

SAU70 2022 Survey Free-Text Answers: Ray School

SAU70 Strategic Planning Survey June 2022

Based on 503 completed surveys

Of the 503, 124 were specific to the Ray School

Free-Text Answers

Select portions redacted to eliminate potential identifying information for individuals. Each redacted word is replaced by four asterisks: ****.

Only free-text response questions are included in this document

Many respondents wrote free-text answers similar to “No”, “None”, and “Nothing”. Answers like these are not present in this document; these are the differences in counts between “# Responses” and “# Specific Responses” below.

Question #	Subject	# Responses	# Specific Responses	Ray Responses	Page Numbers
2	Aspects Valued	187	117	30	
4	Challenges	251	194	33	
21	Assessments	222	161	29	
23	Academic	212	153	24	
25	Student Support	176	99	16	
27	During School	188	107	27	
29	Outside School	155	72	14	
31	Physical Environment	191	117	34	
33	Transportation	179	109	24	
35	Sustainability	150	65	11	
37	5-Year Initiatives	172	99	17	
46	What We Missed	167	103	28	
Totals		2,250	1,396	287	

Q2: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q1: Which current aspects do you value the most about our SAU70 schools?*

187 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 117 answers → 30 Ray answers

1. I was pleased with my child's teacher but lack of grade -level curriculum was a big negative.
2. Indoor HEPA filter is essential to reduce disease transmission
3. Last year one child had a terrible teacher. This year they all had great teachers. The good teachers make all the difference. It's hard to tell how you evaluate this type of issue and address it. I do worry that the teachers focus a lot on kids meeting minimum standards, and that kids who are ahead and somewhat ignored. **** * spends a lot of time "reading to self" in class. Whereas **** * gets tons of extra attention. Since kids learn at different paces at different times, being more flexible on both ends seems important.
4. I am an immigrant, a person of color, and a racial as well as religious minority. To me, being treated equally and with respect is more important than the number of people in the school who 'look like me'.
5. I would rather answer something other than physical safety, but unfortunately, I do believe this is something that needs to be continually covered in our community. I would hope that we could have a community that celebrates everyone BEFORE they get to a crisis point. I do worry about our kids' safety too much in today's climate - we should be worried about much more important details of providing for our kids!
6. Teacher and classroom curriculum quality is the most important focus of public education. All of the other social and political agendas making their way into the school need to stop.
7. super capable student population - motivating for our children
8. I think DEI work is MOST important to the few families of color. The data probably won't show it as highly rated, but it is probably the reason that people who would diversify our community would be willing to move here and stay here.
9. I feel like the staff at Ray has been willing and well-equipped to manage and help my child with **** * differences who needs intervention and special accommodations.
10. Teacher and staff quality is important. I feel our **** * grade teacher did not get the children engaged enough and that my child was often bored which is not typical for

****. Yet our **** grade teacher was great and pushed our child to do better and it worked.

11. quality in terms of instruction and teachers/staff encompasses having a diverse group of teachers and a curriculum that reflects diverse experiences and is inclusive.
12. The reason schools exist is to build academic, social, and emotional skills in our children. That MUST remain the top priority.
13. I feel like the schools could do more with DEI and foregrounding diverse voices within the curriculum itself
14. We have a long way to go before I could say that I value the diversity of students/staff or our DEI policies. I appreciate the efforts during what I recognize has been a challenging time to move this forward, but I want the district to focus on creating and implementing a policy and practices that support a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive school system - special focus on hiring and retention.
15. Hard to select only three. Quality of teaching and teachers, DEI, and community engagement and cohesion are all top priorities for us.
16. curriculum would be my #1 but there is literally NO curriculum. teachers would be tied for #1 but many actually aren't that good.
17. More special ed services would be better
18. The other things is resources needed for excellent teachers and staff to execute on the excellent curriculum.
19. There have been numerous incidents this year with bullying and physical violence that need to be addressed. I feel this has a lot to do with student mental health and wellness. It's all connected.
20. I encourage SAU 70 to hire and keep the best teachers in the country. Everything else will fall in place behind them.
21. More support staff
22. The DEI efforts have had a good beginning, and I like the thought behind integrating it in the curriculum in many ways. I hope the efforts will continue to be sustained and improved upon.
23. We are proud to send our kids to school in this community that values diversity and makes efforts to ensure that all kids feel welcome.
24. It was hard to pick 3. The schools are generally well-resourced. My 4th and 5th pick would have been the outdoor facilities and the quality of curriculum.
25. I like the physical safety component, nicely done, often forgotten in Hanover. That said, would be nice to have mental and social safety, which I think is separate from the options of "student mental health" and "social cohesion"
26. IEP support services are very important for our family
27. I tried to focus on the foundational aspects. I also value mental health and wellness, for instance, but believe this will come in part with good staff and physical well being.
28. rules and discipline
29. Student achievement
30. you need good teachers and staff, good space, and sound/healthy minds. you can build upon everything else from there.

