



Blue Ribbon Commission Meeting # 6 Thought Exchange Responses

March 2023

Exchange Summary

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Graduation Measures, New York
State Education Department
April 5, 2023

If you could design or redesign your high school experience, what would it look like and why would you value it?



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



786
Participants



616
Thoughts



12,184
Ratings



WORDCLOUD
Top Rated





THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts



I do not feel that courses should be centered around taking regents. I feel that the education and excitement is more important than teaching to the test.

4.3 ★★★★★ (26 👤)

Ranked #1 of 616

Create more elective courses. Students will enroll and it increases interest in content areas.

4.2 ★★★★★ (28 👤)

Ranked #2 of 616

I would have preferred to have opportunities to get involved with real life projects in my community that somehow connected to a class. It is more meaningful when connected to one's community.

4.2 ★★★★★ (28 👤)

Ranked #3 of 616



THOUGHTS Real World



I would have preferred to have opportunities to get involved with real life projects in my community that somehow connected to a class. It is more meaningful when connected to one's community.

4.2 ★★★★★ (28 👤)

Actually we just asked students in an alumni survey and they overwhelming said more hands on, more research projects, more authentic experiences. It matters because when kids see real world applications, then are invested. It DOES make a difference I have data.

4.2 ★★★★★ (27 👤)

Real world, hands on experiences & applications. Using the info we are learning to make decisions & solve problems. Not memorizing formulas for exams! Connections to real world. Students can really see the value in what they are looking and relevance to their lives

4.2 ★★★★★ (25 👤)



THOUGHTS Interest



Create more elective courses. Students will enroll and it increases interest in content areas.

4.2  (28 )

More choice and flexibility with scheduling, more options to participate in special interests To get a better idea of future career ideas

4.2  (27 )

More room for voice and choice in what we learn Performance assessments that grow out of curriculum allow students to explore areas of interest.

4.1  (28 )



THOUGHTS Learning



Provide students with more voice and choice in the classrooms. Students should have some options in their learning.

4.1 ★★★★★ (26 👤)

More opportunities for project based learning, more focus on communication and logic/thinking skills, ways to be involved with the community. All of these promote independent learning, creative thinking, teamwork, and deeper understanding of subjects.

4.1 ★★★★★ (6 👤)

More discussions less teacher controlling everything in the classroom. Students have things to say and it's the best way to learn.

4.0 ★★★★★ (28 👤)



THOUGHTS College



Emphasize that college isn't the only means to success. We frequently devalue professions that don't require college. Too often kids go to college and don't have an area of study that will equate to a job after.

3.9  (22 )

More chances to explore trades. Not all students need to take Algebra 2 or go to college to be successful. Let's give more students an opportunity. Many trades are good professions and worthy of respect. Students can be highly successful going into a career right after high school.

3.9  (21 )

I would incorporate work experience in my field for high school credit. It gives students a jump start on choosing a career and can save time and money by letting them see what not to do in college.

3.9  (20 )



THOUGHTS Courses



I may have taken courses at other schools if offered. There should be alternatives to standard courses. Electives are scarce and could offer more applied studies.

4.0 ★★★★★ (28 👤)

I would include more financial planning and career readiness activities. Financial planning and learning how to budget money is a very important skill that many young adults struggle with.

3.9 ★★★★★ (28 👤)

More options for learning at your own pace Increase independent course options to help gifted and non-traditional learners succeed.

3.9 ★★★★★ (28 👤)



THOUGHTS

Ethnic Studies



If I could redesign my HS experience, I would want me & my peers to take an ethnic studies course & see historically marginalized voices in curriculum This would help with identity development, cultural awareness, prevent microaggressions, & encourage critical thinking about systemic inequalities

4.0  (28 )

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3.8  (26 )

I wish that I'd had the opportunity to take a class focused on ethnic studies in high school. Including these histories alongside other HS curriculum affirms that these marginalized histories are important for ALL young people to learn.

3.7  (28 )



THOUGHTS

Life Skills



Our children should be learning everyday life skills, that they will encounter throughout their journey of life. Get rid of the regents exams. They need to be able to be independent functioning adults in our society. They need to feel confident and to prosper on their journey of life.

4.0  (28 )

An experience similar to CTE and/or an internship with a life skills class where I learned about credit cards, resumes, interviewing, etc.

4.0  (22 )

I would redesign my high school experience to be interdisciplinary and based around real-world, problem-solving skills. Subjects should not be taught in a void if we want to promote critical thinking and empower students with the skills they need to thrive.

4.0  (22 )



THOUGHTS Test



Hands-on experience with learning instead of test based. Students want to understand how to apply knowledge, not memorize.

4.1 ★★★★★ (21 👤)

Get rid of end of the year exams. All it does is assess recall. Students are just guessing and not invested in taking these tests.

4.0 ★★★★★ (28 👤)

Less teaching to test, more applying our knowledge. We had many practice tests based on prior Regents, it was all about memorizing the answers. Students need to apply their knowledge in the real world, not just memorize answers and never use it again.

4.0 ★★★★★ (24 👤)



THOUGHTS

Regents Exams



End high stakes testing to graduate. So many of our students with special needs and ENL kids struggle taking the Regents exams.

4.1 ★★★★★ (27 👤)

As an educator and a parent I think we focus too much on standardized testing and regents exams and not the needs of our students. I think it is important to all students to have a choice because not all students are college bound and many struggle just to make it through school.

4.1 ★★★★★ (17 👤)

No regents Why are we still teaching to a test?

3.9 ★★★★★ (27 👤)



THOUGHTS

Focus



I would prioritize culturally responsive education and focus less on test scores and more on educating the whole child. Promotes inclusivity, Addresses systemic inequities, Supports well-rounded development, Encourages critical thinking

3.9 ★★★★★ (22 👤)

Guidance counselors should be trained to be much better prepared to guide students toward their best post high school choices Too much of their time and inclinations are focused on administrative busy work and their student loads are too high to focus on individual students

3.9 ★★★★★ (22 👤)

More focus on college and career readiness- soft skills, resilience... focus on the process of learning and applying, rather than earning a test score this generation needs to learn to navigate the world in a different way than in the past. I feel that many times they have tunnel vision on grades.

3.9 ★★★★★ (22 👤)



WRAP UP Next Steps



Thanks for participating

We'll be carefully considering what we learned and sharing our actions back with you.