

SAU70 2025 Survey Free-Text Answers

May – June 2025

Based on 592 completed surveys across all 4 schools. Free-Text answers for individual schools are available separately.

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

Only free-text response questions are included in this document.

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

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Total	--	2,844	2,356	574	--

Q09: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q08: Did the perceived quality of the SAU70 schools have an impact on your decision to live specifically in Hanover or Norwich?*

142 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 103 answers
→ xx Ray responses

1. 100% the reason we bought in the 03755 zip code!
2. The education is great. I wish the school would focus LESS on equality, DEI stuff (even this survey is silly 'non-binary' 'latino or not'. It is a distraction from learning is NOT how the real World works. Our family is NOT not inclusive, but the emphasis is way off. We are an asian mixed family and asian doesn't seem to be among the 'included' or 'sensitive' categories. This is fine, but I think it should be EQUALLY fine across the board. On this point, it is great to include language in the k-5 but students would be MUCH better served if that language was Chinese and not Spanish - this is not an opinion, but a demographic and economic reality of this century.
3. How does my child’s race, gender, and how much money his parents make affect the education you guys provide?
4. A strong public school system was important in our location search to settle our family after our training and education was complete.
5. I love the school district.
6. We made a huge effort to live in Hanover specifically - stretching our resources to do so. The quality of the schools was VERY important to us
7. Moving to be in a community as well as education we feel great about
8. It us a good school
9. I’m we had heard it is one of the best districts plus close to our work
10. I also chose to live in Hanover so that I could be close to Dartmouth College, where I work.
11. Moved from Lebanon to Hanover due to the schools
12. proximity to work / activities a larger factor
13. My assumption is that our children are receiving the highest quality curriculum and instruction, teachers are supported by highly qualified and competent administrators, and school culture and climate support our children's strong social emotional development. At Ray, this has been our experience. We are nervous about administration and curriculum at RMS (math seems to be concerning parents - and at HHS too). Given our experience at Ray, we're optimistic that those concerns will be addressed by the time our children attend those schools.

14. We've had options to move other places for professional reasons and chosen to stay in part bc of the schools
15. I literally moved to NH for kids education
16. Hanover specifically for the schools, Upper Valley initially for work
17. We made a huge effort to live in Hanover specifically - stretching our resources to do so. The quality of the schools was VERY important to us
18. We decided to live in Hanover and pay a premium on the house to have the Ray School for our children
19. This is confusing because you say "responses" (plural) to the previous "question" (singular). I'll go ahead and assume you intended "questions". You can look up statistics about the income and education levels of Hanover, no need to pry into peoples business. More unnecessary questions.
20. I understand that racial/ethnic categories are defined by federal agencies. I hope they are not a factor in decision making. AAPI category lumps more than one-third of the world's population in one box. Using it to ascertain over/under representation is not accurate.
21. We spent all the money we had, and all the money we didn't to buy a home in Hanover for the sole purpose of ensuring our kids could go to school in the district.
22. As an educator, I believe that it is important for my child to have access to the best education we can get her. Hanover has a great reputation, particularly the elementary and middle school.

Q11: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q10: Generally, is living in Hanover or Norwich financially challenging for your family?*

156 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 127 answers → xx Ray responses

1. Many of our children's friends' families have a far greater combined inc than we do
2. Those living in Hanover are among the more financially privileged. Anyone answer anything close to finances are a problem should have a mandatory class on the Hanover town budget and zoning objectives. If taxes are truly too expensive then those suffering should understand the high spending levels of the town and reason behind high housing costs. I have no problem with either of these points, but I'm not indicating financial challenges.
3. See above
4. While we can financially afford to live in Hanover, the cost of EVERYTHING here is very high relative to MANY parts of the US.
5. Difficult to find and purchase a house

6. We live in Hartland
7. It is very hard to find housing, both for rent and for sale, because it is extremely expensive. Property taxes are very high.
8. Housing is hard to find
9. Cost of living issue is overplayed re. Hanover/Norwich specifically. Housing, inflation etc. is a national issue - not just here
10. Housing cost. Cost repairs and renovation astronomical
11. We were directly affected by **** departure this year, and that was difficult to go through
12. The real estate market is inflated, taxes are high and there is a lack of housing inventory. Contractors inflate fees when working in H/N and there are a dearth of workers to begin with. Most of the houses are mid-century or earlier and were poorly built. There is no new inventory on the market and very few condos/rentals in town. The experience is challenging, because you are paying 2025 prices to live like it's the 1980's.
13. Occasionally challenging with home repair prices so high - any work we need done feels impossible!
14. It's expensive and we make sacrifices; we can't afford the kinds of things our kid's classmates regularly discuss (skiing, vacations, etc). But, we think it's worth it!
15. we don't ski or go on vacation, if that counts?
16. Finances are a concern at times sometimes more when the area camps etc are expensive
17. The property taxes are high and we worry constantly they will increase. Also it is hard to "upgrade" to a larger home given housing costs are expensive, even if it is a condominium as HOA dues add up.
18. I rent so my kids can attend the schools since I can afford to own anything in Hanover. Rents are high and we make too much to qualify for financial support but not enough to live comfortably with the social demands of activities.
19. Housing costs are the main issue
20. The cost of life and housing is expensive
21. It is annoyingly expensive but it is manageable
22. Everything here is crazy expensive.
23. The cost of hiring contractors to do work on our home / property is very high. It appears that many contractors charge more simply because we have a Hanover address.
24. Child care in this area has cost us similar to costs when we lived in a large urban area; however salaries locally are not at the same levels.
25. We live frugally, and still feel that we watch our budgets more than we would if we were in another community. However, we knew this prior to moving into Hanover - which we did with the expectation our our children would be receiving a wonderful education.
26. I don't want to overstate the case, but it's just expensive here, everything.
27. Hanover is not affordable for many, but certainly not a single-parent household on what is a reasonable to good income. Even that does not cut it.

28. Initially challenging, but not for the past several years
29. Occasionally challenging with home repair prices so high - any work we need done feels impossible!
30. I live with my family **** * so my kids can attend the schools here. I can not afford to live in the upper valley otherwise.
31. Taxes are high and increasing every year
32. I've heard contractors charge more for Hanover but that's it.
33. We currently rent a place and it's temporary and are hoping to secure a home in Hanover or Norwich to keep kid in SAU 70 School.
34. Childcare and summer camps are expensive
35. The biggest problem with this question is that the survey only goes out to Hanover/Norwich residents that have children in the schools. There are many residents that do not have children in the schools, many of which are elderly and may be on a fixed income. The schools do account for a substantial portion of the town budget and these results are likely to skew towards people that have sufficient income, as they are younger (have kids in the schools) and likely recently moved to Hanover, which means they have to have money as the barrier to entry is quite high. Second of all, in general, people do not like to admit that they have problems/concerns, especially when it comes to telling other people about their financial situation, so these results are also likely to be skewed for that reason. Third, is other people's financial situation your business? NO.
36. We are exceptionally fortunate to have scraped and clawed our way to a home in Hanover. But given real estate prices, interest rates, and the fact that homes that sell for sky high prices still need massive amount of work means that the entirety of our discretionary budget goes towards the house. Again, we are the fortunate ones here. What we've done is impossible for most and an existential crisis for the town and district
37. Hanover is expensive. We are fortunate to be a two income family and live within our means. However, if we lived in a different town, we would like have a larger home and not be in a condo association.

Q13: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q12: From previous surveys, we have heard that a majority of parents want more updates about their specific child. What would you like to know? Please select up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

134 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 113 answers
→ xx Ray answers

1. I think this year was better in terms of updates - still would like 3 in-person conferences annually instead of 2
2. We get weekly communications about class wide happenings which is great, however when there is an issue getting timely updates is important. My student was having an issue at recess that I didn't know about. Recess staff told my student's teacher about the issue multiple times, but I only heard about it at the parent-teacher conference after it had been going on for many weeks.
3. The teachers and support staff at Ray are fantastic, so experienced and dedicated! So while I would always appreciate hearing observations/suggestions/reflections, I am also mindful that this is a big ask for teachers. I am so impressed with how responsive and personal teachers and support staff are, and in how many ways they partner with parents to make special things possible for the students.
4. k-5 students don't always have the ability or inclination to say if they had a good or bad day. teachers sharing classroom happenings are often the only real-time update parents get. if education is a parent teacher partnership (and it is/should be) then updates are the best way parent can do their part.
5. I think more testing and a little bit of homework would be beneficial. It's hard to know what progress is being made otherwise
6. Communication is abysmal in terms of timing and overall quality. Need to be more consistent and proactive.
7. The 5th grade team does a great job communicating. A weekly email from the school has been fine too. I wouldn't change anything.
8. Understanding and learning about our child's education is something we would like to know. Getting more detail instead of a glaze over once a month would be awesome
9. It would be nice to know better our children teachers and others parents, since the first days, not after two or three months, and know the curriculum since the first month, to work as a team for the kids.

10. I LOVED **** ** Friday emails and I live for them :) I thought two conferences was enough but it's also kindergarten so perhaps I will want more specific assessment as we get into the higher grades
11. We currently have one first grader and we get a weekly email for the entire class as well as individual emails if there is a specific concern/positive recognition for our child. I am very happy with the level of communication and I believe asking a teacher to provide more would be unnecessary, and also not about better serving my child or students in general.
12. I love the 1x/week email from my child's teacher, the 1x/week email from the school, the 2x/year report cards and notes that the teachers thoughtfully write, and the 2x/year conferences. If we needed more information, we feel comfortable reaching out to our child's teacher directly and talking with them. Of course, we have 1 teacher per child at this point; I do not know how we will feel when they get older and there are more teachers/ subjects.
13. I only learned about a teacher's concern through the term-end report card. I wished that she had emailed the information when she was noticing the attention issues, so we could address them immediately. Now, nearly four months later, I'm still trying to address it through the school/therapist, etc., and we could have had a big jump start.
14. I could see this being a hindrance for the schools with older kids, but I want more details about my kid's day for the younger grades.
15. I feel like because my kid is "fine" and doesn't stick out (good or bad), that he doesn't get the attention he deserves. He also doesn't get pushed to be better academically.
16. Our teacher does a great job reaching out with concerns periodically. The number of conferences is good too.
17. I think report cards should come out more than twice a year
18. I trust the teachers and am satisfied with the class updates. I would like specific communication only if my child has done something exceptional or needs help with a challenging situation.
19. We've found teachers, administrators and staff exceptionally generous with their time
20. As a parent of a 5th grader who was in **** ** class, I feel that in some ways she has fallen through the cracks. While everyone that I have reached out to regarding my child has responded, it does feel that there were some pretty massive gaps in communication this year.