Q4: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q3: What are the biggest current challenges adversely affecting quality of life in our SAU70 schools? Please choose up to three of the most important answers for you.*

251 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 194 answers → 33 Ray answers

1. Lack of curriculum and limited opportunities for advanced work if appropriate holds some kids back and/or requires a lot of supplemental teaching at home.
2. School could end later on Wednesdays
3. If kids are ahead in some dimensions, let's capitalize and encourage that, rather than let them stagnate while others catch up. The support for kids who are behind seems very good.
4. My child attends the Ray school, and it would be nice to have better lunch options (we are vegetarian and my child has nothing to eat at school).
5. DEI and the political agendas of teachers and staff is both divisive and counterproductive.
6. Sometimes my student complains that school is boring.
7. elementary level - not enough offerings for those students are advanced - many, many resources dedicated to those who have special needs, but the **** grader who is reading on a **** grade level has to sit in neutral - should have equitable resources for children at all levels
8. I wish there was more access to mental health counseling. **** **** **** needs help but I can't get it through the school or **** healthcare provider. It would be nice to have a more culturally diverse teaching staff.
9. We need the best and most qualified teachers for our children. Administration must begin to supervise curriculum and its execution in the classroom. The current state of curriculum is that each classroom can operate however it wants with no standard or metrics or accountability. Our teachers are by and large good, but SAU 70 would perform significantly better with accountability for teachers and classroom instruction.
10. Having a waitlist for KAST suggests a problem.
11. There is a need for more strategy and structure in curriculum. I am hopeful the strategic planning process and Asst. Superintendent roles can continue to move this forward and provide guidance, leadership, consistency, and accountability. We have great teachers and staff, but the curriculum has been too unstructured and unaccountable.

12. there is a significant amount of bullying to which the staff is unresponsive
13. My kids seem to be doing OK with mental health. However, I know this is a big issue for older kids in our community.
14. I would strongly recommend having a school resource officer on site.
15. I wish the start time was a bit later. My understanding is that research shows that a later start time benefits student learning and wellbeing.
16. DEI feels like a religion or political movement, not a well thought out and tested academic pedagogy. Why is it taking over our schools with no proven track record of improving our children's education, our society, or our country? Why are we going to spend money on DEI when we could spend it on great teachers?
17. I believe that each classroom at Ray & MCS should have an EA and support staff for students on IEP or who have specific needs.
18. A wider range of after-school options would be attractive. Is there a chance for partnering with local extra curricular efforts?
19. if there are after school sponsored activities I really feel that they aren't communicated better. Why not use an app instead of an email?
20. There are too many kids in kumon for math and reading. Kumon is assisting our kids where our education system is lacking.
21. I wish kids had more outside classroom learning
22. The lack of school sponsored sports afterschool programs for the Ray School and Richmond MS is really hard to understand. To be competitive and healthy kids should have options outside of town rec and club programs. The lack of a cafeteria or use of the gym (as was done in my school) is rather concerning
23. I do not know all the physical safety measures that are currently in place. It is the highest priority for us, but I can not say whether it is strong or lacking. It would be helpful to know what measures are in place.
24. The quality of staff is the strength of the SAU but can also be spotty. Sometimes you get a teacher who has trouble connecting with kids, esp. kids who are "young" for their cohort. **** has a minor **** that is not sufficient (apparently) to warrant services, but clearly bothers **** and makes it hard for ****. We feel stuck with a "normal" kid who still needs a little help, and a district that seems to require more distress on **** part to provide it.
25. I'd like to use the same language at home around emergency drills that teachers use during school but I don't know what the approach is.
26. I'm not against DEI initiatives, I just think we're spending too much time and energy when there are many other important issues not getting enough attention
27. I really value the quality of the education here in the district, but I wish the faculty and staff were from more racially diverse backgrounds. It's a pretty homeogenous and white staff. I think there could be a more DEI focus, not that kids need to be beaten over head with it, but more of a focus in general. I also wish that at the middle school level that there were more opporunities for kids to get involved in sports that are part of the school rather than through parks and rec. Parks and Rec is great, but I don't know why Richmond doesn't have school sports. I believe other local schools have school sports.

I'm not a huge proponent of sports necessarily, but it would be nice for kids to have the option.

28. Ray is measurably less academically rigorous than ****, **** **** **** **** ****. We've been surprised at the relative lack of science and history at Ray, and the lack of self-study.
29. Too many teacher absences at Ray School
30. I wish there were afterschool activities (clubs, sports teams, mentoring) available to primary school students.
31. I'm not that concerned about bullying/harrasment or alcohol/substance use, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
32. I would of chosen lack of staff/staffing issues had this been a choice.
33. I selected DEI too much and too little because I don't know how to strike the right balance, sometimes it feels like too much and too little at the same time.

