

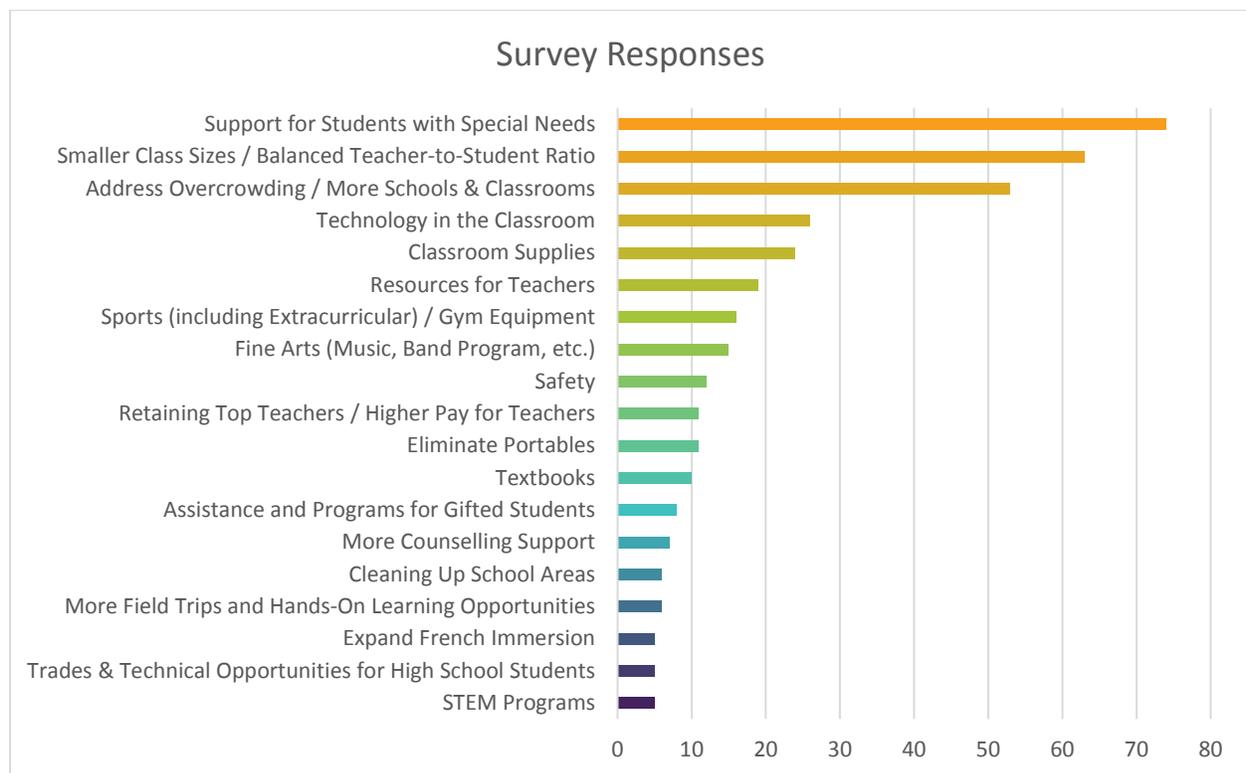
## Surrey Schools Budget Input Report

In February 2016, Surrey Schools engaged the community on budget priorities for the 2017/18 year. The district sought feedback from parents on what they felt was important to include in the next budget.

In addition to traditional methods of feedback, Surrey Schools launched the Budget Input topic on PlaceSpeak, a public consultation platform. The district sent an email to nearly 73,000 parent email addresses, notifying them of the engagement and directing them to PlaceSpeak. The topic received more than 3,400 views during the consultation, leading to 203 survey responses, 23 discussion comments and 10 emails.

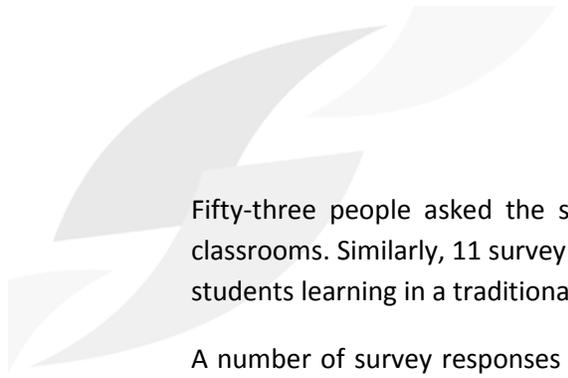
### Summary of Feedback

Overall, the two biggest priority requests were addressing overcrowding and increasing support for special needs students in the district.



Through the survey, 74 people requested that operating funds be used to support students with learning disabilities and behavioural issues, as well as ESL students. Another 63 people requested more teachers, smaller class sizes, and/or a balanced teacher-to-student ratio.

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Fifty-three people asked the school district to address overcrowding by building more schools and classrooms. Similarly, 11 survey responses asked the district to eliminate portables, citing the benefits of students learning in a traditional classroom environment.

A number of survey responses asked for more or newer technology in the classroom, as well as more school supplies and resources for teachers.

Sports – including extracurricular activities and investment in gym equipment – received considerable interest, as did funding more fine arts and music programs. French Immersion was also a hot topic, with some parents calling for easier access to Choice programs and more programs for gifted students.

Safety, textbooks, field trips, STEM programs and counselling were also top of mind for a handful of respondents.

On a smaller scale, the 23 discussion comments and 10 emails reflected the survey responses, appealing to the district for new schools, a balanced teacher-to-student ratio, increased support for special needs students, more Choice programs and French Immersion, and the elimination of portables.

There was also a substantial number of responses regarding preparing high school students for the job market and adult life through work experience, trades opportunities, leadership programs and financial planning courses (i.e. understanding taxes, managing debt, saving money, credit cards).

Uncommon requests included outdoor learning opportunities, better transportation, childcare programs, fewer days off for students, the option for schools to enforce uniforms, meal programs, and cursive.

The full comments from the survey, discussion and emails can be viewed in the accompanying Budget Input Responses document.

### **Next Steps**

The Surrey Board of Education will review the results of the engagement and take the feedback into consideration before submitting the 2017-2018 Annual Budget in May.

### **Key Budget Timelines**

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Provincial Announcement of 2017-2018 Preliminary Operating Grant

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Board Approval of 2017-2018 Annual and Three-Year Budget

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Submission of 2017-2018 Annual Budget

## LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

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