

District Accountability Committee - Agenda

January 21, 2025

5:30-8:30 pm

Jeffco Public Schools Ed. Center, Board Room

(take elevators to the 5th floor)

1829 Denver West Drive, Bldg. 27, Golden, CO 80401

<i>Information/ Action</i>	<p>Welcome and Approval of Agenda and Minutes (5:30-5:45) Therese Rednor will welcome members and determine quorum. Members will approve the agenda for the evening and November meeting minutes.</p> <p>Materials: January agenda and November meeting minutes</p>	15 min	Therese Rednor, DAC Chair
<i>DAC Leadership Status</i>	<p>Update on DAC Leadership Status (5:45-5:55)</p>	10 min	Therese Rednor, DAC Chair Elizabeth Armstrong, DAC Vice Chair Trace Faust, District Facilitator
<i>DAC / Community Needs</i>	<p>Table Conversation / Individual QR Code (5:55-6:35)</p>	40 min	Trace Faust, District Facilitator
Break (6:35-6:45)		10 min	
<i>Information</i>	<p>SAC Survey Work (6:45-7:30)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total Participation Results - Explanation of how DAC will consider the data. <p>Materials:</p>	45min	Crystal Marine, Budget Subcommittee Chair
<i>Information</i>	<p>Chronic Absenteeism: A Special Project by DAC (7:30-7:45)</p> <p>Materials:</p>	15 min	Trace Faust, District Facilitator
	<p>AAR Post Meeting Time (7:45-8:30)</p>	45 min	Michelle Kuenzler, AAR Chair
	<p>Open Discussion & Adjournment Board member comments (if present) Submit your questions here (or scan this QR Code)</p>  <p>Remember you always have a resource through the DAC website. DAC and Subcommittee meeting schedules can be found on the DAC Website.</p>		

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER, 2024

Attendees: ~~Strikethrough~~ means did not attend.

At Large Member - VACANT	Corky Guy	Erin Norton	Jessica Gregg	Laura Grims	Columbine AAR - VACANT
Amanda Bryan	Standley Lake AAR - VACANT	At Large Member - VACANT	Julia Morgan	Bear Creek AAR - VACANT	Therese Rednor
Amanda Gomez	Crystal Marine	Evie Hudak	Conifer AAR - VACANT	Leslie Dennis	Charter School AAR - VACANT
Annie Contractor	David Alex	Giselle Arroyo	Karena Hamm	Lucia Severtsen	
Aubrey Allmond	Dawn Fritz	Greg Aigner	Kate Otto	Matthew Noll	
Austin Long	JCEA HS Rep - VACANT	Hannah Hoong	Katie Koivisto	Michele DeAndrea-Austin	
Brisneida Barrueta	Diego Rodriguez	Jaelyn Uttley	Option Schools AAR - VACANT	Michelle Kuenzler	
Caitlin Fitzpatrick	Elizabeth Armstong	Jeanine Baird	Kaylie Weese	Monica Keegan	
Garsten Engebretsen	Emily Lubkert	Jeff Baucum	Kim Bierbrauer	Rob Applegate	
Cheryl Secorski	Eric Koch	Ralston Valley AAR - VACANT	Kristina Stuber	Sara Kuntzler	

Minutes By Agenda Topic:

1. Topic: Welcome and Approval of Agenda (5:30-5:40)

Outputs/Outcomes no comments/changes - stand approved

2. Topic: Safe & Secure Environments (5:40-6:25)

Contact: Jeff Pierson, Executive Director of Safety & Security; Madalena DeAndrea, Senior Mgr - Security & Emergency Mgmt

Materials: Presentation: ■ DAC Safe Schools Presentation Fall_Winter 2024-2025 Jeffco School Safety.pdf

Outputs/Outcomes

- Input from DAC via QR code with key questions:
 - What are some of the things that you most value related to school safety in your specific school community? What makes you and students feel safe?
 - 1. Make a comprehensive list
 - 2. Circle your top 3
 - Generally, what safety and security investments do you think should be autonomous to schools versus directed and supported by the district? (if you get stuck, use your own list as a starting place)
- Outcomes of this input will be returned to us in the spring

3. Topic: Federal Programs/Title I (6:25-6.55)

Contact: Rhonda Hatch-Rivera, Director, Federal Programs; Andy Flinn, Manager, Grants

Materials: Presentation: ■ DAC - Federal Programs (DoFP) Overview (11_19_24).pdf

Questions/Feedback:

- How are you capturing the data of low-income students, especially without the FNS data?
 - Student benefit application - trying to collaborate across teams to increase response rate
 - School benefits application is one data point for qualification, but Medicaid and SNAP eligibility also qualifies a family
- What are you doing within the moment of uncertainty at the federal level, now.
 - “Focused on this year.”
 - District’s lobbyist is keeping the district informed
 - Decoupling k-12 budgets from property tax structure will make this cleaner, should funding outlook change
- Does the grants office only oversee Title Grants, or others?
 - All grants - i.e., school safety,
- Can you provide aid to schools to prepare grants?
 - Yes - “Intent to apply” form

Outputs/Outcomes

4. Topic: Mentorship Connection (7:15-7:30)

Outputs/Outcomes

5. Topic: Special Project Update & Discussion (7:30-7:45) - CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

- Our “why”
 - Personal experience with a kid struggling with attendance
 - Child welfare experience - attendance is a concern. Further disincentivizing attendance and furthering a school-to-prison pipeline. Concerned with absenteeism solutions that don’t escalate
 - Parents feel squeezed with 4 PM let-out; students get pulled out early in order to get to afterschool programs paid for as added curriculum
 - Parents need support to be able to be effective with their kids
- District info
 - Data:
 - CO = 5th worst rate in the nation in 2023
 - JeffCo = went up from 35% to 27%
 - 3 red flags for dropout include absenteeism
 - Comparison to other districts: our graduation data is not as competitive as districts around us
 - Research points to: poverty & high mobility = absenteeism
 - 1200 students experience homelessness in JeffCo
 - 75% of students experiencing poverty are NOT in Title I schools
- What’s already happening:
 - Students missing the end of the day don’t count - has to be over 50% of the day
 - Truancy court: we’ve referred dramatically fewer than 5 years ago. Why? Because it doesn’t work.
 - Truth: it’s really about the parents. Most of the time, if kids don’t come to school it’s not their fault (parents!)
 - Truancy intervention plans
 - A variety of incentives
 - What the district liaisons want from the committee:
 - Consider: families DO care. That might not mean they can change the narrative for their child
 - Question: what do we need to do to engage parents differently in this conversation?
 - By articulation area: what is the chronic absenteeism rate by school? Family Engagement Team is willing to engage with focus groups to get some feedback about what is causing absenteeism and how to help address it

Outputs/Outcomes

6. Announcement: SAC Survey to be sent on December 2nd

- a. Asking for responses by December 20th

- b. Demographic portion
- c. Budget portion
- d. School safety questions added by district team

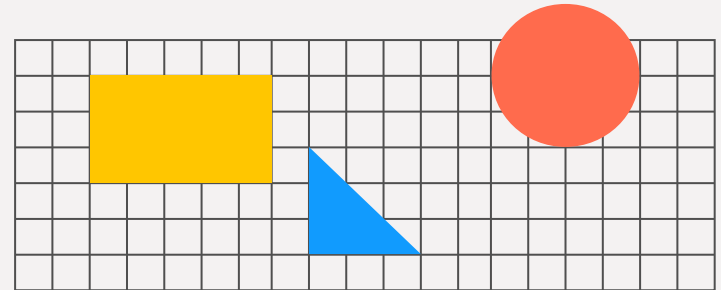
7. Topic: AAR Post Meeting Time (7:45-8:30)

Outputs/Outcomes

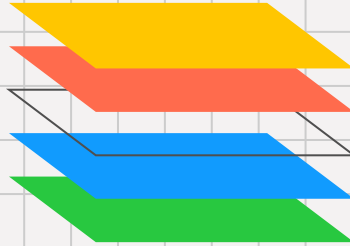
- Switch to 3 Meetings:
 - Artc area meetings went better than expected in one area; when turning this over to the group to make it useful for them, rather than being district-led, they saw value.
 - Having district there means SAC chairs cannot be honest, and even get overridden by principals and district staff. Need a space for SAC chairs only
 - We need space to convene without principals and district staff
- SAC survey
 - Shouldn't be completed by the principal
 - Should have meaningful community input
 - \$3.5 M is 50% of SRO costs which we're facing taking on in the next school year. Cost doesn't seem likely to be disbursed down to schools through SBB allocation

24-25

DAC Budget Recommendations



About SAC Survey



Objectives

- Identify key school-level and district-level budget priorities.
- Understand challenges and opportunities for SAC engagement.