Q21: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q5-Q20: The 16 assessment questions*

222 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 161 answers → 29 Ray answers

1. I would have answered "uncertain" to some questions if that option was available.
2. Received very little to no info from our teacher this year on what they were learning in the classroom which made it difficult to support him at home, esp with math.
3. I like to understand the curriculum for the classroom. I don't just want the list of state or national mandates.
4. Some of these are more relevant to grades older than my children
5. As said, lunch options could be improved.
6. need to look at academic assistance on "both ends" or at all levels - your school is not meeting the needs of all students. the claims of DEI and equitability fall short if you are focusing time and resources on a small number of students special needs, such as behavioral issues (anger) or medical conditions (autism) - yes, those needs are really important ... AND the needs of the other children who are asked to sit in neutral and spectate (or worse, be bullied, threatened, or physically contacted by another student who has a 1-on-1 in the classroom and is allowed to do just about whatever she or he wants to do all day long)

7. Some of these don't apply to elementary school families. Also, I didn't want to put "too much" on some of these but many of the ones I put "just right" actually exceeded expectations. The survey doesn't capture that sentiment.
8. I'm just responding based on our experience at Ray. I have much different opinions based on what I know about the HS
9. The focus of administration should be on effective curriculum development and then holding classroom teachers accountable for effectively executing that curriculum. There shouldn't be a huge delta of academic achievement between classrooms in the same school and same grade.
10. It seemed this year that staffing levels were impacting the availability of school counseling staff; they were spread quite thin
11. Some of these I wish there was a N/A option because they don't apply to us yet (e.g. athletics at school) or we haven't needed them
12. These features were not working for me and would only allow me to choose the labeled spots, not anywhere else on the range.
13. We're in early grade at Ray so have limited insight into many of these topics.
14. there is very little communication or feedback from teachers, even when kids are doing work incorrectly. Also, THERE IS NO CURRICULUM!!!
15. I appreciate that **** * received additional academic support when needed.
16. We hired a literacy tutor for our child because **** was having such problems reading, even with school services. We pay almost \$1,000/month to our child's tutor.
17. When our child has had great teachers, then I don't worry that there is no formal curriculum. When our child had a not-so-great teacher, we worried and asked for the curriculum. The curriculum offered was less informed than the teacher we didn't like. I encourage you to hire and keep great teachers. Let the others go.
18. Our child is well supported when she does well and well supported when she needed extra help.
19. Academic assistance for 3rd grade and up is now the responsibility of the teacher (as is my understanding) and I believe that my student and likely others would benefit for assistance outside the classroom. It is simply too much to add to the teachers already full plate. I haven't seen curriculum and would not know where to access it and also would like to know when and what testing (state and otherwise) is taking place ahead of the school year, if possible.
20. For younger children, I think fewer but longer recess periods would be great. Let them really spend some time getting into imagination play, esp in K-2.
21. Kids should be hw that supports what they did in school. A small amount is needed to teach the kids to balance work and play. Each grade should have book clubs
22. I don't have much/if any experience with access/availability/effectiveness of academic assistance
23. responses vary by school. RMS does better than the Ray School on all these metrics.
24. I wish indoor masking was mandatory. I also would prefer if Jay Badams communication reverted back to when he reported when cases occurred at the various schools on a more regularly basis rather than sporadically the way he does now. I know most people

seem to have accepted the inevitability of covid transmission, but I don't think that has to be the case at the schools.

25. I know the district's hands are tied with masking requirements and such, but I miss the daily Covid updates and those should come back. The perceived secrecy is odd and irritating, particularly since it's implied that the district is still tracking the info.
26. I think the Ray school is a wonderful place for our children
27. We have never seen the inside of the schools because of COVID restrictions (and our child is a young elementary student). It would be nice to have a time set aside for a tour and also to have families welcomed back into the physical classrooms again.
28. Due to staffing shortages and challenges, academic assistance has not always been available or consistent.
29. We need regular math homework at the elementary level--not conceptual but more practice problems

Q23: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q22: What are the current most pressing academic needs within our schools?*

212 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 153 answers → 24 Ray answers

1. additional 1x1 support would be very helpful after school
2. I wish French lessons are still provided
3. More hands-on science. More writing. More math games and engagement.
4. Our experience with the teachers in the Ray School has been phenomenal! At each grade level, the teacher(s) have been wonderful and inspiring! Our child could not be more excited about school because of the teachers!
5. Nearly all of your survey categories or questions are biased to those who might need "more time" or "more support" ... what about the children who are really ready to learn, really ready to go beyond the average? How about the opportunity for additional resources or pathways for them?
6. Some summer academic options would be nice for those of us whose children experience significant learning loss due to LD
7. the experiences between different teachers is just so wide. some are excellent communicators, others not. Some are really great with inclusivity, including in learning style, others are awful. We have a student who went from loving ***** and being considered gifted elsewhere to literally wanting to end their life because a teacher was

so critical of their need to take time and have quiet to do ****. We had a different teacher start the year out with what the teacher later described to me as a middle school **** problem but given with no context to **** grade students. This led our student to think - again - that they were somehow not good enough, but it was an impossible problem to solve. I spoke with the teacher who said they wanted to build resilience in the students, but setting everyone up to fail at the outset with no context and no support in the immediate time following (more than a week went by before the teacher told the students) is not a good way to build confidence for a community of students who have been through a complete mess due to covid. That said, we have had other teachers who take this same student and our other student and give them the space to be who they are and learn as they find most effective and our kids have thrived in those years. The difference between teachers who understand how to foster a range of students vs those who want to fit students into boxes is just heartbreaking and its miserable when your student is stuck with a teacher who demeans and fails to support a student.

