



Student's Voice for Quality Education & How it Relates to funding

Student Board Trustees Report

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Our Objective

Our objective is to pinpoint the specific areas within schools that suffer due to inadequate funding, with the overarching goal of enhancing the overall school experience. By delving into the intricacies of educational budgets, we aim to gather ample information to discern where funds should be directed for maximum impact. Through comprehensive research and analysis, we intend to not only identify the areas in need but also devise potential solutions to address these challenges effectively.

Additionally, we are committed to exploring alternative funding sources to supplement existing budgets and ensure sustainable support for vital educational initiatives. By leveraging data -driven insights and collaborative strategies, we strive to empower schools to thrive and provide students with the resources they need to succeed.



Our Process

Our thinking, execution, and discovery.



01 Surveying students & principals

We had a thorough discussion with All Student Congress members to gain different perspectives on the issue of funding at different levels. To reach a larger audience for a more holistic view of the issue, we created forms for students and principals. The questions were designed to determine the areas in which funding was lacking the most and how it correlates to students' needs.



02 Communicating with Officials

In addition to collecting data, we reached out the finance committee of the board in order to gain a better understanding of how exactly our school's budget worked. We also went in person to speak with various principals on the finances of their schools.



03 Analyzing Data

Through rigorous data analysis, we identified recurring themes and priorities, ranging from supporting and providing more resources for sports to renewing our campuses with more sanitary bathrooms etc.. Drawing on these insights, we brainstormed innovative solutions tailored to address the identified challenges.



04 General Consensus

After engaging directly with the finance committee of the board and conducting personal interactions with both school principals and students, we were able to distil the data collected into key findings that shed light on challenges. We synthesized the information to provide a comprehensive overview.



The Data

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Students' First Priority Infographic

30%

Of students chose sports as their top priority

"I think that sports at our school are very important and it helps students bond with each other and pursue new things. Many sports like volleyball, soccer, and basketball are very popular at our school, but it's hard to find a coach especially since it's volunteer based. If we can put funding towards sports, things like the boys volleyball team won't have to be canceled again. I know that many of my friends were very disappointed that they couldn't get a chance to try volleyball.

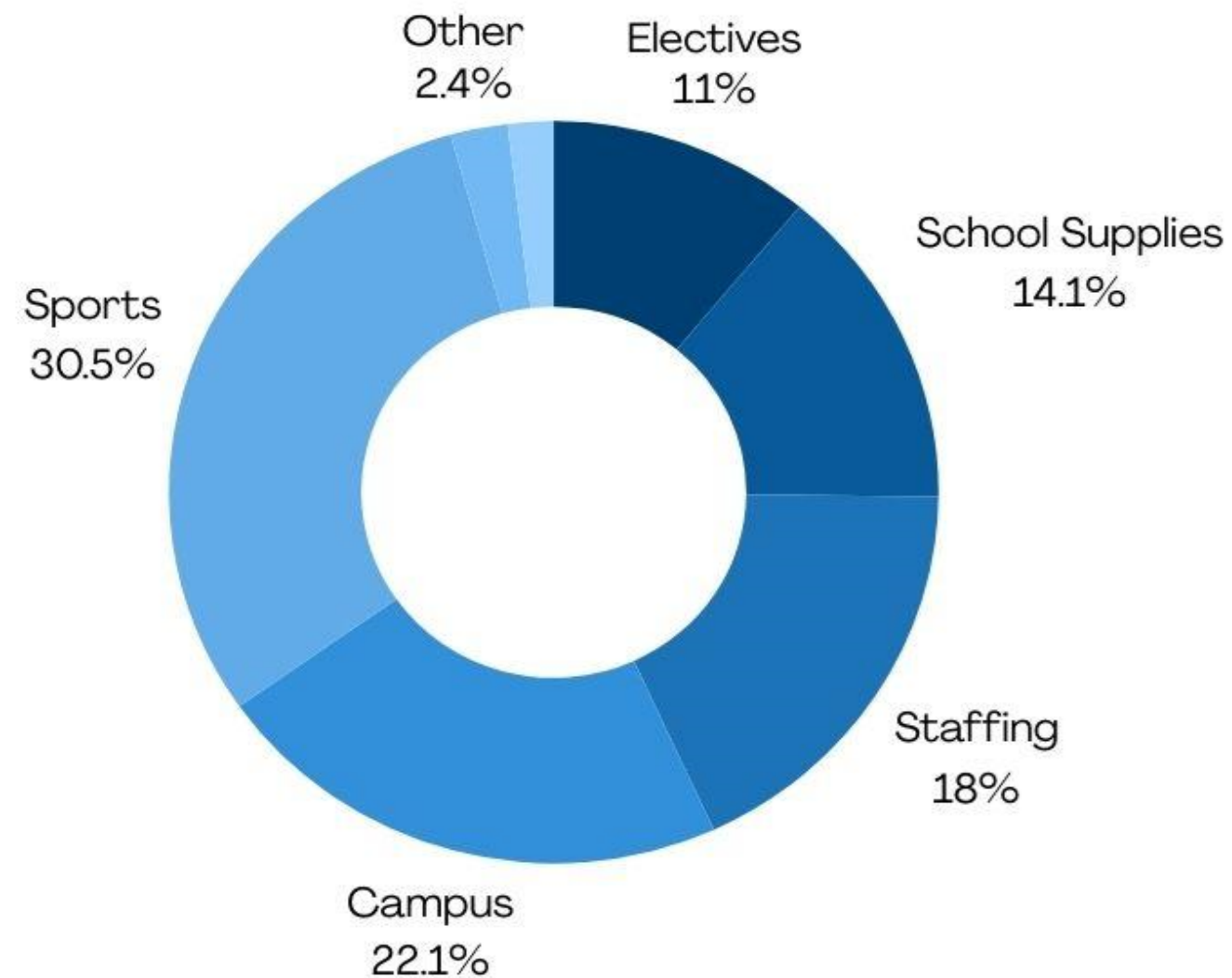
I also think that more electives would greatly benefit the students at our school because it would give more opportunity for students to discover what they enjoy."

