

On the Frontline in Cabell County, WV
Post-Discussion Questionnaire Findings

Report generated by



Program Evaluation and Research Center (PERC) of the
College of Human Resources and Education at West Virginia University

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PERC brings together expertise in program evaluation, research design, data analysis (quantitative and qualitative), and dissemination of findings to support the implementation and evaluation of education-related endeavors throughout West Virginia (<http://perc.hre.wvu.edu/>). We conduct research and evaluation to inform the work of practitioners and policymakers concerning the efficacy of existing programs and the needs of specific populations for improvement of educational and social outcomes. As one component of this mission, PERC has been working closely with Education Alliance to provide educational research and evaluation in support of their vision that “Every West Virginia public school student will graduate from high school college or career ready.”

This report provides analysis of post discussion questionnaires completed by 156 attendees of seven Frontline Network (<http://www.educationalalliance.org/?ID=33&FrontlineNetwork>) community forums held in Cabell County during spring 2012. This report will provide information on the demographics of respondents, responses to 16 Likert-type survey items, and 5 open-ended questions (see Appendix for complete questionnaire).

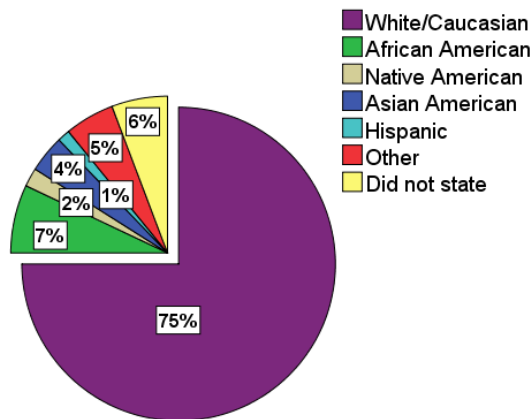
Demographics of Respondents

There were 156 community forum participants who returned post discussion surveys. Respondents’ were most often White/Caucasian high school students or adults with college degrees working in educational careers. While White/Caucasian was the most frequent ethnicity, almost 20% of Cabell county participants identified with underrepresented groups.

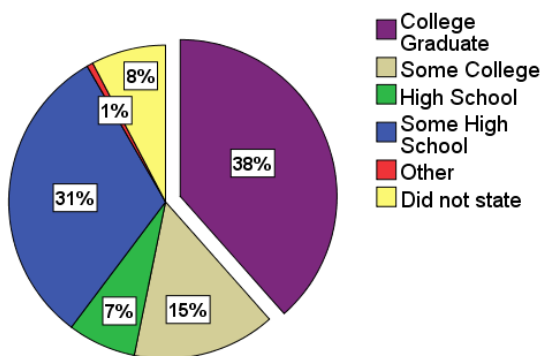
Age

	Number	Percent
<18	50	32.1
18-30	38	24.4
31-45	27	17.3
46-64	30	19.2
>64	2	1.3
Did not state	9	5.8
Total	156	100.0

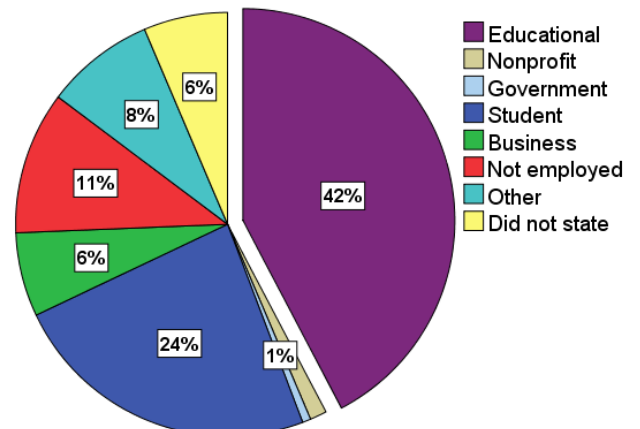
Ethnicity



Schooling Completed



Type of Employment



Likert-type Survey Items

Likert-type items were arranged in 3 groupings, each with different response options (see Appendix). Across all items, responses of “not sure” were treated as missing data and higher numbers indicated stronger agreement. Reliability analyses revealed acceptable internal consistency within groupings (4 items, $\alpha=.65$; 6 items, $\alpha=.69$; 6 items, $\alpha=.78$ for groupings 1 through 3, respectively).

Each table below is organized with highest rated items first showing averages and standard deviations per item and across all items in each group. Items in the first grouping asked respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with 4 statements (1= “strongly disagree” through 4 = “strongly agree”), and items in the second group were similar exchanging the word “favor” for “agree”. Items in the third grouping asked respondents how concerned they were with various statements (1= “not at all” through 3 = “very”).

The most highly rated items focused on partnering among schools and local businesses, attracting and retaining effective teachers, supporting students with reading difficulties, and concerns about teen pregnancy, substance abuse, and shortchanging student-teacher relationships because of a focus on standardized testing. The lowest rated items focused on providing resources for parents to help raise children, increasing funding for schools with high dropout rates, and concerns about liability issues in mentoring programs.

Average ratings were high across all items, always between the highest two response categories (e.g., “strongly agree” and “agree”). Respondents may have perceived these items to be suggestions from Education Alliance and been reluctant to “contradict” their expertise.

Items in first grouping

	N	Mean	SD
Local businesses should partner with schools to provide internships and job shadowing in the local area.	153	3.61	.65
Schools and communities should provide more mental health services to children and youth.	151	3.56	.58
Schools should provide free online courses to help struggling students.	149	3.42	.75
Parents need additional resources to raise children that stay in school and do well in life.	148	3.41	.69
Across items	150	3.50	.67

Items in second grouping

	N	Mean	SD
Do more to attract, support, and reward effective teachers.	151	3.67	.63
Provide reading classes during the school day for high school students with reading difficulties.	150	3.58	.69
Increase the compulsory attendance age to 17.	136	3.51	.72
Increase the quality and quantity of healthy food offered in high schools.	148	3.41	.71
Tie school curriculum closely to specific career paths.	150	3.34	.82
Provide more funds to schools with high dropout rates.	136	3.24	.79
Across items	145	3.46	.73

Items in third grouping

	N	Mean	SD
Teenage pregnancy among secondary school students.	151	2.62	.57
Substance abuse by youth in my community.	152	2.60	.57
Shortchanging student-teacher relationships because of pressure to improve test scores.	148	2.57	.66
The amount of time parents and community members have to spend with youth.	147	2.42	.65
Early career focus shortchanging a well rounded education.	144	2.26	.76
Liability issues associated with mentoring students.	137	2.13	.76
Across items	147	2.43	.66

Note: Items in the third grouping utilize a 3-point scale rather than the 4-point scale used for items in the first and second groupings.

