

Safety Conversation

Thoughtexchange Summary Report



In November 2018, Spokane Public Schools engaged their community in a conversation about safety. Participants were invited to share thoughts, rate the thoughts of others and discover the results of the exchange. Read on to learn about the Top Themes and Hot Topics that emerged in this exchange.



2,559
Participants



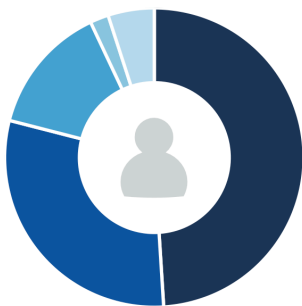
2,337
Thoughts



88,944
Ratings

Q: What are some perspectives to consider as we work to ensure our schools are as safe and secure as possible for our students and staff?

PARTICIPATION BY ROLE



%		
49%	(1193)	Parent/Guardian
30%	(742)	Staff Member
14%	(343)	Staff Member and also a Parent/Guardian
2%	(42)	Student
5%	(125)	Community Member

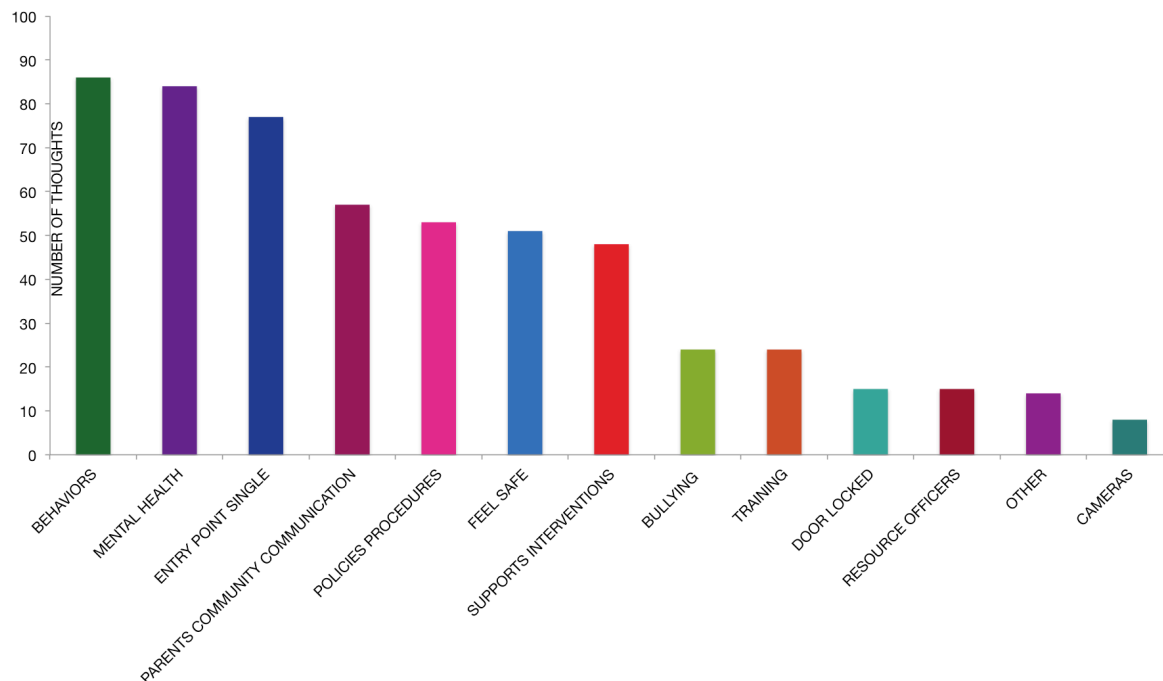
PARTICIPATION BY GRADE LEVEL



%		
44%	(1068)	Elementary
9%	(217)	Middle
24%	(599)	High
23%	(552)	Multiple Levels or Community Member

TOP THEMES

Using an algorithm, thoughts are grouped together by topic to form themes. The theme names reflect the key words for each topic as generated by the algorithm.



