

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNICATION

<b>Title:</b>	<b>2012 Soldotna Area Survey Results</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	<b>10/9/12 REVISED 10/11/12</b>	<b>Item Number:</b>	Worksession
<b>Administrator:</b>	<b>Sean Dusek, Assistant Superintendent</b> <i>Sean Dusek</i>		
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Survey results</b>		

Action Needed     For Discussion     Information     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On October 15, 2012 the Board will have a work session to discuss the results of the 2012 Soldotna area survey. The survey was conducted to gather more information on the instructional delivery system for the Soldotna area stemming from last year's conversations at the school administrative level and site council meetings.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

N/A

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# **Soldotna Area Schools Survey**

**SURVEY OPEN SEPTEMBER 18 - 28, 2012**

Administrators from the ten Soldotna and greater area KPBSD schools requested input via a survey to determine what parents, students, and employees would like to see developed for the future of our children. Parents, guardians, KPBSD employees, and students at these ten schools were invited to take the survey either online or via a paper survey provided by the school.

The survey was intended to assess the educational wants and desires of targeted groups given the implications of declining enrollment, fiscal realities, and providing the best education for every KPBSD student. Due to Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding opportunities from the state of Alaska, changing enrollment, and curriculum standards of each grade, input to guide planning and decisions now and in the upcoming years is necessary.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District currently offers K-6, 7-8, 7-12 (RCA), and 9-12 schools in the Soldotna and surrounding area, with limited Advanced Placement and Career and Technical Education options.

**1,067 surveys were started; 989 surveys (92.7%) were completed.**

## **Background:**

- In the fall of 2011, SMS and Sterling Elementary independently began discussions with their respective site councils to explore pros and cons of 6-7-8 (SMS) and K-8 (Sterling El) reconfigurations.
- As a result of SMS and Sterling El conversations and the school district five year strategic planning, meetings were held on March 29 and April 29, 2012 to gain a Soldotna and surrounding area-wide perspective together with collected data from site councils.
- Current reality: declining enrollment projections for Soldotna and surrounding area schools will have a future impact on schools and curricular and co-curricular opportunities.
- This question frames the inquiry: *How can we more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of Soldotna area students, especially as it relates to graduation rate, the future of education, and the long-range District strategic plan?*
- Evaluated the current and potential school configurations that would best accomplish the goal of providing excellent education opportunities for every Soldotna and surrounding area student—given the existing building space and occupant capacities.
- Designed a survey to gather a deeper level of data from current parents, guardians, students, and staff at the ten schools.
- Survey open September 18 - 28, 2012
- Each school administrator held an informational meeting on 9/18/12 to answer and clarify any questions.

## **Next steps:**

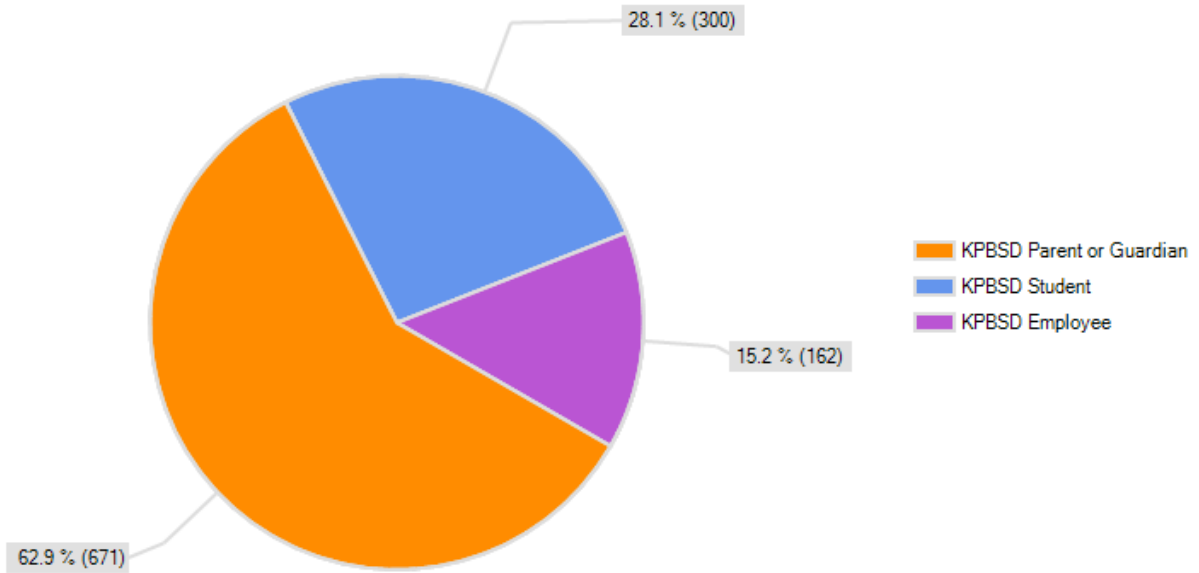
- October 10, 2012: Soldotna area principals meet
- October 15, 2012: School board worksession.  
After the BOE worksession: ongoing analysis, and a possible survey to local community members.

**No decisions regarding individual schools have been made.**

**K-BEACH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | REDOUBT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | RIVER CITY ACADEMY | SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL SOLDOTNA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | SOLDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL | SOLDOTNA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SOLDOTNA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL | STERLING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | TUSTUMENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Survey Results:** 1,067 surveys were started; 989 surveys (92.7%) were completed.

**Who are you?**



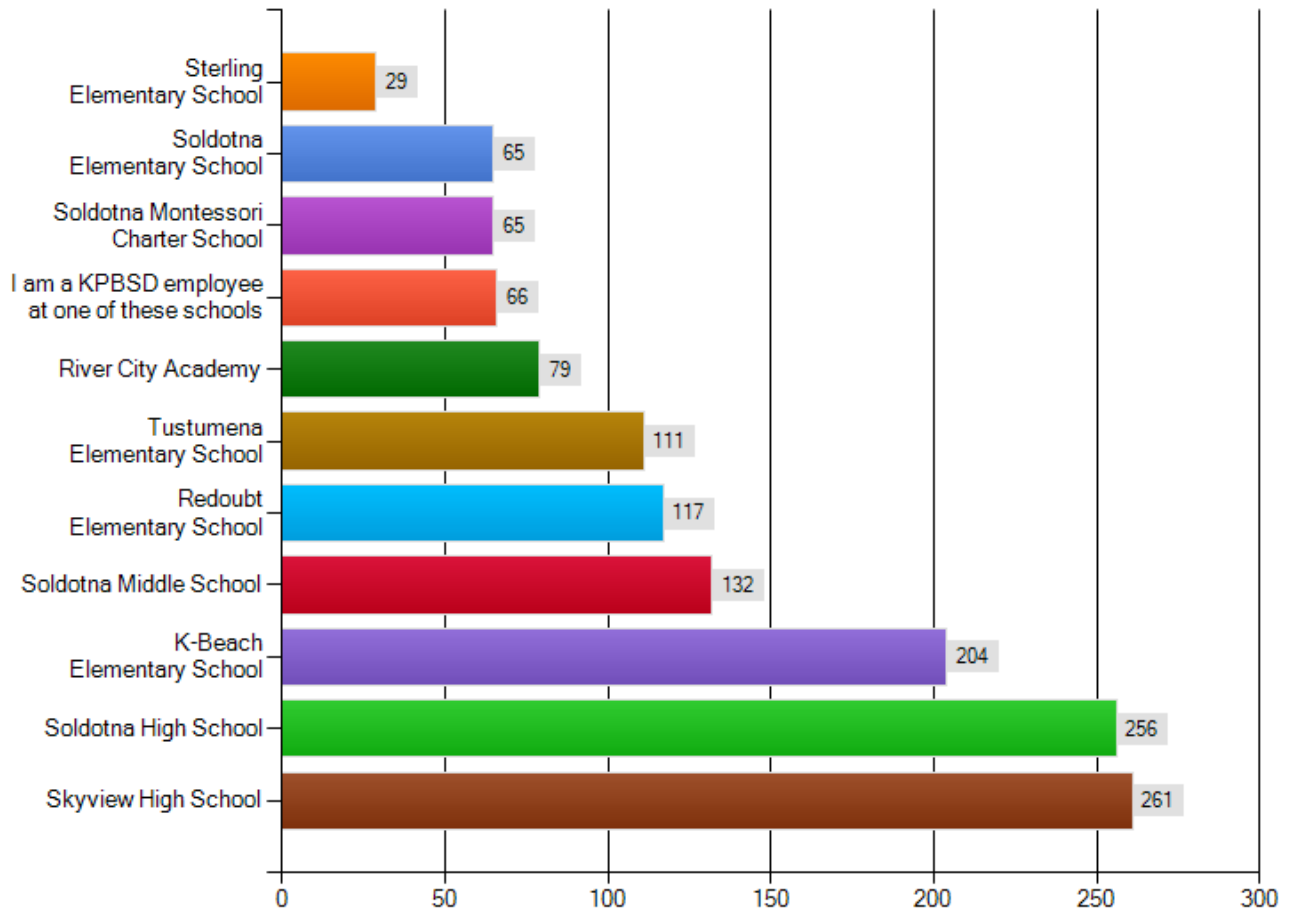
1. Who are you?		Create Chart	Download
		Response Percent	Response Count
KPBSD Parent or Guardian		62.9%	671
KPBSD Student		28.1%	300
KPBSD Employee		15.2%	162
		answered question	1,067
		skipped question	0