Open-ended Questions

The survey included five open ended questions probing for specific examples of important topics from the community forum discussion. There were 156 respondents and questions were answered at varying rates, ranging from as few as 43 responses (Question 5) to as many as 138 responses (Question 1). Responses were coded according to relevant categories that arose from the data with clear categories apparent for each question. A miscellaneous category was created for each question to include a limited number of answers that were not related to the other categories. Some responses were included in multiple categories where relevant. The description of the qualitative data includes a brief overview of the responses followed by a list of the categories in order from most to least frequent. A single participant response is provided (in italics) as an example for each category. Appendix B provides additional responses under each category with responses included verbatim with punctuation and spelling remaining intact from the original surveys.

Question 1: What is the best idea, program, or practice you heard in the discussion today?

Categories and sample responses:

- Modify the School Day/Setting
 - *Evening/Satelite schools*
- Specific Programs
 - *CTE/GED*
- Personnel
 - *streamline effort to remove bad teachers*
- Dropout Prevention/Reintegration
 - *the best idea I've heard was about the dropout rate, like if you drop out they should have somebody tell them that its not to late.*
- Counseling/Social Services
 - *Early intervention to target kids at-risk of drop=out & provide needed services & counseling support*
- Parent Education and/or Involvement
 - *program for parents who need to finish high school*

- Curriculum/Course Restructuring
 - *Making classes less geared towards "the test" and evaluations by standardized tests. Foster creative learning styles in the classroom.*
- General Input to Help/Support
 - *students need to be encouraged by teachers and their families so they can exercise their full potential*
- Policy
 - *Eliminate suspension*
- Mentoring
 - *Peer mentoring-I feel like this one-on-one somewhat anonymous meeting would help someone at risk.*

Answers to Question 1 most frequently focused on the need to change the structure or setting of the school day to offer more options for students to complete school in a nontraditional format. The next largest set of responses focused on developing specific programs to support students. This was followed by suggestions for personnel changes and for improving policies and practices. Ideas to help prevent dropout and to reintegrate students who had already dropped out were next and these were supported by focus on the need for increased counseling and social services for students in addition to services needed to help parents. Curriculum and course restructuring suggestions were mentioned as ways to help increase learning for students. Many respondents offered general comments about the need to help and support dropout prevention endeavors. A variety of policy related issues were mentioned as was mentoring as a tool to support students (see Appendix B).

Question 2: What can you do personally to help students graduate from high school in your community?

Categories and sample responses:

- Give Encouragement and General Support to Students
 - *encourage my classmates to do their work and try hard*
- Participate in Programs and/or Activities
 - *I can become a tutor at my local schools and volunteer to read for children at the library*
- Improving Communication of the Importance of Graduating from High School
 - *Encourage them to not dropout by emphasizing the benefits of a high school diploma.*
- Improve Communication and Information Dissemination
 - *I can talk to people and share what I know.*
- Develop Relationships with Students
 - *I'm doing my best every day to establish relationships*
- Policy/Staffing
 - *Evaluate teachers honestly*

In response to Question 2 participants' answers most often centered around a general emphasis on encouraging students and supporting them through the school process. Respondents next voiced how their own and students' participation in programs and activities could be beneficial. This was followed by recognition of the need to improve communication to students about how important it is to graduate from

high school. Respondents also indicated a need for improving communication with students and the need to share information with students about staying in school. Related to the improvements in communication, respondents also noted that building positive relationships with students was a concern. The list was rounded out by discussion for the needs for policy and staffing changes (see Appendix B).

Question 3: What should the community do about this issue? Who should do it?

Categories and sample responses:

- General Input to Help/Support
 - *Being more supportive/more understanding about the Drop out issue. Everyone should pitch in to make it easier*
- Focus on Improved Communication and Collaboration
 - *Become involved and work with schools to make our society a better place to educate our children*
- Develop Programs and/or Activities
 - *Create direct support programs to help.*
- Increasing Awareness and Access to Information
 - *Educators need to know more about the community services*
- Increase General Involvement
 - *Be involved- Don't blame others.*
- Better Utilization of Existing Professional Resources
 - *provide more resources/tutoring etc...that are available in community to drop outs*

Responses to Question 3 were most focused on an emphasis to help and support the issue of dropout prevention generally. Comments then centered on creating more communication and collaboration between all constituent groups and developing programs and activities to support the push for dropout prevention. Increasing awareness and access to information were both touted as ways to help with this problem in addition to increasing overall involvement by concerned citizens and community groups. Finally, respondents expressed the need to better utilize the professional resources in both schools and communities (see Appendix B).

Question 4: What policies—local, state, or national—should be changed to address the issue?

Categories and sample responses:

- Staff Procedures
 - *Ability to hire & fire who we need to.*
- Focus on Supporting Students—Broadly
 - *By being more understanding, Help make the problem easier?*
- General Policies
 - *The drop out rate needs to be raised to 18. Students at 16 are not mature enough to seriously examine the consequences of dropping out. Also, attendance requirements should be more stringent.*
- Increase the Dropout Age
 - *I believe that the national compulsory attendance age should be 17.*

- Truancy
 - *I feel that states should have stricter punishments for those students who keep missing school in order to try to keep them going*
- Curriculum/Pedagogy
 - *Instead of all the websites telling us our interests in jobs, have people helping us*
- Standardized Testing
 - *Cut Back on Standardized Testing*

Question 4 asked participants what policies should be changed to address the issue of high school dropout. The most frequent replies were related to the need for more flexibility in staffing policies and then by a general emphasis on the need to support students in school. A variety of policies were mentioned to help increase student success in completing high school. This was followed by statements that indicated the need to increase the age at which students are allowed to drop out of school and to look at policies related to truancy. Finally, respondents focused on the need to modify curriculum, pedagogy, and standardized testing practices (see Appendix B).

Question 5: Any other thoughts?

Categories and sample responses:

- Student Support—Broadly
 - *Just the community should try harder*
- Emphasis on Importance of the Issue
 - *This is an important (very important) issue in our community.*
- Lack of Engagement in Class
 - *(Adults)? need to keep up w electronics. We used stickynotes & Posters-Our kids would have fallen asleep*
- Activities
 - *There should be more programs available for students who are struggling and don't have the right resources to fix it themselves. There should also be programs for parents that are unsure of what to do with their kids when it comes to school related issues. Lastly it should be easier for dropouts to return to school. Have online classes or alternative schools they could attend.*
- Good Forum
 - *Good meeting!*

The final question followed up with respondents being asked for any other relevant information. Answers varied greatly in content with the most responses falling into the miscellaneous category and these are included in the Appendix; however some categories with fewer responses did emerge from the data. These categories included a focus on general support for students and the need to emphasize the gravity of the dropout issue. Respondents also focused on the need to improve student engagement in class and to provide activities and programs for students to participate in. Finally, respondents commented on the positive aspects of the forum discussion (see Appendix B).

