

Shaping the Future of High School Spring Student Survey Summary

Aug. 1, 2019

Prepared by:
CBE Communication & Engagement Services



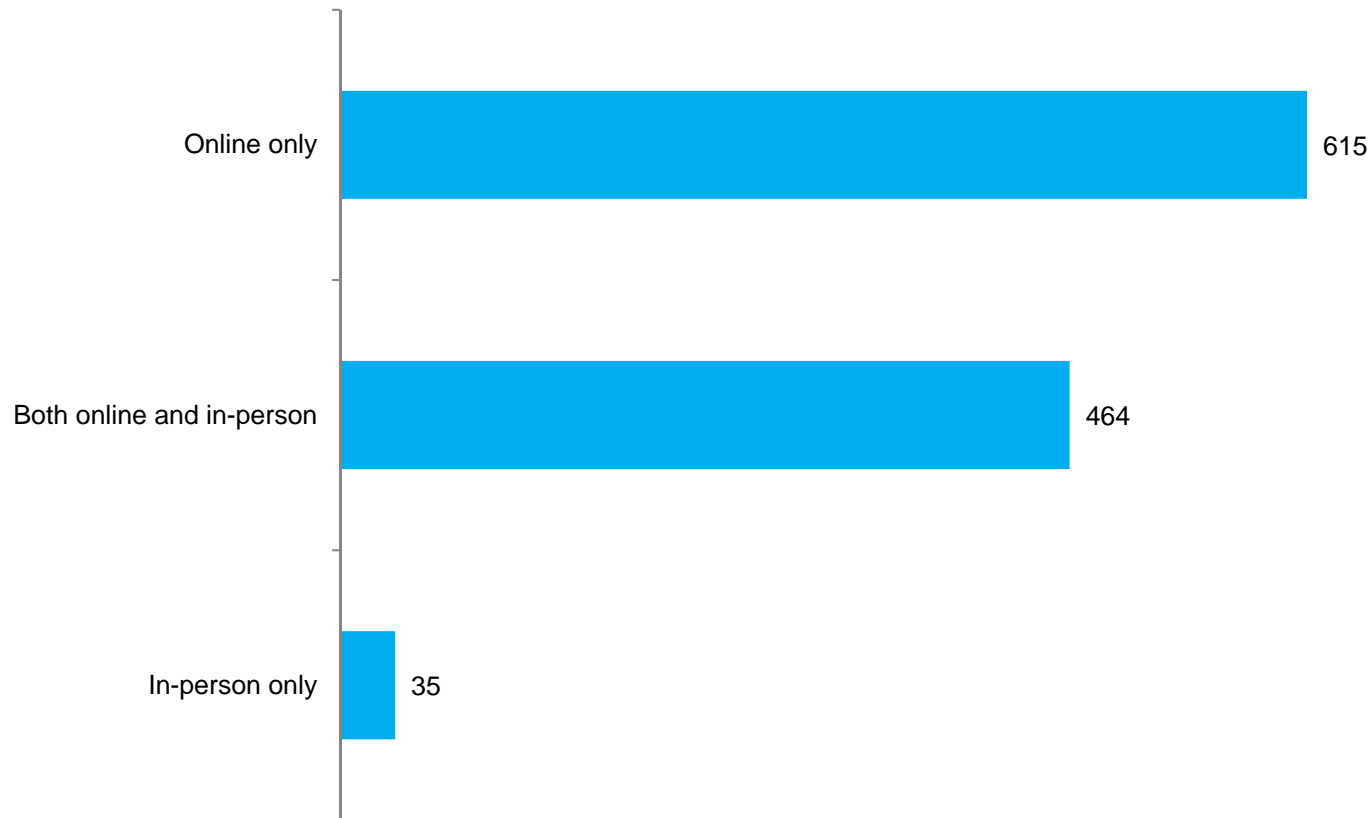
**Calgary Board
of Education**

Shaping the Future of High School – Student Survey

- ❖ **Purpose of Engagement** | By October 2021, the CBE will communicate a sustainable system-wide plan for high schools that continues to offer students access, flexibility and choice in programming given available space and resources. The plan will be developed through consultation with affected students, staff, parents and community members, with full implementation of the plan beginning in 2022-2023.
- ❖ **Purpose of Survey** | This spring 2019 survey for parents, staff and community members is the first of many engagement opportunities. The purpose of this survey is to understand the engagement and communication preferences of participants and factors influencing choices in high school. Gaining this understanding allows us to plan effectively for engagement opportunities in fall 2019 and beyond.
- ❖ **Responses** | A total of 1,131 people filled out some or all of the online survey.

