

# COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY REPORT

Prepared for:

East Marshall Community School District

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Donovan Group

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School Communications

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2023, the East Marshall CSD asked community members to create an Advisory Task Force (ATF) to analyze the issues that community members feel are impacting the school district. FEH Design, an architecture and planning firm, was engaged to facilitate this process. FEH Design facilitated five meetings with the ATF group to identify and rank those issues. The ATF concluded and gave its recommendation to the school district. A survey was then created to gather feedback from the community.

This survey was designed to determine the next steps in implementing the initial phase, which aims to improve the district and stabilize student enrollment.

Data and additional analysis are provided below.

## PROCESS & METHODOLOGY

The survey was administered using the Donovan Group's survey engine. Efforts were made to ensure that all eligible respondents had the opportunity to take the survey, but that no respondents took it multiple times. Following best practices in online research and protecting the security of the survey, internet protocol (IP) addresses were logged, and each response was time-stamped.

While we do not detail our specific survey security protocols, if we have reason to believe that anyone has taken the survey more than once or that there is fraud, we remove those responses.

Finally, it is worth noting that, by design, this data is not based on a scientific sample. Therefore, it should be treated as qualitative data similar to data from a large number of focus groups. Because we used a convenience sample, conducting a regression analysis or attempting to calculate error would be methodologically inappropriate. However, our response pool is solid and provides sound data to division administration and the school board.



## SURVEY RESULTS

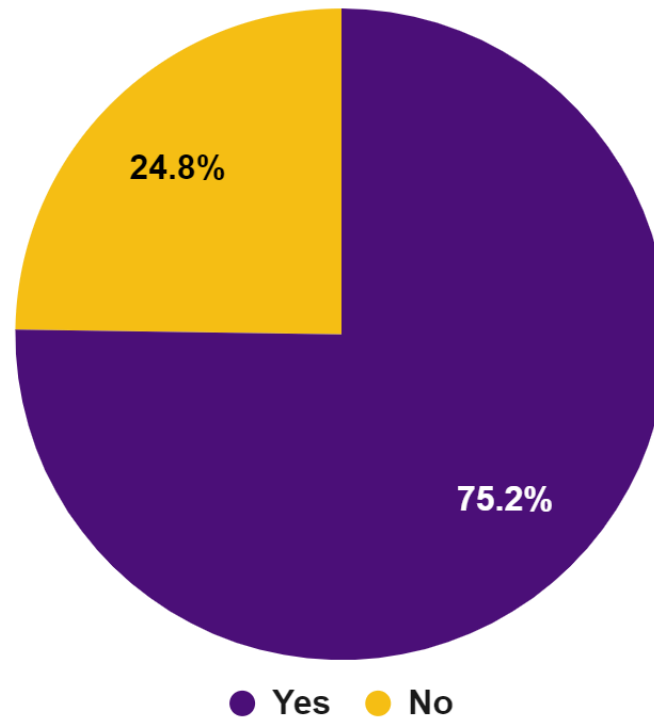
A total of 218 respondents completed the survey. To complete the survey, respondents must have clicked "submit" at the end and answered all the required questions. Below is a summary of the survey results, along with some brief analysis from the Donovan Group team. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) were required.

# 1 Are you a resident of the East Marshall School District?\*

Answer	% of Responses	# of Responses
Yes	75.23%	164
No	24.77%	54

## Analysis:

The overwhelming majority of survey respondents indicated they are residents of the East Marshall Community School District, with 75.25% indicating yes. Typically, some who respond “no” to a question of this nature in the survey, which was 24.8% of respondents, may be employees who live outside of the school district boundaries.

