

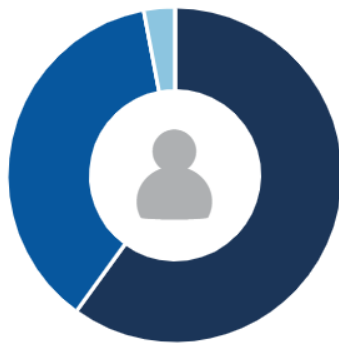
## ThoughtExchange June 2-9, 2021

**Question:** *What should Rush-Henrietta consider when identifying expenditures for federal stimulus and Foundation Aid funding for our school district?*

There were 274 participants who shared 271 thoughts. These thoughts were rated 8,210 times. A participant is defined as someone who clicked the link to access the ThoughtExchange. This person did not need to enter a thought or rate a thought to be considered a participant. Many people simply reviewed what others said.

We asked two demographic questions and learned the following about participants:

- How do you most closely associate with the district?



%	Person Icon	
60%	(155)	Parent/Guardian
37%	(97)	Staff Member
0%	(0)	Student
3%	(7)	Community Member
0%	(1)	Other

- What level of school does your oldest child attend?



%	Person Icon	
22%	(56)	K-3
14%	(36)	4-6
20%	(52)	7-9
21%	(55)	10-12
1%	(4)	UPK
22%	(57)	N/A

## Summary

Participants wish to use the funding to provide the support students need as they return to school. The supports include academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs. In addition, there are calls for a focus on expenditures that enrich the school experience, such as music and arts funding, field trips and extracurriculars, and additional class offerings. There was also mention of facilities improvements and addressing the needs of employees, including increased wages and added staffing to address identified areas of need.

## How Thoughts are Rated

- Participants were asked to rate thoughts on a scale of 1 to 5. In this ThoughtExchange, the highest-ranked thought scored 4.2 and the lowest 1.5.
- If someone shared a thought, it needed to be rated at least five times before leaving pending status and being available to rank. In the full report, [which is available here](#), you will see 16 comments at the end in gray. These are the remaining pending thoughts that didn't receive enough ratings to advance. However, all but one of these thoughts were similar to those posed earlier that were rated and ranked.
- Once out of pending status, thoughts are ranked based on how they were rated.
- A thought is considered statistically valid if it is rated at least 10 times.
- A thought's rating is considered of good quality if it is rated at least 30 times.
- The Office of Community Relations created 12 categories based on themes we were reading, and assigned each thought to one of these categories. These themes help us evaluate what people said is important.
  - Academic Support
  - Employee Considerations
  - Enhanced Cleaning
  - Equity and Inclusion
  - Facilities Improvements
  - Mental Wellness
  - Music/Arts and Extracurriculars
  - Return to School Full-Time
  - Small Class Sizes
  - Social-Emotional Supports
  - Technology
  - Other

## Quick Reports

Below are links to three reports. They show the 25 top-rated thoughts from:

- [all who participated.](#)
- [those who identified themselves as a parent/guardian.](#)
- [those who identified themselves as an employee.](#)

While some of the same thoughts appear in the top 25 on multiple reports, the rating on each might be different depending on which group of people were rating the thoughts.

## A Look at Themes

While many of the thoughts fall neatly into the identified themes, the number of thoughts within each theme varies greatly, with 64 under “Academic Support” and only one that is in favor of expenditures for enhanced cleaning. The average rating for thoughts within each theme also varied somewhat by demographic. Those who identified themselves as a parent/guardian and those who indicated they are employees had enough participants to compare the ratings among these groups.