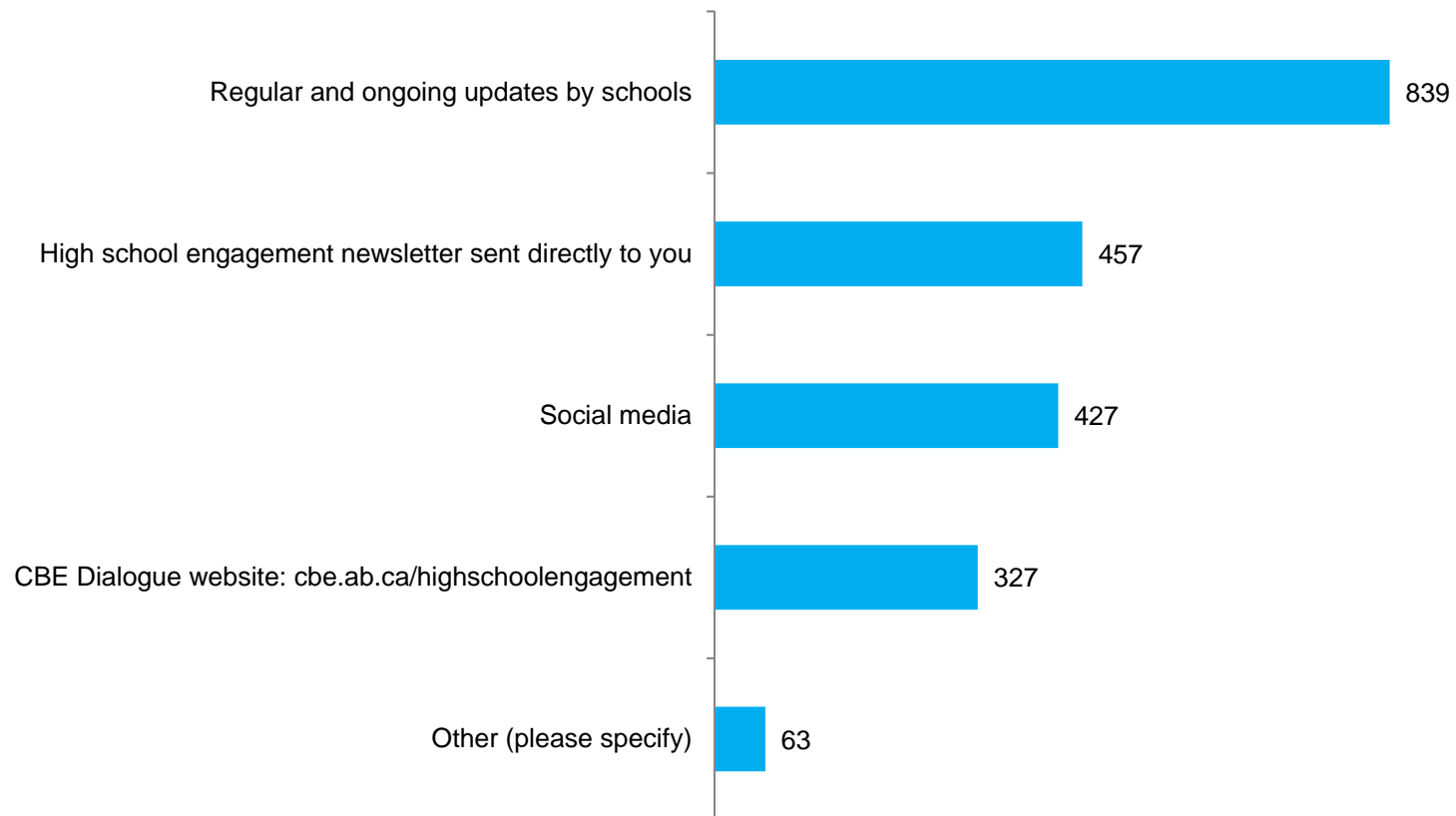
Q1 | In-person and online opportunities will be provided for people to provide input and feedback in the high school engagement process. How do you expect to participate in this process?

