriculum

Parent or guardian, Student
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

The teachers are wonderful and caring. I would love to see more electives/trades taught.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School

Too much focus on political and social agendas. This should be parents roll, not school!!!
Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Emotional & mental health

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Communication needs to be improved

Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School

Community centered philosophy- this is good Too large of class sizes and poor budget/funding choices- not great. The school board also does not listen to teachers or truly gets into classrooms to see the packed students.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher
McLane Elementary, Capital High School

If additional resources can be showered upon the school district and Capital High School, in particular; it would be on intensive teacher and administrator training/capacity building on how to teach core subjects in a meaningful, relevant, and engaging manner. While the pandemic has been hard on teachers and administrators, no doubt; i have watched in exasperation how my

son has slowly disengaged from the school's formal learning and found more meaning and relevance on his own in places like Khan Academy and others, for example. If money must be spent on anything, let it be on strengthening the core capacity of schools to deliver on their central business -- e.i., to teach a well rounded educational program - and that can begin with building the capacity of teachers and administrators to continually improve, to performance evaluate (with consequences for those who do not deliver and incentives for those who do). Teaching is not an easy business, but complacency is not acceptable. Unfortunately I have seen too many complacent teachers on the other side of my son's screen over the past year. Simple acts such as a teacher smiling, for example, at the beginning or interspersed throughout a class period sends a strong message to his/her students/learners, one that tends to foster greater engagement and interest from the learners. Teachers can receive training on such techniques and tricks as well as on how to make their material content more engaging and relevant to their learners. Its not hard to do, its a matter of priority setting. The funny thing is, it doesn't even cost too much money, but it does require the willingness to go down that path and making it happen.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Like the emphasis on encouraging students individual thinking capabilities. Would like to see more emphasis on Math & science.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary

Strong community support is an asset. I would like to see greater connection in the schools. Some of our kids are very lonely-and were BEFORE the pandemic. We need to support fostering friendships and connections, particularly in avenues for the students who are not participating in HS sports or the very expensive as exclusive traveling sports teams.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Our school system works hard to serve all students, and there are incredibly creative, innovative, and hard working people in each of our schools. This year has shown that more than ever. Teachers and building admin have taken on the lion's share of not only implementing constantly changing guidelines and expectations (often with limited notice), but also of making those changes clear and workable for families. The biggest area of improvement this district could make is in the area of transparent communication. Many of the surveys (including this one) seem more like checking the "includes stakeholders in decision-making" box than actually getting opinions, because many of the questions asked are about things that don't have clear definitions or communication behind them. If input from staff and/or parents is of value to you, then it would be worth the time and effort to let people in on how and why decisions are being reached, especially decisions like what priorities to present to stakeholders about budget categories. It is clear that thought has already been put into the budget, but the rationale behind some of these items is unclear. This has been a trend for some time in surveys to the community, and honestly makes me wonder if feedback or opinions are really of value.

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher
Hansen Elementary, Olympia High School

Equity. The district only talks about equity when it's benefits OSD's agenda. There is no true equity in this district.

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary, Reeves Middle School

N/a

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

We value the teachers in my children's school. I would like too see that they have the staffing support to help with the scope of needs all students will have as in person school continues

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Garden and growing own food

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary

The teachers

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

N/A

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Reaching to meet the needs of unique children

Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary

Smaller class sizes

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

I'd like to see a hillside stadium built at Capital HS

Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

I like how the new principal has made a huge effort towards recognizing social and racial in justice and has made a direct effort with the community to combat this at our school. I would

still love to see more diversity in the staff at school to represent the amount of diverse students.

**Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary**

I think the teachers and staff have really been incredible with all this constant change. I really appreciate the focus on meeting the students social/emotional needs during this time and making accommodations for special needs students.

**Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
Centennial Elementary, Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy**

Career prep

**Other School Staff, Community Member, Central Office Administrator
Olympia High School**

Ha! Where to start? Ethics. Our schools teach our children ethics, as well as core skills. I can honestly say from working within the system as a para that I see these ethics reinforced positively at all the schools I work at. We should be proud of programs like the DLC peer mentor group at Washington Middle School. This program has done more for inclusion and respect of special needs kids than I have ever experienced in my life. Working with those wonderful kids and staff is truly something I treasure. I realize we are blessed to live in a fairly affluent area, but even affluence has an opposite side. The paras, resource room educators, and counselors do so much to keep the flow of school working as smoothly as possible. Teachers are overworked. The support staff really makes their jobs a little less chaotic.

**Parent or guardian, Other School Staff, Community Member
Madison Elementary, McKenny Elementary, Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School**

I'd like to see a hillside stadium built at Capital HS

**Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School**

Smaller class sizes

**Parent or guardian
Olympia High School**

School lunch nutrition.

**Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary**

Access to extended learning

**Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School**

We value the teachers in my children's school. I would like too see that they have the staffing support to help with the scope of needs all students will have as in person school continues

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

The ideals of equality is beautiful and should continue to be enforced, from black lives to homelessness to others, just love one another

Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I would like to see teachers and staff talking to kids about stopping bullying and building more inclusion. My daughter does not like middle school because there are so many 'mean kids.' These kids are only nice to my daughter when the teacher is watching and the minute they're not being watched they are cruel and make sure my daughter knows she's not included in their little groups. My daughter has brought up the option of switching to homeschooling because of this. If WMS made it known to students that the school supports an inclusive environment and won't tolerate bullying and excluding others, this wouldn't happen. I don't want my outgoing daughter to be denied the right to social connections because of the cruel environment at school.

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

I think it's great that every kid has a computer now. We need to work on infrastructure. We need more bus drivers!

Parent or guardian, Community Member
McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I think the level of care is excellent
Parent or guardian, Student
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

value communication to families & community, improve communication/functioning within schools

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Streamline Communication, less fill, only need to know info.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Hi cap
Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

Higher pay for teachers and staff
Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

You do pretty well with IEP's. Athletics should not be emphasized as much.

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher

Olympia High School

I appreciate the districts willingness to try new programs for students to find paths to the future. I would love to see all or more scholarships be awarded to students in need in senior year, especially students who are first - generation to reach milestones in their aspirations.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Continue supporting the music programs.

Community Member

Hansen Elementary, McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

More books

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary

Individualized learning

Parent or guardian

Garfield Elementary

I think the school system is doing the best they can during an extremely challenging time. I have continued to be impressed With McLane Elementary in their creativity and genuine interest in my child's well being. Ms Walker deserves a medal for what a great job she has done navigating a lot of challenging topics this year. She has fostered a safe environment to ask questions and have been so impressed at her ability to connect with each of the students even virtually. Improvement: I hope that the staff are getting as much support as they are providing to our children.

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary

Our district is filled with educators that value students academically, emotionally, and their well-being. I love that our district is striving to ensure all students are represented, but more work needs to be done to guarantee this.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

McLane Elementary

The music program (band, choir, etc) are good but wholly underfunded and under-appreciated by the school system as a whole - equal funding/appreciate for music and sports supported by music should be considered.

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Capital High School

Solid education in the district, but would definitely like to see a foreign language Program, such as Spanish classes or immersion opportunities as seen in other districts

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary

Value overall quality of education. Improve keeping kids busy after school in a positive manner.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Comprehensive SEL system-wide

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

Value: academic options. Improve teacher/students ratio.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

The support teachers and advisors provide for my children

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value the restorative justice focus, though I have friends in law enforcement who felt unwelcome in the district and pulled their kids. I think there needs to be a balance.

Parent or guardian

Madison Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

Right now, improvements would be helpful not to ignore all remote students. Overall, the district excels with the variety of options provided to meet the needs of all students.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

That every child has the same right and obligation to study safely at school and in the society.

Parent or guardian

Madison Elementary, Reeves Middle School

Inclusivity and emotional support. Later start times.

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary

Teach basic skills of living

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Parental input on controversial topic. if it is controversial to a certain say 50%, then it should be restricted. At the very least, a parent approval. It shouldn't be sneakily added behind our backs. We (parents/guardians and students) should not have to "opt out" and they are forced to learn it by default. We should purposely opt into anything controversial to ensure no family or student is being violated. Also the verbiage in the voting should also be approved by the parents because several of the surveys that have been sent have been very confusing and misleading, which many have seen it as being done on purpose to manipulate us. We want

transparency and community cooperation because lately it has felt like a dictatorship and our kids are the victims.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

Food and nutrition service

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

The teachers are outstanding. Communication from the school district this year has been disappointing, ineffective. We get emails, phone calls at work and home cell phone calls, about snow days and absences. Why didn't we get that level of communication about truly important things this year like schedule changes, surveys, and other choices. I found out about many of these critical developments on unofficial social media channels.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

So far we have been happy with the schools and the content they are teaching.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value how much the kids are cared for and handled. Many schools are protective and careful. Please leave indoctrination outside of regular academics out.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Value the variety within the system at the elementary level for different learning environments support more of this at the middle and high school levels.

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I appreciate surveys like these that ask for input, but I'd like to see more opportunities for authentic family engagement. For instance, my child's school did not ask me a single time for any input or feedback on how the remote learning was going, only to select options after they had already been decided. Her schedule has been changed numerous times with very short notice. Please improve family engagement and communication!!!

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary

Our school system produces a confident human being. I'd love to see our students can see the realistic big picture of their education goals. By experiencing all aspects of workforce-related topics at the young age i.e., human relationships, business management, IT and operations, finance, and marketing, these students can find the area they feel natural and get better idea of the options they have after graduation.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

More language enrichment opportunities

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

I value the dedication and personal commitment of the personnel who engage daily with our students. The district needs to provide more support and professional development opportunities for teachers who are trying to reach (and teach) students via distance learning. Help in designing asynchronous assignments, aligning assessment with priority standards for learning are just a couple of areas that need attention.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I don't know if I do value the olympia or Olympia regional learning academy way of teaching but I respect Avanti a lot because they ask the tough questions and rally support behind their staff and students to be a comprehensive education program vs a cookie cutter program.

Avanti High School, Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

More resources for students in regard to after school activities/field trips

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

We have had some extremely dedicated teachers whom we value greatly. Extra money should go to them to increase retention. [School name] has a horrible teacher retention rate since on boarding [staff position] several years ago

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary

The transparency the principles have with us in our personal district Hansen, Marshal and Capital has been amazing . Some of staff has been extremely disrespectful or non responsive, while we are al checking and adjusting the teachers are continuing to get paid to do their job when in reality the parents (I know not all) are the ones picking up the slack. Some respect would be amazing.

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Hansen Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

Increased specialist time; increased support at high poverty schools and for high poverty students

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

McKenny Elementary

I value the education of our children. I think we need to improve inequalities and make learning more holistic (vs so many worksheets).

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary

I value the wide variety of learning opportunities my son has received at Hansen Elementary, Marshall Middle School, and Capital High School. Some of the best learning opportunities happened during field trips from Mr Samson's 5th grade class at Hansen and the Mr. Condon and Mr. Phillipy's CSI program at Marshall.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Too new to Oly to give a substantive reply. Impressed so far. The guidance function seems more useful, less intrusive and generally superior to other schools our children have attended.

