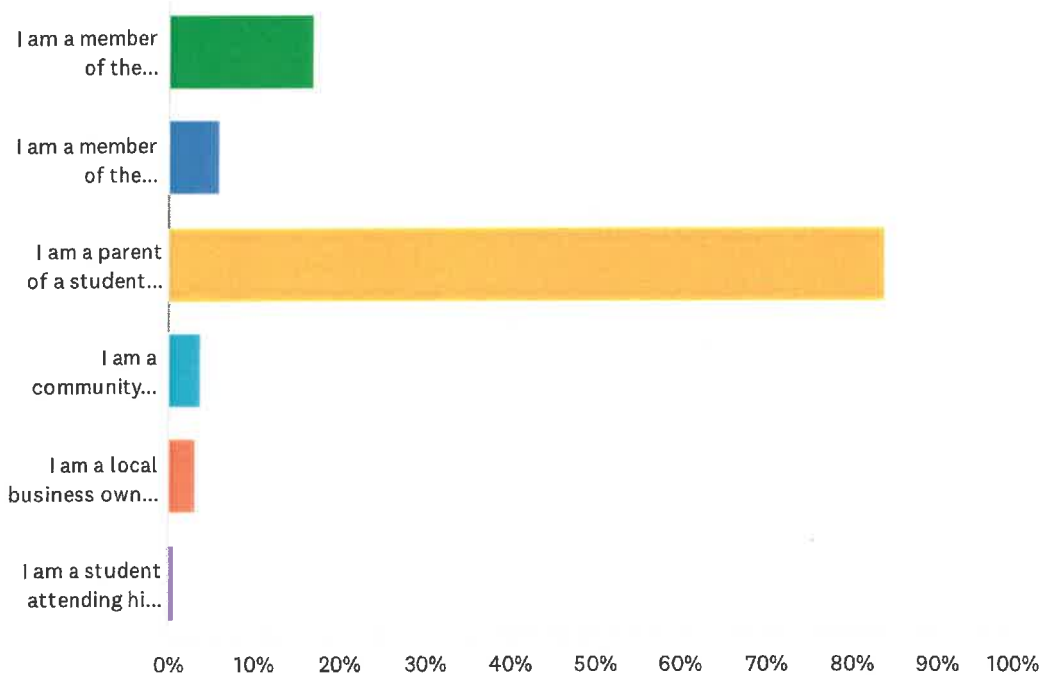


**Q1 Please provide the information below that BEST describes your relationship to East Helena Public Schools before continuing with the survey. NOTE: If multiple descriptions apply, please mark no more than three.**

Answered: 285 Skipped: 0



#### ANSWER CHOICES

- I am a member of the certified staff at East Helena Public Schools.
- I am a member of the classified staff at East Helena Public Schools.
- I am a parent of a student(s) that currently attends or did attend school at East Helena Public Schools.
- I am a community member and have not had children enrolled in East Helena Public Schools.
- I am a local business owner in the East Helena community.
- I am a student attending high school at East Helena Public Schools.