Answered: 1,114



Q2 | Please indicate the methods that are effective for us to share information with you about this engagement? Please select all that apply.

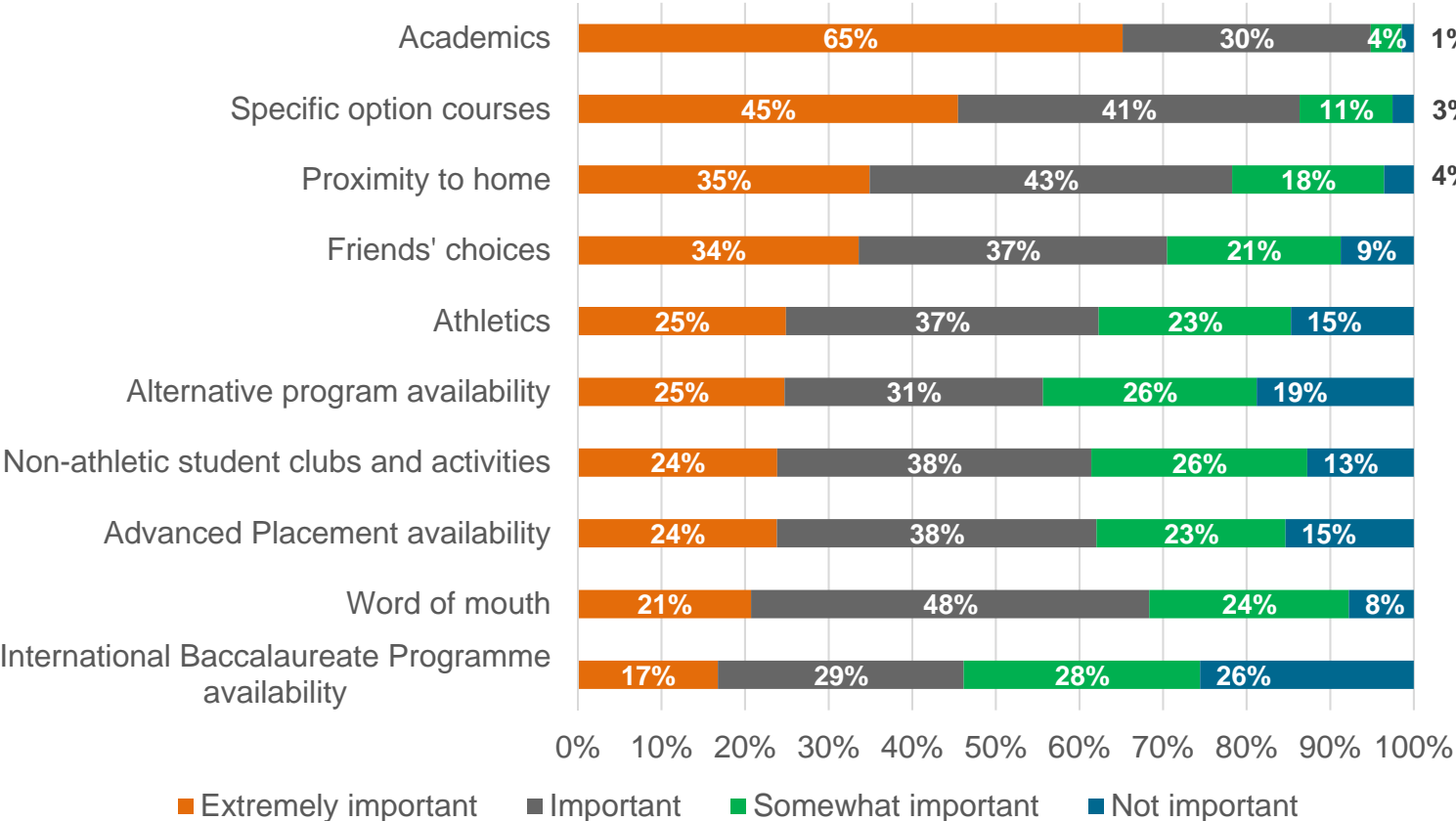
Answered: 1,105



'Other' responses (63) can be found on [page 8](#) of this document.

