

ESSER III Community Stakeholder Survey – June 2021

Qualitative Comments

(No editorial changes made except for spelling and deletion of "No/None/N/A or No Comment" Responses)

Please consider reinstating study hall for high school students. This year's Illinois Student Advisory Council comprised of 21 students from districts throughout Illinois; were tasked with developing ways to respond to post COVID-19 achievement gaps, create a diversity, equality, and inclusion framework, while ensuring the social and emotional well-being of students. The Comprehensive Center Network Region 9 hosted the Webinar on June 8, 2021 where the students presented their findings. One of many suggestions by the ISAC was to develop or enhance tutoring at schools DURING the school day where they did not have to choose between going to tutoring or going to lunch. They wanted both. Attending lunch with their peers promotes their social and emotional well-being; while enhanced tutoring (which I think can be achieved through study halls) will help them succeed academically. They also suggested that we "destigmatize" tutoring so that it is viewed through an asset lens.

Que preparen los salones para que los niños regresen a la escuela., no hay mejor forma de aprender para un niño pequeño que estando en persona con la maestra

That you prepare the classrooms so that the kids may return to school, there is no better way to learn for a little child than being in person with the teacher.

1. Provide more professional development for teachers, if there will be a continued hybrid model. Including better management for non-engaged remote learners
 2. Mandate vaccines for any student/ staff that is able to receive the vaccine ages 12+
- Continue to seek ways to allow flexibility in scheduling so teachers and students have opportunities for individualized re-teaching and conferencing.

Build out more facilities to expand size of classrooms to encourage distancing and hire more teachers
Allow for smaller class sizes (up to 15 each), especially in K-5 classrooms; OR Allow for at least 2 educators (whether licensed teachers, substitutes, or paraprofessionals) to service the needs of students in smaller groups within the same classroom. This will provide for more focused, intentional, and re-teaching needs for students not being given the chance to have in-person instruction with an adult educator nor the chance to learn from other students in the class via group projects, critical thinking share-outs, and social interactions (small groups in class; recess; after-school activities; etc.)

Cameras in the classrooms so parents can log on and see their kids.

Ninguno gracias (Nothing thanks)

Students need.

Social emotional learning and support

One Time

Contratar personal para educacion sobre salud publica y que puedan hacer actividades de promotion y prevencion de la salud.

Contract staff for education about public health and to have activities about health promotion and prevention.)

I think it should be considered to utilize some of the monies to keep children at home with online learning, as well as provide free home internet. Another option could be to have morning / afternoon classes with limited number of students and sanitizing in-between.

Allocate funds for diversity for all races

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Hire more staff to provide smaller classes and safe social distancing

Provide remedial education to all students to catch them up for education lost during this pandemic while they received virtual instruction.

Beyond summer enrichment, we should offer after school opportunities.

Send home weekend food packets

Provide supplies to sanitize facilities including gym equipment and playground.

install more "hands free" fixtures in bathrooms. (handles, etc.)

Update facilities in all district buildings so they are safe and do not hinder the education process. Ventilation, AC/heating, plumbing, floors, and ceilings should be repaired. The district's technology staff should be given more people and more funding, as we have seen through COVID, weaknesses in the system can lead to very big problems.

TARGETING LEARNING GAPS: Develop a before/after school/Saturday tutoring program that targets the specific needs of students in content areas. Students only need to attend to address gaps and would cycle in and out of program as needed. Teachers share data from course assessments with tutors so they can focus on specific areas of need. (Tutors focus only on the area of need and not the whole unit.) Tutors work directly with teachers to address learning gaps, assess for mastery, and provide progress reports to teachers with new assessment data. Build in some sort of incentive for students meeting goals with tutors. Be ready for any SEL issues that will present themselves as a part of addressing these gaps. Hire existing WHS teachers, hire retired teachers or teachers-in-training to support students either in person or virtually.