2. Which school do you or your student(s) attend? (Check all that apply.)

[Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

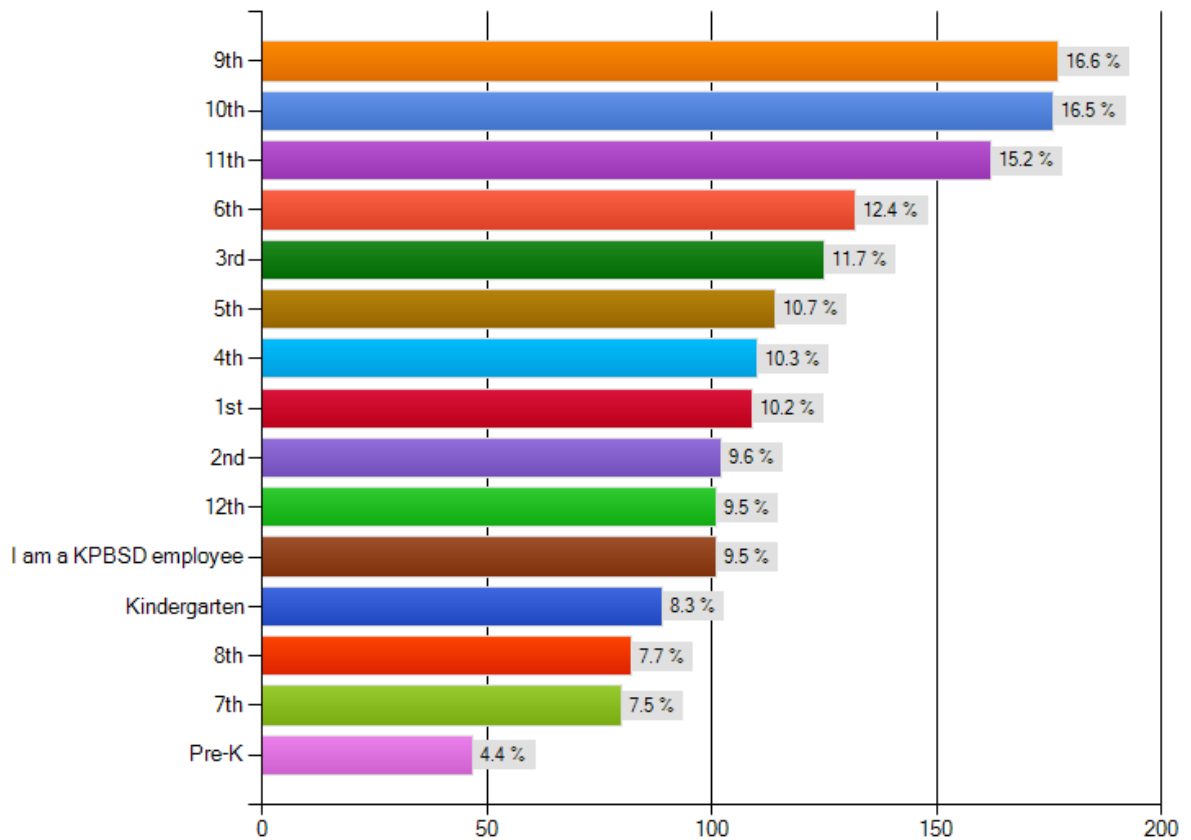
	Response Percent	Response Count
K-Beach Elementary School	19.1%	204
Redoubt Elementary School	11.0%	117
River City Academy	7.4%	79
Skyview High School	24.5%	261
Soldotna Elementary School	6.1%	65
Soldotna Montessori Charter School	6.1%	65
Soldotna High School	24.0%	256
Soldotna Middle School	12.4%	132
Sterling Elementary School	2.7%	29
Tustumena Elementary School	10.4%	111
I am a KPBSD employee at one of these schools	6.2%	66
	answered question	1,067
	skipped question	0

**Which school do you or your student(s) attend? (Check all that apply.)**



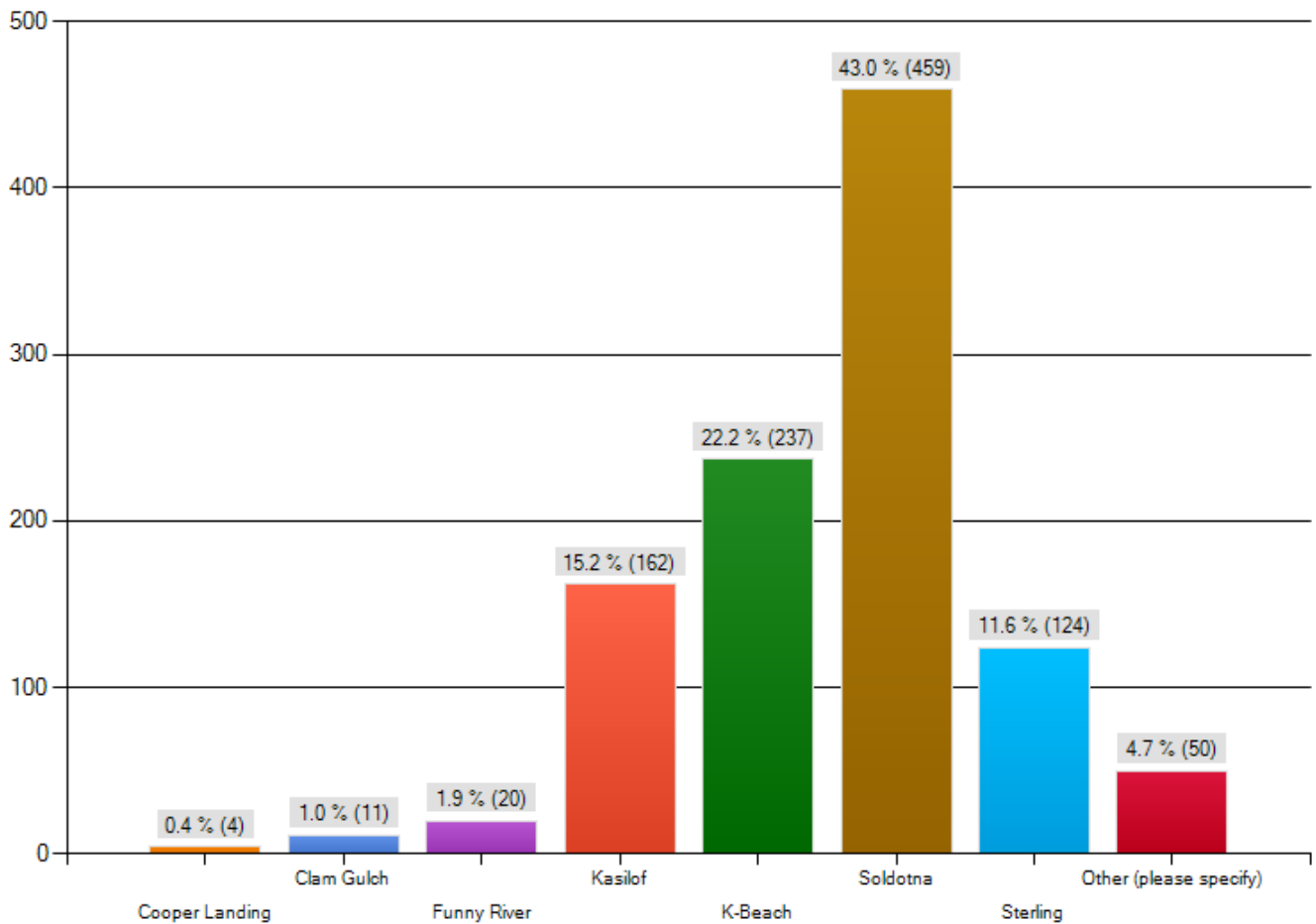
3. What is your grade level, or the grade level of your child or children?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Pre-K		4.4%	47
Kindergarten		8.3%	89
1st		10.2%	109
2nd		9.6%	102
3rd		11.7%	125
4th		10.3%	110
5th		10.7%	114
6th		12.4%	132
7th		7.5%	80
8th		7.7%	82
9th		16.6%	177
10th		16.5%	176
11th		15.2%	162
12th		9.5%	101
I am a KPBSD employee		9.5%	101
		answered question	1,067
		skipped question	0

**What is your grade level, or the grade level of your child or children?**



4. Where is your primary residence?			<a href="#">Create Chart</a>	<a href="#">Download</a>
		Response Percent	Response Count	
Cooper Landing		0.4%	4	
Clam Gulch		1.0%	11	
Funny River		1.9%	20	
Kasilof		15.2%	162	
K-Beach		22.2%	237	
Soldotna		43.0%	459	
Sterling		11.6%	124	
Other (please specify)	<a href="#">Show Responses</a>	4.7%	50	
		answered question	1,067	
		skipped question	0	