Q3 | If you were able to choose between two different high schools, please rate how important each factor would be in that choice.

Answered: 1,127



Q4 | Do you have any other questions or comments to share?

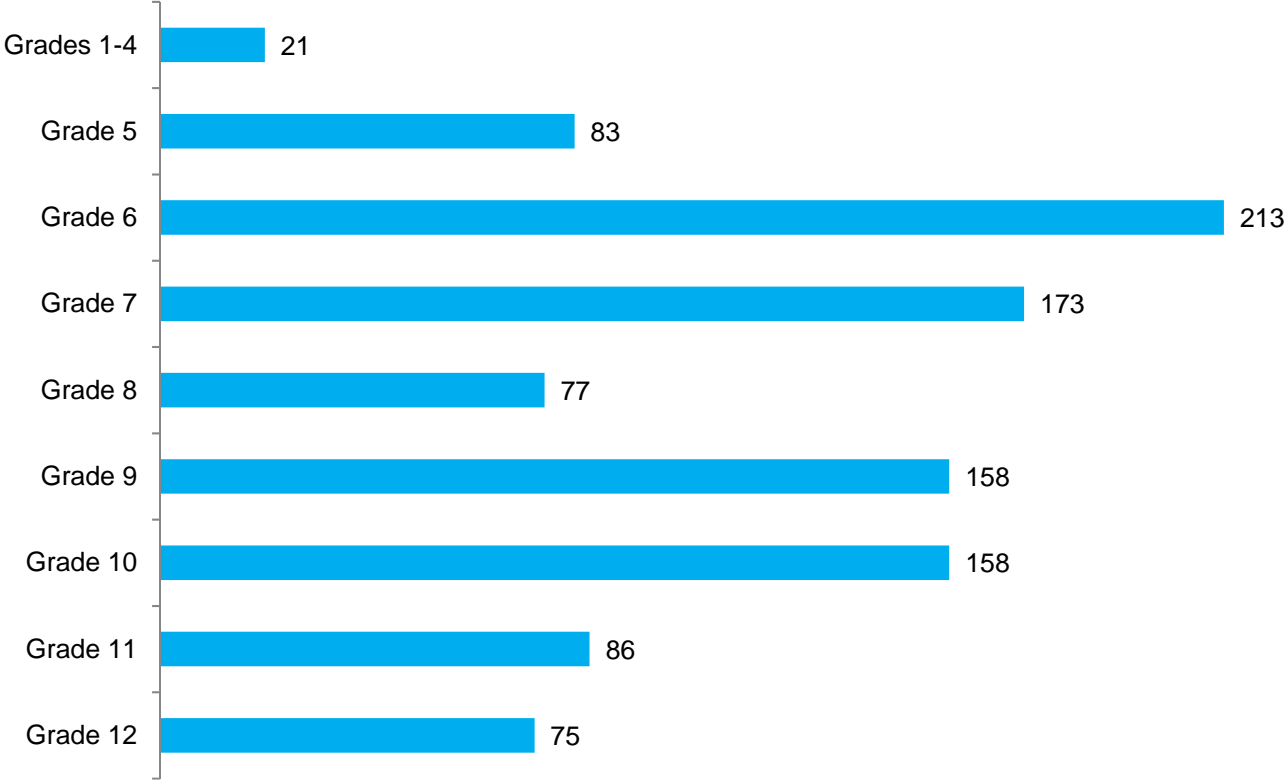
Answered: 260

Responses can be found on [page 10](#) of this document.



Q5 | Please indicate your current grade.

Answered: 1,044





dialogue)))

Shaping the Future of High School Spring Student Survey – July 16, 2019

Below you will find all open-end comments for questions 2 and 4 as they were written. Opinions are the writers' own and content has not been vetted for accuracy. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure or otherwise. Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

Q2 | Please indicate the methods that are effective for us to share information with you about this engagement? This list includes some options only relevant to parents and some only relevant to CBE employees - please select all that apply and are effective methods for you.