Click [here](#) to explore an interactive version of the bar charts

BEHAVIORS

I think it is VERY important to listen to school staff who work with students

4.3 ★

45 👤

who have mental health issues when we say they need more support. We

observe their behaviors daily, and if we see a concern, it should taken seriously and given appropriate attention and serious/timely support.

When a student is placed on an out-of-school suspension for dangerous

4.3 ★

45 👤

behavior, it is VERY important that there is a process in place for re-entry. It is

critical that there is follow up upon re-entry – especially if the incident happens at the end of a year; new staff/new school need to be informed.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health should be priority. This will go a long way in maybe stopping things from happening beforehand.

4.5 ★

37 

All schools should have mental health professionals. Having not just academic counselors but professionals has been proven to make students more mentally balanced, and therefore schools safer places.

4.4 ★

37 

ENTRY POINT SINGLE

Single point of entry schools are following procedures. The system is only as good as how the procedures are upheld. Training for staff, students and parents should be mandatory yearly.

4.4 ★

41 

I appreciate the efforts to use 'single point of entry' at many of the SPS facilities. Helps to protect who comes and goes.

4.3 ★

44 

PARENTS COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

Continue to find ways to educate students on the importance of letting an adult know when they hear about a potential threat to school safety. Staff relationships with students is the best source of information. Research shows someone has usually told someone about their plans prior.

4.4 ★

35 

Developing solutions to behavior problems is NOT just a school district responsibility. Parents and community organizations must come to the table. The schools should not be expected to do it all.

4.3 ★

43 

POLICIES PROCEDURES

All buildings need to follow the same expectations. Parents/community members must know that no matter what building they enter, they must check in at the office and follow certain expectations.

4.4 ★

44 

Known location of all crisis drill information. Crisis info needs to be easily accessible to all staff like specialists, both classified and certified, who work in multiple buildings.

4.2 ★

32 

FEEL SAFE

Security of staff. Feeling safe in work environment is important!

4.4 ★

33 

I think it is key that our children feel safe as they enter their school building and spend the day. If children don't feel safe, learning is affected.

4.3 ★

42 

SUPPORTS INTERVENTIONS

Quick action when threats/actual are found out. If there is a delay in response to threats or actual event, then it invites more attempts.

4.4 ★

36 

We need more supports for students who exhibit out-of-control behaviors in school. It is disrupting our classrooms daily. Students and staff feel unsafe.

4.2 ★

45 

You can discover the top thoughts that are important to your peers [here](#)

HOT TOPICS

Hot topics are thoughts considered interesting or highly engaging to groups of participants, but may not be reflected in the top themes. They consist of **Interesting thoughts** and **Common interest thoughts**. Interesting thoughts are hot topics that were rated high by one group of participants and rated low by another group, indicating areas of disagreement. Common interest thoughts are hot topics that were rated high by both groups of participants, indicating areas of agreement.

TOPIC 1



Group A

388 (31%)



Group B

369 (30%)

The are no significant differences in the demographic breakdowns of Group A and Group B.

INTERESTING THOUGHTS

Group A ↑ Group B ↓

Arming teachers and or resource officers is the opposite of safe. More guns does not mean safe, and students of color are more likely to be harmed.	5.0 ★	1.1 ★
Security/police officers should be a worst-case scenario, last resort and should not be allowed to carry guns on school property. Guns do not make people safer. Police or security on school grounds can make schools feel less safe.	3.9 ★	1.1 ★
It's important to make sure we don't turn our schools into armed institutions – we do not need to arm teachers or administration. More firearms in schools will just lead to more potential for violent incidents.	4.4 ★	1.6 ★

Need more resource officers. And they need to be armed. There are not enough and we need them.

1.4 ★

4.7 ★

I think there needs to be armed resource officers at the least. Why have them at all if they still have to call in for an officer who is armed? We guard our banks, certain events, and various other things with armed guards. Why not our most precious resource? Our children.

