EGUSD LCAP Input 2021 Survey Results

The 2021 LCAP Input Survey was administered between February 15th and April 2nd. The survey was intended to solicit stakeholder feedback toward the development of the district and school LCAPs.

Survey Respondents

We received a total of 34,388 responses from students (21,407), parents (10,282), and staff (2,699). Parent participation increased since the 2019 LCAP Needs Survey for parents (previously 6,067) while participation remained relatively flat for students (previously 22,898) and staff (previously 2,952).

An examination of responses by race/ethnicity showed that the composition of student responses was fairly consistent with that of the enrolled population in grades 5-12 (the grades in which the survey was administered) with the exception of disproportionately high participation from Two or More students and disproportionately low participation among Hispanic students.¹

The composition of parent responses in the survey were more dissimilar to the population of enrolled students. White parents represented a much greater share of the survey responses (28%) compared with the composition of white students (17%) in the enrolled population. Meanwhile, Hispanic parents represented 19% of the survey responses and 27% of the enrolled population, and African American parents represented 8% of the survey responses and 12% of the enrolled population.

Emergent Themes

The survey asked respondents a single open-ended question: "What priorities should the school and district consider for budgeting and planning in the new school year?" To efficiently summarize the comments and develop emergent themes quickly, a semi-automated technique² was used to efficiently cluster comments together into groups with consistent phrasing.

Feedback themes were grouped together into the following general categories. For each theme, an exemplar excerpt from the comment is provided for context.

1. **Fully Reopen Schools**
   a. “Kids should have the option to attend 5 days a week, all day school.”
   b. “In person learning 5 days a week full time no distant learning”
   c. “The school should be planning on returning 5 days per week, full days for all students. Anything else is unacceptable”

2. **School Supplies, Field Trips, Playground Equipment, Recess, Fun**
   a. School Supplies
      i. “I think we need more playground equipment and new Chromebooks and headphones and mouse and better internet and more school supplies and

¹ As we asked student respondents to self-identify race/ethnicity, we would likely expect some natural divergence from the very prescriptive reporting categories and business rules required by state and federal law to identify primary race/ethnicity from detailed race/ethnicity information; it’s possible this discrepancy might be a result of that incongruity.

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school shirts and [better] chairs and desk and a better soccer goal and better basketball courts.”

b. Field Trips
i. “Updating the school campus, more robust extracurricular activities for the students, field trips that mean something for actual learning opportunities that are fun for students of that age (vs a museum).”

c. Playground Equipment
i. “I think they should buy equipment for the playground, teacher supplies, supplies to keep the school clean, teach the teachers how to teach online, and to [pay] the teachers more.”

d. Recess
i. “The school should provide new playground equipment like a swing set or new sports equipment because kids look forward to recess the most.”

e. Fun
i. “I consider getting a new swing set for the playground or add more fun stuff to the field or the blacktop.”

3. Safety and Cleanliness (mostly related to COVID)

a. COVID Precautions (PPE, Vaccination, Social Distance, etc.)
i. “Distance Learning and COVID-19 Safety Measures and Sanitization Protocols + PPE for all students and staff”

b. Cleaning and Sanitation
i. “Well-stocked cleaning supplies and clean classrooms. Safety gear for teachers. Books in the library. Considering where school fundraisers may have been short this year compared to previous years given the impacts of COVID on the community.”

4. Mental Health

a. “Wraparound services for students (family job loss, mental health access, food access, clothes, school supplies, safe after school activities, etc.)”

b. “Something for mental health support or like a group that helps people who feel alone and sad.”

c. “Outlook programs/opportunistic activities that can help students relieve stress, focus on mental health, and feel motivated/connected at school.”

5. Academic Support

a. Tutoring/Small Group Instruction
i. “Increased support for SES and ELL students including more small group services; language acquisition support. After school tutoring services for at-risk students; funds dedicated to time for teachers to observe their peers at their own and other sites.”

b. Learning Loss Mitigation
i. “Teaching assistance for every class because this will be another adjustment for our kids and many are going to be academically behind.”

c. Homework Assistance
i. “Release time for departments implementing new curriculum; a site coordinator for family engagement (Secondary); before and after school supervised time that students can hang out and do homework/get help”

6. Technology

a. “updated wifi and chromebooks, healthier school meals, facilities updating (new floors, etc.), parking lot security cameras”
b. “Remediation for students - technology upgrades for staff - we still do not have ceiling mounted projection – [this is] taking up valuable real estate in classrooms - New schools are far better equipped than our older sites - inequitable.”

c. “Integrating technology into the curriculum. Updating classrooms for technology integration (electrical outlet access, wifi access).”

7. Sports
a. “A new playground and new soccer goals and a football field and new basketball hoops and balls”
b. “They should focus more on funding for the arts, girls’ sports teams, helping students in need at home, fixing school bathrooms, soap dispensers, stall doors, etc.”
c. “I think one of their priorities should be put into the weight rooms because when we were in school the demand for the weight rooms were high. Year-round sports request the weight rooms in order to prepare for the start of their season.”

