TOWN HALL 2024 FEEDBACK
SURVEY SUMMARY

Lethbridge
SCHOOL DIVISION

SURVEY DATE: FEBRUARY 6-17, 2024

DATE OF SUMMARY: MARCH 7, 2024

TOTAL RESPONSES:

(ONLINE SURVEY AND TOWN HALL)

1,605

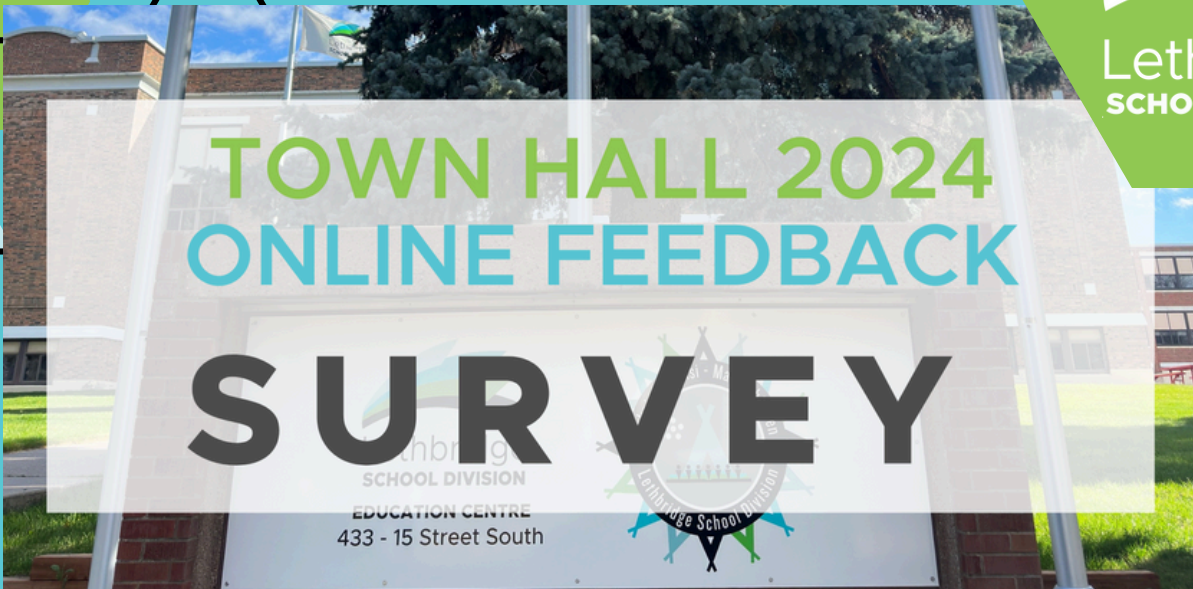# WHY DID LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION CONDUCT THIS SURVEY?

Lethbridge School Division hosted the annual Town Hall event on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. The purpose of the Town Hall event was to seek feedback to assist the Board of Trustees and the Division in planning for the future. The Board of Trustees and Division administration will take time to review the feedback as we plan for the 2024/2025 school year and beyond.

Town Hall featured opportunities for stakeholders to engage in roundtable discussions on a variety of topics. Participants were then asked to provide a summary of ideas discussed at their table. The Division received 804 responses at the Town Hall event.

From February 6-17, 2024, an online survey was posted on the Division website. The online survey featured the same questions as Town Hall and provided stakeholders the opportunity to provide more detailed responses. The Division received 801 responses through the online survey.
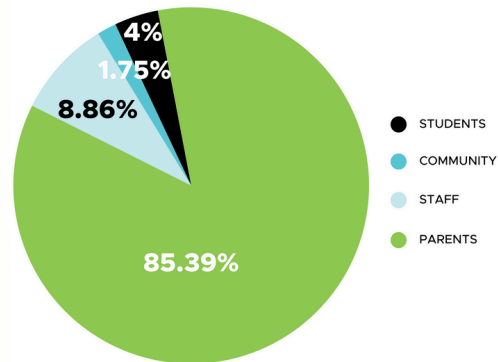
In this report you will find a breakdown of stakeholder group responses and summaries of the most common topics discussed at Town Hall and expressed through the online survey. Please note, although there are many common themes between the two sets of information, the information collected at the Town Hall event is presented separately from the information collected through the survey.

