



Constituent insights report

Top issues

1. Curriculum & Education Reform

Summary:

Citizens express significant concerns about public education curriculum, advocating for enhanced focus on core academics, arts education, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and diverse perspectives while keeping classrooms free from perceived political or gender-related agendas.

Analysis:

The messages reveal multi-faceted concerns about curriculum priorities and design. Citizens emphasize core academics, vocational training, and foundational skills like critical thinking and emotional intelligence, while expressing frustration with perceived ideologically driven coursework. A significant concern is the decline in arts education, with citizens reporting cuts to music programs, teachers, and equipment that have created unmanageable student-to-teacher ratios.

A notable tension exists between different educational philosophies: some citizens prioritize traditional academic rigor and gender-separated sports, while others emphasize inclusivity and diverse perspectives. The recurring desire to keep classrooms "free from political or gender-related agendas" underscores these ideological concerns about curriculum content.

Quotes:

I think that Arts Education has been absolutely gutted over the past half dozen years or so. Teachers have been cut, band lessons have been cut (although the administration





won't admit that), prep times have been taken away, band rehearsals have become unmanageable due to a high student:teacher ratio.

I can support education that encourages people into the working world but do NOT approve of any and all bulls*** courses, and that includes most of the Sports programs.

I also believe schools should stay focused on core education and keep classrooms free from any political or gender-related agendas

- 1) mandate a logic class. Too many kids are buying into propaganda because they don't know better
- 2) teach emotional intelligence. Our society is riddled with individuals who can't think past themselves or their understanding of the world. The lack of self awareness limits communication and peaceful discourse
- 3) bring music instruction back into the mandated curriculum. Youth learn to read, count, interpret, connect, through music.
- 4) stand strong in teaching the value of diversity and new opinions.
- 5) provide access to books of all types so that youth can learn about the realities outside of our community

2. High Taxes

Summary:

Citizens are expressing significant concern and frustration over high taxes, particularly school levies, stating they can no longer afford them and may be forced to move.

Analysis:

The messages reveal a strong and consistent sentiment of financial burden due to current tax levels. Multiple citizens explicitly state they cannot afford more taxes, with some even threatening to leave the state if the situation persists. This indicates a perceived breaking point for many residents, where the cost of living, driven by taxation, is becoming unsustainable.



A recurring theme is the specific mention of "school levies" as a major contributor to the tax burden, despite one message also noting declining student grades. This suggests a disconnect where citizens feel they are paying high taxes for education but not seeing commensurate results. The messages highlight a deep-seated frustration with the overall tax structure and its impact on personal finances, particularly for retirees who are explicitly mentioned as being negatively affected.

Quotes:

We cannot afford any more taxes. We are gonna have to move out of Minnesota if it continues.

Reduce school levies! Lower taxes!!! We pay enough tax in this State! It's ridiculous!

Keeping taxes down

We are being taxed to the poor house and student grades just keep going down

Stop taxing the retirees.

We can't afford it anymore.

3. School Environment & Safety

Summary:

Citizens are deeply concerned about school safety, student discipline, academic focus, and the behavior of adults at school-related events.

Analysis:

The messages reveal a strong desire for safer and more disciplined school environments. A primary concern is the physical safety of children, teachers, and staff, indicating a need for robust security measures. Beyond physical safety, there's a significant emphasis on classroom discipline, with citizens advocating for holding students accountable for their behavior and for administrative support in enforcing rules. This suggests a perceived lack of consistent discipline, leading to disruptions and a less effective learning environment.



Another recurring theme is the call for schools to maintain a focus on core education, free from political or social agendas that are seen as distracting from learning. This highlights a tension between educational priorities and broader societal discussions. Furthermore, a unique but significant concern is the behavior of parents at school sporting events, which is described as aggressive and harmful to children. This points to a broader issue of community conduct impacting the school experience, extending beyond the classroom walls.

Quotes:

The safety of our children, teachers and staff in school.

improve school safety and raise the bar for academics

Discipline in the classroom and holding kids responsible for their behaviors from the administration

The parent behavior at sporting events, the way parents yell at the officials