Other (please specify)

- Email me directly
- Email
- Email updates directly sent to people.
- Email
- Email
- mails
- None
- Email
- In person
- Teachers discussing the newest school news
- Always tell the parents
- D2I
- Emails to parents are very helpful
- Just send mail if you need to give me any information
- no
- email
- blog
- Gmail/iCloud
- Gmail
- my school
- Nope those work.
- Remind app
- gmail email
- messages



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- Emails
- mail letter
- In person
- D2L
- Sending to personal email
- Email
- Email
- e-mail
- direct emails to parents not students
- Fyjn
- messengre kids
- email
- Meetings
- E-mail
- my email
- email
- None
- Maybe Email
- Gmail
- gmail
- email or subscribed news letters
- a presentation about it??
- Email
- Classroom blogs
- ldk
- Email
- Email.
- Email
- Email
- Email
- Email
- Parents
- Announcements
- emails from the school
- hi
- e-mails to parents, d2l updates
- School website
- email
- email
- communication through media, local newspapers



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Below you will find all open-end comments for questions 2, 3 and 6 as they were written. Opinions are the writers' own and content has not been vetted for accuracy. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure or otherwise. Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

Q4 | Do you have any other questions or comments to share?

- I feel strongly about the continuation, by choice, that my son and or daughter, remains at their high school as having begun at grade 10.
- It is extremely important to us that our children go to school in our designated neighborhood schools. We purchased our home based first and foremost on the specific schools offered within our neighborhood. We feel crossing boundaries has led to overcrowding within our school. Perhaps offering more programs across the other schools would help alleviate this problem.
- Don't let the provincial government ruin my schooling.
- I have already made a choice of high schools. I purchased a home and decided to pay the requisite share of the education tax levied on that real estate to live in that neighbourhood. I do not want the school board thinking I can easily change again. Unless of course they will pay the money I lose on my house when I sell it to move to another house equidistant to the "other school".
- Keep people that live near western at Western and don't except any other people because they put the school over the limit of people
- No
- N/A
- i want to go to my designated high school in my community. I can walk to my school in 10 minutes, that is very important to me. Also all my friends from the area go to my school. Staying at the school in my community is very important to me. My parents bought our house based on the designated high school for our area.
- I wish that I did not have to take a bus passed three other high schools to go to my designated high school.
- Why are people being bullied? Is there anyway we can stop the bullying that people are doing, such as cyberbullying, mental bullying, and physical bullying, and stealing?
- Having a bigger opportunity to get into high school, and start a new life for some people is great!
- How many students in the class?



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- No
- I would like to be in a school without all the students who don't work as hard!
- Please do not split up communities of students who have been in school together for years. It is too difficult if most of your friends in the neighbourhood go to one school and because of a boundary change you are forced to another school. Particularly if that boundary line falls inside of a community. Some streets stay some streets move. Kids have enough anxiety already without stressing about being removed from a long established friend group.
- What is friends' choices??
- No
- you should have extra math classes and academies, for the kids in high school to improve their math.
- vetrenarian chorses
- What high school is the best for athletics and learning.
- When other people take this survey please try to put on the side the definition of the word
- what highschoools are the best?
- No
- No
- What's 2+2
- Since my older siblings have attended this same school, I have seen a dramatic difference in the morale of a high school and have noticed that it depends on the attitude of the Principal and their attention to staff and students. Our new principal has helped to make this school a positive and inspirational place to learn and grow for all. Thank you!
- No.
- I would like the school to be built in the Communities near Vivo so that the growing communities with students can be useful for the students that will be in high school later on and will benefit all students around the area.
- nope
- I would really appreciate it if GSA's or QSA's were kept as safe spaces for ALL youth. It is important that teens have a space where they feel safe to express themselves as they truly are, and sometimes it isn't safe for them to do that at home. By allowing teachers to tell parents if their child is attending the GSA, teachers are outing kids and effectively forcing the kids into dangerous



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situations. Closested kids might stop attending GSA's, and I almost guarantee that this would cause an increase in depression and suicide rates in youth, especially those identifying as LGBT+. Please consider this fully before making any changes. I would also appreciate it if we did NOT revert to the old school system. Classes are already very large, and increasing the size will only hinder our learning. I also request that finals are kept as 30% of our final grades. Changing it back to 50% is going to put a LOT more stress on students, and will likely cause an increase in anxiety and depression as well. It also slightly discredits the hard work that students do throughout the year. I think that surveying high school students on how they would respond to these changes would be beneficial, as it will be us and not the adults who are voting who will be affected most.