Olympia High School

Sometimes things actually seem to happen

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

I value the restorative justice focus, though I have friends in law enforcement who felt unwelcome in the district and pulled their kids. I think there needs to be a balance.

Parent or guardian

Madison Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

I appreciate the excellent communication over the last year with all of the changes.

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Social/emotional impact of extended online learning needs improvement

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

Community

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary

I value teachers, building administrators, counselors, and school support staff.

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher, Community Member

Olympia High School

Higher pay for teachers and staff

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

More focus on academics, specifically science and math

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value the quality of staff. I want to see improvements on school lunch and more time on PE/art/music.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

Leave politics out of the schools

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Highly competent teachers, improve on cultural humility, equity and justice learning

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary

TEACHER TRAINING/ACCOUNTABILITY RE CULTURAL ISSUES

Parent or guardian, Y-CARE

Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School

equal opportunities for all.

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary

Less focus on the Social/Political topics.

Olympia High School

Improve upon stronger leadership with more transparency

Parent or guardian
McKenny Elementary

no

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Get the kids back to all day school ASAP! You have done more damage than good!

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

It gives children the ability to grow and learn to become good citizens to their fellow classmates and make the world a better place. Good teachers of math, science and language is the lifeblood to the next generation of success of global competitiveness.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

I value the school system for teaching children core classes while providing a safe environment for learning and growing. Having a platform in which children can be independent and feel safe expressing feelings without judgement.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

I appreciate the emails we get from the superintendent addressing important issues and current events

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary, Pioneer Elementary, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value the restorative justice focus, though I have friends in law enforcement who felt unwelcome in the district and pulled their kids. I think there needs to be a balance.

Parent or guardian
Madison Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

This is my first year in the Olympia school district. It is an unprecedented year for sure and not the best time to determine what aspect of the system would need to improve. The "system" has not been the norm for over a year. Perhaps this question would be best answered in 2022.

Parent or guardian
Thurgood Marshall Middle School

Good communications

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Teachers and coach's are all amazing. Everyone of the staff do there best.

Parent or guardian
Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Kids seem to be able to be more themselves, however, I think the hands-off approach does not work at times when there are kids who often disrupt the rest of the class. While I don't want a strict environment, I do think disruption in the classroom leads to less material being covered.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Lincoln Elementary

I value that the staff treat every child as an independent individual.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Individual support through the school year rather than end of term.

Parent or guardian
Thurgood Marshall Middle School

Extra help in math and ELA for remote students

Parent or guardian
Madison Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

Math tutoring, music programs after school

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School

Better one to one communication with parents to optimize support for their students individual needs.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Educators

Parent or guardian
Boston Harbor Elementary

Good school system! you all do a great job.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Washington Middle School

My main concern is my child's education. He falls more and more behind every year. The response I get from the school? It's the Teachers job to bring the student up to grade level. That answer doesn't sit well with me. It's a huge disservice to both student and teacher. More

staffing for one on one help, more opportunities for tutoring in math and ELA are needed.

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary

Support students academically so they can achieve success in future pursuits. My child has lost educational excellence due to the inferiority of remote learning. That is what needs to be replaced and recaptured for the immediate educational future.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

Too new to Oly to give a substantive reply. Impressed so far. The guidance function seems more useful, less intrusive and generally superior to other schools our children have attended.

Olympia High School

More consideration for working parents schedules and family time would be appreciated ie minimize homework (do it in the classroom).

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary

Teacher involvement

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

I think an investment in a consulting firm to study the structure of district-level admin and staffing to include a special focus on communication within Knox and how that information is or is not disseminated more broadly concluding with recommendations for future staffing and how to substantively improve communications.

Parent or guardian, Community Member, Spouse of Employee

Garfield Elementary, Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

seems like the schools are scared of being sued all the time and that paralyzes them. be bold. get it done.

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary

After school programs

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

There are lots of options for kids. Luckily mine is doing well and can navigate the system effectively. But this survey includes lots of buzzwords that I don't understand, I am not sure how to prioRitize things I don't understand.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Social responsibility and critical thinking

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Smaller classes or co-teaching that allows for teacher to teach and meet students needs.

Parent or guardian
Thurgood Marshall Middle School

The investment placed in garnering community input, the freedom of principals to run their schools, the belief that all kids really are equal and can be educated to their highest potential. I would like to see WAY WAY WAY better coordination, esp at Oly High, for respecting non-traditional pathways. When a kid chooses New Market or Running Start they become an abandoned and dismissed student who is lesser than. I have had kids in both programs so have first-hand experience.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Find a way to offer summer opportunities in this pandemic year for all students

Parent or guardian
Madison Elementary, Reeves Middle School

Value=the staff. Improvement=Having to find out about on my own time and opt into advanced academic programs. Make sports less secretive and exclusive-especially basketball.

Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

More resources for College in Classroom to make it easier for all to have access

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I would like there to be full time nurses, counselors, and mental health professionals at each school.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher
Garfield Elementary, LP Brown Elementary

Use of evidenced based practices rather than curriculums, implementation of community based instruction for social justice issues

Parent or guardian, Contracted consultant
Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School, Transition Program

More lifestyle skills

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

This school system is great if you are highly capable or if you are special needs. It's not great for the average students. If you don't need extra help you don't get extra attention, and you get lost in the shuffle. Also, the emphasis on "jock sports" (football, basketball) is absurd. There's not enough emphasis on other sports, clubs or interests.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

During the pandemic, it was obvious which teachers didn't want to teach. 5 minute Zooms, come on. I would like to see some of those teachers removed and replaced with teachers who care. CHS has always been great at preparing students for college, I'd like to see that high standard continue.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Staffing, core curriculum, engagement and coordinating with parents

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

I value OSD's success rates. I would like to see all schools treated equitably, especially schools with a large amount of low income students. They deserve MORE help, not less.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

The teachers and staff are hard working and caring people forced to do more than they have the resources to do. Lowering class size and having counselors on site helps teachers focus on the individual needs of their students--be it academic or mental health.

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Smaller class size is essential! Academic and sel support falls into place and can be provided with smaller class sizes. I would also like to see Special Education staffing increase. Service minutes, accommodations, and modifications and not being met due to student needs to access curriculum vs staffing and caseload numbers.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Multicultural awareness

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff, Community Member

Roosevelt Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

Our daughters love their schools, and we appreciate the tremendous effort and excellent communications from the district, our principals and our teachers during this incredibly difficult

year. We look forward to a return to full school days (hopefully) in the coming year. As for improvements, we want to voice our support for the district's continued efforts to focus on families who have struggled most during the pandemic and need the most support and additional services to avoid falling behind.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Hansen Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

OSD is a progressive and mindful district that allocates a large amount of resources to support all of its students.

Parent or guardian
Boston Harbor Elementary

I like all of it - you are doing great

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I value the choices; I hope that the school allows the kids and parents make choices what works best not every child is the same but with right support the kids can be very successful

Parent or guardian
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

There are many caring adults at Garfield and Jefferson.

Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School

The teachers are wonderful, but I'd love to see them use more cooperative learning, project-based learning, and civic engagement within their everyday lessons.

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

The support they give

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Mandatory cultural sensitivity and education classes

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Smaller class size is essential! Academic and sel support falls into place and can be provided with smaller class sizes. I would also like to see Special Education staffing increase. Service minutes, accommodations, and modifications and not being met due to student needs to access curriculum vs staffing and caseload numbers.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Students need to be significantly better prepared in terms of math and science

Parent or guardian

Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Emphasis in helping students get back to skill development in writing, reading, science, and mathematics

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary

Appreciate the work/flexibility of the teachers. Need to have kids in school for learning, teachers need the time, supplies, aids to get through the material that needs to be taught.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

One size does not fit all. Get new leadership at OHS.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School, Avanti High School

Sports

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Improvement needed: less teacher instruction and student learning in front of a computer screen, more opportunities to apply and demonstrate knowledge outside of the use of a computer screen

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

I would like to see the school system really dig deep into basic education. Show our kids we care about them and raise academic expectations.

Parent or guardian

Boston Harbor Elementary

My biggest hope is that this school district gets back to 'normal' and they put KIDS FIRST!

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

I value most the people who work with our students. The loving, high competent staff at all levels is truly a treasure. They have all been put through the ringer this year. As a teacher, I know how many are feeling completely burnt out and undervalued as professionals. We must nurture and support the people who make this district work, who are in the trenches with students every day so we don't lose them to early retirement, career changes, or to other

districts. If we do not put effort into showing parents, teachers, and building administrators that we value them professionally and personally we are essentially harming our students.

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher
Centennial Elementary, Olympia High School

I appreciate it in general.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Provides overall academic and extracurricular activities- focus on MH/Emotional health needs

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Focus on anti-bullying and bring back D.A.R.E

Parent or guardian
Boston Harbor Elementary, Capital High School

I like the no child left behind philosophy

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School

More support for our teachers - otherwise we will lose them as education continues as it is now is unsustainable for many. We need to see more ToSA positions to enhance the collaboration and learning opportunities for our staff (and by association, our students!). We need more time embedded into the work day/week without students to more effectively do our jobs.

Secondary Teacher
Washington Middle School

I love how supportive the staff is to families

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

New to this district but I have appreciated the teachers flexibility

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

More academic focus and building respect for all; less agendas pushed into our schools that are confusing our students and build anxiety

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher
Centennial Elementary

I value focus on academics but would like to see smaller classes and more alternative learning

opportunities.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

We haven't had a chance to experience the high school system; but in middle school, we appreciated having our student attend JAMS, and be able to benefit from a good mix of curricular and extra-curricular learning (eg. soccer). It would be great to enhance availability of certain electives that fill up (eg. wood working, welding), or to offer opportunities to take more than two electives, so one does not have to choose between several compelling opportunities. It seems you have excellent resources for gym; it would be great for our high schooler to start to take advantage of that and other sports options.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Shool hours that help working families. 8 to 4. With after-school programs for parents to work and not have to break the bank in childcare expenses before and after-school.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

I appreciate academics. Better balance with social/emotional well-being is crucial.

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input to this survey. If Zoom classes continue, more outreach for remote only students. It would also be helpful for teachers to have a reasonable expectation. The assigning of homework has been an issue with a couple teachers - along with the workload.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I value that we're paying attention to social and emotional needs. Funding that philosophy and making time for that work is imperative if we're going to be impactful. Thanks for all that you do.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

Lincoln Elementary

I have valued the high academic standards and meritocracy based learning the district has held. We need to get back to that, but with a better recognition for the students not planning a college life after homeschool, they need a different academic path.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Giving the students more time to eat lunch, also not having the students outside for recess when it's raining!!

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary

Putting students needs first

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Better accountability and oversight for HS teachers- so many really phoned it in. Though some were fantastic.