Q15: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q14: What is your preferred method of communication for updates about your specific student's academic performance, such as grades?*

106 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 76 answers
→ 18 Ray answers

1. Any way over email is great
2. I am open to whatever method is smoothest for teachers. Educational software sometimes feels hard to log in to (despite that I am online all the time), so feels like a less ideal choice.
3. k-5 seems to put a very high emphasis on dibbles reading scores. this is 100% important, but there are other areas of learning outside of just reading ... and by not emphasizing these other areas the message is reading is the only measure of success or failure.
4. confidentiality of personal information is important to us, so easy accessibility is good, but it cannot come at the loss of privacy and protection of personal information.
5. Second preference is updates within educational software. We would appreciate it if the teacher could 1)highlight the child's strengths and 2)provide suggestions on how parents can support their development after school.
6. I would also like to receive a hard copy in the postal mail.
7. I don't like any of the choices for grades for the Ray School. It is fine the way it is.
8. Email is helpful, however, I prefer when there aren't too many attachments. I'd rather have a summary of highlights in the email body.
9. It is easier by mail for us
10. For our children in elementary school, the narrative feedback we get with each progress report is the most useful. We appreciate the time that the teachers put into writing these reports.
11. It's difficult to remember websites, logins, passwords for so many platforms. Every time a progress report or report card is posted on PowerSchool I have to spend 20 minutes figuring out how to access it. Not a big deal, but it would be lovely to make the system more user-friendly.
12. I like that we can look at grades online but that we also get hard copy reports too.
13. I like the security of PowerSchool/ Schoology for my child's academic records.
14. The powerschool data breach bothered me
15. PowerSchool is fine too.
16. I hate PowerSchool and Schoology with heated passion. For PowerSchool, I'm in there only for registration and grades and it's unwieldy

17. The data breach is concerning to us.
18. There is something to be said for the report card in the mail. Have scores increased or decreased with PowerSchool? Being able to check grades at any time from any place hasn't made grades go up (just the budget, and the number of security breaches). Perhaps it's time to get rid of PowerSchool and any educational software.

Q17: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q16: Would you find it helpful to receive regular updates from any of the following personnel or offices? Please select all that apply.*

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

1. Rays of Sunshine was much more predictable this year in terms of coming out every week. Would love more opportunity to hear from **** of Ray about unique projects Ray is involved in/planning/how community can help to ensure we remain a top school in the district. How can local families help leverage local resources to make Ray great? We have lots of visiting musicians and authors - and that's great - but what about visiting scientists, geologists and more? Also, NO idea what the school board is up to - what are the issues facing Ray/SAU 70? what can we do about them?
2. We got daily emails with a brief general overview of the day from our child's primary teacher and it was incredibly helpful!
3. There is no communication from the special rotation teachers, and we would like to receive some
4. The Ray School website is unhelpful and the Rays of Sunshine timing is unreliable. The newsletter itself needs to be reformatted. The communication from the Principal's office needs to be consistent, reliable and focused. Most parents in the district have busy careers and multiple children. A place where information from the main office or principal is easily accessible and readable is crucial.
5. The Ray school notifications are perfect the way they are. We moved from another state and the Ray school provides way more info than our previous district. I'm not sure what else they could possibly email us about here.
6. Communication is good
7. It would be nice to get a little info on what is being taught since kids don't share much insight. Even a monthly newsletter with a short blurb about what happened in the past or upcoming from specials. I hate the canva newsletters since they are a hard read on a small device.

8. It would be fun to know how she is doing in the specials but I understand that could be a lot to ask
9. I think that teachers should be focusing on their work in the classroom, not on giving parents regular updates. Conferences twice annually are sufficient. I would expect more frequent communication only if my child is struggling in some way.
10. We receive appropriate and timely communication from each of the areas we selected.
11. No coaches at Ray. The generic nonsense from the specials teachers during grades is irritating. That's fine for perhaps grade-specific weekly or monthly updates, but as "grades"
12. I was surprised by the lawsuit.
13. Classroom newsletters are much appreciated- we get these now and hope they will continue.
14. The meetings are way too long and boring. And the minutes are not informative enough. Something in between.

Q19: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q18: How often would you like to hear general (not specific to your student) updates from your: (Primary/homeroom teacher, Teachers for required subjects, Teachers for electives/"specials", Principal's office, Superintendent's office, School Board, Coach(es))*

**67 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 42 answers
→ 13 Ray answers**

1. Would love to hear more from School Board
2. Looking for a balance. The school year always goes much faster than you expect
3. not a fan of the principals office - please see section on excess equity and DEI
4. With the absence of a reliable newsletter and helpful family website, the Principal's office should send logistical information on a daily basis. Pedagogy, policies, mission statements, etc. could be shared in a newsletter. The logistics should be separated from the big picture information.
5. love learning about what is happening in our district please update us about any spending plans and proposed curricular changes, so we don't have to dig through board docs.
6. Exhausted from the amount of messages

7. For the primary teacher, weekly updates are great for K-3. For higher grades, monthly updates would suffice.
8. This is a difficult one to fill out as an elementary parent; weekly emails from classroom teachers, every other week or monthly regarding the school updates at large, monthly or quarterly from the district level and as needed from the school board.
9. Not sure if coaches applies to elementary school
10. I would want communications from the tertiary personnel unless there was something to say or a major update. In elementary school, the homeroom teachers are the required course teachers, so generally would just be nice to know what kids are doing weekly or in each section as they rotate through subjects. My child's teacher does this weekly and it is helpful.
11. Daily seems unreasonable for all of these things, but weekly/monthly/quarterly depending on the source seems informative and fair.
12. Don't know what you mean by coaches
13. I do like getting weekly summaries with pictures from my elementary students teacher, to see what fun they have been up to. But at higher grades I don't think it's necessary, too much extra work for the teachers that already have a lot to do.

Q21: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q20: Generally, how satisfied are you with the following personnel or groups? (Your child's primary/homeroom teacher; Your child's other teachers; Your school's administrators, such as the principal; Your school's front office; SAU 70 Office, such as the superintendent; Your school board)*

126 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 102 answers → 29 Ray answers

1. For the classroom teacher: I'm unsatisfied with how often the students are allowed to use tablets during reading time. When I was volunteering in the classroom while the teacher would work with small groups the students were allowed to choose to read on tablets, a couple were reading appropriately on the tablets, but many spent the time surfing the selections and not actually doing reading. Others would only choose books that were read to them by the tablet. Our teacher almost never assigned homework (**** grade) - at the beginning of the year she mentioned that the students should read at home, but when I suggested a reading log be sent home

to help keep students accountable this was never done. My student often said that she didn't have to read at home because the teacher said they didn't need to. I'm not sure if this is true, but having clear expectations with accountability and feedback is important. There was a few optional worksheets that were sent home for math, but these didn't always align with what was being learned at school then my student stopped choosing to bring these home. At our old school, as a **** grader, my student was doing 20 minutes of math and 20 minutes of reading a night (with reading log). It let us know what our student was working on and where they might need extra help. I'm not a big fan of too much homework, but there is a good balance that can be achieved. School Board: I'm disappointed that the school board did not conduct a national search when the superintendent decided to retire. Just because something is convenient doesn't make it the best choice. The assistant superintendent should have been asked to apply and compete with new applicants.

2. Homeroom teacher is wonderful. Discrepancy in Math/STEM depending on the teacher.
3. While this is perhaps not the place for individual feedback, **** **** is amazing!
4. Cancelling Halloween was a huge mistake. The school should not be involved in social and political issues. These decisions seem self serving for administrators and don't help the kids. The old Halloween parade was one of the most fun and inclusive events in the community. Huge mistake that people still talk about, a lot.
5. My emails go completely unanswered to the school board
6. We are in the midst of an issue with our child and another child in the same classroom, and we are unhappy with how this issue has been handled over the course of this year by the ****.
7. The board is very political and they make sure people know where they stand on their views. Sometimes, when people with different opinions voice their concerns during board meetings, they are ignored or mocked (body language).
8. We have no communication from anyone except my kids homeroom teacher
9. **** has no managerial or administrative skills
10. We are saddened by the departure of **** **** and wish the board had done more to keep ****. Worried that it sent a signal to other teachers that they are not supported
11. The admin. team is lovely, but they need a communications audit and comms. training.
12. I don't agree with the DEI lawsuit. Voters made their decision in November. Stop wasting time and money on things most people disagree with.
13. ****: fantastic. However, disappointed with curricular changes to social studies (removing big sections of US / world cultures). SAU 70 / School board: it seems they're a bit behind on maintenance and repairs. Would be good for schools to have AC.
14. Our **** is a caring, strong leader who knows the students by name- she is amazing. At the same time, I am not convinced that the replacement of the former

