

Question: List up to three specific things that the District could do to improve student achievement and academic outcomes.

(204 responses)

1. More extra curricular options for clubs, most elective options
2. Replace iReady, encourage after school academics, bring back homework at the Middle School
3. Homework habits and expectations need to start early.
4. Continue to work on social, emotional, and behavioral skills
5. teach more about trauma / effects on the brain / trauma informed care
6. prioritize mental health, prioritize behavioral health/supports, improve engagement/relationships
7. More free early intervention for students AND their families. The earlier we can get in, the better! Also decrease testing requirements.
8. Being more inclusive, providing more electives and opportunities for learning, finding behavior interventions (and resources) that are meaningful and help reduce ongoing behaviors
9. Improve attendance, Smaller class sizes, More mental health specialist in the trenches
10. More trade education available.
11. Invest maximum resources available to the district in support staff, create a system that allows students to better transition from one building to the next
12. invest maximum resources available to the district in support staff, create a system that allows students to better transition from one building to the next.
13. Offer more trade school opportunities for students who are not going to college.
14. More teachers and smaller classes
15. Hire more support staff. Hire more support staff. Hire more support staff.
16. Smaller class sizes.
17. Smaller class sizes, hire more staff, and bring homework back to the elementary.

18. class sizes, hire more staff, nicer facilities/materials
19. 1. We need to replace the staff that has left/retired. More resources to help aid students is key. 2. Class sizes are making it difficult to give students what they need. In a post-COVID world, it is crucial that students can get the focus and attention that they need. 3. PBIS is fantastic in dealing with classroom management and student behaviors. We still need a course of action for students that are consistently creating behavior infractions. A lot of these bad behaviors seem to be dealt with very light-handedly.
20. Address attendance issues, Provide one special education teacher for each grade level, Provide more support for staff and students who are dealing with significant behaviors within their classrooms.
21. Faster interventions in K-2. Smaller class sizes in K-2. More focus on the importance of academics.
22. smaller class sizes, more communication between buildings (specifically between 5 & 6), be transparent about consequences for specific actions.
23. Improve attendance, hold students to higher behavioral standards, make the discussion of academics a focal point of the regular dialogue that staff and students hear.
24. A wide range of elective classes, smaller class sizes, alternate type high school diploma for those with IEPs.
25. More Interventions by Trained Staff at the Elementary Level, More Counseling for Students at ALL levels, and an Increase in the Quality of Tools used to Implement the Curriculum in ALL Academic Areas, not just Reading and Math
26. Reading and math interventionists at all levels. Also emphasize how important attendance is for both students and teachers.
27. No suggestions at this time, except to continue on with the MTSS process.
28. Decrease the number of disruptions by students in class, work on making sure that kids are attending school as they should be
29. Hold staff (principals and teachers) to follow curriculum with fidelity, Use the data to adjust instruction and provide tier 2 interventions based on the data, provide diversity training so staff recognize the impact of their role and relationships with ALL students.
30. Before School/After School Homework clubs
31. update curricula, listen to the teachers, improve student attendance

32. Increased focus on attendance/behavior/engagement, increased communication between elem to MS to HS

33. Teaching & supporting behavior, collaborating with families

34. 1. smaller class sizes so teachers could spend more time working with students one on one. Provide more real world experiences. Behaviors that distract from learning need to be handled.

35. Tackle chronic absenteeism. Provide more resources for at-risk students and families at the elementary level. Build a school culture that values academic success.

36. There's a huge need for early childhood education in our community. You have a program but it's incredibly small. We've been on our ECC waiting list for a year with no movement. If my daughter is unable to get into your program by the Fall of 2023, where will she go for Preschool? How can I make sure she's prepared for Kindergarten?

37. More involvement from local leaders in key areas, more coop groups designed for career goals of students.

38. More group practice for SAT

39. Offer more help to students who feel they need it or staff/parents feel it's needed. Have had multiple times where my child has needed reading or math help. Because they weren't at the bottom of the class and other students needed the help more" our children weren't able to get interventions. It shouldn't matter what level your child is behind, if they're behind there should be resources available. Another issue is that the parking and pick up/drop off lines are so congested. There's nobody out monitoring the lines, parents park in the lines even though it says not to. This makes it difficult for those of us who are quickly dropping off to be able to do so. It's a very big safety concern because parents then have to drive around those parking lots and let their kids off in the middle of the lane meant for driving. Or you see parents having to back up because they didn't realize the car in front of them was parked. My biggest fear in the lines is that a child is going to be accidentally hit by parents who don't follow the rules.