POST-DISCUSSION QUESTIONNAIRE

Now that you've had the chance to participate in a discussion on this issue, please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. Your insights will help set directions for local work on the issue. Additionally, participants' views will be summarized in a statewide report that will be shared with you, schools, organizations, policymakers, media, and the public.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statements below?	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
a. Schools and communities should provide more mental health services to children and youth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Parents need additional resources to raise children that stay in school and do well in life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools should provide free online courses to help struggling students.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Local businesses should partner with schools to provide internships and job shadowing in the local area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you favor or oppose the following actions?	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
a.. Provide more funds to schools with high dropout rates.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Do more to attract, support, and reward effective teachers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Tie school curriculum closely to specific career paths.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Increase the quality and quantity of healthy food offered in high schools.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Increase the compulsory attendance age to 17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Provide reading classes during the school day for high school students with reading difficulties.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Are you concerned about the following?	Very Sure	Somewhat	Not at all	Not Sure
a. Early career focus shortchanging a well rounded education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. The amount of time parents and community members have to spend with youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Liability issues associated with mentoring students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Shortchanging student-teacher relationships because of pressure to improve test scores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Substance abuse by youth in my community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Teenage pregnancy among secondary school students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is the best idea, program, or practice you heard in the discussion today?

What can you do personally to help students graduate from high school in your county?

What should your community do about this issue? Who should do it?

What policies—local, state, or national—should be changed to address the issue?

Any other thoughts?

In order to summarize the demographic representation of participants in the dropout prevention discussions, **please circle all of the responses that apply to you.**

17 or younger	18-30	31-45	46-64	65 or older
<hr/>				
African American	Asian American	Hispanic	Native American	
White/Caucasian				
Other (please specify) _____				
<hr/>				
<i>Schooling completed:</i>	Some High School	High School	Some College	College Graduate
<hr/>				
<i>Type of employment:</i>	Student	Business	Nonprofit	Educational
	Government	Not employed		
	Other _____			
<hr/>				
Town/community _____	Not a county resident _____			

Open-ended questions, coding categories, and representative verbatim responses:***Question 1: What is the best idea, program, or practice you heard in the discussion today?***

Category: Modify the School Day/Setting

- *Alternate school settings*
- *Alternative Education; Focus on respect.*
- *Alternative settings for high schools*
- *Bringing kids to another location to finish school.*
- *change of times for high school.*
- *Evening/Satelite school*
- *flexible high school schedules*
- *Flexible school schedules & night classes for employed students*
- *Having school start later!*
- *High school flexible scheduling*
- *it's a toss-up between better lunches & starting school later.*
- *making school start at 9 a.m*
- *Night school & Flexible scheduling. Counselors in all schools*
- *Offer more career technical schools-maybe @ various sites*
- *Offering Alternative setting for students who are not being successful.*
- *Online class*
- *Online Class*
- *online classes*
- *Restructuring high schools*
- *Satellite schools. Making parents accountable-responsible!*
- *Saturday School to Work!*
- *start school later*
- *Start school later, reward for being at school*
- *Starting School later in the day may sound like a joke, but an hour or two of extra sleep could really motivate people to stay in school. Also I thought diffusing small problems before they are able to turn into larger ones.*
- *Summer classes offered, it would really help with classes they want to take.*
- *The best idea i believe is the free online classes*
- *the idea about having more places like CCCTC.*
- *There was a few of them that would Really help one is offering and online class because students like me who have a lot of personal problems at home cant make it. I've had pretty hard at home and school and this is on that can help along with responsibility because kids have to learn to work for what they want i kno i did and still am i'm a full time student and a full time worker*

Category: Specific Programs

- *CTE/GED*
- *Alternative Education; Focus on respect.*
- *Businesses sponsoring schools for internships, etc.*
- *Creating programs to ensure students learn the basics before moving forward*
- *creation of internships funded by outside businesses in order to encourage kids to look into career choices.*
- *Early ID & intervention. Diverse programs made available*
- *Early intervention @ elem. level*
- *Early intervention. Parental education*

- *Early intervention-highly structured programs such as Mountaineer Challenge Academy but for younger students & not residential*
- *Get free summer programs*
- *having places where students Both give & show respect*
- *I like the idea of early identification of at risk students. The problems that affect students in high school start at home. These children need to be removed from harmful environments as soon as possible.*
- *I liked the idea of rewarding students who did well and went to class. I feel it would give them more reason to do well.*
- *I think providing a reward system for students who stay in school would be a good program. Also, providing help to students who want to get back into school is a good idea.*
- *I think the best idea I heard in the discussion was about rewarding the students for attendance.*
- *incentives*
- *Increased awareness of County Technical Center*
- *More transportation to support after-school tutoring and programming*
- *Rewarding students and teachers was the best idea I heard because anytime someone will receive something they are more motivated. Reward students for good grades as well as good attendance. Also have consequences for bad attendance. Reward teachers for their "360 degree" teaching. Have students, colleagues, and past students rate them. good reports=higher salary.*
- *Saturday School to Work!*
- *Summer classes offered, it would really help with classes they want to take.*
- *the idea about having more places like CCCTC.*
- *tutoring*
- *Tutoring. mentoring*

Category: Personnel

- *A more thorough, demanding evaluation of teachers' performance.*
- *Accountability for teachers*
- *Better teacher/student relationships*
- *Getting more teachers that care & are not here for the paycheck.*
- *Holding teachers accountable with strict evaluations and incentives. For good teaching through performance-based salaries.*
- *Improved management!*
- *Increasing merit-based salaries everywhere*
- *make teachers nicer*
- *Merit pay for teachers*
- *Rewarding students and teachers was the best idea I heard because anytime someone will receive something they are more motivated. Reward students for good grades as well as good attendance. Also have consequences for bad attendance. Reward teachers for their "360 degree" teaching. Have students, colleagues, and past students rate them. good reports=higher salary.*
- *some teachers need a better attitude.*
- *streamline effort to remove bad teachers*
- *Teacher incentives*
- *teachers being there for students*
- *Teachers meeting w/ students & each other*
- *That teachers should develop a (personality?) students can relate to so the class isn't so boring.*
- *The best idea was one that suggested presenting material in a more enthusiastic way, whether it is changing curriculum from test preparatory to subject-based or getting newer, enthusiastic instructors.*
- *The best practice that was discussed would be separating classes by Honors or not and holding teachers accountable through respect.*
- *The idea about performance-based pay for teachers.*