- social studies curriculum has increased my child's knowledge of, introduced her to any particular concepts about, her country or world.
15. the Ray School **** often mistakenly records our child's attendance (rather marks him as "absent")
 16. I work in the district and see from the back end how much everyone puts into everything:)
 17. We think that most of the teachers at the school are truly amazing. There have been some changes to the teaching staff during the school year, and we think it should be a high priority for the students to have the same teachers throughout the year. My kids have also expressed that the **** teacher is repetitive and talks most of the class. They would like to do more hands-on activities.
 18. We do not like TV shows regularly at school, specially during lunch time
 19. I regularly interact with **** **** and he's great. Mrs **** and Mrs **** are fantastic and my daughter loves them.
 20. The parking and traffic situation at the Ray school For God's sake, do something about it! Those parking lot monitors are completely useless. I need to arrive 20 minutes before dismissal just to get a parking space, then get blocked in by traffic that backs up from the circle.
 21. I don't really understand the role of the school board. I'd like to hear more about how they plan to support our teachers/administrators during this challenging environment.
 22. The school **** is amazing!
 23. Kid says nice things generally, but we don't hear much directly from any of the above except the main teacher. Even the Rays of Sunshine newsletter seems more generic than it used to be.
 24. I am very upset about what happened to **** ****. I don't know what to believe, but the family who brought the complaint is now saying that it was the school board (not the family) who pushed the case too far. If that is the case, I think our school board needs to do some serious soul searching about going too far. The whole situation is 100% terrible, and I am broken hearted for **** ****, **** current students, and all the students who won't have **** in the future.
 25. Admin and school board take on dumb national culture war issues instead of the school's actual problems. Principals reports are all positive, school boards only discuss legislation and when students bring concerns they are brushed aside unless it's trans stuff.
 26. We're not thrilled with the lack of academic oversight from the school board. Their meetings should ALWAYS focus on academic improvements to the teaching and curriculum, alongside other concerns. The **** **** work on the curriculum should be documented online for all parents to review and understand with transparency. There should be more accountability demonstrated by the school administrators, board and teachers re: the quality of teaching - through reviews of test scores and a learning system that demonstrates how aims are set and improvements are made. Never again should our community encounter the debacle that occurred in RMS math these past two years; all parties should learn publicly and transparently from

that experience, and all school stakeholders should create systems to avoid it ever happening again - at HHS, RMS, MCS and Ray.

27. I'm unsatisfied by the lack of diversity in the school board, everyone seems to think the same thing.
28. I would like a no phones in schools policy that removes all devices from student possession from bell to bell.
29. As previously mentioned - my child was in **** class. **** is one of the best educators I have had the opportunity to interact with in various settings. Losing **** was extremely difficult for my child and is a major disappointment for me regarding the Hanover system. I try not to judge, and I know that my knowledge is limited to snippets I have heard from various sources, it left me quite dissatisfied with the educational experience for that class. The gap between **** leaving and **** **** taking over was long and seemed unfair to the students.

Q23: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q22: In today's political environment, there may be an increasing need for our schools to give timely updates on new laws and regulations being discussed, and/or become more involved in the political process. In addition to national events, other current discussions at the state and local levels include district consolidation in Vermont, statewide open school enrollment in New Hampshire, local funding mechanisms, and mandated NRA-created firearms annual training for K-12 students in New Hampshire. What are your thoughts on this? Please select all that apply.*

91 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 71 answers
→ 20 Ray answers

1. YES - this is what I want to hear more about. Literally have no idea what major issues face our schools and how we can help

2. We have a great system, with balanced educational opportunities for students that give everyone a place, regardless of their challenges and strengths. Let's keep it that way!
3. Administrators and teachers should not be letting their political and social events affect their teaching.
4. I want school principals and superintendents to be aware of on going political situations and to advocate for the school and students in a non-partisan way
5. Keep federal funding
6. I don't know if I want the schools to be actively involved in the political process. I wouldn't want harm to come to the district because we focused on politics. I also wouldn't want it to be a distraction or take resources from educating students. It's a great question.
7. I disagree with the DEI Lawsuit
8. Not thrilled that SAU 70 sued the administration without voters' consent, or clear communication about costs in time/resources.
9. Prior to suing the government, the school should at least consult its constituents, informing us of the cost in terms of time and resources, rationale, and expected positive results in academic achievement for the kids.
10. I will absolutely refuse firearms training for my Kindergartner, the republicans are psychotic
11. I think our schools should be focused on education, not politics.
12. I think the school system is doing a good job of being involved right now, no requests for change. Keep up the good work!
13. I generally want to know how politics may impact the schools particularly in this current political climate.
14. Please don't enforce Left Wing ideology on everyone. There are a lot of silent voices who oppose Children's indoctrination of LGBTQ agenda. You can just teach "kindness" and "antibullying policies" as a rule at Ray school. Kindergartners don't need to read," Jacob wears a dress". They are too young to comprehend any of that.
15. I don't think you need to say "political process." What you seem to be talking about is "legislative process." For instance, this is the first I'm hearing of the gun training and I'm quite active in other legislative areas... it is very hard as a parent to keep up on legislation in NH, which is ample, and how it might effect the school/children.
16. Don't let the naysayers take away our perspective. Politics is inevitable, particularly in these times and in this purple state. Thank you for bringing this up. Not even counting the appropriateness of the open enrollment... How would that even work logistically? And keep the (I can't believe I'm saying this) NRA out of our elementary school!
17. I understand it is a balance. I think it has been handled well so far. I'm so proud that you joined the lawsuit.
18. Citizens are responsible for their political involvement not the job of public schools
19. I do not think the school should see itself as a political entity. I believe the schools should seek to be non-partisan and non-sectarian organizations. The PTO has the following in its bylaws: "No substantial part of the PTO will be for the carrying of

propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the PTO will not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. " I think the schools should behave similarly.

20. Getting involved in politics is a terrible idea. Each resident supports the schools with their tax money, and the board deciding to use those funds for political activism is incredibly disrespectful to residents that may not agree with the political agenda of the board. When I was in middle school I had to take and pass boater safety as a part of PE. Not everyone would get on a boat, but it could help save lives. Firearms are the leading cause of death for school-aged children, however, it is primarily homicide and suicide, accidents only account for a small fraction of school aged children. I agree that teaching firearm safety is unlikely to change these numbers since accidents are only a small fraction, and especially since most gun deaths are in black children. However, I would advocate for embedding firearm safety within hunter education, as it already is. This is a great way to get outdoor type students engaged in school, and a way to learn about natural resources.

Q25: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q24: It is a ongoing debate for how much time to allot to each subject in school education. Current New Hampshire laws and regulations allow for a maximum of 5.75 hours daily for academic instruction (Vermont has no specific maximum). The remaining time of the school day is for lunch, recess/recreation, Morning Meeting, transitioning from subject to subject, etc. Elementary schools may use 30 minutes of the 5.75 hours for additional recreation (recess). For elementary school, please indicate your preferences for how much time to give to each subject on a typical non-Wednesday day, noting the 5.75-hour daily maximum for academic instruction. Current general estimates for these times are noted for both the Marion Cross and Ray schools, with some minor variations by grade and class. Note that, due to the complexities of scheduling and many different kinds of electives, we will not be asking about this for the middle and high schools.*

85 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 66 answers
→ xx Ray answers

1. I answered as a Ray student - I think 2 recesses is important. I think outdoor classroom can could be more focused maybe with a naturalist joining the group from time to time or some guided activities every other week (I think free time in the woods is good too - but maybe it counts as a recess if that's going to happen)
2. There is not enough information about how much time is spent in the 6-week rotation at Ray for health - how many days/minutes during that period?

3. Amount of time spent on a subject does not equate to quantity or quality of instruction. Math this year was quite slow without a lot of content. I know some students have been bored in class. Challenging students to do more advanced work, particularly in math, would be helpful.
4. Spanish is NOT the only World language. There should be a Chinese option
5. I don't feel there was 60 min/wk of outdoor classroom in the Ray
6. I understand that technology and devices are a big part of our lives today, and we all want to equip our children with the tools they'll need. However, I personally prefer that younger children have less screen time, especially those in kindergarten through 3rd grade. One reason for that is kids are having too much screen time already. Another reason is the technology is evolving rapidly, the specific tools we teach them today may not even be the ones they'll need tomorrow.
7. I am greatly concerned with the limited amount of time some classrooms spend on ELA and the extent to which students are on devices instead of receiving whole class or small group instruction.
8. It all seems great.
9. I have no opinions about the above- everything seems about right.
10. I wish health was less specific to emotions, current gender identity trends, etc and more specific to the healthy lifestyle, food choices, physical activity, etc
11. the arts and outdoors could be combined and mixed in with recess for older kids and more for younger
12. More technology use and health/social skills please!
13. The kids need to move
14. My child is in 1st grade and only get's outdoor classroom occasionally; if it happened for 90 minutes a week, that would be perfect, however this hasn't happened this week so I would say more time would be great.
15. I'm confused as to why I am being asked about time for specific subjects/ activities at school. Isn't that expertise supposed to come from the district? I would prefer you to say, "Research shows that X minutes per day of recess/ recreation for elementary children is optimal." And then assess to what extent I agree/ disagree based on my child's specific needs. Furthermore, I expect that our children will receive the maximum amount of educational time as specified by NH law. We chose this district for the high quality education. The question above makes it feel like me, as a parent who cares about education but does not know the research, should be making the decisions. That worries me if we are seeing families wanting to do something that is against best practice simply because they are not informed.
16. Need more math, music, science and technology.
17. Are there educational goals tied to outdoor classroom time?
18. My child often doesn't finish their art project, which is why I think the time allotment is not enough esp when MCS has 65 to Ray's 45min.
19. More variability than I thought there'd be between the Hanover and Norwich schools. I feel a mix of "experimentation and trying things is good", but also "umm... standardization and curriculum is important". World Language would be more

important if I thought they were actually learning the language. Both of my Ray-grown kids seem to know squat about the Spanish language.