- To collect feedback from SAC members and schools to guide DAC committees in their advisement of the BOE, specifically regarding the budget management and priorities.
- Obtain a pulse on the health of school SACs by measuring participation rates and perceived effectiveness.

Purpose

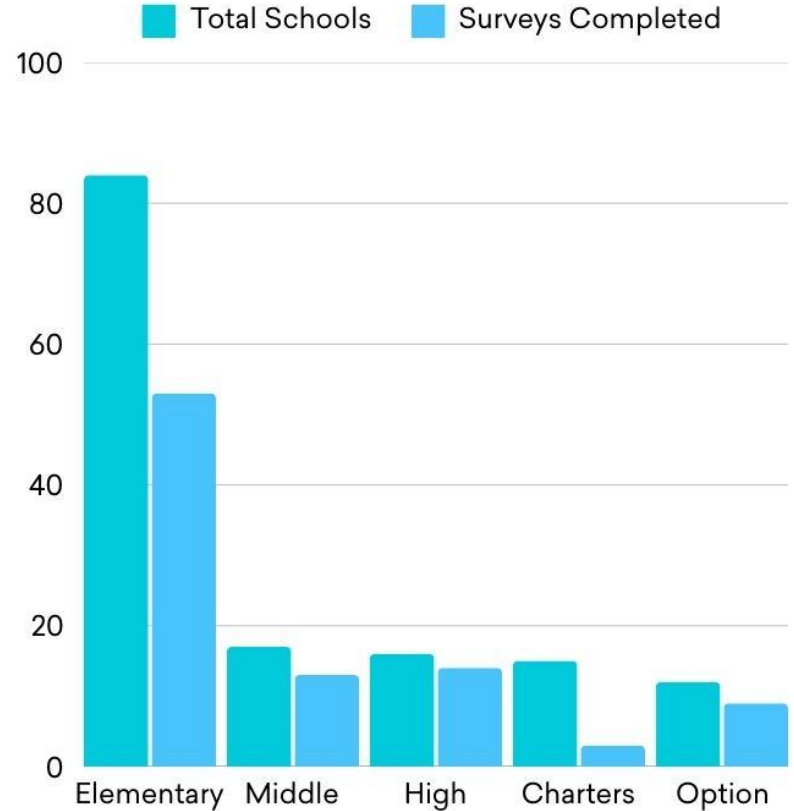
Responses

Overview

- 98 Survey Responses (66.2% completion rate)
- 53 Elementary
- 13 Middle Schools
- 14 High Schools
- 5 Multi-Level (K-8, 7-12, K-12)
- 3 Charters
- 9 Option Schools

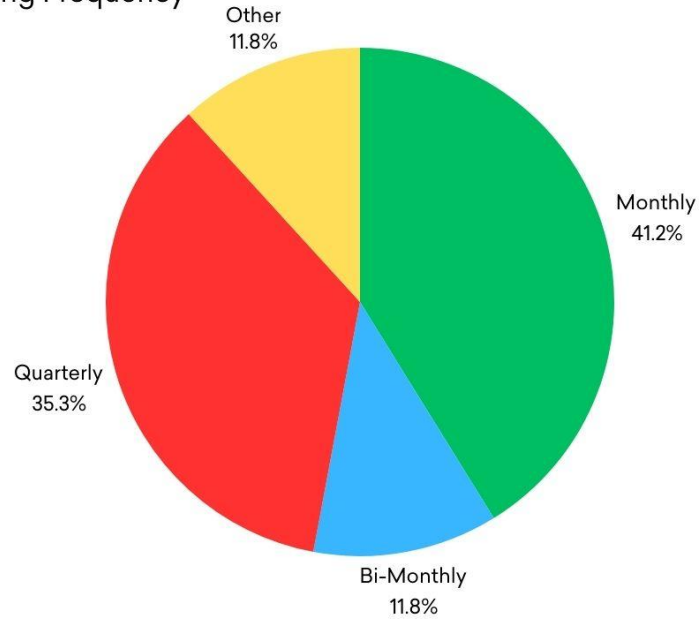
100% Completion Rate (by Articulation Area)

