



Columbia Public Schools

Share Your Voice, Share Your Vision, Shape Our Future

Community Engagement Forums – September, 2006

Thank you for participating in this survey, which is designed to gather information about our community’s priorities as we create a long range facilities plan for the future of Columbia Public Schools. This community survey is part of a data-gathering process that also includes an engineering study of the district’s facilities and an educational adequacy study of each of our school buildings that was conducted by a group of trained teachers and building services staff.

The Columbia Public Schools Board of Education has established three goals to direct the work of the district. They are:

- Increase student achievement
- Eliminate disparities in achievement between groups of students
- Maximize resource efficiency.

Please provide the district with your views about district priorities and operations by providing your responses to the following questions. Your views are very important in guiding the district’s long range planning and informing the Columbia Public Schools administration about our current operations as we pursue these goals.

Feel free to skip those questions that you prefer not to answer or about which you have no opinion.

1. Please circle **two** ratings for each of the following types of school programs or services:

On the left circle how important each item is for our schools to effectively teach our children.

Use a scale from 1 (Not important) to 10 (Extremely important).

On the right, circle how well Columbia Public Schools is doing in that area.

Use a scale from 1 (Doing poorly) to 10 (Doing extremely well).

Importance (1 – 10) 1=Not important 10=Extremely important	Item	How well we are doing? (1 – 10) 1=Columbia is doing poorly 10=Columbia is doing extremely well
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Counseling, Social services, Health services/clinics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Tutoring	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Academic extracurricular activities (e.g. drama, school paper, etc.)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Athletic extracurricular activities	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Summer School	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Drug awareness and prevention education programs	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Drug and alcohol enforcement	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Disaster preparedness (e.g. fire drills)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2. Please circle **two** ratings for each of the following types of school building characteristics:
On the left circle how important each item is for our schools to effectively teach our children.
 Use a scale from 1 (Not important) to 10 (Extremely important).
On the right, circle how well Columbia Public Schools is doing in that area.
 Use a scale from 1 (Doing poorly) to 10 (Doing extremely well).

Importance (1 – 10) 1=Not important 10=Extremely important	Item – School Building Characteristics	How well we are doing? (1 – 10) 1=Columbia is doing poorly 10=Columbia is doing extremely well
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Small class sizes	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Small school buildings	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Reducing or eliminating mobile classrooms	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Minimizing transportation distances	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Neighborhood schools	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Air conditioning	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Handicapped Accessibility (ADA)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Technology – computers and equipment	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Cafeteria, Bathrooms and non-classroom spaces	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Safety and security (e.g. Perimeter lighting, security officers, security cameras)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Building age	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Building maintenance	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

3. Please give **two** (1 to 10) ratings for each of the following items about special instructional facilities:

On the left circle how important that item is for our schools to effectively teach our children. Use a scale from 1 (Not important) to 10 (Extremely important).

On the right, circle how well Columbia Public Schools is doing in that area. Use a scale from 1 (Doing poorly) to 10 (Doing extremely well).

Importance (1 – 10) 1=Not important 10=Extremely important	Item – Special Instructional Facilities	How well we are doing? (1 – 10) 1=Columbia is doing poorly 10=Columbia is doing extremely well
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Industrial Technology (Shop Class)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Media Centers/ Libraries	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Family and Consumer Sciences (Home Economics laboratories)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Science laboratories (e.g. chemistry, biology)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Visual Arts facilities	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Performing Arts facilities (band, drama)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Physical education – elementary facilities	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Playground space and equipment – elementary	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Physical education – secondary (e.g. gymnasium space, weight rooms)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Swimming pool	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Athletic fields	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Career and vocational facilities	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Special education	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Gifted education classrooms	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Pre-school classrooms	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

4. The existing Columbia Public Schools’ instructional year is 175 days of school, from late August through late May. Please indicate your interest in exploring alternative schedules:

a. Extended school year (additional instructional days)

Very Interested

Somewhat Interested

Not Interested

b. Year round calendar (9 weeks on/ 3 weeks off)

Very Interested

Somewhat Interested

Not Interested

5. Currently students in Columbia Public Schools attend for a 6 hour instructional day. Please indicate your interest in exploring alternative schedules:

a. Lengthen the school day by adding instructional time.

Very Interested Somewhat Interested Not Interested

b. Flexible scheduling – e.g. begin some classes early and conduct some evening classes.

