

RCSD Middle School Grade Survey

Dear Parents,

During the *Planning for our Future* community engagement process last fall, one of the 24 ideas considered as part of our 3-year plan to reduce the budget by \$10 million was to make all schools K-5 or 6-8. We heard a great deal of testimony about this particular idea, and public opinion was divided. My recommendation at the November 28 board meeting was to further study the issue before making any decisions about grade configurations.

Why it is important to consider K-8 versus K-5 and 6-8 structure

How we organize our middle school classrooms may affect our operational costs. Maintaining a variety of grade structures (K-8, 6-8, 3-8) reduces our flexibility in assigning teachers and may mean we have to hire a greater number of teachers with no increased funding from the state. Just because changing grade configurations may save money does not mean we have to make the change, but it does mean that we need to hear from our community about how much they value the variety of grade options currently offered in our schools.

The purpose of conducting this survey is determine how YOU feel about our current structure for middle school students. The survey that follows gives you a chance to provide your input on a number of specific areas, and also provide your overall opinion.

Please understand that we are only gathering information at this stage. The results of this survey will be shared with the board at a public meeting, and the will consider your input and then decide whether or not they want to consider possible changes to our grade structure in the future.

Questions answered by ALL families

1. During the Planning for our Future community engagement process last fall, one of the 24 ideas considered as part of our 3-year plan to reduce the budget by \$10 million was to make all schools K-5 or 6-8. We heard a great deal of testimony about this particular idea, and public opinion was divided. Many pros and cons were presented.

Based on your current understanding, what is your reaction to this idea?

Strongly
support

Support

Undecided

Oppose

Strongly
oppose

Turn all current K-8 schools into K-5 schools that feed into several middle schools.

☐☐☐☐☐

Turn all current K-8 and 3-8 schools into K-5 schools that feed into several middle schools.

☐☐☐☐☐

Turn all current K-5 schools into K-8 schools and eliminate the 6-8 model.

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Turn all current K-5 and 3-8 schools into K-8 schools and eliminate the 6-8 model.

☐☐☐☐☐

Make no changes and leave all schools with their current grade configurations.

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Please share any other thoughts

2. I have children in the following grades. Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional kindergarten (TK) | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |

3. Whether your child attends a K-8, 3-8 or 6-8 school, how satisfied are you with the grade options offered at the school attended by your OLDEST child enrolled in RCSD?

- ☐ I am satisfied with the grade levels offered at my child's school.
- ☐ I wish my child's school offered all grades K-8.
- ☐ I wish my child's school offered only grades K-5.

* 4. My YOUNGEST child enrolled in RCSD currently attends:

(Please note that the survey would be conducted on Survey Monkey, so participants will automatically be routed to certain questions depending on how they answer the question.) The instructions below are simply to make review of the survey draft understandable)

- ☐ Adelante (Answer questions in Sections B, E)
- ☐ Clifford (Answer questions in Sections A, E)
- ☐ Fair Oaks (Answer questions in Sections B, E)
- ☐ Garfield (Answer questions in Sections A, E)
- ☐ Hawes (Answer questions in Sections B, E)
- ☐ Henry Ford (Answer questions in Sections B, E)
- ☐ Hoover (Questions in A, E)
- ☐ John Gill (including Mandarin Immersion program) (Answer questions in Sections B, F)
- ☐ Kennedy (Answer questions in Sections C, E)
- ☐ MIT (Answer questions in Sections C, E)
- ☐ North Star (Answer questions in Sections D,E)
- ☐ Orion (Answer questions in Sections B, E)
- ☐ Roosevelt (Answer questions in Sections A, E)
- ☐ Roy Cloud (Answer questions in Sections A, E)

- ☐ Selby Lane (including Spanish Immersion program) (Answer questions Sections A, E)
- ☐ Taft (Answer questions in Sections B, E)

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(A) Questions ONLY for parents whose youngest child attends a K-8

5. When you chose your child's school, how important was it to for your child to attend a school that offered the grades kindergarten through 8th grade?

- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not important at all
- ☐ I would have preferred a K-5 school

6. What were the primary factors that made you feel a K-8 school was a better choice for your child? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ I believed my child would be safer from bullying and bad behavior
- ☐ The K-8 neighborhood school is in a more convenient location
- ☐ I believed the academics were stronger
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ My children can all attend the same school
- ☐ Other (please specify)

(B) Question ONLY for parents whose youngest child attends a K-5 school

7. When you chose your child's school, how important was it to you that your child attend a school that ended at 5th grade rather than a K-8 school?

- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not important at all
- ☐ I would have preferred a K-8 school

(C) Questions ONLY for parents whose youngest child attends a K-5 or a 6-8 school

8. When you chose your child's school, how important was it to you that your child attend a 6-8 middle school rather than a K-8 school?

- ☐ Important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not important at all
- ☐ I would have preferred a K-8 school

9. What were the primary factors that made you feel a 6-8 school was or will be a better choice for your child? (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ I believed the academics were stronger. ☐ I felt the school would better prepare my child for high school.
- ☐ I believed my child would have more access to specialized electives such as art, music or higher level mathematics. ☐ I wanted my child at a larger school with a larger peer group
- ☐ The school was in a more convenient location ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ Other (please specify)

(D) Question ONLY for parents whose youngest child attends a 3-8 school

10. Please share your reaction to the following ideas that were suggested during the fall Planning for our Future process:

Make North Star
a K-8 school.

☐☐☐☐☐

Make North Star
a K-5 school
that feeds into a
middle school
with
academically
advanced
classes.

☐☐☐☐☐

Leave North
Star as a 3-8
school.

☐☐☐☐☐

Other (please specify)

(E) Questions answered by ALL families

11. Please rank the importance of the following factors for 6th-8th grade students:

Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not at all important	I don't know
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Offering students
a variety of
electives

☐☐☐☐☐

Smaller
school where all
students know
each other

☐☐☐☐☐

Pairing older and
younger students
together for
mentoring and
role modeling

☐☐☐☐☐

Providing an
experience that
closely resembles
high school in
size and structure

☐☐☐☒☐

Staff
that specializes in
working with
preteens and
young teenagers

☐☐☐☐☐

Parents who are
very involved

☐☐☐☐☐

Providing their
teachers with a
daily prep period

☐☐☐☐☐

Having teachers
who are qualified
to teach more
than one subject

☒☐☐☐☐

Having teachers
with a single-
subject speciality

☐☐☐☐☐

Attending the
same school as a
sibling in grades
K-5

☐☐☐☐☐

Other (please specify