MEETING TECHNOLOGY REPAIR NEEDS OF STUDENTS: Additional student devices in the district means there is an additional need for device troubleshooting and repairs. "Seed" funds to develop a CTE course curriculum that teaches students how to troubleshoot and repair Chromebooks. Course would also provide instruction on, but not limited to, effective customer service, Dell Chromebook repair certification, tracks toward Chrome Cloud Certification, and toward Microsoft Technology Associate Certification options. Work with WPSS Union to ensure that this course compliments the work already being done by staff, provides additional Chromebook troubleshooting and repair support for the district, provides efficient customer service and effectively prepares students for the workforce. Although the course would extend beyond 2024, funds to get the course started would be for additional repair equipment at both campuses, any classroom workspace updates (electricity, construction, etc.) orientation for CTE teachers at both buildings, collaborative curriculum planning between teachers, CTE Department Academic Coordinator, and WPSS Union.

<https://cloud.google.com/certification/register>

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/topic/earn-a-microsoft-technology-associate-mta-certification-357215d0-31ce-0620-feba-1bb60165b770>

I strongly believe that students will be proud of their school and more motivated to learn in an environment that reflects that we find the environment that they are learning in to be important. Our bathrooms are a complete disaster and our classrooms could definitely use new furniture and teachers need new desks and chairs. I believe this is long overdue.

Transportation for most of the students.

Any findings should continue throughout all the pandemic. Hybrid students should have more funding, as they are trying to get back to the new "norm"

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Funding used for students to be engaged in various ways during and after school (books, clubs, tech, sports, arts, debate, community service, etc.). Students WANT these activities we can incorporate into the school day (lunch/advisory/ENCORE, etc.) and after school (clubs, extra period, provide transportation).

Upgrade facilities in older schools. Really take a look at the condition of them. They're embarrassing and there is no "pride of ownership".

Bring in speakers to schools for SEL assemblies about coping with trauma.

Block amount to each school, and principal and staff at each school determine how best to use it for their school.

Restore services for ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS that were disrupted due to COVID-19 /

Fix parking lots as needed. More lighting around the school

Fix building structures as need it. Heating and air conditioning on buildings that needs them.

In my opinion we need to get these children that have fallen behind due to COVID caught up

"Hazard" stipend for employees that work with non- vaccinated students.

Think about all the children not just the Hispanic children that outnumber all the other races in North Elementary School

Books and materials/backpacks for incoming K and early elementary age students

HEPA filters and proper ventilations in all rooms

Funds for physical building improvements.

Mental health support due to kids and staff and families being stressed due to pandemic

Reduce class sizes

Más ayuda para los maestros en el salón de clase.

More help for the teachers

Open school buildings w/fully certified staff (STIPEND PAY ONLY) AND BUSSING on Saturday mornings for STUDENT Wi-Fi support/study hall focus.

Fix the bathrooms for students, teachers, and visiting teams. Hire more support staff, counselors, speech therapists, and psychologists to help deal with the aftermath of the pandemic....

I strongly encourage the consideration of hiring additional teachers. Teaching remotely AND in person is extremely difficult (any teacher can give you a myriad of reason why). To ensure the learning gap is decreased and new learning occurs at grade level, there should be designations for teachers to have all students remote OR in person. This allows parent choice in sending their student in person or remaining in the home, as well as facilitating the optimal social-emotional environment for student-teacher relationships.

Also for the students returning in person, alternative seating should be considered. Students have spent over a year attending class in their bed, on the floor, sitting at the kitchen table, standing up, laying down, etc. When they come back into the classroom it needs to be a place they want to come. As trivial as it sounds, different and

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fun alternative seating / workstations, can create a space they look forward to going to. At the middle school getting them to want to come into class and learn is a challenge, so any gimmick helps.

Provide after school activities (for students) expanding learning and achievement

Development of our Equity Department(Positions and programs)

Capacitar al personal

buy students their own school supplies and manipulatives for the year

Social-Emotional Learning - Counselors and Professional Development

Making sure all children in the district have the proper tools for learning. Laptop, tablet, book, etc.

Development of the Dual Language program to be better and more appropriate for the community it serves, especially since there was a lot of delay in learning language due to online learning and not having adequate support.