- Arvada
- Bear Creek
- Conifer
- Lakewood

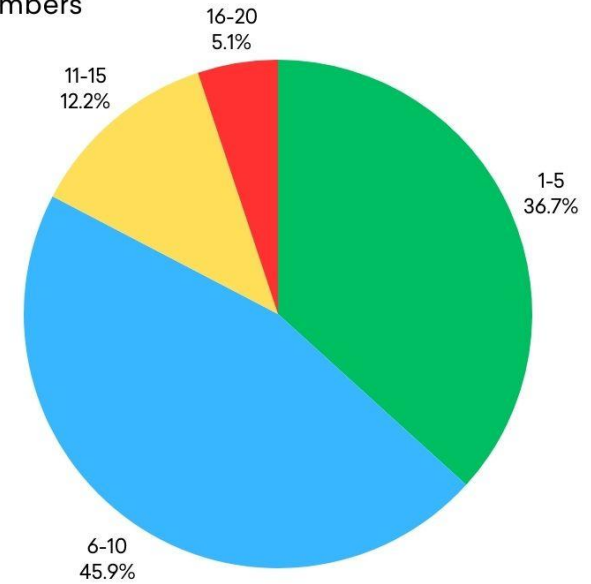


Membership | District Wide

Meeting Frequency

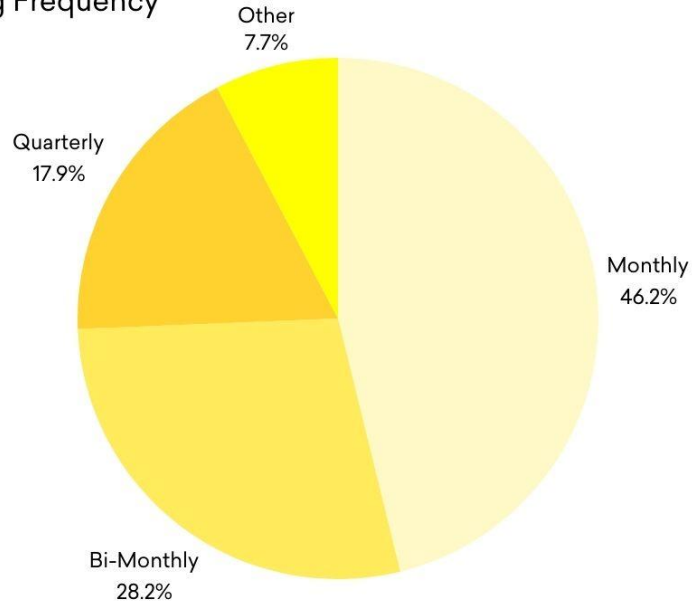


Active Members

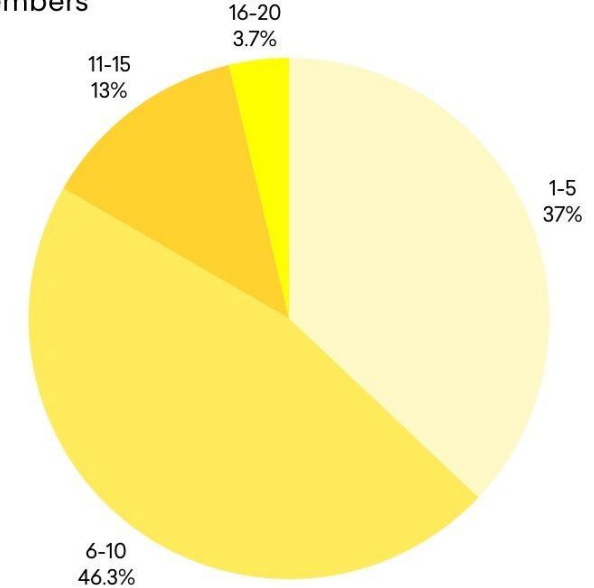


Membership | Elementary

Meeting Frequency



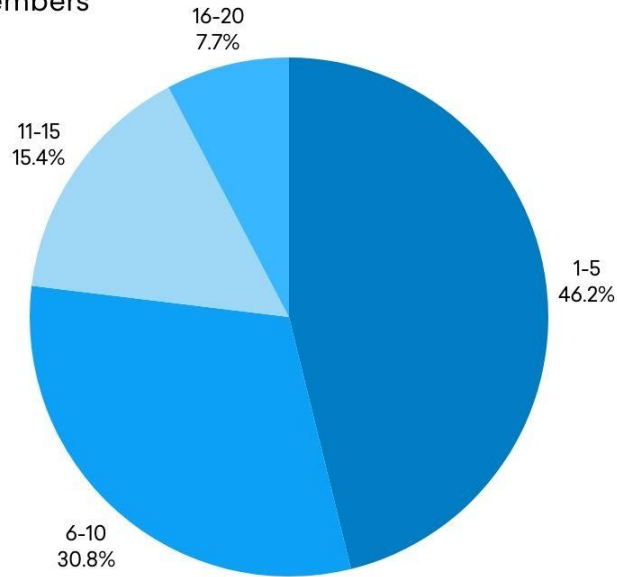
Active Members



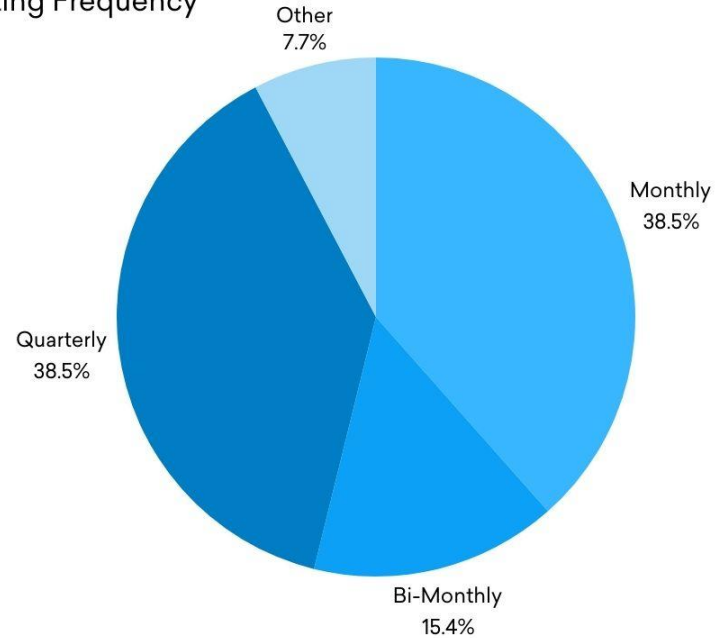
Advertising Methods (top 3): Newsletter, Email, Social Media

Membership | Middle School

Active Members



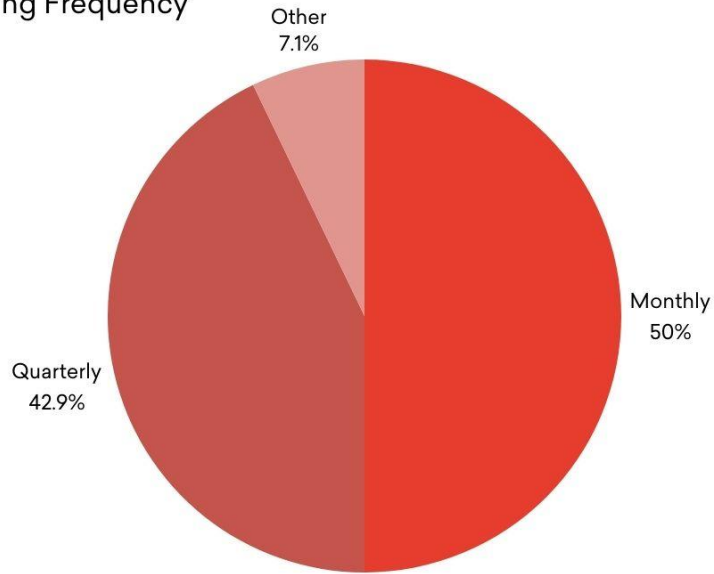
Meeting Frequency



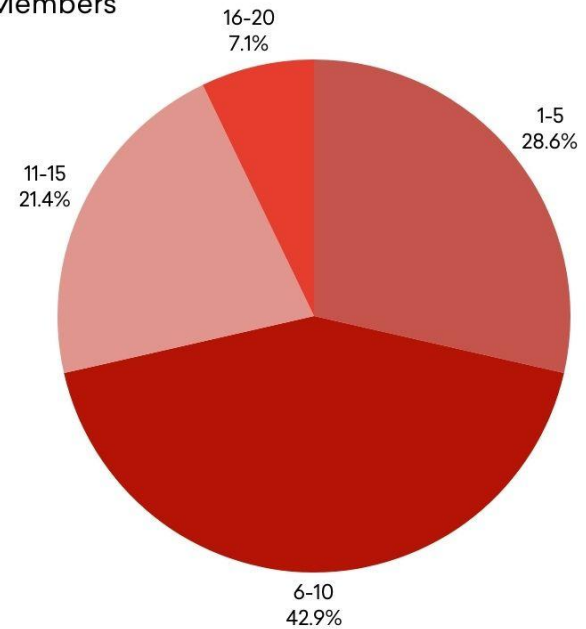
Advertising Methods (top 3): Newsletter, Email, Social Media

Membership | High School

Meeting Frequency



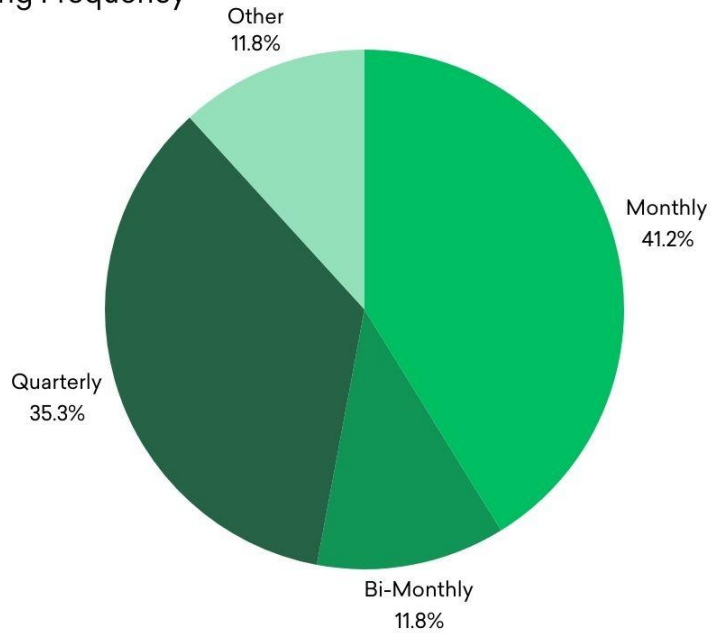
Active Members



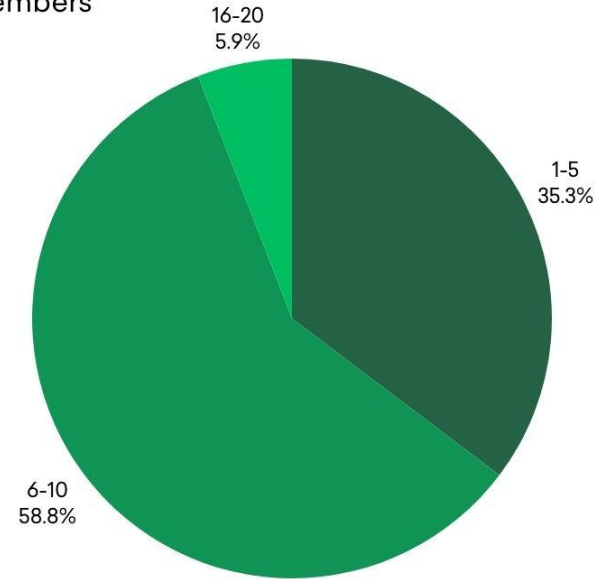
Advertising Methods (top 3): Newsletter, Email, Social Media

