

## More about what we thought on December 11

**Question 1:** What makes you most proud about what our community has done to support children in Mecklenburg County?

### Overview:

This question was “themed,” but not prioritized by participants. The shaded area represents 50% of recorded responses.

Number of Responses	Themes
188	Education/Schools
137	Community/Businesses/People Care
64	United Agenda for Children Town Hall Meeting
63	Programs and Agencies in the Community
59	Early Childhood/Child Care
38	Values Diversity/Everybody
32	Health Care
32	Public Safety/Police/Legal System
21	Arts/Culture/Library
20	Number of Responses
18	City/County Government
15	Nothing/Not Proud/Negative Response
Less Than 10	Community Resources
	Community Leaders
	Collaboration
	Activities for Parents & Children

on education

“(We need a)strong commitment to education and fund things beyond state mandate.”

Participant

“ *Parent education - every child has a nurturing, supportive parent in each home (at least one). Children of single parents are not in stressful environment because child support has been mandated and enforced.* ”

Participant

**Question 2:** What is vision for our children’s future?

**Overview:**

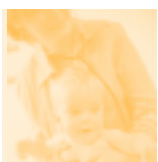
This question was “themed,” but not prioritized by participants. The shaded area represents 50% of recorded responses.

Number of Responses	Themes
134	Good Education/Strong School System
84	Parent/Family Support of Children
80	Safe/Secure Home and Environment
70	Adults/Community Care and Support Children
60	Out-of-School Time/After School Programs
47	Build Self Esteem, Social Development & Character Development in Children
42	Equitable Resources
41	Language/Culture/Residency Barriers and Awareness
36	Health Care
31	Nutrition/Hunger
23	Continued Education/Vocational Training
22	Basic Needs Met -- Food, Clothing, Shelter
18	Parent Communication, Information and Education
14	Transportation
14	Mentors/Tutors
12	Businesses Support/Do More
12	Physical Activity
11	Graduation
Less than 10 responses	Child Care/Day Care - Community, State and National Involvement - Giving Back to Community/Kids Volunteer - Teenage Children are Supported - Substance and Alcohol Abuse - Child Abuse/Neglect - Leadership - Culture/Media - Violence/Crime Prevention - Prevention - Community Will/Public Will - Bus Concerns

**Question 3:** What is our common vision for all children?

This question was “themed,” but not prioritized by participants.

Number of Responses	Themes
Less than 10 responses	<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Safe/Secure Home and Environment</b>  <b>Adults/Community Care and Support Children</b>  <b>Teenage Children Supported</b>  <b>Good Education/Strong School System</b>  <b>Child Care/Day Care</b>  <b>Self Esteem</b>  <b>Parental/Family Support</b>  <b>Language/Culture/Residency Barriers and Awareness, Diversity</b>  <b>Equitable Resources</b>  <b>Out-of-School Time/After School Programs</b>  <b>Vocational Training/Jobs</b>  <b>Transportation</b>  <b>Nutrition/Hunger</b>  <b>Physical Activity</b>  <b>Parent Communication/Information/Education</b>  <b>Health Care</b>  <b>Substance Abuse Prevention</b> </p>



## health

### Healthy Children:

Question 4, 5 and 6

#### Background

**“Our children and youth will not suffer needlessly or be constrained by a lack of health care”**

From birth to 21, a child’s health can impact emotional, physical, and academic development. Healthier children tend to be more successful in all aspects of their lives and become more productive and healthier adults. How do you raise a healthy child? Recognized positive influences on children’s lives include: loving parents and adults, good nutrition beginning before birth, easy access to recreational opportunities, prevention of common childhood accidents, screening and treatment of health issues, and adequate access to appropriate and ongoing health care.

### on vision

“Young children supported by parents— involvement in school and at home. Older children to have role models and look beyond primary and middle school.”

Participant



“ *Healthy diet is important. Snickers and coke isn't an appropriate breakfast!* ”  
Participant

In their earliest years, the greatest health care issues for young children tend to be preventative care, screening for early detection of health problems, and injury prevention. With school age children health care concerns which may become apparent include access to affordable health coverage, provision of appropriate dental, vision and hearing care, identification of mental health issues and support for children with special needs. Health habits are formed early, so encouragement of healthy behaviors is important from infancy onwards. However, for adolescents, the adoption of healthy behaviors becomes a significant priority, as well as the support of good mental health.

Key health care standards that support the Core Value are:

- Obtaining Necessary Immunizations
- Access to and Use of Affordable Health Care
- Appropriate Dental, Vision and Hearing Care
- Quality Mental Health Programs
- Healthy Behavior

**Question 4:** Keeping in mind the vision that we created, are there any other key health standards that should be added to the list?

### Overview

This question was “themed,” but not prioritized by participants. This question focused on the current Core Values Standards included in the Participant Guide.

