

Speak Up 2018-19  
Albemarle County Public Schools Thematic Report  
Community

Results based on 29 survey(s).

*Note: Survey responses are based upon the number of individuals that responded to the specific question.*

**1 Which of these best describes your role in the community (in relation to the local schools)? (Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
After school or informal educator	3	11%	3%	5%
Business leader or employer	0	0%	1%	3%
Civic leader (i.e., city council member, local government official)	1	4%	1%	1%
Grandparent or relative of school-aged children	0	0%	10%	11%
Homeowner	0	0%	22%	24%
Interested in school issues	3	11%	20%	20%
Parents of children already graduated or too young to attend	0	0%	16%	18%
School board member	1	4%	1%	1%
School or district employee (but not a teacher or administrator)	19	68%	71%	77%
School volunteer	1	4%	3%	6%
Other	6	21%	20%	11%

**2 How would you rate your technology skills?**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Advanced - My skills are more advanced than most adults I know	6	21%	37%	30%
Average - My skills are similar to those of the adults I know	21	75%	58%	65%
Beginner - My skills are less advanced than most adults I know	1	4%	5%	6%

**3 How do you use technology in your professional and personal lives? (Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Conduct Internet research	26	93%	92%	84%
Create and post videos about things that interest me	9	32%	32%	29%
Create presentations (e.g. PowerPoint, Prezi)	18	64%	55%	48%
Email with colleagues, friends, and family	25	89%	93%	91%
Learn how to do something by watching an online video	21	75%	89%	82%
Participate in online classes or tutorials	18	64%	68%	57%
Read articles or books on a digital reader or tablet	17	61%	68%	63%
Text with colleagues, friends, and family	23	82%	89%	86%
Update my profile on a social networking site (e.g. LinkedIn or Facebook)	17	61%	72%	62%
Use Internet-based services (e.g. Google drive, Dropbox)	21	75%	84%	78%
Use mobile apps	22	79%	82%	80%
Use Twitter to follow people and share ideas	8	29%	36%	25%
Other	4	14%	7%	5%

**4 Which of these do you think are the biggest challenges facing school district leaders today? (Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
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Achievement measured by standardized test scores	11	41%	44%	50%
Adequate funding	15	56%	69%	70%
Adequate school facilities	7	26%	40%	37%
Closing the achievement gap	14	52%	44%	32%
College and career readiness of our students	6	22%	29%	38%
Communications with parents	8	30%	27%	37%
Educational equity	11	41%	48%	25%
Effective use of technology to support student learning outcomes	4	15%	23%	30%
Global awareness and skill development	4	15%	24%	22%
High school graduation rates	3	11%	9%	19%
Implementation of state curriculum standards	1	4%	13%	18%
Inequity in the distribution of resources between classrooms or schools	10	37%	40%	24%
Mental health supports and the social emotional well-being of students	17	63%	57%	51%
Online safety for students when they are using technology and the Internet at school	3	11%	25%	30%
Physical safety and protections in place when students are on school grounds	4	15%	26%	30%
Providing access to technology to support classroom learning	2	7%	16%	22%
Recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers	9	33%	53%	39%
School/District public image in the community	0	0%	11%	18%
Serving diverse student populations	14	52%	46%	26%
Staff morale/motivation	14	52%	55%	46%
Student access to technology and the Internet outside of school	5	18%	20%	28%
Using data to assess student achievement	3	11%	9%	14%
Other	5	18%	11%	5%

**5 What concerns do you have about the future for students that live in your community? (Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Having to compete with better-educated workers across the globe for jobs	8	29%	32%	44%
Having to live with their parents as adults	9	32%	32%	32%
Needing more education beyond a college degree to get a good job	7	25%	30%	38%
Not being able to afford to live in our community	18	64%	66%	48%
Not being as well off as their parents financially	4	14%	26%	27%
Not getting into a college that they want to attend	7	25%	20%	30%
Not graduating from high school	10	36%	23%	38%
Not knowing how to use technology in the workplace	0	0%	13%	22%
Not learning the right skills in school needed to be successful in the future	12	43%	62%	60%
Taking on too much student tuition debt for college or job training	16	57%	56%	54%
Other	4	14%	12%	7%

**6 How important is the effective implementation of instructional technology to students' success?**

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Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Not Important	0	0%	1%	1%
Somewhat Important	9	31%	15%	9%
Important	11	38%	36%	35%
Extremely Important	7	24%	46%	53%
No Opinion	2	7%	1%	2%

