

Open ended responses to ASD's September, 2022 Community Budget Survey

There were over 3,000 open ended responses to the budget survey. The comments were categorized and summarized in order to provide an overview of the respondents' recommendations.

Administration: There were many comments about reducing Administration, both at the Ed Center and principals (assistant principals) at the school level. The majority of those who commented wanted cuts to come from positions that did not directly work with students and expressed concern about increasing class sizes.

Closing/consolidating schools: There was broad support from those who commented for closing and consolidating underutilized buildings (this included schools and the district offices). There was concern expressed about crowded classrooms if schools were to be closed. Note: quite a few commented that new schools should not be built if the district is talking about closing buildings.

Curriculum: Many of the respondents expressed frustration about frequent curriculum adoptions; expense of the purchase, trainings, and the amount of resources that are not used. A consistent sentiment was to use what the district has in place already.

Contracting outside consultants: Concerns and frustration expressed from some respondents in the use of expensive outside agencies/consultants for training sessions rather than utilizing district staff/experts as trainers.

Specialists: There were quite a few submissions on the topic of specialists. The largest focus of comments submitted was to put specialists back in the classroom to bring down class sizes. The positions/subjects that were frequently highlighted for elimination or change in delivery were:

- Instructional Coaches
- Health Teachers
- Librarians

Sports & Activities / Art & Music: A large mix of responses on these topics/classes. Passionate support from those who see extra curriculars as activities that keep kids in school and those who support cutting all activities to focus on the basics of education (core subjects).

Some cost saving suggestions:

- Outsourcing sports and activities
- No travel (or only essential players travel)
- No bussing for in-town games
- Increasing admission to games/events
- Remove the sports fee cap
- Increase fees
- Cut band and orchestra at the elementary level

Immersion, Charter schools, IGNITE, Highly Gifted: A large scale and scope of responses on these programs. Responses ranged from life changing experiences through participation in the program(s) (don't cut under any circumstances) to cutting programs that did not serve all students equally and concerns about expense. Note: suggested to deliver IGNITE within the classroom WIN time.

Funding options: Some of the suggestions and ideas that were submitted:

- Lobbying for increased BSA (inflation proofing)
- Fund raising at the school level
- Applying for grants
- Increase taxes (tourism, income, alcohol/tobacco/marijuana)
- Use money from PFD
- Community partnerships/corporate sponsors
- Rent out buildings for community events/conventions
- Offer before and after school childcare (charge for)
- Temporary freeze on raises for all employees
- Advertise on school buses
- Statewide lottery
- Provide foreign language instruction to adults, using immersion teachers, in order to increase revenue.

Four-day work week: There was a volume of support from those who responded to the survey to extend the school day and move to a four-day work week. This would save on utilities, transportation, etc., and may also open up planning/PD time for teachers.

Protect the classroom/PTR: large volume of responses in support of cutting outside the classroom and protecting PTR as much as possible.

Technology: Many respondents who commented on technology suggested cutting the amount of technology (devices for students, particularly in elementary school), and the number of programs (redundancy).

6th grade to middle school: Many people who commented suggested moving 6th graders to middle school.

Resource saving suggestions:

- Shared services with municipality or outsource to private industry on non-classroom functions
- Tighter parameters on ordering/excessive inventory
- Less printing/paper. Reduce number of copiers (copier contracts) at schools.
- Turn down heat
- Smart lights that turn off when no one is in the room
- Curb the "use it or lose it" mentality for year end money

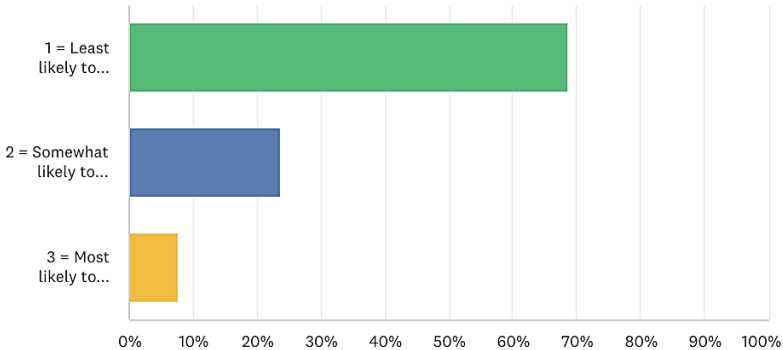
There were additional topics commented on but not as high in volume:

- Transportation
- Special Education / behaviors in classroom
- Testing
- Preschool
- Mental Health services
- Student Nutrition
- SROs
- Online school options