Science of reading teaching strategies and curriculum to meet our strategic goal of students reading at grade level by 3rd grade

I am not a community advocate, but because it was a required response I clicked "students with disabilities"

Build a new state of the art high school facility

Additional staff to help work in small groups or 1:1 to support the students at their level.

Increase budget for hands-on content supplies to reestablish student physical activity including Physical Education, Art, Music, STEM, STEAM, and Science.

Do not use the funds on sport teams. Education should be a priority above all

I gave low importance to the COVID related items such as rapid testing as I assume Waukegan being a low income high infection rate city it will be receiving free COVID SHEILD testing funded by the state. Per a press release issued by the Governor's office 6/9/21.

Summer school fund for students in elementary and middle school that have fallen off track.

Provide sufficient support for ELLs and DL students

Additional support staff for d.l. students

Hire more teachers to decrease student to teacher ratio. It could turn into something that lasts more than a year if we see very good results

I would like to see the mobile units of all schools torn down and replaced with permanent additions.

I'm parent, not advocate. Should not be required to answer the question after that. Also, ranking question says 10 high 1 lowest. But only 1 2 or 3 are options we're initially visible on phone.

Update school materials and tastier lunches to choose from and increase wages for all schools staff

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Increased number of social workers, psychologists, and professionals that can integrate SEL into the school's daily routines. This should not be an afterthought anymore. The pandemic has highlighted the great need for these services that are currently not being provided.

Technology upgrades of infrastructure and connectivity should include boards and computers for teachers that work properly. When going back not all the equipment worked properly and that takes time from teaching trying to fix things in the middle of class.

Additional hazards compensation for the teachers

Aside from learning, socialization has been lost. Have more group time with children. Let them have a longer recess and more hands on activities/fun with their classmates. Incorporate learning into these activities.

Expanding buildings to accommodate smaller class sizes.

Put the money in good use.

All support should be for student amenities not to restrict and track children with issues that rarely effect most of them. No masks, no distance, no tracing or testing. That is a violation of the rights of children. Focus on educating and serving the children which is your one and only purpose.

Purchase of Achievement Dashboard to monitor our student's progress on their interventions, a dl support person (preferably a school psychologist) hired to guide the MTSS team, math interventionists in each school elementary building, and elementary school counselors in each building.

I feel strongly that the funding should focus on the instruction resources and supports for our students; we have a good foundation of safety and tracing measures already in place; parents need to know the schools are behind the need to get back into the classrooms and meet our students where they are at so we can keep moving along with accelerated learning and meeting the needs of all types of learners without interruptions. This includes training for administration and staff groups together so the individual leadership teams per building have a better plan of action of how to work with students from the place they are at, and not in a "learning loss" mindset. This will allow all learners to be treated with equity and provide supports needed to "get back on track" from a long disruption.

A majority of the funds should go to the TEACHERS and SUPPORT STAFF via bonuses. They deserve the funds as they are underpaid and overworked.

Please hire more teachers and support staff to work directly with students.

I don't have enough expertise to write an option.

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Short term

Increase teaching staff to allow smaller groups and more specialized support

Hygiene and prevention workshops for families, and the science behind viral contamination and pandemics.

There's a lot of misinformation among our students and families.

Provide Staff a bonus for their hard work and efforts.

We need Family Resource Centers in our community to help parents and students.

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After school tutoring for all grade levels PreK - 12 provided before and after school for those students that have greatly fallen behind and find themselves 3 to 4 years behind grade level.

Good training and implementation of PBIS

Upgrade teachers' remote home internet connection and ergonomic office setup

Equity and Access initiatives are important.

Provide a paraprofessional in each K-2 classroom so that more small-group and individualized instruction can take place each day.

THANKS

More resources for PreK students

I believe that the district should purchase a complete reading/phonics curriculum. Being a good reader is crucial to being successful in all other subject areas. It would also be helpful to have more training available to teachers, especially in the areas of reading and learning disabilities.

Expand on diverse curriculum to include all of our students and ensure that everyone has a chance to learn about their culture. Also, provide support to families that have been or were exposed to the COVID-19 to ensure they are safe and able to continue learning from home.