Parent or guardian
Boston Harbor Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

I value learning to be a well rounded person. Commitment to kindness and inclusion.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

Learning support and free access to tutoring

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

culturally responsive curriculum, large availability of AP courses

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Your online program. The amount of work your non online kids do is minimal. The online kids spend hours and days. My child spends a min of 6 days a week to keep up. It's exhausting. They shouldn't have to. You need more teachers, But my child has taught herself everything. If she has a question the teacher will respond but a lot of the time it is untimely. Mr Ong is the most timely teacher. Nothing against the others. But my child teachers herself. It is NOT fair that non online barely have any work. Online still Requires the same time, etc. She has 1 week left to get her assignments done. She has over 50 assignments due. And she is AHEAD. YES, ahead. There is no way. No possible way she will get 4 classes done in a week with 50 assignments due in EACH class: That is crazy. Let's face it. We would have a hard Time doing it if our boss asked us. But we expect them? Are we setting them up for stress and failure?

Parent or guardian
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value the effort put into teaching our kids math, literacy, business, accurate history. We really need to stop using school time to push values or social engineering on kids when that will be learned from the family and from family/community and will be learned through experience. Social issues largely have two sides and school is not the place.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I value the staff at Pioneer- they seem very committed to our kids, esp during the challenges of covid. Would just like to see more multi-disciplinary options and experiential learning for kids- like Spanish or French, an arts class, gardening class, field trips, etc. Also for high schoolers, if there isn't yet a budgeting/money management class, I'd love to see that in place by the time my kids get there.

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary

More support/resources

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Alternative programs, social emotional emphasis, whole child learning, and I would like to see smaller classes for the sake of the children and as an educator so I could better support my students. I also think children should have a longer lunch break so they could digest their food.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher, Community Member

Lincoln Elementary

I value the diversity of school choices for all families. I would love to see the later start times for secondary schools continue.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I would like to see smaller class sizes be a priority.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Improve supports for those who don't fit the mold. Everyone deserves and equitable education, not just the rich and smart

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I like how they handled adapting to the pandemic

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I would like the school system to effectively orient to equitable access and outcomes in ways that address the inequities I suspect are present due to the school service area boundaries.

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School, Olympia High School

I would like my students to be in class. This has been a rough year.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I have only been in the Olympia school system since the fall of 2019, so I don't have a clear appreciation of what I value or feel needs improvement given the closure of schools and lack of in-person experiences during this past 2 school years.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Roosevelt Elementary

Our school district is doing a great job treating all students and families with equity. We need to give our students more social and emotional support, we need more counselors for all ages and more para educators on elementary level.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher
Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

The teachers and principals have tried SO hard this year which cannot be under-appreciated. I would like there to be more cohesive communication between leadership and the educators otherwise this ivory tower leadership mentality trickles down and affects the students as well.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

I value the strong academics at OHS and would like to see an emphasis on preserving and improving academic excellence.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Would love to see later start times for middle school and high school. We have an opportunity to reset here and starting one hour later would make a big difference.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Proper, more efficient evaluations and aid to help children succeed.

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary

I am having a very difficult time with answering what I value so I will say I value specific administration leaders and teachers (not all). The system must be able to actively and affirmatively support those with learning difficulties such as ADHD. one teacher for a class of 20-25 and a poorly followed 504 plan does not cut it.

Parent or guardian
Boston Harbor Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Capital High School

Increased multicultural awareness curriculum, especially in social studies, history & ELA with goal to bring attention to and decrease racism, sexism, bigotry, etc

Parent or guardian

Boston Harbor Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

We are blessed with many amazing teachers (and students) who are working so hard to provide a great education (and future) to our young people in this community. I really value and am grateful for that. Something that we could improve is to get back to the basics - focus on educating kids (with actual school subjects like math, english, history, etc.) instead of trying to indoctrinate kids with political ideologies.

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Olympia High School

I want reiterate the importance of regular physical activity as a top priority in order to act as a foundation for a successful Academic programme. Students who exercise regularly secrete endorphins, sleep better and are generally happier...reducing the severity of many of the social problems. It also keeps them busy in the afternoon reducing their chance of being involved in negative activities. The other pillar for a successful academic programme is focus on the creative subjects. Without these an academic programme is incomplete and I would suggest, hollow.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Olympia High School

Our kids love ORLA Home connect program. We love the diversity of the classes offered and we love the electives!!! We also love the flexibility of the schedule.

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value the student of the OSD. The biggest problem is the disconnect between the school board and their policies, and the reality of schools and classrooms

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher

Washington Middle School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

More communication from teachers to parents in middle school and high school.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Full curriculum including sports, music and art

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I am glad there is support for emotional & Social well being for the students. I would like to see the

Parent or guardian

LP Brown Elementary

I appreciate and value the intent and desire to be more culturally inclusive and updating curriculum - I hope the intent and messaging turns continues to action in the years ahead (given the time it takes to do the work).I think the system as a whole needs to improve support for children with special needs and children experiencing homelessness or other struggles that impact learning success.

Parent or guardian

Boston Harbor Elementary

It's hard to say. As a parent of a kindergartener this is our first year with the district and not really a pleasant one. We don't know how or what a "normal" school year looks like. Definitely was not impressed with the communication and planning about the school year. A basic plan was set in place in August then nothing was done till January. And the answer was that there was planning that needed to be done. Im concerned about the amount of time my child is NOT at school. why can't the kids do PE and music at school? Don't tell me they can't be socially distant to do it or wear masks. They are pretty much in PE during recess. I have heard rumors of staff that are complaining that they have to return to work. I hope the district staff is grateful they have jobs to come back to. So many out there do not. I also hope lots of lessons have been learned and maybe even a new mindset that will enhance the education system for our children moving forward for years to come. Thank You

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Pioneer Elementary

I value the commitment to preventing bullying. My student feels safe and respected at school.

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School

I wish budgeting and learning how to save, real life skills, would be mandatory over algebra 2 and such. Kids may know how to do long, difficult math problems but they don't learn how to create a home budget. Too many get sucked into Visa or student loans at 18 and then spend their early years behind trying to catch up. It's sad. Might be a parents job but seems like that would be a great mandatory minimum all kids should learn for a diploma.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I value the flexibility of staff and their ability to adjust on the fly to changing conditions. I'd like to see that staff are supported so they can thrive in uncertain conditions, and that diverse learning opportunities can still be effectively provided to students.

Parent or guardian

LP Brown Elementary

After school programs

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I really value the fact that our school system has Freedom Farmers and Mr Duerre. I'd like to prioritize helping students with special needs be more supported in the goal of being able to participate in the school's social clubs. They need a coach in real-time during social groups.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

The district has put its IEP population on the back burner and at the end of the priority list. Especially the last two school years of the pandemic. Make it right. Our kids are worth the district's attention and investment.

Parent or guardian

Madison Elementary

Alternative programs

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Focus on academic rigor

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

We value the staff, their commitment to students, so retaining and training

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

Free summer learning for kids who need to make up or recover grades

Parent or guardian, Community Member, School volunteer

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

ethnicity or cultural driven events

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Value: Caring and capable staff. You had to pivot so many times in the past two years we are grateful for how you continue to show up for our students. Improvement: More interaction with students and between students. This year was challenging because of COVID, and one result of that is the lack of community building that happens sometimes in a classroom. Plus my elementary aged student was moved to a completely different school / teacher because he is completely remote. That was unfortunate that we couldn't keep him with his home school.

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary, McKenny Elementary, Olympia High School

I value the community-oriented feeling of our local school and I think continued investment and growth in supportive staff, especially paraeducators, that support teachers and become familiar faces for our kids is important.

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

Accessible affordable academics

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary, Olympia High School

Value: sense of community; Improve: clarity of information from the top (central office)

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher, Community Member

Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I value that each school has a certified teacher librarian and I would like to see money put towards updating all collections to bring them to similar levels.

Elementary Teacher

Garfield Elementary

All students deserve great library that offers not only books but other experiences like robotics, typing, research. I don't understand the restorative room and how that differs from a behavior tech and counselor. My son's school has all three with three paid individuals and three separate spaces. It seems at least one of those people could be a classroom teacher to help class sizes become smaller?

Parent or guardian

Garfield Elementary

Focus on academic rigor

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Access to educational resources tailored to each student through significant investment in staffing

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I really appreciate the efforts the younger elementary teachers have made to provide paper packets for kids to complete rather than having everything on the screen. It would be nice to have more of that option in the older grades.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

We keep cutting arts from our curriculum - very sad!

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I want to see more BIPOC integration in the the curriculum at all levels. For example, the history textbooks at WMS are outdated and very white-centric.

Parent or guardian
McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I like the emphasis on college prep education BUT not all kids should go to college and we need to encourage a education plan that will lead kids into a positive path towards a highly skilled trade which should be considered just as credible of a career choice as a college grad! And PLEASE STOP with all the socially radical emphasis!

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

All students deserve great library that offers not only books but other experiences like robotics, typing, research. I don't understand the restorative room and how that differs from a behavior tech and counselor. My son's school has all three with three paid individuals and three separate spaces. In seems at least one of those people could be a classroom teacher to help class sizes become smaller?

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary

I appreciate how much the teachers care about the kids and how hard they work to support them.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

The strong academic curriculum; the respect shown to students

Parent or guardian
McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School

Focus More on academics and sports

Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

I would like there to be more direct and frequent interaction with a guidance counselor for high schoolers. My son will not choose to reach out to or interact with a guidance counselor on his own no matter how much we try to encourage him.

Parent or guardian
Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

Challenge these kids academically!!!

Parent or guardian, Student

Washington Middle School

The assistance provided for struggling students.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

Focus on academic rigor

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I would like more conference opportunities with teachers. I've only ever spoken to my kid's advisor and don't feel like I'm getting an accurate picture of what's going on

Parent or guardian

Reeves Middle School

During the pandemic my family has been extremely disappointed with OSD's handling of communication, students education, and students over all well-being. I believe that OSD has failed all kids in the district. Paraeducators need to be paid a living wage, \$16 an hour starting is a cruel joke. These educators are in charge of our children's health, well-being and education. Pay them what they deserve. Paraeducators who have been in the classroom with students and a teacher has been home on Zoom, need to be paid at least time and half, if not a teacher's salary for the time spent with the students while a teacher has been absent.

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Good student/ teacher ratios, would like more focus on math and science, critical thinking

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

Value: school meals, passionate teachers, "specialist" classes (music, PE, Art, etc.). Improve: foreign language/bilingual immersion program

Parent or guardian

LP Brown Elementary

tutoring programs

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

All staff at Reeves have been supportive, kind, and empathetic.

Parent or guardian

Reeves Middle School

Focus on social justice

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

Raise teacher pay

Parent or guardian
Reeves Middle School

It's hard to know with a year at home not connected to anyone personally. We really loved Marshal Middle School, all the staff were awesome. My son is now a 9th grader. We do not know anyone at Capital High School.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

??

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

better access and equity to clubs and sports

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Learning math, english and music and the school library. The PE stuff is not effective and the school nurse is a waste of resources. Lunch is great. Get rid of the nurse.