Membership | Other

Meeting Frequency



Active Members



Advertising Methods (top 3): Newsletter, Social Media, Email

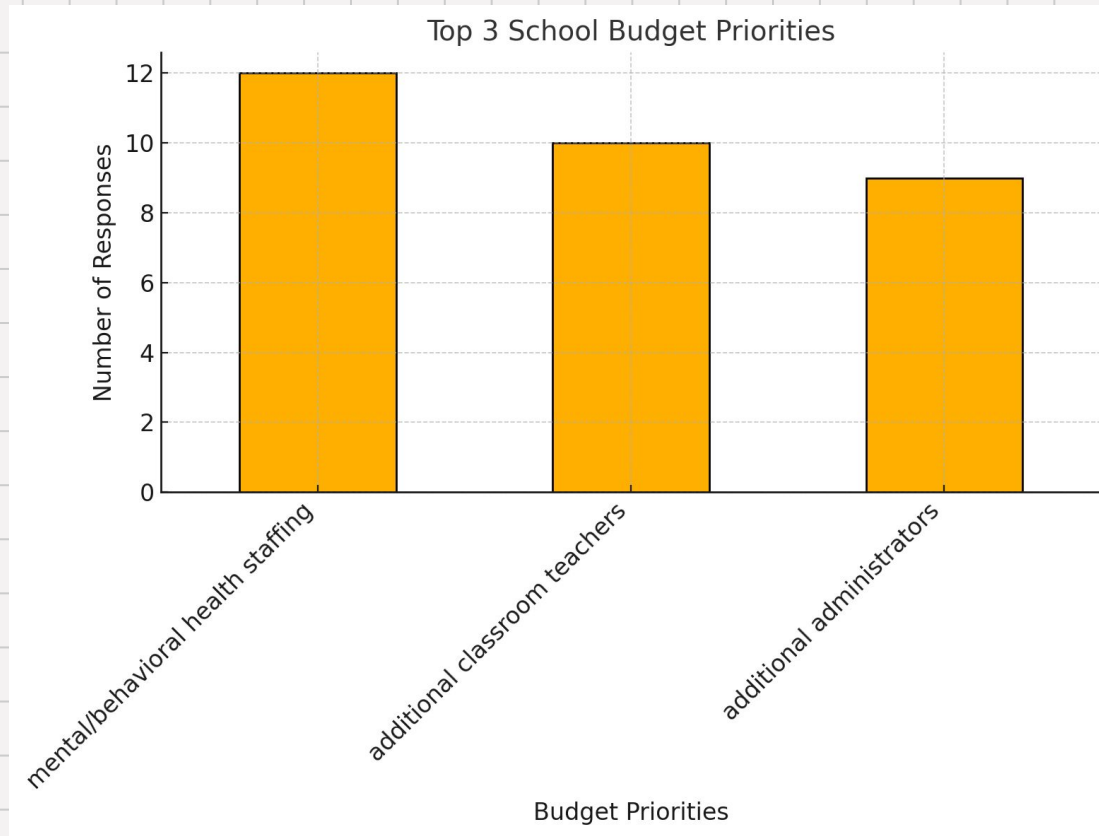
School Budget | District Wide

Marketing **Bar Graph**

School Budget Priorities