A Career fair for 8th grade students; general Transition support for 8th graders and High school seniors

Add on to buildings to support smaller class size

Nothing at this time.

Parent and school connections programs

Give the teacher's raises.

Not at this time

I would like to see more opportunities for students to attend enrichment programs / high level (noncredit recovery) classes for summer school, additional opportunities for students to have access to higher level, rigorous courses (so they can be more competitive with their peers in other districts), a language lab to support students wanting to get to higher levels of Spanish in our district, and in middle school where students often time don't have a teacher (often covered by subs) better programming to support learning Spanish.

Paraprofessionals in all K-3 classes to help with small group reading and math

No tracing, tracking, distancing or masking of children. That is irrational and unscientific.

Technology is "essential", with all students (and teachers) having some form of it (laptop, tablet) being used for learning, in District or remote. Getting every classroom upgraded properly and fully equipped with today technology, flatscreens screen/tv projection, dual monitors connection, security cameras, in support of the teachers and safety. Removing all outdated technology from the environment for staff and students, this is critical and will impact learning. Technology is not going away, and an investment so the District is equipped for 3-5yrs out, will impact student learning for the better. No, technology can't make a student want to do homework, or get an 'A' but it does give a foundation of support for achieving that goal.

Socio-Emotional support for students and families; so many lost loved ones to COVID.

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Community engagement programs to bring families back into the fold to better support families so they can learn strategies to support their students during all these transitions and give them tools for the future.

Books for students and classroom libraries

Connect with JIC and CLC in establishing a program that would help students who cannot maintain working in a high school environment but would benefit from a program that gets them through high school and right into college. Unlike the current program this program will focus on students who have decided to obtain a GED rather than a diploma. This program would allow students to seek out a diploma as well as walk right into a college program.

There also needs to be a class room (starting in the 9th grade) where the students learn life skills such as balance a check book (outside of a consumer's ed course), establishing and maintaining credit, and running a business while still maintain their education

Infrastructure at Lyon Magnet: We would benefit from having a library, a music room, and an art room.

Safety should be a priority for all students and staff.

Keep remind - great communication tool with parents

I would like to see a handicap accessible park closer to the school. With the amount of time for recess and walk to the playground my daughter rarely gets to play at the park. I also feel that the other handicapped children would love some outside assisted play.

Invest in mental health resources.

Charla virtual, por parte de organismos de salud del Condado de Lake, sobre beneficio de la vacunación y posible vacunación en niños menores de 12 años para evitar COVID. Charla virtual con nutricionista o especialista en nutrición sobre qué alimentos se pueden enviar en la lonchera de niños. Gracias

Virtual talks, on behalf of the organization of the Lake County Health Dept, over the benefit of the vaccine and the possible vaccination for children over 12 years to prevent COVID. Virtual talks with a nutritionist or specialist in nutrition over what nourishment to avoid in kids' lunchboxes. Thanks

How about after school tutoring for students that are having usual with homework or schoolwork
There are a lot of children whose services (IEP) could not be managed during remote learning. Maybe providing a program for after school on a temporary basis to help get them back to speed and on course.

Any kind of deep cleaning, including and especially desks is necessary. I think that increasing the number of custodial staff would help accomplish this goal (even if it is short-term). If you are going to continue using Plexiglas, please upgrade quality (I only know of what we have at the high school, and since the desks are so small to begin with, even summer school kids, who are not "high energy" knock them over and then they need to be put back together). New rolls of hand towels that are more absorbent would be useful. Touchless soap/disinfectant dispensers would be helpful.

Increase staffing to reduce student/teacher ratios for Elementary grades to assist with learning gaps and accelerate learning for all students.

Field trips

Getting supplies that teachers need to help their students

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Partner with local Waukegan organizations and businesses to achieve goals in utilizing federal funds to keep as much of these allocated federal funds in the local Waukegan economy.

More tutoring, extending time in instruction for all students but especially the students that are not performing at grade level.

