

DISTRICT STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FEEDBACK

Students provided responses to questions around their school experiences, technology supporting learning, student engagement, equitable student supports and mental health supports. Key themes emerging from student feedback:

1. Enrichment, choice and “real-world” learning: students value learning that feels meaningful, practical, and varied – not just traditional classroom instruction:

- Career Life courses, more electives, advanced placement courses, and alternate education options
- Hands-on learning, outdoor learning, experiential activities and field trips
- Opportunities to connect to the real world, such as job fairs, leadership and practical skills development
- Interest in arts, theatre, writing and non-sports programming, with concerns that these may be under-prioritized compared to sports.



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2. Extracurriculars, clubs and belonging: students indicated that belonging and participation drive attendance and motivation:

- Funding support for clubs, sports, arts, leadership and student-led initiatives
- Funds to support to help students start their own clubs
- Equal recognition and funding for non-sports extracurriculars

3. Welcoming, comfortable, student-friendly school environments: students feel that physical spaces matter for well being and engagement:

- Schools need to feel welcoming rather than institutional
- More seating, student lounges and informal gathering spaces
- Access to gyms, equipment and outdoor spaces
- Desire for buildings and classrooms that support comfort, creativity, and connection



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4. Mental health supports:

- Better advertise and normalize mental health supports already available in schools
- Dedicated mental health counsellors, safe spaces, student lounges, and nature breaks
- Supports for high stress periods (exams, course load pressures)

5. Removing barriers to participation and success:

- Tutoring, Education Assistants and in-school academic support
- Food security (free lunches and snacks)
- Disability-inclusive resources, including specialized professionals
- Anti-bullying efforts and access to Youth Care Workers
- Support for students balancing work, caregiving, sports or complex lives



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6. Technology reliability, access and training are foundational to learning:

- Unreliable or slow internet and wi-fi
- Unequal access to updated devices across schools and classrooms
- Need for consistent access to online grades and learning tools
- Requests for digital literacy instruction, and technology supported study skills