11%

Of students wanted more electives

Data regarding the electives that are desired:

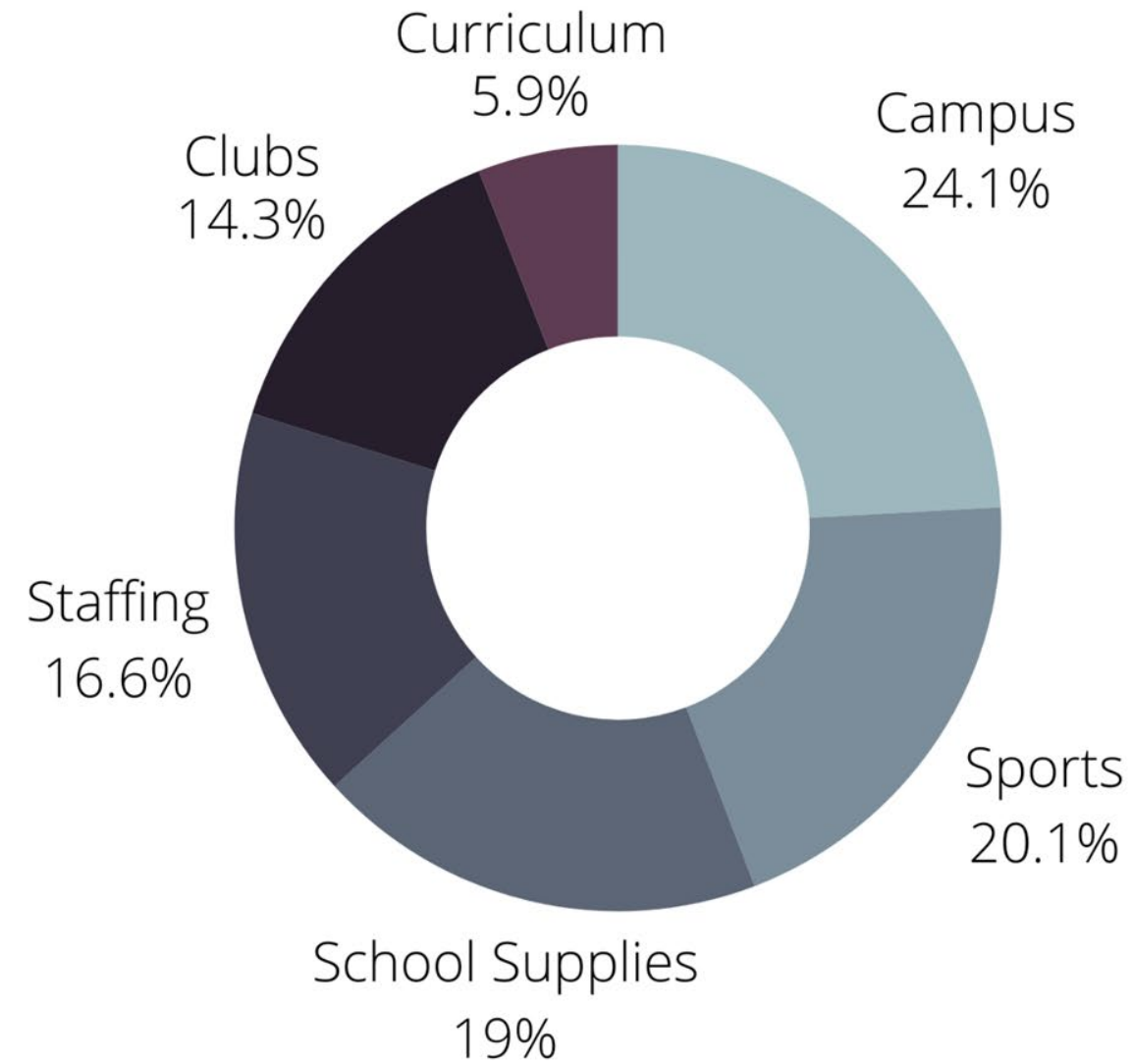
- Cooking & Baking (27)
- Band/Music (11)
- Art & Theater (4)
- Mechanics (1)