- Faculty needs to be improved. There are overwhelming amounts of students and not enough teachers to support each one individually. Even if students don't always say that they need help it's important to have teachers that will engage and personalize the students understanding. This would also benefit our education and create more jobs
- No.
- Why is there no skateboarding programs!!!????
- Usually it's because of word of mouth and and because of how close it is. And friends. Friends are always REALLY important to other people. So where your friends go you'll go too.
- No
- No
- Treat international student better.
- N/A
- no
- Wondering if there is going to be any extra curricular activities on medicine and health.
- no
- It should be a high school with a low crime rate or in a low crime rate area.
- no
- please keep auto body as an option
- no
- Nope.



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- No.
- no:)
- no...
- Nope
- No
- if you can have a choice to do what you want to do
- What does International Baccalaureate Programme Availability mean?
- no
- No
- No
- N/A
- Nope.
- High school for me is a new step forward. It is about learning and growing and becoming the BEST me as I walkout those doors. Online classes are important, high schools are becoming overpopulated and hard to get in.
- How would I apply for a different high school that is not my designated high school?
- can i have my phone with me yes or no
- no
- I would like to have the high school In a close proximity to panorama. And will like if the high school was intresting and have more suprising stuff.
- no
- PLEASE build a high school in panarama hill
- Lots of after school activities
- Not really, but this school could improv
- N/A
- No thank you
- No.
- N/A
- where will the school be located?
- no
- no
- No I don't
- no
- i like memes
- When will the high school in coventry hills be built??????????????



dialogue)))

- Please make the high-school new and exciting
- No.
- no
- I didn't know half of the words so far.
- No
- No
- N/A
- Needs to have at least one huge gym but preferably two gyms that are pretty big. Has to have a great athletics program.
- No.
- No
- N/A
- Dear Calgary Board of education, Please give people that have IB program credit in secondary post education and give experience to middle school to give next grade level education. From unknown
- no i don't
- add more credit options please
- enjoy your day if your reading this!!!!
- Love the high schools!
- Make sure that people behave and people aren't doing anything stupid like drugs or vaping
- no
- No
- No
- No
- No
- No
- no
- Nada.
- No
- No
- No.
- Nope
- No.
- No
- I don't want to spend so much time on a bus and want to be close to my house.
- Good survey my g
- No



dialogue)))

- no
- no not at this time
- As a parent of 1 of your student in grade 10 I'm satisfied of his current status in the school. He is well motivated to pursue his dreams thru academic programs of the school board.
- Maybe make the switching process to schools easier to do and not have to sign up for IB to get in for some kids. And make the buses more available to all kids.
- set us up for the future not the past. we have google for the past but we need to be prepared for what we're going into after grade 12. what jobs are available, current news around the world not what happened 150 years ago (again, we have google for that), and a class to teach you how to treat others and how to consider someone's opinion and show sympathy cause many many many kids i know and see every day have no sympathy and don't know how to take a joke or fully consider someone else's opinion or side of something
- It makes no sense that I should be forced to go to a high school down in Kensington that doesn't have the sports programs that the high school DIRECTLY next to the Jr high school that I currently go to, DOES offer. Why send me so far from my friends and the sports that have helped develop my confidence and healthier lifestyle? Ridiculous. I hope you change it before I move on next year!
- N/a
- no
- Are there potential scholarships that you could earn/get?
- NA
- If your school is out of bounds, if not given the choice of school to go to then bussing should be provided cost free
- No
- High schools in Calgary are the best
- No
- Resource help
- Nope
- None
- Hi
- no
- no
- no