20. I'd like more opt-in math and science activities for students who are interested. By this I mean math/science activities available during what I need time, math/science extension opportunities for interested students, after school math club, and optional math homework for interested students. It also seems like technology class is mostly focused on digital citizenship/ online safety from what my child reports, but there aren't many explanations sent home for how to support these lessons at home with family computer use. Therefore it's hard to evaluate this class in the context of this question.
21. More PE would be great as long as they aren't using screens. Outside as much as possible

Q27: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q26: Currently, the Marion Cross School requires French and the Ray School requires Spanish for all students. What are your thoughts on this?*

4 responses to “Don’t teach French or Spanish, but this world language instead.”. After removing “no” and similar answers → 1 answer

1. Offer both at both schools

110 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 96 answers
→ 33 Ray answers

1. This is a hard one - exposure to both would be great, but given what's going to be more helpful moving forward, Spanish is probably more versatile
2. I'm open to keeping as-is, or changing to Spanish. I speak both and value them greatly. It is important to expose kids to other languages.
3. Chinese language and culture is significantly underrepresented given geopolitics and even the local demographics
4. offer exposure to Asian languages and cultures
5. I prefer if students learn both languages but NOT less time for each. Beginning in 5th grade or Middle School, students can pick one of them.
6. Given the amount of time students spend in a language over 6/7 years, I thought they would start middle school at a higher level but they are basically starting again even after having it all through elementary school.
7. Offer French and Spanish at both

8. I strongly support Spanish education in the Ray school. I would defer choice to the MCS (I'm personally biased in favor of Spanish for broader applicability)
9. Given the difficulty of recruiting qualified, native speakers of foreign languages as teachers, perhaps best to keep current language programs in place. My children LOVE learning Spanish at the Ray School, and I think it is SO important that American children learn the most widely spoken language in the Americas. If I had to choose, Spanish for everyone, mandatory, K-10th!
10. It's hard to hire qualified, native speakers to teach languages. Would it be best to keep the fabulous teachers you already have? My kids love learning Spanish at Ray.
11. I cannot speak to Marion Cross if I lived in Norwich however if I lived in Norwich I would want Spanish taught
12. Allow students choice of Spanish or French to learn, and spend more time on the chosen language
13. I think learning a second language is very important. I think the school should focus on one language so the students can really master it. It might be best to do Spanish for 15 minutes every day.
14. It would be good to have more than one language, and the kids can choose one
15. Both French and Spanish in elementary and choice in middle
16. I think it's important that elementary school children learn a language. Either Spanish or French would be fine.
17. Similar to our response in #25, I am confused as to why I am being asked this question in this way. What does research show about how students learn language? What is the problem we are trying to solve - exposure to language outside English, preparing students for speaking/ reading/ writing another language by 8th grade, preparing them for communicating in another language outside of Hanover/ Norwich? I cannot speak for Norwich residents, as I am Hanover, so it's strange to me that I am being asked to decide for children that are not my own. Personally, we LOVE that Spanish is the focus at Ray. We speak some Spanish at home (though, limited since it's not our first language), so it's fun that our children are being exposed to it earlier on. However, as for Spanish vs French vs Mandarin vs other at this age? I do not think one is better than the other. In high school, given where our world is going, Mandarin would be amazing, but if they continued with Spanish or French, that would still be fantastic.
18. Up to the school communities.
19. We live right next to QC. Please teach kids some French
20. I don't know what the educational goals are for world language.
21. My kids have learned close to zero Spanish speaking skills at the Ray school. I think the Spanish class is a good cultural exposure and it would be great to have exposure to two languages, if possible.
22. I'd love my child to have exposure to both Spanish and French, but maybe one primarily taught language through all grades. Spanish is very useful. My child and I both absolutely love the Japanese language culture section in the 3rd grade. She would like to continue with Japanese, but even though I studied that language as well in college, it's not very practical for this region. Perhaps having another

language/culture section in 4 or 5th grade would be enough, such as for Ray - French - and the various countries/cultures.

23. If only one language (which makes sense at the elementary level), I don't know how anyone could say anything except Spanish (or Mandarin Chinese, I guess). French seems like a Vermont historical artifact
24. I would think it would be easier for both schools to teach the same thing, but I think this should really be whatever the communities want.
25. Expose early grades to both and have children opt into one in 4th
26. I am very happy my child is at Ray and learning Spanish. If my child was at MCS I would want them to learn Spanish, but I feel that the MCS community should decide what they prefer.
27. We're closer to Canada than Mexico
28. I don't have a good answer for this question
29. If there was a willing parent / volunteer, would it be possible to institute a language / culture club for another area not covered, e.g. Arabic.
30. One size does not fit all. Children with dyslexia should not be required to participate in a world language in elementary school as they are working to master their use of English. If world languages are offered, a viable alternative needs to be created to meet the needs of children with learning challenges, as appropriate to each child. It is fine to offer these classes but they should not be required.
31. I am thinking teach Spanish from K-3 then maybe introduce French in grade 4 or 5 so students can decide which to continue in middle school.
32. It would be good to have a common set of expectations for the language learning to help kids transition between grades. Right now the classes seem more focused on culture rather than language learning. As a parent I don't know what the instructional goals are for this class. It's a lot of instructional time, so I currently have high expectations but perhaps that's not realistic.
33. Functionally, in the US, Spanish is a decidedly more helpful language to be familiar for both communication and cultural reasons

Q29: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q28: Currently, Richmond Middle School offers, but does not require, full sequences of French and/or Spanish. What are your thoughts on this?*

6 responses with “Offer only this world language (Please specify):” → 1 Ray answer

1. REQUIRE language. SO important.

67 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 51 answers
→ 15 Ray answers

1. Chinese
2. I think a foreign language should be required.
3. Full sequences of Spanish and French are great; considering adding Arabic or Mandarin? But adding depends a bit on what else has to be sacrificed. Thanks.
4. Chinese language and culture is significantly underrepresented given geopolitics and even the local demographics
5. Add Chinese as an option
6. Offer a non-Romance language
7. Foreign language should be required every year for every student
8. I think that RMS should require that students learn a language.
9. What about other languages like Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Arabic?
10. Same comment as #27.
11. It would be a shame for a child to lose all that they've built on in the elementary schools. They should have a choice and be required to participate between at least Spanish and French. Also, adding Japanese or Mandarin.
12. I think my middle school growing up (and it was not a great school) had Spanish, French, German. These days, how about Spanish, Mandarin, French?
13. If MCS should decide to switch from French to Spanish then a second language should be offered at RMS (Mandarin Chinese)
14. It is better to learn one language well than waste time learning two languages poorly.
15. Most RMS students do take world language, but those who do not need time for academic support. This is the same model Ray School has in practice.

Q31: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q30: Currently, the World Languages Department at Hanover High School offers full four-year sequences of French, German, Latin, and Spanish, with periodic single courses for Greek, Italian, Russian, and linguistics. Which world languages would you like to have taught for a full series of classes at the high school? Please select up to 4 of the languages below.*

19 responses for “Other world language (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar comments → 16 responses → 3 Ray answers

1. Urdu
2. Portuguese
3. ASL

53 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 35 answers → 10 Ray answers

1. Open to other choices!
2. Latin so helpful for English comprehension
3. Ideal if our students could have the opportunity to learn the most widely spoken languages in the world. Greek, Italian, and Latin might not qualify...
4. These languages are spoken most in the world and need exposure at a young age.
5. Same comment as #27
6. I think the offering should be more diversified, in terms of regions of the world. I couldn't choose between Mandarin/Japanese. The both overlap in some ways. It would be more helpful to have one of those offered in Middle School into HS. Latin is great, but I don't think a full sequence is necessary with all the other romance languages.
7. It's nice to see more proposed WORLD languages than the previous batch of EUROPEAN languages...
8. It's fine as is. There are a lot of ways to learn languages via online courses.
9. As someone who took 6 years of latin, I wish I could get that time back and use the time to learn a spoken language.
10. I prefer languages that would open more opportunities for a future global role. e.g. Chinese and Spanish rather than Latin

Q33: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q32: What are your general thoughts on March Intensive (MI)? March Intensive is an annual Hanover High School program that involves all students focusing on week-long specific learning experiences. These activities range from local activities to regional, national, and international travel. In March 2025, there were 56 MI offerings, which included 43 local activities, 9 overnight regional or national activities, and 4 international trips. Please select up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

136 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 121 answers
→ 24 Ray answers

1. Some of the offerings are worthwhile. Any non-academic offerings should be eliminated. School time and taxpayer dollars should not be used for kids to learn cribbage or to sit in a cozy chair and read a book.
2. I don't know anything about MI yet. It sounds like a great opportunity. I would also be open to having fewer options (but I don't know what the options are.)
3. I have not seen much material on MI and would like to know more. As a general rule (especially in a hyper connected world) expose to more is better than exposure to less
4. I have no experience with MI yet as my oldest kid is at RMS
5. There should not be opportunities that are so expensive that some children are unable to participate because their family can't afford to offset the costs.
6. as a survey, this isn't a good question: it's required but doesn't have an NA option. We have a kindergartener. We have no skin in the game at the high school
7. Outrageous that the school would subsidize a multiple-thousand-dollar tourism excursion, however "educational." Normal families can't afford it. The money is better spent on tutoring and other proven ways to boost academic outcomes, particularly useful for students from less advantaged backgrounds, so they have more opportunities in life.
8. The school should NEVER sponsor or subsidize "educational" tourism trips abroad so expensive that few normal families could afford it. Unfair. On the other end of

the spectrum, one of the MI this year was for kids to hang out in Hanover being kids. Great, but not educational.