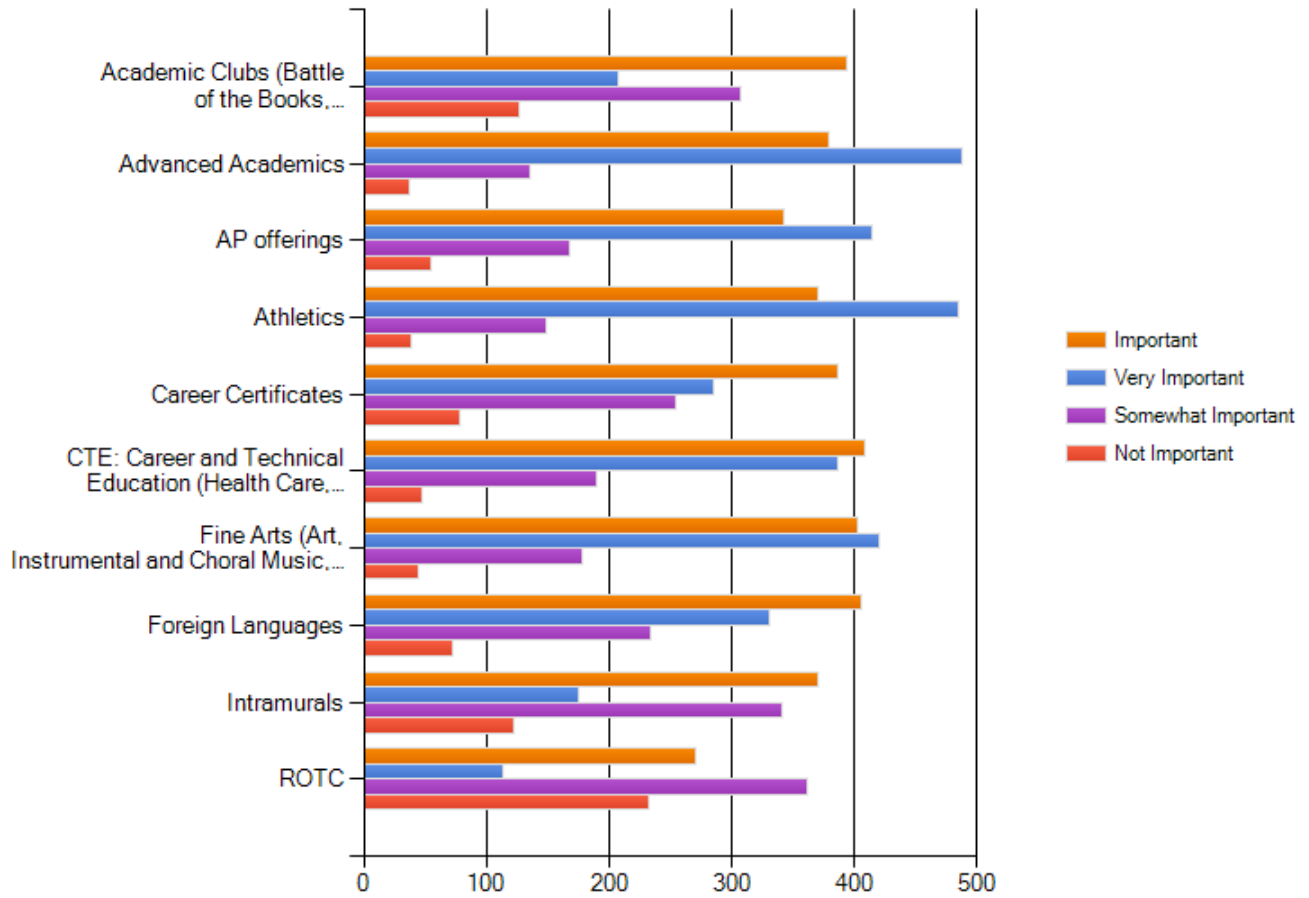
**Where is your primary residence?**



5. What opportunities would you like for your students? Rate the importance of each option. [Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Important	Very Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Academic Clubs (Battle of the Books, Chess Club, Robotics)	12.3% (127)	29.7% (307)	38.1% (394)	20.0% (207)	2.66	1,035
Advanced Academics	3.6% (37)	13.1% (136)	36.4% (379)	46.9% (488)	3.27	1,040
AP offerings	5.5% (54)	17.2% (168)	35.0% (342)	42.3% (414)	3.14	978
Athletics	3.6% (38)	14.3% (149)	35.5% (370)	46.5% (485)	3.25	1,042
Career Certificates	7.8% (78)	25.4% (255)	38.5% (387)	28.4% (285)	2.87	1,005
CTE: Career and Technical Education (Health Care, Engineering, Culinary Arts...)	4.7% (48)	18.3% (189)	39.5% (408)	37.5% (387)	3.10	1,032
Fine Arts (Art, Instrumental and Choral Music, Dance, Theater...)	4.2% (44)	17.0% (178)	38.5% (402)	40.2% (420)	3.15	1,044
Foreign Languages	6.9% (72)	22.5% (234)	39.0% (406)	31.7% (330)	2.95	1,042
Intramurals	12.1% (122)	33.8% (341)	36.8% (371)	17.3% (175)	2.59	1,009
ROTC	23.7% (232)	37.0% (362)	27.7% (271)	11.6% (113)	2.27	978
				answered question		1,059
				skipped question		8

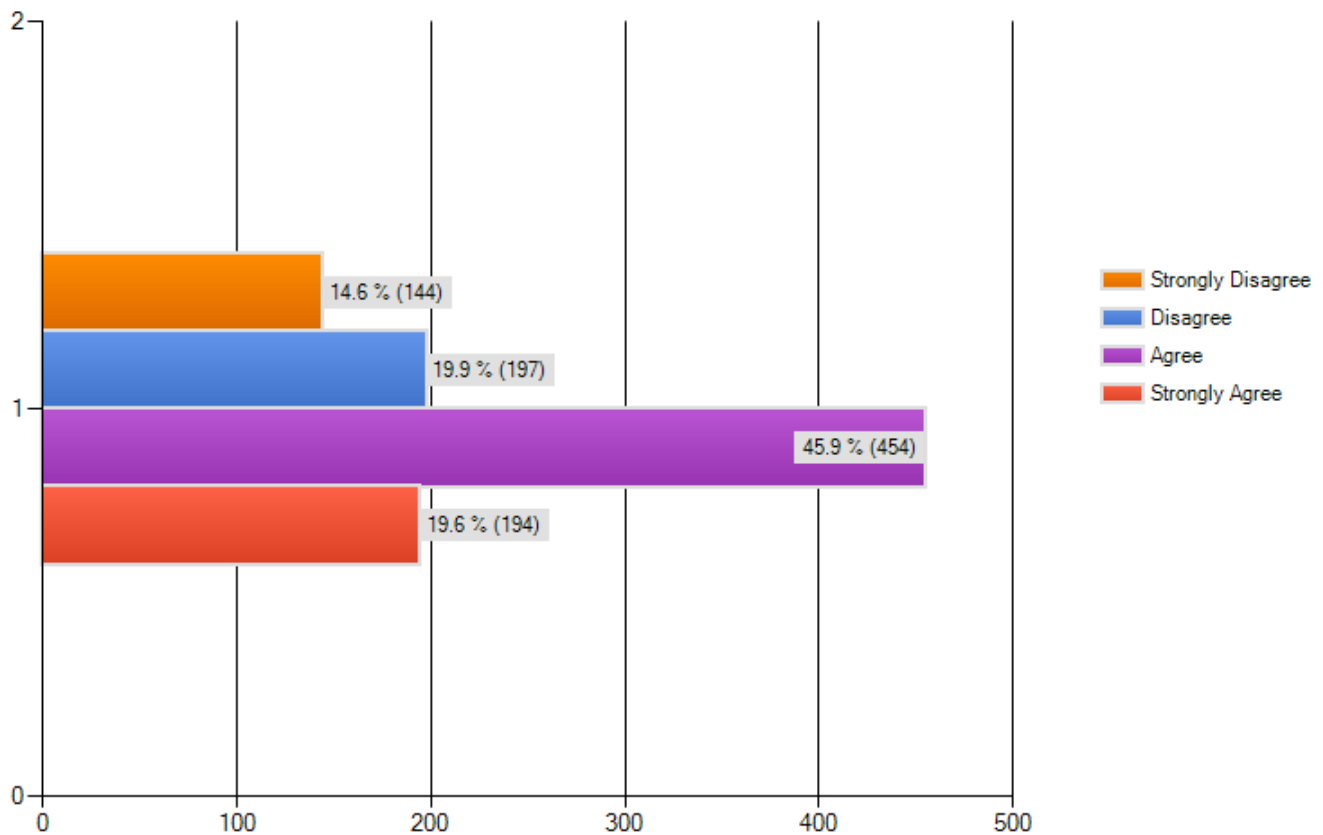
**What opportunities would you like for your students? Rate the importance of each option.**



6. The current school configuration in Soldotna and greater area schools is K-6; 7-8; 9-12 (two traditional high schools); and 7-12 (RCA). Would you support changing our current configuration of schools in Soldotna and surrounding areas given declining enrollment projections that could potentially impact curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
	14.6% (144)	19.9% (197)	45.9% (454)	19.6% (194)	2.71	989
	answered question					989
	skipped question					78




The current school configuration in Soldotna and greater area schools is K-6; 7-8; 9-12 (two traditional high schools); and 7-12 (RCA). Would you support changing our current configuration of schools in Soldotna and surrounding areas given declining enrollment projections that could potentially impact curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students?



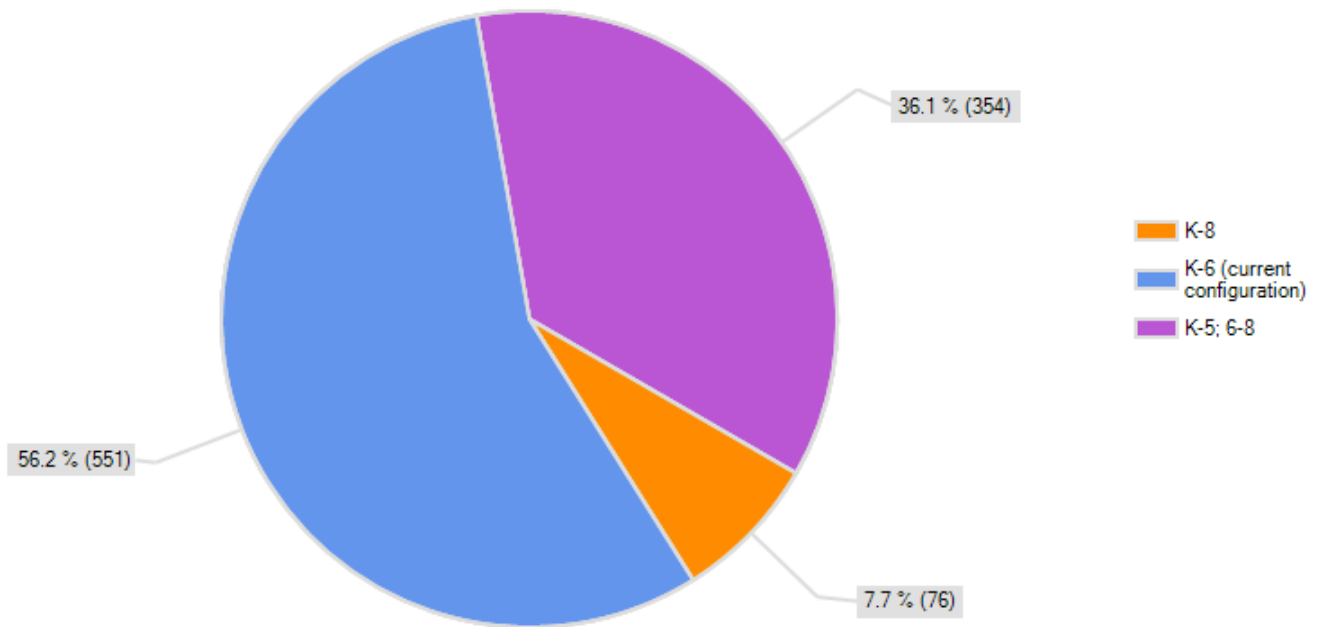


7. What configuration would you prefer for elementary school students?

[Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

		Response Percent	Response Count
K-8		7.7%	76
K-6 (current configuration)		56.2%	551
K-5; 6-8		36.1%	354
		answered question	981
		skipped question	86