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

students learning english

Parent or guardian
Madison Elementary, Olympia High School

Your are loosing your core values

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Add more or different types of specialty teachers in elementary schools to enhance learning opportunities (foreign language...technology...science...sustainability)

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Variety of learning opportunities and a solid base to build skills on

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Clubs and afterschool opportunities

Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

I value the level of excellence seen in the on site administrators, and the primary educators.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

A commitment to in-person education that was clearly absent this year.

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

More time in person

Parent or guardian

Thurgood Marshall Middle School

Less diversity training

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I value the staff and teachers, custodians, and food service workers. The high quality teaching and the focus on social/emotional growth and kindness and respect. I would like to see more communication with the parents.

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary

I value our school system as a safe place of learning and growing. I would like to see more value placed on opportunities for students to experience and explore alternative ways of learning outside of the classroom (field trips/project work/experimental learning etc.).

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Increased music, art, and PE opportunities, funding for foreign language at middle school

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff

Lincoln Elementary, Olympia High School

I really appreciate the efforts the younger elementary teachers have made to provide paper packets for kids to complete rather than having everything on the screen. It would be nice to have more of that option in the older grades.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value ease of communication with teachers and principals. Planning/scheduling with more advance notice for consideration of working families within the district needs to be implemented. The local economy cannot be governed by the whim of the public school system setting schedules with little notice as if parents are able to comply without consequences in the workforce

Parent or guardian

Boston Harbor Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

I value the work that the IEP teachers, paraeducators, staff and counselors that work with special needs children have been doing.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Hansen Elementary, Capital High School

I value the commitment to preventing bullying. My student feels safe and respected at school.

Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School

Teachers seem to care, feel like all the kids have lost a lot of their education this year compared to prior years.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

The system should be completely overhauled and brought into the 21st century.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Academic and emotional growth

Parent or guardian, Community Member
McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Diversity in school and academic options. Support Avanti!! The Knox building needs more than bare bones improvements more frequently than every 20 years.

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher
Avanti High School, Capital High School

More time in person
Parent or guardian
Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I value how much the individuals clearly care and are personally invested in the kids.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

A consistent learning experience online and in the classroom. Maintaining consistency is key to ensure students in both learning environments are getting the best education possible.

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value the fact that the school administration is very willing to work with families that have fallen behind during this time of COVID/distance learning.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Olympia High School

cultural awareness and responsiveness.

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I value the teachers and administration. The Olympia School Board needs to make decisions quicker and communicate better.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Current school system is failing our students. Go back to our values and teach. Is that hard?

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary, Capital High School

I have always valued the diversity of public schools. I find it is important for the Students to be able to understand the different dynamics of the real world. I would like to see more education on real world needs in order to ensure the Students of Olympia Schools have a more successful outcome in life.

Parent or guardian

LP Brown Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

All kids being included, feeling included, or at least feeling that they had the choice to include themselves in any activity of interest is important.

Parent or guardian, Student, Community Member

Madison Elementary

I would like to see the overall curriculum be more up to date with career and life skills being taught starting in Elementary and advancing as the education goes to Middle and then High School. I feel a lot of the current curriculum is outdated and irrelevant. There is a lack of focus on developing capable people to be able to function in society and make proper choices.

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

I love the access to alternative programs like Lincoln. I wish they could be expanded at the middle school level because they are so valuable at elementary but the number of students moving from alternative elementary choices is greater than the number of alternative middle school spaces available.

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary, Washington Middle School

I like that they tried. Whether it's prizes or lunch boogy-down sessions or fun projects. I know it's been incredibly hard for teachers but I think they're doing a fantastic job in this unprecedented time.

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary

Our district used to be considered the top in academics in the Olympia area. Sadly, this is not true anymore especially due to the complete breakdown of any sense of unity and cohesion over the past year. Other school districts were able to have an organized method of online instruction and return to in-person learning at a much faster pace than OSD. This is a disappointment and a disservice to the students of this district.

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I value progress and feel like, generally speaking, OSD strives for that in their schools. As for improvements, please see above answers.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

I value academics. I value in person learning. Our school district's planning for the future should be entirely focused on getting our kids back to full time, five days a week school. Any alternative to this would be a total dereliction of duty on your part.

Parent or guardian
Boston Harbor Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

I would like to see teachers/staff support students needs and academic achievement in helping them to achieve and not waiting till the last moments to find ways to pass a student that has struggled throughout the whole covid 19 education process.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Our teachers throughout our experience in OSD are outstanding. They are caring and incredibly invested in student growth and supporting families and our community. I would like to see the district reach out into the community for strategic partnerships that impact student outcomes and ensure the most efficient use of staff and financial resources.

Parent or guardian
McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School

Improvement need to be with children with special need 504 and IEP

Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary

Stop making a big deal about the BLM, everyone matters! Stop showing preference to one category of people, stop encouraging systematic racism! Start training kids to deal with life! Start providing a safe place for everyone! Start creating an atmosphere of unity!

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

All staff at Reeves have been supportive, kind, and empathetic.

Parent or guardian
Reeves Middle School

We have some great educators in our district. I hope we'll continue to invest them. I think we need to continue to diversify our educational offerings and become more forward thinking about the many ways we can serve students, and engage them in learning.

Parent or guardian
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

this school system embraces diversity, something unfortunately not something many schools in the United States do.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Community Schools
Parent or guardian
Reeves Middle School

I value that our school system values community input and involvement.

Parent or guardian, Student
Capital High School

strong family connection

Other School Staff
Pioneer Elementary

a greater awareness of kids needs for social/emotional well being

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

academics

Other School Staff
Centennial Elementary

I value the teachers and school support staff that SEE students and take the time to build relationships. Shout out to OHS band teacher Mr. Curley who was the only teacher who had a meaningful conversation with my son this year asking him how he was doing. This made an impact on my son during this extremely stressful year, that Mr. Curley took the time to talk to him not just about assignments but about how he as a person was doing. Also the fact that none of his others teachers did.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

value the whole child theoretical approach, but not all schools use this thinking. Very upper academic focused. Not all kids will be headed to college so need to focus more on alternative educational ideas - such as trade school opportunities.

Other School Staff
Pioneer Elementary

Primary concern for students health, safety and wellbeing. More resources for students and families basic needs to be met so they are more ready to learn when they arrive at school. Community resources are depleted or are non-existent. Many people ask for our help but we do not have good options to share. Especially for mental health counselors. Practices are full, parents can not/will not transport, or no insurance/not covered by insurance and too expensive to do out of pocket. Each school in the district would benefit by having at least one certified mental health counselor onsite.

Other School Staff
Washington Middle School

Love working for Olympia Improvements could be considered in equity across the schools and district

Other School Staff
Hansen Elementary

I value the efforts made on Equity. I believe we can all work on having more trainings and collaboration on the subject of Equity.

Other School Staff
McKenny Elementary

I value smaller class sizes, and the art programs.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

In my view (especially at Washington Middle School) the teachers are energetic and competent. Because I have kids in several schools, I find the teachers and staff genuinely care about what they are doing and are responsive. Once COVID ends, I'd like to see less laptop screen time and more in person help. Also, I'd like to see your IT Department put more controls over websites - I've put in several requests about sites that need blocked and no one ever got back to me. I had to go in person to discuss which did led to blocking of a few sites. (soap2day and an online gaming website - where kids are gaming during class). I am fully aware not all sites can be blocked but we should try to stay ahead to prevent kids from getting sidetracked from learning.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School

I would like more of the focus to be back on education and education initiatives versus spending the amount of time that we do with social emotional supports or other politically

motivated initiatives. These are great as periphery programs but even non-political aspects are being charged from the district level down by political motivations. It puts me, as an educator, in a really tough spot when I do not believe or agree with these world views. I would like the focus to be on education and success in our society as it is structured as this is what we are releasing our students into. We should not be creating activists, that is not our job. We should be creating critical thinkers who can then go out and change the world as needed. These are not one in the same.

Secondary Teacher
Olympia High School

the ability to help student

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I value teachers that care, services that support and open communication to ensure every child's success.

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary

I value the dedicated professionals that work very hard at providing the best educational opportunities for our students. Often times support staff are overlooked as a valuable component our district's success. Without a dedicated support staff, the job of education would be quite challenging. Remember the days when classroom teachers were also, playground supervisors, librarians, afterschool tutors.....We are lucky to have support staff doing those duties, allowing classroom teachers the extra time to spend with planning, student learning and the valuable collaboration with fellow teachers.

Central Office Administrator

Boston Harbor Elementary, Centennial Elementary, Garfield Elementary, Hansen Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, LP Brown Elementary, Madison Elementary, McKenny Elementary, McLane Elementary, Pioneer Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Reeves Middle School, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Washington Middle School, Avanti High School, Capital High School, Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy, Infant-Toddler Special Services, Transition Program

District needs improved communication from district office.

Elementary Teacher
Roosevelt Elementary

I appreciate the supports provided to meet the 6 district outcomes--it is clear that programs and personnel are intentionally planned and used to support initiatives. I would love to advocate on behalf of the students who don't "see" themselves in curriculum or practices in the district. I would love to see an investment in pursuing and hiring a more diverse teaching staff, add culturally and linguistically responsive literature to libraries, and provide better opportunities for families to bridge home and school for student success.

Central Office Administrator

Boston Harbor Elementary, Centennial Elementary, Garfield Elementary, Hansen Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, LP Brown Elementary, Madison Elementary, McKenny Elementary, McLane Elementary, Pioneer Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Reeves Middle School, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Washington Middle School, Capital High School, Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value the student outcomes. I would like to see the central office better staffed and the current staff respected more.

Central Office Staff

Jefferson Middle School, Reeves Middle School, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Washington Middle School, Avanti High School, Capital High School, Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value cultural competence in our school system and would love to see this improved across the whole district. Teachers need to be culturally competent and trained in Restorative Justice practices for use with their students. We need to really work on retaining and recruiting educators of color in our district and show that we value them by providing support to them that is or mirrors the Educators of Color Leadership Community (ECLC) program via PSED. We need to allow educators of color in our district to attend trainings DURING the school day (to show that we value their time) and training that specifically addresses the experience of this group in school systems (professional development that is different than what their white peers should be/are getting). Perhaps, we should survey our educators of color groups (certificated and classified staff) to see when they'd best appreciate and be available for trainings (during the school day, after the school day, weekends?). Of course, paid time is valued time. We should improve our BEST Mentoring Program to include an educator of color to mentor other educators of color in this program within our district. There is just something to be said about providing the support necessary for educators of color to survive and thrive here in OSD.

Elementary Teacher, Other School Staff

Centennial Elementary, McLane Elementary

Less money / focus on athletics

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff

Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

trying to make it work for all

Parent or guardian

Boston Harbor Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School

Quality of teachers. More rigorous curriculum (some classes/topics)

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I value that we respect and educate all children equally.

The district is divided by schools way too often. We should be more unified in all areas.

Other School Staff
McLane Elementary

Until 2020, my answer would have been the I valued the progressiveness of the school system. However, the response(s) and strategies to COVID-19 are far more conservative than I like. I have not been pleased with the slowness to get kids in school buildings full time. It seems that the response was more about how to continue with problems rather than solving them.