### Review

The Theme Team identified two health standards in addition to the ones included in the Core Value statement:

**Pay for prevention:** nutrition, prenatal, sex education

**Environmental enhancement**—lead/mercury abatement, affordable housing, good air quality, clean water, exercise and open space

The shaded area represents 50% of recorded responses.

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
79	Hunger/Nutrition/Food Issues	Improve nutrition No junk food in schools Teach children about nutrition
60	Health Education	Increase and improve health education K-12, improve and update curriculum
43	School Nurses/School-based Care	Increase school nurses to national average Let school nurses give immunizations other actual care.
41	Fitness/Exercise/P.E.	Daily exercise at school Increase facilities, parks etc.
39	Preventative/Wellness Issues and Programs	Increase wellness, prevention Increase screening - vision, hearing, dental, speech
32	Communicate/Educate/Inform Parents	Educate
31	Language/Culture/Residency Barrier	Bi-lingual/Multi-lingual communication Cultural Competency
30	Mental Health Issues/Depression	Improve access to quality care Increase funding
28	Environmental Issues/Pollution	Clean air and water Establish standards
25	Sex/STD/HIV Education	Access to appropriate education
25	Communicate/Educate/Inform Public	Education about what resources are available.
21	Prenatal/Infant Care	Increase appropriate prenatal care
17	Aid for Children with Disabilities/Asthma/Etc.	Assessment, early intervention Access to aid/care
15	Substance/Drug Abuse	Quality Programs
11	Affordability	Cost in general
10	Simplified Delivery/Access	Knowledge of where to go Easy Access to available healthcare
10	More/Better Insurance	
Less than 10	<p><b>Agencies Coordinate/Communicate/Consolidate, Easy Access/Transportation, More/Better Doctors, Clinics, Providers, Inequity/Unequal Access,</b></p> <p><b>Better Parenting, Mentors/Role Models, Statistics/Data Lacking, Care Available “All-Hours”, Money/Funding, Build Government/Political Support,</b></p> <p><b>Bureaucracy/Paperwork, Government/Leaders/Political Barriers</b></p>	



“(We need to) prioritize health education; it is required, but not emphasized in school curriculum.”

Participant



**Question 5:** What are the most important OBSTACLES that prevent us from fulfilling our commitment to ensure that all the children and youth of Mecklenburg County are healthy?

**Overview**

This question was “themed,” but not prioritized by participants.

**Obstacles Identified by the Theme Team**

- Limited access to insurance, financial support, transportation, HC providers
- People don't know about nutrition, healthy lifestyles and behavior
- Unfair distribution of resources and inadequate processes
- Too much red tape: politics and bureaucracy get in the way of appropriate allocation of resources
- Pop culture images: lifestyles, fast food, sex, violence, smoking, alcohol
- Bias in medical treatment—not enough sensitivity to culture, race and language
- Social stigma of accessing public health and mental health services
- Money, money, money

The shaded area represents 50% of recorded responses.

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
70	Communicate/Educate/Inform Public	Lack of awareness/knowledge of services available
58	Language/Culture/Residency Barrier	Cultural Competency - both a need for and a lack of Language Issues Residency Issues
55	Money/Funding	
44	Build Government/Political Support	Build support of Leaders
42	Communicate/Educate/Inform Parents and Caregivers	About Health Resources About Parenting Skills
38	Affordability	Actual Cost Economic Situation of person seeking care
37	More/Better Insurance	Insurance for working poor Cost
37	Better Parenting	General Better Parenting Lack of Parenting Skills
36	Easy Access/Transportation	
32	Apathy/"Not My Problem"/Public Will	Apathy Public Will
30	Nutrition Issues	Healthy Choices at School Education on Nutrition Junk Food

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
28	<b>Preventative/Wellness Issues and Programs</b>	Prevention Education Screening
24	<b>Insufficient funding</b>	Lack of Funding Allocation/Competition for Resources
20	<b>Mental Health Issues/Depression</b>	Stigma Need for programs
19	<b>Neighborhood/Community get Involved</b>	Community Involvement Neighbors helping Neighbors
19	<b>Care Available "All-Hours"</b>	
19	<b>Simplified Delivery/Access</b>	Accessibility Ease
19	<b>More/Better Doctors, Clinics, Providers</b>	Shortage of Health Care Professionals Places
18	<b>Culture/The Media/Morals</b>	Pop Culture - Increase positive images/decrease negative images
17	<b>Inequity/ Unequal Access</b>	Distribution of Resources
16	<b>Health Education</b>	Curriculum
16	<b>School Nurses/School-based Care</b>	Not enough nurses
14	<b>Better Tracking/Data/reporting</b>	Accurate Statistics
14	<b>Inadequate Process</b>	
13	<b>Environmental Issues/Pollution</b>	Asthma
12	<b>Fitness/Exercise/P.E.</b>	
12	<b>Racism/Prejudice/Bias</b>	
11	<b>Agencies Coordinate/Communicate/Consolidate</b>	Lack of Coordination/Better Coordination
11	<b>Insufficient personnel</b>	
11	<b>Sex/STD/HIV Education</b>	
Less than 10	<p><b>Assign/Enforce Accountability, Bureaucracy/Paperwork, Insufficient Education, Business/Employers Do More, Inadequate Communication, Services go into the Community/Neighborhood, Stigma/Pride of Receiving Help, Set/Define Standards, Mentors/Role Models, Home Safety, Fear/Stigma Reporting Abuse/Problems, Involve Churches/Faith Community, Out of School Time, Affordable Safe Available, Insufficient Privacy, Substance/Drug Abuse,</b></p> <p><b>More Advocates, Need for Adult Supervision/Latchkey Kids, Prenatal/Infant Care, Promote Partnerships, Environmental Issues/Pollution, Aid for Children with Disabilities/Asthma/Etc., School Security, Truancy Issues</b></p>	



