

In October 2018, Plainville Community School District engaged their community in a conversation about what is going well and what could be improved, to inform their strategic planning process. Participants were invited to share thoughts, rate the thoughts of others and discover the results of the exchange. Read on to learn about the hot topics and top themes that emerged in this exchange.



 **598**  
Participants

 **497**  
Thoughts

 **7,579**  
Ratings

Q: What do you think our schools are doing well and what can we focus on in order to improve?

## PARTICIPATION BY ROLE



%	Count	Role
47%	(259)	Parent/Guardian
21%	(115)	Student
29%	(158)	Staff
2%	(13)	Community Member
1%	(8)	Other
0%	(1)	Other - not available



# HOT TOPICS

Hot topics are thoughts considered interesting or highly engaging to groups of participants but may not be reflected in the top themes. They consist of **Interesting thoughts** and **Common interest thoughts**. Interesting thoughts are hot topics that were rated high by one group of participants and rated low by another group, indicating areas of disagreement. Common interest thoughts are hot topics that were rated high by both groups of participants, indicating areas of agreement.

## TOPIC 3



Group A

28 (73%)



Group B

4 (10%)

Notable demographic breakdowns are as follows:

- 36% of participants in **Group A** are Staff compared to 0% of participants in **Group B**.

## INTERESTING THOUGHTS

Group A ↑ Group B ↓

<b>So impressed with the Pre-K program!</b> Prepares the young 3-4 year olds for Kindergarten!	4.5 ★	1.0 ★
<b>We are empowering our students to succeed in the performing and fine arts.</b> The performing and fine arts are an integral part of every student's learning, and our administrators support the arts at all levels of PCS.	4.3 ★	2.0 ★
<b>In elementary school, the reading and writing workshop model has worked towards giving students a voice in their learning.</b> Student choice and voice is important in student engagement.	4.2 ★	2.2 ★

## COMMON INTEREST THOUGHTS

Group A ↑ Group B ↑

**Your administrative assistants are amazing and go above and beyond.** They do it with a smile and never hesitate to help. These professionals have helped us so often with even the littlest things, but that has helped us as parents to feel trusting, safe, and happy overall.

4.8 ★

4.0 ★

**Specials staff are involved and part of the whole team.** This is important because it helps us to know who all of our children's teachers are and to have a rapport with them going forward.

4.6 ★

4.0 ★

**Building a community of kindness and thoughtfulness while learning.**

4.4 ★


3.7 ★




## TOP THEMES


Thoughts are grouped together by topic to form themes. The themes with the most thoughts are presented below in descending order of rating.


### COMMUNICATION

**The communication through email is great!** It helps to let me know what's going on without giving me a million papers. 4.2 ★ 19 


**Plainville schools are doing very well at communicating with families by keeping them informed of events as well as provide services if needed.** Families are often hesitant or unable to ask for services if needed. This can hinder student growth and community involvement. 4.0 ★ 19 


### TEACHERS AND STAFF

**Your administrative assistants are amazing and go above and beyond.** They do it with a smile and never hesitate to help. These professionals have helped us so often with even the littlest things but that has helped us as parents to feel trusting, safe, and happy overall.. 4.3 ★ 14 

**Teachers are highly skilled professionals.** If we expect great results, we need to attract and retain the best teachers. 4.2 ★ 29 

### CURRICULUM

**Extra help if we don't know something.** So you understand and not taking in the work blind with nothing to do. 4.2 ★ 19 

**We are ahead in Technology, STEM, STEAM, and Music.** We also are a leader in all-day, five-day Pre-K. We must maintain these areas of teaching and learning. 4.2 ★ 8 

## PD AND PLC

**Minimizing initiatives.** Less initiatives allows teachers to prioritize and focus – depth over breadth.

4.0 ★

28 

**There are many opportunities for collaboration.** Working as a team allows teachers to draw more support, learn from each other, be more effective and share creative ideas.

4.0 ★

17 

## SCHOOL CLIMATE

**Positive school climate.** I have experienced teachers take an active interest in their students and colleagues. They genuinely care about each other and support each other.

4.2 ★

28 

**Helping students feel valued and happy.** Students perform better when they feel included and respected.

4.1 ★

23 

You can dig into each exchange to discover additional topics that are important to your peers

[my.thoughtexchange.com/?lang=en#p366851143](https://my.thoughtexchange.com/?lang=en#p366851143)