Thank you to everyone who provided this valuable feedback. We appreciate you taking the time to share your unique perspective.
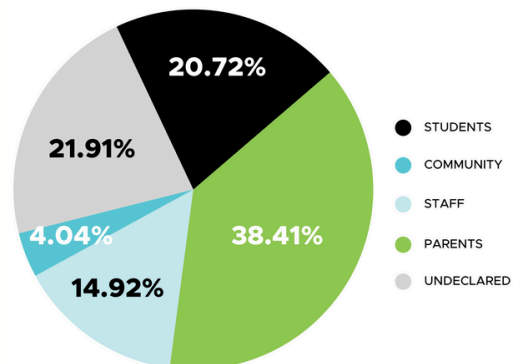
TOWN HALL 2024 ONLINE FEEDBACK

SURVEY

Lethbridge SCHOOL DIVISION

SCHOOL DIVISION
EDUCATION CENTRE
433 - 15 Street South

TOWN HALL ONLINE SURVEY: (801 total comments)

STUDENTS: 4%
PARENTS/GUARDIANS: 85.39%
STAFF: 8.86%
COMMUNITY MEMBERS: 1.75%

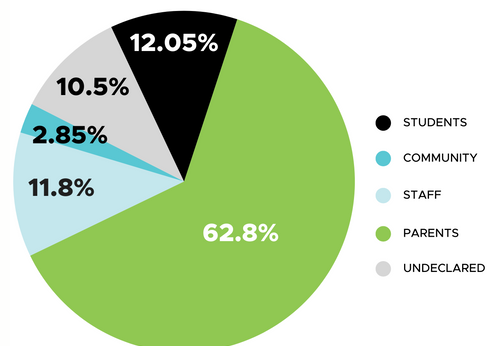- STUDENTS
- COMMUNITY
- STAFF
- PARENTS

TOWN HALL EVENT RESPONSES: (804 total comments)

STUDENTS: 20.72%
PARENTS/GUARDIANS: 38.41%
STAFF: 14.92%
COMMUNITY MEMBERS: 4.04%
UNDECLARED: 21.91%

- STUDENTS
- COMMUNITY
- STAFF
- PARENTS
- UNDECLARED

ALL RESPONSES: (1,605 total comments)

STUDENTS: 12.05%
PARENTS/GUARDIANS: 62.8%
STAFF: 11.8%
COMMUNITY MEMBERS: 2.85%
UNDECLARED: 10.5%

- STUDENTS
- COMMUNITY
- STAFF
- PARENTS
- UNDECLARED

TOWN HALL 2024 ONLINE FEEDBACK

SURVEY

SCHOOL DIVISION
EDUCATION CENTRE
433 - 15 Street South

Lethbridge
SCHOOL DIVISION

LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

ELEMENTARY
ONLINE DATA

TOWN
HALL

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The following is a summary of the responses from the online survey, conducted from Feb 6-17, 2024. This summary provides an overview of topics expressed in the online survey. This summary is not intended to provide a list of every topic that was collected through the survey.

WE ASKED: WHAT ARE THE SUCCESSES OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE IN LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION?

The following are the five most common areas of success for elementary schools as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Caring Staff

• Staff continually go above and beyond and show support for students
• Kind and hardworking teachers ensure student needs are met

Students are cared for

• Schools are warm, welcoming environments for students
• Caring and kindness is encouraged in the relationships students form with one another

Extra opportunities for students

• Schools provide access to unique learning opportunities
• These opportunities are available during the day and after school with extracurriculars and other clubs

Small class sizes

• Smaller class sizes, particularly in Kindergarten to Grade 3
• Class sizes that are not too big or too small

Communication

• Effective teacher-parent communication through classroom apps
• Weekly emails lead to good communication with families

Lethbridge
SCHOOL DIVISION

WE ASKED: WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE IN LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION?

The following are the five most common areas to improve for elementary schools as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Communication and parental involvement

• More communication is needed for older grades, and when communication does take place, it should be simplified, as there are too many classroom apps
• Schools could be more welcoming and inviting and provide more opportunities for parental involvement

More support staff, tools and resources

• A lack of Educational Assistants leads to a lack of support for students
• Additional supports for mental health, wellness and students with behavioural issues

Need to go back to basics

• Strong focus is needed on teaching fundamentals of reading, writing and math
• Must prepare students for middle school by giving them a solid foundation in elementary

Bell times/start times

• Earlier start times are needed to accommodate working families
• Start times for younger children are currently too late

Class sizes are too large

• Large class sizes make it difficult for teachers to provide individualized attention to students
• Learning gaps can be created due to large class sizes at elementary

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TOWN HALL 2024
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SURVEY

LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

ELEMENTARY
TOWN HALL DATA

TOWN HALL

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The following is a summary of the discussions that occurred at the Town Hall event on Feb. 6, 2024. This summary provides an overview of topics that were discussed at the event. This summary is not intended to provide a list of every topic that was discussed during the event.