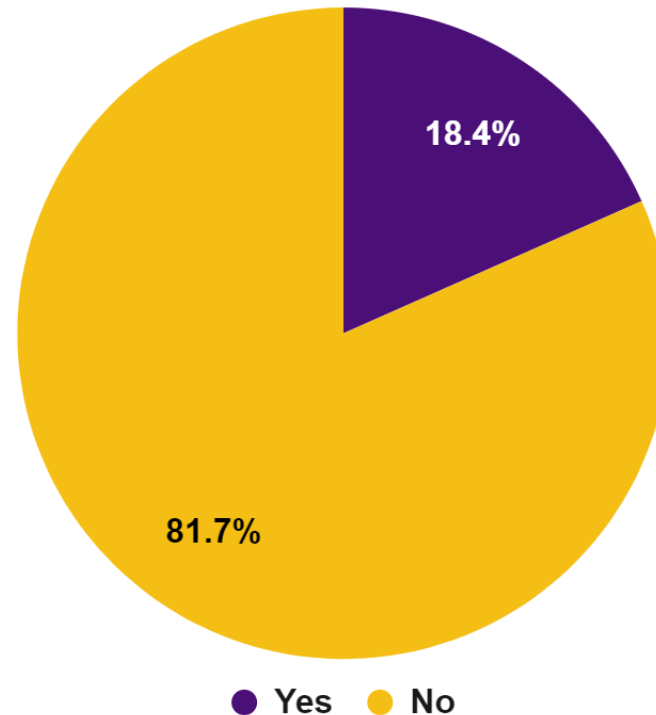


## 2 Did you or a family member participate in any of the public Advisory Task Force (ATF) meetings or workshops in September 2023 through February 2024?\*

Answer	% of Responses	# of Responses
Yes	18.35%	40
No	81.65%	178

### Analysis:

Most survey respondents (81.7%) indicated they or a family member did not participate in any of the public Advisory Task Force meetings or workshops, while 18.4% indicated they, or someone in their family, did participate.



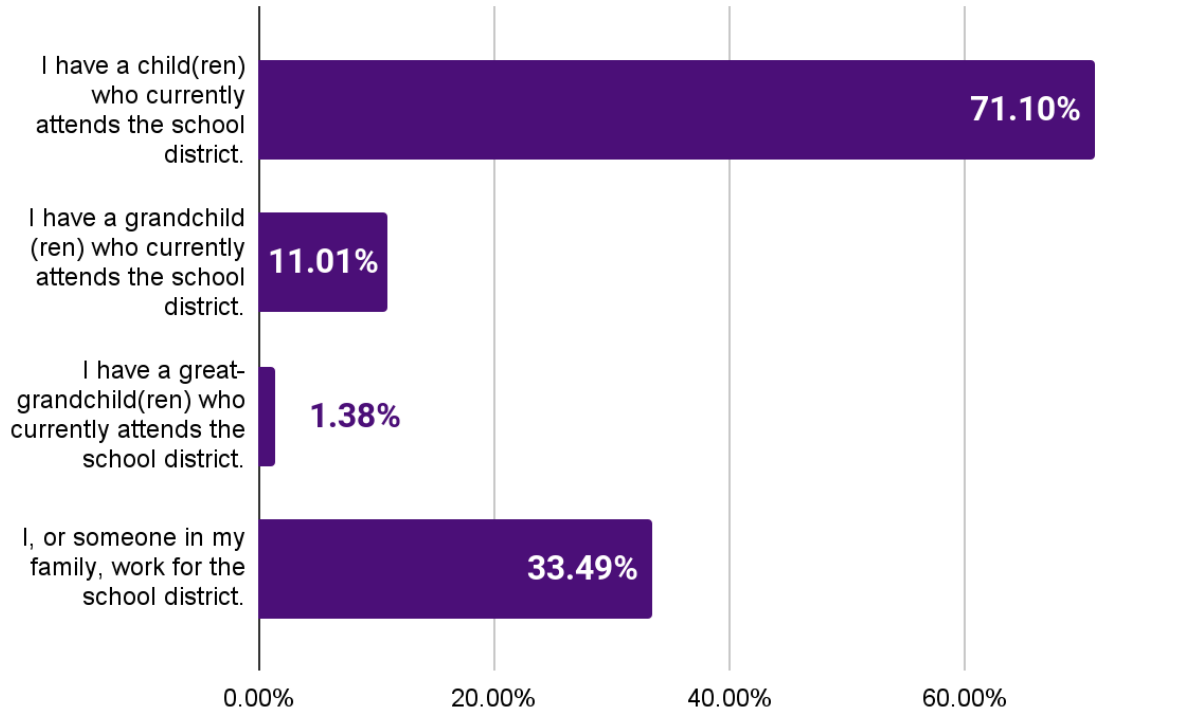
### 3 Please check all of the following that apply to you.\*

Answer	% of Responses	# of Responses
I have a child(ren) who currently attends the school district.	71.10%	155
I have a grandchild(ren) who currently attends the school district.	11.01%	24
I have a great-grandchild(ren) who currently attends the school district.	1.38%	3
I, or someone in my family, work for the school district.	33.49%	73

#### Analysis:

With this question, respondents were asked to select all that apply. As such, the percentages will add up to over 100, as we divide by the total number of responses for this specific question instead of by the total number of survey respondents.