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

Lunch meal is horrible. How can you feed kids with food this bad. More PE time, kids need to get up moving and not sitting in the classroom most of the time.

Parent or guardian
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Less influence from religious groups and affiliations.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I would like to see improvement in communication from district to schools and district to families.

Parent or guardian
McKenny Elementary, Pioneer Elementary

options for alternative education are great. please hire more people of color.

Parent or guardian
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Always thought OSD was considered or classified as an above average school district. That's why we moved to this district. We've always held the teachers and school staff in high regard. I think we are blessed to have teachers that work hard, love what they're doing, and truly want our kids to succeed. However, I am disappointed with how the district handled COVID-19 pandemic, and its effects on our staff, students, and their education. I was expecting so much more out of our district, but continued to feel let down. I want our district to have our kids in the forefront. THEY COME BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE. If that means we adjust to using virtual technology because kids have to be home, we adapt and make it work ASAP. There is no excuse for our kids to be without a complete and thorough education from the start of this pandemic. It's also not fair to leave it up to the teachers to figure it out for themselves and be in limbo with little to no direction. We needed to show that we are capable and willing to find solutions to make things work. Not let problems, excuses, lack of direction and leadership, be in control. The students should of been zooming with their teacher initially, then participating via hybrid (with safety measures), as soon as able. Why did it take so long to start livestreaming the

class instruction? Why was it that once the governor mandated a required amount of instruction, did the MOU change to allow livestream? All I saw were excuses from the district on why things couldn't happen, or why it wasn't possible. Only when mandated, were changes made. We need to have leadership! We needed to be leading the way to find solutions for our kids and teachers! We needed to be setting the example that our students and teachers are the highest priority! We are in control of our future - no matter the obstacle.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I value the inclusiveness, and would like to see communication improved.

Elementary Teacher

LP Brown Elementary

Increase diversity of teachers and staff, and implement curriculum (especially social studies and literature in English classes) that better reflects the increased diversity of student population

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Equity and equality for all schools. Use data in the decision making process.

School Administrator

We are going to need an academic model that meets the needs of ALL of our students, especially the high number of struggling ones. Multi-age classrooms? Different curriculum aimed at teaching various levels? More staff support?

Elementary Teacher

Hansen Elementary

I value the high level of autonomy I have as a staff member. I would like to see more communication and collaboration between general ed and special ed.

Other School Staff

Garfield Elementary, Washington Middle School

I'm glad that there has been an attempt to educate people in racial equity

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff

Hansen Elementary, Capital High School

We have great counsellors for our kids, but we need to add free or affordable tutoring too

Other School Staff

Centennial Elementary

Community involvement

Other School Staff

Garfield Elementary

I love that equity seems to be a big focus. I would love for it to be implemented. I got into

classrooms at several different schools. I see that many teachers, without even knowing are not teaching equitably. Many of the students who are struggling are not getting the help they need during core instruction. Teachers could use more training to scaffold instruction to provide equitable access to classroom content

Other School Staff

Hansen Elementary, LP Brown Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary

I greatly value the community that is built from all those areas; the more the money can be kept to those who work closest with the students, the better.

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher

Capital High School

I value arts, creativity, and every student finding something that motivates them to come to school. I would like to see that aspect be improved at the middle school level equally in every school. If one school has a full time art teacher, every school should have a full time art teacher.

Secondary Teacher

Jefferson Middle School

continue open communication so staff don't have to speculate on what is going to happen; maybe a midyear "state of the district" address

Elementary Teacher, Secondary Teacher

Centennial Elementary, Garfield Elementary, Hansen Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, McKenny Elementary, McLane Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Washington Middle School, Capital High School, Olympia High School

Quit or don't start wasting money on restorative justice, environmental activism, etc. and focus on the kids actual education. Focus on getting (a few) teachers to actually help the kids who are struggling during office hours and after school before hiring more staff. Only hire if necessary.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Less focus on CRT and more focus on actual learning

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

I am really happy that students are telling me how much they like being in the school building. I also value that students feel comfortable speaking up if something needs improvement. We really need more feedback from students on these issues.

Other School Staff

Olympia High School

OSD is aware of and willing to act on the pressing issues that students encounter

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value the social/emotional wellness. I would like to see Restorative Justice improved.

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary

I value the para educators and all the work they do. Improvements need to be made in the Communication Department and the information shared is often hard to follow. I would like to see top down communication to teachers, families, and other staff improved. Principals are the middle people and they often tell different messages to the staff between buildings.

Elementary Teacher

Madison Elementary, Pioneer Elementary

I'll speak to HS - I'd love to see more connection and coordination amongst the teachers re: student success, workload, and well being. Each teacher works in SUCH a vacuum and the students can really suffer. With the IMMENSE amount of integrated scheduling and information handling technology we all now use and know, teachers should easily be able to see when other teachers have major projects and assignments happening so that students don't feel overwhelmed so often. The biggest thing my student needs now is more support and interaction with peers. She wants "normal experiences" to return, so a priority on getting kids back to feeling like a school community should be prioritized.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

make sure you maintain buildings so that costly problems come up in the future.

Secondary Teacher

Olympia High School

Small, responsive elementary school where it feels like my student is known by the adults and isn't getting lost in the shuffle

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

I love the small size of schools and neighborhood schools. I love knowing my child's principal and teachers well. I would love for my child to be able to participate in more clubs and intermural sports, especially in middle school.

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

District cares about its teachers and perceived equity - District should shift its focus to families and students and less on perceptions. Kids need differentiated instruction and physical activity and arts.

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School

I really appreciate Garfield's supportive staff (Linda for example) and principle (Chertok). I appreciate the teachers at Jefferson that have reached out to me through phone or email and I have felt very supported by them during this difficult year.

Parent or guardian

Garfield Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

I value very highly the constant push towards progress and equity.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Teachers should spend more time with individual students making sure they understand curriculum.

Parent or guardian

McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value every student getting what they need, rather than everyone being treated the same

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School

Teaching values that are equal for all

Parent or guardian

Reeves Middle School

It's hard to predict how everyone will deal with trying to resume "normal" activities after COVID. Most people have struggled in some way since March 2020. To be successful, we need to recognize that and care enough about staff, students, and families to provide support. Not sure what that means from a budget standpoint.

Other School Staff

Olympia High School

Patrick Murphy is very approachable and leads with care. I wish within special education we were more proactive instead of generally "putting out fires."

Other School Staff

Lincoln Elementary

I value the dedication to academics. I think the staff at OHS could improve on their understanding of teenage emotions and actions/reactions.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I used to value the academics. Now we are moving districts next year. We will never forgive you for keeping children out of school and entire month with zero contact at the start and then

going a full year of barely any instruction. And then you could have come back in September and you chose not to. Shame.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Too broad of a question to even begin to answer

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

School staffing and curriculum

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Support for all students no matter their capabilities

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I value the IEP team that has supported my son since pre-school -- however, I have had to advocate stringently and strongly throughout his educational career for adequate supports and flexibility. As far as improvements go, Spring 2020 was an absolute cluster. My high school student learned nothing -- except that he cannot rely upon the adults at his school to know anything. This year was going well up until about 3 weeks ago when hybrid began -- you just got all of these kids learning online and the teachers had figured out a system, a schedule, a routine...etc. Now, with no notice, we've undergone not one, not two, but now three separate schedule changes in basically as many weeks. This is ridiculous. Teachers don't know when they are teaching. Parents don't know when the students are supposed to be in class, and students see right through you -- they know you don't know what you are doing and that leads to zero confidence and zero trust in their school. Not a great showing overall from this parent's perspective. Very unimpressive. Communication has been so poor that I've given up reading most of the emails - they are pointless and do not inform. I rely almost 100% on my son and his SPED lead to keep me informed of the most critical path items - it is a waste of our time to focus on anything else -- and I hate wasting time.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I value the diversity and emphasis on students needs and interests. I would like to see more family events like reading nights every few months in the library.

Other School Staff
Hansen Elementary

I would like our school system to be more actively anti-racist with actions to back up our values. I would like our school system to be more responsive to individual students and families rather than policies. I value the dedication of our school system's educators and their ability to create rich learning communities that are fun, safe, challenging, and creative.

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary

Educating our kids with out politics in school

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
Capital High School

A focus on mental health

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I value how much the district cares. Now we need leaders who can swiftly act to implement effective programs doing what is best practice rather than surveying everyone to the point of apathy.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
Boston Harbor Elementary, Madison Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

we have lots of CTE options

Student
Olympia High School

I value teachers that care about the success of my children and building the basics of learning enjoyment.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary

Same response - much more time devoted to core subject areas, much less time devoted to diversity, equity, inclusion, social/emotional learning, and other similar conversation.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Being able to provide input. Caring teachers.

Parent or guardian
Reeves Middle School

OSD's response to the pandemic has been an embarrassment. So many other districts in the area seem to have been able to put together a schedule that actually allows the students to get a quality education while OSD has let its students slide into mediocracy with subpar zoom schedules, lowered standards, and minimal instruction. My family and many others like us have lost any faith we ever had in OSD's desire to actually prepare our youth for the future. OSD seems to be focused on creating a generation of mediocre drones who do not know how to

meet a deadline, think critically, or act independently.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I value OSD's commitment to equity & would like to see that work expanded from training to intervention.

Secondary Teacher
Reeves Middle School

The school board and OSD in general seem to only be concerned with placating the teachers union and OSPI. No one seems to represent the students or the families in any of the decisions that have been made during this pandemic. It saddens me to realize that very few of the decisions made regarding the 2020-2021 school year were made with the best interest of the students in mind. The lack of in-person school even as other districts around us returned to the classroom and the slow return to the classroom and then only when it was mandated by the the state in spite of all the data showing that the spread of COVID amongst school-aged children is minimal speaks volumes to the fact that OSD is not following the science but rather under the influence of the teacher's union to the detriment of the students.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I value the IEP programs that our school system offers. That extra support helps a lot of kids that dearly need it. I would love to see the school invest more time and money into athletic programs and making them more publicized throughout the school when sign-ups are going to happen for not only wrestling but all other sports such as track and basketball

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Reeves Middle School

Learning in class, through the arts and movement

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

Value: great teachers Improve: OSD needs to listen to a wider cross-section of parents, staff members, and community stakeholders instead of chasing politically progressive programs that have inconclusive track records.

Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School

Value education and support

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

So far we are not impressed and feel students are just test score.

Parent or guardian

Boston Harbor Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School

More.CTE classes during school

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

Fewer small elementary schools. No "schools within schools". More space in choice programs like CSI and JAMS.

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Avanti High School, Capital High School

I think Olympia schools generally provide a quality education. However lately it seems that everything is catering to the lowest common denominator. Everyone getting A's last spring was ridiculous. The standards seem to be slipping.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

More support for gifted students.

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary

Support academically and emotionally

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher

Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School

Kids need to be with caring adults at buildings.

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Pioneer Elementary

We need more intervention/support for those kids who dont qualify for an IEP. We need counselors in our buildings that a student can go to for support

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

I've struggled to find value in OSD lately. What I would like to see improve is for those in power at the district level to start listening to staff. We're in the trenches doing the work, and we can advise well, but you waste our time with performative meetings, and take all of our efforts and round file them. So good luck getting participation for your committees this summer.