September 2022 Survey Results (Questions 1-4)

Increase in Class Sizes

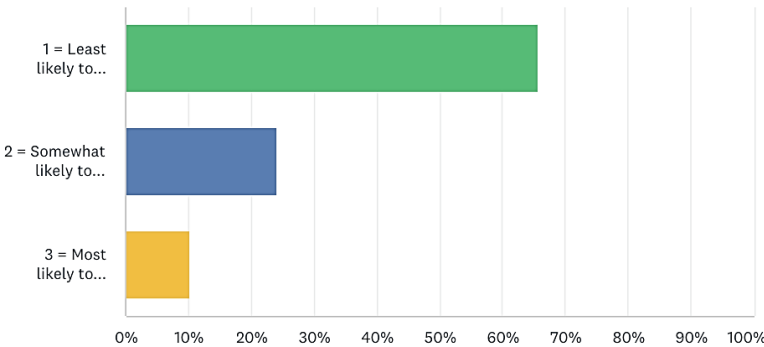
Answered: 5,689 Skipped: 39



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1 = Least likely to support	68.68% 3,907
2 = Somewhat likely to support	23.66% 1,346
3 = Most likely to support	7.66% 436
TOTAL	5,689

Reduction in some Student Supports (library, counseling, health, etc.)

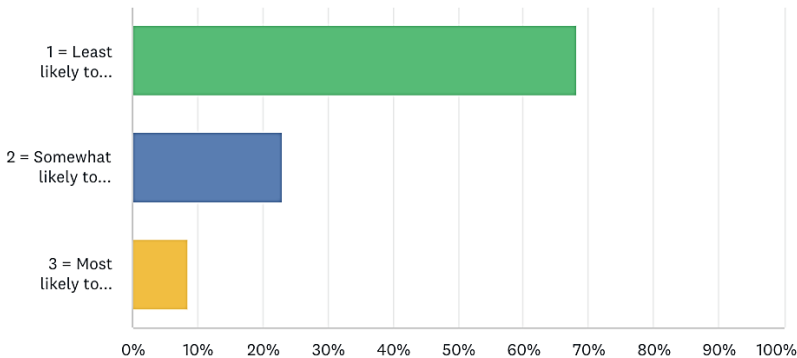
Answered: 5,687 Skipped: 41



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1 = Least likely to support	65.57% 3,729
2 = Somewhat likely to support	24.18% 1,375
3 = Most likely to support	10.25% 583
TOTAL	5,687

Reduction in some Elective course choices (Career Technical Education, Music, Fine Arts, Languages, etc.)

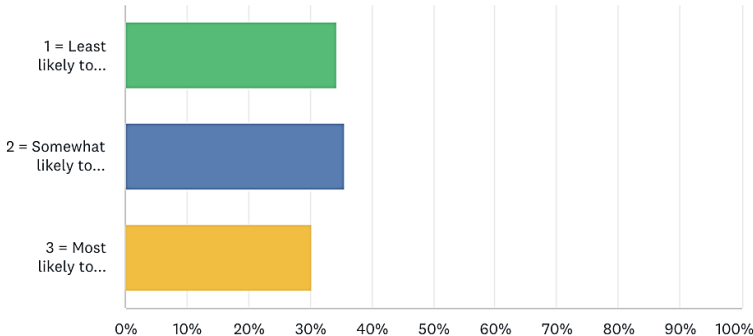
Answered: 5,689 Skipped: 39



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1 = Least likely to support	68.32% 3,887
2 = Somewhat likely to support	23.13% 1,316
3 = Most likely to support	8.54% 486
TOTAL	5,689

Reduction in support for school and district functions in areas such as curriculum, athletics, discipline, professional development and all other support functions involved in administration

Answered: 5,679 Skipped: 49

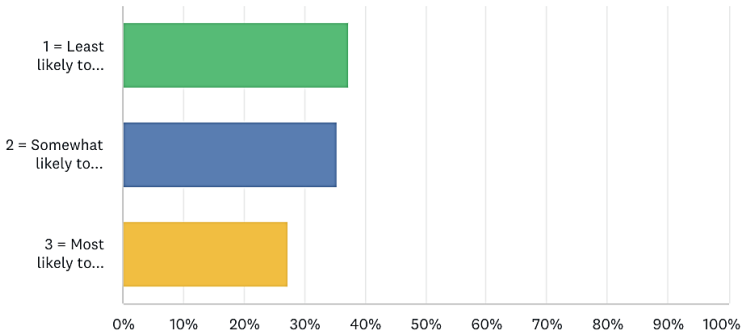


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1 = Least likely to support	34.27% 1,946
2 = Somewhat likely to support	35.52% 2,017
3 = Most likely to support	30.22% 1,716
TOTAL	5,679

September 2022 Survey Results (Questions 5-7)

Reduction in some before and after school activities (clubs, sports, etc.)

