



Summary of Budget Feedback March 2023

Meridian School District is in the process of developing their annual budget. As part of this process, feedback was sought from staff, families and community members about budget priorities. The question was asked, “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 Qualtrics. The request for feedback was shared with staff and families through email and the district website on Feb. 13. The survey was also available in the community newsletter. The feedback form closed on Friday, March 3.

Respondent information:

105 total respondents (participants could select multiple roles):

- 43 parents/guardians
- 63 staff members
- 6 community members or neighbors
- 1 student

Respondents by school:

- Irene Reither Elementary School, 50 respondents
- Meridian Middle School, 35 respondents
- Meridian High School, 33 respondents
- Meridian Parent Partnership Program, 7 respondents
- Districtwide, 7 respondents

Themes:

- Competitive compensation for teachers and staff
- Sufficient staffing and additional support (paraeducators, health services, etc.)
- Requests for smaller class sizes
- Additional support for students in Special Services (Special Education, multilingual learners)
- More enrichment and after school opportunities for students

Representative comments:

“Sufficient paraeducator support and accommodations for ML, IEP, Life Skills, LAP students.”

“Staffing. Ensuring that we are hiring and retaining staff to support student needs at all buildings.”

“Offer more class options (staffing), technology that works in the classroom and for students.”

“After school support for homework and clubs to strengthen a sense of belonging.”

“Adequate staffing to keep class sizes as low as possible.”

“A program to allow students that are failing behind to have extra help after school. Supporting and encouraging and enhancing after school clubs, sports to get students involved. Students who are involved in clubs, sports and other extracurricular activities with fellow students have an easier time fitting in and having a sense of belonging.”

“Supporting teachers with a good salary and having enough paraeducators to help kids who need more attention (whether behind or ahead of the main class), so teachers can focus on teaching instead of classroom management.”

“More electives that would help the students thrive in choosing college options and career paths.”