

ESSA TOWNHALL FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Town Hall Locations and Dates	Duncan, October 18, 2016 Ada, November 1, 2016 Oklahoma City, November 14, 2016 Tulsa, November 15, 2016 Enid, December 5, 2016 Yukon, December 6, 2016 Muskogee, December 12, 2016
Conducted by	Superintendent of Public Instruction, Joy Hofmeister
Number of Attendees	Total: 998 Duncan: 343/Ada: 99/Oklahoma City: 87 Tulsa: 168/Enid: 85/Yukon: 102/ Muskogee: 114

List of Questions and Summary of Responses

1. What impact have you experienced from funding challenges?

Lack of resources for teachers
Large class sizes
Limited textbooks
Limited technology
Loss of exceptional/effective teachers

Notable Quotes:

*You can only guilt education majors for so long with “it’s for the kids” (teacher).
We have pro-books and are very lucky. Small towns don’t have that luxury (teacher).*

2. What attributes describe a successful school?

Parental involvement
Teacher empowerment
Community involvement
Consistent and fair discipline
Meaningful professional development
Students accountable for their own learning
Kids are excited and engaged
Collaborative
Proactive
Robust curriculum
More transparency
Pathways for Success
Positive morale of teachers

Safe for kids
Connection to real world
Resources to carry out and sustain initiatives
Strong leader
Arts-incorporated
Outreach programs from counselors

Notable Quotes:

Parents who aren't there are not necessarily disinterested (retired teacher).

Students have to start early exploring career options (teacher).

I appreciate the Twitter talks on Sunday evenings; we learn from each other (principal).

3. What is missing or in short supply?

Fewer students claiming education as a major
Teacher shortage is a pipeline issue
Grow the future through teacher programs in high schools
Raise level of respect and recognize teaching as a noble profession
Time to collaborate and plan
Traditionally certified teachers
Music as part of brain development
Money
Paper
Businesses don't want to come to state due to education system
Clear strategy to keep curriculum from broadening
Concurrent courses, expanded AP, internships
Social and emotional soft skills
Middle school guidance counselors
Growth model for testing
Consistency of instruction and assessments
One-on-one time with teachers

Notable Quotes:

We don't engage early enough with our kids to know what they want to do later in life (parent).

Students need academic choices in school – options are missing due to funding (superintendent).

4. How would you describe a well-rounded education?

Cross-curriculum learning, relevant to children's lives
Develop love of learning
Fine Arts-embedded
Business partnerships
Educate families that their children need to learn basics at an early age
Technology
Diverse experiences
Exercise
Produce productive citizens
Sports
Becoming "life-ready" – not just focused on college and career
Hands-on and innovative – includes music, art, and drama
Pathways for kids
Exposure to professionals
A-F system change so that culture and climate are improved
Address needs for every student – hungry students, unchallenged students
Teacher externships from businesses
Allow teachers to be creative

Notable Quotes:

Learn from others the importance of education (student).

Students should have their own opinions – think for themselves (student).

5. How is your school doing and how do you know?

Excellent job due to community involvement
Standards are great – test model needs to follow
Relationships with students and work ethic are important
Extra-curricular activities are important
Teachers are performing at high levels but are under-appreciated
Known success due to communication
Rural settings have administrators teaching classes
Appreciate the effort to re-define the senior year
Kids have to feel safe in their country and not fear deportation
Parents have much to say – continue to invite their views
Teacher are resourceful, but overall they are not doing well
Teachers who value the identity of students
Efforts to improve classroom management, climate, restorative justice
Caution tracking of students
Difficult to run school on lowest per pupil expenditure nationwide
Need to provide role models for students – personnel and resources

Notable Quotes:

K-8 schools succeed in serving the community of rural areas (legislator).

Testing students is not the answer to measuring them – too many aspects to measure (student).

When kids come back from college and say that they were prepared (principal).

6. How do we ensure that all students are successful?

Give students opportunities

Adequately compensate teachers

Funding

Collective efforts

Slow down process of government over-reach

Remove unfunded mandates

Hold high expectations for students and educators

Human needs must be met

Meet needs of diverse learners, including English learners

Notable Quotes:

If you don't know anything about education, get on the local board (school board member).

Core subjects are important; education is the force against prejudice (student).

7. What is it that makes this community so engaged?

Media attention has brought more volunteers

Communication with legislators to hold them accountable

Collaboration with businesses

Industry programs with nothing expected in return

Notable Quotes:

Engaged parents are critical (parent).

If we create great schools, families will follow (superintendent).