Very Interested Somewhat Interested Not Interested

6. Currently, secondary students begin the school day at 8:00 a.m. and elementary students begin the school day at 8:50 a.m. Please indicate your interest in reversing this schedule, so that elementary students begin school at 8:00 a.m. and secondary students begin school later.

Very Interested Somewhat Interested Not Interested

7. Columbia Public Schools' current grade configuration is:

Elementary Schools – Grades Pre K-5
 Middle Schools – Grades 6, 7
 Junior High Schools – Grades 8, 9
 High Schools – Grades 10-12

Please indicate your interest for Columbia to explore each of the following alternate grade configurations:

Elementary K-5 Middle School 6-8 High School 9-12

Not interested
 Interested
 Very Interested

Elementary K-8 High School 9-12

Not interested
 Interested
 Very Interested

Elementary K-4 Middle School 5-8 High School 9-12

Not interested
 Interested
 Very Interested

Elementary K-6 Jr. High 7-9 High School 10-12

Not interested
 Interested
 Very Interested

Keep present system

8. How important is it for the district to limit transitions between schools during students' K-12 experience?

Very Important Somewhat Important Not Important

9. What other comments do you have regarding grade configuration in Columbia Public Schools?

9. Please circle **two** ratings to indicate your views regarding equitable resources:

On the left circle how important it is for each item to be provided equitably among all schools.

Use a scale from 1 (Not important) to 10 (Extremely important).

On the right, circle how well Columbia Public Schools is doing in that area.

Use a scale from 1 (Doing poorly) to 10 (Doing extremely well).

Importance (1 – 10) 1=Not important to be equitable 10=Extremely important to be equitable	Item	How well we are doing? (1 – 10) 1=Columbia is doing poorly 10=Columbia is doing extremely well
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Educational adequacy of school facilities	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Physical characteristics of school facilities (e.g. age, design)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Technology (e.g. computers, SMART Boards)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Programs (e.g. Tutoring, Mentoring Extracurricular activities)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Resources (e.g. books, furniture, laboratories)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Balanced demographic enrollment	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

10. The second Board of Education goal for Columbia Public Schools is to eliminate disparities in achievement between groups of students. In 2004, the district formed an Achievement Gap Task Force that established the processes the district follows to achieve this goal.

Please give **two** (1 to 10) ratings for each of the following of the Achievement Gap Task Force recommendations.

On the left circle how important that item is for our schools to effectively teach our children. Use a scale from 1 (Not important) to 10 (Extremely important).

On the right, circle how well Columbia Public Schools is doing in that area. Use a scale from 1 (Doing poorly) to 10 (Doing extremely well).

Importance (1 – 10) 1=Not important 10=Extremely important	Item	How well we are doing? (1 – 10) 1=Columbia is doing poorly 10=Columbia is doing extremely well
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Identifying the gaps in student achievement through analysis of data	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Defining and communicating high expectations	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Providing an aligned, well-sequenced, essential curriculum and high quality instruction consistently to all students	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Collaborating with the community and parents to plan and implement programs that address family needs and promote student achievement	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Ensuring that highly qualified personnel instruct every student	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Ensuring high levels of learner engagement and self-efficacy for all students	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	Ensuring an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere that supports all students, staff, and families, and that promotes trust and respect among all	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11. Indicate your interest in a district-wide dress code for all students.

Not Interested Interested Very Interested

12. Indicate your interest in uniforms for student dress in district schools.

Not Interested Interested Very Interested

13. How important is it for the school district’s facilities to be available for community use?

Not Important Important Very Important

14. The third Board of Education goal is to maximize resource efficiency. How important is each of the following as the district prioritizes its use of financial resources?

Please give a rating from 1 (Very low financial priority) to 10 (Very high financial priority)

Item – Programs and Services	Importance (1 – 10) 1- Very low financial priority 10=Very high financial priority
Counseling, Social services, Health services/clinics	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Tutoring	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Academic extracurricular activities (e.g. drama, school paper, etc.)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Athletic extracurricular activities	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Summer School	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Drug awareness and prevention education programs	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Drug and alcohol enforcement	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Disaster preparedness (e.g. fire drills)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Item – School Building Characteristics	Importance (1 – 10) 1- Very low financial priority 10=Very high financial priority
Small class sizes	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Small school buildings	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Reducing or eliminating mobile classrooms	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Minimizing transportation distances	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Neighborhood schools	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Air conditioning	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Handicapped Accessibility (ADA)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Technology – computers and equipment	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Cafeteria, Bathrooms and non-classroom spaces	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Safety and security (e.g. Perimeter lighting, security officers, security cameras)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

14. (Continued) The third Board of Education goal is to maximize resource efficiency. How important is each of the following as the district prioritizes its use of financial resources?