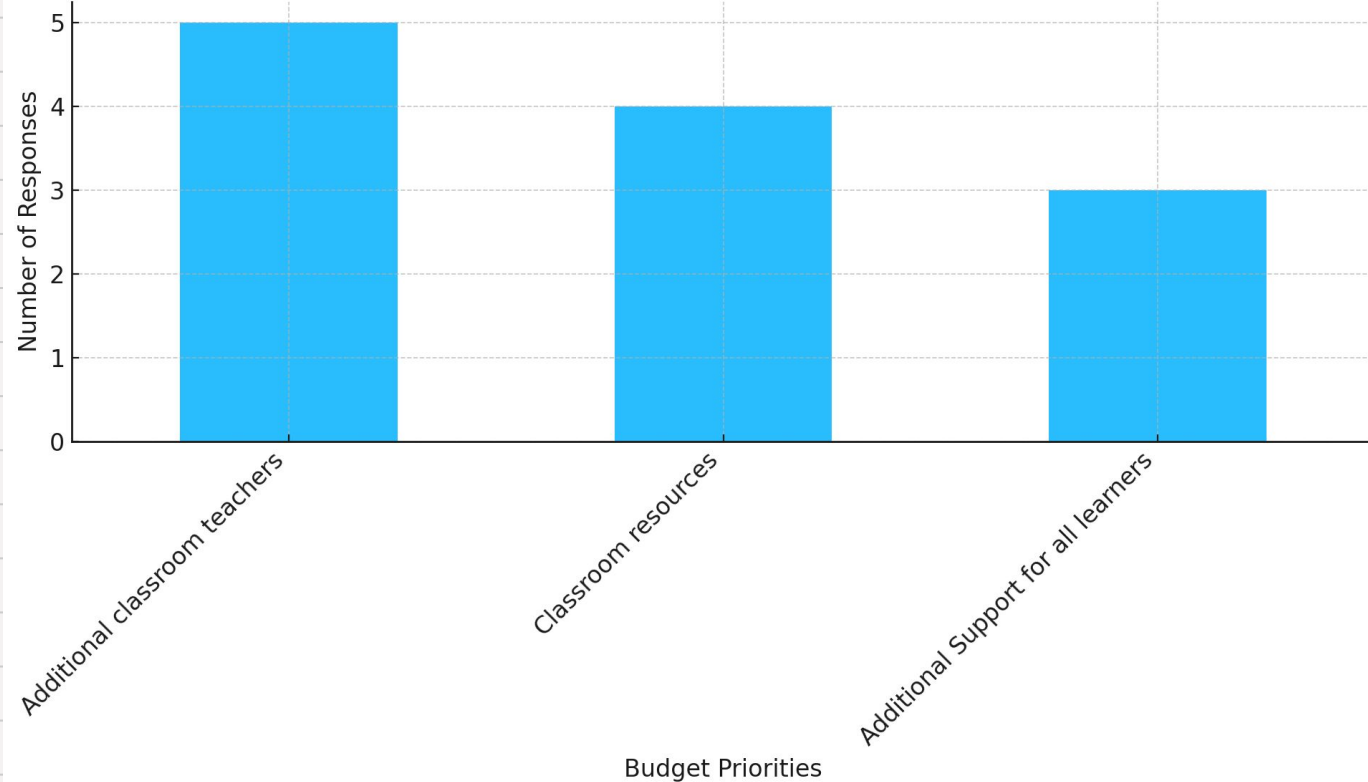


School Budget | Elementary

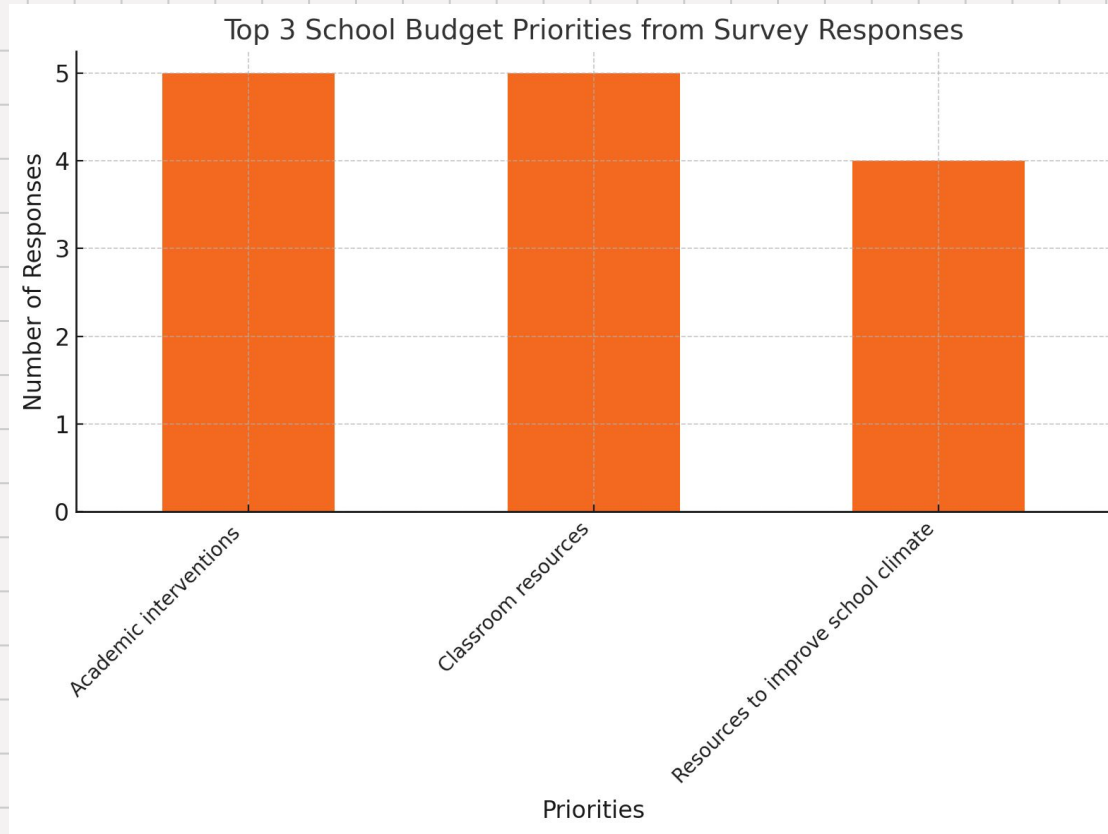


School Budget | Middle

Top 3 School Budget Priorities

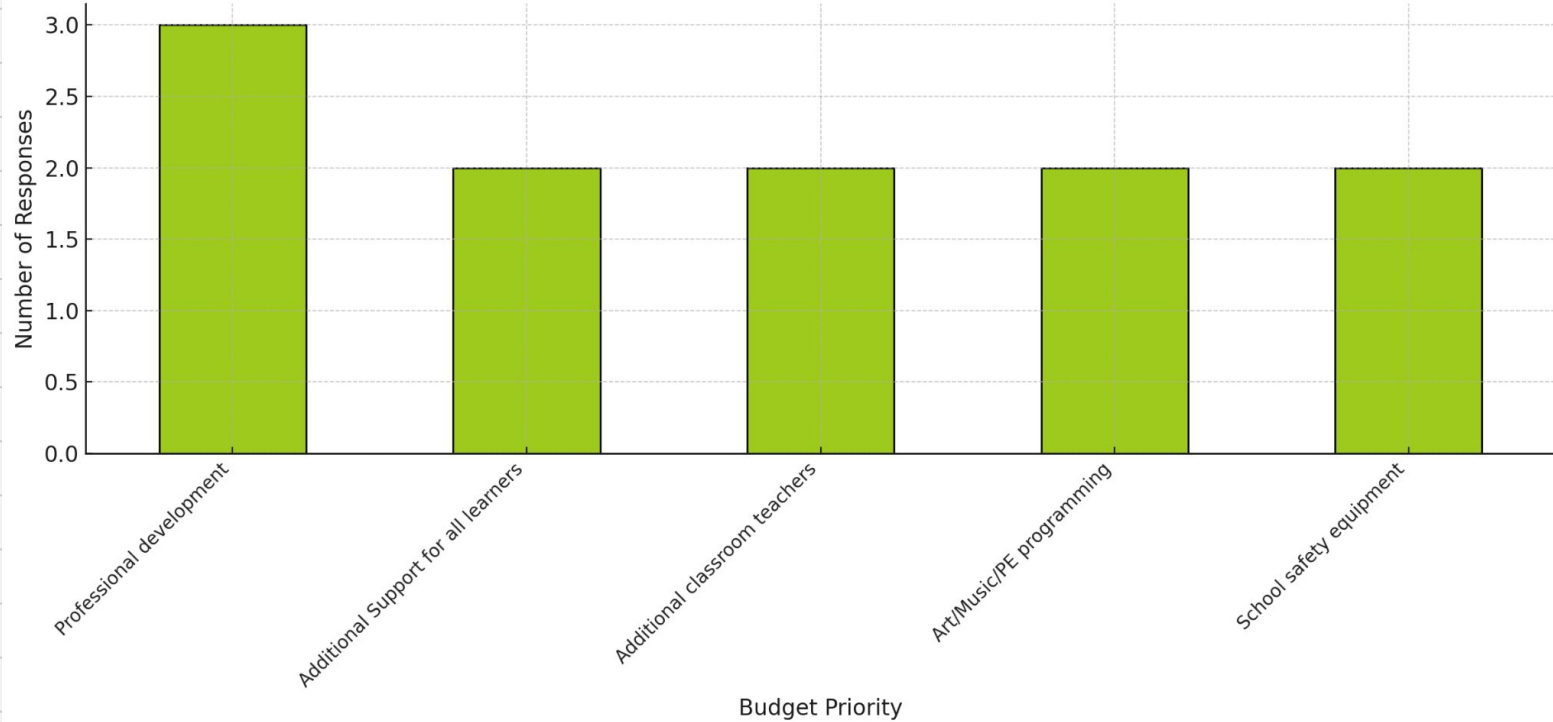


School Budget | High

