



## OVERVIEW / PROCESS

The Des Moines School District School Board held community engagement and outreach sessions between December 12, 2023, through January 25, 2024, with 31 stakeholder groups and gatherings. A separate online community feedback survey also was conducted with approximately 1800 responses. This synopsis combines the board engagement and outreach feedback and the online survey into 16,000 items of analysis.

### Community Participation

Total Sessions -

AMOS	East High Avenue Scholars	North High School Avenue Scholars
Avenue Scholars – East High	Hoover High – students and staff	Office of Latino Affairs
Bidwell	King Elementary, Better Opportunities Inc, BCDI	Park Avenue Elementary
Bilingual Family Liaison Staff and Parents	LGBTQ AFFINITY GROUP	Roosevelt Latinos in Action
Capitol View Elementary	LUNA	School Librarians
Conmingo Educational Center	Lincoln High School Student Voices	The Ark Church
DMEA	Monsoon	Virtual - Public
DMPS (2)	Moulton Elementary School - ALL CALL	Virtual – Teachers & Staff
DMPS Latino Affinty Group	NAACP	
ELL Families	NISSA (Nissa African Family Services)	

## QUESTION-BASED SUMMARY

Following is the resulting analysis of the feedback gathered, listed by question, that reflects the **major themes** raised with the **most frequency**. Example feedback is provided for the top three items in each question.

- **What is the most important thing our students should know and be able to do in ELEMENTARY school?**

Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reading a variety of texts at grade-level</i></li> <li>• <i>Reading &amp; Writing</i></li> <li>• <i>Reading – we have to teach our children to read</i></li> </ul>	36.51%
Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Understand the basic math principles and be able to estimate.</i></li> <li>• <i>Memorizing basic number facts, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division.</i></li> <li>• <i>Students should be proficient in all Math Iowa Core standards</i></li> </ul>	11.40%
Social Emotional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Social and emotional learning as well as RWA.</i></li> <li>• <i>Social &amp; emotional control towards staff, family, classmates</i></li> </ul>	10.93%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>SEL-social skills, how to manage feelings and self, how to be a learner</i></li> </ul>	
Academics	4.42%
Respect / Kindness	3.72%
Critical Thinking / Problem Solving	3.60%
Safety / Security	2.67%
Communication	2.09%
Mental Health	2.09%

● **What is the most important thing our students should know and be able to do in MIDDLE school?**

<p>Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Read with comprehension and write complete paragraphs.</i></li> <li>• <i>Read and write on grade level</i></li> <li>• <i>Read and comprehend at grade level - critical thinking skills</i></li> </ul>	18.24%
<p>Social Emotional</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>They should be able to socialize and interact with peers of the same level/degree</i></li> <li>• <i>Socially aware of surroundings and people and friends</i></li> <li>• <i>Socialize, empathize, think sequentially and laterally</i></li> </ul>	9.06%
<p>Math</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Math concepts need to be simple and straight to the point. learning different ways to do math is pointless just keep it the way it has been.</i></li> <li>• <i>Do more advanced math</i></li> <li>• <i>Basic math skills that will prepare them for algebra and other pre college courses they will take in high school.</i></li> </ul>	8.81%
Critical Thinking / Problem Solving	7.17%
Academics	4.53%
Respect / Kindness	3.14%
Life Skills	2.64%
Safety / Security	2.64%
Communications	2.52%

● **What is the most important thing our students should know and be able to do in HIGH school?**

<p>Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Writing, persuasive and creative</i></li> <li>• <i>Writing Letters, Short stories, Research, etc.</i></li> <li>• <i>Ability to read and interpret signs, laws, factual websites from opinion websites, etc.</i></li> </ul>	11.33%
<p>Career Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Students should have more opportunities to do resume/job applications, learn about civics/government, learn about taxes, and have financial literacy.</i></li> <li>• <i>Understand their worth and value in the world and the importance of their contribution via their gifts.</i></li> </ul>	9.71%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Career exploration and readiness as a global citizen.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Life Skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Learn real world skills that all adults need to know to be independent (taxes/mortgage/applications/phone etiquette/signing their name/changing a tire/cpr/etc)</i></li> <li>• <i>Basic life skills, example.... Balance a check book, clean properly, cook, drive a car, etc</i></li> <li>• <i>Self help skills to help with adulthood</i></li> </ul>	7.85%
Critical Thinking / Problem Solving	7.72%
Social Emotional	6.23%
Academics	5.73%
Finance	4.98%
Math	3.74%
Citizenship / Community	3.36%
Communication	3.24%
Safety / Security	2.37%