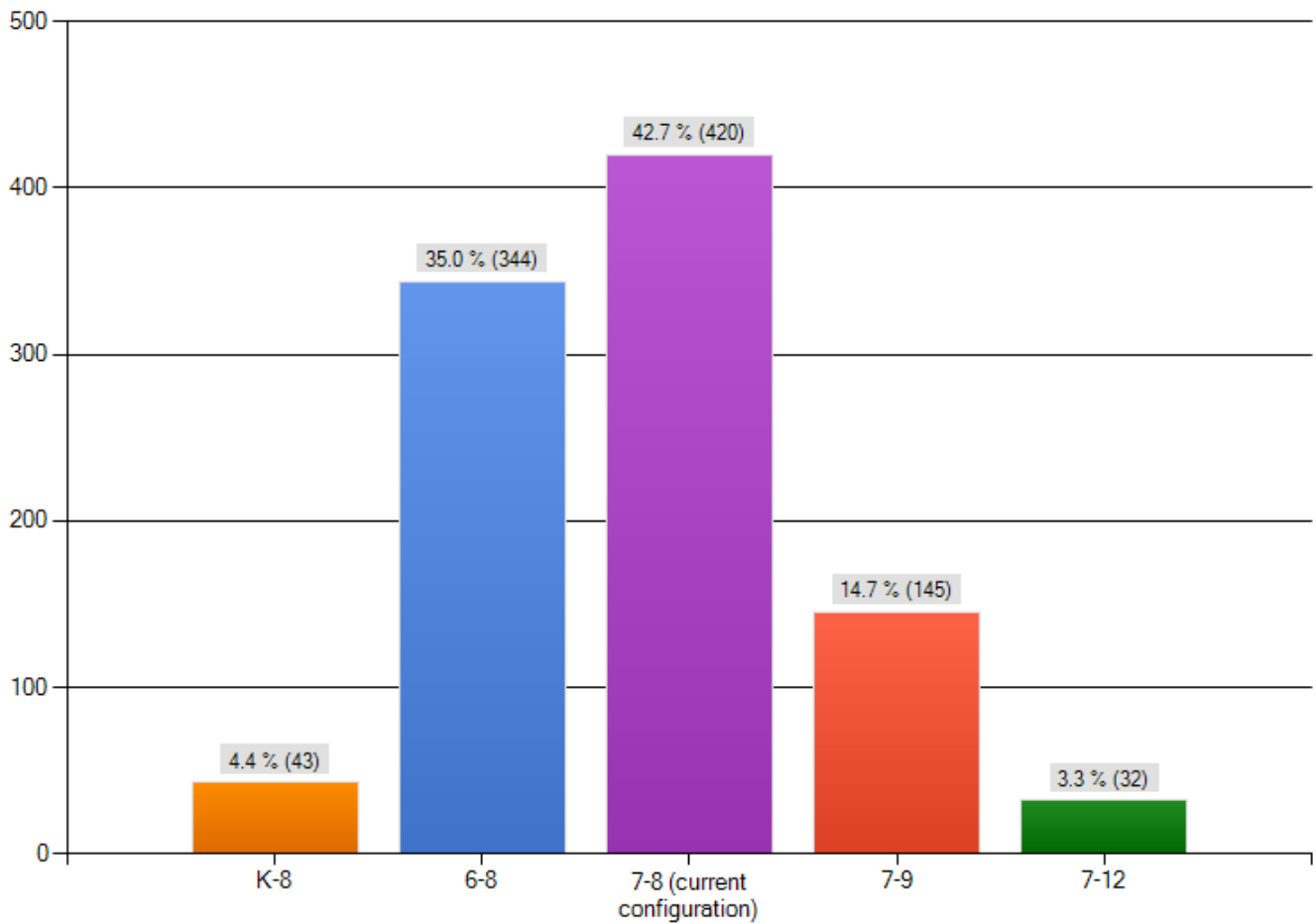
**What configuration would you prefer for elementary school students?**



What grade configuration would you prefer for future middle school students? [Create Chart](#) [Download](#)






	Response Percent	Response Count
K-8	4.4%	43
6-8	35.0%	344
7-8 (current configuration)	42.7%	420
7-9	14.7%	145
7-12	3.3%	32
answered question		984
skipped question		83

What grade configuration would you prefer for future middle school students?

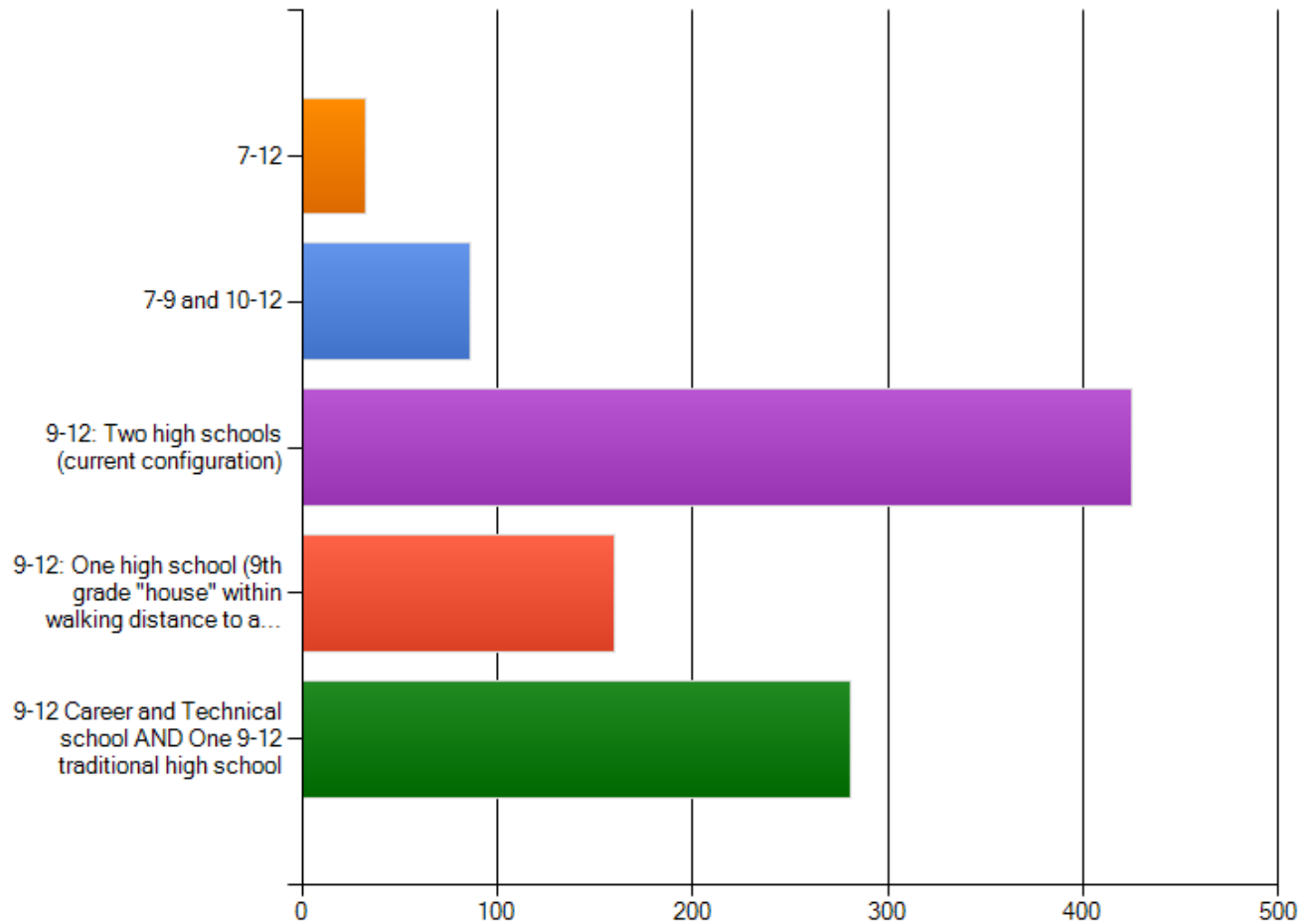


9. What configuration would you prefer for future high school students?

[Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

		Response Percent	Response Count
7-12		3.4%	33
7-9 and 10-12		8.7%	86
9-12: Two high schools (current configuration)		43.1%	425
9-12: One high school (9th grade "house" within walking distance to a high school comprised of grades 10-12)		16.2%	160
9-12 Career and Technical school AND One 9-12 traditional high school		28.5%	281
		answered question	985
		skipped question	82