8. Consistent, standardized curriculum that is SUPERVISED. Teachers must be held accountable for effectively executing the curriculum.
9. I vote for more focus on SEL and life skills, especially at the elementary level. Ray does a good job of this, but I do not want to be focusing on academic achievement with my <10 y/o children.
10. Afterschool services would help
11. My child is in first grade, so I don't feel like I'm able to accurately address this question
12. Spend any available resources on getting and keeping great teachers. Let the others find another school.
13. There is no cohesive curriculum which all of you reading this are aware of.
14. our child is 9 so we don't have a lot to go on. We have loved the Ray school
15. Civics Courses
16. I would not change the academic situation dramatically. I think the curriculum and workload (which is more visible at RMS) is appropriate. I hope that there is a district wide availability for standardized test prep starting in high school (PSAT, SAT etc.)
17. Over reliance on videos in electives like music and physical education
18. Why are students being taught french and german? Can we please offer other languages that are spoken far more commonly in the world, such as Mandarin or Arabic?
19. The whole Ray Spanish and Marion Cross French thing just seems odd. Some sort of historical quirk that needs to be rectified and moved on. Between the two of them, Spanish seems much more obvious.
20. Please bring back Camp Coyote.
21. I don't have any academic concerns, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
22. Any option for after school care or summer care is incredibly helpful for families with full-time working parents. KAST has been great so far, but we wish there were more options.
23. Pigeon hole that we have to select three, should be up to 3.
24. Teaching a foreign language in Elementary school is a great thing. Would be great if another language was offered, not just spanish.

Q25: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q24: What are the current most pressing student support and service needs within our schools?*

176 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 99 answers
→ 16 Ray answers

1. Our child should have had more support, earlier and received only after our request, in some cases repeated requests over several years
2. We had a bullying issue and as soon as we told the teacher, the school's response was phenomenal. The counselor who helped with it is amazing. **** should get a raise. So should the teachers. Seriously
3. We need more mental health resources/counselors for short-term intervention (6-10 sessions), just like math intervention. We also need to ensure that our HS students are prepared for college OR career and start making non-4 year colleges and work an acceptable pathway
4. Giving students time to use their bodies, whether in motion or meditation, is crucial for their mental health as well as their physical health and studies demonstrate that it improves learning
5. Focus more on academics while continuing to foster social cohesion.
6. Covid has put such a damper on student socialization outside of the classroom; this is probably not an issue that schools can directly address. For younger children, the “play date” was such an important way to foster friendships and build social skills; it’s been missed for two years and the impact is evident.
7. let parents do their job at home and stop trying to insert school personnel into situations that are more appropriately left to parents. Parents raise their kids; the school district's #1 job is to EDUCATE them in academic areas. also, you need to stop coddling kids. You are creating a generation that lacks resilience and will struggle in life as a result.
8. More tutoring available would be helpful
9. I would have check more boxes in response to this question if possible. Student mental health is facing huge challenges especially from social media and isolation (and feeling of disconnect). I think connecting our students to the community with the school as the cornerstone would help many students feel a sense of belonging (and perhaps less pressure to fit in). Recognizing and celebrating students strengths & talents, especially

those used for or applied to the community would bolster that process. Is there a Community Relations committee for the district?

10. When fully staffed, support team is awesome. This year (due to overall staffing issues), it seems to have suffered. Understandable...but a bummer.
11. I believe that the students get along just fine and are friends... but I feel like there could be more after school group activities. In elementary school these kids live quite far apart to meet up by themselves and are still a bit too young to cycle great distances. If there were structured activity clubs that the kids could sign themselves into after school or in town in Hanover that would be great.
12. Teach virtues in the school. This will help the kids maintain good relationships with each other and be more respectful to the teachers.
13. Per our comment above. **** * has a legitimate, but not catastrophic, **** * that remained below peoples' radar for years. It doesn't seem to rise to the level of justifying help from the district and that is frustrating. At times the Ray School has felt like a machine whose wheels start to grind re: your kid in all the wrong ways. Your student becomes an issue to be solved instead of a child to be helped.
14. I see so much pressure that kids put on themselves to succeed at young ages and it's heartbreaking. I wish we could make the environment we raise our kids in less of a pressure cooker. Just because you get an A rather than an A+ doesn't make you a failure.
15. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
16. Very concerned about the school food programming, and invite all administrators to eat the school lunch for a month. We can monitor your well being.

Q27: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q26: What are the current most pressing concerns for your specific child during the school day?*

188 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 107 answers → 27 Ray answers

1. Inappropriate sharing by teacher of her personal problems and issues
2. General masking definitely reduces COVID but not everyone even the teachers were doing it.
3. Recess is really important for focused learning. Outdoor classroom is amazing. I'm worried that as my kids get older, they won't get enough of this and will decrease their classroom productivity.