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher

Boston Harbor Elementary, Pioneer Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value OSD's commitment to make changes that reflect current social and science issues such as changes to the Dress Code, later start times for teens, incorporating BLM and other social justice issues into the curriculum. I would like to see more consistency among teachers regarding their understanding of how students have been impacted by the pandemic and to see that result in clearer communication with students/parents and flexibility on grading and assignments (e.g. full credit for late assignments, test re-takes without penalty). Overall I think that Marshall and Capital staff and teachers have done a great job with adjusting to remote learning and dealing with the numerous changes to schedules, especially these past several weeks. I appreciate and empathize with the impact this has had on our educators and know that it has not be easy.

Parent or guardian

Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

i would like to see more student input with decisions for example having some students talk at meetings and say how they think some changes could effect how they learn.

Student

Jefferson Middle School

District needs to get a backbone and stand up to the teachers union. Stop promoting political groups like Black Lives Matter. Have you looked at the BLM website?

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Wellbeing of all kids

Parent or guardian

LP Brown Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

I value the quality of teachers, school buildings and grounds, supplies, and parent/community involvement. It seems like communication and mutual support between individual schools and the central district might need some improvement.

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Pioneer Elementary

core curriculum is strong, would like to see more elective opportunities

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I would like to see more hands on learning, with the materials provided by the district,not the teachers.

Parent or guardian

LP Brown Elementary

I value the social justice leanings and work on equity. I would like to see kids behind on math get more support. I would like to see School Counselor ETA increase to better be available to

our students. Schools should not have a part time counselor, kids problems do not wait for certain days.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
McLane Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary

I think we need more people in the building who are trained mental health counselors and social workers. Our school counselors are so busy with scheduling classes and future planning with students that they don't have time to provide these services and their training is not really to provide these direct services like it is if you are a trained mental health counselor. I also think that the high school SRO position should be cut and that money used towards providing more mental health supports for students.

Secondary Teacher
Olympia High School

The staff at each of the schools we attend are just incredible. I would love to see the teachers get more recognition.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

I do value the importance the OSD places on the students as compared to other school districts. I would like to see physical activity improve in Elementary and Middle school as our children become more sedentary and obese.

Parent or guardian
McKenny Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Staffing curriculum
Parent or guardian
Madison Elementary

More opportunities for project based learning, clubs, after school sports for all, activities, experiential learning at all levels.

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School, Olympia High School

Support to Kids with IEPs as well as those in high cap.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary

There is a lot of commitment to each child and substantial flexibility to meet the needs of each family. There is far too much focus on meeting grade level academic requirements. This borders on pathologizing development that does not conform to the state standards.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary

?

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School

In the past I feel that Osd has listened to parents and supported students in a variety of ways. This past year has been difficult for staff and students and I believe we will have a lot of negative effects on students academically and socially.

Parent or guardian
Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

I value the thoughtfulness and dedication of our elementary school system (only part of the system I know so far) and feel very fortunate to have such a great school system to invest in. I am disappointed that PARENTS/FAMILIES, especially working parents, are completely omitted from the focus above. Parent involvement in the school system is essential but the last year has shown the system, from the school board on down, does not do a good job in integrating parents or working families into policy considerations. The pandemic has caused many families to gain a greater understanding of their student's learning strengths and weaknesses and we now have even a greater sense of the strengths and weaknesses of the school system. How many families left the school system because their needs were not met over the past year? How many children had to receive substandard virtual public education this last year (through no fault of most teachers)? The district lost students and therefore the funding tied to enrollment numbers. What will be done to bring those families and students back? The district must start investing in parents and working families in some meaningful way or support for our local public education will continue to decline.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Honestly I feel [staff] is a total failure at [elementary school]. [They] actively blocked children from getting the help they needed for reading and math during summer months (the parents were ready to sue OSD over it), [they were] extremely unhelpful to working parents trying to coordinate kids during the shutdown. While kindergartners were wasting away and falling behind the staff was out [participating in another activity]. We seldom hear a word about kids doing well in core academics, but WOW- [they'll] send an email out to parents expressing concern over every racial issue in the current news cycle. This leaves us disappointed and disgusted underwhelmed at the leadership of OSD. If only we had a school district that was as concerned about academic performance as it was about skin color.

Parent or guardian
[Elementary school]

I value our principle and teachers

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary

I think everything about CES is fine

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

Not much to value about public education anymore, its become so "woke" its hurting the kids more than helping.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

There is no shortage of good intentions throughout OSD. Commitments to social justice, equal opportunity, and student enrichment often yield wonderful results, as intended. Unfortunately, for many families like ours, the old saying about good intentions is too often true in OSD schools. Meeting the needs of students with special needs takes skill. Good intentions seem to sour quickly without specialized knowledge and good planning. A [staff person] at [school name] knuckle-rapped our four-year-old [child], who has autism, on the head saying, "Earth to [name]! Come in [name]!" [They] did this on three separate occasions, thinking that it was quite funny. The same person ridiculed (not corrected or instructed)[them] for talking too much in front of an assembly of older students . [They] had praised [them] the week before for participation, so [they were] trying to participate. Afterward, [they] brought [them] to the office where I was waiting and, holding [their] arm, said, "The problem with kids like [them] is that they don't know when to stop." I sat in the parking lot with my weeping [child] for some time before heading home. (Someone who had been in the small assembly approached me in the parking lot and told me what had happened.) Though [they] could read exceptionally well when [they] entered Kindergarten, [their] teacher told us that [they] would not provide [them] more challenging books during reading instruction time, that [they] needed to follow along with everyone else. [They] did this without complaint but also without much growth or challenge. One year at [elementary school], the teacher lost track of [them] four times. I arrived to pick [them] up, and [they] had no idea where [they were]. Three of the times we found [them] reading in a corner. The other time [they were] in the coat closet following a lock-down drill. Many children with autism, our [child] included, are tactile defensive. After being crowded in with other children in the closet, [they] sat huddled in a corner unnoticed and shaken until the end of school. Another teacher ignored [them] entirely, and I was told by a parent that I needed to attend all field trips as the teacher allowed [them] to wonder into the street during a prior trip. I attended all field trips and volunteered even more frequently from that point on, giving up all possibility of continuing my career even part time. These are a few of many, many occurrences that never should have happened. As I've met other families in the district, I've learned, unsurprisingly, that our experiences were not at all unique. The negligence and cruelty we encountered through our [child's] elementary school years at OSD played heavily into our decision to take a job opportunity [elsewhere]. During that time, my [child] was in a school where [they were] valued, challenged, and respected. It was a stark contrast to OSD. I hear OSD touted as an "excellent district"; however, we have found staff approaches in many areas to be well behind current best practices. We were grateful to have [school name] as an option upon

our return. Skilled and compassionate teachers like [staff] ensured that my [child] continued the progress that [they] made [elsewhere]. Before we left, my [child] also benefitted greatly from the [program]. (Many thanks to [staff]!) My family now is grateful for the Avanti staff, OSD's participation in New Market Skills Center programs, and for Running Start. We hope that OSD continues these programs and invests in staff training and hiring qualified staff so that students with special needs do not have to rely on a few isolated teachers, para-educators, and programs in order to be challenged and treated respectfully. An IEP may not cover enrichment, but educators still need strategies for educating whole children; strengths as well as challenges are part of each package. These features should pervade all classrooms and programs in the district.

Parent or guardian
Avanti High School

Access to mental health support while supporting those who are offering that

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary, Washington Middle School

Value sincerity from staff. Unfortunately, we've encountered staff that are rude towards students. Weird power trips. Staff need to learn to have some flexibility.

Parent or guardian
McKenny Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary

Our school system needs a lot of work, starting with leadership at the district level. Placing priorities on things such as social justice reform and changing academic calendars while ignoring the damage done by the decisions made around Covid is irresponsible. All the while the communication between teachers and the district has been as bad as any in the area. Our kids deserve better.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

In the past I feel that Osd has listened to parents and supported students in a variety of ways. This past year has been difficult for staff and students and I believe we will have a lot of negative effects on students academically and socially.

Parent or guardian
Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

Social work
Parent or guardian
Capital High School

I value the parent support in our district and I would like to see parent advisory groups at the secondary level. Also, I would like to see Capital High School offer a wider variety of upper level math classes - not every college bound student needs/wants to take calculus but would benefit from statistics which is not offered. I would like to see OSD implement school start times that are proven to be best for high school students, not just refer back to the bell schedule in 2019. I

would also like to see some consistency in communication about district wide events, such as SAT scheduling. Finally, I think parents deserve to see the results of these surveys.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School, Olympia High School

Get a new superintendent, preferably one with more compassion, the strength to stand up to parents who think athletics deserves priority over education, and who has the ability to coordinate logistics across ALL schools, so each school has equity within, as well as when compared to other district schools of the same level.

Parent or guardian

Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Value kids' sense of belonging and connection with each other and staff. Nurturing this will be an important task in the coming year. More small group and individualized attention, project-based learning and other innovations. Let's not squander this unique opportunity to think outside the box and make real reforms that meet the needs of today's students and tomorrow's world.

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value that teachers in the schools are supported and therefore the kids are more supported in their learning. If students are going back in building full time then right now I don't see anything that needs to be improved upon. However if students are not going back to school full-time then they need to be doing the full spectrum of curriculum and not just parts and bits and pieces or they'll fall so far behind they'll never catch up.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

I am a product of OSD, and one of the most important aspects I found from growing up within the public school system was learning to be your own person and think for yourself. Unfortunately I also feel that OSD is moving away from this. Recess and lunch are abbreviated at the elementary level, and passing periods for middle and high school are significantly shorter than in the past. I believe the idea behind this is to keep kids on track and focused on academic learning, but it is also a missed opportunity. So much of learning how to be a happy, independent adult is being allowed a bit of freedom when you're younger, many times the freedom to make mistakes. Compromise is taught on the playground, and conflict resolution is learned in a meaningful way through navigating personal drama in the halls between middle school classes. But it's tough to get that with 15 minute recesses, or 3 minute passing periods. Let's shift the focus to developing complete students, rather than just academic ones.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

So far I have enjoyed the staff and Offerings at ORLA, wish that there was transportation or carpool website hub to work with families who can help each other out or as volunteer time.

Parent or guardian
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

More computer skills for younger kids. STEM for elementary.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Too broad of a question to even begin to answer

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Improvement in anti racist efforts

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

Paraeducators have been doing a good job. In high school school and middle school we need to incorporate some basic life skill items as mandatory (i.e., how to calculate interest on a car, home, personal loan, what and how should people invest in retirement, what types of retirements options are there, basic communication skills such as face to face communication, CV and or resume composition,, fact checking sources, and effective writing. The district should switch to a year round school model and or change start times that a are supportive of the scientific data (e.g., grade schoolers start school earlier then high schoolers due to their natural sleep patterns). Years around school has been shown to increase student performance and decrease teacher workload by not having to review the previous years materials due to long summer break. The district also needs to start investing in solar panels for district and school building s and switching to electric vehicles, especially buses. Diesel fumes from school buses have been show to decrease learning performance in students.

