



Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools
Home of the Rams

Community Research to Support Strategic Planning
February-March 2023 Parents & Residents Survey

Appendix of Verbatim Comments

March 13, 2023

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Note: Verbatim comments to open-ended questions are summarized and then sorted alphabetically.

Reasons why children do not currently attend G-A Community Schools

Q. If you answered “yes” in the previous question, please tell us why your child is not attending Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools?

More frequently cited reasons include:

- ❖ G-A’s preschool program not affordable
- ❖ Special education needs
- ❖ More academic options or perceived better academics in another district
- ❖ Personal family reasons, such as live in another district or divorce

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current parents (n = 20)

Better caring teachers

GA can not provide the academic excellence our students need

He was kicked out of Galesburg-Augusta at the age of 6 so he went to K-Resa Valley Center but he is now being dual-enrolled at Valley Center and Galesburg-Augusta.

I am very disappointed with the G-A school system. I will never send another one of my children there teachers that just push kids through. A lack of discipline and substandard teaching

Lack of class options in High School

My other child goes to the district we live in

My youngest son attends Head start which is a county wide program. Due to the cost of Galesburg Augusta Preschool program 3 year old tuition based fees. Being a family of 9 that just wasn't in our budget.

Not enough supervision for our child

Parchment

Speech therapy

The comment box is too small for me to list everything.

The cost for the 3 year old program is too expensive for a single mom

The level of education is sub par

They are finishing high school At their original school

They both were at one time. The home schooled one attended last year, but has behavioral issues that we don't want the staff to have to deal with. The other attends Woodsedge. He is on the autism spectrum, he attended GA at one time. It was constant meetings. First to tell us he wasn't on the spectrum. Then more meetings to get him placed into different schools. We are more than satisfied with Woodsedge.

They didn't have preschool program for my daughter's age

They live out of the area

We are actually in a different school district and my daughter goes to Galesburg. She went there for preschool and as her autism was diagnosed, G-A has been so incredibly supportive of her that I have kept her going to G-A schools.

We are new to the area and my daughter was finding it difficult to meet people who she connected with. Also, Galesburg-Augusta is very limited in their electives and extracurricular activities. She decided to try homeschooling after trying one year at Galesburg. I believe next year I will have another child Homeschooling and the other switching to Gull Lake for the same reasons.

We have a split family.

Other residents (n = 1)

Because you did not have the programs and courses that my children wanted to take as part of your curriculum. Also my ADD son needed help that G-A did not offer.

School and District Environment

Q. Do you have any comments or suggestions about any of the topics in this section on ***School and District Environment?***

More frequently mentioned comments about School and District Environment by parents and residents include:

- ❖ More consistency and accountability from one teacher or building to another when disciplining kids for poor behavior
- ❖ Treat all kids the same when they misbehave
- ❖ Bullying isn't sufficiently prevented or addressed
- ❖ Need more encouragement and rewards for students' positive behavior

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current Parents (n = 55)

A school nurse would be great!! My kid is diabetic and a nurse would be super helpful!!

Allison has rejection sensitivity that goes along with her autism. She can think things are an attack from other kids when they really aren't, but takes things even harder when other kids tease her. I think the school does the best they can within this situation.

Be better. what happened to zero tolerance for bullying. Also, knives being brought on the bus and to school are completely crap. Having kids getting threatened to be shot isn't funny and should be taken more seriously.

Bullying is over looked on the playground as kids just playing sports but it goes to far and noone steps in. The same "problem" kids keep getting to come back to school and participate in these playground activities that they clearly should be banned from due to their past behaviours.

Bullying is the biggest concern I have with the school. That and IEPs. Bully's always seem to be the ones accommodated and protected. While the victim is treated differently. We don't kick students off for bullying instead we keep them on the bus stating there's nothing that can be done. Something needs to be done here.

Bullying is very prevalent and problematic at all schools. Unfortunately, it has been the experience of this household through more than one school district that policies may be in place but they are not enforced and often turn into turning the blame to the victim for speaking up and creating work instead of silently suffering. Resources directed toward taking this matter more seriously and believing kids should always be a priority in the ever changing social media influenced environment we all find ourselves in.

G-A Schools should not be passing along failing or extreme discipline students. Failure experiences can also be turn-around experiences. "No failure" and non-enforcement of "zero tolerance" are failures of the system. Also, a police liaison presence could help you out.

G.A. Primary has amazing staff they do everything they can for their students!