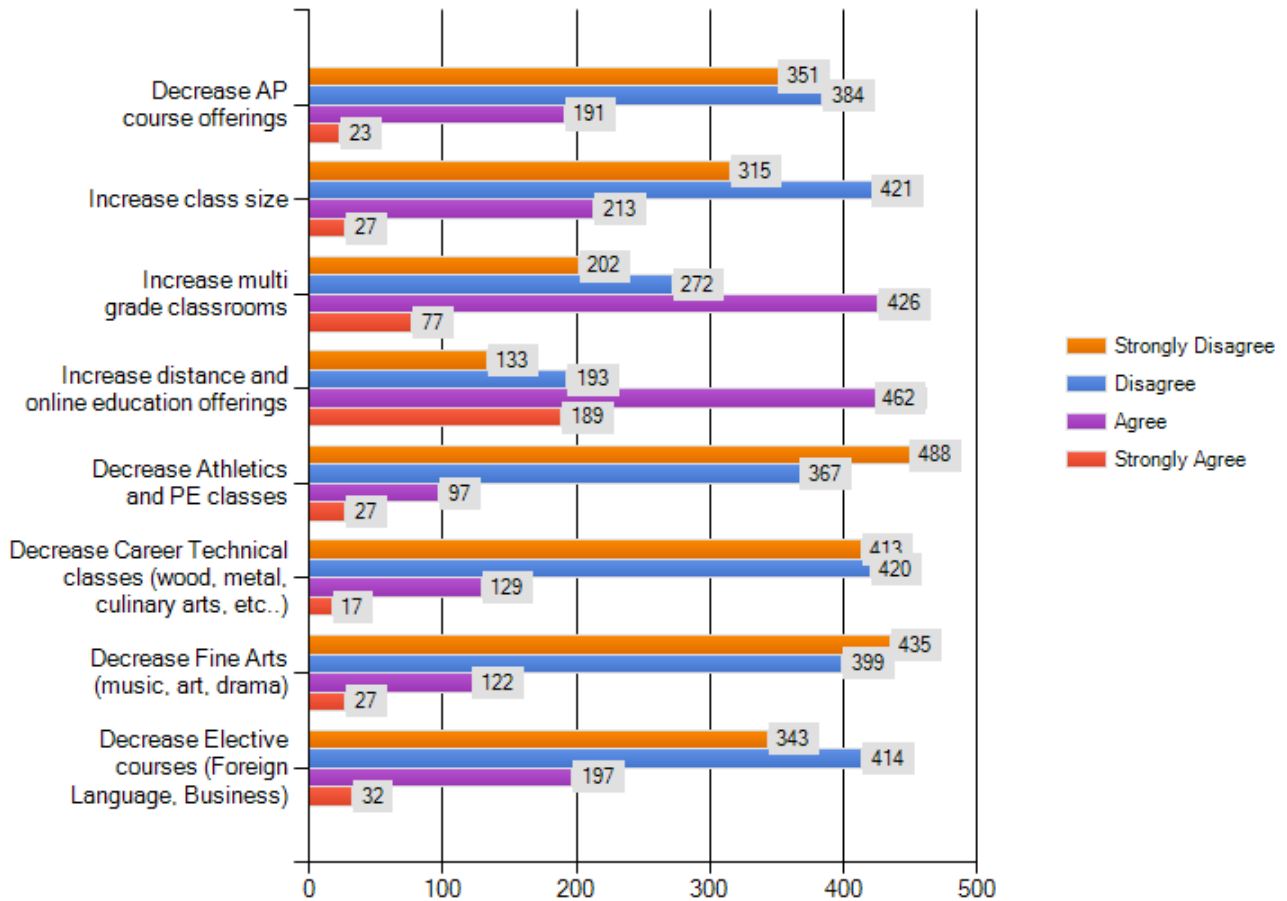
**What configuration would you prefer for future high school students?**



10. If the current school configuration is maintained, and enrollment continues to decline, what options should be implemented? [Create Chart](#) [Download](#)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Decrease AP course offerings	37.0% (351)	40.5% (384)	20.1% (191)	2.4% (23)	1.88	949
Increase class size	32.3% (315)	43.1% (421)	21.8% (213)	2.8% (27)	1.95	976
Increase multi grade classrooms	20.7% (202)	27.8% (272)	43.6% (426)	7.9% (77)	2.39	977
Decrease Fine Arts (music, art, drama)	44.3% (435)	40.6% (399)	12.4% (122)	2.7% (27)	1.74	983
Decrease Athletics and PE classes	49.8% (488)	37.5% (367)	9.9% (97)	2.8% (27)	1.66	979
Decrease Career Technical classes (wood, metal, culinary arts, etc..)	42.2% (413)	42.9% (420)	13.2% (129)	1.7% (17)	1.74	979
Decrease Elective courses (Foreign Language, Business)	34.8% (343)	42.0% (414)	20.0% (197)	3.2% (32)	1.92	986
Increase distance and online education offerings	13.6% (133)	19.8% (193)	47.3% (462)	19.3% (189)	2.72	977
				answered question		989
				skipped question		78

**If the current school configuration is maintained, and enrollment continues to decline, what options should be implemented?**



11. Do you have questions or comments?

Download

Response  
Count

Show Responses 214

answered question 214

skipped question 853

Showing 26 Most Important Words and Phrases

Boundries Career Certificates Class Sizes **Courses** Decsions  
**Disagree** Disclose Employee **Enforce Boundaries** Fix  
 Foreign Language Good Idea **Grade High**  
**School** Impact K-5 K-6 Multiage **Nope** Russian Sacrificing  
**Skyview Sports Students** Thanks for Asking  
 Understand

answered question 214

skipped question 853

#6: Agree, but it depends on how changes are made. AP courses are only as good as the instructor and the question is how helpful are they to the student in being better prepared for college and/or improving their depth and range of knowledge in the AP classroom.

Multi-grade classrooms are dependent on course content and maturity of students. Advanced classes like Algebra, calculus, etc are fine multi-level because if the student is in that class in the first place one would hope that they are a good student and actually want to learn.

Career and Technical choices are needed for students who aren't "college" minded but want or need to learn a trade. Many of the kids who are disruptive in the classic classroom do much better in skill type settings.

Also if there was less emphasis on attending a school for the sports teams there wouldn't be such a disparity in enrollment between the two high schools. Skyview loses kids to SOHI for sports then the remaining students have less academic opportunity because you decrease classes offered since there are less students. SMS should also STOP recruiting students to attend SOHI for athletics. I've had 3 kids though this district so am speaking from experience.

1

- 2 *What ever happened to after school sports? They need to be back in schools.*
- #8: either 7-8 or 7-9
- 3 #9: any of them except 7-12
- 4 #9: *there should be one each of a 7-12 school and a 9-12 school.*
- #5: not clear what AP offerings is
- 5 Foreign Languages - at an early age
- #6: *This would depend on how things were reconfigured and the opportunities lost/gained by doing such.*
- 6
- #9: As a parent and past student, we NEED a 9-12 Career and Technical school and a 9-12 traditional high school.
- 7
- #9: *Interested in learning more about one career and technical school and one traditional high school*
- 8
- 9 #5 and 10: not sure what AP Courses are.
- #7, 8 & 9: *All teachers should be qualified to teach all grades then have the electives, fine arts, technology, etc. taught by specially trained teachers. All schools should be K-12.*
- 10
- #5: Offer Russian, Japanese - more relevant to Alaska than just French and Spanish
- 11 #10: Don't we already have multi-grade classrooms?
- 12 *What are AP courses?*
- 13 #6: Depends on how it's changed.
- 14 #9: *either current configuration or have a career and technical school and one traditional high school*
- #10: Increase multi-grade classrooms - only if the teacher can handle it.  
Increase distance and online education offerings: you take this away then you take away any hope for our future.
- 15
- 16 #9: *Either the current configuration or Career and Technical school and one traditional high school.*
- 17 #6: between disagree and agree: maybe
- 18 *We need students who can at least work at entry level jobs.*
- 19 Thank you for educating my kid! Your teachers are fantastic!
- #8: *Whichever works best*
- 20 #9: *Whichever works best*
- #9: either 9-12 Two high schools (current configuration) or 9-12: One high school (9th grade "house" within walking distance)
- 21
- #6: *Between disagree and agree - I don't know the variables!*
- 22 #7: *K-5 or K-6*
- #9: Either 9-12 Two high schools (current configuration) or 9-12 Career and Technical school and one 9-12 traditional high school - it may work for students who neither have the will or ability to continue education
- 23
- #9: *Would like to see specifics on 9-12: One high school (9th grade house within walking distance)*

- 24 *and 9-12 Career and Technical school and one 9-12 traditional high school.*
- #5: Child is not old enough for most of these.
- 25 #10: Classes would be smaller and that I strongly believe would benefit the children. Each student would get more attention.
- 26 #8: *either 6-8 or 7-8*
- #9: Either two high schools (current configuration) or 9-12 Career and Technical school and one 9-12 traditional high school - might work for students who don't wish for higher education.
- 27 I would like to see K-Beach have a Pre-K. If 6th grade moves, the school should be able to handle the class.
- I would love to see the career & technical position open up in the evenings for adults to take advantage of.*
- 28
- 29 #6: I refuse to support a change that you (the school district) does not disclose.
- 30 #6: *depends on how it's done - either disagree or agree*
- #9: can you give specifics on 9-12: one high school (9th grade house within walking distance) and 9-12: Career and Technical school and one 9-12 traditional high school?
- 31
- #8: *either 7-8 or 7-9*
- 32 #9: *either 7-9 and 10-12 or 9-12:two high schools (current configuration)*
- #6: I want to see 7th & 8th at Sterling Elementary!
- #7: K-8 or K-5, 6-8 - but all at Sterling
- 33 #8: 6-8 at Sterling
- 34 #7: *either K-8 or K-6*
- 35 #10: I'm not sure what AP is.
- #6: *Do not understand what curricular and co-curricular mean. This question should be phrased so a non-educator can understand it.*
- 36
- #6: it should have a place to check "not sure" - need more details.
- 37 #10: AP - not sure - what is that?
- #7: *either K-6 or K-5, 6-8*
- 38 #8: *either 6-8 or 7-8*
- #8: if MS configuration is 6-8, sixth graders should be separated from 7-8th graders.
- #9: either one high school w/9th grade house within walking distance to a high school, or a career and technical school and one 9-12 traditional school would be acceptable.
- 39
- I strongly disagree with changing schools' grades. The schools are excellent as it is. If they change i will be moved out of the kpbsd district completely.*
- 40
- 41 Also have student at Aurora BorealisPrefer just one high school
- 42 *Retired employee*
- Site-based member
- 43 #7: prefer K-5
- 44 #s 7 and 8: *Grades K-8, Montessori*
- #8: prefer 6-8 or 7-9
- 45 #9: prefer one high school 9th grade house within walking distance to a high school comprised of

grades 10-12 OR 9-12 career and technical school and one 9-12 traditional high school

46 #9: either 7-12 or 7-9 and 10-12

#7: either K-8 or K-5; 6-8

#8: either K-8, 6-8 or 7-9

47 #9: either 7-9 and 10-12, or 9-12 Career and Technical School and one 9-12 traditional high school

48 #9: *Either one high school w/9th grade house within walking distance to a high school of grades 10-12, or: career and technical school and one traditional high school*

Concerned our school funding would be negatively impacted!