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- why can't I choose my school
- nope boi
- I live 10-15 minutes from deer run and do I have to take the bus there?
- no
- do you help kids even they do not know every thing the think you do
- ya yeet
- nope
- no
- no
- no
- I would like a clean and somewhat good looking facility/school.
- no
- No Thanks. ._.
- no
- none
- no
- Perhaps move Varsity to Aberhart (regular program) Many french immersion go there so it would allow regular students to move with friends. I will have some friends taking French at FEO, then we would be split up, so if everyone goes to ABE it would be nice.
- nope
- Thank you
- No
- Grade 10 academic courses were a gong show this year. Classes were not on semester program. Switched classes every 3 weeks
- is there an art option?
- No
- you should have made the things like advanced placement ability described so we knew what it ment
- are there going to be any competitive clubs for sports?
- no
- no
- nope
- no
- gimme itunes gift card now
- do you need to join the drama option to perform plays?
- no
- No



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- No
- I would be very grateful if school management supports and make specific laws for those students who bully others. This would be a great step towards mental health of our children. Thank you.
- No
- No
- No
- How will we be impacted by the changes?
- Not much
- No
- As far as I know, it would be unheard of for a Calgary HS not to offer drama, music, and the range of sports teams (with opportunities to compete). And yet... many high schools do not offer Debate & Speech, list-topping 21st century skills. How can we bring those essential opportunities into the standard offering at every Calgary high school?
- The CBE is a wonderful place for kids to learn but AP should be offered in more High Schools
- nope
- No other comments to share.
- No
- No
- No.
- No
- No, thanks
- For specific option choices I think it should be important because it also includes on where the student is comfortable working with and they should be able to choose whether they want to transfer or not to a different one(option)
- No, but thank you for asking.
- Facilities like wood shops, mechanics garages (in high schools) and theatres play an important role for me
- No
- No
- Not at this time
- Nope!
- No
- N/a
- No



dialogue)))

- Having guest speakers inform us of how what the high schools are looking for in there daily life's and students
- No.
- Nope.
- More teacher and parent interactions
- I'm very disappointed in the CBE as a whole. Why can one school with an estimated 120% overbook, offer better programs, better parental engagement than another? Why are two high schools, any two high schools, so different in terms of engaging with parents and students. I've found by highschool the CBE cuts parents out entirely. Boom..done.
- No
- Nope but I hope things will be awesome in the future :)
- No
- No
- I hope that Park hill continues being in Westerns boundaries.
- Which high school is the beast in Canada?
- Blah
- Wp
- Nope! I think this survey was enjoyable and helpful! 🍀 ☐
- No
- No
- I think having a reward program for students to partake in a survey is a good idea
- As a student going into grade ten, I have a few concerns regarding what I will be graduating to. The first is, and I guarantee you I am not alone on this, gym. I am an extremely active student outside of school, but prefer to separate athletics and academics, especially now that I am going into high school. Personally, I feel that gym should not be mandatory, or at least that it be optional, and not for grades, as they do matter for the first year ever. My second concern is the general influence of my PAT results to my high-school opportunities. Don't get me wrong—I agree that finals should be implemented into jr. high, and that they are good to practice at a young age, but I don't agree that the PATs are valid finals. they are designed to measure a teacher's performance, not a student's. therefore, how well I do on a PAT should not influence wether or not I make it into AP or IB programs.



dialogue)))

- Surprised nothing mentioned above discussed class size and how that would impact my choice (if there was a choice between two, I would choose lower class size every-time).
- I am happy I live close to school and do not need to take the bus.
- I would like to stay with my friends. I love feeling like I'm part of the community
- nope
- We have not recovered from the damage done to our school when you removed the yellow buses from Robert Warren. Please consider the consequences to the lives of students this time.
- No
- No
- No.
- Proximity to school is of exceptional importance
- We don't want our school to be too crowded. The High School in Seton looks like it will have too many students so why are the boundaries not smaller. Maybe Douglasdale and Douglasglen which are also close to Beaverbrook should be assigned to Beaverbrook instead of Seton and the communities close to Seton like Auburn Bay, Cranston, McKenzie Lake and McKenzie Towne should go to the High School in Seton.
- No
- Just want to make sure I can go to high school with my friends
- We should not be doing P.A.T's in grade 9. They should just see the progress you have done with school work. A test proves nothing because I can do all my school work and get fours but when it comes to tests it is just about memorization, which you never actually need.
- As a high school student myself, I believe that it is important to engage all students with unique gifts and abilities. This way, we can nurture the growth and development of athletes, scholars, and artists alike.
- No.
- tone down the bullying
- how to be prepared in the real world like taxes, bills, and rent
- Is Centennial projected to be under capacity in coming years?
- no
- school needs to start teaching how to pay taxes, how to pay a house, and how to pay rent. We won't know what to do if we go to a bank. the things we get taught at school are not very important to what we