Most survey respondents (71.1%) indicated they have a child(ren) who currently attends the school district, and 33.5% indicated they, or someone in their family, work for the school district. Eleven percent of respondents indicated they have grand(children) who currently attend the school district, and 1.4% responded they have a great-grandchild(ren) who currently attends the school district.



# 4

Please rank each ATF-identified issue that directly relates and/or can be positively impacted by changes to the District facilities. Score each issue on 0 being the least impactful and 10 being the most impactful. \*

Answer	All Respondents	Families of current students	Non-Parent Community Members
Air Conditioning / HVAC - kids have to dress differently for different classes. Classes being canceled due to excessive heat, higher cost for utilities which is pulled from the General Fund that pays teachers/staff, and window air conditioners being used due to the boiler providing excessive heat to some classrooms.	7.74	7.81	7.15
Bus Rides - some students riding the bus almost an hour each way, lack of bus drivers, safety issues on the buses, mixed ages of students on the same bus, the District is #17 in the state for the highest transportation cost.	6.39	6.44	5.81
Amenities - Gymnasiums- gymnasiums are crowded, lack seating at the middle school, spectator viewing is difficult, folding chairs used for volleyball games, elementary gymnasium is also the cafeteria which reduces PE time, safety is an issue at all the gymnasiums due to the game lines being too close to the walls, spectators, and seating.	6.61	6.83	5.91
Transportation Issues - Middle School students lack classes - middle school students cannot take high school level classes due to lack of transportation.	6.28	6.48	5.60
Shared Staff - Impacts programming opportunities as staff are limited in travel time between buildings, travel time between buildings can take 2 class periods for staff driving.	6.76	6.92	6.21
Outdated Facilities - All facilities lack 21st Century learning classrooms / opportunities, internet and adaptability is difficult in the old buildings, building structures are very limiting.	7.93	8.05	7.36
Recruitment / Retention - Staff - Staff shortages statewide make it difficult to recruit, technology integration issues - new staff are looking for better technology integration, green generation, old facilities with old lighting, old HVAC, old furniture, etc. make retention/recruitment difficult.	7.61	7.66	7.19
Recruitment / Retention - Students - With many districts struggling with declining enrollment throughout the state, East Marshall CSD is not immune to this challenge. How important are district facilities to recruit and retain student enrollment?	7.16	7.04	7.15
Classrooms setup for 1-to-1 computers - Not enough charging stations for student computers, building infrastructure not setup for excess electrical use.	6.59	6.49	6.81
School Safety - Buildings are not secured due to HVAC use resulting in windows being left open, blind corners throughout the buildings, tight corridors.	7.37	7.47	7.13

	All Respondents	Families of current students	Non-Parent Community Members
Building Maintenance - High amount of money for the District due to the aging buildings and infrastructure, parts are becoming unavailable for HVAC units and electrical units.	7.55	7.57	7.28
ADA Compliance - Very difficult to meet ADA requirements in the existing facilities, and several areas of the existing buildings do not comply.	6.90	6.87	6.96
Energy Efficiency - Utility cost comes directly from the General Fund, which is the same fund to pay staff. High energy usage due to old buildings without code compliant insulation amounts, and old HVAC systems reduce the general fund.	7.31	7.28	7.40
Usable Space / Flexibility - No usable space at the elementary, students are put into corridors to take tests at the elementary.	7.44	7.48	7.43
Parking - Not enough parking at any of the facilities, not safe for students/staff/parents, students drive too fast at the high school parking lot, funnels into congested outlets with buses, buses have to drive through the parking lots - comingling with personal vehicles/people.	6.48	6.66	6.11
One Campus - Would one campus that has all buildings on the same site, resolve most of the issues listed above?	6.78	6.92	5.81

**Analysis:**

We reviewed the responses to this question in three different ways. First, we looked at the responses from all survey respondents. Secondly, we looked at the responses from those who indicate they have a child(ren) currently enrolled in the school system. Lastly, we looked at the responses from those who live in the community who do not have child(ren) currently enrolled in the school system.

For the all respondent group, the highest level of support was for addressing outdated facilities (7.93), followed by air conditioning/HVAC (7.74) and recruitment/retention of staff (7.61).

For the families of the current students group, the highest level of support was for the same three areas, but at slightly higher levels of support: addressing outdated facilities (8.05), air conditioning/HVAC (7.81), and recruitment/retention of staff (7.66).

For the non-parent community member group, the highest level of support was for useable space/flexibility (7.43), followed closely by energy efficiency (7.40) and addressing outdated facilities (7.36).