#7: either K-8 or K-6

#9: either one high school (9th grade house within walking distance to a high school comprised of grades 10-12 --- or: career and technical school and one traditional high school.

49 #10: Merge the high schools in Soldotna instead of changing any offerings.

50 Question #8: grades 5, 6, 7 and grades 8, 9

I find question 6 impossible to answer. "could potentially impact curricular and co-curricular opportunities" - A person needs some information: How will opportunities be impacted? And no one knows yet, or if you do, tell us so we can give an informed answer.

51

*Elementary configuration: none; combine Redoubt and Soldotna El to K-3; middle school to have 4-6; SoEl building to have K-8 grade, Montessori School*

*Middle School - move them all to Soldotna High School building*

52 *High School: 10-12; have all high school grades 10-12 at Skyview building.*

Maintaining 4-6 classroom is very important to Montessori curriculum.

9-12 career/tech school and traditional school: if this allows enhanced academics at traditional school. Strongly disagree with decreasing AP course offerings!

53

*I think that currently there are a lot of extra-curricular provided by the school. It would certainly best serve the community to have a different configuration of schools. It is difficult to choose which programs to decrease, but cutting back down to the basics is the best idea. Extra athletics, extra electives and extra fine arts classes that serve a small percentage of students should be decreased if the current configuration is kept. I do think basic music, PE and technical classes should be offered, but perhaps not as many of each.*

54

55 enforce boundaries!!!

*I firmly agree that boundaries should be strictly enforced. With that said, I do not like the bottle neck at SMS. I do not think they should be brought together, make good friends and then separated for HS. The Sterling parents were also discussing the separation of the Sterling students once they get to HS. There is a real problem with recruiting students to go to Soldotna High School. This is a BIG problem and needs to be addressed.*

56

The district boundaries need to be strictly enforced, no exceptions. Stop the stacking of sports teams. Stop the recruiting at SMS for Sohi athletes. Teachers should have mandatory drug testing; frequently.

57

58 *give children as many opportunities to learn as possible!*

59 I need to think more about this.....

60 *If you had to mesh two school changing the mascot might make it so there isn't as much of a rival between 'panthers' and 'stars'.*

61 Question #9 I could with either of the last 2 options, but I do think that a center dedicated to VOTECH is needed.



62 *I don't know much about certain things like AP class, ROTC, Career certificates so I couldn't really judge them nor was there an I don't know box*

63 I have never liked the idea of 1 jr. high feeding 2 high schools. I was a student at SOHI when Skyview opened. It didn't make sense then, and it doesn't make sense now. My recommendation would be to house the jr. high at Skyview and to use the Soldotna facilities for the high school. Either housing the 9th graders at the current jr. high or using it for a tech school sound like viable options to me. Quality programs available to all of our kids should be our first priority.

64 *Open for most ideas and I think many have merit. I would like to see opportunities maximized for kids like sports. Current configuration has evolved from sports which is wrong. the only sports consideration should not be how well can we stack a team but how many teams can we afford so as many kids as possible get the opportunity to participate.*

65 I would like to see a career tech high school. Many of our children do not plan on going to college. I currently have a student with Special Educational needs and I am Scared to death of my child being put into a 6th grade Jr. High situation, It would NOT benefit him in any way. I believe that situation would increase in Bullying. Which seems to be an ongoing problem for many Children.

66 *Either they are the receiver of it, or the instigator.*

67 I think that a k-8 for some elementary schools could be beneficial, but I would not support k-8 for all of the schools.

68 *It was interesting that there were no questions relating to home schools, those programs receive monies and should also be considered in this issue/discussion. Thank you.*

69 no

70 *I am appalled that the discussion of reconfiguring middle school grades began because parents of students at Soldotna elementary schools and SMS were concerned that their child(ren) wasn't getting the same benefit athletically as the KMS students (who currently have a 6-8) school. We have been in need of reconfiguration to support more effective delivery of ACADEMIC subjects for years. Making decisions based on the few students who will benefit athletically is so unfair to the many who would have benefitted academically to reconfiguration had we done it years ago when it first came up. I suspect pursuing the issue now while parents are the initiators will benefit the academic changes needed. I can only hope!*

71 Two high schools in this small of a town is a bit ridiculous. One high school at this point is the way to go.

72 *Sterling boundaries should be replaced with all sterling kids going to one high school to keep them all together. Also not let so many people from the skyview district go to sohi.*

73 Being from Sterling why are the students that have been together for the last 8 or 9 years split when they start High school? They should all go to the same high school this would help keep Skyview's enrollment up.

74 *I would like to see the boundary change for Sterling Elementary, the children that are together k-6 and then 7-8 are divided at high school. The whole school should be sent to one high school and not make the children choose between their friends. They still can choose for any other reason, but friends should not be a reason.*

75 no

*We need to be teaching for employability. We have to be supplying the workforce with our graduates. We no longer have the luxury to be teaching for knowledge's sake alone. Our economy requires that everyone works. Which is a good thing but, we have to be employable. Our students have to learn to do something that someone wants to pay them to do. We have to stop being a country that wants to redistribute wealth. We need to return to our roots as a country of people who*

want to work, want to support their families, their communities and want to be proud of being a legal citizen of The United States of America. We have to teach and train students so that they can provide for themselves and not expect the government to provide everything for them. Where is the personal pride in that? Where is the national pride in that  
We need to encourage students to be the best they can be in whatever field they wish to pursue and teach them the skills they will need to succeed.

I would like to see Future Farmers of America back in the schools on the Kenai Peninsula. I would like to see ROTC, 4-H and other programs which support good moral character offered in our schools.

I would like to see the 10 commandments back on every wall. Everyone should be able to see the value in encouraging and following those teachings. What could be offensive about stating that we should not kill, steal, covet, be disrespectful or deceitful or any of the rest of the 10 commandment teachings. A country and a world with those values would be so much less violent and so much less selfish. Our forefathers must have agreed because they had the 10 Commandments engraved in stone and hung on walls and prayed aloud in our public buildings.

I am so blessed to have been born in this country and raised in this state. We still have many of the freedoms that our sister states have lost. I pray we are not going to be next in line. We must guard against apathy and watch guard our freedoms or we will be called upon to fight for them as our forefathers did or lose them forever.

76

I do not believe that JR. high kids belong with high school students. I think that while preschool is important bringing preschools into the elementary schools has taken space that could otherwise be used for extra regular ED classes or behavioral classes.

77

For question 10c, the multi-grade classroom, I think that this idea would be good for middle and high school student,( having more 7th-8th grade classes together, and not isolating the freshman as much), but it wouldn't be a good idea for elementary schools.

78

I kind of like the idea of combining the two schools. But we don't all fit into just one huge school. I would miss being able to spend two years in school with my little sister, rather than just having one with her as I would be a senior. Skyview and SoHi students tend to have very different personalities, so I still don't know how I feel about the combining.

79

80 <(^. .)^>

This will likely be an emotional issue. Would be best to have specifics, what each scenario would look like and what classes, staffing, extracurricular and costs associated. Keep parents, students, staff and public informed.

81

Students should not have to do with less or give up a solid education because of funding. Ineffective teachers kept because of tenure should be eliminated.

82

83 No

Although my children are beyond this age, my main area of concern is the middle years. If the middle school concept was a true reality for the Soldotna area, I would encourage this. However, in the current building it is not viable, and has been tried here before. Yet, it is still called a Middle School. This is not correct. Soldotna has a Jr. High. Let's call it what it is. It is not a bad thing, but should not be labeled a Middle School. The concept is great, having 6th-8th together....but ONLY if the concept is in its true form. Otherwise, keep the 6th graders with the elementary students, please! One more thought; if we have two high schools, why are we cramming all the students into ONE 'middle school'. This makes no sense. The school is too small and overcrowded. I know many parents who have begun their home school experience at this age because of this reason. Why not have two middle schools, and follow the concept of a middle school? I believe the parent satisfaction rate would go way up.

As for the rating chart above, I do not think putting PE classes and Athletics into the same question is fair. Yes, we should have PE options for our students. This does not mean we should continue funding athletics at the same rate. If funding for the arts is decreased, athletics should be decreased at the same rate.

84 *Thank you for asking our opinion. Question is....will you listen to the public?*

I wish I had more information about what Career Certificates are available now, then I would have a better base for my opinion to increase or decrease. I do not see the advantage of having a 9th grade "house" within walking distance to a high school. I wish you had put a link in this survey to more info on the main website.

I definitely believe an increase in Career and Technical education is essential. I do not think Business and Foreign Language electives are in the same ballpark. Many people as adults elect to run their own business and would benefit greatly from a basic business class in high school.