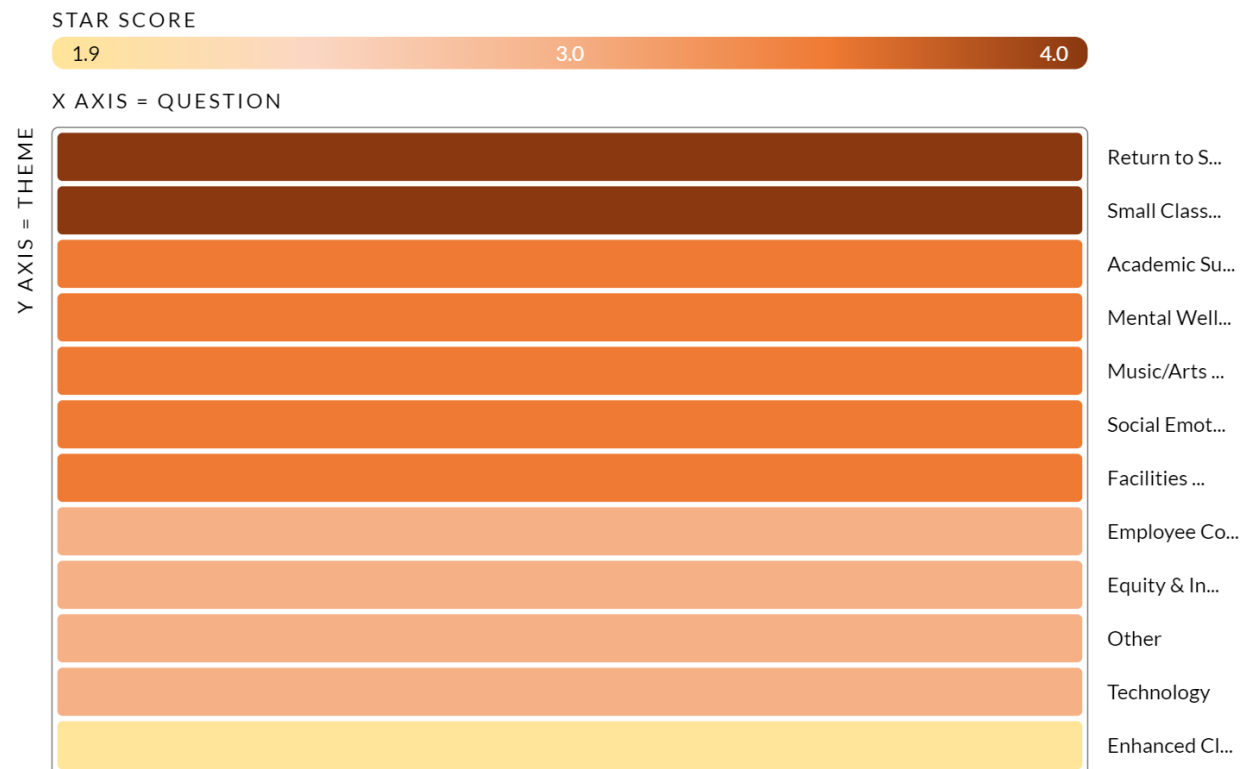
Theme	Number of Thoughts	Ave. Rating Overall	Ave. Rating Parents/Guardians	Ave. Rating Staff
Small Class Sizes	6	4.1	3.9	4.3
Return to School Full-Time	5	3.7	4.0	3.2
Mental Wellness	19	3.6	3.4	3.9
Academic Support	64	3.5	3.4	3.4
Employee Considerations	25	3.5	3.1	3.9
Facilities Improvements	19	3.5	3.2	3.8
Social-Emotional Supports	24	3.5	3.3	3.8
Music/Arts and Extracurriculars	31	3.3	3.4	3.1
Equity and Inclusion	8	3.0	2.9	3.3
Technology	13	2.9	2.8	3.0
Enhanced Cleaning	1	2.0	1.9	2.1

*Note: “Other” is not listed as the thoughts in that category were too varied to be relevant for this comparison.*

