LT Vision Survey Composite Results — September 2026

1,215 total responses collected electronically during the week of September 14–18 using SurveyMonkey.

Student	**212**	**17.68%**
Family-Parent/Guardian	**395**	**32.94%**
Community	**206**	**8.42%**
Staff	**101**	**17.18%**
Alumni	**511**	**42.62%**
Total	**1425**	**1215** **Individual responses (some checked more than one role)**

Top 25 Learnings from the Ranked-Choice Responses

I reviewed the composite ranked-choice results across the vision survey. The survey includes **1,215 complete responses**, representing students, parents/guardians, staff, community members, and alumni.

A caution in interpreting the results: the ranking scores are most useful **within each question**, rather than comparing a 3.2 on one question directly with a 3.2 on another. I therefore looked for both **strong first-place rankings and themes that repeatedly surfaced across multiple questions**.

The 25 Most Important Learnings

1. **Critical thinking and problem solving rise to the top.** When respondents were asked what schools should prioritize to prepare students for the future, critical thinking/problem solving was the decisive first choice—**64.55% ranked it #1**.

2. **The community wants learning connected much more strongly to real life.** This may be the clearest instructional message in the survey: **75.72%** ranked stronger connections to real life first when asked what would make learning more relevant and meaningful.

3. **Career exploration should be an experience for every student.** Career pathway exploration was ranked first by **56.72%** when respondents considered the learning experience every student should have.

4. **Future readiness is broader than traditional academic preparation.** Across several questions, respondents emphasized life skills, adaptability, problem solving, career readiness, communication, and future-ready skills—not academics alone. Life and personal-management skills, for example, ranked first for **43.91%** on the post-graduation question.

5. **Adaptability and resilience are essential graduate capabilities.** When asked which student skills schools should develop most, **50.13%** ranked adaptability and resilience first.

6. **Career readiness and college readiness should coexist rather than compete.** Both received strong support in the future-outcomes questions, suggesting LT's future vision should prepare students for **multiple postsecondary pathways**, rather than define success through one destination.

7. **Experiential learning is strongly preferred.** Real-world learning and hands-on/project-based learning were essentially tied as the strongest ways students learn—scores of **3.06 and 3.05**, respectively.

8. **Career-connected learning is viewed as a major driver of engagement.** Nearly half of respondents (**48.86%**) ranked career-connected learning first for increasing student engagement.

9. **Student ownership and agency matter.** Respondents prioritized students taking greater ownership of their learning, having meaningful choices, assuming responsibility, setting goals, and demonstrating what they know in different ways. Student ownership and agency received a particularly strong **3.01** ranking score in Q20.

10. **Leadership should become something students practice, not simply study.** Developing leadership skills and leading initiatives/projects were consistently preferred student opportunities; **51.82%** ranked leading initiatives and projects first in Q18.

11. **Belonging is foundational to the desired school culture.** Respondents identified a strong sense of belonging as the leading characteristic of a positive school culture, with **41.59% ranking it first**.

12. **Being known, valued, and respected matters to student success.** When asked when students are most successful, feeling valued and respected clearly led the choices, with **39.06% ranking it first** and a 3.04 score.

13. **Relationships, trust, and respect repeatedly emerge as cultural priorities.** Positive relationships and belonging, mutual respect and trust, and supportive connections appear across multiple questions. This suggests relationships are not a secondary "culture" issue—they are part of the conditions respondents believe produce student success.

14. **Student support systems should be strengthened.** Comprehensive student-support systems ranked ahead of the other support options, with **37.66% ranking them first**, followed closely by mental-health services.

15. **Families remain the district's most important external partners.** When respondents were asked which partnerships schools should strengthen, **54.48% ranked families first**, substantially ahead of businesses, community organizations, and colleges/universities.

16. **Communication with families is as important as simply increasing family activities.** Communication with families clearly ranked first among the partnership priorities, with **46.90% selecting it first**.