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AREAS OF SUCCESS

The following are the five most discussed areas of success for elementary schools from the Town Hall event:

• Appreciation for the dedication and commitment of school staff
• Relationships between teachers and students
• Variety of extracurricular activities and clubs
• Access to technology and resources
• Community involvement and support

AREAS TO IMPROVE

The following are the five most discussed areas to improve for elementary schools from the Town Hall event:

• Communication between parents and teachers
• Bell times
• Class sizes that are too large
• Support for students with complex needs
• Classroom resources and support

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TOWN HALL 2024 ONLINE FEEDBACK SURVEY

Lethbridge SCHOOL DIVISION

LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

MIDDLE SCHOOL
ONLINE DATA

TOWN HALL

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WE ASKED: WHAT ARE THE SUCCESSES OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE IN LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION?

The following are the five most common areas of success for middle schools as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Abundance of options
• Exploratory options are a highlight, with great variety and quality
• Engaging options help students broaden their skills and meet new people

Engaged and passionate staff
• Staff create fun and engaging learning environments
• Staff are dedicated, work hard for their students and are thoughtful and caring

Limiting access to cellphones
• No cellphone policies have eliminated some negative issues related to technology use
• Limiting technology use has helped in terms of learning and socialization

Good communication
• Good communication with teachers and families
• Administrative staff communicate well and listen to concerns

Appropriate use of technology
• Utilizing technology to support learning with access during evening hours
• Inclusion of technology is helpful, however, too much focus on technology can be distracting

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WE ASKED: WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE IN LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION?

The following are the five most discussed areas to improve for middle schools as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Revise middle school structure and curriculum

• Revisit the middle school structure and examine a Grade 7-9 format
• Better prepare students for high school by putting a focus on foundational math and science

Start and bell times

• Middle school start times are currently too early
• Adjust the school bus system to accommodate later start times

Smaller class sizes

• Large class sizes are not conducive to learning
• Large class sizes can make it difficult for teachers to provide individualized attention to students

More sports opportunities

• Sports opportunities are limited and exclusive
• More participation and instruction is needed for less competitive streams of sports

Revise laptop and cellphone policies

• Stop requiring families to purchase laptops, as school fees are high enough
• Ban use of all cellphones and focus on literacy and numeracy

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TOWN HALL 2024
TOWN HALL FEEDBACK
SURVEY

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LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

MIDDLE SCHOOL
TOWN HALL DATA

TOWN
HALL
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Lethbridge
SCHOOL DIVISION

AREAS OF SUCCESS

The following are the five most discussed areas of success for middle schools from the Town Hall event:

• Variety of options and programs
• Extracurricular activities
• Hands-on learning opportunities
• Celebration of diversity and culture
• Student-led initiatives

AREAS TO IMPROVE

The following are the five most discussed areas to improve for middle schools from the Town Hall event:

• Need for more frequent and longer breaks during the day
• More real-world experiences and challenges in the curriculum
• Communication between parents and school
• Parental involvement
• Support for students with behavioural and academic challenges

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TOWN HALL 2024 ONLINE FEEDBACK SURVEY

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LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

HIGH SCHOOL
ONLINE DATA

TOWN HALL

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WE ASKED: WHAT ARE THE SUCCESSES OF THE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE IN LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION?

The following are the five most discussed areas of success for high schools as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Flexibility

• Having so many options for students begins the process of examining potential future careers
• Excellent opportunities for students to explore new skills or improve on areas they are engaged in

Supportive staff

• Many excellent teachers and caring and competent staff
• Nurturing and supportive staff who help student achievement

Schools are safe and caring

• Youth programs are in place that incentivize high school students to interact with younger students
• Students feel seen and heard, which leads to academic and overall success

Extracurriculars and options

• Clubs and sports create a sense of belonging
• Options for sports, language, arts, singing, band, etc. provide something for every child to excel at

Student engagement

• The Division has good variety of options for students with different learning needs
• Student engagement in options is important since a one-size-fits-all education system does not work

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WE ASKED: WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE THE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE IN LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION?