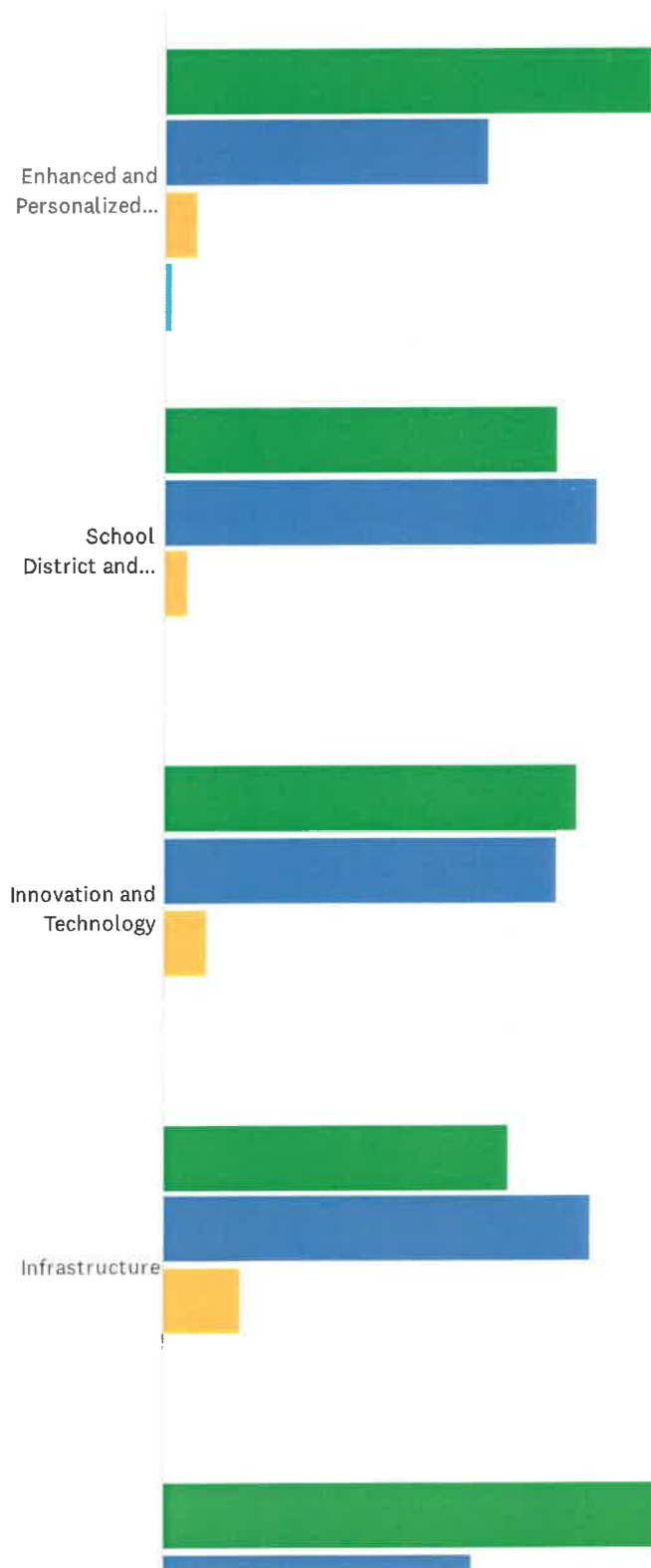
#### RESPONSES

16.84%	48
5.96%	17
83.86%	239
3.86%	11
3.16%	9
0.70%	2

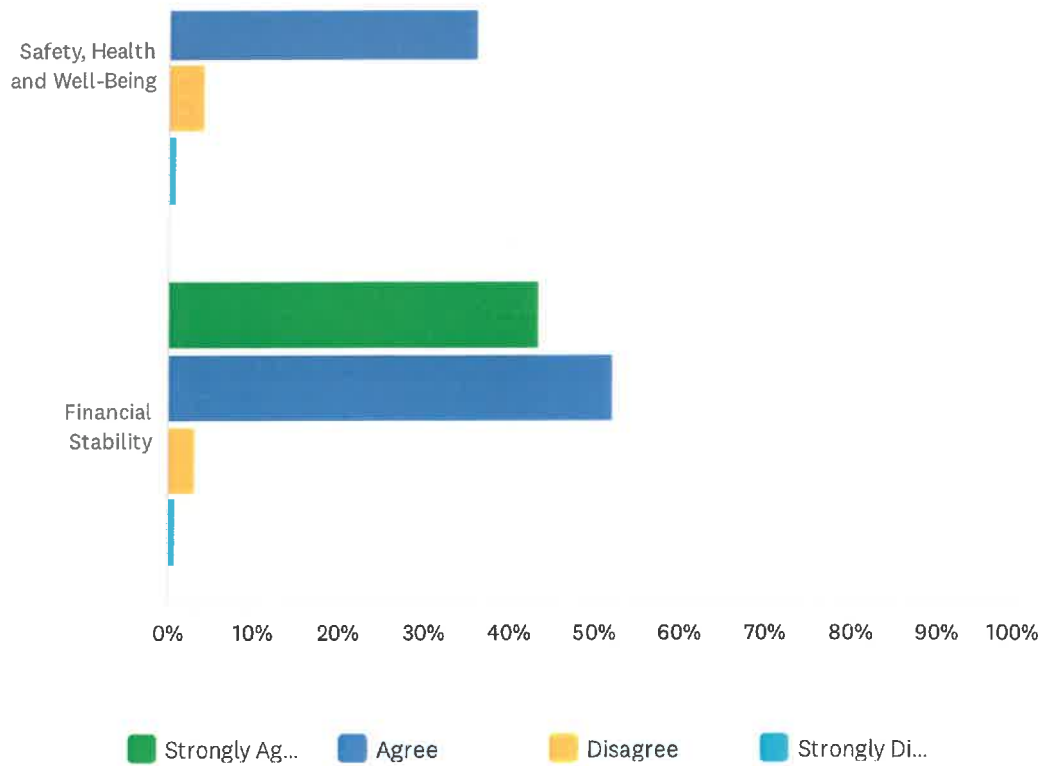
Total Respondents: 285

**Q2 Please provide your input on whether you Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree or Strongly Disagree that the following topics should be the priorities of the District for the next 3-5 Years.**

Answered: 214 Skipped: 71



## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey



	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Enhanced and Personalized Opportunities for Each Student	57.48% 123	37.85% 81	3.74% 8	0.93% 2	214	1.48
School District and Community Unity	46.23% 98	50.94% 108	2.83% 6	0.00% 0	212	1.57
Innovation and Technology	48.60% 104	46.26% 99	5.14% 11	0.00% 0	214	1.57
Infrastructure	40.58% 84	50.24% 104	9.18% 19	0.00% 0	207	1.69
Safety, Health and Well-Being	58.69% 125	36.15% 77	4.23% 9	0.94% 2	213	1.47
Financial Stability	43.46% 93	52.34% 112	3.27% 7	0.93% 2	214	1.62

**Q3 If you disagree that any of the topics identified in Question 2 should be a priority for the District, please provide input on what you believe the TOP THREE PRIORITIES should be for the District over the next 3-5 years.**

**NOTE: In providing your input, do not make comments about specific individuals that infringes on individual privacy rights.**

Answered: 44 Skipped: 241

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Top priority should be retaining and increasing staff.	1/11/2022 12:03 PM
2	Safety and well being needs to be utmost concern. I have heard from people in the schools there are all of students misbehaving and not disciplined. Kids need to feel safe and supported. Without this, education becomes lower priority for them.	1/11/2022 9:43 AM
3	First priority would be financial stability, than infrastructure, and then enhanced and personalized opportunities for each student.	1/10/2022 12:10 PM
4	More strict mask and vax policies. More technology classes for preparation for college laptop courses. More prep for college courses and grants.	1/10/2022 8:30 AM
5	I think just getting a well functioning rigorous high school is more important of a priority than individualized learning-that will come	1/10/2022 8:23 AM
6	I don't have another priority in mind, other than a variety of after school options within the schools and community (like transportation to the library after school), work opportunities in the community and the means to get there, etc. I feel the infrastructure has been a focus for many years and is now updated enough that it should no longer be a primary focus for awhile (realizing it will always need to be maintained).	1/10/2022 6:34 AM
7	I think that the top three are Infrastructure, Technology and Innovation, and opportunities.	1/10/2022 4:40 AM
8	I believe more extra curricular opportunities could be offered to the kids of all ages. Middle school programs that help the students lead into the High School opportunities. This will not only help grow the High School level, but will help keep kids out of trouble and something to belong to and be a part of. Updates to some of the schools need to be made to better equip the instructors and students.	1/9/2022 7:18 PM
9	I wanted to comment on safety, health & well-being. I agree that certain measures should be continued such as food safety, janitorial, councilors, basic sick child guidance(fever, vomiting, uncontrollable coughing/sneezing stay home). But I don't agree with measures that take parent choice away from how their kids are medically cared for. Forced masking, endorsing vaccines, contact tracing, quarantining healthy kids. I ask that EH schools keep the health policies to the basics. Families can seek medical care outside of the school buildings, including vaccines.	1/9/2022 3:53 PM
10	I do not agree with how much technology is being used in all schools, not just East Helena, anymore. Screens are not good for kids and I fear the long term effects of all these screens on these children.	1/9/2022 12:29 PM
11	Personalized learning Community unity Financial stability	1/8/2022 11:45 AM
12	1. Providing real education for IEP students does not seem to be a priority currently 2. Despite the anti-bullying campaign students are still bullied by each other and staff 3. The shuttle bus schedule is a nightmare	1/8/2022 8:20 AM
13	The district is doing a great job and should continue to provide solid, in-class instruction to give our students the best possible opportunity for their futures.	1/8/2022 8:18 AM
14	NA	1/8/2022 6:48 AM
15	School district and community unity Innovation and Technology Financial stability	1/7/2022 10:59 PM

## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

16	I don't think anyone would disagree with these priorities being very important. I also believe the high school education culture needs maturing, and the paid staff are a key to this. I believe some of the staff are perfect for this, but staffing also needs to be evaluated with input from parents and students on whether a teacher and or administrator are the right fit and should be retained or not. Make every effort to get this right!	1/7/2022 10:09 PM
17	Personalized opportunities Innovation and technology Financial stability	1/7/2022 10:02 PM
18	Safety health and well being Enhanced opportunities Innovation and technology	1/7/2022 7:57 PM
19	Individualized learning, financial stability, and infrastructure are my highest priorities. Having a keeping good teachers with good wages is of much higher value to me than technology. I prefer if school doesn't prioritize health, because sometimes what some view as health issues can push into faith issues.	1/7/2022 7:41 PM
20	More and better extracurriculars at all grades k-12 but particularly at middle and high school level. Improved academics including expanding opportunities for dual credit at the HS level. Agree with community unity and financial stability being important goals.	1/7/2022 6:42 PM
21	n/a	1/7/2022 6:41 PM
22	We as parents are done with this Covid nonsense. Start focusing on teaching our kids reading, writing, and arithmetic. That is what we pay for and expect. Stop trying to force fear on our kids and families. The school needs to focus on getting things more organized. We understand you are working on it but registration is still a mess. You also need to separate the honors classes from the normal classes. We would also like to see more being done security wise to keep the known problem kids out of the high school. There are some very dangerous kids allowed to continue being there. You are asking for a tragedy by not taking a more firm stance with those situation and permanently expelling those kids.	1/7/2022 6:00 PM
23	The school needs to put safety above unity.	1/7/2022 5:31 PM
24	I believe the school board and administrators need to start putting the kids first and not their name. It isn't about being the biggest and the best. We need to care about every kids health, safety, and academic future not just those in High School.	1/7/2022 5:21 PM
25	Reading writing & math, & science should be number one. Don't know what infrastructure even means.	1/7/2022 5:21 PM
26	Administrators need to learn more about high school and middle school activities. They need to realize that they are failing the students and community the way the activities are being ran, supervised and organized.	1/7/2022 4:53 PM
27	I agree with the topics.	1/7/2022 4:42 PM
28	I think these are all great areas for discussion and should all be priorities moving forward in the next 5 years. I appreciate that our community has really stepped up and created some unity with the new HS. I have friends and coworkers in the Helena School Districts that comment on how great it is that we sell EHHS gear at the games and create a sense of community. Some of the HS traditions are just getting started and it will be great to see that expand over time.	1/7/2022 4:36 PM
29	1 Financial stability - With a growing community, it is important to start thinking about how our district will house all the new students. Will we need more teachers? Do we need more space? Along the lines of financial stability, I see salaries being included in that. The cost of living has increased greatly over the past 2 years, while the role of teacher has taken on more due to Covid. Growing community = more property taxes 2 Personalized opportunities is another area I feel should be a priority. Included in that we should be looking for opportunities to introduce trades, specially careers such as culinary arts, offer opportunities to get out in the field, and also support students who may see military as an option. With the high school still in its early stages, there are opportunities to think outside the "normal" high school subjects and schedules.	1/4/2022 10:45 AM
30	Curriculum, especially at the high school, needs to be part of this list.	1/4/2022 7:27 AM
31	I think training, curriculums, staff and resources should be focused on Social Emotional learning for EHPS students.	1/1/2022 2:41 PM
32	Student and employee mental health and wellness. We are ahead in infrastructure and technology, it's time to invest in our staff and students. Add more counselors to each school.	12/28/2021 3:07 PM

## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

Provide wellness checks through the Pureview clinic.

33	I disagree with "health, well being" because that sounds like more covid restrictions that will be based on misinformation and do little to actually address legitimate health concerns of students.	12/26/2021 8:50 AM
34	The east Helena community is not a rich community and is now supporting 5 schools. I don't think a plan that would cost tax payers more in additional infrastructure is where resources should go.	12/19/2021 6:28 PM
35	The questions are vague and not easily prioritized	12/18/2021 2:13 PM
36	1. Remove all 5 board members who gave my kids covid after voting to lift the mask mandate two weeks prior to the end of 2020/2021 school year. That was an unspeakable decision and deserves jail time. I do not trust this board with the safety of my children. I will be nervous every single day sending my kids to your schools for as long as you are members of the board. 2. Every decision we make, we must first ask ourselves, is this the best decision for the earth? Doing everything we can for the sake of the earth and our environment is priority #1 right after the 5 board members mentioned above have been removed from their position or step down. People are hurting, all this violence in schools, all these threats, all these catastrophe's are caused by corrupt politicians, funneling money to corrupt people in the name of greed, in the name of fossil fuels, corrupt people like Gianfortax who keep bringing more corrupt people into to our state, privatizing our hunting, turning Montana into a castle for the rich, places like Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks, leaving all of us workers on the streets, people this board fully supports and this board continues to push their political agenda. Where are you people from? I'm from here, right here in Helena and Montanans have always been proud of NOT being politically associated to any one party. We make decisions for what is best for Montana, this pandemic has shown this boards true colors and has shown you are not aligned with what is best for our schools. We will not be able to continue with any of your listed priorities until you show us that the decisions you make are based on facts and not political jargon. You're either going down the Big Lie rabbit hole or you're pushing forward to improve our planet which in turn will improve our community as a whole. What direction are you going I? Are we buying into the the whole race theory thing to now? What other garbage are we to expect, where does it stop?	12/17/2021 8:54 PM
37	Mental health	12/17/2021 7:18 PM
38	I feel they are all very important and great priorities, however, my top three would be: Safety, health and well being Financial stability School district and community unity	12/17/2021 4:25 PM
39	Supporting our educators! Showing potential educators that this is the place they want to work. It has recently come to my attention that the teachers are having to use their personal time for Covid related absences. One stint of quarantine and newer teachers/staffs time is used up for the year. I know they have the option to work from home but if they get sick sick that's not really an option. Why wasn't some of the CARES money set aside for this?	12/17/2021 4:13 PM
40	Special need classes in the middle school. Life skills classes. Redefine the definition of inclusion. Special Ed titles for paras with pay increase. Christmas and spring break paid to classified staff. Staggered release times for end of day.	12/17/2021 4:00 PM
41	Infrastructure then Financial security	12/17/2021 3:51 PM
42	Enhanced and personalized opportunities for each student. Safety, health and well-being, technology.	12/17/2021 3:47 PM
43	I believe that personalized opportunities, school district and community unity, and financial stability should be top 3 priorities for the district.	12/17/2021 3:44 PM
44	I am so grateful for how the school district has handled Covid! Providing our students and families with the freedom to be conscious of the virus threat, while making personal choices responsibly. Our students will be heads and shoulders above others who have been isolated, masked, and made terrified of a virus that poses very little threat to them. Thank you!	12/17/2021 3:44 PM

**Q4 What is one thing about East Helena Public Schools you would NOT want to change? NOTE: In providing your input, do not make comments about specific individuals that infringes on individual privacy rights.**

Answered: 112 Skipped: 173

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Small town and community feel.	1/11/2022 9:43 AM
2	Class sizes for K-2 Activities that have different grade levels being together( middle school students going to Eastgate to play with kids at lunch recess, Olweus assembly for grades K-5, high school kids/sports teams coming to work with younger grades).	1/10/2022 6:17 PM
3	The Our Kids, Our Community mentality is slipping away as we grow. This needs maintained. The community needs reminded this is now one district through high school and the bond to Helena has been broken. We need to build our one-ness as a community spanning well beyond the city limits.	1/10/2022 2:41 PM
4	One thing that has always remained, a great staff! They are welcoming, knowledgeable, and approachable.	1/10/2022 12:10 PM
5	I believe the class sizes and school structures work well, and I would not want to see this change.	1/10/2022 11:52 AM
6	One thing that I would not change about EHPS is the quality of teaching professionals and their commitment to the students.	1/10/2022 10:03 AM
7	We are very pleased our kids can attend school mask free and the law is observed. Many of the normal activities are back such as in person conferences and full playground activity plus band/music class. Excellent	1/10/2022 9:25 AM
8	Interaction between school and community.	1/10/2022 8:30 AM
9	After School and Summer School programs	1/10/2022 7:55 AM
10	We have amazing teachers and we need to treat them well and retain them.	1/10/2022 7:27 AM
11	The care and concern the staff and admin have for the welfare of the students and families.	1/10/2022 6:34 AM
12	The separate schools for differing age levels. The teachers! I love that the teachers take time to separate the kids into groups such as for reading. Kids who are ahead stay challenged and kids who need it get the extra help to be successful.	1/10/2022 6:09 AM
13	I hope that the student/teacher ratio doesn't have to change. Your ability to keep the classes smaller helps with our kids ability to learn.	1/10/2022 4:40 AM
14	I feel the the communication and family connection between Eastgate and Prickly Pear are strong. I value that the teachers seem to know all the kids and take an interest in their siblings and parents.	1/9/2022 7:18 PM
15	I love the way the East Helena Public Schools operates. I wouldn't change anything. I appreciate the willingness of the school to gather information from parents and include parents in the decisions that are made. I have appreciated the way the district has handled COVID and keeping the kids mental and social needs in mind when making decisions. I would hope the district is not considering Critical Race Theory. I am completely against this type of learning environment for my children.	1/9/2022 5:56 PM
16	The community feel of the school system.	1/9/2022 4:09 PM
17	I agree with how East Helena has handled the COVID pandemic. I have been very pleased with masking release and how you had kids in school five days a week all year last year. As	1/9/2022 12:29 PM

## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

	someone who works in the Helena district I think kids in East Helena were much better off the way it was handled.	
18	Mask mandates. I prefer my students not wear them at school.	1/9/2022 10:46 AM
19	I like that our schools are providing normalcy for our children. Not making covid number one in everything, it's here to stay unfortunately. It is so good for their mental well-being and learning to see faces and facial expressions without masks. Thank you for not implementing that.	1/8/2022 12:55 PM
20	The continual contact on information about the district, and information regarding changes.	1/8/2022 11:45 AM
21	Community values	1/8/2022 11:45 AM
22	I would like the shuttle busses to continue.	1/8/2022 8:24 AM
23	1. The teachers for the lower grades are absolutely wonderful. They deserve a raise. Pay them more.	1/8/2022 8:20 AM
24	In class instruction for students without masks.	1/8/2022 8:18 AM
25	Please don't ever change the grade divisions in elementary schools. Keeping PreK-K at Eastgate, grades 1 and 2 at Prickly Pear, and grades 3-5 at Ridley in those groupings is a unique benefit. I think it's good for the kids to be with similar ages. Changing school buildings every couple years also helps build resilience to change at their young age which probably makes future transitions easier.	1/8/2022 6:48 AM
26	The smaller class sizes and personal relationships between student and teachers	1/7/2022 11:03 PM
27	Administrators and teachers are accessible	1/7/2022 10:59 PM
28	That we actually exist as a legitimate school district now with a high school. This has been needed and now that we have it let's do things right and better each year.	1/7/2022 10:09 PM
29	Infrastructure	1/7/2022 10:02 PM
30	Curriculum, time in school, off/early release days. I feel EHPS are providing a more well rounded edu action than some other areas in the state.	1/7/2022 9:02 PM
31	The community feel. Finding community is key! I spoke to a student who had transferred from Helena High because of all the politics there to play sports. He just wanted to play sports and has found community at EHHS.	1/7/2022 8:59 PM
32	The way you care what parents think makes you far better than neighboring schools. (You handled well covid all around, especially with testing practices)	1/7/2022 7:41 PM
33	Focused groups for reading and math	1/7/2022 7:30 PM
34	The small town feel.	1/7/2022 7:09 PM
35	The staff. The teachers, administrators and paras have all been fantastic. It's a good group and they are much appreciated.	1/7/2022 6:54 PM
36	Basic concern for overall well being of each student. Create a net system to not loose any kids for lack of trying to make a path of education/ employment possibilities.	1/7/2022 6:44 PM
37	Please continue to make sound financial decisions	1/7/2022 6:42 PM
38	Keep grade-leveled schools and out-of-district tuition opportunities.	1/7/2022 6:41 PM
39	I like the amount of choices the kids have for classes.	1/7/2022 6:39 PM
40	No required masks and no covid shots should stay the same. Small classes stay the same.	1/7/2022 6:04 PM
41	Do not buy in to the politics of the Helena School District. We live out here for a reason because we don't agree with the Helena School Board and their policies.	1/7/2022 6:00 PM
42	EHPS always puts their students' needs at the forefront of their decisions.	1/7/2022 5:56 PM
43	I WOULD NOT WANT TO CHANGE THE SMALLER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT	1/7/2022 5:54 PM
44	I love that fact that masks are a personal choice and not a requirement and the staff are available and will to answer any questions and keep us filled in and apart of our students curriculum	1/7/2022 5:51 PM



## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

45	I know it's impossible but the staff. They are all so great!	1/7/2022 5:34 PM
46	Open gyms at middle school.	1/7/2022 5:34 PM
47	I would like online classes for elementary students to continue. The individualized attention my child receives has been outstanding and Kimber Mook has been instrumental in his growth both academically and socially.	1/7/2022 5:31 PM
48	Individual learning and intervention groups.	1/7/2022 5:24 PM
49	The teachers are top notch.	1/7/2022 5:21 PM
50	Moo fern ideas of sec education.	1/7/2022 5:21 PM
51	The sense of community the kids have and the personal attention they get.	1/7/2022 5:16 PM
52	The small town feel. The teachers actually know the kids and the parents.	1/7/2022 5:11 PM
53	The innovative approach to incorporating parental concern and request for input that has been demonstrated well over past year	1/7/2022 5:10 PM
54	I think EHPS enjoys some hardworking, talented teachers, and a number of teachers new to the community who are doing a good job to engage students and contribute to a positive spirit. I'd like to see the District continue on this path, though I know teacher recruitment and retention can be a challenge in our current climate.	1/7/2022 5:03 PM
55	High level of test scores	1/7/2022 4:53 PM
56	I'd like to keep the technology ratio 1:1 for each student.	1/7/2022 4:48 PM
57	Class sizes should stay small enough that teachers know each student. Teachers should be certified and quality. The school district should continue (improve) communicating with the public of what is going on in our schools.	1/7/2022 4:47 PM
58	Keeping the parents consistently informed of school and district events.	1/7/2022 4:42 PM
59	I really appreciate how the grades between all the schools are split - all age appropriate peers - but most importantly EH has a good student/teacher ratio. I hope we can keep that...for the kids and teachers!	1/7/2022 4:36 PM
60	Small class sizes are wonderful	1/7/2022 4:32 PM
61	Small community feel with small class sizes.	1/7/2022 4:30 PM
62	Masking as optional.	1/7/2022 4:29 PM
63	East Helena has led the way in returning to "normal". I do not want to see that change.	1/4/2022 10:45 AM
64	The administration at the schools. They seem to be a really great team!	1/4/2022 10:40 AM
65	Support/interventions available to students.	1/3/2022 11:44 AM
66	Community involvement such as the participation in the homecoming parade, red-ribbon week, veterans day parade.	1/3/2022 7:06 AM
67	Don't change your high school principal. Brian Kessler has a heart for the kids and an openness to shaping education to meet the needs of the learners...don't change that!	1/2/2022 7:59 PM
68	The helpfulness of the Paras and tutors for the students who need extra help in learning	1/2/2022 10:51 AM
69	I appreciate that having students broken up into buildings by grade levels, instead of having neighborhood schools, is helpful in ensuring socioeconomic diversity in each classroom.	1/1/2022 2:41 PM
70	I believe it is important for us to continue to build upon the unity between our community and school systems, something that I think it is already in place and needs to continue to be a focus moving forward.	12/29/2021 10:26 AM
71	I like how our district has many avenues to help students that are struggling academically. This is an area that are district excels in and I would not want this to change.	12/29/2021 8:29 AM
72	Schools determined by grade not neighborhoods.	12/28/2021 3:07 PM
73	Keep schools divided by grade instead of by region. Keep small class sizes for lower grades.	12/28/2021 2:13 PM

## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

74	I would not change in person learning. Remote learning makes life extremely difficult for working class parents. Don't change mask policy either. If someone wants their kid to wear a mask....great. But that doesn't mean they have a right to force it on my child.	12/26/2021 8:50 AM
75	Intense community pride	12/21/2021 8:42 PM
76	Focus on children receiving support but challenged to learn the most they can while enrolled	12/20/2021 4:38 PM
77	I like the variety of extra curricular classes that the middle school offers, but it would be great if they could choose them, like before covid	12/20/2021 10:20 AM
78	The small community feel; to us that is the reason we will live here and have our children in East Helena. while we are clearly growing as a community, I hope the schools will do everythign possible to keep the small community benefits.	12/20/2021 8:01 AM
79	Love that EH still has the small town feel...students are known, not just a number	12/20/2021 7:44 AM
80	In-person learning. The kids need to be in school and back to normal and I am very thankful that my kids attend EH schools and are not doing a hybrid schedule.	12/20/2021 7:13 AM
81	Size of schools. Many families moving to town. Seems there won't be room in schools in a few short years. Keeping our small town feel may be challenging.	12/20/2021 6:35 AM
82	Quality of staff	12/20/2021 6:23 AM
83	I like the easy access to teachers.	12/19/2021 6:28 PM
84	The individual focus that many of the staff have shown my student. EHPS district has displayed form K- 11th year this far. This has helped my student maintain a high GPA & be comfortable attending classes. When issues have arisen, we have always received immediate help. Thank you!!	12/18/2021 5:35 PM
85	The feel of a small district with interaction among the schools	12/18/2021 2:13 PM
86	I love that East Helena is such a proud school and community. The community is tight knit, and loves its students!	12/18/2021 8:04 AM
87	The district has done an amazing job at being flexible and advocating on behalf of students while navigating the pandemic. A few of the strengths that have benefited us as a family: strategically planning for significant growth, enabling creative partnerships with the community, encouraging innovation and opportunity for all students, talented and experienced educators.	12/18/2021 7:51 AM
88	Teachers and staff. After raising 2 children to adulthood that attended schools in the Helena School District, I have had the opportunity of my nephew whom I have legal custody of attend schools in East Helena. I have been so impressed with the teachers and staff members employed in this district. I have never felt as though I am inadequate as a parent/guardian or that I am being scrutinized in this regard. I am always treated with respect and feel that my student is truly cared about by all teachers and staff that we have worked with during the past several years. I feel that any and all concerns I have raised have been taken serious and that viable solutions to such concerns have always been a good outcome. School counselors have always been a great resource and have been more than willing to help me whenever I have needed assistance or asked for guidance from them.	12/17/2021 11:20 PM
89	I like the smaller class sizes for the primary grades.	12/17/2021 9:17 PM
90	All current members of the board to remain static. Continue to listen to politicians and push political agendas and push political jargon.	12/17/2021 8:54 PM
91	I do not want to see the block schedules disappear. I feel that the block schedules are important for student success and mental health. Block schedules should be a permanent part of EVMS and EHHS student life.	12/17/2021 8:36 PM
92	The weekly newsletter!	12/17/2021 7:34 PM
93	Sense of community	12/17/2021 7:18 PM
94	I wouldn't want to change how staff reaches out to parents when kids do good/great things. Not just inappropriate things.	12/17/2021 6:29 PM
95	Commitment of staff to put students first.	12/17/2021 6:14 PM

## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

96	The relationship between parents and teachers.	12/17/2021 4:43 PM
97	Teacher hiring process/training (elementary) - we've had some fantastic teacher experiences over the last 3 years!	12/17/2021 4:25 PM
98	The sense of community.	12/17/2021 4:13 PM
99	Small community feel.	12/17/2021 4:00 PM
100	The relationships between students and teachers	12/17/2021 3:53 PM
101	I enjoy the communication between the schools, community and the parents.	12/17/2021 3:52 PM
102	Academics	12/17/2021 3:49 PM
103	Teachers are great.	12/17/2021 3:47 PM
104	Please do not change that it is a parents choice for their child's health.	12/17/2021 3:44 PM
105	Not following large districts or national demands. East Helena is entrepreneurial, nimble, proactive, and teaching students academic AND lifelong skills that are necessary to be successful in life and career. Music education early. Our students start with recorders in 4th and band in 5th, while other districts (Helena included) do not start music education until 6th grade.	12/17/2021 3:44 PM
106	The size of the classrooms. If they get too big the students can lose focus.	12/17/2021 3:43 PM
107	I love how open and committed to the kids all the staff has been!!! I grew up in East Helena and now my children are and I would never want my kids in any other district	12/17/2021 3:43 PM
108	Focus on and support for kids.	12/17/2021 3:42 PM
109	I would not change small class sizes!	12/17/2021 3:41 PM
110	Our family is new to the district and we are very pleased with the dedication of his teacher and the staff to help with the adjustment.	12/17/2021 3:40 PM
111	I have always felt supported by teachers and accessory staff in implementing individualized plans to help my kids thrive, the ones who need extra help as well the ones who require extra challenges to meet their potential.	12/17/2021 3:39 PM
112	I am very grateful we have a high school.	12/17/2021 3:22 PM

**Q5 If you could change one thing about East Helena Public Schools, what would it be? NOTE: In providing your input, do not make comments about specific individuals that infringes on individual privacy rights.**

Answered: 123 Skipped: 162

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I strongly encourage the district to adopt a strict "No Cell Phone" policy and stick to it. I am shocked at the lack of control that teachers and staff have over student cell phone use. I was actually told at the high school that it is "not worth the fight" to get students to stay off of their personal devices. That's ridiculous, it is absolutely worth the fight!	1/11/2022 12:03 PM
2	Better communication with parents. We seem to have no idea about a lot of things going on. If our kid is struggling in school, we hope someone would tell us. Emails about field trips would be helpful.	1/11/2022 9:43 AM
3	Keep a close eye on class size numbers for grades 3-8 and even lol at lowering class sizes for these grades ( particularly grades5-8). More pre-K classrooms	1/10/2022 6:17 PM
4	With EHHS the athletics programs need to communicate with the public. The teams are a large part of EH's image and who we are as a district. Current schedules and results should be communicated as an invitation for the public to attend and belong. We do not know what's going on in the gyms or on the fields. It's like it's a secret. The HS website calendar is no good. There are too many other places to get bits and pieces of info. Someone needs to direct the programs openly building pride and spirit in a planned and unified way. Also, discipline and consequences are needed. The tik-tok destruction should never have been accepted. You know who the guilty are (at least many others know). These individuals, as well as their adults should be recognized and pay for their doings. Not just the tik-tok, there are poor behaviors being accepted that only promote continuance. Nip it in the bud! We are better than what's perceived.	1/10/2022 2:41 PM
5	I think that the students need a little more supervision at lunch and at games	1/10/2022 12:45 PM
6	I wish parents were more involved. I know and understand Covid is present in the school district, but I think the students would benefit with more family involvement at home and school.	1/10/2022 12:10 PM
7	If I could change one thing about EHPS it would be to recruit more coaching staff.	1/10/2022 10:03 AM
8	Vaccination clinics This injection should remain with the public health officials. Schools primary focus should be education not vaccinations. We don't know the long term affects of such an injection and what we do know isn't always positive. The district should not be involved in advocating for this past suggestion in weekly emails to parents. It's maddening to say "safe and effective" when kids by and large are not negatively affected by this virus.	1/10/2022 9:25 AM
9	More interaction with parents regarding students' grades. Not having to log into powerschool in order to find your student's failing a class.	1/10/2022 8:30 AM
10	Let's do things all the way, just not half way and don't try and do to much too quickly so that nothing is quality and everything is sort of working	1/10/2022 8:23 AM
11	Getting away from "That's the way we've always done it" mentality. If we are championing a growth mindset in the school setting we should walk the talk and do that as well as a community/school.	1/10/2022 7:45 AM
12	I would like the schoolboard to be more proactive in publicizing what they are taking up at each meeting. I make effort to keep tabs on what's going on but I still get surprised with what the board dealt with the night before. When parents hear about it, it's often Too little too late.	1/10/2022 7:27 AM
13	Again, a variety of after school activities within the community and schools along with transportation to those activities.	1/10/2022 6:34 AM

## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

14	Get rid of cohorts. All the kids intermix before school on the playground and during activities outside of school.	1/10/2022 6:09 AM
15	To remember that it is the parents job to raise the kids.	1/10/2022 4:40 AM
16	More seasoned administrators at the higher level grades.	1/9/2022 7:18 PM
17	For volunteers to be allowed in classes again	1/9/2022 6:01 PM
18	I would love if the grade school cohorts could be re-evaluated. Or at least change up the cohorts so the children have an opportunity to see their friends at recess.	1/9/2022 5:56 PM
19	Better more recently, but some information came later than I hoped making it hard to plan to be at events/meetings.	1/9/2022 4:09 PM
20	I think the SPED paras in the district deserve to be paid more than gen ed paras and deserve pay based on experience. I don't think it is right that SPED paras start at the same pay as gen ed and do not have a sliding scale to start depending on experience. It seems SPED paras may be a bit underestimated in this district.	1/9/2022 12:29 PM
21	Providing more one on one help for students struggling.	1/8/2022 11:07 AM
22	Early Release Days. Pick Ups are torture - especially at Prickly Pear & Radley due to the high school students also getting out at the same time and causing so much traffic on Montana Ave. Even just a 10 minute delayed out time for the high school would eliminate a large amount of congestion. On one of the recent early release days, I spent about 25 minutes trying to pick up my child at Prickly Pear before being able to pick up my other children at 3 other schools. My pick up time is almost double on these days compared to regular days.	1/8/2022 10:22 AM
23	Making sure everyone (staff) is on board with the same rules and consequences for breaking them. I have noticed some teachers have given up on reporting things or making sure rules are being followed because they feel that upper management doesn't follow through with what is being said .	1/8/2022 9:00 AM
24	PAY YOUR TEACHERS MORE	1/8/2022 8:20 AM
25	Nothing EH is awesome!	1/8/2022 6:48 AM
26	I think it would be important for you guys to bring up the thought of a 4 day school week, and a shorter summer. As I know many people wouldn't agree, I think it would be very beneficial, because 2 days on a weekend really is not enough. I just hope that someday, you guys could bring up the thought of that.	1/8/2022 6:45 AM
27	Helping students who are at risk find that one connection that gives them hope should be a priority. Some students struggle with school, and when they don't have friends school becomes an even bigger challenge. Recognizing these students and helping them with this would be huge.	1/8/2022 6:31 AM
28	More opportunities at the High School, partnering with Helena college for dual credit, more language opportunities. Also more financial and school support for sports teams outside of football	1/7/2022 11:03 PM
29	Improve traffic flow for drop off/pick up at Radley and PPE	1/7/2022 10:59 PM
30	Please give an opportunity for parents and student to give input on the quality of education they are receiving and what teaching staff and administrative staff should be retained or not. Traffic around the schools at 8am and 3:15pm is horrible, needs to be addressed.	1/7/2022 10:09 PM
31	Better teachers and teaching methods and more parental input.	1/7/2022 10:02 PM
32	Bring the Bus shuttle back from each schools.	1/7/2022 9:18 PM
33	More assessment period to determine if special classes/arrangements are needed in areas for kids.	1/7/2022 9:02 PM
34	More easily accessible information on web. For example, I was trying to find a list of sports and what genders are allowed in them, but it's very hard to find information sometimes.	1/7/2022 7:41 PM
35	Overall, I really like EHPS. (I have older and younger children who currently attend.) However, I have issue with the cohort system for recess in the younger grade levels (Radley on down). Not allowing children to mix with other classes or utilize playground facilities at their discretion	1/7/2022 7:33 PM

## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

is stifling. At the very least, cohorts should rotate on a regular basis allowing opportunity to associate with different friends/peers. I understand that it's a difficult task to monitor large numbers of children at once and that paras may have preferences, but recess is an important part of academia for younger children and I believe that we can do better in this area. Does it really have to feel so "locked down"? Is it really fair that kids are getting in trouble because they cross a line to talk to a friend? It feels wrong. I'd like to see more open discussion about this across the parent/school board divide.

36	Start Spanish class as early as Kindergarten	1/7/2022 7:30 PM
37	Auto shop and more trade type of electives.	1/7/2022 6:54 PM
38	Incoming student have a system of integration. Especially one whose from out of the public school loop, weather home schooled or new to the area. To get them assimilated/prepared for the start of school year. Weather this be computer skills, reading help, or comfortable with new building/staff.	1/7/2022 6:44 PM
39	I think there was/is an over reliance on technology. I get that Covid has changed things a lot. But all the research I have seen shows students learn better when technology isn't involved	1/7/2022 6:42 PM
40	More connection between schools (among staff and students), increased energy efficiency, improved outdoor play areas, and expand KinderCubs!	1/7/2022 6:41 PM
41	The time that school starts. 8is better for parents that work at 8 so they can drop off and get to work	1/7/2022 6:39 PM
42	Pick up and drop off lines better and not so much in the way. I live beside the school and it is a mess. Let the kids have water when they need it and don't do time limit to get it. Don't reward not going to the bathroom all day, Let them go when they need to cause it's not good for the bodies to hold in. Let them call a parent when they say they need to call.	1/7/2022 6:04 PM
43	The horrible lunches you serve! I am thankful that they are free, but it isn't really free when they come home and snack like they had no lunch because they didn't. My child even heard a teacher say that they would never eat these school lunches. I know I can send my kids lunch from home, but not all kids will get that. My kids deserve good food everyday and a dessert every once in a while. There is another problem going on. My children tell me that you do not serve food according to the food calendar. That is not even close to fair for people with allergies and other problems. Also, I've been told that the kids get about 10 minutes to eat and then they have to go outside. Also, the only thing they get to drink is milk. This is absurd!!!! Seriously awful!!!!!! Please, please, please change this!	1/7/2022 6:01 PM
44	Shorten the school year by taking less days off throughout the year. We want our kids returning to school after labor day weekend and getting out of school at the end of May. Summer is supposed to be June, July and August. It just keeps getting shorter and shorter. Too many wasted days off at times when nothing can be done together as families. Also, every kid needs there own locker.	1/7/2022 6:00 PM
45	Technology changes frequently. What we have now for technology needs to be updated more often.	1/7/2022 5:56 PM
46	MORE ATTENTION PAID TO THE STUDENTS OUT ON RECESS	1/7/2022 5:54 PM
47	Not sure as of now	1/7/2022 5:51 PM
48	Wider variety of classes for high schoolers to choose from.	1/7/2022 5:46 PM
49	Having a 4-day school week would be nice.	1/7/2022 5:34 PM
50	Have sports start a little earlier so they get more than one practice before first game. Also the communication with sports. Practices times and games shouldn't be changed every week and at the last minute	1/7/2022 5:34 PM
51	Safety over unity.	1/7/2022 5:31 PM
52	Four day school week	1/7/2022 5:24 PM
53	The administration and board are something to be desired.	1/7/2022 5:21 PM
54	Nothing at the moment	1/7/2022 5:11 PM
55	Lack of shuttle transportation between school buildings has been difficult causing multiple pick	1/7/2022 5:10 PM

## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

	up and drop off stops for parents with multiple children	
56	I don't feel like East Helena's school board always works in the best interests of students, especially with a lackadaisical handling of Covid safety over the past year. I'm not sure if fault lies completely with the board, administration, or both, but I find it shameful and irresponsible that this District didn't institute mask wearing for longer than it did. And I have heard reports that students who have elected to wear masks this school year have been bullied and ridiculed, and the bullies have acted without consequence.	1/7/2022 5:03 PM
57	Administrators need to get the students actives straightened out, for the sake of the students and the community, who is more than willing to support activities, but are seeing a low level of administrative leadership.	1/7/2022 4:53 PM
58	We need more public awareness of what EHHS students are doing. Let's see some posts and promotions for the Art show, concerts, and sports, as well as classroom and student accomplishments. Live up to "our kids, our community" and introduce the community to our kids.	1/7/2022 4:47 PM
59	Specific to high school honors curriculum, there needs to be a specific course and not extra work added onto a regular course. A child does not perform at a higher level just because you assign extra homework.	1/7/2022 4:46 PM
60	High school teachers' unwillingness to work with students who are aiming for a high GPA to get into competitive college programs like premed. Most teachers are willing, but some are not willing to explain/teach the content in a way that honors-level students can understand so that they can learn better and get their grades up. We were also personally affected when kids exposed to Covid who did not have Covid themselves and who had had the vaccine were sent home. This was not the way Helena schools operated, and sadly, this did affect our children's' grades negatively despite assurances that it would not and that teachers would work with students.	1/7/2022 4:46 PM
61	The pick up and drop of lines and rules.	1/7/2022 4:42 PM
62	More community engagement and involvement.	1/7/2022 4:42 PM
63	I think EHPS is doing a fantastic job!	1/7/2022 4:36 PM
64	Earlier drop off times.	1/7/2022 4:35 PM
65	I would stagger the start and stop times between schools more than two minutes. It is impossible to be at two schools at once and I worry for my child's well being that has to wait while I pickup my other child at a different school	1/7/2022 4:32 PM
66	Curtail the negative behavior of some students better.	1/7/2022 4:30 PM
67	I would like to see shuttle buses between schools come back. I would also like to see all schools on the same reporting period structure; quarters or trimesters.	1/4/2022 10:45 AM
68	Classified staff pay scale, raise tiers and benefits.	1/4/2022 10:40 AM
69	The Block schedule at the Middle school and High school need to end. Research shows that this schedule is not beneficial to students. Time is not used well, teachers and students become fatigued, instruction time is lost due to this and the difficulty of maintaining a lesson for 90 minutes in most areas. Instead, teachers break up the time into smaller chunks, which causes lost instruction time to accommodate for transition time between activities. "Bell to Bell" instruction is definitely not happening. Students with multiple absences have great difficulty making up material (missing one day is the equivalent of missing 2 lessons), Tier 2 and Tier 3 students can't sustain attention for 90 minutes and need daily instruction and practice in class. I can sometimes be several days before they go back to a class. The Flex/Advisor time is not well used. Teachers need prep time everyday, or nearly so to be fully prepared for classes. CELL PHONE USE BY STUDENTS MUST BE ELIMINATED COMPLETELY!	1/4/2022 7:27 AM
70	Greater support and encouragement for teachers and areas. I believe the mental well being of educators is struggling right now.	1/4/2022 6:46 AM
71	Our district to move to a four day school week.	1/3/2022 11:44 AM
72	Give back to the community that supports us through community service, ie. community clean-up. Have more content focused towards the history of our town. Maybe an East Helena	1/3/2022 7:06 AM

## East Helena Public Schools--Strategic Planning Survey

day? educate students on items like the Man Love cabin, what was ASARCO and its impact on the town, what is American Chemet that we drive by everyday? Who were the people that are our schools and city buildings are named after (Murgel and Radley).

73	I think the hiring of teachers needs to be evaluated. I believe that your teaching staff is your biggest asset to success. Hiring teachers who have a love for what they teach and can build relationships with kids...that should be your biggest priority. A lot of money was put into the structure of the new high school and the newest technology being available to the students, but if you don't have staff that know how to excite kids to learn or how to build relationships with kids...you don't have much.	1/2/2022 7:59 PM
74	Putting the shuttles back in for all students when the temperature is very cold. Some are walking a long ways because they can't be on the school grounds before parents have to go to work and there are not sidewalks to all the schools yet.	1/2/2022 10:51 AM
75	We need more support staff and special education teachers to meet the needs of our growing population of students with special needs.	1/1/2022 2:41 PM
76	Communication between teachers and parents	12/31/2021 9:31 AM
77	I would like our district to go back to neighborhood schools (k-5). Some of our parents have students in 5 different buildings, which is a great inconvenience. Also, it is nice to have younger students with older students and vice-versa. The older students can mentor the younger students (buddies) and can become role models, which benefits all involved. Lastly, students don't have to make as many transitions throughout their young years of schooling.	12/29/2021 8:29 AM
78	Go back to neighborhood schools	12/28/2021 3:12 PM
79	The high school needs help creating a more positive/supportive/professional culture for students and staff. Middle and high school teachers should be allowed to partake in a solid mentoring program for new staff or newly transferred staff to receive support. Special education needs more teachers, but also could benefit from having a specific sped coordinator position who supports, trains, advises and coordinates all sped educators, someone akin to an assistant superintendent but they oversee special education, mental health supports, and CSCT interactions. EHPS would also benefit from have a specific individual in the district office who is a Human Resources coordinator for all staff positions.	12/28/2021 3:07 PM
80	1. Get ahead of growth curve vs capacity. 2. Close the gap in total educator compensation pkgs vs nearby schools. Not intent on matching salary, but trying to retain quality teachers creatively. Having best in region benefits, offering better environment/workplace atmosphere, etc.	12/28/2021 2:13 PM
81	I would change normalization of police at schools. Police presence in schools does nothing to keep anyone safe and it's a waste of resources that could go to education. We live in east Helena. Not Chicago. I support community self defense. Not government agents with guns.	12/26/2021 8:50 AM
82	The students could be more connected to one another. Seems like a lot of small groups and not large bond	12/20/2021 4:38 PM
83	I'm pretty satisfied with the schools - I would love to see drama added to the curriculum!	12/20/2021 10:20 AM
84	Add onto the high school to allow all sports to practice onsite.	12/20/2021 8:11 AM
85	I would get Radley on board supporting our students better. The no homework issue is not teaching our students to have any study skills for Middle School. They also need to support each student better with IEPs. The spending on the EHHS needs to stop. We approved an beautiful building and it is already being added onto. We were told it would have enough space in it to hold freshman-seniors and now it is not looking like it can. Should have spent less on fake turf and put the money into the building.	12/20/2021 7:56 AM
86	Expand/increase high school clubs	12/20/2021 7:44 AM
87	The teachers need to modify schedules for conferences when needed. We had a parent teacher conference for 15 minutes and needed about 30 minutes. The school counselor attended and was unaware of a number of things that they should have discussed beforehand so we didn't have to educate her during this meeting. It was a waste of our time and we would have liked to discuss our child and his progress but didn't get to.	12/20/2021 7:13 AM
88	Strict consequences for poor language and behavior. Middle and high school students get	12/20/2021 6:35 AM