“(We need) a child's Health Care Czar for Mecklenburg County.”

Participant



**Question 6:** What are the most important ACTIONS that we should take in order to ensure that all of the children and youth of Mecklenburg County are healthy?

This question was “themed”, and was then prioritized using individual key pay.

**Identified by the Theme Team:**

- Increase school resources for HC services, especially school nurses
- Expand affordable transportation options to doctors, clinics, etc.
- Coordinate services among providers, non-profit orgs, and faith-based orgs
- Use technology for data sharing, record-keeping and accountability
- Provide healthcare services where the children are: home, school, day care
- Think Peace Corps: develop Health Corps
- Implement universal healthcare
- Increase healthy programs in schools
- Fill the pipeline with healthcare professionals

This list was then prioritized using keypads with the following question: Which is the most important action we can take to ensure healthy children? The top five are listed here:

1. Provide healthcare services where the children are: home, school, day care
2. Increase school resources for HC services, especially school nurses
3. Implement universal healthcare
4. Coordinate services among providers, non-profit orgs, and faith-based orgs
5. Increase healthy programs in schools

“Train lay Latino “leaders” about health issues and access to services in their own language to spread general information within the neighborhoods where they live.”

Participant



The shaded area represents 50% of recorded responses.

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
88	<b>Communicate/Educate/Inform and Empower Public</b>	Inform on available resources
		Educate about the issue
		Ideas on how and where to inform public
80	<b>Nurses in Schools/School Based Care</b>	Increase school nurses
		Schools should provide screening, preventative care and actual health care.
78	<b>Communicate/Educate/Inform Parents and Caregivers</b>	Educate about healthy choices
		Educate about what resources are available
59	<b>Nutrition Issues</b>	Improve nutrition of school food.
		Educate on healthy eating
57	<b>Services Go into the Community/Neighborhoods</b>	Community based
		Mobile
49	<b>Money/Funding</b>	More
47	<b>Simplified Delivery/Access</b>	Insurance/Medicaid acceptance
43	<b>Build Government/Political Support</b>	Educate Leaders
		Secure Advocates
42	<b>Programs/Activities</b>	

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
41	Health Education	Improve, broaden curriculum Teach K-12 Include sex education
40	More/Better Doctors, Clinics, Providers	Increase number of health professionals Make health care workers more professional
38	Neighborhood/Community get Involved	Neighbors helping neighbors
31	Business/Employers Do More	Provide Resources/Funding Support Parents
30	Better Tracking/Data/reporting	Common Statistics More Data/More Reliable
28	Fitness/Exercise/P.E.	Mandatory
28	Mental Health Issues	Guidance Counselors help support this type of care Support for under 18
25	Language/Culture/Residency Barriers	Cultural Competency Translation/bilingual multi-lingual assistance
22	Out of School Time - Affordable/Safe/Available	Neighborhood Amenities: sidewalks, parks Access/Affordability of Out of School Time Activities
21	Involve Churches/Faith Community	Churches help disseminate information
21	Prevention/Wellness/Screening	Prevention programs
20	Transportation Issues	
19	Agencies Coordinate/Communicate/Consolidate	Integration and Coordination of Services
17	Assign/Enforce Accountability	Leaders
16	Promote partnerships	
15	Mentoring	
14	Sex/STD/HIV Education	
13	Culture/Media Responsibilities	Promote positive lifestyle choices
12	Programs/Activities	
12	Legislative Action	
Less than 10	Hold Parents Accountable, More Hours, Immunizations, Drug/Alcohol/Substance Abuse, Set/Define Standards, Day Care/Child Care Issues, School Discipline, Conduct Research , Better Parenting, Environmental Concerns, Anger Management, Home Safety , Moral/Cultural Issues, School Bus/Get-to-School Safety, Foster Care, Apathy/"Not My Problem"/Public Will, Racism/Prejudice/Bias	

“Adults are out of touch or in tune to the issues facing youth..”