40. Smaller class size, removing disruptive students, and giving real bonuses to teachers \$50 was an insult.

41. Move to trimesters so students could immediately retake core classes, some sort of Freshman success program.
42. provide resources and people to improve student attendance, do some mentoring programing, have a climate person in both the middle school and high school each and not divide a person
43. Stop babying the kids and teach them actions have consequences. Teach them that not everyone has to go to college (ctc careers are just as important).
44. More communications.
45. Educational groups after school or summer programs for additional learning
46. Not sure
47. More virtual learning opportunities, consider year round schooling, continuing to encourage inclusiveness
48. Elementary students are expected to be able to learn often at a higher level than they are developmentally ready
49. More opportunity for students to get help in their academics when needed. Teachers reaching out to those who they see are struggling to achieve good grades. More study opportunities within school hours.
50. Quit idolizing your athletes
51. Reduce class sizes, make sure staffing is appropriate for the number of students requiring special education or intervention support, and address extreme behavior to avoid disruptions to learning.
52. Teachers need more support for students with serious behavior problems. These behaviors seriously interfere with the learning of others. Truancy continues to be a problem. We need more reading and math interventionists.
53. Continue to work on MTSS processes and supporting at-risk students, increase early childhood education opportunities, increase opportunities for parents to connect with the school and learn how to support their children at home
54. offer more classes -used to have French at MS, drama class, etc. 2. Hold students accountable and parents: if they are failing/disrupting the learning environment, don't push them along.

55. Hold students accountable through attendance, behavior and academics.
56. Smaller class sizes, better buildings, more staffing
57. accountability of all teachers and staff members
58. not sure
59. Hire more staff, specifically support staff. More people would mean less work for one individual. Responsibilities can be spread out and focused. Could also mean more class options for students.
60. Less shared staff between schools and more full timers at their respective schools. Another staff member for Alt Ed.
61. More advanced placement classes, more electives in high school. smaller class sizes
62. Lower class sizes, be tough on behavior, continue to increase staff morale
63. Keep high standards and expectations and improve student discipline within our schools.
64. more trade classes within our school not CTC
65. Early release instead of delayed start, year round school
66. Everyone follows the rules and guidelines.
67. More emphasis on special education, small class sizes, make sure all educators are following curriculum with fidelity, no acceptance of students with continued behavioral issues
68. Smaller class sizes
69. Address behavior, class sizes, support staff

70. Encourage more parent involvement, offer summer school and provide free books to K-2 students so they have their own little libraries at home.
71. High expectations of students being followed through on, allowing and encouraging students to do homework (elementary level)
72. communication between different buildings; increased support systems for academic & emotional learning in the higher grade levels
73. Improve student behavior, hold students accountable, continue to empower teachers to do their jobs.
74. Require students pass a certain amount of classes in MS or retain for a semester.
75. Offer AP courses consistently, Peer 2 Peer groups, clubs (games, chess, coding)
76. Disciplining misbehaved students better so that they no longer distract academically driven students in the classroom.
77. Crack down on bad behaviors NOW!
78. Maybe it was covid - remote learning but i did not feel my son was prepared for college classes. Late work wasn't accepted as in high school it was, etc
79. Focus on offering more course offerings for high school students that are of interest.
80. Taking action with discipline, help for kids that have behaviors,
81. Smaller class ratios, more supervision, better communication with parents
82. Have 1 way of contacting parents. All the different apps and emails are overwhelming with multiple kids
83. More after school assistance
84. More 1 on 1 times available, more communication with parents even if students are doing good.
85. On the elementary level, which is what we currently have. I think they are doing an excellent job!
86. Not to just pass them. Be harder on attendance. DRESS CODE SHOULD APPLY TO EVERYONE

87. Required courses such as home economics. Most kids can't boil an egg. Drivers training offered as an elective.
88. Household budget economics , how local ,state federal U.S government work
89. Improve financial management to support facilities upgrades, improve facilities, improve curriculum.
90. Focus less on social politics and more on academics, offer more opportunities/incentives to athletes/arts students to encourage them at a younger age, replace the coach that does nothing to assist his players with finding opportunities to play at the next level.
91. Discipline enforcement. Community involvement.
92. Embrace students, embrace families, and provide multiple opportunities for all students to succeed.
93. Not sure
94. More paper pencil notes
95. improve feedback on exams at the end of the semester- students able to learn from their mistakes at the end of the semester
96. Limit school of choice - lots of trouble making kids currently.
97. Bring more selective when accepting school of choice students, lower student to staff ratio, stronger policies for bad behaviors - way too many distractions
98. Include applying for scholarships and college applications as part of a class
99. Emphasis on writing skills. Teach for understanding, not test scores. Better career exploration that includes a senior project.
100. Do counselors meet one on one with students by default? I know they are available, but I don't think all teens would opt to seek that out. I really think relationships between students & school staff make a big impact.
101. Listen to what the community/parents want/don't want to be taught or offered to OUR children, Keep political views/ influence out of OUR schools, keep parents informed of all/any changes to policies or doctrine in OUR schools.
102. Smaller Classes, In house instructional coaches, Many More Counselors
103. The band's instruments are garbage. Literally falling apart! Replace them. Stop dragging your