4. Although my child has fortunately not had an pressing concerns thus far, diversity, equity and inclusion concerns for our children's future in district is a big concern for our family.
5. Masking has adversely impacted our child's social development. The obsession by some with DEI has created many unnecessary situations that have increased division and divisiveness in the school.
6. Missing a category = academic boredom. Once again, nearly all of your survey categories are biased to those who might need academic support. For example, one-on-one tutoring could also be for a super advanced **** student who is ready to take high school **** in **** middle school years. That student at this point is handed an iPad and told to log on to **** because **** is too advanced for the offerings at **** school.
7. My child has had a hard time making friends this year, though **** has tried. I've worked with **** teacher and the nurse, and they've tried, but as a child with differences, **** consistently left out. There's not much you can do other than letting parents request one friend for students to be in class with next year. I know if my **** were in class with the **** **** she's managed to be friends with that **** year would be much much better, but **** **** grade teacher can't even make the suggestion as class placement is all random (so I've been told)
8. **** **** have specific learning disabilities; the school has been AMAZING
9. Without accountability, students in some classrooms learn a great deal more than students in adjacent classrooms. This needs to change and teachers must be held accountable for teaching to a standard.
10. He's sensitive so don't put too much stock in this
11. My kids are mostly okay, but I think an increased focus on these issues is generally helpful.
12. bullying is present in the school and not properly handled, even when reported.
13. My student still struggles with specific skills that have been a struggle since starting at the school.
14. Serious dyslexia requires serious tutoring
15. My child has **** and ADHD so reading and writing are really tough for ****.
16. My child wears a mask at school, and is one of only 2 in their classroom who does so; none of the teachers mask. I wish more voluntary masking was happening, especially now that the numbers are so high.
17. My daughter's teacher is great. Find more great teachers.
18. My kid continues to mask since cases have risen but **** a minority
19. Behavioral concerns
20. Kids are too restricted on the playground. Not challenged with hw afterschool.
21. There is no perfect category of response but see above-- re ****. Generally, our particular Ray student would benefit from a more tender approach and some encouragement. Our RMS student does fine but can slip through the cracks academically if not carefully checked-in on.
22. My child struggles with occasional bullying by other kids in **** classroom.
23. Too many videos and substitute teaching

24. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
25. I don't want my child to be indoctrinated with confusing gender ideologies
26. New challenge, all administrators that support students being able to eat multiple school lunches have to also eat multiple school lunches - ie. 2 servings of french toast sticks with double syrup, chocolate milk. Yes, morning breakfast with two juices and a sugary donut as well. All administrators should be required to eat the school lunch.
27. My child has developed guilt for being white. DEI is not being implemented properly; it is causing more problems not solving any.

Q29: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q28: What are the current most pressing concerns for your specific child outside of the school day?*

155 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 72 answers
→ 14 Ray answers

1. Time spent to make up for lack of academic rigor takes away from other family time which is very frustrating.
2. Some of the DEI stuff may be counterproductive. My kids talk all the time now about how Black people are treated differently. I'm not sure this is going to help what I hope our long-term goal is for people to be judged and treated as human beings, rather than as members of different races. I'm not sure teachers are qualified to figure all this out optimally, or frankly that the committee is either. It'd be good to define clear objectives and to develop some metrics to help us assess whether the policies we're using actually work toward those objectives.
3. **** *****. When the bus comes at 7, that means **** either goes to bed at 6:30 PM or miss the bus. Luckily, I can drive ****. But really, an hour each way when we live a 15 min drive is absurd.
4. Kids in Hanover are busy with sports and other activities several days a week after school. The balance feel fine right now, but as the schools refine and execute curriculum administrators need to continue to account for extracurriculars.
5. SAU 70 did a wonderful job staying open during COVID. THANK YOU. YOU ARE GREAT!!!
6. My daughter's teacher is great. Find more great teachers and keep them.
7. My child doesn't particularly like competitive sports but is active. I think he would be more active if there was an activity offered after school that wasn't a team sport- like trail running, hiking, adventures in the woods

8. social and physical health are negatively affected by how much we are relying on electronics.
9. Generally, finding the balance between extracurriculars, family life and academic work such that each is equally prioritized.
10. My 4th choice would have pressure of extra-curricular activities.
11. Too much complacency about Covid now. It feels like the town and the schools have given up trying. It's still dangerous, still presents incredible challenges for logistics and isolation if caught, and the maskless hordes don't seem to care anymore.
12. I worry about time to complete homework as kids get older and how intensive sports are.
13. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
14. Economy is eroding our community and lifestyle.