9. I think the MI should focus on broadening the students' horizons; SAU 70 exists in a privileged bubble that is fairly unique in our country and the world. I believe that students would benefit from understanding this and seeing the stark differences first hand; rather than luxury history or art related trips they are likely to experience anyways.
10. In order for the program to be fair to all students it should be offered entirely free of charge to the individual students. If certain activities cannot be supported through school funds alone then they should not be happening.
11. My children are not in high school yet so we don't have direct experience with MI but from my understanding of it, it's a fantastic opportunity for students to get at least a bit of experience out in the 'real world'. I think they would benefit from even more opportunities for learning outside of the typical school environment.
12. Child is not in high school. I have no comment on MI
13. I don't know enough about MI to comment.
14. I think March intensive is a great opportunity for kids and should stay. However I think all opportunities offered should be made available to everyone
15. I believe that all offerings for MI should be paid for entirely by the school/school district. This is a public school; if we are offering something it needs to be available to all.
16. It's hard for us to answer the question about MI without understanding the purpose behind it. And, is it achieving the purpose/ goals set forth? Are there other ways to achieve that which are less costly to taxpayers and individual families that still provide this unique experience? We agree, generally, that some meaningful out-of-school experience is exciting and important for our children. That can be achieved locally, nationally, or internationally. However it is accomplished; however, should be equitable, and travel - particularly international - can be prohibitively expensive. We might technically be able to afford it, but would prefer to spend those thousands of \$s on something for our family that we would otherwise not be able to do. This puts pressure on the family to "spend it anyway" so that our child is not at a disadvantage. Thankfully, our children are not at HHS yet, but these are things we think of as we plan for their future.
17. Having each school doing their own version of MI is definitely intriguing, but it wasn't a top 3 choice for me
18. I do not have a HHS student so am not familiar with the intricacies of this program. However, my perception it is a distraction from academics and a chance for wealthy, connected families to use those connections and wealth to bolster their children's resumes and treat their children to a fun experience. I wonder if MI should be rethought as a job shadowing week for sophomores or juniors.
19. haven't experienced this yet
20. Everyone can participate in an offering. Not all offerings are the same. Just because they offer different things doesn't mean that the program should be struck from SAU70. It is okay for kids to have different opportunities that suit them and their

family. Let's not water this down for the lowest common denominator, let's celebrate the widespread opportunity that MI generates to engage our children in practical enrichment opportunities that engage them in the world, in many different settings.

21. If a kid wants to go on a trip they could do their own fundraising to go if they don't have the money, that's how the world works, not someone else pays your way. It will make them more appreciative of the experience.
22. i didnt see an option to skip, my child is in Ray and im unfamiliar with the program
23. I dont know anything about it
24. I don't know enough about the MI to comment

Q35: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q34: Have you ever used a supplementary private educational service for your child, such as one-on-one tutoring or group-based lessons, for subjects also taught in school, such as math, reading, or writing? Please select all that apply.*

104 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 90 answers
→ 22 Ray answers

1. Kumon for math
2. The lack of academic rigor in my student's classroom had me looking into it this year.
3. Due to insufficient content/quality in my math/science.
4. My son was not finding math challenging in **** and **** grade, and was coming home expressing loss of interest in school altogether. I signed him up for a weekly online math lesson, which is challenging enough and propels him to learn more. I would love it if the Ray school (and I hope the middle school) offered advanced math instruction on a regular basis, or perhaps an afterschool math club. When the class moves too slow the child can lose interest in a subject and in school in general, and I imagine this apathy or loss of interest is difficult to "retract." There were a couple of months in **** grade when a 3-4 children in his class were taken out for separate, more advanced, math instruction. Those were the days when he came home with sparkling eyes, eager to share his progress, discussing the difficult assignments that he had to solve with his peers and getting excited about studying in general.
5. Because of starting late due to COVID, tutor once a week

6. Math, reading/writing, physical education, language
7. My child excels at math and was bored, so I paid for math enrichment. I wish the school offered math enrichment for students who aren't challenged by the level offered in the classroom. That happened for my older children in the past.
8. I tutor my child in math through games at night.
9. I am concerned about my child's writing; a high achiever, their writing seems poor by comparison with their reading and math. I am concerned about RMS's approach to teaching math, and plan to find the money somehow for tutoring, should it become necessary.
10. Math
11. Before moving we homeschooled and sent to independent school
12. Reading tutor, as Ray School DIBELS test results are poor so decided to give our child extra support. Our child benefits from added reading instruction (which he does not get sufficiently at school).
13. I think the school should help connect parents with private tutors if parents request it. Ideally, teachers from the school would be available for private tutoring since they are most familiar with the school's curriculum. I inquired about private tutoring at one point and was told that they were not allowed to provide any references.
14. Expectation at school are high
15. Mathnasium
16. We thought about it but my child's reading improved through additional resources offered in the school.
17. We would find a way to support our children's academic needs if they were behind or needed it. From what I understand, tutoring is expensive, so thankfully we don't need it. However, I also expect that the schools will adequately teach my children and provide opportunities for deeper learning and application of the material, so there should be no need for additional individual expense.
18. Kumon
19. Was close to doing reading tutoring, but the kid caught up fairly quickly with some nice in-school help and now all good!
20. I feel like it is a pretty big issue that so many Ray School kids get outside tutoring. It is hard for families with working parents to pull this off, and expensive. I think there should be very little need for this if our school was more rigorous
21. I answered no, but I have bought math, foreign language, and reading apps for my child
22. Extra maths tuition, weekly, and a piano tutor.

Q37: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q36: For which of the following subjects have you sought outside tutoring for your child? Please select all that apply.*

14 Responses to “Other (please specify)”: → 3 Ray answers

1. Supplemental instruction, not tutoring
2. Mental health since school will not provide working with a counselor for **** *
3. Art

53 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 35 answers
→ 8 Ray answers

1. I am looking into it for reading and math.
2. So my child could be challenged and remain interested in math.
3. Kumon. Math times tables are not taught enough. Parents supplement due to need when testing is happening in the classroom.
4. My child has done very well in math at the Ray School, however, I would consider outside math help next year at RMS because I was very disappointed in the math this past year at RMS with my older children.
5. Piano Chinese
6. more opportunities for social curriculum and health needed
7. In person music lessons and Duolingo for Japanese language learning
8. My child has **** and ****. Although **** **** **** **** for an IEP, **** continues to struggle with spelling, writing, reading with fluency, decoding, working memory. This affects **** recall on math facts as well. Unfortunately, our experience is that the reason **** **** **** **** for an IEP is BECAUSE of the private tutoring that we provide outside of school; the school should instead be providing these supports via an IEP. We would prefer not to pay for these services out of our own pocket, and **** would prefer to dedicate his time outside of school to non-academic activities, but there is no way we will allow our child to be left behind.

Q39: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q38: What was the reason for the tutoring? Please select all that apply.*

22 responses to “Other (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar answers → 21 responses → 6 Ray responses

1. We started back to school late due to COVID, so compensated somewhat with some tutoring.
2. Kid hates sports and needed more activities
3. He learns better one to oneno
4. I don't read music or play an instrument and I'd like to make sure my kids can
5. I felt that my student wasn't being individually pushed enough
6. My child has dyslexia and needs reinforcement in reading, writing, spelling, decoding, encoding and working memory.

48 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 32 answers → 9 Ray answers

1. students at Ray school who are ahead of their peers in reading or math are NOT OFFERED enough specific content - they should have content directed to them that meets THEIR NEEDS please!!! WOW hardly happened and my daughter felt so frustrated by being bored and unattended to - she started to lose her interest in a subject she is very good at and loves! Please focus on the kids who are ok with the subject matter too!
2. If my child was sufficiently challenged in school, I might not tutor them at night in math.
3. I tutor my child in math (15 mins/night, 4x/week) with a workbook. It's resulted in a substantial increase in their standardized test scores and performance in school.
4. My child has extra support at school but it is not enough, my child feels struggling
5. Is this something people are doing with their elementary-aged kids? We've been totally happy with the academic rigor and learning aides at Ray. Seems crazy to do extra tutoring...
6. We need better music lessons for ray school
7. I feel these questions should be phrased to account for apps. Is paying for in person tutoring bad but buying an app is fine?
8. It would be nice to see "my child experiences a learning disability and needs more support than the school provides in order to maintain grade-level proficiency" as a response option. Please consider how to improve the framing of the survey answers to reflect an inclusive approach by which children with learning challenges feel seen and accepted.

9. I wanted to capitalize on the large amount of time (3x a week) that Spanish is taught in school and so I've added Duolingo time to try to have my kids actually progress towards reading simple Spanish by the end of elementary school.

Q41: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q40: Evidence suggests that later school start times are helpful for student health and academic achievement, particularly for older students. Certain states and districts have implemented later school start times across the country. However, this has implications for after-school programs and bus costs. Current school start times across the SAU are around 8am – 3pm. What are your thoughts on this?*

89 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 81 answers
→ 21 Ray answers

1. 8:30 or 9am would be preferable
2. later starts seem like a no brainer. glad to see it made the survey; hope something actually changes
3. again, don't have a high schooler yet, but I would support following evidence of later start times being beneficial
4. It would be difficult to manage a later start with work expectations
5. Follow the research and do what is best for students to learn and grow as the next generation of leaders.
6. We moved from out of state and our previous school system was a similar sized school district and had grades 6-12 start an hour earlier than K-5 with two rounds of buses. As a parent I hated the hour difference. It was the never ending morning of getting kids ready for school and was very complicated for families with both parents working. Leaving the house once with all the kids, or putting all of them on the bus at the same time has been a huge perk of moving here.
7. 8am start is perfect for elementary. Later start time would be SO helpful for older kids, whose brains require more sleep and later starts to the day. It will boost their mental, emotional, and physical health, and hence their learning, and sounds like a no-brainer way to spend tax dollars.

8. Adolescents need more sleep. Please let them start later! It impacts their mental health, learning, and overall well-being. This is well worth paying for. Fine by me if all schools start later.
9. Just a little later would be helpful -- 8:30am, for example. What would be very nice if there was a range of times that students arrive, e.g., between 8 and 9am, depending on their needs, but full-on classes do not start before 9am. I realize that might be difficult to implement. I think it's very important that all schools start at about the same time though -- with younger and older siblings and planning drop-off/pick-up it seems to get really difficult if schools start at vastly different times.
10. Starting school any later would create significant challenges for working parents
11. 8.30 am start
12. It would be really hard to get elementary age children to bed at a decent hour if the school time was bumped back because then after school activities would be even later. I would love to see some high school sports have morning practices if the start time for school gets pushed later.
13. Current schedule is terrible for working parents. Who gets out of work at 3pm?! Moving the start time later would be very beneficial.
14. It's a nice idea to have school start later but logistically seems challenging with buses etc
15. We do not know enough about the implications for after school activities if there's a later start time at HHS, but it seems there are some. Do those outweigh the actual, research-based benefit of a later start time for teens?
16. Can a later start time be optional?
17. Great to finally see some discussion on this. Evidence seems very one-sided in favor of later start times at this point. Health and sleep are so important.
18. Don't use the word evidence without a citation
19. Could the high school adopt a 'zero period' so some student could arrive at 8am and others could start later?
20. kids want to learn more real life skills, one of which is getting up early to go to work.
21. Align school start/end times with the local employers timings.