Parent or guardian
Garfield Elementary

Great teachers and para educators. Improve well being for all.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

We value all of the teachers our children have had under the OSD. We appreciate access to our students' school profiles via online. Please continue to saturate us parents with information.

We absolutely need the constant reminders. Thank you.

Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary, McKenny Elementary

I like communication and I would like more hands on experience/interactive learning

Madison Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Infant-Toddler Special Services

I value our principal. She is a true advocate for teachers.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher
Centennial Elementary, Olympia High School

The teachers & principals in our district are amazing and have really been great with all the challenges this past year! I would really like to see lunch time extended though. My daughter rarely eats her lunch due to lack of time. Nutrition is important to her being able to concentrate and learn while at school.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

The “pay to play” system sucks. Putting high costs to extra-curricular activities is limiting to the success of our children and our future.

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Get a new superintendent, preferably one with more compassion, the strength to stand up to parents who think athletics deserves priority over education, and who has the ability to coordinate logistics across ALL schools, so each school has equity within, as well as when compared to other district schools of the same level.

Parent or guardian
Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

More computer skills for younger kids. STEM for elementary.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

I would love for a better way to access my kids assignments and grades. Schoology/Skyward is not all that great.

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary, Capital High School

I appreciate all the ways my kids have benefited from exceptional teachers. I would like to see a more diverse staff and real focus on the histories of marginalized peoples.

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

I appreciate that OSD is committed and tries hard to meet the needs of as many students as possible.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I think the school system stimulates creativity and initiative and self-reliance, which is what I value most. I would like to see teachers help students with non-academic issues (e.g. social issues, emotional problems, career help and advice). I think it is easier and more effective for a student to receive advice from someone he or she respects and is familiar with, a teacher whom they see on a daily basis, rather than specialized staff that is unfamiliar and to whom the students find it hard to open. Just an opinion.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

community support

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Our district is lacking immensely in many areas. Focus on teaching kids- social emotional and extracurricular are important but they are not teaching them discipline, academics and values.

Other School Staff

Jefferson Middle School

I value the principal and most of the teachers. I would like to see children with emotional and mental disabilities not be in school with others, they are a huge distraction to the entire school and classrooms.

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

I would like to see all staff engaged in anti-racism work in their classrooms, using restorative practices to build positive relationships with their students.

Other School Staff

Roosevelt Elementary

The teachers, staff and faculty show they genuinely care about us. The district made very good decisions through critical periods that protected our community's safety. Having resources directed to the people working hard to support our children would improve their ability to teach our children and offer additional activities to encourage their growth (IE: sports, PE, art, music, after school programs, etc.). Thank you all!

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School

What I value the most about our school system is everyone's sincere efforts to get through this tough time using compassion, care, and understanding involving all students issues. Because of your diligence I believe we as a community will emerge better on the far end of this test of humanity.

Parent or guardian

Garfield Elementary, Capital High School

Dedicated teachers, but would like to see communication between district and educators improve.

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary

We love the people. All of them!

Parent or guardian
Washington Middle School

Teachers should be paid more. They are the glue keeping anything of education value going right now. So grateful to those working extra hard...

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I value the communication, fairness to students, broad range of curriculum, adherence to safety first!, following CDC guidelines, emotional support for students, and a willingness to continually improve. Thank you!

Parent or guardian
Centennial Elementary

Communication effectiveness and stop flooding with information

Parent or guardian, Community Member
LP Brown Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

I value the fact that I believe the school board has the best intentions. I just think common sense needs to be implemented into the equation.

Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

We love our school system so much that we just need more of it.

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Better hands on learning and life skills and stress coping skills

Parent or guardian
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I would like to see resource officers removed from campuses.

Parent or guardian
Jefferson Middle School

Dedicated teachers and staff, communication with families

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary, Washington Middle School

I am not a big fan of the use of education funds for competitive school athletics--it is a big drain on funds (facilities included) with limited benefit for only a few students. I think it would be better spent in other ways (such general physical education or even more interesting/varied topics of physical education that can reach a bigger pool of the students). There are a lot of other (and better) community-based mechanisms for competitive sports.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I value equal opportunities for all. I would like to see our special programs like CSI, etc, become the model for entire schools. Everyone should be having excellent and fun opportunities to make school interesting and to get kids excited, not just a lottery'ed few. In the spirit of equity, it would also be nice if schools who raise more money than they know what to do with could share with the lower income schools with different demographics of parents.

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher, Community Member

Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Teachers caring about the students has been very evident something I would like to improve is services for special needs students and mechanism to keep parents in the loop if student is not doing well

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School

The inequities in OSD need to be addressed. Every kid, no matter where they go to school within the district, should be offered the same opportunities

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher, Community Member

Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

Assure sports are inclusive to children with 504/IEP. Very disappointed in lack of JV teams for children that have difficulty with anxiety/social skills

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I appreciate the attentiveness towards students with special needs/special circumstances. I would like to see more attention in our school system directed towards mental health, though. Especially for high schoolers!

Student

Olympia High School

Matt Grant has been a remarkable leader for this community and his work to prevent suicide and include racial equity into the larger conversation is commendable.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

I value the diversity and emphasis on students needs and interests. I would like to see more family events like reading nights every few months in the library.

Other School Staff

Hansen Elementary

I believe that each school should have a strong culutre which is created from the top down. If a strong culture does not exist, administration within that building should be given professional development opportunities to increase capacity for developing that in their buildings.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

McKenny Elementary, Capital High School

More language classes, science, and gifted class

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary

Highly capable students, especially at the elementary level, are grossly under served. The program offered serves very few students. Differentiation within a general education classroom is nearly impossible.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff

McLane Elementary, Capital High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Great staff

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

I most value the highly capable teachers and staff I have interacted w/ over the years. I would like to see teacher salaries/benefits remain high and even increase to attract talent to our district.

Parent or guardian

Reeves Middle School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I like that the OSD wants all children to have equal access to education. I would like to see less focus on social issues and more focus on teaching the basics that a child needs to succeed in life after the school-age years.

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value the quality of educators, but implore the district to deploy mental health specialists for our children

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary

I believe the school district graduates well adjusted and prepared students that will help build our society in a meaningful manor. Taught to be producers and not receivers. Give and not take.

Parent or guardian, Student
Boston Harbor Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Olympia High School

I would like to see more outdoor opportunities and more hands-on learning.

Parent or guardian
Avanti High School

Staffing equitably among all schools

School Administrator
Jefferson Middle School

district leadership needs to be improved

Secondary Teacher, Community Member
Reeves Middle School, Washington Middle School

I value the hard work the teaching staff have put in this year and how adaptable they have been. They all deserve a huge raise and a monthly massage for the stress they are putting up with.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher
Roosevelt Elementary, Olympia High School

More opportunities for field trips.

Elementary Teacher
Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value the interest to listen to community members and teachers, and I would like to see that this input continues to be weighed when considering changes.

Elementary Teacher
McKenny Elementary

Instructional coaches to bring equity to buildings around academics and SEL needs

Elementary Teacher
LP Brown Elementary

I appreciate the community/staff involvement for feedback. Would like to be ahead of social issues in our immediate area and country.

central office staff

Diversity of experiences and opportunities for our students.

**Elementary Teacher
Garfield Elementary**

I think we have positive intent for SEL, but we could re-think this. SEL shouldn't be a separate class. Teachers need additional support (training and curriculum) to make their classes interactive and engaging every day. This helps with effective content delivery and community building at the same time. And the interactions are genuine instead of contrived. This is probably the most important factor in supporting SEL.

**Secondary Teacher
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School**

I value that our district believes in equity and I look forward to the day we back our sincere words with strong deeds and actions to match. Our school district is highly respected by our community members and we must maximize that respect and be leaders on the equity and BLM front. We MUST be the change we want to see in this world (paraphrase MG). The mental health and soul of our nation depends upon us dismantling this ignorant hatred. Please, let's be the history makers.

**Central Office Administrator
Hansen Elementary**

I value how involved the parents are in our school and how the staff and families work as team members. I would like to see the district be more responsive to input from the people who work in the buildings. They are the experts on the efficacy of current practice.

**Elementary Teacher
Roosevelt Elementary**

I love the support many of our teachers give not only students but each other. The admin at OHS is amazing!! (The loss of KB is heartbreaking) I would love to see more equality among our sped kids vs kids who can handle the academic excellence because of advantages. Often our sped kids seem like they are adrift, they have to take gen ed classes that are above their reading/math levels and they fail which can result in a spiral downward of not caring or losing interest. Why try if you are going to fail anyway? Again, our school often feels like students who have a learning disability are often ignored. I was proud of many of our students during our shut down, they may not have been able to access classes from home so they went to places

that had internet and they did classes from phones if they couldn't find internet.

Other School Staff
Olympia High School

I value the input the district seeks from the community (including the school staff) in making decisions. The district could improve by utilizing a more systems based approach in order to provide a more equitable experience for all the district student and families

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff, Community Member
Lincoln Elementary, Madison Elementary, Pioneer Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Reeves Middle School, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School, Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I would like for there to NOT be any focus on LGBTQ days!! Days about sexuality etc should NOT be a focus at the schools!

Parent or guardian
McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Value the diversity; we need more life skill instruction

Parent or guardian, Secondary Teacher
Capital High School

I think the curriculum on racial equity and inclusivity, at least at Marshall Middle School, is impressive! The teachers are thoughtful and really challenge kids to deal with uncomfortable truths. At the high school level, I appreciate the academic support and awesome teachers at Oly. Neither of my kids are into sports, so feeling like they are valued for other interests is important.

Parent or guardian
Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Olympia High School

Communications and TEACHERS

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School

I value the commitment that the staff show on a daily basis. Improved meals, updated playground and more physical activities and time.

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Hansen Elementary

I value the focus on diversity and meeting the diverse needs of the families in Olympia School System. I would like to see a stronger focus on art integration and hands-on learning.

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary

lower class size

Elementary Teacher
Centennial Elementary

Students well-being and safety and access to resources
Parent or guardian, Other School Staff, Community Member
Lincoln Elementary, Pioneer Elementary

I'm having a hard time valuing anything the school is doing right now. They lost most of my respect when police officers were cut from the budget.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I love the way that OSD strives for equity and quality education for all their students. One aspect that I would like to see improved would be an overhaul of the HiCap program. It is my understanding that the demographics of students in the hiCap program do not reflect the rich diversity contained in our district. Also, the criteria for entry into the program relies heavily on testing which does not always accurately reflect a students' capabilities. If we want to be a district who looks at our students and recognizes the strengths and talents that every student brings to the table, it seems that a better use a funds could be transforming classrooms so that all students have the opportunity to reach their potential within the general education setting. Rather than have a separate department, what if those fund were used to provide teachers with training on how to support and differentiate their instruction to provide learning opportunities for all their students. The funds could also be used to support enrichment activities in the classroom so that all students have the opportunity to build their talents.