Get rid of Mr. X. He is not a good teacher at all and shouldn't be teaching children probably better teaching college courses with how I have heard he talks to the students and treats them like they are an annoyance to him.

I do believe that positive behaviors are recognized and acknowledged. I feel that the disciplinary consequences are not upheld and parents are not notified of concerns. Those concerns aren't being managed at school and parents are not contacted to be able to help address concerns.

I don't know if GA does a SEL curriculum. My son attended a previous school and I clearly knew the zones of regulation and he would use colors for his feelings at home.

I feel if you're a star athlete and do something wrong there are concessions made for that person's discipline. I've seen with my own eyes at least three times.

I feel like the middle school gives far too many chances to students who misbehave. I also thought that the school district had a zero tolerance for weapons, yet kids have not been punished very severely who have brought weapons to school. It does not give me a whole lot of confidence sending my children to school.

I have an 8th grader so answered only for the experience at high school except for specific experiences with some students and parents of 5th graders

I have heard stories from my children and other parents in regards to kids being bullied and no action being taken by staff on occasion.

I have not had very little exposure to the school system so far, and our daughter is thriving in Pre-k. I have no input on the middle and high school

I think in terms of bullying - staff and teachers could be more well-versed in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion so they can be more prepared to address microaggressions (just one example). Those are a form of bullying, but aren't recognized or addressed as such because there is such a lack of knowledge and understanding. I think it should be part of the district's plan to incorporate training for all staff on a frequent and ongoing basis to ensure that our children are being treated equitably, with respect and feel they are being recognized and appreciated for all of their differences.

I wish the middle school and high school would communicate with me about my children's progress and problems , i as a parent who have kids in all 3 school one having an iep i never know anything that is going on with them

I would love to see a police officer/guard assigned to our district.

I would love to see the restrooms at the primary be more kid friendly. My child is terrified of the toilets and will not use the restroom if he has to sit down. Maybe making smaller seat accommodations for the little kids to sit and not feel like they will fall in.

In today's social environment it is hard to fully understand the challenges a student may face. However there seems to be an insufficient number of eyes and ears available to help students with situations that may arise. Children in general do not always come ask for help so there needs to be more people looking out for potential problems.

It seems that not every teacher is aware of every procedure. To find things out I, as a parent, had to contact the school or teacher and ask questions what the protocols were, and there did not seem to be one in place that everyone knew.

Lack of academic guidance until there is a large issue in both Middle and High School. Not enough resources for teachers to address students struggling in real time. It seems there is No guidance beyond minimum requirements in high school tracking teens as they go thru the years making sure they are prepared for academic success. It feels reactive and not a growth Journey. Kids should be meeting with a counselor from middle school throughout high school on a quarterly basis to make sure they are on track and to encourage options available. That is no longer in schools. The fact that our community has chosen to build bigger and not take the funds to address real issues as to why are children are failing needs to be addressed. Bigger is not better. Focus on the staffing resources and what the kids are being offered. Our teachers are spread so thin. Please focus on that.

More communication is always appreciated. If something happens TO my child at school (hit, bit, hair pulled, pushed down, lunch situation), a quick text/email/any kind of notification about it would be helpful.

Mrs X is constantly harassing and acting like a 6 year old. She is an adult and needs to be held accountable

My biggest concern is busing. There seems to be a lot of bullying, fowl language, fighting, disrespectful behavior within the middle school/high school children on many of the buses. My child is constantly telling me about fights on the bus between students, yet these students do not seem to be reprimanded for their actions.

My child was called a "RETARD" by a teacher and the teacher admitted it. Nothing happened other than the teacher being talked to and then that teacher apologizing with an "I didn't realize you were so sensitive " to my daughter. A second call to the principal yielded nothing. There was discussion between myself and the principal about talking to my daughter and that never happened. The reason for the teacher using this term was because she uses this term with her family. That does not make it right and I likened it to a racial slur. If my daughter had said the same thing to another student or staff she would have been at least in detention according to your rule book or it could've been elevated to bullying based on your rule book. This was disgusting and not how you raise young adults self confidence.

My daughter doesn't feel comfortable talking to anyone but the special education teacher

My kids are constantly getting bullied and the schools have been notified multiple times, and nothing has changed

One thing that concerns me is that children are not allowed to use the bathroom while in gym class.

Referring to the welcoming part. I wish we were allowed to walk our students to class still. That was a way for parents to connect more with teachers at drop off and be there for our little ones especially kindergarten. A highlight of my sons preschool days was walking him in each morning. So we truly miss that.