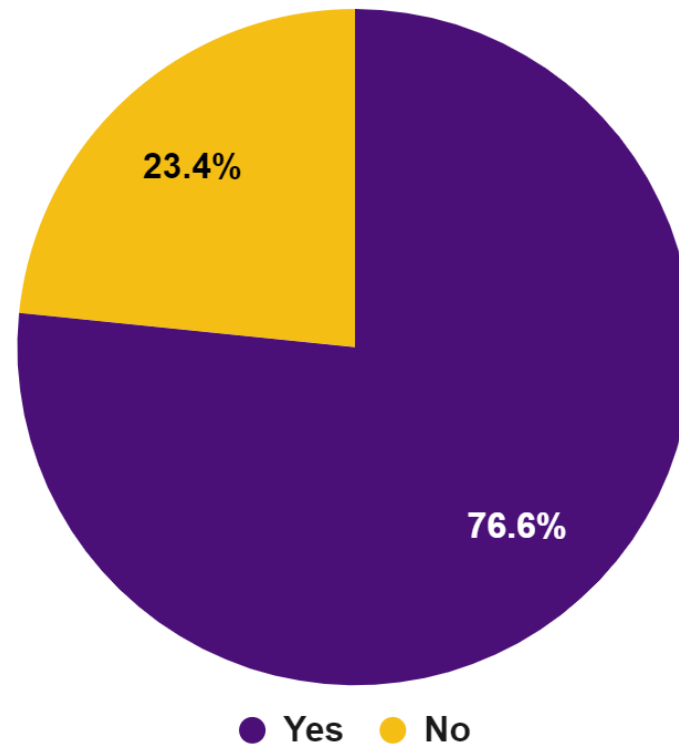
It's important to note that using a 0-10 scale, no item on the list received less than an average score of 5.60, indicating an understanding of and support to address issues identified by the Advisory Task Force.

## 5 Would you be supportive of the potential of closing a school building to allow the District to be more efficient?\*

Answer	All Respondents	Families of current students	Non-Parent Community Members
Yes	76.61%	79.35%	61.70%
No	23.39%	20.65%	38.30%

### Analysis:

We reviewed the responses to this question in three different ways. First, we looked at all respondents, and 76.6% were supportive of closing schools for efficiency. Next, we reviewed the responses for only those who indicated they currently have child(ren) in the school system, and 79.4% indicated support. Lastly, we looked at individuals who live in the community who are not parents of current students, and 69.8% indicated support.





# 6

Understanding the rising cost of construction, with a simple new gymnasium averaging around \$3 million, what amount (in millions) would you support as a referendum to help the District start the initial improvements for the District?\*

Answer	All Respondents	Families of current students	Non-Parent Community Members
\$0	15	9	6
\$5M	17	8	7
\$10M	28	22	5
\$15M	11	7	4
\$20M	42	30	9
\$25M	24	16	6
\$30M	41	30	6
\$35M	7	4	2
\$40M	33	29	2

## Analysis:

Once again, we reviewed the responses to this question in three different ways.

The mode for the all-respondents group was \$20 million (42) followed by \$30 million (41). The average dollar amount for the all respondents group was \$21.86 million.

The mode for the families of current students group was tied at \$20 million and \$30 million (30 responses each).

The average dollar amount for the families of current students group was \$23.0 million.

The mode for the non-parent community member group was \$20 million (9), while the average dollar amount for the non-parent community member group was \$17.1 million.

# 7 Assuming the assessed value of your home is \$100,000, what level of investment annually in increased property taxes would you be willing to make?\*

Answer	All Respondents	Families of current students	Non-Parent Community Members
\$0	23	14	9
\$25	27	16	6
\$50	19	13	4
\$75	8	8	0
\$100	49	36	11
\$125	3	2	1
\$150	10	7	2
\$175	0	0	0
\$200	21	14	7
\$225	0	0	0
\$250	6	4	1
\$275	0	0	0
\$300	10	7	2
\$325	0	0	0
\$350	3	3	0
\$375	0	0	0
\$400	4	2	1
\$425	0	0	0
\$450	2	1	0

## Analysis:

Once again, we reviewed the responses to this question in three different ways.

The mode for the all-respondents group was \$100 (49), and the average dollar amount for this group was \$181.

The mode for the families of current students group was also \$100 (36), while the average dollar amount was \$196.

The mode for the non-parent community member group was also \$100 (11), while the average dollar amount was \$128.

Answer	All Respondents	Families of current students	Non-Parent Community Members
\$475	1	1	0
\$500	15	10	3
\$525	0	0	0
\$550	0	0	0
\$575	0	0	0
\$600	17	17	0