Participant



# safety

Safe Children: Questions 7,8,9

## Background

***“They will feel safe at home, in their neighborhoods and in their schools; the justice system will protect and advocate for them.”***

From birth to 21, safety at home, at school, and in the community, is critical to a child’s well-being. We have a shared responsibility for the safety of our children. The home is the place where parents can help children learn to make good personal decisions in regard to their own safety and the safety of others. The community, through education and prevention, can reinforce and support these efforts.

The safety of our youngest children is most affected by their home environment and may be threatened by domestic violence or child abuse. As children grow older, the threat of crime and violence outside of the home creates a potentially significant issue in school and in the community. In this sense, protecting young people requires not only that they are safe but, also, that they “feel safe.” It also means addressing how best to support young people who are dealing with the juvenile justice system.

## Question 7

Keeping in mind the vision that we created, are there any other key SAFETY STANDARDS that should be added to the list?

## Overview

This question was “themed,” but not prioritized.

## Review

Table participants were looking for additional standards as demonstrated by the new codes; however, some of the original standards are mentioned as well.

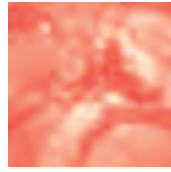
The Theme Team identified three additional safety standards. These standards were supported in the subsequent data analysis:

- Auto safety and road/driver education
- Zero tolerance of gang violence activity and tagging
- Safety zones for children, like women’s shelters

Keeping in mind the vision that we created, are there any other key SAFETY STANDARDS that should be added to the list?

The shaded area represents 50% of recorded responses.

<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Sub Themes</b>
34	<b>Courts/Police/Law Enforcement</b>	
29	<b>Out of School Time- Affordable/Safe/Available</b>	Teens and Pre-teens
26	<b>School Discipline/School Security</b>	
23	<b>Communicate/Educate/Inform/Involve Parents and other Adults</b>	
23	<b>Gangs</b>	
23	<b>Driving/Transportation Issues</b>	Car/Driving Safety
21	<b>Drug/Alcohol/Substance Abuse</b>	
19	<b>Harassment/Abuse/Neglect/Domestic Violence Issues</b>	Reporting
15	<b>Moral/Cultural Issues</b>	Set Boundaries
13	<b>Home Safety</b>	
12	<b>Neighborhood/Community get Involved</b>	
10	<b>Conflict Resolution/Peacemaking</b>	
Less than 10	<b>Need for Adult Supervision/Latchkey Kids, Racism/Prejudice/Bias, Safety Education, School Bus issues/Bus Stop, Day Care/Child Care Issues, Gun Control, Hold Parents Accountable, Teacher and Safety Issues, Prevention/Wellness, Programs/Activitie, Culture/Media Responsibilities, Anger Management/Bullying, Mental Health Issues, Mentoring, Online/Internet Safety, Truancy Issues, Better Parenting , Set/Define Standards, Accidents/Prevention, Foster Care Issues, Better Tracking/Data Reporting, Language/Culture/Residency Barriers, Services Go into the Community/Neighborhoods, Agencies Coordinate/Communicate/Consolidate , Assign/Enforce Accountability, Communicate/Educate/Inform Public, Money/Funding, Business Employers Do More, Involve Churches/Faith Community, More Advocates</b>	



# safety

“ (Children need a)  
Safe place to play.

Participant



**Question 8:** What are the most important obstacles that prevent us from fulfilling our commitment to ensure the safety of the children and youth of Mecklenburg County?

**Overview:**

This question was “themed,” but not prioritized by participants.

**Review:**

- The Theme Team obstacles correspond to the data analysis findings.
- ‘Out-of-School Time – Affordable, Safe, Available’ was the third highest obstacle code in the data analysis and was not specifically mentioned in the theme team list.
- The analysis validates the original findings by the Theme Team and provides additional information about what obstacles were mentioned the most frequently.

**Identified by the Theme Team:**

- Little accountability in juvenile system
- Lack of parental supervision and involvement
- Inconsistent discipline and standards at schools
- Ill-equipped parents/families because of poverty, illiteracy and substance abuse
- NIMBY and “couldn’t happen to me/mine” syndrome
- Media influence and peer pressure— “it’s cool to be bad”
- Easy access to weapons/firearms
- Children afraid to report dangerous incidents
- Differing cultural norms of acceptable levels of violence
- Inadequate quality and affordable early childcare
- Some parents don’t know how to manage stress, promote discipline and model conflict resolution
- Money, money, money