- *to have teachers get more active with the students or more hands on activities*
- *To have teachers respect students*
- *To pay teachers based on the success of their students*

Category: Dropout Prevention/Reintegration

- *Alternate Schools for Dropout re-entry. Need for all counselors in all elementaries*
- *Drop out*
- *Drop outs enter Community College to Complete HS requirements*
- *Dropout*
- *Early intervention to target kids at-risk of drop=out & provide needed services & counseling support*
- *I enjoyed the idea in which a video is showed to show students the affect of dropping out to scare them into staying in school.*
- *Talking about students dropping out and how to prevent it.*
- *the best idea I've heard was about the dropout rate, like if you drop out they should have somebody tell them that its not to late.*
- *work with parents and students to show them how important it is to finish school and graduate*
- *To encourage people to go back to school and to not drop out in the first place.*
- *We should try to get kids not to drop out of school.*
- *I think providing a reward system for students who stay in school would be a good program. Also, providing help to students who want to get back into school is a good idea.*

Category: Counseling/Social Services

- *Alternate Schools for Dropout re-entry. Need for all counselors in all elementaries*
- *Counseling at Each Elementary School*
- *Early intervention to target kids at-risk of drop=out & provide needed services & counseling support*
- *Elementary counselors in each school*
- *Increase funds for transportation & more counselors*
- *more counselors*
- *More Elementary Counselors*
- *More mental health care/central data collection for struggling students.*
- *Night school & Flexible scheduling. Counselors in all schools*
- *Placing a counselor in every Elementary School.*
- *Provide elementary counselors @ each school. Set up mentoring programs where students have a contact person*
- *Social service supports.*

Category: Parent Education and/or Involvement

- *Early intervention. Parental education*
- *Getting parents more involved.*
- *Hold parents MORE ACCOUNTABLE!*
- *How to change parental mindsets*
- *Involving parents, students & teachers at future meetings*
- *more parent involvement*
- *program for parents who need to finish high school*
- *Reading classes at all levels, Parenting classes*
- *Satellite schools. Making parents accountable-responsible!*

- *the home life I'd think.*
- *work with parents and students to show them how important it is to finish school and graduate*

Category: Curriculum/Course Restructuring

- *Different classes for students who learn at a different pace*
- *I liked the idea of not having teachers teach for tests but teach for students to learn & remember what they are learning.*
- *Making classes less geared towards "the test" and evaluations by standardized tests. Foster creative learning styles in the classroom.*
- *Reading classes at all levels, Parenting classes*
- *Separate students by learning level.*
- *Separating kids into classes by intelligence*
- *Showing the relevance of the work so kids can see why they are learning it.*
- *Stopping teachers from teaching "to the test."*
- *The best idea was one that suggested presenting material in a more enthusiastic way, whether it is changing curriculum from test preparatory to subject-based or getting newer, enthusiastic instructors.*
- *The best practice that was discussed would be separating classes by Honors or not and holding teachers accountable through respect.*
- *Tracking students, civility/Life skills*

Category: General Input to Help/Support

- *coming together as a community is wonderful*
- *Elementary support*
- *Focus on elementary students*
- *Raising awareness and starting a discussion about being proactive*
- *students need to be encouraged by teachers and their families so they can exercise their full potential*
- *There were many but I think that support and knowledge (better marketing) of all options is important. People caring as a whole and thinking of their neighbors and fellow citizens is also important.*
- *We are going to try to help this problem.*
- **WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER**
- *Working with kids at an early age to develop/help with issues like respect, responsibility, etc.*

Category: Policy

- *Accountability for teachers*
- *Eliminate suspension*
- *dealing with the root problem of poverty*
- *fix transportation issues*
- *Increase funds for transportation & more counselors*
- *Restructuring high schools*
- *Tracking students, civility/Life skills*

Category: Mentoring:

- *Mentoring students*
- *Peer mentoring-I feel like this one-on-one somewhat anonymous meeting would help someone at risk.*

- *Provide elementary counselors @ each school. Set up mentoring programs where students have a contact person*
- *The best idea that i heard was peer consultation and help.*
- *Tutoring. mentoring*

Question 2: What can you do personally to help students graduate from high school in your community?

Category: Give Encouragement and General Support to Students

- *care, help, engage parents*
- *encourage my classmates to do their work and try hard*
- *encourage people more*
- *encourage them*
- *encourage them to better themselves.*
- *encourage them to come back.*
- *Encourage them to study hard, help them with school work.*
- *Encourage them; help them with schoolwork; tutoring.*
- *Get more involved in tutoring and helping fellow students who fall behind*
- *Give them support and let them know they have someone to talk to!*
- *Go and tutor students who need it. As well as after I get a good job out of college go back and speak to the students so that they see hard work and a college degree does eventually pay off it just takes time. I can also give back, donate money and offer internships.*
- *Help each other.*
- *Help organize struggling students to develop a plan to reach their graduation goals.*
- *I can become a tutor at my local schools and volunteer to read for children at the library*
- *I can encourage and help make students aware of options. I could become a good role model.*
- *I can encourage kids who consider dropping out.*
- *I could tutor or assist students struggling with specific courses and become a more active supporter of community programs such as the United Way.*
- *I think it would help simply to be around others who are successful; just to be successful yourself can help others, (as in?) "If they can do it, why can't I (? way).*
- *I'm not really sure what I could do. There isn't much I can because it's their choice but I could support them and turn them in the right direction*
- *incourage*
- *Influence my friends to do well*
- *Keep them optimistic that they can graduate*
- *Make sure they are engaged in school.*
- *make them feel more welcome*
- *Motivate more of my peers.*
- *motivate others*
- *Offer my help, Explain to kids what could happen if they drop out what the results could be.*
- *Offer tutoring services to students that need extra help. Encourage students to seek help if they need it.*
- *Personally, I can encourage other students who are struggling with there work to do better, and help them with there assignments.*
- *Reach out to those who may need help; tutor students*
- *set a good example by graduating myself*
- *Show them that it matters to me (even if it doesn't matter to their parents) whehter or not they graduate.*
- *Stand up for other students*
- *Step up and speak out*
- *support & help.*
- *Support them*

- *Teach them respect, responsibility, self-worth...Show them opportunities.*
- *Try ensure success for my students. Work hard on attendance*
- *Try to set a good example, go to PTA meetings, and try to rally together a group that will fight for the ideas I believe in will benefit schools.*
- *When I see someone who isn't involved in class I can reach out a hand.*
- *you can like support them, and help them on work or whatever they need help on, and give them the momentum they need to be focus and ready.*