Parent or guardian
Hansen Elementary

good facilities, transportation has room for improvement

Secondary Teacher
Capital High School

I think the system works pretty well but more can be done to help kids individually. Those that need extra help, and those that need to be challenged a bit more. I know it's hard on teachers, but I really feel more could be done for highly capable kids, especially.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
Garfield Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Capital High School

Interested in the whole child, not just academics.

Parent or guardian
Roosevelt Elementary

At high school level, I value opportunities for college bound students, and opportunities for students at varying academic levels. At the high school level, the length of school day combined

with graduation requirements really limit students' opportunities to engage with meaningful electives. High school students need more time, more offerings for art and other enjoyable electives that keep students positively engaged in school. My high schooler was miserable freshman year as she found high school to be drudgery compared to her three years of middle school. She expected more rigor, but she didn't anticipate it being so dull.

Parent or guardian

Capital High School

Great structure at the Middle School level.

Parent or guardian

Garfield Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

Earnest effort in a flawed system.

Parent or guardian

Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

increase teacher salary

Student

Olympia High School

Listen to family and student needs better. Less focus on college, and more focus on a well rounded education and mental health.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

Focus more on core education

Parent or guardian, Community Member

Olympia High School

The ability to be able to have different points of view and the right to be able to exercise this without fear of repercussion. Improvement: don't have political views in the classroom ; focusing on the basic educational needs of reading, writing and math; the three most basic needs in order to have a successful, independent life.

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

I would like to see a separate High Cap elementary program.

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary, Capital High School

communication

Elementary Teacher

McLane Elementary

OHS number of class periods in a semester must be increased. With 24 credit diploma a six period/semester is not an equitable or responsible way to serve students.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

Culturally responsive curriculum, teaching children to honor and respect the history and traditions of the Coast Salish Tribes.

Parent or guardian
Madison Elementary

Use of evidenced based practices rather than curriculums, implementation of community based instruction for social justice issues

Parent or guardian, Contracted consultant
Pioneer Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School, Transition Program

Every staff member works hard and every staff member needs to be compensated in a fair way based on a living wage for everyone whether they have a degree or not.

Other School Staff
Reeves Middle School

Less focus on standardized tests and more focus on staffing up to meet the needs of underserved kids before, during, and after school.

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary

We value how much the staff care

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary

There is a good focus on social emotional learning and skill development, at least at the early elementary level, and I appreciate the growing attempts to approach justice and equity in the educational system. I wish there were middle and high school options more like Lincoln in their commitments to community, social justice, and sustainability.

Parent or guardian
Lincoln Elementary

I value OSD staff's commitment to learn and grow with our community.

Secondary Teacher
Reeves Middle School

I value the positive attitudes that teachers and principals share with students.

Volunteer
Madison Elementary, Pioneer Elementary

focus on reading, writing, math and science

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

We value the diversity, excellent teachers and small schools that OSD provides. Improving Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training for students, staff and families. Please bring old building equipment up to new building standards (eg. wobble chairs and new tables in remodeled, but not in "old" schools.)

Parent or guardian
LP Brown Elementary

Streamline Communication, less fill, only need to know info.

Parent or guardian
Olympia High School

I would really like to see more support than the teacher in the classrooms. I really valued the small class sizes that I have seen at my elementary school thus far. I think it is so much more conducive to learning for these kids. Especially kids that have additional challenges (eg: adhd, learning/language disorders/anxiety/etc)

Parent or guardian
Pioneer Elementary

Personalized learning experience

Parent or guardian
Capital High School

Extra staffing for student support

Other School Staff
Capital High School

I value the access our community has to educational opportunities, but think that access to routes for success in life in the trades would be a welcome addition.

Other School Staff, Community Member
Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

More flexible working opportunities given to staff

Central Office - non admin

The district needs to move towards having an Executive Director of Health and Social Supports

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff, Central Office Administrator
Jefferson Middle School, Capital High School

Appreciate- Community feel between staff and students Improve- Administrative Budgeting

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff

Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

it's free

Other School Staff

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

Again, I value the reading specialists because they help our children make more of their lives and education.

Community Member

Madison Elementary

We talk about equity but most decisions made by our district seem to cause low income, at risk, and struggling students to have less opportunities. For example, the late start will make it harder for students to go to New Market. Each decision made is not fully vetted and doesn't seem to consider equity at least if we are looking at low income, at risk, and students who struggle/lack motivation with school.

Secondary Teacher

Olympia High School

I love the Lincoln options program, parent participation, social emotional intelligence curriculum and supportive staff.

Parent or guardian

Lincoln Elementary

I'd like to see more engaging social studies and ela resources.

Elementary Teacher

Garfield Elementary

more monies for food services

Other School Staff

Olympia High School

I value that the kids come first at Centennial.....always.

Parent or guardian

Centennial Elementary

Value: Staff who are passionate about supporting our students' success. Improve: district board and leadership making decisions based on politics without asking the students what they need.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff

Olympia High School

The staff in the buildings work so hard to provide all they can to students. Communication from the district level to buildings and community has been poor this year.

Secondary Teacher

Reeves Middle School

I deeply value all the ways the district supports our most vulnerable students and seeks and secures incredibly kind, compassionate, hard working teachers, administrators, and staff. It is the school staff that make the experience for our students. I would love to see more of an investment in training and teaching staff about learning differences to increase awareness and understanding and more targeted, evidence based strategies to support for these students. The curriculum, generally speaking, seems oriented to high performing students with few academic struggles. In some areas (i.e., math) curriculum may need to be customized or streamlined for

these learners and general communication may need to be presented in a more concise and approachable way for students with learning disabilities.

Parent or guardian

Boston Harbor Elementary

I value the diversity that our district provides and cultivates; however, I think there is much room for improvement in terms of how things are articulated throughout the district. There is a heavy bias towards liberal views, which I personally do not appreciate.

Knox staff member

Equality

Other School Staff

Capital High School, Transition Program

I value equality.

Other School Staff

Capital High School, Transition Program

The schools really need to work on implementing equity work in a real way, starting at the district level with policies, curriculum, and testing. Culturally responsive practices do not use scripted materials that focus on skill practice. Our district needs to move toward more whole child materials.

Secondary Teacher

Reeves Middle School

Food needs serious improvement. Guidelines are great but the food tastes awful, please rethink vendors and suppliers and train staffing to make better meals

Parent or guardian

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I wish there was a way for the schools to support the home/family of the students. It seems it would benefit the schools, the community and the home.

Other School Staff

Reeves Middle School

More focus on community/world/hands-on involvement and service needed, less homework.

Other School Staff

Centennial Elementary

I really value the alternative education routes such as ORLA, CSI, and Avanti. I would really like to see the social emotional aspect increased across our district for students and staff.

Parent or guardian, Elementary Teacher

Garfield Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

More support for highly capable and struggling learners that don't qualify for SPED

Other School Staff

Olympia Regional Learning Academy

I value the amazing dedication to students education and well being that I see at every level of staff within our schools. However, I believe that staff are too often overly taxed due to large classes and little support staff. I believe support staff (paraeducators, SPED teachers, counselors, nurses, and office support) should be significantly increased in order to reduce burnout, increase job satisfaction, and improve students' education and school experiences.

Other School Staff

Boston Harbor Elementary, Reeves Middle School

I would like to see more cultural awareness and celebrate the diversity within our community.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff, Community Member

Roosevelt Elementary

I would like to see more than one counselor/social worker in high poverty schools

Elementary Teacher

LP Brown Elementary

I like the focus on emotional needs, but teachers need more help from professionals

Elementary Teacher, Community Member

Hansen Elementary

Value- committed staff and community. Improvement- Lack of transparency/communication in district level decisions, more mental health supports to directly work with students.

Secondary Teacher

Olympia High School

There is a consistent need for fair allocation of resources and staffing based on the requirements of student population.

Secondary Teacher

Jefferson Middle School

I value the options in learning systems. (we are a Lincoln, Nova, Avanti family) I would like smaller class sizes and for teachers to have all the materials they need- from desks to books to time and raises!

Parent or guardian
Avanti High School

I value our schools for being community hubs for helping our kids thrive and engage.

Community Member
Madison Elementary, Avanti High School

The teachers are amazing and very supportive. Less emphasis on testing

Parent or guardian, Community Member
Lincoln Elementary, Avanti High School

Transportation could be improved. Hansen Elementary is a large school with crowded busses and a crowded parking lot.

Hansen Elementary

External programs such as Freedom Farm, New Market, Running Start

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
Olympia High School

we are trying harder to be culturally accepting/aware but it needs to continue

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
Garfield Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Madison Elementary, McLane Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Thurgood Marshall Middle School, Washington Middle School, Capital High School, Olympia High School, Transition Program

value inclusiveness, district leadership needs improvement

Secondary Teacher
Olympia High School

love the smaller elementary schools but it makes it hard to fund full supports needed

Other School Staff
Lincoln Elementary

Love that we got on tech supports early, provide meals and assistance during this school-at-home phase. Pandemic response we reactive and not proactive enough; too many changes and long, pointless communications. Put action statements first, then added support information for those that want to wade through it. For the most part, we hire good teachers and collaborators.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff
Pioneer Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Washington Middle School, Olympia High School

I value the alternative programming for kids with a variety of needs, like Avanti and ORLA. I would love to see more programming for a wider range of learners.

Community Member

Madison Elementary, Avanti High School

I love Olympia's student outcomes. I love that staff are committed to achieving lofty goals and put so much of their time, resources and hearts into it. I appreciate the effort that is made to engage all parties in decision making. Teachers are skilled and passionate and could make so much progress with even the most challenging student situations if they were given the training and ongoing coaching to adapt their practices and systems to ensure that every student can be successful.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff, Community Member

LP Brown Elementary, Madison Elementary

More staffing, less student crowding .

Parent or guardian

McLane Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Middle School

We are new to the school system this year; our oldest child is in K. What I have really appreciated this year is my child's teacher. She has done a fantastic job, and all the staff at the school that I have interacted with have been doing their best in a tough environment. I also really appreciate that the school system provided a Chromebook for all students.

Parent or guardian

Pioneer Elementary

Improve equity for not only students of color, but apply equity for low income families, ELL, students with disabilities, single parent households, or transportation limited households. Improve ways to promote students using alternative modes of transportation to get to/from school beside the school bus.

Parent or guardian

Garfield Elementary, Hansen Elementary

I value meeting every student where they are, and providing support for every level.

Parent or guardian

Olympia High School

value: rigorous academics, exceptional teachers; improve: smaller class sizes and fewer surveys!

Parent or guardian

Roosevelt Elementary

Equity!! Equality is NOT equity. Stop ignoring the income disparity between the Westside & Eastside. It exists and isn't going away. If anything it's getting worse.

Parent or guardian, Other School Staff

LP Brown Elementary, Jefferson Middle School

Areas of improvement: teachers need to provide more help to, pay attention to, and care about bilingual students who struggle because the language barriers.

Parent or guardian

Washington Middle School and Olympia High School

The work that teachers do.

Parent or guardian

Hansen Elementary