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
93	<b>Communicate/Educate/Inform Parents and Caregivers</b>	Parent training/education/information (in safety and relationships) Safety and Security in physical space Special needs for single, young, teen, high risk parents
80	<b>Fear/Stigma Reporting Abuse/Problems</b>	Fear: trust, social stigma, abuse, reprisal Fear of institutions Lack of training, follow up and resources by professionals Lack of program information and education
72	<b>Out of School Time - Affordable/Safe/Available</b>	Lack of organized and safe recreational places and programs Lack of supervised activities Need neighborhood infrastructure (sidewalks) that are safe and accessible
64	<b>Money/Funding</b>	More Money More Money for Social Services More Money for Safety and Police
77	<b>Courts/Police/Law Enforcement</b>	Ineffective juvenile justice system; insufficient alternative programs Inadequate police resources: more visibility, prevention, training

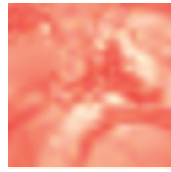
Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
56	<b>Culture/Media Issues</b>	Entertainment/Media violence, crime, sex, profanity, prejudice Pop culture: music, lifestyle, video games
48	<b>Day Care/Child Care Issues</b>	Affordability Inadequate worker screening/training Quality/licensed
36	<b>Neighborhood/Community get Involved</b>	Lack of neighborhood involvement
29	<b>Discipline</b>	Inconsistent discipline in schools Need clear behavior expectations
28	<b>Better Tracking/Data/reporting</b>	Collect accurate, comprehensive, timely data confidentially
26	<b>Racism/Prejudice/Bias</b>	Racism
24	<b>Communicate/Educate/Inform Public</b>	Lack of awareness of programs, practices and missions
22	<b>Better Parenting</b>	Lack of involvement and skill
21	<b>School Security</b>	Unsafe physical design and operations
20	<b>Youth Responsibility/Accountability</b>	Peer Pressure
19	<b>Gangs</b>	Lack of Public safety strategy and education Gang culture/sense of belonging
19	<b>Hold Parents Accountable</b>	
18	<b>Health/Safety Assessment and Care</b>	Inadequate healthcare or prevention
17	<b>Bus Stop/School Bus issues</b>	Lack of driver & parent supervision Dangerous locations
17	<b>Language/Culture/Residency Barriers</b>	Language barrier causes disparity: access to programs; law enforcement, child abuse
17	<b>Insufficient Manpower/Resources</b>	Insufficient program capacity/staff
16	<b>Apathy/"Not My Problem"/Public Will</b>	Self interest - individuals and neighborhoods
16	<b>Leadership: Principal, School, Central and Board</b>	Lack of leadership and shared responsibility
15	<b>Contemporary Lifestyle Pressures</b>	Adult stress
14	<b>Substance Abuse/Drug Abuse</b>	
12	<b>Alternative/Engaging Education Strategies</b>	Need alternative programs based on age/behavior
12	<b>Lack of Consequences</b>	Insufficient/inconsistent consequences
12	<b>Mentoring</b>	Lack of role models (male, positive)
11	<b>More Advocates</b>	
11	<b>Poverty</b>	Need affordable housing and childcare
10	<b>Life Skills Education</b>	Need education: communication; stress; safety; avoiding risks; self esteem
<b>Less Than 10</b>	<b>Multicultural Education, Early Childhood Ed, Class Size, Business/Employers Do More, Truancy Issues, Equity, Need for Adult Supervision/Latchkey Kids, Programs/Activities, Seatbelts Safety Seats,</b>  <b>Anger Management, Better Teachers, Integrated/Diverse Population Schools, Guns, Pay/Respect/Value/Support Teachers</b>	

on safety

“ Increase safety police officers in the system.

Participant

”



# safety

**Question 9:** What are the most important actions that we should take in order to ensure that all the children and youth of Mecklenburg County are safe?

**Overview:**

This question was “themed,” and was then prioritized using individual keypads.

**Review:**

The Theme Team actions correspond to the data analysis findings in most key areas.

The five priorities voted on and ranked by participants are directly supported by the themes found in subsequent analysis.

Codes for the analysis were not necessarily stated as actions.

‘Child Abuse/Domestic Violence’ was not in the original theme team list and was ranked fourth highest in the further analysis.

The analysis validates the original findings by the Theme Team and provides additional information about what actions were mentioned the most frequently.

**Identified by the Theme Team:**

- Increase quality, quantity and accessibility of childcare and daycare options.
- Prepare parents for parenting and hold them accountable for child safety.
- More ‘kids on kids’ talking, peer mentoring and mediation.
- Promote neighbors helping neighbors
- Employer support for: childcare options, school visits, mentoring
- Increase after school and out-of-school activities
- Develop better data on ROI for early intervention programs to improve services
- Stricter enforcement of gun laws
- Increase school safety: i.e., monitors on buses, metal detectors

This list was then prioritized using keypads with the following question: Which is the most important action we can take to ensure safe children? The top four are listed here:

1. Prepare parents for parenting and hold them accountable for child safety.
2. Increase after school and out-of-school activities
3. Increase quality, quantity and accessibility of childcare and daycare options.
4. Employer support for: childcare options, school visits, mentoring