85 American History could be taught from the framework of business.

*I am glad to be involved in the survey; however, I feel you could have explained more in-depth as to why (for ex.) having one High School would benefit the students etc. I don't believe all the facts of the pros and cons were given and therefore we as parents are still left "in the dark."*

86

As a parent of upper-class student, it would be hopeful that the juniors could graduate from SVHS, which will also afford the opportunity of needed time for planning & transitions for faculty, staff, parents & MOST importantly STUDENTS!

87

*Get with One High School and get the best of everything for the students. The other building can be an awesome 6-8th grade middle school.*

88

Because of declining enrollment and increased spending on the lowest common denominator Soldotna High School is down to offering one foreign language.

Re: loss of AP classes: WRONG! Reduce Special Ed first. Teach to the motivated & GIFTED!

My grade level is Post Graduate, MSW

More than 2 years of foreign language should be offered!!

Reduce paraprofessionals - strongly agree!

Reduce free lunch - strongly agree!

89 Reduce the B.S.- let teachers TEACH to the motivated! - strongly agree!

90 *Middle School 7-9: very good idea!*

Really do not have all the choices in the survey but one high school only makes sense after seeing future enrollment projections. We need to balance the act so we maximize funding and offerings without running the risk of overcrowding. SMS is under-utilized as well as our two area high schools. Looks like we could stand to do some consolidation while leaving the choice up to the parents where to send their child. No zip code zones.

91

*Something clearly needs to happen; kids are not getting the best all-around education as when I attended school here. Need to disclose specifics, if we do this configuration this is what it will cost, this is how much staff is needed, this is what will be offered, etc. A Committee should be started to look at variables. And know it will be emotional for many! This should be about what's best for the kids and district as a whole.*

92

I think we should combine the high schools. I also feel like we need more classes to help kids deal with the real world. Teaching them how to budget, manage finances, drivers education, etc. Classes as freshman or sophomores to help set them up for college/scholarships, etc instead of waiting until they are seniors. Writing resumes for jobs and job hunting, managing their time between school/college classes and a job, etc.

93

94 *..... It's fine how it is.....*

I like the idea of having one high school, so that there is no strong rivalry. It would decrease fights and you would get to meet more people and have stronger sports teams.

95

96 *no*

97 *no*

98 *noo*

- 99 I would like to see some streamlining of the administration instead of budget cuts always affecting the classroom. In the private sector, when there is a decrease in revenue, EVERYTHING is on the block for cuts, but it seems with the school all we ever cut are those things that most closely affect our children, instead of trying to make administration more efficient and less redundant. In the last few years my job has asked for more and more productivity from employees by reducing the number of employees, benefits, and perks and expecting more work from fewer people. Why does our school district never appear to take the same approach?
- 100 *One high school with expanded RCA and a Technical school would be the best option. Even if the elementary stay K-6 and middle level 7-8. The current high school situation is the most dysfunctional piece right now and will continue to be so if left the same.*
- 101 As a community we have to see beyond the Purple and the Blue and do what is best for our children. I am hoping that the Purple and Blue does not get in the way of doing what is right.
- 102 *We need to better utilize the buildings we have and restructure to save programs that benefit our kids!*
- 103 The middle school already has about 10 portables and if it is changed to 6th grade through 8th, then the building is going to be too small. Even if numbers are down, with that many schools combining into 1 school is not going to be feasible. With less students in the classroom means more attention to each student, less the teacher has to do, and more attention to changes in the education system as a whole. Education keeps changing and if we overwhelm the teachers, I for see more problems (health, stress, & not giving the teacher the full potential of doing their job).
- 104 No.
- 105 Always wondered why you funnel so many schools into 1 middle school. Over populated and is where they need the most guidance. This is enough reason to make middle school grades 7-9
- 106 *No I understand*
- 107 Combine sohi and skyview and make soldotna middle and sohi for a big campus and have skyview be the middle school.
- 108 *I wish this issue would've been addressed years ago before our class got into high school.*
- 109 No.
- 110 *Do NOT decrease AP course offerings or foreign languages!!!!!!!!!!*
- 111 No.
- 112 *Nope.*
- 113 There are too many "Shadows" and care providers for those that are just misbehaving students. Which takes away from those students that are actually at the school to gain knowledge.
- 114 *Why do you guys have to know where we currently live... We give it to you on the paper that we send in the beginning of the year...*
- 115 nope
- 116 *what up?*
- 117 no
- 118 *How about enforcing area boundaries.*
- 119 could support career tech if it is only show in town

120 *To decrease the opportunities for your students will not make a better school system. The school should engage its youth and offer courses and futures that make them want to stay and graduate.*

IT makes no sense that a small community like this has two high schools. All it has done is made a wedge in the community. It has allowed for the climate at each high school to be very uninviting if you do not fit the "mold" of the school climate. In no other place in the lower 48 would you find two general high schools running in such a low populated area.

121 Going to a 6-8 for middle school would also be good for the students; however, the current building would not be a good fit. The middle school years are often considered the "make or break" years of school; therefore, we should provide a building that allows students to spread out, have more opportunities, and to prepare for high school in an environment that will accommodate these experiences.

122 *I believe that it is important, if a change is made, to make sure everything is CLEARLY outlined and communicated all involved before the change happens.*

123 I am torn on the high school configuration. As an employee I see a great need for the career and technical school but I also liked the 7-9 and 10-12 option, if a career and technical school were not available. We cannot continue to run such small high schools, our students need more and I feel the career and technical school would be a great addition to the community. As far as AP course, I think the Jump Start program is a better option. All students are not college bound but some basic generals met via jump start or with good career and technical training we could be preparing student 's for jobs, associates degrees, and life.

Regardless of enrollment, the borough is obligated to provide a solid education to prepare students for college and beyond. Sacrificing the quality of a child's education should not be an option. Each of the categories above offers students insight, skills and opportunities they will need to be successful.

124 *Standards and performance should be high. Higher than they are currently.*

125 No

126 *The Career and Technical school is a neat idea. It could be modeled after a high school in Virginia Beach called The Governor's School of the Arts. I went to this school and it offered dance, drama, visual arts, and music. The Soldotna high school would be a place where a student would go for specialized training in any of the arts (dance, culinary, visual arts) as well as woodworking and welding, nursing, etc.*

127 this was a very odd survey.

128 no

129 Standard based leveling instead of grades levels after a 3-4 year primary learning period to gain the basics.

130 *Definitely need a career/tech option... this would greatly increase graduation rate and meet the needs and talents of many kids... avoid cramming a square peg into a round hole. Multiage classes are a GOOD thing, as long as teachers are properly trained and equipped to facilitate them, and they are appropriately populated (i.e., no low 4th and high 3rd graders in a 3/4 split - bad grouping! should be a mix of each)*

Having had my own children graduated from Skyview with honors, presently attending skyview, at K-Beach and been through SMS I can state that the present configuration has attributed to my children ranking Advanced in all categories on SBA's, AP courses, and honor courses.

131 It is developmentally inappropriate to place 6th graders into middle schools according to research. The district should really take a hard look at the dropout rate. It is dismal and results in much of the student loss. We should really ask our most important resource to contribute to the discussion and have a steering committee with student representation. Thank you.

- 132 *We should have small class sizes no matter what. The current 22+ kids per room in elementary school is a bad thing. if need be get rid of all music, and art classes and get more regular teachers so we can give each child more one on one time with teacher,...the children would excel. Class sizes should be in the teens at biggest.*
- 133 I was wondering why Skyview did not have an ROTC class. ROTC teaches leadership and the belief in oneself. An NJROTC would be perfect
- 134 *The district needs to do what is in the best needs of all students not just athletes. This conversation should solely be about curriculum options available and not athletic teams.*
- 135 Thanks for asking!
- 136 *With the option of online classes we can have more choices for students than we have ever had.*
- 137 the bu
- 138 *Stronger career programs might draw home schoolers back to the schools. Multi-grade classrooms might allow an opportunity to group students by interests and aptitudes rather than by age, which makes good sense to me.*
- 139 This is so stupid. Fix the boundaries.
- 140 *This is ridiculous. How about we get parents/teachers who can look at the dynamics of what is around and fix the problem. We all know the problem is the open boundaries. If we had two 7-12 high schools they would be equally filled with students. Letting students flip flop back and forth is ridiculous! I have had students in the district for 20 years and have been listening to the same crap over and over. Let's just fix the problem and quit letting SOHI make all the decisions for the entire community. My children will never attend SOHI I would homeschool before I enrolled them in that school!!*
- 141 Once again people need to realize that moving students from outlying school--such as Skyview--decreases the amount of money per student allotted by the state since schools outside the city limits are considered "rural" and those within the boundaries are "urban." School board members and community members know this, right?
- 142 *These are difficult decisions to make. The answers given in item 10 are based on an understanding that "decrease" does not mean eliminate.*
- 143 Nope.
- 144 *Nope, Chuck Testa. ( internet meme, look it up >\_> )*
- 145 No
- 146 *I already took this survey at home via mail.*
- 147 Question six is really vague. What does it mean?
- 148 No.
- 149 I believe that if we went 7-12 it would solve a lot of boundary issues. I also believe if your student is advanced enough to take an AP class they need to take a college class and not waste their time in High School taking a class with a little more homework! I don't believe AP classes help students out as much as it would for them to take college classes. I would like to see jumpstart available to lower grades instead of just Seniors. For sure I think they should do Jumpstart for Juniors and Seniors. If the schools were combined and a high school closed I would think you would see a tremendous growth in the Connections and Kenai School but not for SoHi. I would rather drive my children to Nikiski than to send them to SOHI!!!!
- 150 *i like the grade configuration how it is*

151 Eliminate AP courses due to current KPC options.

152 *Skyview was made for a reason; combining the schools would just decrease the number of chances for double the amount of students.*

153 Something needs to change, we can't keep doing what we are doing.

154 *The current configuration is managing decline. We need to be willing improve the system by making changes focused on long-term benefits. Basing decisions on not upsetting certain groups is sacrificing the future to make people happy in the short term.*

155 I believe if you do a 7-12 high school with specific elementary schools assigned to the high schools I believe that your boundary issues will be resolved as well as a bursting middle school. You will create two equally competitive high schools.