Please give a rating from 1 (Very low financial priority) to 10 (Very high financial priority)

Item – Special Instructional Facilities	Importance (1 – 10) 1- Very low financial priority 10=Very high financial priority
Industrial Technology (Shop Class)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Media Centers/ Libraries	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Family and Consumer Sciences (Home Economics laboratories)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Science laboratories (e.g. chemistry, biology)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Visual Arts facilities	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Performing Arts facilities (band, drama)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Physical education – elementary facilities	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Playground space and equipment – elementary	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Physical education – secondary (e.g. gymnasium space, weight rooms)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Swimming pool	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Athletic fields	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Career and vocational facilities	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Special education	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Gifted education classrooms	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Pre-school classrooms	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

15. The first Board of Education goal is to maximize achievement for all students. How satisfied are you that Columbia Public Schools is accomplishing that goal, at each level of schooling?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| a. Elementary: | Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Not Satisfied |
| b. Middle Schools: | Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Not Satisfied |
| c. Junior. High Schools: | Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Not Satisfied |
| d. High Schools: | Very Satisfied | Satisfied | Not Satisfied |

16. What are our strengths and/or areas that need improvement?

17. What do you think is/are the main purpose(s) of schooling? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Citizenship | Social and Emotional Development |
| Academic Development | Preparation for success after high school |
| Other _____ | |

18. What would you like to share with the district that we have not asked?

Please tell us about yourself:

1. I currently have children enrolled in: (check all that apply):

- Preschool
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- Junior High School
- High School
- Private School
- Home-Schooled
- Not applicable to me

2. My children have attended Columbia Public Schools in the past.

- Yes
- No

3. I am currently a student (Check appropriate level):

- Middle School
- Junior High School
- High School
- College
- I am not a student.

4. Which of the following Columbia Public Schools programs have your children utilized, now or in the past?
(Check all that apply):

- Pre-School
- Special Education
- Extended Educational Experiences (Gifted)
- Intramural Athletics
- Interscholastic Athletics
- Summer School
- Adventure Club
- Extracurricular Clubs and Programs
- Music Programming
- Career Center Classes

5. Which category best describes your age?

- Under 30
- 30 - 39
- 40 - 49
- 50 - 59
- 60 or Over

6. I am:

- Male
- Female

7. Which best describes you?

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Caucasian/White | Asian |
| African American/ Black | American Indian |
| Hispanic | Pacific Islander |
| Multi-racial | Other |

8. Which best describes your household?

- Single Parent Household
- Two Parent Household
- Guardian of school-aged children
- No school-aged children in the household.
- Other

9. Please indicate your elementary school attendance area, or the elementary school nearest to your home.

(List of elementary schools)

10. In which part of Columbia do you live?

<input type="checkbox"/> West of Garth and North of Broadway	<input type="checkbox"/> East of Garth and North of Broadway
<input type="checkbox"/> West of Garth and South of Broadway	<input type="checkbox"/> East of Garth and South of Broadway

Broadway

Garth

11. How long have you lived in the Columbia school district?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Under 5 years | 5-10 years |
| 11-15 years | Over 15 years |

12. Where do you get your information about our schools? (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Newspapers | CPS Web Site |
| Channel 16 | CPS Quarterly Report |
| Television | Radio |
| District employees | Other parents |
| Students | Magazines |
| School newsletters/ "Backpack mail" | |
| Other | |

13. What is your preferred information source about our schools? (Please check one)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Newspapers | CPS Web Site |
| Channel 16 | CPS Quarterly Report |
| Television | Radio |
| District employees | Other parents |
| Students | Magazines |
| School newsletters/ "Backpack mail" | |
| Other | |

14. Which category best describes the total annual income of your household?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Less than \$10,000 | \$50,000 – 74,999 |
| \$10,000 – 19,999 | \$75,000 – 99,999 |
| \$20,000 – 49,999 | More than \$100,000 |

15. Do you have access to the following technology in your home? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|-------|
| Personal Computing (e.g. word processing, spreadsheet programs) | |
| Internet | Email |

16. Are you employed by Columbia Public Schools?

- | | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

*Thank you for completing this survey.
Your voice will help us shape the future of Columbia Public Schools.*