The shaded area represents 50% of responses

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
117	Police/Courts/Law Enforcement	Increase Police Presence Weapons & Gun Control
117	Communicate with/Educate/Involve Parents and Other Adults	Parent Education Parent Involvement
71	Out of School Time - Safe, Affordable Available	Create More Programs
60	Child Abuse/Domestic Violence Issues	Educate Children & women
55	Neighborhood/Community get Involved	

on safety

“ like homeland security, we need school security

Participant

”

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
42	Discipline: School/Parent/Community	
38	Money/Funding	Neighborhood Watch More Community Involvement
35	Child Care	Extend Time Affordable Care
33	Mentors/Tutors	More Mentoring
31	School Security	
28	Media Do More/Report Better	
26	More Counselors/Social Workers/Other Positions	
22	Business/Employers Do More	Flexible Work Hours
23	Programs/Activities	
20	School Bus/Get-to-School Safety	
21	Involve Churches/Faith Community	
20	Better/Easier/Safer Reporting	Form Hotlines/Anonymous Programs
19	Truancy Issues	More Officers Curfew Enforcement
19	Violence/Prevention/Safety Education	
16	Alternative/Engaging Education Strategies	More Alternative Education
17	Safe Home/Poverty Issues	
15	Language/Cultural/Residency Barriers	Diversity Training
14	Accountability of Parents and Others	
15	Peer to Peer mediation/support/involvement	
14	Substance Abuse/Programs	
11	Coordination/Collaboration	Better Coordination of Agencies Seatbelts on Buses Car Seat Use Education
11	Child Advocates	
11	Culture/Values/Character	Character Education
Less than 10	<p>Anger Management, Curriculum Issues, Parent/Adult/Child Relationships, Teen Driving Safety Issues, Foster Homes, Better Administrators/ Principals/Leadership, Equity, Sex Education/Teen Pregnancy Issues, Encourage Volunteerism, Install Sidewalks/Street Lights, Drop Out Prevention, Multicultural Education, Training Teachers, Life Skills Education, Early Childhood Education, Prenatal/Postnatal Education,</p> <p>Class Size/Student, Teacher Ratio, Scheduling School Day (Largely “starts too early”), Teacher/Principal/School Accountability, Guns, Growth/ Planning, Pay/Respect/Value/Support Teachers, Better Teachers, Class Size/Crowded Schools, Internships/Vocational Ed</p>	

“Assess student and teacher learning styles -- then align students & teachers accordingly.”

Participant



## education

***“They will have opportunities, from birth to adulthood, for free and appropriate education.”***

Background--From birth to 21, education provides young people with the tools they need in order to grow into productive, healthy, and active adults. The ages of birth to 5 are perhaps the most significant years for establishing a strong emotional, physical and cognitive basis for later years. Quality education in homes, child care centers and preschools has been well documented in supporting a child’s development. Additionally, at each level, a child’s educational achievement is influenced by a complex interaction of the quality of the teaching, classroom experience, instructional leadership, and availability and quality of facilities and equipment.

A high school diploma is critical to the future success of adults across several areas including economic security, crime prevention, social and emotional well-being and family health.

The world our children will face as adults has become increasingly complex. It is now estimated that people entering the workplace will hold anywhere from 10-15 jobs in their lifetimes. The jobs of the future will demand a strong base in math and communication skills, flexibility and teamwork, technological knowledge, and higher level thinking skills. In addition, as Americans face a world that is both more dangerous and more competitive, participation in our country’s civic life will be important.

Key education standards that support this Core Value include:

- Quality Early Childhood Programs
- Quality Teachers
- Appropriate Classroom Experiences
- Adequate Facilities and Equipment
- Dropout Prevention
- Programs to Address Special Needs

**Question 11:** Keeping in mind the vision that we created, are there any other key education standards that should be added to the list?

**Overview:**

This question was “themed,” but not prioritized by participants.

**Review:**

- Table participants were looking for additional standards as demonstrated by the new codes; however, some of the original standards are mentioned as well.
- This validates the original findings by the Theme Team and adds additional areas/standards for consideration.
- The second analysis provides more detailed information about what was said by frequency count.

