

# **Community Values in Public Education System**

## **ThoughtExchange Report to Community**

*January 2022*



In December 2021, the River East Transcona School Division (RETSD) board of trustees (BOT) created a ThoughtExchange to gather community input on the value of our public school system.

There were 1,017 participants in the ThoughtExchange, sharing 919 thoughts and 25,053 ratings. Most participants were parents/guardians of students in K–12.



1,017  
Participants



919  
Thoughts



25,053  
Ratings

## RESPONSES:

The ThoughtExchange posed the following question:

**As a community member of River East Transcona School Division,  
what do you value in our public school system?**

This report summarizes the thoughts and themes that participants rated most important in the ThoughtExchange.

The top ranking thoughts are shown below:



### THOUGHTS Key Thoughts

**supports** Students need more supports (EAs) in schools in order to achieve their full potential. Teachers need the support too.

4.3 ★★★★★ (15 🧑)  
Ranked #1 of 919

**a wide variety of opportunities for our children** Exposure to music, art, inquiry, and language is an important part of education as it enriches their school experience and gives them opportunities.

4.2 ★★★★★ (17 🧑)  
Ranked #2 of 919

**Teaching financial literacy and critical thinking skills should be implemented from the elementary years.** These are two areas that kids would greatly benefit from.

4.2 ★★★★★ (15 🧑)  
Ranked #3 of 919

Key themes emerged as important amongst respondents and their values in our public schools system. These include: inclusion; opportunities, life skills, and extracurricular activities; mental health; quality education; and a safe environment. The top thoughts from each theme are included below.



## THOUGHTS

### Inclusion

- Respect, focus and inclusiveness** Goals are achievable where there is unity and purpose 4.2 ★★★★★ (14 🧑)
- Inclusion** To ensure all students feel welcomed and comfortable in the school setting 4.2 ★★★★★ (7 🧑)
- High educational standards, inclusion & meeting the needs of ALL learners** For my kids and society 4.1 ★★★★★ (12 🧑)



## THOUGHTS

### Opportunities, Life Skills, Extra Curr

- a wide variety of opportunities for our children** Exposure to music, art, inquiry, and language is an important part of education as it enriches their school experience and gives them opportunities. 4.2 ★★★★★ (17 🧑)
- Teaching financial literacy and critical thinking skills should be implemented from the elementary years.** These are two areas that kids would greatly benefit from. 4.2 ★★★★★ (15 🧑)
- Extra curricular activities in the schools** It's important because some parents can't afford to put their kids in regular competitive sports 4.1 ★★★★★ (20 🧑)



## THOUGHTS

### Mental Health

- An inclusive learning environment where kids academic learning, and social emotional and mental health needs are met** Kids need to feel the belong to be successful, they need their needs considered especially during these uncertain times 3.9 ★★★★★ (9 🧑)
- We need more mental health resources and all teachers need a better understanding of how to deal with students with depression.** With COVID more than ever students are struggling and they need more people in their community who know what to look for and how to best help. 3.8 ★★★★★ (7 🧑)
- Fostering positivity and health, both in inter-personal relationships and in individuals** A foundation of positive mental health is necessary for effective teaching, learning, and productivity. 3.7 ★★★★★ (36 🧑)



## THOUGHTS

### Quality Education

<b>Caring and professional teaching staff</b>	4.1	★★★★☆	(20 🧑)
<b>Quality education /acknowledgement of individual talents</b> To be inspired, stimulated and challenged in learning and receive recognition of personal strengths.	4.1	★★★★☆	(16 🧑)
<b>Accessibility</b> everybody deserves access to high quality public education regardless of income, class, race, ethnicity, religion or gender/sexual identity	4.1	★★★★☆	(12 🧑)
<b>The equity of education available for all children</b> To ensure every child has the chance to learn, grow, develop and more	4.1	★★★★☆	(11 🧑)



## THOUGHTS

### Safe Environment

<b>Safe Environment for our Children</b> Keeping children safe is paramount. A place to study free from drugs, harassment and violence.	4.0	★★★★☆	(36 🧑)
<b>Safe Caring Environment where learning is the focus.</b>	4.0	★★★★☆	(15 🧑)
<b>A supportive, safe environment for all students.</b> To thrive one needs to feel supported and safe.	3.8	★★★★☆	(37 🧑)

## KEY VALUES OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS SYSTEM:

Using the ThoughtExchange, participants identified several community values about the public school system, these include:

- Inclusion of all students
- Quality education
- Supports for students and teachers
- Safe school environment
- Learning valuable skills, especially critical thinking
- Mental health supports
- Availability of a variety of opportunities, including in the arts and extra-curricular activities

The BOT appreciates and thanks everyone for their participation, the thoughtful feedback will be considered as we continue deliberations for the 2022-2023 school year budget. Please note information not germane to budgeting considerations have been reviewed and considered in the appropriate area of RETSD operations and governance.