dialogue)))

need to know in the future, dissecting frogs will not help us in the future. people need to know basic things. we will not really know what to do if we were asked to pay rent to our house, or we might not even know how to buy a simple house. So in conclusion, start teaching us things that we really need to know, and not useless random things that will not help us in the future.

- What is the development process on the North Calgary Highschool and Anticipated Opening Date?
- Thank you
- No
- The student-to-teacher ratio on athletics teams compared to classrooms is frankly unacceptable. Schools, at their core, are about education in the classroom. Currently in CBE high schools, classes will often be between 30 and 40 students with one teacher. Meanwhile, a school basketball team will be 13 students, with 2 teacher sponsors. That is a student:teacher ratio of 6.5:1 while in a classroom, the ratio is 30:1 or even 40:1. It speaks deeply to the priorities of our academic institutions that so many resources are given to athletics, while comparatively few are given to academics. If a sports team can have a 6.5:1 student to teacher ratio, then a classroom needs to have an equal or better ratio if a school or the CBE even wants to be able to say they prioritize academics over everything else.
- Kids should still be allowed to go to a non-designated high school if they go through the application process and meet all requirements. Academics are my priority, and all of my designated schools, even my IB designated school, are not sufficient for the quality of education I desire (no offence). Similarly to others, if someone wanted a specific program or athletics or arts offered at another school, they should be provided an opportunity to at least try to enter the school they want. It has made a big difference in my life, and out of everyone I know at school, the most focused and hardest workers are students who have had to work their way into the school, and they are all very thankful for the opportunity that has been given to them.
- why are teacher recommendations if students must follow them? The name 'recommendation' is triggering and adds confusion. No better than to post a list of people who qualify for HL. The Alberta math curriculum is too pretentious. Students spend all of grades 1-10



dialogue)))

learning the equivalent of Algebra I, which is taught in the U.S. at the 8th-grade level. The school board should have a look at "A Mathematician's Lament" by Paul Lockhart. I don't personally agree with all of it, but it has many good points to consider. Finally, the 10, 20, 30, 25, 31, 35... course labels are stupid.

- No
- Use the school gym for concerts; not the Jubilee
- No. I will be graduating this year and I want future students to have the same high school experience that I had.
- The school should incorporate technology into learning. There should definitely be cooking, shop, and second language options. My classes should be limited to 22 or 23 kids so the teacher isn't so spread out.
- I did read the details and do understand that some highschools are emptying out and some over flowing. I have friends and families almost in all quadrants. My northeast friends are very unhappy with their schools due to lots of reasons. older highschools in older communities are very vulnarable. Making a new school is very expensive but demolishing and closing it is more expensive i guess. but try renting schools in vaccations etc to make renew out of them . I n my friends like schools but it is not always feel good experience when crime increases.
- Location of highschools should be considered in regards to following criterions 1) population ratio in the quadrants , 2) options offered should be distributed in a manner that students may have the flexibility to move from one high school to other as per the options offered. equal variety of courses online and in class cos not all students like all their courses online .
- I have special needs what about courses and placement for me?
- None
- No
- no
- I feel students should be able to go to whatever school they wish. Just hire more staff at those schools. And the ones that are under capacity, just hire less and coordinate the schedules better so everyone can still have a variety or courses.
- no
- The way that the Calgary Transit rebate is currently structured means that it is much more expensive to send my children to a different high



dialogue)))

school even if it would better suit their needs. Even though my child lives far enough away from their neighbourhood school to receive the rebate, because they attend the arts-centred programme the refund is unavailable.

- Kids that can walk to school should stay at their designated high school because it's cheaper for them and their friends will probably go there.
- Students are feeling extremely stressed in high school because of overcrowding in schools close to home. Please redirect funding from administration and downtown to the classroom.
- Travel time and mode of transportation to get to school is important. No more than 30 minutes should be acceptable.