**Identified by the Theme Team:**

- Good out-of-school programs for all
- Effective school administration
- Required parental involvement
- Equity in resources with no achievement gap

The shaded area represents 50% of responses

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
64	Curriculum and Teaching	Life skills Character development Arts, music culture
51	Parent Involvement and Accountability	
32	Leadership: Principal, School, Central & Board	
29	Pay/Respect/Value/Support Teachers	Compensation Support for teachers
25	Equitable Resources	Facilities, equipment, supplies High quality teachers
21	At Risk and Special Needs Students	Early identification and intervention Gifted needs More remedial/homework assistance
21	Student Assignment	Ensure diverse environments Stability/consistency Socio-economic balance--racial and cultural
20	Out-of-School Time/Affordable, Safe, Available	A Variety of Programs Enrichment Opportunities
20	Internships/Vocational Ed	Emphasis on training for non-college bound
18	Teaching to Test	Stop teaching to the test See section on curriculum and teaching
18	Training Teachers	Stricter credentialing requirements Classroom management
18	Class size/Student-Teacher Ratio	Smaller class size Ratio
17	Teacher/Principal/School/System Accountability	
16	Multicultural Issues	Assure cultural competency Language concerns
14	Quality Teachers	Caring, compassionate, no-prejudging Diverse teaching styles
13	Support for Career Decisions and College Prep	Scholarships
12	Community Involvement & Participation	Public/private/business partnerships Faith-based involvement
12	Discipline/Behavior	Alternative education for suspended/excluded students
9	Communicate/Educate/Inform Parents	More/Better Communication
10	Communicate/Educate/Inform Parents	
Less than 10	Mentors/Tutors, Safe School Environment, Drop Out Prevention Early, Childhood Education, Money/Funding/Budget, Additional Staff, Parent/ Teacher Communication, Scheduling School Day, Crowded/Smaller Schools, Adult Education Programs/GED, Child Care/Daycare, More Teachers/Recruitment, Non-Public Education Concerns, Planning and Growth	

“*Teachers in Japan are respected and revered.*”

Participant



# education

**Question 12:** What are the most important obstacles that prevent us from fulfilling our commitment to ensure the education of the children and youth of Mecklenburg County?

### Overview

This question was “themed,” but not prioritized by participants.

### Review

- The Theme Team obstacles correspond to the data analysis findings in most areas.
- Codes for the analysis were not necessarily stated as obstacles.
- The subsequent analysis provides additional information about what obstacles were mentioned the most frequently.

### Identified by the Theme Team:

- Parents are apathetic, intimidated by the system and have work obligations
- Childcare system not well financed, staffed or supported in general
- Bureaucracy impedes progress
- No ‘test’ left behind: too much emphasis on teaching to pass a test
- Limited recognition, training, respect, pay or incentives for PreK-12
- Need to deal with shifting demographics
- Student absenteeism, disruptive behavior, substance abuse, lack of aspirations and lack of value for education
- Money, money, money

“*If one school has computers in every classroom, then ALL schools should have computers in every classroom.*”

Participant



The shaded area represents 50% of responses.

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
128	<b>Pay/Respect/Value/Support Teachers</b>	Pay more/low salaries Teaching not seen as professional More resources/support/staff including guidance counselors
73	<b>Parent Involvement and Accountability</b>	Parent Involvement Barriers for parents - language, schools not "parent friendly", scheduling, their own educational background
70	<b>Equitable Resources</b>	No County-wide standards about facilities, resources etc. for schools Equity-plus, low performing schools should get extra resources
67	<b>Curriculum and Teaching</b>	
56	<b>Student Achievement/Expectations/Attitudes</b>	Low expectations including having biased expectations

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
52	Money/Funding/Budget	
48	Discipline/Behavior	Lack of it
45	Multicultural Issues	Schools need to be culturally competent
43	Leadership: Principal, School, Central and Board	School Board leadership - devisive, unclear vision Need effective, efficient administration
40	Teaching to Test	Stop teaching to the test
36	At Risk and Special Needs Students	
35	Child Care/Daycare	Affordability Lack of Subsidies
34	Planning and Growth	Not keeping up with population growth Poor planning Need better teachers in low performing schools
33	Community Involvement and Participation	Politics Community Involvement
33	Crowded/Smaller Schools	
32	Student Assignment	For Against
31	Class size/Student-Teacher Ratio	Classes too big
30	Early Childhood Education	Not enough qualified programs
25	Training Teachers	More support/better training for new teachers Lack of quality professional development
25	Quality Teachers	Not enough qualified teachers - particularly subject expertise
23	Drop Out Prevention	Lack of other options
23	Teacher/Principal/School Accountability	
22	Resources	Only materials, not staff. See below
22	More Teachers/Recruitment	
20	Culture/Society Issues	
19	Teacher/Parent Communication	
16	Safe School Environment	Lack of adequate and good facilities
11	Economic Conditions	
10	Scheduling School Day	Largely too early
Less than 10 responses	Communicate/Educate/Inform Parents, Internships/Vocational Ed, Size of District, Facility Issues, Adult Education, Truancy, Non-Public Education Concerns, Support for Career Decisions and College Prep, Media and PR, Out-of-School Time/After School Programs, Mentors/Tutors, Bus Concerns, Coordinate Services, Uniform/Dress Codes, Housing Issues	

“ Increase number of early childhood programs and access.

Participant

”



## education

**Question 13:** What are the most important actions that we should take in order to ensure that all the children and youth of Mecklenburg County are educated?