Q31: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q30: What are the current most needed improvements related to the health and safety of the physical environment of our schools?*

191 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 117 answers → 34 Ray answers

1. More founding and communication related to a disruptive and sometimes physically violent classmate
2. We would like to see more gun safety measures and please keep the air quality equipments up to date for reducing COVID
3. I haven't been in the building for years, so I have no idea what it's like
4. The security posture of the SAU70 buildings is poor. Doors and windows are often left open.
5. First year at Ray school, and we haven't been in the building yet. So, can't really assess a lot of this.
6. The schools are very soft targets. Separately, the Ray School needs a cafeteria. It is sub-optimal that students eat in their classrooms.
7. I would imagine most parents are nervous about their children's safety given the headlines; no one says “we expected it to happen in our town”. It's scary.
8. Let's do everything we can now to prevent school violence

9. Some of this is very hard to answer because we have only been in the district during COVID and have literally never been inside our daughter's school. I really would like to actually be able to see her classroom next year.
10. I feel strongly against making our schools more "secure" with SROs, fencing, barriers, etc. I also oppose lockdown drills and think they create more trauma than they provide any actual protection. Focusing on the mental health of our students and community and working on gun control is the best place to put energy towards "safety".
11. the school district needs to develop and implement a physical security plan that complies with DHS and DOD guidance
12. Of course, I'm on edge about the recent mass shootings in our country and if / when it will happen at our schools.
13. In today's environment, budgeting for increased safety measures is paramount.
14. Last year my child spent more time in outdoor classroom. This year they did almost none. Why?
15. Given the recent school shooting, I would like to know about security in our schools.
16. I am not qualified to opine. My child has not mentioned any concerns. I defer to leadership.
17. I don't know that many security measures taken by the school can decrease the likelihood of gun violence if we do not provide more services to people struggling with mental health and change and enforce gun laws. Perhaps installing outdoor cameras at each entrance and have a hired security person in addition to front desk staff would decrease the likelihood but that does not address the root of our gun violence problem.
18. Improving ventilation has become a universal to-do post Covid. Our systems are outdated.
19. The school lunches needs to be overhauled to provide healthier choices to support student health. There are too many processed foods, carbs, and sugars being offered and not enough healthy choices
20. The quality of the lunches served to the students is poor. This should be an option to pick in the health and safety section. Many of the choices are "carnival food" or processed foods. French toast should not be an option. The school menu needs significant improvement.
21. Drop off and pick up are difficult. Lack of space and overly aggressive driving in the parking lot
22. school indoor rugs are gross
23. with the recent very sad mass shooting events in the country and the easy availability of guns in NH, it is unclear what safety measure are taken in the school district
24. I think the outside classroom doors should be locked during the school day.
25. I pick up my child at KAST at the richmond middle school and the lighting in the parking lot is terrible. The streetlight closes to the parking lot where cars linger is out. It seems like an accident waiting to happen, its hard to see kids there including those walking behind your car.
26. The outdoor classrooms seem really cool when the weather cooperates.
27. Rip Road is a mess between 7:40-7:55, as is Lyme Road near RMS, and will only get worse if Dartmouth builds on Lyme Road

28. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
29. I've never been able to go inside, so I am not sure
30. Recent tragedy a reminder of need for security
31. Child reports days that are "freezing" in the classroom, and now days that are above 80 degrees in a room. I've inquired, office in school is fully air conditioned - yet classrooms are not? Wonder about the correlation of Covid cases, and classrooms that have poor ventilation? Why are some pockets of a building with A/C yet those populated by large groups of students not? Why does an office have AC for 4 people, and a classroom with 20-25 people not? Equity?
32. Teachers leaving doors (back of the classroom/doors to the playground) open during recess/end of the day. Schools have open campuses. Safety concern.
33. Indoor turf facility, air conditioning in all buildings
34. I would want to ensure secure access into all schools at all times.

Q33: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q32: What are the current most pressing transportation, arrival, and departure needs for our schools?*

179 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 109 answers → 24 Ray answers

1. **** * does an amazing job coordinating transportation and the bus drivers for our route are wonderful!
2. We took our kids off the bus after they complained that the driver was always yelling at the kids
3. We absolutely love the **** bus driver "**** *"
4. Daughter is picked up at 7 AM and dropped off at 3:45 PM. 2 hours on the bus each day is too much!
5. I don't love having H.S. and Elementary kids together on the bus; the bus driver is really good
6. The ray school traffic flow is just entirely overwhelmed by the growth in student population and needs to be fixed. Also, studies demonstrate that kids need more sleep to succeed and be healthy
7. Pickup and drop-off at the Ray School work just fine. The middle school has an effective system, too.
8. We would use the bus but it simply comes too early to our stop (around 7:12 am)