Q43: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q42: For your family and child, what would be the ideal approximate school start and stop times?*

**42 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 32 answers
→ 6 Ray answers**

1. My children are young; 8am is fine. When they are adolescents, I'd love for it to be 9am and for school to end a bit later.

2. getting out earlier gives time to be outside and move
3. It's hard to answer question 42, since we believe the 8-3 time for elementary is appropriate, whereas for high school it might not be. If the time must change for all schools (for expense reasons, like transportation), then we would only want to shift slightly - to 8:30-3:30.
4. My child gets on the bus at 7am, school starts at 8am. I start work at 8am. My child increasingly and naturally stays up slightly later, but wants more sleep in the morning. It would be better for her to have school start closer to 8:30 or even 9am. Plus, then there is less need for ample after school time arrangements.
5. Especially if before- and after-school KAST-style daycare is available for those families that would need it
6. Use daily 8-8:30 am for all-staff internal meetings, curriculum work, trainings and professional development; pay teachers for the extra 3-3:30 pm time all days of the week.

Q45: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q44: From previous surveys, we know that the early Wednesday dismissals cause challenges for many families. The early Wednesday dismissal is to give time for all-staff internal meetings, curriculum work, trainings, and professional development. Do you have any suggestions for these early Wednesday dismissals?*

**67 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 60 answers
→ 15 Ray answers**

1. Wed early dismissal is nice for recreational reasons (skiing in winter, sports, other outside activities for kids, but there should be activities for kids at that time if it is difficult for parents re child care.
2. Fine to pay staff and teachers for extra time doing this work, if they would prefer it that way. My children benefit from the additional free time on Wednesday.
3. Extra free time is great for my kids. Do whatever is best for the teachers and staff.
4. OR switch time to later start with school ending at same time as normal (non-Wednesdays)
5. Fridays is a good day for parents but we do not know if works for the school
6. After school programming is critical for us on Wednesdays, so we're grateful KAST exists! I do know, however, space is limited. If the time were shifted to Wednesday mornings, that would cause us problems with work schedules. We rely on the bus in

the mornings, so even if KAST ran in the mornings on Wednesdays, it would be hard for us to utilize it.

7. I defer to the teachers/administrators on whether #1 or #2 is preferable.
8. I also think if staff need more time, school could start later every day; staff could have more required prep time each morning. Then no early dismissal on Wed. The times are confusing to anyone not adapt at Ray specifically.
9. Both the late start and the Friday options seem like improvements. Aren't the teachers salaried?
10. I think option 1 or 2 but defer to the teachers and staff on what their preference would be
11. Can students stay at school but be offered another experience? More recess, more PE, outdoor hikes, art projects etc?
12. Show evidence that meetings do anything
13. Use daily 8-8:30 am for all-staff internal meetings, curriculum work, trainings and professional development; pay teachers for the extra 3-3:30 pm time all days of the week.
14. Friday early dismissal sounds interesting. Also, could the school coordinate with area organizations to have optional programming on these early release days - vins, montshire do all school assemblies? Homeroom/classroom teachers could do curriculum planning but EA and other staff could help maintain order during the assemblies.
15. Alternative option, no early dismissal and don't have the meetings because let's be honest, they're not that important anyways.

Q47: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q46: Does your child currently receive mental health and/or behavioral health services?*

**32 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 21 answers
→ 8 Ray answers**

1. child has been tested for IEP qualifications, **** is now being assessed as qualifying for 504
2. Now that my kids are getting support outside the schools for mental health, the school counselor stopped working with them. I wish they could do both so when there are issues with social situations at school, they have more active guidance to support them through the process.
3. My child received a ton of support and over time graduated out of an IEP and 504. Now they don't even need a behavior plan. It's been incredible and we are so

grateful our child has benefitted so significantly from support services. A true success story, thank you Ray School!

4. We love our therapist, though she's expensive.
5. It is extremely hard to get in the UV for children. Also, currently child's provider is very difficult to access when things come up. Provider doesn't take insurance, so I must submit and get paid back some but still very expensive... all in all, very difficult and time consuming to receive this needed service. This doesn't include all the time going to Ray, picking up child, and taking **** to appt and back. Most times we don't even make it back to Ray after the appt, because it's such a time suck for the travel.
6. My kids seem very happy, but it definitely seems like this is a worldwide issue more and more. Thanks for trying to keep on top of it
7. School is for academics.
8. The Special Ed team at Ray is truly incomparable and a large part of the reason we made it a priority to buy in Hanover

Q49: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q48: If your child has an IEP or 504 plan, do you supplement this plan with private services?*

**33 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 23 answers
→ 8 Ray answers**

1. My child **** ** evaluated by the school for IEP or 504 plan. Even though the challenges were there, it took a very long time to get the process started. We went to look for outside services because we didn't know if the school was going to do anything.
2. OT
3. In the process no results yet. **** will fall behind in literacy if **** doesn't qualify for extra help
4. supplemental tutoring to keep up with school tests
5. I am looking into private services, but I want those private services to be consistent with how they are learning the material at school.
6. I'm currently unclear on navigating additional support for my child, despite repeated issues/behaviors at school.
7. This question should have been sequenced on the prior page with the other questions re: private tutoring services outside of school
8. We're in the process of exploring some outside services but scheduling has proven exceptionally challenging

Q51: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q50: To your knowledge, does your child have any of the following devices or social media accounts for their own specific, individual, use? Please select all that apply.*

24 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar answers → 23 responses → 2 Ray answers

1. Shared family iPad and computer
2. Fire Tablet for shows (only allowed to watch with parent permission and content is limited)

53 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 45 answers → 14 Ray answers

1. I know kids are able to access chat features on school tablets.
2. the name is "X" not "X(formerly Twitter)"
3. They get a total of less than 1 hour per week on the ipad with very restricted apps. Mostly puzzles and coloring.
4. Please ban cell phones and all digital devices in schools. You might provide a locker for them at beginning of the day. It is so important that they socialize and grow face-to-face.
5. they only have ipads because of covid time when schools shut down and they needed to do their school work
6. My child gets very occasional tablet time with educational programs only. Roughly 1-2 hours per week maximum.
7. Our children share a laptop and iPad, plus have old versions of our phones that they use to listen to audiobooks and to talk on FaceTime with grandparents.
8. My children have tablets, but we limit screentime to 30 minutes per day and restrict what they can do on the tablets. The tablets are also used for audiobooks at bedtime.
9. My child is 6 and barely knows what social media is. Keeping it this way for as long as possible!
10. Way too young!
11. We are very concerned about social media and the pressure to have phones in high school. Can we have phone-free schools?
12. Thankfully my kid is too young for these things to become discussion points yet, but that is indeed one long scary list.

13. He received a tablet during COVID for academic purposes; he uses it to listen to Audible books
14. She has access to a Chromebook at home, but uses it for Relay Math and other learning games. She has access to an iPhone that is connected to WiFi and use it for FaceTime with family and to listen to music.

Q53: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q52: What are your thoughts on AI (artificial intelligence) technologies, such as ChatGPT, for use in school or for school projects? Please select up to 3 of the most important choices below for you.*

96 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 90 answers
→ 24 Ray answers

1. I'm worried using AI will prevent students from learning skills that are necessary for an educated society. We can not trust AI to be correct. Students still need to learn the traditional ways to research, fact check and cite credible resources. This is more important that ever. However, AI is here and we need to teach students how to use it to their advantage while also figuring out how to double check the conclusions AI is making.
2. I am very concerned about people losing the ability to generate their own new content. While the rare person will use AI to truly excel and bring new insights, for most people, using AI is a crutch. I am worried particularly about relying on AI to do a first draft of a topic;/ People need to engage with the strategy that goes into choosing e.g. scope and message of an essay, and to be able to discern what data to include. Am very mistrustful of common use for trivial things, including the environmental impact of how energy-intensive AI is.
3. I don't like AI but it is a new world reality. Students will be hurt if they don't have an understanding and ability to navigate ... and think critically about content
4. AI is an important tool. It will be a part of our kids lives, so they need to be prepared to have control of it. That said, use should be very limited in school since students need to learn the original information and concepts to be able to discern fact based ai results vs results that do not make sense.
5. I think teacher and staff can use AI to work more efficiently. Students can use AI tools in grade 5 or higher.
6. To avoid cheating and trust issues, all essays should simply be written in-class, pen and paper. Research papers is another matter entirely. While it is clear that white-collar workers will need to be adept with AI, I am concerned that using this

technology in school will replace the development of cognitive skills (critical thinking, careful assessment of sources, logical reasoning, summarizing, selecting evidence, analyzing) in the same way that screen time replaces time that children would otherwise spend learning social skills (face-reading, verbal communication, and so on).