Category: Participate in Programs and/or Activities

- *1. Counsel 2. Parent communication 3. Creative scheduling*
- *be there as a peer mentor for anyone who might need it*
- *Be there for them-mentor*
- *Donate money to or volunteer for organizations that help high school students.*
- *Encourage them; help them with schoolwork; tutoring.*
- *Get more involved in tutoring and helping fellow students who fall behind*
- *Go and tutor students who need it. As well as after I get a good job out of college go back and speak to the students so that they see hard work and a college degree does eventually pay off it just takes time. I can also give back, donate money and offer internships.*
- *Help tutor them.*
- *Help with tutoring or even discussing issues would be beneficial.*
- *I can become a tutor at my local schools and volunteer to read for children at the library*
- *I can join mentoring programs and try to convince the kids that a high school degree is not sufficient the upcoming generation.*
- *I could tutor or assist students struggling with specific courses and become a more active supporter of community programs such as the United Way.*
- *I think if the opportunity came for me to be a peer mentor I would accept and enjoy it.*
- *Offer tutoring services to students that need extra help. Encourage students to seek help if they need it.*
- *Peer tutoring could be helpful if these students get help by people on their own level they could be more inspired and motivated to succeed.*
- *Provide assistance to teachers to use best practices and support the credit recovery program*
- *Provide support for programs*
- *Provide things to do that they are interested in*
- *Reach out to those who may need help; tutor students*
- *totour*
- *Totour*
- *tutor*
- *Tutor them effectively.*
- *Tutoring*
- *Tutoring for those that need it.*
- *tutoring, fund raising*

Category: Improving Communication of the Importance of Graduating from High School

- *bribe them, show them that life is better if you stick it out*
- *by showing them that doing your best, will work out in their futures*
- *don't keep lecturing them talk to them get there personal opinion on the subject at hand*
- *Educate elem. Students on neg. consequences of dropping out*
- *educate parents*
- *Educate parents/student*

- *Encourage education*
- *Encourage them to not dropout by emphasizing the benefits of a high school diploma.*
- *enforce the importance of education*
- *Give people good advice!*
- *Help organize struggling students to develop a plan to reach their graduation goals.*
- *Help with tutoring or even discussing issues would be beneficial.*
- *I can convince people of the relevance of school*
- *I can encourage and help make students aware of options. I could become a good role model.*
- *I can join mentoring programs and try to convince the kids that a high school degree is not sufficient the upcoming generation.*
- *I think providing them w/ a good example of the benefits of having a good education is a good start.*
- *I think the best that I can do right now is to talk to students and emphasize the importance of a high school education*
- *Offer my help, Explain to kids what could happen if they drop out what the results could be.*
- *Show them what happens if they don't graduate*
- *talk to them about how hard it is in life without a highschool education*
- *talk to them and tell them how important it is.*
- *Talk to them and try to convince them to stay in school.*
- *Tell Them not to*

Category: Improve Communication and Information Dissemination

- *1. Counsel 2. Parent communication 3. Creative scheduling*
- *Be involved and understand them*
- *I can talk to people and share what I know.*
- *i don't know, listen*
- *listen more*
- *Provide access to all available resources*
- *Provide early intervention through relationships. Link resources-community schools*
- *talk to them*
- *Talk to them motivate them*
- *Teach them respect, responsibility, self-worth...Show them opportunities.*
- *tell them their options*
- *Try to make personal contact to improve communication between school & community*
- *You can tell them their oppurtunities they have*

Category: Develop Relationships with Students

- *Be there for them-mentor*
- *Build relationships more in elementary school*
- *Continue to build relationships*
- *Counsel them.*
- *Develop relationships w (him)?*
- *I'm doing my best every day to establish relationships*
- *Interact with them in a positive manner*
- *one-on-one relationship*
- *Provide a good environment that offers strong relationships*
- *Provide early intervention through relationships. Link resources-community schools*
- *Provide positive climate-focusing on relationships for them to learn and achieve*

Category: Policy/Staffing

- *1. Counsel 2. Parent communication 3. Creative scheduling*
- *Consider some effective systemic changes that will help more students.*
- *Evaluate teachers honestly*
- *Provide assistance to teachers to use best practices and support the credit recovery program*

Category: Miscellaneous

- *as a special ed. teacher-teach my students to read*
- *Be involved in high school. Get included in clubs. Teach respect.*
- *Become more involved in local issues & forums*
- *care, help, engage parents*
- *Encourage basic skills mastery in elem. years*
- *encourage businesses*
- *get them involved*
- *GIVE THEM TIME*
- *Help with marketing programs.*
- *Improve their attendance*
- *Instill a work ethic.*
- *make school shorter*
- *Make school shorter*
- *Market opportunities*
- *more classes easier*
- *More proactive vs. reactive*
- *Nothing*
- *pay for their college*
- *Raise EXPECTATIONS*
- *Stay in school!!!*
- *What we did today*
- *Yes*

Question 3: What should the community do about this issue? Who should do it?

Category: General Input to Help/Support

- *Being more supportive/more understanding about the Drop out issue. Everyone should pitch in to make it easier*
- *Band together and fight the issue. The parents.*
- *Be there.*
- *encourage them not to. everyone*
- *Encourage. Mayor.*
- *Everyone should care. They should be concerned and try to mentor and help.*
- *everyone should help*
- *focus more on the kids wants & needs, schools*
- *Give this generation a chance and not paint up with the same brush*
- *go to more students personally- Mr. Freeman (Little)*
- *Help each other-families*
- *help kid's more, Better teachers*
- *Help parents out w/ support & (eval)? issues*

- *I believe that our community should help the schools, probably the tax payers*
- *I think we should help with Families that are having a hard time.*
- *Ideally, parents, teachers, and the community in general would pitch in to help students as they needed it.*
- *Identify kids and help nurture them into a good environment. Teachers, neighbors, friends*
- *Just try to reduce the drop out rates. Everyone.*
- *Listen to students' ideas, as they are the ones living it. Encourage children and reward them for a job well done. Implement programs/classes for a wider range of students.*
- *My community needs to be more encouraging to students who are at risk of dropping out. Teachers need to do it, and they need to listen and not be so rude and harsh in classes*
- *OFFer their help, be there to help us through any issues we have going on in our life, because being a kid we have a lot on our shoulders here at school and At home.*
- *Our community should help the people that are alone and by their selves and that don't participate on anything like help them with there problems.*
- *People who want to help you succeed can get involved in your life and make sure you put your best effort in what you do.*
- *Support & be involved. Everyone*
- *support those in need; everyone*
- *talk and try to find ways to fix it. schools, superintendant*
- *The community should be supportive and do whatever they can to help this issue*
- *Try harder and actually care.*
- *We should attempt to fix it. It takes an entire community.*