8. Rallies, Dances, Events, and Extracurriculars
a. “In aspects that bring back the school spirit and appeal such as rallies, clubs, in-school events, etc., as that is an aspect of school that has been lost greatly during the pandemic.”
b. “Additionally, while going back to school we really need to bring school spirit back up because of the lack of it this year. We can do this by emphasizing our school dances, rallies and other spirit events. Maybe even adding some new spirit wear!”
c. “I think extracurricular activities should be prioritized because for a huge majority of this year, most students haven’t been able to do anything with other students and haven’t been engaged in activities like usual.”

9. Visual and Performing Arts
a. “More arts & character-building education please. The schools overall appear to be lacking in creative arts, including choral, instrumental music, fine arts, performing arts.”
b. “Bringing back performing arts, music, robotics, and other programs that highlighted students' unique gifts.”
c. “It would be awesome if our school invested more money into our performing arts programs like band, color guard, cheer, theater, and our dance team. I feel that we are always held second to sports and the equality is not shown”

10. Distance Learning
a. Keep Distance Learning as an Option
i. “More flexibility in the teaching and student learning schedules. Offer students an option to continue Distance Learning through their school site, and offer teachers options to teach on campus with in-person students or off campus with DL students.”

b. Criticism of Concurrent Model
i. “If families want to stay distance learning, they should have that option, but the ones in person should NOT be hybrid and should have live instruction from the teacher in the classroom.”

11. Small Class Sizes
a. “Staffing to allow for lower class sizes, staff to student ratios in order to facilitate additional supports to allow for more catch up opportunities for all students after over a year without traditional in person learning and reduced instruction time.”
b. “Reduced class sizes to allow for social distancing, additional money for lab supplies since we will have to run much smaller lab groups.”
c. “Hire more teachers for smaller class sizes so the teachers can build better relationships with their students and know who they are working with.”

12. Lunch, Recess, and Breaks
   a. “The school should even consider making more eco-friendly options when it comes to providing packaged school lunch, such as reducing the amount of plastic used and encouraging students to bring their own silverware if possible.”
   b. “Continue to provide the free after school program and free lunch and breakfast for kids.”
   c. “Having more lunch time because some students like me, have to clean and make their own breakfast due to hard working parents.”

13. Chromebooks
   a. “Teachers need decent up to date laptops and students need up to date chromebooks in order to continue with more online learning rather than going back to paper and pencils as we come back into the classrooms.”
   b. “Providing enough chromebooks to allow for a 1:1 ratio.”
   c. “I’ve noticed that my daughter and one of my colleague’s son couldn’t get on many devices and experienced a lot of lags with the school chromebook, so I returned it.”

14. Social Emotional Skills, Engagement, and Fun
   a. Social Emotional Skills
      i. “Interpersonal relationships to help teens better understand the importance of healthy relationships that give them the most joy and satisfaction.”
   b. Student Engagement
      i. “I do not really know maybe teach the students more advanced things or test them since I know some students like me get bored and will not do the work if they feel it is too easy for them.”
   c. Student Play and Fun
      i. “The kids can’t play with their friends they don’t get a recess, it’s not really fair to them, especially the younger ones that don’t understand what’s really going on.”

15. Electives
   a. “I personally think we should add a class for students to be able to choose sign language as a class or a class for starting to learn about finances and bills, etc.”
   b. “[There] should be more elective choices at our school and equal opportunities for all students to participate in a variety of electives such as music.”
   c. “More language classes, more options on art workshops (like music or guitar workshops), and more clubs.”

16. Staff Support
   a. School Nurses
      i. “EGUSD needs more credentialed school nurses, District RNs related to increased medical and mental health needs for students, insistence on school RNs leaving school sites to staff immunization clinics, pandemic related issues at schools, high school nurse to student ratios, and credentialed school nurse burnout in our district, nurses leaving to go elsewhere”
   b. Compensation
      i. “Invest in classified staff -offer related PD with option of completing for salary credit.”
   c. Professional Development
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i. “Professional Development and more planning time to prepare lessons, especially with current changes and challenges.”

d. Empathy
   i. “Understanding of both staff members and students stress levels are high as well as distractions and other aspects and changes in their environments.”

17. Low Income Student Support
   a. “I think they should consider the budget of being able to provide kids with notebooks/necessities in case their parents can’t afford them”
   b. “Community outreach, free backpack and food drives so many people are starving at school and we steadily are just helping our community rather than the people who are on the trail.”
   c. “We should probably get free breakfast and lunches because of the pandemic a lot of parents have not been working or their job has stopped operating.”

18. New Schools and Facilities
   a. “Safety and cleanliness also in the Douglas Sunridge area we would love a new middle and high school as our kids are supposed to go to Pleasant Grove but mostly end up at Sheldon due to crowding - both high schools are 15 to 20 minutes away”
   b. “A new elementary, middle, and high school over by the new construction sites at Sterling Meadows, Elk Grove; which is located across the street from Kaiser Promenade.”
   c. “Opening new middle and high schools to keep up with housing demand in Rancho Cordova.”

19. Water Fountains and Bathrooms
   a. Water fountains and Bottle-filler stations
      i. “Water fountains, water bottle filler stations, better food for lunch line, more outside tables”
   b. Bathroom Facilities/Supplies
      i. Better female uses (tampons and pads), healthier food options, better mirrors in bathrooms, and better water fountains