



Summary of Budget Feedback

April 20, 2022

Meridian School District is in the process of developing their annual budget. As part of this process, feedback was sought from staff and families about budget priorities. Staff and families were asked the question, “As we plan for the next school year, what are the most important things we should consider in order to support all of our students?” Feedback was collected using ThoughtExchange. The request for feedback was shared with staff and families through email and the district website on Monday, April 11. The request was also included in school newsletters. The ThoughtExchange closed on Wednesday, April 20.

Respondent information:

87 total respondents (participants could select multiple roles):

- 48 parents/guardians
- 47 staff members
- 5 community members or neighbors
- 1 student

Respondents by school:

- Irene Reither Elementary School, 52 respondents
- Meridian High School, 30 respondents
- Meridian Middle School, 24 respondents
- Meridian Parent Partnership Program, 8 respondents
- N/A, 5 respondents

Themes:

- Compensation for staff
- Mental health/wellness support for students and staff
- Need for more substitutes
- Requests for small class sizes
- Support for Special Education students and staff
- Staffing needs and support
- Learning opportunities for students
- Support for student technology

Representative comments:

“Competitive pay for teachers and staff. We need to hire and maintain high quality staff. Many staff are/will be leaving to go to higher paying districts.”

“We need an adequate number of paraeducators supporting Special Education students in the Gen Ed settings. Without extra support in Gen Ed classes, Special Education students can be overlooked and often do not get the accommodations and modifications their IEP's require.”

“Mental health services. There is a huge gap between the availability of and the need for this service. Access at school would reduce absences as well.”

“Staffing so that we have small class sizes. In addition, we need staff to cover absent teachers. We need subs! Oftentimes staff are pulled from their regular assignment to cover classes. This really disrupts the learning.”

“Continue to provide a safe learning environment and an excellent education opportunity for the students by providing classes that are challenging. I hear too often that kids do not feel challenged and are bored and therefore find high school is too easy.”

“Technology budget. To replace, upgrade, and maintain all devices and wifi in all buildings we must have funding. We must have competitive rates for tech support staff.”