7. I understand that white collar workers of the present and future will need to be adept with AI, but I fear that learning how to use an easy technology intended to hook users will impair young peoples' capacity to think logically and critically and assess information sources on their own. Please proceed with care. To solve cheating problems: have them write all essays in-class.
8. we have had to discipline colleagues for using AI at work and not verifying facts prior to finalization. AI is often incorrect and does not improve one's knowledge nor skillset
9. If kids have access to something then the school needs to teach the teachers how to teach/use it and the students how to use it responsibly
10. I am currently an AI **** researcher. This technology is inevitable, however it brings with it VERY serious threats on numerous levels. This is a powerful technology that is going to be pervasive and will require thoughtful implementation. You will not be able to prevent the use of AI, but you must very carefully implement it with proper training and safety guidelines.
11. Maybe it is necessary to teach the weaknesses of that technology, and how its can affect the neurological development
12. I am very concerned that my child will not learn and develop critical thinking skills if AI is used in school. I am concerned that students who rely on AI will not be able to assess the accuracy of what it produces. Students learn best through human interactions with their teachers and peers.
13. I have t work with AI at my work and am well aware of how corrosive it is to the process of thinking. I would advocate for teaching how to use it as late as possible.
14. Not a fan of AI being used at school.
15. We firmly believe that AI has to be taught, used, and understood. It is here to stay, so our children must be able to use it properly and understand its dangers and limitations. We believe this means that our children actually need to be even smarter than in previous generations. They need to be able to ask intelligent questions and then question the responses they receive, never taking anything for fact at face-value. They still need to know how to do research and trust their instincts when something doesn't "feel right" or seems too good to be true. This has to go hand-in-hand with teachers' and administrators' intelligent use and questioning of AI, too. We should not shy away from it, and instead acknowledge when something was derived from AI and what choices/ next steps it made us take and why. The "why" is more important than ever.
16. I dont like treating AI like it's the end of the world, but I do think it could have a serious impact on student confidence and coping with the "blank page"
17. With supervision AI can be used

18. I worry about a child using AI for everything, instead of learning how to source reliable information and knowing what is a reliable source - either online or in publication form.
19. My answer was more for K-12 education in general. For Ray specifically, I'd truly hope that AI use/discussion are minimal. I get that some technology is inevitable, but I hope for as much physical in-person/outdoors/hands-on stuff as possible
20. I feel AI should not be used at the elementary school level and that tech should be very limited from grades K-5. I am concerned that already there is too much tech being used in classrooms at this grade level.
21. Go back to hand writing stuff, tech is making everyone dumber
22. AI is a reality that our kids and teachers now face, for better AND worse, and they need to learn how to properly use it, alongside guardrails to limit its use re: various purposes as well. Let's roll up our sleeves and work on effective policies for AI use.
23. I already have concerns that there is no school policy on screen time generally. Currently each teacher (specials, homeroom, music, gym etc) could use screentime for 15 minutes in each of their classrooms or for each subject and the time could majorly add up. I think the elementary school should set a goal of less than 1 hour of screen time per day and then look at what would need to happen to get there. Right now I don't believe the school even knows how much time an individual student might be looking at a screen. Algorithmic educational games can easily camouflage entertainment and addictive patterns. Yes the children are occupied and easy to manage while using these tools, but how do we know they are learning, what they are learning, and that they are not just being babysat by a screen. Continuing to teach critical thinking skills must be at the forefront when considering whether and how to incorporate ai into the classroom.
24. This is why technology has no place in schools. AI makes it impossible to learn.

Q55: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q54: Please assess these aspects of our schools (Intensity of academic focus; Intensity and pressure to succeed; Amount of regular homework; Current Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives; Availability of documented curriculum and similar resources; Availability of additional academic assistance).*

68 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 60 answers
→ 22 Ray answers

1. I am not very familiar with several of these. I would like to see additional opportunities for 'talented and gifted' enrichment for students.
2. I go back and forth on the homework. I think, I think, a more regular cadence of small homework assignments would be good, say Monday, weds, Friday. It seems like there isn't much homework and then all of the sudden a huge project. So the kids aren't use to homework, and then have a ton to do.
3. Some math enrichment would be nice
4. Would like accelerated/advanced options in specific subjects for kids who are ready. Mine often bored in school, really need a challenge.
5. My kids are high achievers and are not challenged in the classroom, beyond little nudges now and then. They are frequently bored in school. I would be glad to see accelerated/advanced options for kids in particular subject areas they are ready for.
6. too much recess, more time should be dedicated to reading, math, science, tech, music, language, etc
7. The pressure to succeed comes mostly from the families. I think success can also be defined as making mistakes and learning from them but I'm not sure that's a consensus among everyone
8. Still basically zero homework in 4th grade. A little bit more would be good so that my child learns to manage their time and keep on top of assignments.
9. I love the Ray school and its staff. My only misgiving relates to the way homework is administered. We receive vague instructions that are tied to online programs, especially about math, which we do not know how to supervise or how to instruct our kids to use (for example, the teacher tells us “tell you kids to practice on this platform”). I would very much prefer if we got specific instructions or work sheets. In general, homework load has been very light for our fifth grader, and we suspect that the adjustment to middle school will be tough.

10. I am in support of DEI work and would be open to more but given the current climate, I said current efforts are just right.
11. I don't feel like I have enough information about this stuff to really know, having just a 1st grader, things seem good for him.
12. We want teachers to bring their expertise to the classroom; this is why we live here! We are also very interested in what the curriculum is that our kids are learning so we can best support them in it. This particularly relates to math and reading, and at least at Ray, we feel that we have adequate information.
13. I don't think there is enough academic assistance for children that need to be pushed a little bit. There is a lot of assistance for children with disabilities or that have academic concerns, but I think everyone else just scoots by
14. My child really struggled with division, and there didn't appear to be any extra help for the child.
15. Curriculum availability is better in recent years, but it's still not enough
16. I really think the kids need more information about DEI- these are hard subjects, but they are being exposed to tropes and other troubling information that they don't really understand. They need a way to assess this information before they parrot it back and hurt people.
17. I really don't know much about any of the questions I just answered "just right" to because they are not as relevant to the Ray school where my kid is a student
18. I would have answered "don't know" to some of these if I could
19. my kids are at ray. my answers could change once they leave ray
20. I think optional math homework and math challenge problems would be welcome in my family. Also publishing a clear syllabus at the beginning of the year for the math curriculum would help me help my child navigate the heterogenous classroom. It would also help me know how to support my child if it looks like she is falling behind.
21. School is for academics.
22. I think the pressure at the high school is frighteningly high. Many students turn to substances to deal with the pressure. My daughter is still young, but I am not sure that her will be comfortable keeping her in Hanover Schools for high school, given her high **** and the perceived pressure.

Q57: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q56: What are the biggest current challenges adversely affecting quality of life in our SAU 70 schools? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers for you.*

53 responses for “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” answers and similar → 52 responses → 7 Ray answers

1. We are very happy and impressed! Thank you! (But concerned about pressures to perform in middle and high school and alcohol/substance use risks in future).
2. It would be great to have after school sports at school.
3. More social events at school
4. Teachers/Nurses having to buy snacks for students
5. student access to phones / screens during the school day. RMS students occasionally use a VPN to watch inappropriate videos during class.
6. Technology - overuse of tech by students
7. Insufficient support offered for children with learning challenges (I'm amazed this was not a possible response above)

76 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 70 answers → 13 Ray answers

1. We are very happy and impressed! Thank you! (But concerned about pressures to perform in middle and high school and alcohol/substance use risks in future).
2. It takes too long for the school bus to reach a nearby neighborhood.
3. Later school start times would allow for more rest for students and families.
4. - More classics and challenging texts to read (every single text in my kid's class this year was about a girl who was from a marginalized identity group / victimized in some way). This would be great, except that the books were way too simple for the grade level, with no additional vocabulary or subject matter acquired. DEI should inform but not dictate the entire English curriculum. - No more Mystery Doug in lieu of science curriculum - Advanced and accelerated classes for kids who are ready
5. Events where families attends to see something that students prepared to show
6. There are some very aggressive and surprisingly violent boys in my daughters **** class and it causes her some stress
7. My 4th grader is a quick learner and is often bored at school because he is not being challenged.
8. The use of phones as a means to socialize, whether it be through texting, social media, or other, is a well-documented and research-based problem that impacts

mental health that we have the ability to address. Our children should talk and interact face-to-face just as much in high school as they do in elementary.

9. I'm so thankful that physical safety and bullying issues are not huge problems here, at least to my knowledge
10. Academic Rigor is an issue at Ray (I only worry about this in the older grades)- I have not heard the same things about RMS and HH.
11. Some teachers give kids candy and put on Mr beast videos
12. Pitting DEI against academic excellence is a recipe for disaster. It is NOT a zero sum game. The idea of equity is that different kids need different things; not that everyone needs the same. I am an ardent supporter of our district's DEI work, but I feel many of its advocates are pitting it against academic excellence. This is the wrong approach. It is a both/and.
13. Let's be honest, we live in a bubble. There are very few, if any, REAL challenges adversely affecting the quality of life in the schools. It's really easy here.

Q59: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q58: What are the current most pressing academic needs within our schools? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers below for you.*

66 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar answers → 63 responses → 7 Ray answers

1. Limited opportunity for advanced study
2. Evaluations
3. sort the students into classes that align with their abilities, rather than having some students bored and others struggling / embarrassed.
4. Consistent curriculum between schools and within grades and subjects that ALLOWS for differentiation
5. More tier one supports
6. Too much DEI taking time away from academics
7. Less testing!!!

48 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 40 answers → 10 Ray answers

1. I have a narrow exposure so far, but am overall impressed. I am sometimes concerned that parts of high school seem very unstructured (that is only hearsay).
2. Not so important, but I'd like evaluations to be more clear
3. In school soccer would be nice

4. the summer "set back" is impactful. Unless parents can afford AND access private tutoring, our child regresses on his retention of the academic foundation built during the prior school year
5. Help students since kindergarten to develop the skill to speak to public (families and school)
6. My 4th grader is a quick learner and is often bored at school because he is not being challenged.
7. Math club? STEM club? Book club? How do parents support the development of these?
8. Optional occasional summer stuff would also be nice
9. More transparency re: the curriculum between schools and within grades and subjects and one that ALLOWS for differentiation (equity does NOT mean same, same, same; diversity and inclusivity do NOT mean designing for the average or lowest common denominators)
10. It seems like what my child learns is very tied to who their teacher is. The endpoint does not always seem the same across each specific grade. This seems problematic to me.

Q61: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q60: What are the most pressing student support and service needs within our schools? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

28 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar answers → 26 responses → 8 Ray answers

1. More support for teachers looking to get help for students whether academic or behavioral
2. Building stronger connections between families
3. Teachers/Nurses having to buy snacks for students
4. Improved quality of school lunches - reduce processed foods and sweetened foods.
5. being tougher on kids that are disruptive and don't follow the rules
6. More support to children with learning disabilities - again, I'm shocked that this response is not included above
7. Food/snack bank at Ray, RMS, and Marion cross administered by school nurse.
8. Less technology. A lot of these are not academic and not necessary in school.