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	away with too much and some habits stick for life.	
89	Reduced bullying and student harassment by other students	12/20/2021 6:23 AM
90	High school has AP or dual credit classes	12/19/2021 6:28 PM
91	High school needs better mentoring among the staff and students alike. Partnering each class with a "littles" classroom and having back and forth interactions between both students and teachers would form bonds and foster relationships to make the district and community stronger.	12/19/2021 8:05 AM
92	I believe all forms of curriculum should be taught to all students. And all students should have an opportunity to all curriculum, clubs and activities.	12/18/2021 9:35 PM
93	At high school level, would love to know as a parent about the clubs & extra activities available. My student does not relay this info nor does he take initiative to try new things. If I knew of the options out there, we could have discussions at home about them which might prompt him to look into one.	12/18/2021 5:35 PM
94	Take the cellphone while in class! They dont need to be glued to it while they are suppose to be learning! Have the students get something to hold their cellphones that they take to each class, and when they walk into a class the phones can be put at the teachers desk till the end of class they can pick it up when exiting the classroom.	12/18/2021 5:21 PM
95	Higher pay and educational standards for paras. They work with the toughest kids and often have the least skills	12/18/2021 2:13 PM
96	As a school board, we need to listen to our teachers, they are the ones day in and day out in the classroom. Their input is vital and should be sought out! Stop making decisions based on political arguments. We teach science and should believe in it, trust local doctors and head their professional advice. Our school board should not be a place for politics, only do what's best for our children.	12/18/2021 8:04 AM
97	My suggestion is not something to change but a hope to encourage more of... Finding opportunities to encourage teachers and students to explore, engage, learn and apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts is so important. Any chance to incorporate more of these opportunities in day-to-day activities now as students can translate into innovation, careers, new companies, programs, and initiatives that will design our future as a society.	12/18/2021 7:51 AM
98	The school lunch program. I feel as though there is a great deal of room for improvement in this area.	12/17/2021 11:20 PM
99	Smaller class sizes. More staffing for students mental health, counselors are spread too thin	12/17/2021 9:24 PM
100	Better transparency and accountability in financial matters.	12/17/2021 9:17 PM
101	If I could change one thing, I would follow public health guidance based on what public health experts are saying and would NOT follow public health guidance based on what a politician is saying.	12/17/2021 8:54 PM
102	As EHHS grows, I would like to see more clubs offered to students. Finding their tribe is an important part of student life, keeping kids in school, and mental health for students.	12/17/2021 8:36 PM
103	More lunch time seating in the high school.	12/17/2021 7:34 PM
104	Nothing	12/17/2021 6:29 PM
105	The honors track for students is not adequately developed. Its integration into the main track results in low expectations of honors students and assigning busy work. These classes need to be significantly different. There isn't a point to do honors, if all the kids do are extra worksheets.	12/17/2021 6:06 PM
106	I would like to see more support for working families. For example, i would like to be able to rely on the start date for the after-school program.	12/17/2021 5:36 PM
107	More after school activities.	12/17/2021 4:43 PM
108	We've been very happy and no complaints so far!	12/17/2021 4:25 PM
109	Offering high school credit for acceptable courses taken at Helena College the junior and senior years with the goal being to have seniors graduate with both their AA and high school	12/17/2021 4:16 PM

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diploma at the end of their senior year.

110	Providing teachers and staff with all the support they need.	12/17/2021 4:13 PM
111	The pay for paras.	12/17/2021 4:00 PM
112	There is a serious issue with scheduling and communicating those things in regard to extra curricular activities and events.	12/17/2021 3:52 PM
113	My child has had to listen/watch other students throw things, scream, and interrupt learning time daily. He has had to leave the classroom several times for his safety. Students that continually and consistently cause problems for the entire class shouldn't be in class without extra help/supervision.	12/17/2021 3:49 PM
114	Middle school should not be all inclusive. IEP kids have special needs that need to be met and they are falling through the cracks and being pushed through when they attend all the same classes as their peers. Also the schools need to have a strict no bullying policy that needs to be followed by all students and staff.	12/17/2021 3:47 PM
115	More SRO's. Really making them a part of the school so the kids are used to seeing the officer and can build a positive relationship with them.	12/17/2021 3:44 PM
116	More CTSO exposure (DECA, BPA, HOSA). We are off to a good start, but varied exposure is welcomed.	12/17/2021 3:44 PM
117	The staff need to be more aware and educated of gender fluid matters with our kids and more supportive of the LGBTQ youth within our community. We may be a small town but we shouldn't be close minded.	12/17/2021 3:43 PM
118	Teachers should never let their students know their political views!!!! My children have on a few occasions brought up concerns they have over a certain teachers (at EVMS and EHHS) views effecting their teaching and pushing their view on others. That is not a teachers job!!! A great teacher would never let a student know their views. They would stay neutral and teach accurately. But luckily most of the teachers are neutral and do great at not making it known.	12/17/2021 3:43 PM
119	Better/more complete and more timely communication about athletics/activities. It often seems like information about required meetings, etc. are last minute. Schedules are also not shared much in advance and do not seem to always be updated and correct on the website which makes it difficult to plan.	12/17/2021 3:42 PM
120	More availability for after school activities/care for kids with parents that work. Currently, if there is Tiger Program (which I love!) it only goes until 5:30. Most parents work until 5:30pm so this is very hard to get to. Also, looking forward to when my kids get to middle school, having some sort of affordable after school activities instead of having to walk home.	12/17/2021 3:41 PM
121	Increased presence of grown ups/paras in hallways and outside at recess/lunch at EVMS to better ensure student safety and well being	12/17/2021 3:39 PM
122	That they would take bullying more seriously. I also think the teachers should not be allowed to hang their pride flags and blm flags in the classrooms.	12/17/2021 3:38 PM
123	I hope that there can be some peer mentoring between the high school and elementary schools. It would help strengthen the community of learners.	12/17/2021 3:22 PM