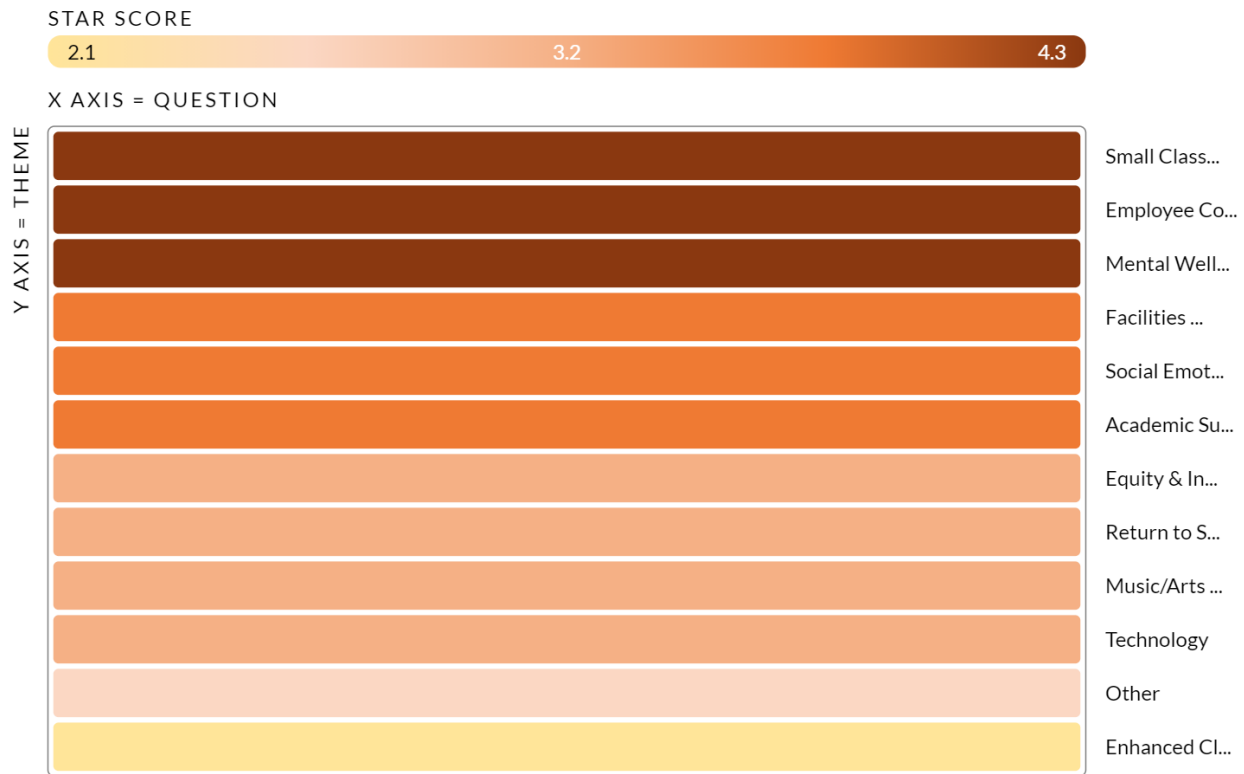
## Different View of the Data

ThoughtExchange provides a number of ways to view the popularity of thoughts by category and among different demographic groups.

The image below shows thought ratings by parents/guardians. The darker the color, the higher they rated the thoughts within that theme. This shows that parents are in favor of a return to school full-time and small class sizes. They also are interested in academic, mental wellness, and social-emotional supports as students return to school. A desire for enhanced school experiences by way of music, arts, theater, field trips, and extracurricular activities also rated highly.



For district employees, small class sizes, employee considerations (mainly staffing and wages), and mental wellness were the top themes. Facilities improvements, social-emotional support, and academic support were the next highest rated areas.



### Closing Considerations

- Several of the thoughts in the “Academic Support” theme mention a need for extra consideration for special education students and English Language Learners.
- Under “Facilities Improvements,” thoughts include a call for better ventilation and air conditioning in the classrooms. It should be noted this ThoughtExchange ran during a particularly hot and humid stretch of weather.
- The “Other” category includes a wide variety of thoughts that don’t warrant their own theme, are off-topic, or are themselves questions. This includes adding a turf field, concerns about testing frequency, suggestions for classes to add, transportation issues, and ways to be more environmentally-friendly.
- “Enhanced Cleaning” is included as a theme since it was specifically given as an example for possible expenditures. There is one comment in favor of enhanced cleaning measures, and it did not rate highly. There are a few other comments

stating that existing cleaning protocols are sufficient. Those thoughts are included in the “Other” category.

- The “Employee Considerations” theme includes thoughts regarding adding staff to handle the general need for increased supports for students, and calls to increase wages for certain staff. However, thoughts related to adding staff for a specific purpose - such as counselors - are included in the related theme (Mental Wellness).