The following are the five most discussed areas to improve for high schools as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Communication

• High school students can be responsible but communication with parents is essential
• More communication from school to parents to help with student engagement

Schedule and timetable

• A consistent school schedule is important for students
• Arts programming and options could fit better inside the regular timetable

Increased accountability

• More follow through and consequences for behaviour that is detrimental to learning or dangerous for staff or classmates.
• Hold students more accountable for deadlines pertaining to assignments and projects

Focus on academics

• More academic opportunities in math, science, reading and current events
• Students in high school need assistance academically to prepare for post-secondary school

Clear technology policies

• An overabundance of apps and communication tools can be confusing
• Technology can be useful but clear guidelines must be in place for responsible use

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TOWN HALL 2024
TOWN HALL FEEDBACK

SURVEY

LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

HIGH SCHOOL
TOWN HALL DATA

TOWN HALL

51

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AREAS OF SUCCESS

The following are the five most discussed
areas of success for high schools
from the Town Hall event:

• Access to opportunities, options and programs
(dual credit, clubs, extra-curricular activities etc.)
• Celebration of diversity in schools
• Appreciation for advisor system
• School cultures that promote connection
• Benefits of flex time

AREAS TO IMPROVE

The following are the five most discussed
areas to improve for high schools
from the Town Hall event:

• Cellphone usage
• Class sizes that are too large
• Effective response to conflict and bullying
• Communication between schools, students and parents
• Ensuring all students feel supported and valued

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TOWN HALL 2024 ONLINE FEEDBACK SURVEY

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LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

TECHNOLOGY ONLINE DATA

TOWN HALL

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WE ASKED: WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF USING TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS? WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF USING TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS? WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS?

The following are the five most discussed topics for Technology as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Need for a consistent cellphone policy

• Ban phones from classrooms. Make it a non-option so there are no debates
• A board-wide cellphone usage policy would benefit students by clarifying expectations in all schools

Technology benefits learning

• Technology can make certain subjects more engaging and help some students with learning disabilities
• Technology can be a valuable tool in learning how to research and find reputable resources online

Mindful and reasonable use

• The world is moving to technology and it must be used in a mindful manner that is purposeful
• Students need proper instructions to use technology for its intended benefit, and schools need to play a more active role in ensuring the safe and responsible use of technology

Need for equal access to technology

• Technology for those that need it, ready to access
• All schools need equal access. Not all schools have the access to the same technology

Too much screen time

• Concerns about technology being too much of a focus at the elementary level
• Too much screen time outside of school hours is an issue, and concerns about the impact on education when that screen overuse bleeds into the schools

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TECHNOLOGY
TOWN HALL DATA

TOWN
HALL

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TECHNOLOGY

The following are the five most discussed topics related to technology from the Town Hall event:

Cellphone and Personal Device Policies
• Policies and guidelines for the use of cellphones and personal devices in schools
• Restrict use of cellphones and personal devices in schools

Digital Literacy and Responsible Use
• Teach students digital literacy skills (safety, critical consumers of online information)
• Encourage the responsible use of social media

Role of Technology in Education
• Technology is not a replacement for sound teaching practice
• Be cautious about over-reliance on technology
• Be cautious about technology limiting social interactions in schools

Access to Technology
• Ensure that schools have equitable access to technology
• Be aware that not all families have equitable access to technology

Balancing Technology and Traditional Learning
• Too much access to technology in schools has negative affects, including overstimulation and decreased social interaction

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LEARNING AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

ONLINE DATA

TOWN HALL

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WHAT SHOULD THE FUTURE OF LEARNING AND EDUCATION LOOK LIKE?

The following are the five most discussed topics for Learning and the Future of Education as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Renewed focus on academics

• Focus on basic skills that students need to succeed in life: reading, writing, critical thinking, digital skills
• Prepare students for academic tasks needed in post-secondary such as working with computers, writing, note-taking, giving an oral presentation

Focus on practical/career skills

• Focus on skill-based learning to ensure students are learning what is required for successful careers and in their lives
• How to do taxes, manage money, how to study, trades education in high school and practical skills like typing, basic computer skills

Purposeful use of technology

• Integrate technology into learning experiences without increasing screen time
• Re-focus technology use for specific purposes such as coding or computer programming

Inclusive and safe learning environments

• Ensure learning and academic achievement is fostered in caring and inclusive environments
• Create positive, collaborative environments for student education and emotional wellness