17. **Exceptional staff are defined first by instructional quality and continuous growth.** Respondents strongly prioritized staff who **inspire learning and growth**, educators who encourage and support students, and especially the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff. In Q29, **77.10%** ranked

recruiting and retaining high-quality staff first.

18. **A strong adult culture is built around respect and trust.** In the staff/culture portion of the survey, **70.48%** ranked respect and trust first as the defining feature of a strong school culture—one of the strongest first-choice results in the entire survey.

19. **Resources should first protect the academic core while enabling innovation.** Academic achievement and learning received the strongest resource priority (**51.44% first choice**), while expanded student learning opportunities were viewed as the investment with the greatest impact on student success. Innovation itself leaned toward **instructional practices and creative problem solving**, rather than technology for technology's sake.

20. **The ultimate graduate is capable, employable, adaptable, and grounded in character.** Across the final Graduate Portrait questions, respondents emphasized **problem solving, strong life and employability skills, success in college/training, future-ready skills, character and integrity, and adaptability**. Particularly striking, **55.74%** ranked strong life and employability skills first for whatevery graduate should leave school possessing.

21. **Communication and collaboration remain essential future-ready skills.** Respondents see success as requiring more than individual academic achievement. Students need to communicate effectively, work with others, build relationships, and solve problems collaboratively. In Q2, communication and collaboration ranked second behind critical thinking/problem solving.

22. **Student choice increases engagement—but choice should come with responsibility.** The results connect greater choice in learning with greater responsibility for learning. In Q19, these were virtually tied as the two strongest drivers of student engagement, suggesting that **agency and accountability belong together**.

23. **Technology and AI are tools—not the vision itself.** Across several questions, technology-related choices tended to rank below critical thinking, real-world learning, career connections, and student agency. The composite message is not "more technology," but rather **use technology purposefully to strengthen learning and prepare students for the future**. For example, technology-enhanced learning ranked fourth in Q8.

24. **The future high school experience should provide multiple pathways to success.** College preparation remains important, but respondents also value career preparation, work-based learning, career exploration, life skills, and other postsecondary possibilities. The emerging vision is therefore broader than a traditional **college-readiness model**.

25. **The strongest vision integrates academic excellence with whole-student development.** Taken together, the rankings do not suggest abandoning academic achievement. Rather, respondents consistently pair strong academics with **belonging, relationships, resilience, leadership, agency, life skills, career readiness, and character**. This is an important overarching finding because it describes the kind of balance stakeholders appear to want in LT's future.

The Big Story

When I step back from the individual rankings, I see a remarkably coherent picture of the future the respondents are describing:

LT should prepare students not simply to succeed academically, but to think critically, solve problems, adapt, lead, communicate, manage their lives, pursue meaningful college and career pathways, and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

And respondents appear to be saying that the **way** LT gets there matters just as much:

Make learning more relevant, real-world, experiential, career-connected, student-owned, relationship-centered, and supported by exceptional educators, strong families, and a culture of belonging and trust.

Six Composite Themes

I would synthesize the 25 learnings into **six major messages for the Vision Retreat**:

FUTURE-READY GRADUATES → Critical thinking • Problem solving • Adaptability • Life skills • Employability • Character

RELEVANT & ENGAGING LEARNING → Real-world • Hands-on • Project-based • Career-connected • Expanded opportunities

STUDENT AGENCY & LEADERSHIP → Voice • Choice • Ownership • Responsibility • Goal setting • Leadership

BELONGING, RELATIONSHIPS & SUPPORT → Known • Valued • Respected • Safe • Connected • Supported

EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE & CULTURE → High-quality educators • Continuous growth • Trust • Respect • Collaboration

FAMILY & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS → Strong family partnerships • Communication • Career/community connections • Postsecondary partnerships

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These composite findings provide **strong support for the direction of the emerging LT Preferred Future—especially GROW • LEAD • THRIVE and the emphasis on future readiness, engaging and relevant learning, belonging and support, student agency, exceptional staff, and strong partnerships.**

The survey is not pointing toward one isolated new initiative; it is pointing toward a **more relevant, student-centered, future-ready high school experience.**

If we reduced all 25 to one overarching message:

Preserve LT's commitment to academic excellence while creating a more relevant, engaging, personalized, relationship-centered, and future-ready experience that empowers every student to grow, lead, and thrive.