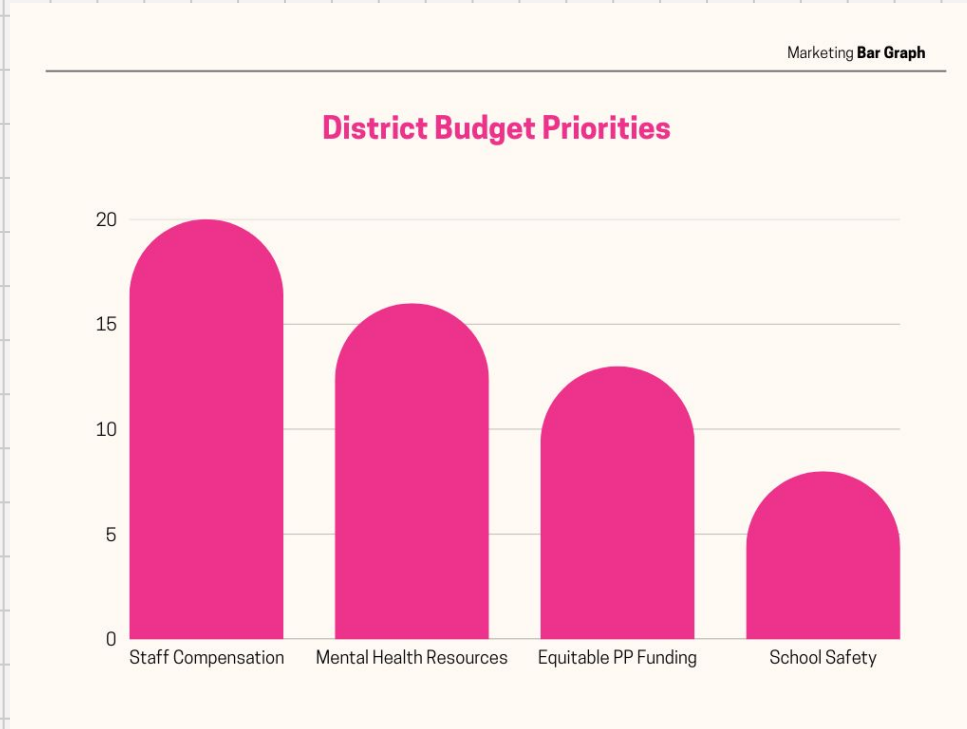


School Budget | Other

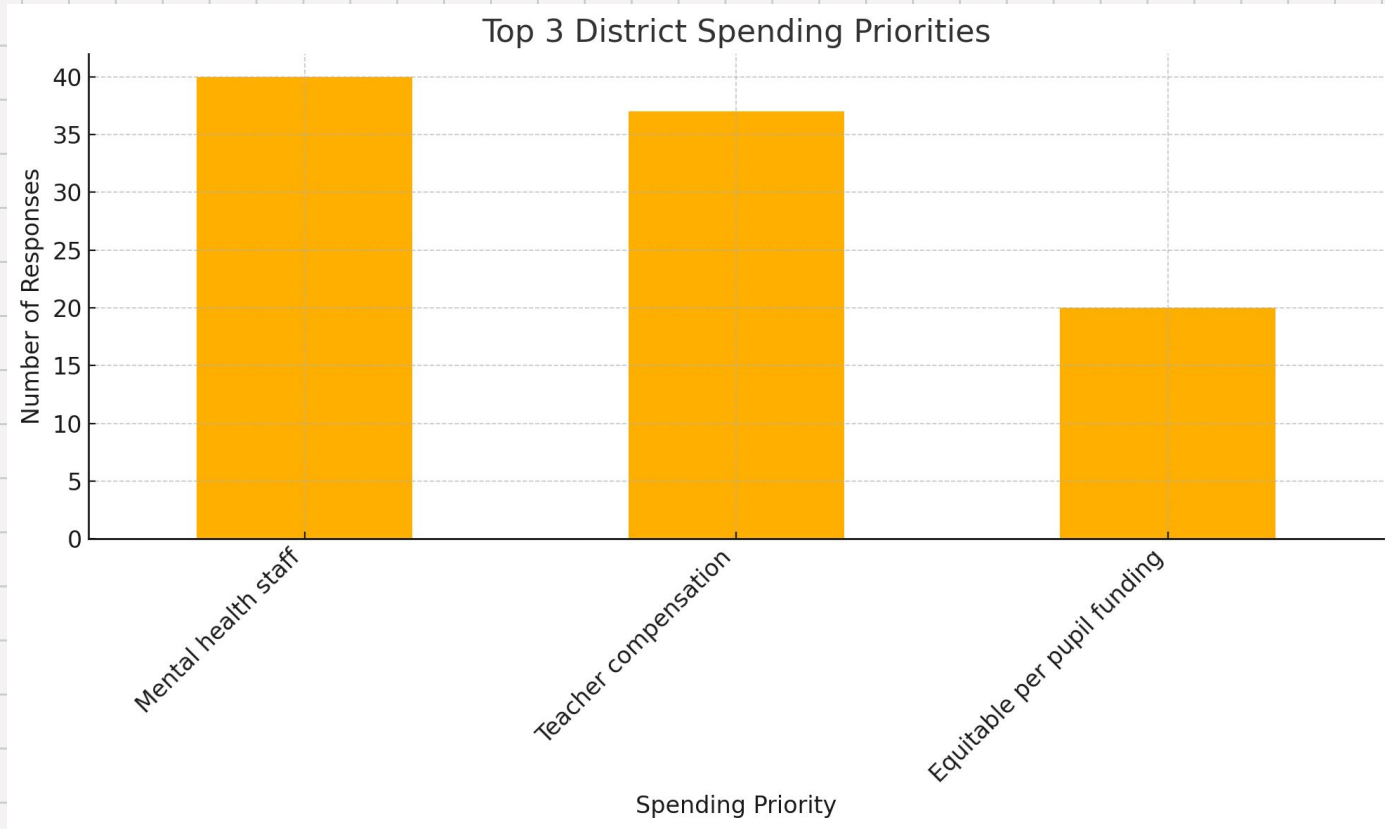
Top 5 School Budget Priorities - Other



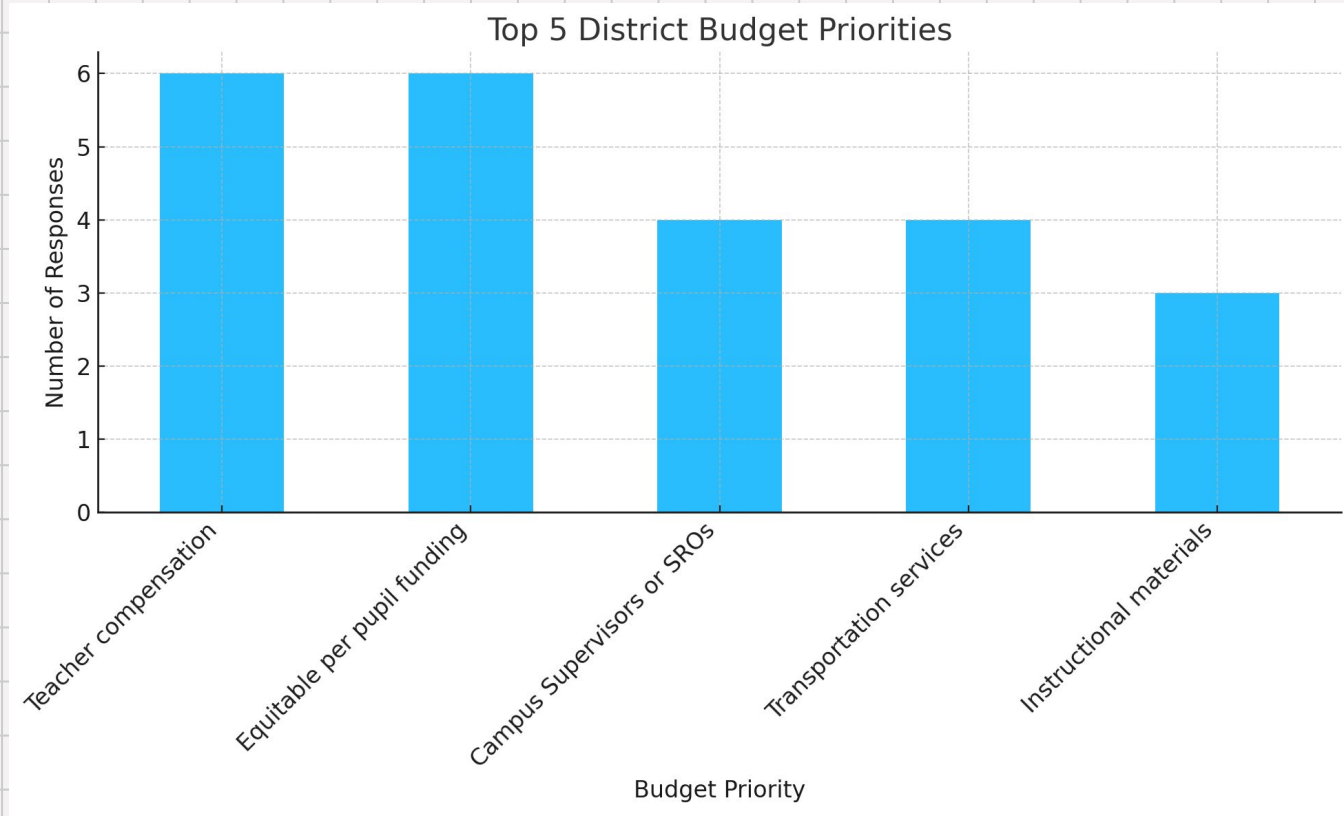
District Budget | District Wide