Category: Focus on Improved Communication and Collaboration

- *Become involved and work with schools to make our society a better place to educate our children*
- *Do more community building type activities-focused on team building between parents & schools*
- *I think the collaboration of thoughts and oppinions is key to solve the issue. Everyone should have input.*
- *Improving drop-out rates needs to be a concern of all people in a community-business leaders, educators, parents and students. Discussion needs to generate ideas which are gradually introduced into the school system with the entire communities support.*
- *Listen to students' ideas, as they are the ones living it. Encourage children and reward them for a job well done. Implement programs/classes for a wider range of students.*
- *take other's advice into account and make changes-the school board*
- *talk and try to find ways to fix it. schools, superintendant*
- *Talk to people on a higher level in order to change things.*
- *Talk to the kids about staying in school*
- *talk to the kids/parent teachers, cops*
- *The community could talk to students and view their point of view. Everyone should take part together.*
- *The community should hold a forum so they are made aware of the problem. They should also work with the schools in order to get the community more involved. Have meetings for parents so they know how to encourage their kid to stay more involved. Schools could partner up with a business for money in exchange for summer interns.*
- *the people, talk to children at risk*
- *The whole community should be involved. We should keep in touch with kids who are slipping out.*
- *understand them more talk to them*
- *We could talk to people about this issue!*
- *work collaboratively. Community, School, Parents*
- *Work together-Schools/Businesses/Law*

Category: Develop Programs and/or Activities

- *build places for our generation to go and be ourselves*
- *Create direct support programs to help.*
- *Develop parenting classes and online courses.*
- *Do more community building type activities-focused on team building between parents & schools*
- *Encourage Parents to be involve, mentor, Job Placement*
- *Everyone should care. They should be concerned and try to mentor and help.*
- *Have more to do, so their aint bad things in the way*
- *Listen to students' ideas, as they are the ones living it. Encourage children and reward them for a job well done. Implement programs/classes for a wider range of students.*
- *Mentor more*
- *New Better (Lotre?)*
- *Offer tutoring in the evenings.*
- *provide more resources/tutoring etc...that are available in community to drop outs*
- *Provide more young adult mentors/tutors. They'll make finishing school seem more cool and be (hopefully) good role models.*
- *Rewarding teachers or students for accomplishments through internships or gift cards from local businesses.*
- *The community should hold a forum so they are made aware of the problem. They should also work with the schools in order to get the community more involved. Have meetings for parents so they know how to encourage their kid to stay more involved. Schools could partner up with a business for money in exchange for summer interns.*
- *The community should provide tutoring services and counseling to students who are struggling. The Parent's Association, the school board, and peers should be responsible for doing this.*
- *Think local businesses could provide internships and rewards for students who perform well and go to school.*

Category: Increasing Awareness and Access to Information

- *Business involvement. Parent education. Mental Health programs for students/families*
- *Become more aware as a whole, not just the school systems, but local businesses, figureheads, and government as well. Everyone should be involved.*
- *Educators need to know more about the community services*
- *Emphasize importance of attendance*
- *Emphasize the importance of education. Everyone.*
- *get information out there. Everyone should*
- *Help raise awareness and funding. Everyone should be a part of it.*
- *I think there should be meetings with struggling students with their counselors so that they can understand that dropping out of school leads to nothing but additional hardships and failure.*
- *Inform us of resources available*
- *Make high school degree jobs more known. Make employees of businesses have more positive attitudes.*
- *Make more awareness*
- *Should (know?) a high school diploma will be (needed?). employers are the (main?) people who need to do this.*
- *Show the importance of education.*
- *Talk to the kids about staying in school*
- *The community should hold a forum so they are made aware of the problem. They should also work with the schools in order to get the community more involved. Have meetings for parents so they know how to encourage their kid to stay more involved. Schools could partner up with a business for money in exchange for summer interns.*

Category: Increase General Involvement

- *Be involved- Don't blame others.*
- *Become involved and work with schools to make our society a better place to educate our children*
- *Become involved-It is every body's responsibility to help our students.*
- *Become more involved with schools. Don't allow students to miss school.*
- *Become more on hands.*
- *Encourage Parents to be involve, mentor, Job Placement*
- *Encourage/Mandate familial involvement*
- *Get churches, civic leaders involved*
- *Get outside agencies more involved.*
- *Support & be involved. Everyone*
- *Take it seriously & actually act on it. Everyone.*
- *The whole community should be involved. We should keep in touch with kids who are slipping out.*

Category: Better Utilization of Existing Professional Resources

- *Better teachers*
- *Business involvement. Parent education. Mental Health programs for students/families*
- *ensure parents are accountable. provide appropriate social resources*
- *I think there should be meetings with struggling students with their counselors so that they can understand that dropping out of school leads to nothing but additional hardships and failure.*
- *parents should get help for their drug abuse*
- *provide more resources/tutoring etc...that are available in community to drop outs*
- *The community should provide tutoring services and counseling to students who are struggling. The Parent's Association, the school board, and peers should be responsible for doing this.*
- *They should set up meetings or something with counselors.*

Category: Miscellaneous

- *?*
- *Become more involved with schools. Don't allow students to miss school.*
- *Don't know?*
- *Help raise awareness and funding. Everyone should be a part of it.*
- *I believe the federal or state government should provide more funding to create programs to keep kids in school.*
- *I don't know*
- *I feel we are on our way, we need to not give up.*
- *MAKE EDUCATION #1*
- *Make high school degree jobs more known. Make employees of businesses have more positive attitudes.*
- *Make school shorter the bored*
- *Not sure*
- *Nothing*
- *School shorter*
- *School Shorter*
- *support laws; everyone*
- *the community needs to simply put more money into education*
- *The community should raise money to help The schools. This should be done by anyone who believes a quality education is beneficial.*

- *they should make school more open for people who want it and want to succeed in there life. I think that the people who will do it should be the principles.*
- *They should take it into consideration! The Board*