156 *One high school with a new name and identity (mascot/colors, etc.) to enable all students to have same identity...not a "Sohi student" or a "Skyview student" but students of the new school. Overall this would eliminate the "we vs. you" mentality that students already have regarding the two high schools.*

Follow the model of those CTE schools that work:

157 Close "Skyview," move SMS in to the building as a 7-8 or 7-9, turn "SMS" building into a CTE school within walking distance of the "traditional" high school (Sohi). Offer all aspects of CTE at the "new" school, students could attend for 1 period or more depending on interests. "New" school would not have athletics; students enrolled there all day would compete at their chosen "home" school. This would alleviate the constant battle at SMS regarding school choice; students would then base their decision more on academic/class needs and less on athletics/friends.

158 *I know of no KPBSD students who have gone on to earn a living in the NBA nor as professional cheerleaders. Yet there are success stories of students who go into technical, academic, medical, and science arenas. Let's enable more of our students to be successes by emphasizing academics that challenge ALL students, not just the underachieving students. Let's set higher expectations for all students. Aim higher, a lot higher, than NCLB. Coming from a small school in a small town does not have to limit one's academic progress as some of our students demonstrate. Let's enable more students to have those early accomplishments that help determine future success.*

159 Adult "helpers" should be enlisted in the classroom if class sizes were to increase. I envision a classroom helper as a discipline manager. I would agree to bigger classes if classroom management wasn't the teacher's and problem student were held accountable for their behaviors. Too many students and teachers are held back from their potential due to classroom management issues.

160 *I think it is possible to have BOTH a 7-12 program and a strong CTE program. It is difficult to answer questions like #9 when you can only choose ONE answer.*

161 Skyview and Soldotna High School should remain separate. For the students' sake, parents, and teachers'. Skyview is a great school and it should stay that way.

162 *What are ap course offerings? No explanation is provided. How are we to agree or disagree when abbreviations without explanation are used?*

163 I would agree to multiage classrooms more for elementary and middle, not necessarily high school.

164 *State should build a safe bike/walk path to skyview and build a back road to connect with k-beach area.*

165 Yea when can RCA get its own gym/Physical Education class because that's very important to us.

- 166 *In all honesty, my preference would be to have middle school be grades 7-9, then have one technical/career oriented high school and one more traditional high school option for grades 10-12.*
- 167 No
- 168 *Combine Skyview and SOHI into one high school use Skyview as a SMS 6-8 and get rid of RCA. Why do we need another school?*
- 169 I don't think 6th graders are mature enough to be with 7th & 8th so if it is broke up I think 7th, 8th, 9th would fit better. If the plan is to have one high school then I would hope 10-12 would all fit in one.
- 170 *I did not realize enrollment was declining. If anything I thought there was a growing enrollment. With the little mini oil and gas boom that is happening, I would anticipate it to grow even more. Placing high school students into one high school is a terrible idea. that would create too many kids in one school. There should be another junior high with 7-8 graders or a bigger junior high building. The schools we have need to be tended in maintenance. Our children's health is at stake when you have bats living in the ceilings and roofs collapsing. Stop over engineering the situation and redoing something that doesn't need to be redone as far as grade combinations. Repair what we have and grow from it. Skyview and SOHI are healthy rivals and should be given equal opportunities without having to combine both schools together and make a over populated school. Why were these strange ideas of rearranging grades brought up in the first place? This is nonsense and over engineering. There are some great teachers at these schools. But, get rid of the slugs and bring in the ones that want to teach kids. And quit over paying the high administration so that there can be some more money given to the schools themselves. Thank you for the opportunity to do this survey and speak my mind.*
- 171 I really liked the idea of an 'academic' and a 'tech' focus at each of the two different high schools, but would, as a parent, need to see that a child could be allowed to half day at each school depending on their individual academic needs.
- 172 *There is not enough information to provide educated decisions as how these choices impact each school, so this survey hold cannot be considered valid. My opinion might vary with more information.*
- 173 If larger classes are a must, then there needs to be a mandatory teacher's aid for student support. Many times the teacher does not take the time to individual needs for explaining "how to "do certain assignments. Especially math. When a teacher, especially a Math teacher, has a sub, the sub better know how to do the math. My kids have run into this issue many times where the sub has no clue how to teach it or do it for that matter. :( Very frustrating.
- 174 No
- 175 Thanks for asking for our input.
- 176 *What does this mean? Our enrollment numbers are going down??*
- 177 none
- 178 *You built Skyview to replace SoHi is my understanding. Tell the whining parents that life is sometimes tough. Close or develop another purpose for SoHi, have all the kids go to Skyview. It is monumentally stupid to maintain the 2 facilities, especially when one was built to replace the other. Yes the snob parents who think their kids are SO VERY special as compared to the neanderthals at Skyview do not want their kids scarred by these kids. Guess what, my kid is in his secnd year there and has basically been getting straight A's. It is possible for them to learn. And you may believe the Skyview/SoHi bigotry does not exist, it does, and it needs to stop. Why waist the money on infrastructure so the snob parents can feel better about themselves. Get rid of the duplicate infrastructure and spend the savings on new teachers and programs. Seriously, you need to ask these questions?!?! This is a no brainer.*
- When will the discussion of closing Skyview High School end? There is a community closely associated with that school and the constant efforts by those more connected to Soldotna HS to



- 179 close down its cross-town rival creates great anxiety among Skyview students and families and is almost abusive in quality.
- 180 *enforce boundaries*
- 181 Having 2 high schools definitely gives students a choice, and their small size ensures more individual time with teachers and a friendlier environment :)
- 182 *Are they going to combine SoHi and Skyview?*
- 183 No
- 184 *I think that the current way of our school configuration is doing very well true some schools may have difficulties but all schools do and i think that in the end that's ok cause it's how we overcome those difficulties that really makes us grow as people. So in my opinion i think that everything has been working out well for all the schools weather we have less students or not its the people in the school who make the school not the amount of people but the character of the people inside.*
- 185 If two high schools were to merge, it would be important to change the high school name, mascot and school colors to decrease tensions and eliminate rivalries and legacies.
- 186 *I believe we need to have more sports for the elementary age children.*
- 187 Moving the middle school to the Skyview campus and combining Sohi and Skyview into one large high school, utilizing the existing middle school as part of the high school campus seems like a way the district could save money in staffing.
- 188 *nopeeee!!!!!!!!!!!!*
- 189 make SMS 6-8 pls :-)
- 190 *i dont want skyview and soldotna high schools combined*
- 191 If you are guna change it change it but make sure to have the better of the principals and teachers work at the schools.
- 192 *I want my children to have an academically rigorous education, as well as adequate extra-curricular opportunities to qualify them for competitive scholarships and college admissions. We are considering homeschool as an alternative method of providing challenging coursework to our kids, although I would rather see them challenged in a classroom learning community with same-age peers. It is very important to us that our children be allowed to excell to their full potential, even if it means that we pay for private lessons to supplement what is available in the regular classroom.*
- 193 You should inform people about these issues BEFORE we take a survey on it, only a few people actually knew about the possibility of configuration changes.
- 194 *The answer to this problem is not to decrease the education options us students have. The goal is not to make us stupid by not offering complex classes but to make us smart by challenging our intellect with harder classes more form fitted to our intelligence level.*
- 195 This is stupid leave both schools it is fine as it is
- 196 *ima bowsh*
- 197 nope
- 198 *It has been proven over and over that students who are involved in Fine Arts programs outperform students that don't. Cutting the arts is not the answer to increasing student achievement, and isn't that the goal of all school districts! PE is also a VITAL part of a child's development and heath.*

My child was able to take 2 years of Russian in the last years it was offered at SOHI. Also, she has

- 199 taken Digital Electronics and Principles of Engineering. She is currently in AP Calculus. She is planning to attend college for and Engineering Degree. She has school spirit (STUCO & NHS), but has not participated in any sports in high school. Thank you KPBSD for educating my daughter.
- 200 *I think sohi and skyview should be one school. Middle school should be moved to skyview. The current middle school should be for 9th grade or even possibility for more career base for students*
- 201 Has KPBSD considered the option of year-round schooling on a multi-track system in our schools? In other areas it has been used in response to having too many kids, but in our case it would seem that perhaps it would be a way to increase the usage of our buildings and therefore open other options for the other schools (such as the career/technical school mentioned in this survey).
- 202 *One high school PLEASE*
- 203 We have just returned to the community after living out of state for several years. The communities in the surrounding area we came from had a 6-8 configuration for middle school, and a ninth grade campus in walking distance of the main high school campus. This configuration has been very successful, and we are very excited that KPBSD is considering this as an option.
- 204 *I don't think that we are spending enough time, resources, and money helping gifted and talented students excel. Because of NCLB, they are actually being left behind because they are not allowed to learn in THEIR least-restrictive environment.*
- 205 No.
- 206 *Both Skyview and SOHI are vital to the continued success of our community. Whatever decision is reached needs to consider the fact that Skyview needs to continue to be Skyview and SOHI needs to continue to be SOHI to give the opportunity for all of our students to be successful.*
- 207 wow
- 208 *I like shiny things*
- 209 THIS WAS STUPID
- 210 *NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*
- 211 I think a career/technical high school is a good option, but it would also be nice to have a magnet or charter school option in the Soldotna area that focused on the Arts and Sciences, or gave one other option for families. Presently I think we have too many students in the middle school and would be better served by two middle schools.
- 212 *I think that if Fine Arts, Athletics and PE, Technical classes and Elective courses are decreased that would increase the decline of enrollment. The more variety the School District can offer, the more students will be interested in attending public schools.*
- 213 I realize things need to be done, but I haven't lived here long enough to really see what a viable option is. I would like to say that I have taught in 3 different states and in numerous schools in these states and this school system seems to really have the best handle on providing a quality education.
- 214 *Our community needs to have "ONE HEARTBEAT"*