Student's Second Priority

24.1% OF STUDENTS CHOSE THEIR CAMPUS

"It would be nice to have more shade rain cover and just more spots to be outside rather than being just being inside"



5.9% OF STUDENTS CHOSE CURRICULUM

Previously, students placed significant emphasis on incorporating cooking classes and various forms of art classes, as highlighted in the "Other" section of our graph.

What is a major issue at your specific school site that is caused by a lack of funding? How has it impacted your experience?

“I believe it is important to prioritize funding staff and school supplies over clubs and sports. Although it adds to a student's experience, we should make sure they are getting the proper education before extracurriculars. As a senior, I've had to struggle with the lack of teachers which greatly affected my learning.”

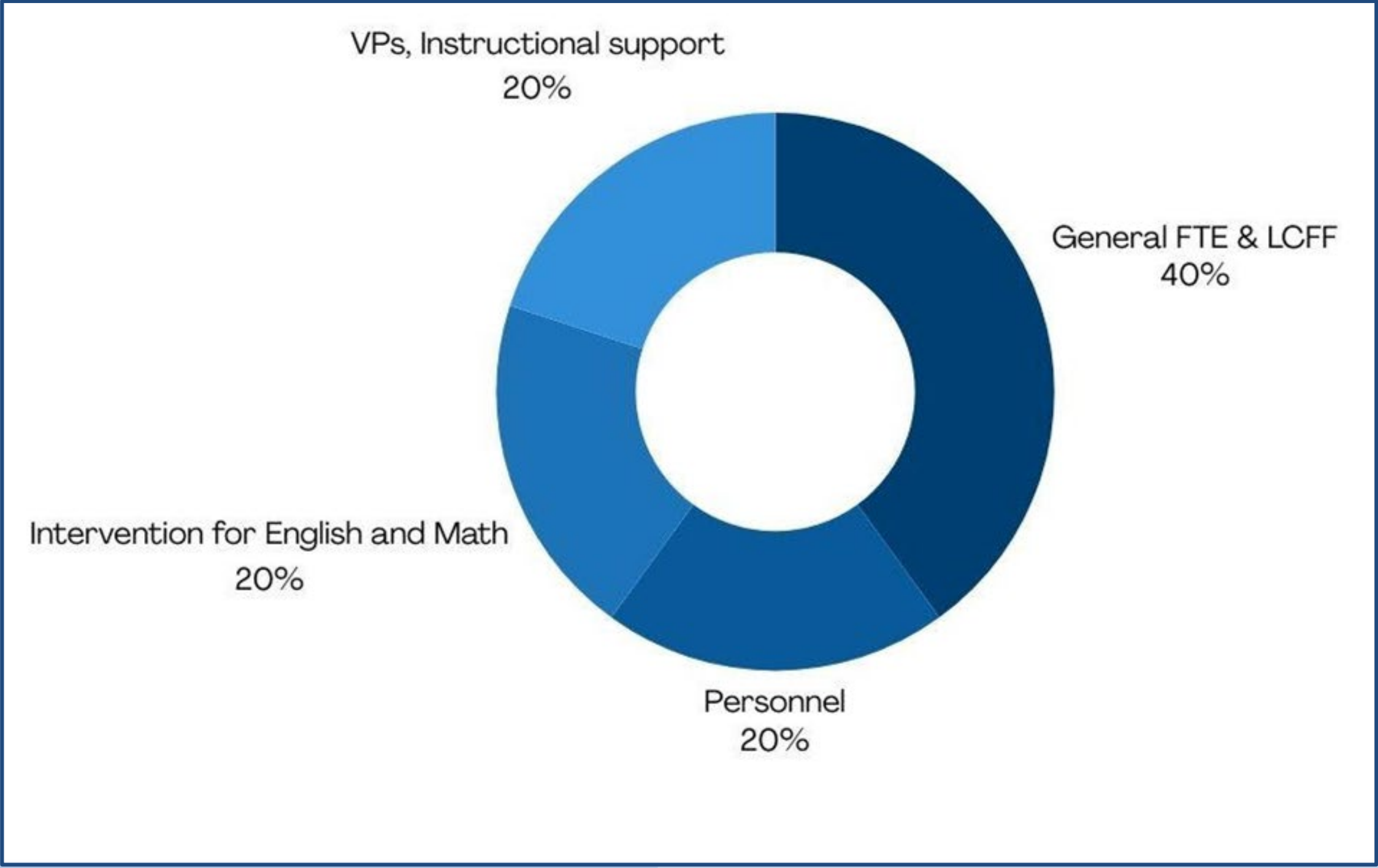
“I would like to be able to have some opportunities like the high school has. My sister is in high school and she tells me about how she goes on informational trips. She recently went on a trip to the Middle College (CCC) and was taught about their medical programs. I would like to do trips like (mostly for 8th graders) so we can figure out what to do and where to start before we get to high school. I'd want future 8th graders to be prepared for high school and have an idea of what they want to do. In order to do that, they need to be able to see options right in front of them.”