38 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 28 answers
→ 4 Ray answers

1. There should be more grade-level socials. Also, more families need to be in the directory. We need to identify the obstacles to families signing up for the directory. There are many families that are not included and I think it is because of miscommunication. Also, it would be great for teachers to get permission and then send out the parent contact information for their class.
2. More skills for life
3. No particular issues for my kid for this specific question
4. One on one assistance for kids that don't "need" special help but would benefit from it.

Q63: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q62: What are the most pressing concerns for your specific child during the school day? Please choose up to 3 of the most important responses to you below.*

53 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar responses → 52 responses → 15 Ray answers

1. He's happy in school but doesn't think teachers should talk about politics.alk politics or sp
2. lack of motivation - needs to feel more challenged academically
3. concerned there is too much DEI concerns
4. Disciplining in the classroom
5. Disengaged faculty
6. they're advanced for their age, and frequently bored with grade-level instruction.
7. bored in grade-level classes
8. I think there should be some rules about inviting friends to birthday parties at school.
9. He works slowly and at times misses out on some activities because he is soooo slow at completing the prior activity.
10. Child needs more challenging math/science
11. Screen time and candy
12. Self-management of behavior (ADHD) / learning disability (dyslexia) - next year please include these in the response list
13. More project based learning in math and science
14. Too little opportunity to succeed
15. Not challenged enough

53 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 44 answers
→ 13 Ray answers

1. We are happy, healthy and learning. The girls in Ray already start to get into cliques - how does that happen so early?
2. Again, you guys are too focused on political and social issues. Elementary students are cognitively ready for this stuff. You ask about mental health... introducing these issues that they have no control over probably just stress them out. It's pretty ironic that the school does this.
3. My concern is that there are too many distractions in the classroom, causing the teacher to spend more time on disciplining students rather than focusing on academic teaching.
4. My **** wasn't bullied **** last year, but witnessed intense bullying of another student that negatively affected ****. I felt the school was slow to respond when notified.
5. related to a disability, but we are happy with current standards
6. My **** **** an IEP **** **** **** a 504. **** feels as though sometimes teachers push back on **** 504 accommodations. I know teachers have several students but they should be aware of the students who have IEP or 504 plan and what those accommodations are so a student doesn't need to feel badly asking for it.
7. As mentioned I worry about some of the boys behavior but my daughter doesn't seem to be a target and we're preparing her to deal with those issues.
8. A lot of what my children struggle with are age-appropriate things, like wanting to win/ be first. We are seeing more sports-related pressure for our older child; however, and his associated anxiety around not wanting to fail. Helping kids through those age-appropriate struggles is important and I hope Ray continues to do that.
9. Bullying behavior has been handled well by the school staff, but continues to be present. I don't think you can get rid of it, but it is an ongoing topic of conversation in our house.
10. It's not an ongoing problem so I didn't choose it, but there have been multiple occasions (across multiple years and teachers) where there was a minor conflict involving my kid and the teachers/staff immediately go into "defense" mode and deny responsibility with some victim blaming. That was alarming.
11. Self-management of behavior (****) / learning disability (****) - next year please include these in the response list
12. I'm worried my kid gets bored
13. school isn't challenging enough and other students inability to control themselves is distracting.

Q65: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q64: What are the most pressing concerns for your specific child outside of the school day? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers below for you.*

34 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar responses → 32 responses → 5 Ray answers

1. **** has a chronic illness and **** **** change
2. building independence
3. Child needs more exercise outside of school
4. outside of the school day is none of your business.
5. Social media

31 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 23 answers → 3 Ray answers

1. We are greatly concerned that the United States will not be the optimal environment for our children when they reach adulthood. The political climate is exacerbating income inequality, further accelerating climate change, and disintegrating our higher education and world-class research. It makes us sad for their future and, frankly, angry at those in power. It also re-emphasizes our commitment to and need for a fantastic education in SAU 70.
2. Hard to find time for cooking and family dinners with how busy everyone is. Not really the school's direct issue, but nice that they're trying to capture these issues.
3. We're here in part to care for a **** **** **** **** *****.

Q67: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q66: In recent years, the schools have undertaken several large-scale initiatives, such as introducing Pre-K at Marion Cross, after-school athletics at Richmond Middle School (beginning winter 2026), district-wide Strategic Planning and Climate Action Plans, a new septic system and playground at MCS, beginning the rollout of electric buses for Hanover in the next school year, new and renovated track and baseball fields for HHS, and ongoing curriculum documentation and standardization. Within the next 5 years, which new large-scale initiatives are the most important? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

52 responses to “Something else (Please specify):” → 10 Ray answers

1. Maintaining individual student support including 'gifted' opportunities and arts/'specials'.
2. Teacher and staff training. Hire more qualified and experienced teachers
3. The temperature regulation and HVAC systems in schools need major updates.
4. Repairing school buildings and improving air conditioning for all classrooms
5. Repairing the long list of maintenance issues, AC for all buildings.
6. Workforce housing for hard to fill staffing positions
7. increase the quantity and especially the QUALITY of the cafe food. I know it's expensive but our kids shouldn't be offered corn syrup on waffle day. This is NH! Have them go out and tap trees as an activity so they learn the process.
8. Academic excellence; curriculum review / improvements / coordination across grade levels; hiring excellent teachers; improving supports to children with learning challenges
9. 1) Shade structures : <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/19/climate/school-playgrounds-shade-heat.html>. 2) other things to make the schools heat ready: <https://fas.org/publication/extreme-heat-schools/>
10. Norwich 6th grade should come to RMS

49 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 41 answers
→ 10 Ray answers

1. We have by far the worst athletic facilities in the state
2. after-school sports at Ray would be AMAZING.
3. add Chinese as new world language at all grade levels
4. I think a lot of the social pressures to be involved with everything would change if the offerings for sports/music/etc were through the schools and then it would be more equitable. Facilities, staffing and funding are needed to implement the change.
5. Year round full time Pre-K run by the school district would be amazing even if the school district charged tuition at a competitive rate to other daycare providers and offered scholarships to families who need it.
6. I think the playgrounds and drop off areas need more shade structures.
7. Norwich has full public PreK?? Why can't we have nice things in Hanover!?
8. I'm very concerned that "Academic excellence" or "Curriculum review / improvements / coordination across grade levels" or "hiring excellent teachers" or "improving supports to children with learning disabilities" are not options above. Have we taken our eye off the ball? The current curriculum does not meet the needs of all of our students. It is not coordinated across grades or schools. It is not transparent to families. There is not a systematic learning system in place to make improvements to it. There are not aims and measures to evaluate how we are doing. We do not hear about accountability re: the quality of our teachers or administrators. We are not looking after those who need the most support in the classroom. These should be among our school's top priorities as large-scale initiatives.
9. There is a major equity issue between RMS and MCS for 6th grade.
10. I do want to see a more diverse staff that better represents our nation. Therefore I would like to see 50% of the staff and board be republicans.

Q68: Are there any survey questions you think we should ask in the future? Please list any questions, and possibly answers, below.

49 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 43 answers
→ 11 Ray answers

1. What school subjects could use the most improvements.
2. Open-ended questions about what's going well with academics and what could use improvement

3. What do you think about the school food and how much it cost? I think could be more nutritious, with better quality of products, if the school improve lunches, the cost have to increase a little and that is not a problem
4. Ask about the lack of healthy food options served for school breakfast and lunch.
5. Maybe hire more counselors and or educational support
6. It's hard to answer some of these questions when my child is in elementary and I only know a little about March Intensive, etc. (through word of mouth/rumors). Also, I don't know what sports are offered in middle school/HS, etc., and how those facilities are.
7. Perhaps a list of what non-daycare after-school things Ray can have? May be some of the teachers have specific interests that the kids can join? In addition to the usual sports stuff, perhaps things like hiking, kickball, math club, plays (which would be a great winter after-school activity, and doesn't MCS have a theatre club?), Storr's Pond, etc.?
8. Have a shorter survey for the second kid. It will take forever to answer all these questions again when some of them are really family specific not student specific.
9. How well do people think taxes are spent
10. There should be more questions dedicated to the quality of teaching, the accountability of administrators, ways to improve the curriculum, ways to support children with learning challenges.
11. Would parents be open to smartphone bans during school?

Q69: Did we miss anything about these issues, or anything else, that you think is important for us to know? Please put anything here that is not covered by the other survey questions.

**72 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 63 answers
→ 9 Ray answers**

1. Thank you for asking! We are so appreciative to live in Hanover and to have such an engaged, responsive and excellent school system.
2. 1) Hard to find parking during pickup hours. Can we expand the parking lot or improve school bus route? 2) It currently takes the school bus 40 minutes to reach a nearby neighborhood that's only a 5-minute drive away. Is there any way to improve the route or reduce the travel time?
3. Elementary music class needs to be re-assessed to mature with students. The curriculum past 2nd grade is too young and students disengage.
4. Hanover schools have an undeserved reputation. There is nothing excellent about the approach to education here despite some sort of pride in being the “best” in the

upper valley. As an acquaintance of mine put it, “Hanover found itself in third base and thought it hit a triple”.... No standards of performance..

5. Please work on removing phones from all the schools. Students should leave their devices in locked boxes when they enter school and get them back at the end of the school day. The book "anxious generation" has helped me to see how harmful these devices are and school needs to be a safe space away from them so kids can socialize without tech and focus on classes
6. Just saying thank you — we could not be happier with our child’s school, teachers, and administration. Keep up the amazing work!
7. Can't think of anything, nice job
8. There should be more focus on the quality of teaching, the accountability of administrators, ways to improve the curriculum, ways to support children with learning challenges.
9. Smartphone ban? <https://eagletimes.com/2023/09/08/school-board-briefed-on-stevens-cell-phone-policy/> PCB testing? <https://www.vnews.com/Hartford-School-District-grapples-with-PCB-removal-project-60901067>