Develop critical thinking skills

• Comprehension, compassion and critical thinking are key
• Support students in developing a love of learning that will be lifelong

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LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

LEARNING AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

TOWN HALL DATA

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LEARNING AND THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

The following are the five most discussed topics related to Learning and the Future of Education from the Town Hall event:

Structure of schools and learning
• Smaller schools and classes to improve staff-student relationships
• More outdoor learning, longer breaks
• Greater flexibility in curriculum and teaching methods

Foundational skills
• Teaching basic skills such as handwriting and public speaking
• More emphasis on life skills and practical knowledge

Variety of learning experiences
• Focus on critical thinking
• Provide a variety of learning opportunities and experiences beyond academics
• Prepare students for future jobs

Diversity and Inclusion
• Celebrate diversity
• Create a respectful atmosphere for all
• Support students with diverse needs

Integration of technology
• Balance the use of technology with traditional teaching and learning approaches
• Be careful of overreliance on technology
• Basic skills are important as well

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TOWN HALL 2024 ONLINE FEEDBACK

SURVEY

LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

GOVERNANCE
ONLINE DATA

TOWN HALL

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SCHOOL DIVISION

WHAT FEEDBACK DO YOU HAVE FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ABOUT HOW THEY GOVERN THE DIVISION?

The following are the five most discussed topics for Governance as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Advocacy for support staff and teachers

• Support teachers, as they have a pulse on learning in the Division
• Administrative support workers and Educational Assistants are critical and deserve a livable wage

Accountability, communication and honesty

• More communication, transparency and openness
• Greater opportunities for feedback for students, parents and staff

Have clear understanding of policies

• Consider all sides of an issue when creating policies, and clearly communicate when policies are being reviewed, in order to receive input
• Understand the Division's educational philosophy in order to make informed decisions regarding policy development

Long terms planning and funding

• Exercise prudent financial management to ensure the Division's long-term financial stability, with oversight of school budgets
• More long-term planning and ensure calendars are available at least a year in advance

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression

• Support gender-diverse students and determine how schools can support these students
• Less focus on sexual orientation and gender identity, as these are parent conversations

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TOWN HALL 2024
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SURVEY

LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

GOVERNANCE
TOWN HALL DATA

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GOVERNANCE

The following are the five most discussed topics related to Governance from the Town Hall event:

Policies
• Policy review process
• Clarity and adherence to policy

Accountability
• Ensuring that staff and trustees are fulfilling their roles effectively

Transparency and Trust
• The need for open, collaborative decision making

Resource Allocation
• Ensuring equitable resource distribution

Engagement
• Ensuring the Board engages all stakeholders in decision making

Lethbridge
SCHOOL DIVISION

TOWN HALL 2024 ONLINE FEEDBACK SURVEY

LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

KINDERGARTEN AND EARLY LEARNING

ONLINE DATA

TOWN HALL

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WHAT CAN THE SCHOOL DIVISION DO TO MAKE EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS AND KINDERGARTEN MORE ACCESSIBLE TO PARENTS?

The following are the four most discussed topics for Kindergarten and Early Learning as expressed in the online survey:

YOU SAID:

Provide full-day programs

• Full-day programing is key for families with working parents
• Offering full-day Kindergarten will provide easier access for parents

More options for half-day programs

• Provide more options for half-day programming at schools and explore childcare options on school sites
• Half days can be beneficial, as full days can be too much for five year olds

Early Learning in more schools

• Make Early Learning available in more schools to increase convenience for parents
• Have Early Learning offered in every elementary school

Better/earlier communication

• Release registration details early to allow parents to plan details surrounding childcare
• Communicate with parents on how to prepare their children for expectations in Grade 1

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TOWN HALL 2024
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SURVEY

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KINDERGARTEN AND EARLY LEARNING

TOWN HALL DATA

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SCHOOL DIVISION

KINDERGARTEN

The following are the five most discussed topics related to Kindergarten from the Town Hall event:

Program structure
• Full day, every day Kindergarten
• Alternating full-day Kindergarten
• Every day half-day Kindergarten

Childcare
• Challenges scheduling childcare for families that aligns with Kindergarten programming

Accessibility of programming
• Scheduling, boundaries, child-care options impact ability of families to access Kindergarten programs

Educational priorities
• Play-based programs
• Limits on technology

Community engagement
• Opportunities for parents to provide input on Kindergarten programming
• Less restrictive school boundaries and school choice

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