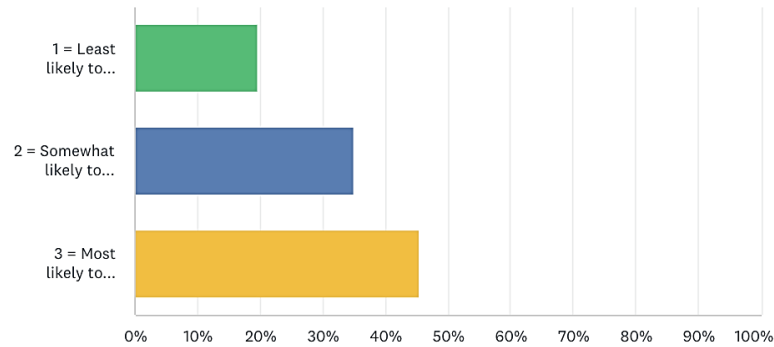
Answered: 5,693 Skipped: 35



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1 = Least likely to support	37.29% 2,123
2 = Somewhat likely to support	35.36% 2,013
3 = Most likely to support	27.35% 1,557
TOTAL	5,693

Reduce excess building capacities by merging schools/programs in order to be more efficient in the use of our facilities

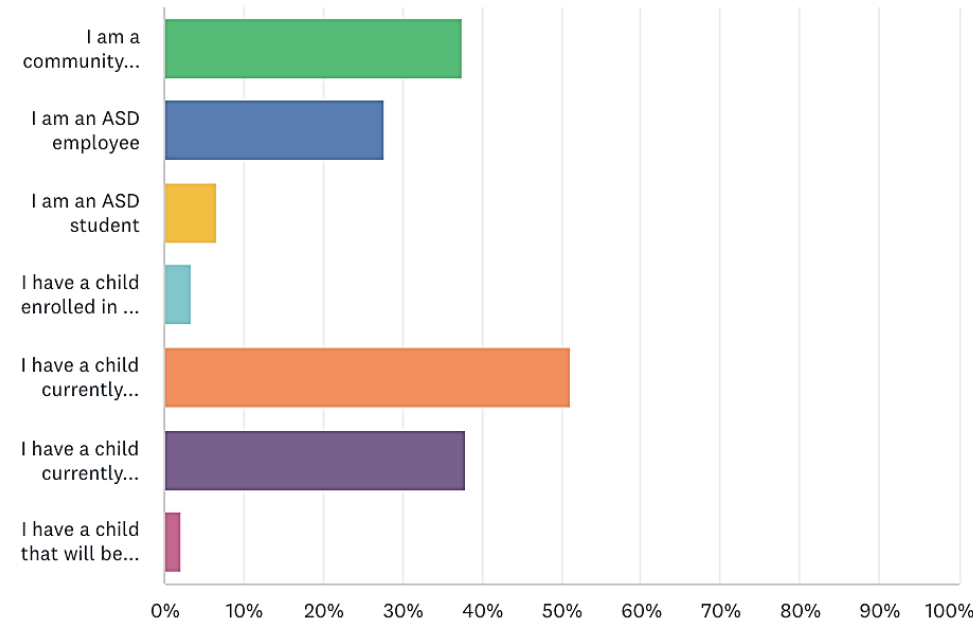
Answered: 5,693 Skipped: 35



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1 = Least likely to support	19.57% 1,114
2 = Somewhat likely to support	34.94% 1,989
3 = Most likely to support	45.49% 2,590
TOTAL	5,693

Which descriptor(s) best describe you? (check all that apply)

Answered: 5,689 Skipped: 39



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I am a community member	37.55% 2,136
I am an ASD employee	27.63% 1,572
I am an ASD student	6.56% 373
I have a child enrolled in a private or home school program outside ASD	3.41% 194
I have a child currently enrolled in ASD in Pre-K through 6th grade	51.24% 2,915
I have a child currently enrolled in ASD in 7th-12th grade	37.99% 2,161
I have a child that will be enrolled in ASD, but no child currently enrolled	2.04% 116
Total Respondents: 5,689	