9. I'm having a hard time getting my kids to the bus stop on time in the morning and it take a loooong time for them to get home in the afternoon because they have to stop at the middle school and high school before starting the drop-off route. Arg.
10. Thanks to the **** for being there to welcome children and parents. Wonderful!
11. I think the bus system runs pretty well. I would like to see more encouragement for kids to ride their bikes and walk. It would also be helpful to have a traffic person/ policeofficer at the entrance of the of the Ray school during AM drop off and PM pick up.
12. Would be great to get more kids walking/independent coming to and form school!
13. 40 minute bus ride for 3 miles is too long, would require my child to get up very early in the morning.
14. No place to park at pick up and the bus ride is too long. We have a 6:50 pick up and a 4:10 drop off. My kids are in the bus for far too long.
15. increase bus capacity and encourage families to send their kids on the bus--school drop off line with dozens of cars is not climate-friendly
16. we would love to put our kids on the bus but it goes by our house at 6:45 AM and takes an hour to get to the schools-- normally a 12 minute drive. However, I applaud the district for the 8:00 AM start time. I started class at 7:10 AM in high school and was always exhausted. Also, a late bus would be a great innovation.
17. Car drivers need to be more conservative driving to school close to the school. At the same time, I rarely f ever see students on bikes get off their bikes and walk it across intersections the way they are instructed to do so.
18. I'm still confused how it makes sense to start all 4 schools at the same time. What about parents dropping off multiple kids? Also, all the current evidence seems to point to starting schools later, especially at the high school level. That's more important than sports, after-school jobs, etc. We need to get ahead of this and be a leader.
19. Parents drive too fast and not safely at pickup/drop off. I've seen one accident and several almost accidents
20. School should start at 7:30 and end at 2:30 or earlier
21. Wish there was a separate bus for elementary school
22. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
23. As a community we need to find ways to rely on public transportation and reduce the number of cars entering and dropping single students. We need environmentally friendly transportation - green buses? Align with Advance Transit? Way to many parents dropping individual students. Can we look at length of the school day? Do we need 7:55-2:45? Can a school day be shorter with more community/recreation/child active activities scheduled?
24. I feel each school should have their own buses.

Q35: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q34: What are the current most pressing sustainability needs for our schools?*

150 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 65 answers
→ 11 Ray answers

1. I don't have enough information to answer this question except that my child said his classroom always too warm.
2. Sustainability is important, but the focus should be on teaching and using whatever resources needed to ensure the success of each student.
3. Don't know enough to answer well.
4. Energy efficiency is BY FAR the cheapest way to use less energy. There are easy ways to make the schools more efficient. This is important because money saved on energy is money that can be plowed back into academic programs and supporting social cohesion. But the focus of SAU 70 must remain on education and not on secondary items. Institute some easy energy efficiency measures and use the savings to hire staff with the best qualifications to support our students academically.
5. It is difficult to assess this without being in the school or knowing of the current energy consumption patterns.
6. I would be in favor of efforts to reduce food-related waste at the Ray School.
7. Reduce consumption in general - less plastic, paper, etc.
8. My student brings home a ton of worksheets. Isn't there a better way to teach?
9. I support the teaching of climate change science, but my child comes home feeling guilty about being human. She is being taught that less humans are better. Please keep the religion of climate change out of the school. Children need to be empowered, not made to feel feeble, guilty, and overwhelmed with someone else's enviro-angst. Thanks. Otherwise, SAU 70 is doing great!
10. My child comes home with the notion that humans are evil with respect to the environment. I don't agree with this mindset and don't believe guilt for being alive is a way to raise children. Please check teaching climate change religion and stick to science. Generally, I support teaching the kids science and stewardship of the planet.
11. Why don't we have solar panels on all schools? Why do we have gas busses? Why do we have a giant parking lot and parents dropping individual kids? Carpool? Smaller lot, less cars, more use of Advance Transit? Negotiate with Advance Transit to add a school based drop off point? Think big picture.

Q37: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q36: Within the next five years, which large-scale initiatives are the most important?*

172 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 99 answers
→ 17 Ray answers

1. I do like the idea of school sport so kids can do sports right after school and not in the evening but its not a critical issue
2. Hard to comment when I have not been in building due to Covid
3. What about large-scale initiative to improve quality of teaching staff and expand resources to meet the needs of all children in their elementary years ... equitable resources for all?
4. Part of the workforce crunch here in the UV is because people have to care for kids. We don't have reliable childcare. Providing UPK and before/after school care allows parents to work!
5. I think a year round school schedule without a long summer break should be considered.
6. I want to reiterate that the focus of SAU 70 MUST be on providing the highest quality academic and social education. We can achieve that by putting our resources into great staff who are the most qualified to teach and mentor our students. High quality teachers are MUCH more important than new facilities. An effective curriculum that is well-supervised is MUCH more important than new facilities. Focus on the academics.
7. Would be wonderful if Ray offered a PreK program, particularly because all the vermont schools are now offering them
8. The SAU should be managing 5/6 & 7/8 sports not the Rec Department!
9. I don't know that it has to be school sponsored, but preschool and adequate after-school care are critical. Working through HPR for KAST, for example, has been great.
10. Please don't spend money on a DEI administrator or coordinator. Please invest in our teachers. They don't need more administrators, rather they need less administrators.
11. I am strongly against hiring a DEI director or DEI administrator to drive a DEI agenda that seems to be more of a religion and ideology that has not been validated with data or the test of time. Instead, I would spend this money on hiring and keeping great teachers.
12. Sports associated with school would be incredibly helpful for working parents. Universal PreK would be AMAZING and lead the way for other schools in NH
13. I want a strong, inspiring support staff but I want you to close your eyes and pick the most qualified candidate, whatever they may look like. Hiring based on physical

characteristics we can't control is racist. Your response in this question is cleverly worded to push your agenda- as are many responses in this survey

14. Ray School and (probably) MCS need revamped HVAC with filtration.
15. This was tough. I also wanted to choose hiring more diverse staff because geez it really isn't and also to change the start and end time for schools.
16. Most of these seem important, thanks for giving such thoughtful ideas. A tough one to answer, in a good way. Sad to see the competing resources here, but seems inevitable.
17. The school is dirty, tired, lacks ventilation.