“Please fund the DLI Spanish program. It is very unfair that me and my peers who have been in this program for nearly 9 years have gotten a promise to go to El Cerrito High school in KINDERGARTEN to continue our DLI studies and now we no longer can. We have done almost twice the workload of an average student since we started this program and now our promise is suddenly being revoked.”

“This lack of academic support hinders developing students from finding their true potential and passion in learning. There were a few academic programs at our school years ago such as mathcounts, science, olympiad, or AMC but had to unfortunately get cut because of a lack of funding. As an avid learner myself it'd bring me, and others who share the same drive for learning, great joy if we can have a broader range of academic opportunities.”

“I also want to focus on campus because cleanliness and the amount of safety a student feels in their school can be a big drive in academic success. Having a clean and well-maintained campus will discourage students to litter or trash when they don't see pollution elsewhere that'll validate their actions. There are also fights, vaping, and smoking that I feel should be more scrutinized. They don't make me feel safe and it sucks to see that the top priority of our school isn't even directed at wellbeing or safety.”

Where funding lacks the most according to principals



What area is in the most **NEED** of more funds?

“Staffing, we need more adults on campus”

“Staffing, we will no longer be able to run our IB program at Pinole Middle”

“Counselors - really a shift in caseload numbers, Staffing, not dramatically, but lower class sizes would be beneficial and give our students more options, instructional support/TOSA - I think to really move the needle you need more adults supporting in and out of the class, elementary principals **NEED another admin on site, just to help with the IEPs alone.”**

I would like to use funds for staffing and maintain current classified positions to continue to stabilize Kennedy.”

“Greenwood students deserve the right to have the same sports and activities as other high schools. We need money to support our enrichment classes and sports. Also more support with mental health issues, therapy, SEL and conflict mediation”

“Staffing and supplies are crucial parts of our schools. We need more money to fund these areas”

Possible Solutions

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Possible Solutions to tackle funding issues

Addressing Attendance

Publicize finance committee

Explore more Partnerships

Grants from community based organizations

Fundraisers

School drives



General Consensus

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Summary

& What We Hope to See

After identifying recurring themes and areas of concern, we found consistent patterns in the data. The numbers overwhelmingly represented the following groups:

For teachers:

- Staffing: This includes hiring qualified long-term professionals, retaining counselors, and providing academic support to ensure a robust educational environment.

For students:

- Sports/Clubs: Students expressed a need for adequate support and resources for sports and clubs, including providing space, stability, and overall support to foster a vibrant extracurricular environment.
- Campus: Students expressed a desire to feel safe and provided for on their campus, indicating a need for improvements in campus infrastructure and safety measures to enhance their overall well-being and academic experience.

From our experience:

- Curriculum: There is a strong emphasis on focusing on electives that are more engaging for students, including language learners curriculum. Additionally, there's a need for enhancing college preparation resources and ensuring access to academic materials and resources that support student learning.

Our suggestions:

Through this process, we gained valuable insights into how factors influencing budgetary decisions affect different groups within our district. Given the ongoing trend of our budget shrinking each year and with the understanding that state funding is directly proportional to daily attendance, we recognize the need for innovative solutions to alleviate financial constraints.

One such solution involves implementing online classes for students who are sick, potentially mitigating the impact of decreased attendance on state funding. This initiative could help restore funding levels to those experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, if state funding falls short of meeting our schools' needs, we propose exploring alternative sources of funding. This could include promoting school fundraisers, forging partnerships with larger companies, or seeking grants to supplement our budgetary requirements.

Lastly, transparency regarding the district budget is paramount. We recommend releasing the budget to the public to foster understanding and mitigate misconceptions about available resources. Providing clarity on budget allocations can reassure stakeholders and promote informed discussions on resource allocation and financial planning.



Thank you for your time