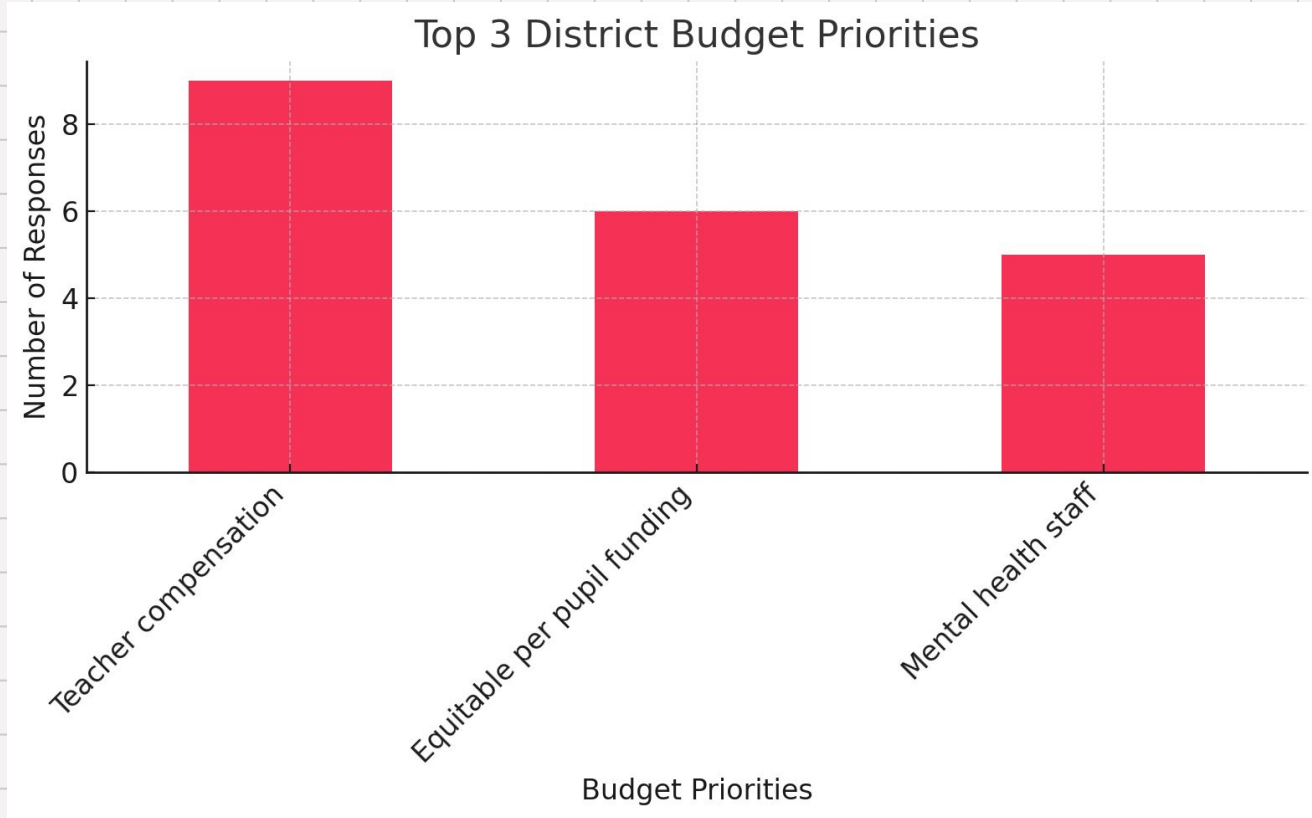
District Budget | Elementary



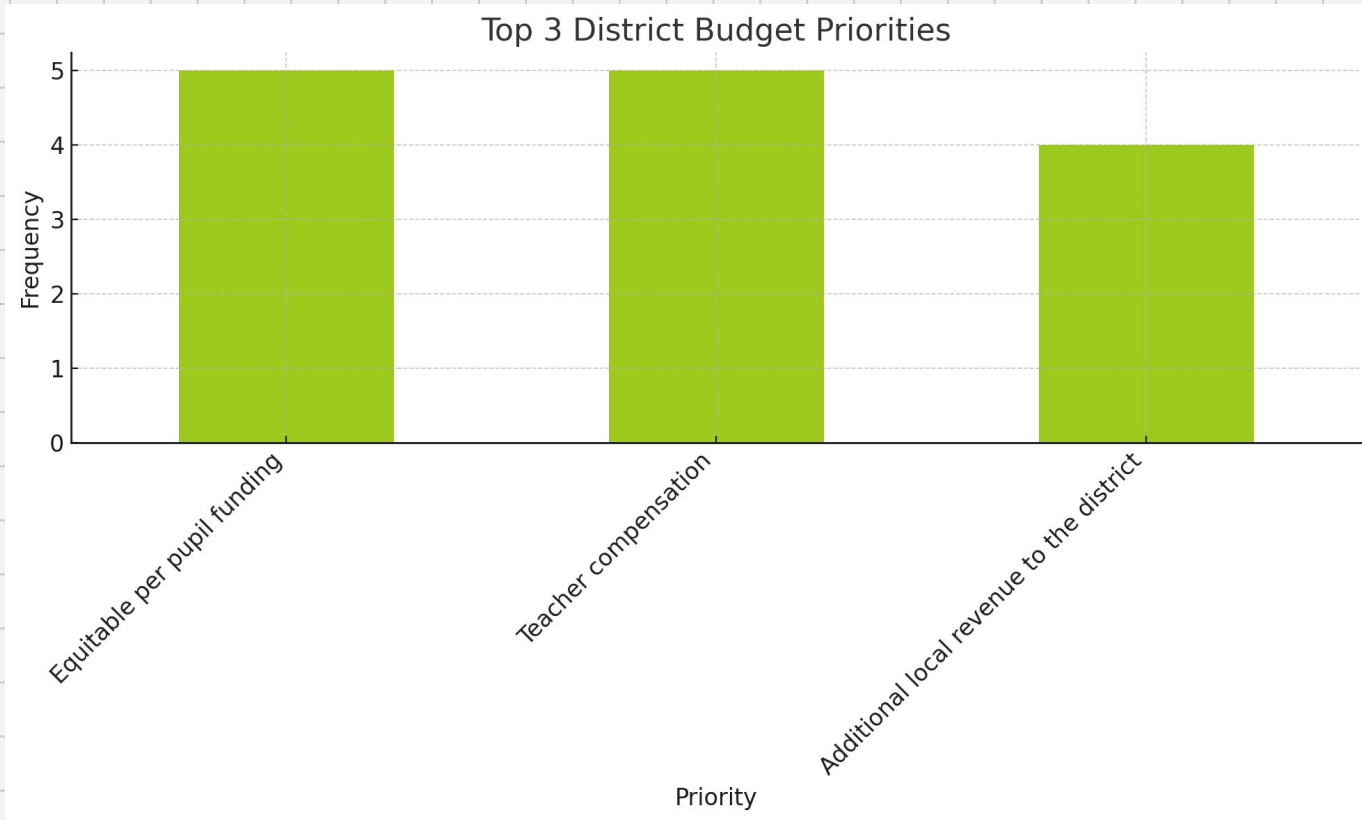
District Budget | Middle



District Budget | High



District Budget | Other



Challenges & Barriers | District Wide

SAC Members Say...