1.7 ★

4.6 ★

Resource officers should be armed and have the tools to protect the school they are in. These are highly trained individuals who could act as a deterrent to violence and also stop something from occurring very quickly.

1.3 ★

4.8 ★

COMMON INTEREST THOUGHTS

We need more supports for students who exhibit out-of-control behaviors in school. It is disrupting our classrooms daily. Students and staff feel unsafe.

4.0 ★

4.7 ★

We need to ensure staff members feel safe. Students are able to make threats to kill teachers, other students or other staff members, yet are returned to class.

4.8 ★

4.5 ★

I think it is VERY important to listen to school staff who work with students who have mental health issues when we say they need more support. We observe their behaviors daily, and if we see a concern it should taken seriously and given appropriate attention and serious/timely support.

3.9 ★

4.5 ★

TOPIC 2



Group A

410 (33%)



Group B

361 (29%)

There are no significant differences in the demographic breakdowns of Group A and Group B.

INTERESTING THOUGHTS

Group A ↑ Group B ↓

Metal detectors at entrances are a good preventative measure. I don't love the optics of having metal detectors, but the added security outweighs this – we need to keep kids and staff safe.

4.3 ★

1.7 ★

Put metal detectors and/or scanners at the entrances. The partial lockdown at LC is not ensuring safety.

4.3 ★

1.9 ★

I think we should have metal detectors in our schools. I feel this could help minimize the chance of weapons entering our buildings.

4.1 ★

1.6 ★

Group A ↓ Group B ↑

Safety officers should have guns at school. There should be a locked safe that safety officers can access in the case of an active shooter.

1.2 ★

4.5 ★

Armed resource officers in schools. To be able to stop a shooter, seconds count.

1.3 ★

4.6 ★

Armed guards. We have armed guards for our politicians; my children deserve the same protection.

1.3 ★

4.4 ★

COMMON INTEREST THOUGHTS

Group A ↑ Group B ↑

I appreciate the efforts to use 'single point of entry' at many of the SPS facilities. Helps to protect who comes and goes.	4.6 ★	4.3 ★
Single point of entry is crucial. Added layer of security.	4.5 ★	4.0 ★
Single point of entry. So a shut down is quicker and staff can see who is entering.	3.9 ★	4.5 ★



TOPIC 3



Group A

586 (47%)



Group B

236 (19%)

The are no significant differences in the demographic breakdowns of Group A and Group B.

INTERESTING THOUGHTS

Group A ↑ Group B ↓

Mental health services. It is extremely important that we dedicate more resources toward providing mental health services for students who need them.

4.9 ★ 1.5 ★

I would like to see more support for mental health issues and crisis issues that kids are facing in schools. So many of our security issues are because kids are not getting the help they need leading up to a crisis moment.

4.7 ★ 1.8 ★

All students need social-emotional support. All students need to learn positive social-emotional behaviors, and get the support they need by caring adults and peers.

4.7 ★ 1.4 ★

Group A ↓ Group B ↑

Reactionary logistical safety responses will have decades of impact to the physical design, operation, and psychology of students at school. Long-term effects appear to be fading from the horizon of perspectives.







2.1 ★ 4.6 ★

Clear/mesh backpacks. Strict dress codes. ID badges. Metal detectors. I went to school in the 90s. We had all the above. This is not a new issue; there are ways to make the school safer, and it doesn't deter from learning.

1.9 ★ 4.3 ★

COMMON INTEREST THOUGHTS

Group A  Group B 

Student conduct. Violent, aggressive students disrupt the learning environment. Children can't learn when they do not feel safe.	4.5 	4.4 
All students should feel safe at school, meaning that students that show aggressive behavior towards students and staff need to be addressed. The constant defiance of these students poses a threat to the learning environment and every person within the school.	4.6 	3.8 
We need more supports for students who exhibit out-of-control behaviors in school. It is disrupting our classrooms daily. Students and staff feel unsafe.	4.5 	4.0 

You can dig into each exchange to discover additional topics that are important to your peers
my.thoughtexchange.com/#p784179301