**7 Besides having strong subject area knowledge (e.g. English, math, science, history) which of these skills do you think are most important for today's youth to learn to be successful in the future? (Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Ability to communicate in more than one language	10	34%	34%	43%
Ability to learn new skills independently	18	62%	63%	72%
Ability to work with a diverse group of people	23	79%	80%	76%
Appreciation of the arts	10	34%	29%	26%
Awareness of global issues	12	41%	44%	44%
Being creative and "thinking outside of the box"	19	65%	66%	67%
Critical thinking and problem-solving skills	22	76%	83%	83%
Effective communications through public speaking	15	52%	50%	53%
Effective communications through writing	16	55%	68%	59%
Financial literacy - understanding personal finances	17	59%	75%	71%
Information and media literacy skills	3	10%	32%	33%
Leadership skills	10	34%	41%	55%
Research skills	13	45%	43%	44%
Teamwork and collaboration skills	20	69%	68%	71%
Technology skills	16	55%	57%	58%
Understanding of civics and community responsibilities	15	52%	62%	52%
Other	1	3%	6%	4%

**8 Based upon your response to the question above, what do you think is the best way for today's youth to acquire these skills? (Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Conduct scientific experiments or research projects	6	21%	18%	20%
Gain work experience through a job, internship, or volunteering	20	69%	75%	79%
Keep updated on global current affairs	10	34%	39%	35%
Learn an additional language	8	28%	33%	37%
Participate in a team sport or academic group	10	34%	46%	54%
Participate in after school or summer academic programs	8	28%	37%	43%
Participate in school leadership opportunities	7	24%	48%	57%
Participate in project-based learning experiences including creating and building things in maker spaces	11	38%	56%	49%
Pursue artistic and/or performance interests	5	17%	27%	27%
Pursue public speaking opportunities through clubs or volunteer activities	7	24%	39%	38%
Take a class at a local college and earn both high school and college credits	7	24%	27%	45%
Take a class to learn how to use computer applications	11	38%	34%	45%
Take a coding or computer programming class	7	24%	32%	31%
Take advanced science or math classes	4	14%	23%	28%
Take fully online or virtual courses	4	14%	18%	19%

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Take pre-professional, career technical education or vocational classes	9	31%	44%	48%
Use technology outside of school to pursue academic interests	8	28%	39%	42%
Use technology within his/her classes	11	38%	46%	51%
Work on group projects in class	18	62%	53%	50%
Other	3	10%	7%	5%

**9 There is a new movement in education to teach students about different forms of computer programming or “coding.” How important do you think it is that all students develop these types of skills to be prepared for future success in the workplace or college?**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Not important	6	21%	17%	10%
Somewhat important	15	54%	58%	53%
Very important	7	25%	25%	37%

**10 What do you think are the most important reasons for schools to provide programs or courses for students to learn about computer programming or coding? (Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Colleges value students who have coding skills	6	21%	19%	27%
Local employers have job offerings for people with those skills	7	24%	36%	52%
National leaders say this is important for the economy	2	7%	12%	14%
Students are interested in computer programming or coding	11	38%	43%	44%
Students would be more engaged in school	5	17%	18%	31%
Students could collaborate with other students on projects	7	24%	26%	40%
Students would develop communications skills	5	17%	24%	37%
Students would develop creativity skills	11	38%	33%	48%
Students would develop critical thinking skills	14	48%	50%	63%
Students could work on solving real world problems	9	31%	35%	43%
Students could develop strategies for solving complex problems	14	48%	37%	49%
Students could learn design thinking	8	28%	31%	42%
Students would learn how computers work	8	28%	26%	44%
Students would learn how to think logically	13	45%	42%	52%
Students would learn skills necessary to get a job in programming or technology	13	45%	40%	51%
None of the above	3	10%	8%	5%
Other	0	0%	0%	2%

**11 Imagine you are designing a dream school for today's students. Which of these tools or strategies do you think holds the greatest potential for increasing student achievement and success? (Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Augmented reality apps	4	14%	18%	15%
Chromebook or laptop for every student to use at school	16	57%	56%	67%
Cloud-based communications and collaboration tools (e.g. Google Apps for Education, Microsoft Office 365)	8	29%	44%	48%
Dashboard or portal to track student academic progress over time (e.g. classes taken, course grades, test scores, absences) even if students change schools	10	36%	46%	54%