We need to target reading and language comprehension for students. This is the keystone to education. We could use some of the funding to target those with highest needs and look to programs that are not research based, but research validated. Look into Lindamood-Bell for Schools. I used to work for the company in my earlier years of working in the education field. I've been part of the results and it is frustrating that our district hasn't had the resources for a proven approach. Feel free to email me to setup a time to discuss. Some interventions are addressed in as little as 12 weeks, which is a higher recommendation for results. Our families can't pay for it out of pocket.

Access to short-term mental health/counseling intervention services for students (e.g. Overtime for existing staff or time limited external services) to help with social/emotional issues.

I would like to see funding spent toward a Birth to Three Center. I supervise the Birth to Three program to call their "own." We hold educational family events for them at the Welcome Center and Eric Christia office space with our families, home visitors, administrator, and secretary. . Research shows that if we : great progress in that age range, but school readiness and parent school involvement improves dramai first outdoor, safe "Picnic in the Park" at the Lightfoot playground. Families were certified and then were wonderful picnic outside with their family and others who were socially distanced. These families were : virtually the entire pandemic. Parents have expressed in our group sessions that we need a place of ou we could have a gross motor room and a music room, and all kinds of other things that would stimulate their child's progress, education, and school district. I have supervised this program for 10 years and h means we passed all their standards to be considered a quality program. It was so much hard work for together we earned that certificate. We want to keep moving forward from this certification and give ou best start! They deserve equality with other communities, and a zip code should never determine the e ESSER funding to get our children off to the great start they and their families deserve and let's find sp employees roses, and another begged for another event very soon. They are our district family and we are the true future of the district, all they need and deserve. Do not hesitate to contact me should you r Center. Thanks for reading this lengthy, but thoughtful and heartfelt response.

Our district has spent so much money on different programs for students to learn in different styles. I don't know what in education has changed since I have been in school. We need to start holding parents responsible. My mom and I were homeless but I did not receive any help, any housing, or any funds from the state as in welfare. I was poor. But my mom did not care she worked every day, and did the best she could. My dad visited me in school a few times, my parents were divorced. I had all kinds of issues, and I paid dearly for the trouble I got in. Get down to the basics, and start holding parents responsible, and stop holding their hands. I live in Waukegan, and I pay a great sum in property taxes. I took my own children out of this school district. I'm also proud to say I'm the Nurse at Lyon School I care for my kiddos greatly, and its been hard not to give a hug when needed lately. Children need discipline, love and understanding. Our school district is a mini society. If we continue to let children, high schoolers also disrupt, curse, and get away with anything without consequences; we are letting them out into the real society that won't put up with such behavior. A student could not hold a job at McDonalds with some of the behavior I have witnessed.

Summer enrichment beyond what is currently offered that includes a cultural component.

We need a robust after school program in partnership with various non for profits in the district.

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Survey was difficult to work with, this isn't a math problem.

Estos tipos de ayudas me parecen muy buenas o debido a la crisis económica por covid a algunas familias les puede servir de mucho.

These types of help appear good to me because of the economic crisis because of Covid to many families it may help a lot.

Increase social worker/student support services. Increase in mental and behavioral health issues stemming from death in the family, financial stressors (loss of jobs/homes/cars) and having to relocate due to COVID are sure to arise over the next 1-2 years.

Que cada escuela elemental o las que faltan cuenten con un gym y cafetería independiente. Y componer todas las aceras cercanas a la escuela. Arreglar todos los baches.

That each elementary school on those that do not have one receive an independent gym and cafeteria. and to fix all the sidewalks close to the school. Fix all the potholes.

Ayuda a los de bajos recursos

Help those of low income

Students and teachers deserve schools they can be proud to be a part of, not just of the building itself that should be comfortable to be in for 8 hours per day but where kids can be in an environment where they can learn without disruption of kids that have no discipline. I've seen teachers trying to calm down an out of control child in their classroom and that leaves the rest of the kids without the opportunity to learn something useful. Instead, students have to witness this type of behavior and leaves the teachers frustrated (I assume) as they are not able to do their job. This to me, is the biggest issue our school district has and is not being addressed.