Q46: Did we miss anything that you think is important for us to know? Please put anything here that is not covered by the other survey questions.

167 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 103 answers → 28 Ray answers

1. I am frustrated by the lack of curriculum, lack of academic rigor, and political ideology promoted in the district that I am considering moving out of the district or putting my child in private school despite the financial/social/emotional hardship that will result. I am very disappointed and sad to be put in this position, especially since I moved here based on the district's reputation. Many parents agree that the district's excellent reputation is as much due to demographics and parental involvement as it is due to what goes on in the schools. Thank you for your time and consideration.
2. more consistency in the quality of teachers and the curriculum (minimize screens at Ray)
3. i have multiply children with different genders
4. We are an LGBTQ+ family
5. Dear Dr. Badams: We are submitting these notes of concern about **** * on behalf of a number of **** * . We deeply appreciated ALL that **** * . We have two recommendations. First, **** *

**** ** teachers, educational assistants, and staff. Second, **** ** . With thanks for all that you do on behalf of all of us in SAU 70, **** **

6. Our experience with the school district has been amazing! It is because of the teachers and administrators that have kept school open throughout a global pandemic that we feel seriously lucky! They are the real - everyday - heroes and our thanks are with them! Within the survey there is a lot to improve, but if you gave everyone a raise and ask them to keep doing their amazing job - that would be wonderful too! The buildings and initiatives are great, but it is about our community and helping everyone feel loved and comfortable which would be most precious to all of us! Not to sound too corny, but being nice and making everyone feel welcomed and worthwhile within our community would help alleviate the security threat we see around the country (I hope). Overall, we feel lucky to be a part of this wonderful community with these amazing schools! Thank you!
7. More robust music and art programs. Nobody draws, a basic skill that helps a child think critically.
8. I have 2 kids- one male on female. Didn't know how to answer question 45
9. Sometimes it seems that the focus of our schools shifts away from the children who attend the schools. Our children need the best possible education - and that will come from hiring the best classroom teachers and holding them accountable for executing an effective curriculum. Those must be the priority of our schools - or SAU 70 will fail its most fundamental mission.
10. 2 kids one boy one girl
11. Think about DEI as you aggregate the race and income data. Whoever built the survey needs DEI training.
12. We have only been in Ray during COVID and as a result, feel extremely disconnected from the school. We have never been inside, we don't know many other parents in our child's class. We would like a way to become more connected to the school and hope that there can be a safe return to on-site events next year. Our **** is very happy at Ray but we don't really feel part of the school community and with a younger child, don't have the time or bandwidth to do something like PTO.
13. Our **** child is graduating from the Ray School - and all f our children have had a fantastic experience there. Thank you!
14. why is "hispanic/latino" the only choice for "ethnicity?"
15. We love the Ray School. We feel our children are safe, welcomed, loved and supported. Thank you so much for all you do.
16. I am extremely grateful to the teachers and administrators of SAU 70. You make a great school. I want to help make it even better for the good of our kids and country.
17. Please check the DEI Religion that is unproven in its effectiveness at systematically using racism to compensate for systematic racism.
18. I've had many conversations with other parents who have moved here who wonder why we don't hold bigger fundraisers for the school. I would be interested in learning more about that. Thanks!

19. When Covid cases are low, it would be nice to bring back outdoor events that allow parents to meet. The community connection has been lost in these 2-3 years.
20. Didn't miss anything
21. I'd like links to the videos my child sees at school especially when the video is easy available on YouTube
22. Dresden schools are wonderful, keep up the great work!
23. I generally think the schools do a great job and am pleased with the quality of education my student receives. I have heard concerning stories sometimes about students getting delays on being on an IEP, where a student has been **** and exhibited concerning behaviors, including injuring other students. Prior to being on an IEP, the parent was spoken to about their child's behavior by other parents. I also think teachers and staff could benefit from microaggression training. As a BIPOC, I have been subject to microaggressions by my **** teachers, which is disappointing.
24. I can see the immense, thoughtful effort here. Nice job! Hopefully these results, or an appropriate sub-section, will be publicly available.
25. The staff at the Ray school are phenomenal.
26. Thank you for all you do. We know how much work it takes to provide a good education, particularly during COVID, and we're very grateful for the time and effort of all the teachers and staff.
27. RMS library reading lists are unbalanced. Too much focus on LGBTQ+
28. You want my opinion, yet want my race, gender, ethnicity, and income. Survey is flawed as you have provided your narrow view of initiatives - yet not taken public input. A few stakeholders are the gatekeepers. Focus on DEI of your survey categories.