Category: Responsible Party

- *adults*
- *Band together and fight the issue. The parents.*
- *Become involved-It is every body's responsibility to help our students.*
- *Become more aware as a whole, not just the school systems, but local businesses, figureheads, and government as well. Everyone should be involved.*
- *Begin with parents & families!*
- *Being more supportive/more understanding about the Drop out issue. Everyone should pitch in to make it easier*
- *Business involvement. Parent education. Mental Health programs for students/families*
- *Emphasize the importance of education. Everyone.*
- *encourage them not to. everyone*
- *Encourage. Mayor.*
- *Entire community*
- *Everyone*
- *Everyone needs to actively participate in engaging students with education.*
- *Everyone needs to be involved And ACCOUNTAbility for parents, teachers, etc*
- *Everyone should care. They should be concerned adn try to mentor and help.*
- *everyone should help*
- *focus more on the kids wants & needs, schools*
- *Get churches, civic leaders involved*
- *get information out there. Everyone should*
- *Get Involved-Everyone*
- *Get outside agencies more involved.*
- *Help raise awareness and funding. Everyone should be a part of it.*
- *Hire better teachers and offer more one on one attention to students. The school system needs to do this.*
- *I believe that our community should help the schools, probably the tax payers*
- *I believe the federal or state government should provide more funding to create programs to keep kids in school.*
- *I think the collaboration of thoughts and oppinions is key to solve the issue. Everyone should have input.*
- *Ideally, parents, teachers, and the community in general would pitch in to help students as they needed it.*
- *Identify kids and help nurture them into a good environment. Teachers, neighbors, friends*
- *Just try to reduce the drop out rates. Everyone.*
- *mayor/town leaders*
- *My community needs to be more encouraging to students who are at risk of dropping out. Teachers need to do it, and they need to listen and not be so rude and harsh in classes*
- *Schools are responsible for almost everything! Wow more.*
- *Should (know?) a high school diploma will be (needed?). employers are the (main?) people who need to do this*
- *Support & be involved. Everyone*
- *support laws; everyone*
- *support those in need; everyone*
- *Take it seriously & actually act on it. Everyone.*
- *take other's advice into account and make changes-the school board*
- *talk and try to find ways to fix it. schools, superintendant*

- *The Board of Education should vote to allocate more money for higher technology in the schools to keep students from getting bored.*
- *the board office*
- *The community could talk to students and view their point of view. Everyone should take part together.*
- *the community needs to simply put more money into education*
- *The community should be supportive and do whatever they can to help this issue*
- *The community should hold a forum so they are made aware of the problem. They should also work with the schools in order to get the community more involved. Have meetings for parents so they know how to encourage their kid to stay more involved. Schools could partner up with a business for money in exchange for summer interns.*
- *The community should provide tutoring services and counseling to students who are struggling. The Parent's Association, the school board, and peers should be responsible for doing this.*
- *The community should raise money to help The schools. This should be done by anyone who believes a quality education is beneficial.*
- *the people, talk to children at risk*
- *The whole community should be involved. We should keep in touch with kids who are slipping out.*
- *they should make school more open for people who want it and want to succeed in there life. I think that the people who will do it should be the principles.*
- *They should take it into consideration! The Board*
- *Think local businesses could provide internships and rewards for students who perform well and go to school.*
- *We should attempt to fix it. It takes an entire community.*
- *work collaboratively. Community, School, Parents*
- *Work together-Schools/Businesses/Law*

Question 4: What policies—local, state, or national—should be changed to address the issue?

Category: Staff Procedures

- *Ability to hire & fire who we need to.*
- *Different rules for teachers; more close evaluation*
- *Don't tie the school systems hands by letting them pick the best candidate.*
- *Have more flexibility in hiring of staff*
- *Hiring & Firing of school personnel*
- *Hiring and firing practices of educators in WV. Let's be proactive!*
- *I believe that teachers wages should be raised. With more funding, more intelligent people will become teachers and therefore the students would learn more.*
- *I feel like the fact that teachers don't get paid much doesn't really encourage some of them to be effective in their job.*
- *I think the salary for teachers should be changed to motivate them to be excited about teaching.*
- *more teachers more accountable/reliable*
- *No CTE Requirements. less academic requirements*
- *Personnel (practices)?*
- *Reward students and teachers for good work*
- *Salaries, policy, school (state?), etc*
- *Teacher eval. Parent responsibility. Grading policies*
- *Teacher evaluation--> firing process. rewarding excellence*
- *Teachers need to be paid according to their performance and the compulsory attendance age needs to be raised.*
- *tenure should be withheld.*
- *Unions should be restricted if not removed*

Category: Focus on Supporting Students—Broadly

- *By being more understanding, Help make the problem easier?*
- *cyber bullying*
- *cyber-bullying*
- *Early Interventions at all levels*
- *I think we need to stop bribing kids to come to school w/ money and rewards, but rather help them understand how much bad can come out of dropping out. We think that they don't care about anything, but maybe, just maybe they would care if they knew that others did.*
- *Less to cover in classes. Emphasis on student-teacher relationships. make dropout age 18. Smaller classes. Emphasis on respect.*
- *Let us do what's right for all children w/o fear of legal ramifications*
- *More needs to be done to help struggling students. No student being left behind leads to students getting pushed through school and not learning anything.*
- *People should just be nicer & have more respect.*
- *Put more emphasis on attendance. This can be aided by schools, business, law enforcement.*
- *Raise the dropout age, but also have programs to help get students caught up when they fall behind.*
- *Reward students and teachers for good work*
- *Shouldn't let people bully.*
- *the class rooms should be smaller. The requirements for teachers should be altered to where it is about the student succeeding in all ways in their interest.*

Category: General Policies

- *BRING BACK THE PADDLE IN ELEM & MID SCHOOL*
- *Bus schedules*
- *Bus Schedules*
- *Bus schedules.*
- *Cellphone policies, the way teachers teach.*
- *Change Bus Schedule!!! How many times do we have to say it!*
- *Less separation of students by ability.*
- *Punishment should ensue for those that drop out, such as taking away their license or certain other rights.*
- *Salaries, policy, school (state?), etc*
- *Teacher eval. Parent responsibility. Grading policies*
- *The drop out rate needs to be raised to 18. Students at 16 are not mature enough to seriously examine the consequences of dropping out. Also, attendance requirements should be more stringent.*
- *The dropout age should be increased...if it were 17 then students wouldn't be eligable until almost their senior year of high school. Also there should be a more effective punishment for missing school. Students should have a set number of days they can miss before the punishment is enforced.*
- *The starting time for school is too early. Also, if a student drops out before 18, they should not lose their driver's license.*

Category: Increase the Dropout Age

- *higher age of dropout, at least 18.*
- *Age at which a student can drop out should be increased*
- *I believe that the national compulsory attendance age should be 17.*
- *Increase drop-out age*

- *Less to cover in classes. Emphasis on student-teacher relationships. make dropout age 18. Smaller classes. Emphasis on respect.*
- *Raise the dropout age, but also have programs to help get students caught up when they fall behind.*
- *Raise the dropout rates*
- *Students drop-out age needs to be increased to at least 18 so they can definitely finish high school.*
- *Teachers need to be paid according to their performance and the compulsory attendance age needs to be raised.*
- *The drop out rate needs to be raised to 18. Students at 16 are not mature enough to seriously examine the consequences of dropping out. Also, attendance requirements should be more stringent.*
- *The dropout age should be increased...if it were 17 then students wouldn't be eligible until almost their senior year of high school. Also there should be a more effective punishment for missing school. Students should have a set number of days they can miss before the punishment is enforced.*