● **What one thing that DMPS is doing well for students right now that you want to be sure we KEEP doing?**

<b>Diversity / Inclusivity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Focusing efforts on multi language learners and black/brown students</i></li> <li>• <i>The school is inclusive and seems to be a sanctuary for diverse student groups.</i></li> <li>• <i>A strong sense of support for marginalized students (ethnicity, religion, LGBTQ status, etc.)</i></li> </ul>	12.63%
<b>Curriculum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Providing high quality curriculum/interventions</i></li> <li>• <i>Good curriculum</i></li> <li>• <i>Using a common math curriculum across all grades (IM)</i></li> </ul>	7.89%
<b>Social Emotional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Continue to focus on social emotional learning</i></li> <li>• <i>My school does a great job with Social Emotional Learning</i></li> <li>• <i>Continue creating a culture where SEL is a priority.</i></li> </ul>	6.46%
Nutrition	6.17%
Community Engagement	4.73%
Wellness	4.73%
Special Education	3.59%
Academics	3.44%
Safety / Security	3.44%
Extracurricular	3.16%
Communication	2.73%
Teaching / Teachers	2.58%
Literacy	2.44%
Equity	2.30%

- **What is one that we are NOT YET doing for students that you think DMPS should START doing?**

<p>Safety / Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Secure DMPS schools and implement anti-bullying laws, not just say xyz school is anti-bullying on paper.</i></li> <li>• <i>Providing safe, supervised, and environmentally controlled before and after school locations</i></li> <li>• <i>Making students feel safe when big behaviors happen in the classroom</i></li> </ul>	4.60%
<p>Staffing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Take better care of staff already employed</i></li> <li>• <i>Support teachers to differentiate learning</i></li> <li>• <i>School staff wellness – support them</i></li> </ul>	3.84%
<p>Special Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Teaching autistic students better offering better services to autistic kids and that includes bussing them to the school even if the child is open enrolled and the district school is further away from their house but the district school doesn't have quite as good of program dealing with autistic children</i></li> <li>• <i>Smaller groups for special education, rosters are too big and not manageable</i></li> <li>• <i>Provide more support for SPED students</i></li> </ul>	3.84%
Behavior	3.84%
Curriculum	3.32%
Literacy	3.20%
Wellbeing	2.69%
Social Emotional	2.69%
Discipline	2.56%
Extracurricular	2.30%
Academics	2.30%
Technology	2.05%
Nutrition	2.05%
Mental Health	2.05%

- **When you think about how DMPS is educating students, is there anything that you think we should STOP doing?**

<p>Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Requiring a alternative of another language in order to graduate.</i></li> <li>• <i>Having them take classes that don't align with their career path AND is beyond basic core classes (math, science, english, social studies.)</i></li> <li>• <i>Stop dumbing down the courses.</i></li> </ul>	9.77%
<p>Academics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Expecting less than students are capable of both academically and behaviorally</i></li> <li>• <i>Stop setting Board goals based one one type of test that happens at one time of the year.</i></li> <li>• <i>Lowering standards rather than demanding more.</i></li> </ul>	5.86%

Behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Not being strict enough with students. People are very sensitive about things now a days but some students need some kind of discipline to grow</i></li> <li>• <i>Stop using behavior models that involve public shaming</i></li> <li>• <i>Stop making up excuses for the profanity, violence, guns, gang activity, truancy, verbal assaults, physical assaults and establish very clear norms for behavior in our schools spaces</i></li> </ul>	5.86%
Diversity / Inclusivity	3.58%
Staffing	3.26%
Assessment / Testing	2.61%
Parental Engagement	2.61%
Technology	2.61%
Equity	2.28%
Special Education	2.28%