I think **#23 is particularly important for the Vision Retreat**. The results seem to distinguish between **innovation as simply adding technology** and **innovation as redesigning learning** around relevance, problem solving, student agency, and authentic experiences. That could be a powerful discussion point for the group.

Organizing the 25 most important learnings under the six themes provides clear direction. It makes the findings easier to connect directly to the **Bold Vision and Preferred Future Statement**. It was so terrific that we identified the themes ahead of time and aligned the vision questions to the themes.

1. FUTURE-READY GRADUATES

Critical thinking • Problem solving • Adaptability • Life skills • Employability • Character

1. **Critical thinking and problem solving** are essential outcomes for every graduate.
2. Students need **adaptability, resilience, and the ability to navigate change**.
3. Graduates need strong **life skills, confidence, independence, and personal responsibility**.
4. Students should leave LT prepared for **multiple pathways after high school**—college, career, training, service, and other meaningful opportunities.
5. **Academic excellence and whole-student development** should work together—not compete with one another.

2. RELEVANT & ENGAGING LEARNING

Real-world • Hands-on • Project-based • Career-connected • Expanded opportunities

6. Students want learning that is **relevant to their lives and their futures**.
7. **Hands-on, experiential, and project-based learning** should play a larger role in the high school experience.
8. Students value stronger connections between **classroom learning and real-world applications**.
9. LT should expand **career-connected learning, internships, dual credit, and other authentic experiences**.
10. **Technology and AI should be purposeful tools for learning**, not the vision itself.

3. STUDENT AGENCY & LEADERSHIP

Voice • Choice • Ownership • Responsibility • Goal setting • Leadership

11. Students want greater **voice and choice** in their learning experiences.
12. Students should have more opportunities to **take ownership of their learning and future**.
13. Greater choice should be accompanied by greater **responsibility and accountability**.
14. Students need opportunities to **set goals, make decisions, reflect, and advocate for themselves**.
15. Leadership should be developed in **every student**, not only students holding formal leadership positions.

4. BELONGING, RELATIONSHIPS & SUPPORT

Known • Valued • Respected • Safe • Connected • Supported

16. Every student should feel **known, valued, respected, and connected** at LT.
17. Strong **student-teacher relationships** are central to engagement and success.
18. Students need learning environments that are **physically and psychologically safe**.
19. **Well-being and appropriate supports** are essential conditions for students to learn and thrive.

5. EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE & CULTURE

High-quality educators • Continuous growth • Trust • Respect • Collaboration

20. **High-quality educators** remain one of the most important influences on the student experience.
21. A strong culture depends on **trust, respect, collaboration, and shared responsibility**.
22. Staff need opportunities for **continuous professional growth, learning, feedback, and innovation**.
23. **Communication and collaboration** are increasingly important skills—for both students and adults.

6. FAMILY & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Strong family partnerships • Communication • Career/community connections • Postsecondary partnerships

24. Strong **family partnerships and two-way communication** strengthen the student experience.
25. LT should deepen **community, employer, college, university, and postsecondary partnerships** to expand opportunities for students.

The Big Story

Across all 25 learnings, I see one especially strong message:

Preserve LT's tradition of academic excellence while creating a more relevant, engaging, personalized, relationship-centered, and future-ready experience that empowers every student to GROW • LEAD • THRIVE.

These six themes also give you a very clean framework for moving from the **25 individual learnings → six big ideas → the Bold Vision → the Preferred Future Statement**.