Category: School Day Time/Structure Changes

- *classes shortened*
- *More flexible schedules in high school.*
- *School should start later*
- *Short Classes*
- *The starting time for school is too early. Also, if a student drops out before 18, they should not lose their driver's license.*
- *The structure of the school day/year.*
- *The time.*
- *times school is going*
- *We need a non-traditional school for middle and high schools.*

Category: Truancy

- *attendance laws need to be strengthened*
- *I feel that states should have stricter punishments for those students who keep missing school in order to try to keep them going.*
- *Make attendance more strict and punish parents.*
- *Suspending the license of kids who drop out of school is a good way to keep kids in school.*
- *The drop out rate needs to be raised to 18. Students at 16 are not mature enough to seriously examine the consequences of dropping out. Also, attendance requirements should be more stringent.*
- *The dropout age should be increased...if it were 17 then students wouldn't be eligible until almost their senior year of high school. Also there should be a more effective punishment for missing school. Students should have a set number of days they can miss before the punishment is enforced.*
- *The starting time for school is too early. Also, if a student drops out before 18, they should not lose their driver's license.*
- *The truancy issue should be addressed & the policy for this should be enforced.*
- *truancy laws*

Category: Curriculum/Pedagogy

- *better reading program in special ed. classes*
- *Cellphone policies, the way teachers teach.*
- *I think how much we are required to learn should be tweaked.*
- *Instead of all the websites telling us our interests in jobs, have people helping us.*

- *Less separation of students by ability.*
- *Less to cover in classes. Emphasis on student-teacher relationships. make dropout age 18. Smaller classes. Emphasis on respect.*
- *The Plato should be changed because it offers no help to us at all, Plato is a webpage we use when were Failing a class and it doesn't help.*

Category: Standardized Testing

- *Cut Back on Standardized Testing*
- *no child left behind*
- *no child left behind.*
- *Standardized testing should be reevaluated to find a more effective way to gauge student's abilities.*
- *Test scores defining school & policy when students have no vested interest or consequences*

Category: Parent Responsibility

- *Attendance-parent accountability*
- *Legally Making parents accountable.*
- *Make attendance more strict and punish parents.*
- *Teacher eval. Parent responsibility. Grading policies*
- *Welfare/parent responsibility-no accountability for child's attendance and behavior no federal help*

Category: Miscellaneous

- *Not Sure*
- *all*
- *all necessary*
- *change the rules*
- *Don't know?*
- *Drastic measures*
- *everyone should know about it.*
- *freedom*
- *Graduation requirements*
- *Hold All Stake Holders Accountable Not just Educators*
- *i don't know*
- *I don't know*
- *I think Kids should be able to have smoke breaks!*
- *I'm honestly not sure.*
- *I'm not quite sure.*
- *I'm not sure of any policies.*
- *I'm not sure. (Looking) at the whole (issue?) (national parties?) would need to change.*
- *Increase in funding at the state and national level.*
- *Less emphasis on WVU going to the Big 12 & more emphasis on education. Fire State legislature & request overhaul.*
- *Less to cover in classes. Emphasis on student-teacher relationships. make dropout age 18. Smaller classes. Emphasis on respect.*
- *local and or state*
- *None*
- *Not Sure*

- *Nothing really.*
- *Quit making students expect 2nd chances, because it encourages laziness!*
- *Simply what I stated above.*
- *West Virginia*

Question 5: Any other thoughts?

Category: Student Support Broadly

- *Address cultural issues. Importance of school attendance. Post High School Plans.*
- *I hope I've helped & that all of this effort helps graduation rates go up. Maybe try contacting Ken McGuire with the LSIC. She has been talking about helping dropouts.*
- *Just the community should try harder*
- *Teachers need to become friends or close to the students because than the students will want to be in class to hear from the teachers. I believe the students that do know what they want to go into have already experienced the job somehow from home and other students who don't know where they want to go don't have that outside of school job relationship the more they don't know what they want. I think that for the aggressive side of behavior like fighting within school stop the kids who are fighting and put them in alot of protective gear and let them have at it...because some students can't help but be aggressive so letting them be aggressive safely will help them and having someone like the wrestling coach watch and supervise and could help keep it safe.*
- *Teachers need to reach out to students more*
- *These people dropping out (hopefully...) aren't just stupid. There are reasons behind everything. If people get to the bottom of these reasons, they could stop them. People need to care, not waste taxpayers money to bribe them.*

Category: Emphasis on Importance of the Issue

- *Get the students to school & keep them there.*
- *Please don't let this just be rhetoric-let us see true action*
- *Stay in school!*
- *This is an important (very important) issue in our community.*
- *We need to Work harder to make a difference*

Category: Lack of Engagement in Class

- *less time sitting in class after work is done would make people less likely to get in trouble*
- *(Adults)? need to keep up w electronics. We used stickynotes & Posters-Our kids would have fallen asleep*
- *Don't make school so much about memorizing information or standardized test scores. Reward students who do well! Don't just punish those who do poorly.*
- *It seems to me that students become less engaged in classes when school becomes less fun-typically around middle school when creative classes are squandered and instruction becomes more "grade" heavy and memorization and regurgitation becomes the norm. It simply isn't engaging.*
- *School's Boring*
- *Sometimes the reason a student is failing is not attrituble to bad teachers or parents. It's a lack of incentives/motivations. (I know this from personal experience.)*

Category: Activities

- *a drug free program for children*
- *Providing online tutoring for students who have missed a lot of days due to illness is a good way to keep these kids up to date & understanding what is going on in class.*

- *There should be more programs available for students who are struggling and don't have the right resources to fix it themselves. There should also be programs for parents that are unsure of what to do with their kids when it comes to school related issues. Lastly it should be easier for dropouts to return to school. Have online classes or alternative schools they could attend.*

Category: Good Forum

- *looved havin the freedom to have my voice heard*
- *Good meeting!*
- *good program, enjoyable forum*
- *I enjoyed this and found it extremely beneficial.*
- *I found this forum really interesting & it made me want to be more involved.*
- *I really appreciated you investing your time today!*

Category: No Further Thoughts

- *N/A*
- *no*
- *No*
- *NO*
- *no sir*
- *No.*
- *none*
- *nope*
- *Nope!!*
- *Nope.*

Category: Miscellaneous

- *Get the students to school & keep them there.*
- *Please don't let this just be rhetoric-let us see true action*
- *READING IS #1*
- *Reinforce those policies (the good ones) that are already in place. Support educators!!*
- *smoke breaks*
- *Stay in school!*
- *there shold be smoke brakes*
- *This is an important (very important) issue in our community.*
- *this is not going to happen over night- Get \$ to help*
- *We are the agents of change.*
- *We need to Work harder to make a difference*