

# Lakeview Focus Groups

Participants: 21 groups; 122 people.

- 4 community groups, 23 people
- 5 parent groups, 26 people
- 6 student groups, 45 students
- 6 staff groups, 28 staff members

## General Impressions from Focus Groups

The Lakeview School District is a progressive district that is moving in the right direction. There is a strong commitment to educating ALL students. Led by a dedicated, caring staff and a strong administrative team, it is obvious that each student's education is at the forefront of all decisions. The high quality teaching staff was cited often for their caring attitude toward students, the rapport that they have with students, and their dedication to student learning. Other staff members were also recognized for their roles in making Lakeview a caring place for students. In addition to a strong academic commitment, there are a variety of high quality extracurricular activities including music, fine arts, math team, and mock trial.

The Lakeview School District has the support of staff, parents, community and students. Both parents and community members expressed interest in finding ways that they could provide more support to the district.

Both the school and sports complex facilities were frequently referred to with pride. There were many reports of the support of community members at athletic and fine arts events. There is a lot of school pride exhibited by students, staff, parents, and community members.

Having pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in one building is seen as a benefit to all students. The interactions between older and younger students are seen as positive. Older students acknowledged the need to be good role models for younger students. Parents reported that younger students appreciated the opportunities to interact with the older students.

The Lakeview School District is seen as a safe and welcoming place for students, staff, parents and community. Students report that there is very little bullying going on and when it does occur, it is dealt with.

While overall the Lakeview School District does a good job, there is a definite commitment to continuous improvement. Teachers continue to look for ways to increase student learning. They are supported by an administration that is open to trying new things.

Areas for improvement would be:

- Communication, especially with community members
- Assuring students have the financial and life skills needed for the future

**1. What do you appreciate about Lakeview Schools?**

	TOTAL	Staff	Parents	Community	Students
Teachers and other staff*	34	2	10	8	14
Small and caring	16	4	0	4	8
Focus on Students	14	10	4	0	0
New Building	12	2	0	4	6
Class Sizes	10	1	4	4	1

\*The staff was described as: caring, helpful, dedicated, partners in education,

Also receiving higher scores:

**Staff:** working together and the people, the kids, communication and collaboration among the staff, and support to try new things.

**Parents:** educate all kids, class sizes, and close knit community feeling.

**Community:** quality of education

**Students:** know everyone, everyone can participate in sports, and close/tight knit student body.

**2. What characteristics are important for an effective school district?**

	TOTAL	Staff	Parents	Community	Students
Strong Leadership (administration & board of education)	18	5	6	3	4
Communication	17	4	7	3	3
Quality teachers	11	0	2	2	7
Clear goals, expectations, vision	10	5	2	3	0
Innovative, progressive	10	3	5	2	0
Safe	8	2	0	1	5
Respectful	8	2	0	0	6

Also receiving higher scores:

- Responsive
- Adaptability
- Student-focused
- Keeping up with technology
- Professional development
- Fiscally responsible
- Mutual trust.

**3. Looking ahead to 2025, if CNN was going to do a story on Lakeview Public Schools, what do you hope that they would highlight?**

	TOTAL	Staff	Parents	Community	Students
The success of the students	18	6	5	4	3
Strong academics	18	3	2	7	6
Athletics	7	0	0	2	5
The technology in place	6	4	1	1	0
That it is a safe school	5	0	0	2	3

Additional areas highlighted included:

- Individualized education
- Meeting the needs of all students
- Committed staff
- Community support
- Respectful school (students)

There were also lots of innovative suggestions including: service learning on a large scale, research conducted by and published by staff, and students inventing something.

**4. What things are currently in place to help us accomplish that success story?**

	TOTAL	Staff	Parents	Community	Students
Great Staff	11	0	3	2	6
Technology	11	6	0	2	3
Community Support	7	2	2	3	0
Extracurricular activities and sports	6	0	4	2	0
Interventions to help students	6	2	3	0	1

Other notable things in place: Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), Focus on students, bullying prevention, communication and a nice facility.

**5. What things are missing?**

	TOTAL	Staff	Parents	Community	Students
Time	10	8	2	0	0
Stronger Community Partnerships	4	1	0	3	0
21 <sup>st</sup> Century skills/technology training	4	4	0	0	0
Better Lunches	4	1	0	0	3
Communication	4	2	0	2	0

Overall, there were very few things that were mentioned frequently as missing.

**6. What do we want all students to know and be able to do when they leave Lakeview Senior High?**

	TOTAL	Staff	Parents	Community	Students
Academic Basic Skills	23	4	4	6	9
Life Skills	18	3	5	3	7
Financial Skills, manage money	18	3	4	8	3
Technology Skills	12	7	3	1	1
Be Respectful	10	4	1	2	3
Communicate	10	2	3	4	1
Be Self-sufficient/Independent	9	4	3	0	2
Problem Solve	9	4	1	4	0

Also mentioned were job skills, being ready for the next step in their education, social skills, work ethic, confidence, critical thinking, adaptability, caring/kind, and good citizenship.

**7. How important is the use of technology in education and why?**

	TOTAL	Staff	Parents	Community	Students
Keep Up With the Future & Jobs	25	3	4	5	13
Essential, Critical, etc.	22	7	6	4	5
Can't be too Dependent on technology	9	0	2	2	5
Schools Must Provide	8	4	1	3	0
Global World	6	4	2	0	0

**8. How does technology impact student learning?**

	TOTAL	Staff	Parents	Community	Students
Access to a Wealth of Information	20	4	6	4	6
Fun	9	1	4	1	3
Increases Learning	9	0	0	4	5
Makes Things Easier/Quicker	8	1	2	1	4
Instant Feedback for Students	7	3	3	1	0
Depends on How it is Used	7	1	2	4	0
Advantages and Disadvantages	7	2	3	1	1
Helps Individualize Education, Differentiate and Meet Various Learning Styles.	6	4	0	2	0

**9. What are the qualities that make the Lakeview School district unique? What makes it different from the surrounding school districts?**

	TOTAL	Staff	Parents	Community	Students
Teachers	12	3	3	2	4
Facilities	11	0	5	2	4
Pre-K-12 in One Building	10	3	2	2	3
Small	9	3	1	2	3
Community Support	8	0	3	4	1
School Buddies	6	0	2	0	4
Communities Get Along	5	0	3	2	0