	feet and do it! Be better with facilities management. We needed more gyms. We have to plan better and try harder to accommodate more.
104.	UNSURE
105.	Extend hours , not cancel school so often
106.	More real life skills, money handling
107.	better parent accountability, more coach involvement in academics, more scholarship opportunity
108.	increase teacher pay and support, decrease classroom sizes, and DECREASE CLASSROOM SIZES - so much research supports this.
109.	smaller classroom sizes in lower elementary classrooms, allow volunteers into classrooms to help teachers with centers or just reading with students, in-depth training for teachers for new curriculums that have been implemented
110.	Focus on when children are struggling with grades to get better focused attention
111.	Smaller classroom sizes, healthier lunch choices, better processes in place for the kids who are clearly struggling
112.	Add more life skill electives.
113.	More acknowledgement of achievements. I feel like the more advanced kids get overlooked because they're "easy" and always do well.
114.	Identify and develop student skills earlier particularly when the gifts of the student are identified.
115.	limit school of choice to deserving students
116.	More varied trade opportunities
117.	There is a clear link between extra-curriculars/athletics and academic achievement. We need to create more access to these programs through decreased costs and greater non-participant funding, even if it means decreasing program goals. 2- Improve elementary pedagogy to decrease or streamline screen-time and increase hands on and discussion opportunities. 3- Focus on quality over quantity as well as student choice when applicable.
118.	Stay current with technology trends, college prep courses, trade classes
119.	Not sure if this is happening or not but using the IReady results to have targeted interventions, smaller class sizes especially in k-2.

120.	More working with students on self advocacy.
121.	Later start time. Some children have a very hard time in the early mornings.
122.	More education on bullying and social responsibility and more life skill classes
123.	More opportunities for skilled trades and college-credit courses for high schoolers.
124.	Parent/teacher communication.
125.	Build Community & Culture, Teach courses applicable to real life, offer more academic counseling
126.	Less students per class
127.	Use the very latest text books, learning techniques and current technology
128.	Math, very impressed with reading and spelling.
129.	Teacher interaction (minimal once its MS & above), anonymous bullying & abuse form available, forms
130.	n/a
131.	1. Reducing class sizes 2. Endorsements and continuing education for staff 3. Upgraded technology
132.	Offer more tutoring, extra help, interventionists
133.	Challenge students who are high-level students, minimize classroom distractions/behaviors
134.	Less technology and more hands on approach. Please consider looking into healthier breakfast and lunch options for these kids. So much of what is offered is processed pre-packaged junk full of sugar. How are kids supposed to thrive when they're being fed garbage? There needs to be changes made.
135.	NA
136.	Better advanced educational options for grade school age kids. Staff responsiveness.

137.	Support fine arts! Reading resources, especially in early grades
138.	More counselors, 2 for the hs is not enough
139.	Use effective assessment tools, provide various teaching methods, and individualized support
140.	reduce disruptive behavior in the classroom, make sure instructional materials are aligned and being taught with fidelity, provide additional supports for students in need of them
141.	Better dress code that is not sexist
142.	Smaller class sizes, Bring back Government class, Life Skills classes (financial literacy, pre planning, and how to save money).
143.	That's a tough thing to answer. Achievement and outcomes is a result of a partnership between home and school and sometimes there are things out of the others control.
144.	Not sure
145.	If you are an athlete mandatory study hall
146.	More project based learning and less lecture based learning, opportunities partnering with work places, less movies being shown
147.	More clubs, the best technology available, Leadership
148.	Smaller class size more availability for volunteer
149.	Stay up to date with the technological advances and offer/continue to offer opportunities for all students, whether they are college bound or workforce bound.
150.	After School programs with transportation home; reproductive and sexual education; community action/involvement early on and continuous (not just senior credits)
151.	continue keeping parents involved in how students are doing as individuals so help can come from at home too.
152.	There are early paths to accelerated course work, making these well publicized and encouraged. Lead field activities where students are exposed to more diverse culture - Muskegon was the 3rd most segregated county in the US 30 years ago and things are slow to change despite the world has evolved - no one is at fault, but acknowledge how this keeps our children in a bubble and leaves them less prepared for the real world. Continue to focus on bullying, social shaming, and mental health - the entire nation is behind on mental health
153.	Offer more ways to help students struggling with studies.
154.	Smaller class sizes, zero bully/behavior tolerance, additional support in the classroom (not for spec ed students)