Trends

- Low attendance at SAC meetings
- Limited understanding of budget processes
- Unable to provide meaningful input
- Lack of time to engage in the budget process

Suggestions

- Provide training for SAC members around budget
- Increase parent engagement to include all stakeholders

- *"[We have] low parent participation from all stakeholders and parents are simply not familiar with educational practices/policies."*
- *"[We need] time for the detailed level of understanding the school budget. It's complex and the budget process takes many meetings to digest."*
- *"[A challenge is the] timing of the budget cycle. It falls in an awkward time for making decisions in the year."*
- *"I wish there was room to dream big and add additional resources within the school budget, but the reality is that the funding goes to necessary staffing and not much more than that."*

Challenges & Barriers | Elementary

Trends

- Lack of timing and availability for families to attend in person
- Low SAC participation from diverse stakeholders
- Limited time for completing responsibilities

Suggestions

- Provide virtual meeting options
- Increase engagement through targeted outreach

SAC Members Say...

- "Discretionary time is a rare commodity within our community. It is difficult to find a time of day, or day of the week, when a diverse representation can be available to provide input."
- "The learning curve for student-based budgeting is steep. Enrollment windows with the budgeting process (e.g. choice is still happening) means that things can ebb and flow after budgets are submitted."
- "The SAC needs more detailed information about how the school budgeting works at the individual school level. ie FTE allocations by position (teacher, para, support staff), and funding programs specific to [each school]."

Challenges & Barriers | Middle

Trends

- Limited parent participation and involvement
- Cannot act on recommendations due to funding constraints
- Need more budget training

Suggestions

- Enhance communication and preparation
- Explore additional funding opportunities

SAC Members Say...

- "[We are unable] to act on recommendations or needs when the budget cannot support it."
- "[We] lack training materials of how to engage meaningfully in the SAC budget process."
- "[We have] low attendance and community involvement/people are overcommitted—you can't mandate volunteers and we hear that people aren't concerned b/c they feel like things are going well."

Challenges & Barriers | Other

Trends

- Lack of broad participation
- Low attendance from stakeholders
- Limited financial flexibility for impactful changes

Suggestions

- Improve promotional materials for SAC initiatives
- Increase support for charter schools and multilevel structures

SAC Members Say...

- "Initially the lack of background information on budgeting was a challenge. [SAC] wanted to provide input on what we purchase as technology and how we can compare prices and vendors which isn't really something that is allowable."
- "There isn't always much money to play with or give feedback on."

Challenges & Barriers | High

Trends

- Timing of budget deadlines
- Limited transparency around resource allocation
- Difficulty balancing academic and extracurricular funding needs

Suggestions

- Streamline communication processes
- Increase transparency in budget allocations

SAC Members Say...

- *"Academic acronyms sometimes hinder the understanding, timing of SAC survey does not allow for meaningful mid year feedback. Need additional insight into budget decisions and data."*
- *"Although we are very welcoming, we do not get all voices at the table as we do not have full parent representation from all student groups."*
- *"Transparency around athletic fees is something the families really wanted."*
- *"[We need] a complete understanding of choice enrollment. Schools at one level can be impacted by what schools do at other levels."*

Bright Spots & Opportunities |

District Wide

Successful practices

- Open conversations and transparency
- Active feedback loops with principals
- Engagement with the community

Opportunities

- Enhanced collaboration between SACs and DAC



Bright Spots & Opportunities | Elementary

Successful practices

- Open conversations and transparency
- Surveying families to gather input
- District support for assistant principals

Opportunities

- Enhance family engagement through innovative methods



Bright Spots & Opportunities | Middle

Successful practices

- Transparent communication by school leadership
- Collaborative discussions involving SAC members and principals
- Active community input

Opportunities

- Build stronger culture and community through shared initiatives



Bright Spots & Opportunities | High

Successful practices

- Strong leadership and engagement from principals
- Collaborative SAC discussions informed by data
- Transparent communication between SACs and administration

Opportunities

- Expand career and technical education (CTE) pathways
- Improve funding mechanisms for equitable access



community priorities
leadership groups share information
strong leadership
training / education for SAC
connection between enrollment and budget
parent and school leadership
active parents
engaged principal
transparency and collaboration
representative group
hard conversations
data informed decisions

Bright Spots & Opportunities | Other

Successful practices

- Use of surveys to understand community priorities
- Innovative approaches to staffing and priorities
- Proactive outreach and communication efforts

Opportunities

- Enhance resources for interventionist and mental health support
- Develop elective programming for middle schoolers

trust
outreach and communication
common priorities
regular meetings
innovative thoughts
student and teacher needs
open dialogue
alignment with school vision
thoughtful and reflective
SAC survey to staff about budget

SAC Perceptions on SROs

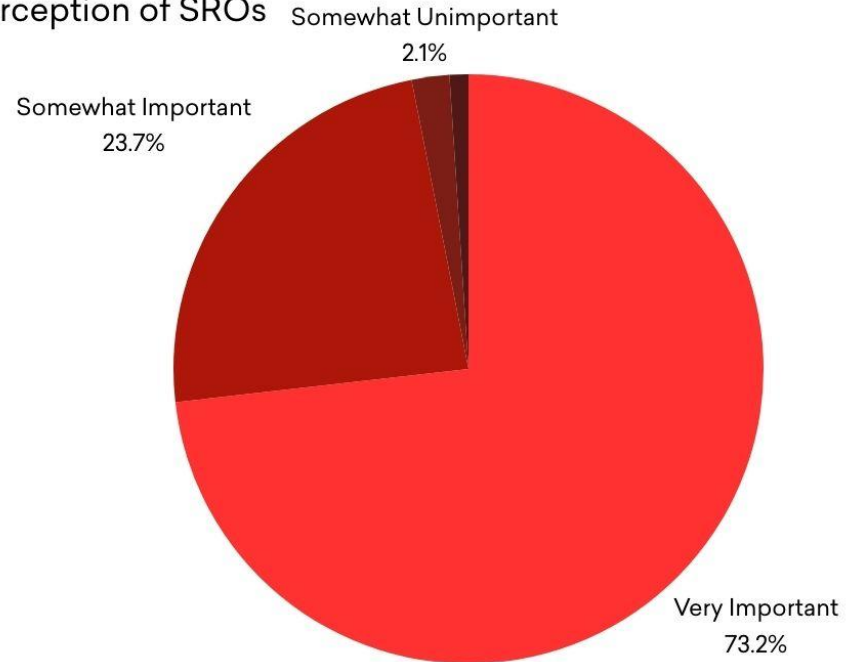
Observations

- The SRO program overwhelmingly rated Very Important across the board, at all levels.
- School Safety ranked higher on district budget priorities vs school budget priorities.

While our schools value the safety of students and the contributions of SROs, the fiscal responsibility places a significant burden on individual school budgets who are already grappling with cutting critical programs and limited staffing.

“We should prioritize paying our share of SRO costs. From district funds. Not from schools already taxed SBB funds. Stop using SBB funds to cover what district should fund and support.”

Perception of SROs



DAC Support Suggestions



Improvement Channels

- Improved Communication & Transparency
- Collaboration & Learning Opportunities
- Guidance & Resources
- DAC Representation & Involvement
- Parent & Community Engagement

SAC Members Say...

- “Be more communicative. It would be extremely helpful to have clearer guidelines. Please consider putting out a monthly email with timelines, specific agenda topics and talking points, “Did you Know” current district budgetary highlights, bright spots of other SACs so that we can learn from each other. More collaboration between articulation SAC’s.”
- “We like the increased involvement of the DAC this year. We feel more heard.”
- “More parent education resources around Budget. DAC could provide more resources and opportunities for parents who would like to learn about the budget and priorities. (i.e. One pager) They could also provide basic information on what it means and looks like to participate on the School Accountability Committee.”
- “We wonder about the ways in which the information is processed from SAC to DAC and then to district. It often feels like SAC has to reach “up” to DAC for information, when it should be the opposite. How could/should the DAC meeting information/agendas be shared? We are missing the transparency from the DAC. The info we get from school is transparent and timely. One example is “who” sees this survey? And then what actions are taken on this data, and how is that communicated to principals and the school-level SACs”

Conclusions | Budget Priorities

- School Level
 - Adequate Staffing
 - Instructional Resources & Materials
 - Mental/Behavioral Health Support & Staffing
- District Level
 - Equitable Per Pupil Funding
 - Staff Compensation
 - Safety & Security