Students have lost so much learning time over the Covid months. The money should be used to help kids recoup that learning time. Extra programs, tutoring, something in the district to help them catch up where they should be grade level.

Psicólogos en las escuelas a causa de el encierro causado por la pandemia.

Psychologists in the schools due to the quarantine caused by the pandemic

Si deberían extenderse

Yes, you should extend

Evaluación psicológica para los niños

Psychological evaluation for the kids)

Parking lot resurfacing needed at a lot of the schools. Better playground equipment with more opportunities for kids to expel their energies throughout the day. More training for teachers on how to handle kids who have disabilities but are in main stream classrooms.

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Bigger desk

We should begin to ask students and staff what pronouns and names they prefer, so that they feel comfortable and welcome in the classroom.

One thing the ESSER III funding should be used to find new and modern curriculums that shows how the real world works and teaches all our students how to navigate the world and how to improve it.

Old school needs more technological devices and more updates around the school for example and elevator

Upgrade facilities in older schools. Really take a look at the condition of them. They're embarrassing and there is no "pride of ownership".

A Career fair for 8th grade students; general Transition support for 8th graders and High school seniors

Funding used for students to be engaged in various ways during and after school (books, clubs, tech, sports, arts, debate, community service, etc.). Students WANT these activities we can incorporate into the school day (lunch/advisory/ENCORE, etc.) and after school (clubs, extra period, provide transportation).

Expand on diverse curriculum to include all of our students and ensure that everyone has a chance to learn about their culture. Also, provide support to families that have been or were exposed to the COVID-19 to ensure they are safe and able to continue learning from home.

Provide supplies to sanitize facilities including gym equipment and playground.

Increase staffing to reduce student/teacher ratios for Elementary grades to assist with learning gaps and accelerate learning for all students.

If we really want to level the playing field for our students, we need administrators and teachers in our district trained in the Science of Reading. I'm so happy that CKLA Skills strand has been purchased for K-2. This is AMAZING, and I'm so excited to be better equipped to help my students learn to read than I have EVER been. We also need to continue to explore the importance of building our students' content knowledge. Teaching students how to accurately and efficiently crack the "code" of words on the page is essential to their success, but they also need a solid base of content knowledge in order to comprehend. Teaching comprehension strategies and micro-skills like finding the main idea and summarizing just don't work if students don't first have a base of content knowledge about which we are asking them to make sense. That knowledge needs to be built systematically and sequentially just like the foundational skills we will teach with CKLA skills. The "achievement gap" is really a Knowledge Gap, and until we start to build up that content knowledge, the disparity in achievement between student groups - namely African American and minority students - cannot be authentically and effectively addressed.

Development of the Dual Language program to be better and more appropriate for the community it serves, especially since there was a lot of delay in learning language due to online learning and not having adequate support.

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To hire qualified bilingual teachers that speak Spanish for all the areas (classroom, intervention, MTSS, Special ed, etc.)

To provide dual classes with research based, balanced and integrated Phonics program in Spanish.

To provide an English as Second Language phonics program for English Language Learners in all grades.

To provide enough Special Education services to English Language Learners.

Please give a bigger budget for classroom materials allowance to teachers this school year.

Additional Para support, flex seating

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Please consider reinstating study hall for high school students. This year's Illinois Student Advisory Council comprised of 21 students from districts throughout Illinois; were tasked with developing ways to respond to post COVID-19 achievement gaps, create a diversity, equality, and inclusion framework, while ensuring the social and emotional well-being of students. The Comprehensive Center Network Region 9 hosted the Webinar on June 8, 2021 where the students presented their findings. One of many suggestions by the ISAC was to develop or enhance tutoring at schools DURING the school day where they did not have to choose between going to tutoring or going to lunch. They wanted both. Attending lunch with their peers promotes their social and emotional well-being; while enhanced tutoring (which I think can be achieved through study halls) will help them succeed academically. They also suggested that we "destigmatize" tutoring so that it is viewed through an asset lens.

Restore services for ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS that were disrupted due to COVID-19/