155. Policy on Bullying *****
156. Interventions at all levels, weekly counseling, get behavior in check, communicate better with families-power school is not communicating its information, add parents on your teams-ban, Dan and strategic plan.
157. More acknowledgement of accomplishments in the arts and academics. Students who make achievements in sports are acknowledged around the community. An example of this not being the case for arts and academics is our Fruitport Indoor Drumline has consistently placed high in state level competition. They took 1st place-3rd place-2nd place in MCGC State competition in winter seasons 2016-2017-2017. I have tried for years to have their accomplishment put on the signs as you enter our school district, with no success. Students who work hard and achieve in the arts and academics deserve the same recognition.
158. Teach multiple learning methods
159. counter the Facebook crap with positive stories of teachers and students
160. I would love to see less standardized testing, more collaborative learning and learning across subject areas.
161. Language specialists, ASL as an alternative language, more cultural diversity
162. Remodel elementary schools, install air conditioning, focus on building connections and relationships with students and families
163. Preschool for everyone, inquiry based curriculum,
164. Small class sizes - More parent involvement
165. Teach kindness always, integrity, morality
166. Opportunities for future growth
167. Foreign language education. Minority history. LGBTQ+ rights.
168. Listen to the students, handle bullying better, allow bus drivers to discipline

169.	Listen to students. Not all students learn the same, notice differences and help
170.	More class offerings at the high school, increased academic counseling
171.	Offer life classes
172.	Teach Academics not your opinions or ideologies
173.	Guided study hall for struggling students as a class elective. You have a study hour for Special Ed but there are many students that don't qualify for special Ed that still need extra help completing homework and staying organized.
174.	Guided study hall or an elective homework completion class providing the extra assistance struggling students need to succeed in school.
175.	Teach absolute truth, get rid of all liberal ideals and agendas, teach critical thinking skills.
176.	Awards for good achievements, have an assembly to recognize the students and do something for perfect attendance
177.	Na
178.	make sure college bound students have access to the AP classes and college preparatory classes that they need and make options such as personal curriculum more readily known, the career cruising at HS does not seem very useful and better options to understand career options should be explored

179.	Promote college readiness by offering more advanced courses, especially for those in the science fields.
180.	Improve facilities
181.	I am a retired person from our district, so I have witnessed our special education department becoming lazy (for lack of a better word). Parents are having to fight more and more for the rights of their children's future. To keep children from electives just because they have an IEP is a disgrace and humiliation for something out of their control. Maybe they struggle at math or reading, but could possibly excel in music or art. Sadly, they won't have an equal opportunity because of a learning challenge in other areas. Shame on us as a district to blatantly discriminate against these children.
182.	I think our district is doing great but our older buildings need attention. Not until a few years back did Edgewood have A/C.
183.	Listen to the child if they don't understand a topic. Offer options to the child to better learn (ie: hands on learning, explanation then demonstration etc) and most importantly taking time to make sure they truly learn the subjects provided.
184.	Teach cursive, bring back home economics, teach "real" life like balancing a checkbook etc.
185.	Independent learning with consequences...student gets a and bs they continue as an independent student gets d and f they are back in typical learning
186.	Continue to build community involvement. Spanish-Immersion and Home School Partnership Funding
187.	Remove the teachers who do not improve the program or subject. Ask the students why they are choosing not to take an honors class or AP class, it is most likely because of the teacher. No more parents, assistant coaches or head coaches in high school sports or clubs. Hire ALL new girl varsity sport coaches!
188.	More one on one with the kids
189.	Encourage staff to better utilize data and provide staff with more support (monetarily and support staff-wise)
190.	See above
191.	More face-to-face teaching, less chrome book activities.

192. 1. Come together as grade levels across buildings. 2. Common PD for all. 3. Less of a focus on screen time (iReady use reduced or limited)

193. Offer more help in areas of struggle, like math. When I asked about help groups I was told that kids have to be basically failing in order to get help. Just seems we would want to put effort into helping the kids before they're at the point of completely failing.

194. Work on phonics, more Stem class for elementary

195. Competency based education. Downplay use of iReady in k-8. Promote September 1 limit for entering kindergarten.

196. More after hour tutoring sessions

197. More frequent communication with parents other than checking the portal

198. Provide more early preschool and childcare with emphasis on parental involvement. i.e. read to their toddlers. Provide more for advanced students, increase diversity education without labeling it as such.

199. I have been fortunate to have teachers or coaches reach out to me regarding my students. The impact of a back and forth relationship like that has had a profound impact on my kids.

200. A better early childhood facility. Better after-school activities. Building improvements

201. Better facilities

202. 1) Engage the students in thinking - stop all the note taking and memorization. Take on new

practices - including discussion and collaboration. Provide learning for teachers if needed. 2) Grading practices - the only grades given are completion grades (turned in and on time) unless it is an assessment. Focus on formative feedback. If a student turns in all work but doesn't understand we don't know until the assessment. The grade doesn't reflect learning at all - instead it is compliance driven. Allow revision, retakes, and late work as it promotes a growth mindset and perseverance.

203. Better communication with parents students, more skilled trade options

204. More individualized work.