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Digital content (animations, simulations, online articles, and resources)	11	39%	47%	43%
Google Hangouts or other online group messaging in class	5	18%	21%	21%
Interactive whiteboards	8	29%	35%	49%
Internet access anywhere at school	14	50%	52%	53%
Learning management systems (e.g. Blackboard)	10	36%	37%	36%
Mobile apps for learning	11	39%	42%	43%
Online or virtual classes	7	25%	25%	41%
Online tests and assessments	7	25%	27%	40%
Online textbooks	5	18%	25%	44%
Online tools that help organize schoolwork and provide access to important information	9	32%	40%	47%
Online tutors	12	43%	43%	49%
Online, video, and digital games	3	11%	20%	20%
Online videos and movies	3	11%	15%	18%
Social media tools for students to connect and work with others (e.g. blogs, wikis, social networking sites)	2	7%	25%	24%
Tablet for every student to use at school	3	11%	20%	37%
Tools to help students create media projects (e.g. video, audio)	8	29%	42%	44%
Virtual reality experiences and hardware (headsets and devices)	6	21%	26%	26%
Other	5	18%	10%	6%

12

**How do you usually learn about what is happening in local schools in your community? (Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
City or town meetings	2	7%	6%	9%
Company newsletters	3	10%	14%	12%
Neighbors and friends	5	17%	32%	39%
Newspaper stories	8	28%	40%	38%
Public broadcast announcements	6	21%	18%	22%
School electronic bulletin boards	17	59%	38%	37%
School open houses or community events	3	10%	10%	24%
School or district employees	13	45%	53%	65%
School or district Facebook or other social media accounts	6	21%	40%	44%
School or district informational websites	15	52%	55%	53%
Students	6	21%	33%	36%
TV or radio news	8	28%	33%	30%
Twitter	3	10%	19%	11%
Word of mouth	8	28%	39%	47%
Other	0	0%	7%	4%

13

**On average, how often do you visit your local school district website for information?**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Daily	5	18%	24%	26%
Weekly	12	43%	39%	36%
Monthly	6	21%	15%	18%
Few times a year	3	11%	15%	11%
Rarely/never	2	7%	6%	9%

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**14 When you have visited the school district website, what types of information were you looking for?  
(Check all that apply)**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Academic performance information	5	18%	20%	21%
Board meeting notes or information	5	18%	29%	34%
Directions to schools	2	7%	14%	10%
Employment	6	21%	26%	31%
Event information	17	61%	58%	62%
Financial information	2	7%	18%	12%
Neighborhood school information	5	18%	31%	20%
Parent support resources	8	29%	28%	23%
Policies and rules	4	14%	35%	39%
Press releases and news about the district	10	36%	32%	26%
School boundary information	2	7%	15%	11%
School calendars	19	68%	75%	79%
School or district awards	6	21%	13%	13%
Security alerts or updates	3	11%	28%	24%
Student enrollment procedures	5	18%	9%	10%
Testing information	8	29%	19%	16%
Transportation	2	7%	9%	8%
Vision and mission	2	7%	10%	10%
Volunteer opportunities	0	0%	4%	9%
Other	2	7%	5%	6%

**15 How satisfied are you with the information that you get from your local school district about education in your community?**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Very dissatisfied	1	4%	2%	4%
Somewhat dissatisfied	1	4%	3%	7%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	32%	28%	24%
Somewhat satisfied	12	48%	43%	39%
Very satisfied	3	12%	24%	27%

**17 Gender**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Female	17	61%	73%	78%
Male	8	29%	16%	15%
Decline to state	3	11%	11%	7%

**18 Age**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Under 29	8	29%	16%	13%
30-39	4	14%	15%	17%
40-49	7	25%	22%	25%
50-59	6	21%	29%	30%
60-69	2	7%	17%	13%
70 +	1	4%	1%	1%

**19 Race or Cultural Identity**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	1%	2%
Asian	0	0%	1%	1%

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Black/African-American	4	14%	9%	5%
Caucasian/White (non-Hispanic)	15	52%	64%	58%
Hispanic/Latino	1	3%	5%	18%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	2%
Multiracial	1	3%	3%	2%
Decline to state	4	14%	12%	10%
Other	4	14%	4%	2%

**20 Highest level of educational attainment**

Response	# of Responses	% Responses	State %	National %
Less than high school diploma	6	21%	7%	4%
High school diploma	1	3%	5%	12%
Some College	3	10%	15%	20%
Associate degree	0	0%	7%	14%
Bachelor's degree	7	24%	30%	24%
Graduate Education (e.g. Master's, Doctorate, etc.)	12	41%	35%	23%
Other	0	0%	1%	2%