### Overview

This question was “themed,” and was then prioritized using individual keypads.

### Review

The Theme Team actions correspond to the data analysis findings in many areas.

The number one theme for both the day’s voting and the subsequent analysis is focused on supporting teachers, through pay, training, additional resources, etc.

Themes found in the subsequent analysis that were not voted on directly but showed a high response rate were:

- Parent Involvement and Accountability
- Curriculum Concerns
- Community, state and national involvement
- Equitable Resources
- Money/Funding
- Internships/Vocational Ed
- Leadership: Principal, School, Central and Board

Some of these additional themes are implied in the priorities.

There was a clear distinction between comments on equity, which received a high degree of response rate versus student assignment/growth and planning, which received a low response rate.

The subsequent analysis provides additional information about what actions were mentioned the most frequently.

### Identified by the Theme Team:

- Increased expectations of students, such as GPA requirements for athletes
- Increase awareness and respect for vocational programs
- Require higher standards and provide better pay for teachers and assistants, including mentoring programs
- Add after-5 childcare
- Expand Bright Beginnings; take it into community sites
- Improve communication between parents and teachers
- Add more mentoring programs for students
- Expand and improve facilities—smaller classrooms and better student-teacher ratio
- Make it culturally cool to be smart in school

This list was then prioritized using keypads with the following question: Which is the most important action we can take to ensure well-educated children? The top five are listed here:

1. Require higher standards and provide better pay for teachers and assistants, including mentoring programs
2. Expand and improve facilities—smaller classrooms and better student-teacher ratio
3. Improve communication between parents and teachers
4. Expand Bright Beginnings; take it into community sites
5. Add more mentoring programs for students

The shaded area represents 50% of responses.

Number of Responses	Themes	Sub Themes
120	<b>Pay/Respect/Value/Support Teachers</b>	Pay more/ pay more for equity plus schools/better incentives See additional sections on more teachers, training teachers and quality teachers below
89	<b>Curriculum and Teaching</b>	More focused on individual learning styles Does not include 'teach to the test'; see below Arts/music
84	<b>Parent Involvement and Accountability</b>	Make parent participation mandatory Support parent involvement with better times for meetings etc., more support from employers See additional themes re: parents with Communicate/ Inform/Educate Parents & Parent/Teacher Communication
52	<b>Equitable Resources</b>	Schools have same resources
51	<b>Teacher/Principal/School/System Accountability</b>	Merit-based accountability Accountability in budgets
51	<b>Training Teachers</b>	Training and support Support for obtaining higher degrees
46	<b>Community Involvement and Participation</b>	Collaborate with corporate community
43	<b>Internships/Vocational Ed</b>	Allow two tracks - job/vocational training and college prep with no prejudice
38	<b>Money/Funding/Budget</b>	Comments directly about funding, NOT about funding for what. These are coded by the specific focus.
38	<b>Early Childhood Education</b>	Increase Bright Beginnings Make in mandatory, free of charge
32	<b>At Risk and Special Needs Students</b>	Support for special needs children
32	<b>Communicate/Educate/Inform Parents</b>	Improve between parents and teachers
29	<b>Planning and Growth</b>	developer fees
27	<b>Student Incentives/Motivation</b>	
26	<b>Leadership: Principal, School, Central and Board</b>	Leaders allocate resources better More school-level authority
25	<b>Class Size/Student-Teacher Ratio</b>	Smaller classes
23	<b>Student Assignment</b>	Mentions neighborhood schools as plus Integrate schools on race and/or SES

Cont'd next page

<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>Themes</b>	<b>Sub Themes</b>
22	<b>Multicultural Issues</b>	Increase cultural competency of schools
21	<b>Support for Career Decisions and College Prep</b>	
20	<b>Drop Out Prevention</b>	Start earlier and be more proactive about prevention
20	<b>More Teachers/ Recruitment</b>	Improve teacher recruitment and incentives
20	<b>Parent/Teacher Communication</b>	
20	<b>Discipline/Behavior</b>	Peer to Peer from kids Consistent
18	<b>Child Care/Daycare</b>	More affordable, better curriculum
17	<b>Student Achievement/Expectations/Attitudes</b>	Raise standards
15	<b>Facility Issues</b>	
14	<b>Media and PR</b>	
14	<b>Additional Staff in Schools</b>	
14	<b>Quality Teachers</b>	
12	<b>Scheduling School Day</b>	Starts too early
12	<b>Teaching to Test</b>	Stop teaching to the test
12	<b>Educate/Inform the Public</b>	
13	<b>Out-of-School Time - Affordable, Safe, Available</b>	
11	<b>Coordinate Services</b>	
11	<b>Crowded/Smaller Schools</b>	
Less than 10	<b>Truancy, Transportation, Adult Education, Coordinate Services, Alternative Education, Uniforms/Dress Code, Housing Issues, Non-Public Education Concerns</b>	