Stop bullying

Teachers need to keep up better on grading papers. Son will have a D, and be distraught about teacher not grading assignment. Then it'll jump up to b... If it's ungraded on teacher's side it should not go on the parent view site or in progress emails.

The high school is failing the students when a child has a IEP not being followed and is continuing to be bullied and nothing is being done about it my child has never missed so much school up till this year she is in 8th grade and continues to be bullied and failing school not one teacher knows her and no one has tried something needs to be done my kids at the primary love school and I love everyone at that school they get to know students but the high school needs to reconsider how they go about things

The level of education needs to improve. On paper Galesburg ranks high but in the high school it's a joke. They are not preparing them for college or post school. I am allowing my senior to stay because he has great friends but my other child switched schools. The level of education is so drastic. This needs to be addressed.

The mood meter used at the Middle School level is a joke. IF it is checked on a regular basis the follow up to kids who request to see counselors is 2-3 days out or longer. Personally would like that to be 24 hours response time. This mood meter gives a false expectation to the child thinking they are going to be seen and aren't for days.

The only issue we've had is 2 accidents during gym because of lack of restroom breaks during class. My kid claims they don't get to go if they have to. My kid never has accidents and has had 2 in one month during gym.

The staff attempts to address bullying, but the current enforcement of discipline as a result of repeat bullying is not adequate. My child has stopped reporting constant incidents due to lack of enforcement.

The staff who interacts with my son know him so well, I feel like they notice small changes others would not and I appreciate that.

There is a lack of rewarding positive behavior. We acknowledge kids who turn things around, we focus on troubled kids, but successful kids go unnoticed. Bullying is out of control, likely everywhere, but our responses to it are mediocre at best. There are a handful of teachers still in the high school not invested in their students.

There is more focus on kids that make bad decisions and the kids who do what they are supposed to do every day are overlooked. The only teacher that knows kids enough to notice if something is off, is Mr. Walker.

There needs to be consistent enforcement of expectations throughout the district especially at the higher levels. I know of an athlete within the last 2 years at the high school whose dad argued him into a lesser suspension for a fight so he could play in his game. The middle school is all over the place. There are a handful of habitual offenders who are never given effective consequences. They're fighting, swearing at teachers, making inappropriate comments and the slaps on the wrist do nothing. Sometimes their punishments are even seen through. Having a child in the middle school and becoming familiar with the lack of disciplinary follow through by Mr. Korinek has helped our family to understand the horrible behavior issues that are all too common with the 8th/9th graders in our high school. They've not been held accountable so they just get worse and more entitled.

There should have been another choice like, Usually or Sometime instead of Definitely yes or now and feel that the Probably yes or no, was mainly for if you have not dealt with that school. I don't feel that the bullying has a severe enough consequence when a child has been put up against the wall and chased by a much bigger and older student and only has a 3 day suspension. If there is a Zero tolerance policy for Bullying it should have the same consequence as Zero weapons policy, if the student was physically touched.

Troubled students at the middle school are often allowed to receive less punishment than other students because they have continual behavior issues vs those with occasional. The principle is amazing but some of the teachers lack professionalism and treat students disrespectfully. My child has voiced frustration that he has heard teachers talking badly about him. He has also been yelled at in class for asking questions. In the primary there is little to no communication between the special needs teachers and the parents. There is also no communication about the curriculum and teaching that is happening during the week. How are parents supposed to help the child at home if they have no idea what is going on? This needs to change!

We have had issues with bullying occurring during recess time at the primary school. We have spoken to the school, and it seemed to improve but only for a limited time. We understand there is a large number of students to be watched; however, when the offending child is left unsupervised he goes back to picking on our son. Our son had been recognized for helping students who have a difficult time, and is not one to tell us if anything has happened. Rather, we are notified by classmates or other parents. Consistency with supervision for the safety of all students is our main concern.

We have reported a teacher bullying issue to Mrs. X and there was no resolution. The teacher Ms. Y actually told our daughter “Sorry, I didn’t realize you were so sensitive” after calling her a retard!!!!!! Unacceptable and had our daughter called someone this word she would have been disciplined.

When the victim gets treated like the bully or they both get the same outcomes then there's teaching of it's all ok we're going to get the same punishment either way. The bully should get longer punishment victims even when trying to fight back should get lesser punishment. In return you're teaching a victim to allow violence and the bully to abuse. Which in turn as adults will lead to adult domestic situations.

Where to begin. I have addressed my concerns with Wendy, to be told she would “look into” the issues my children were having with staff/principal at the X school.... 3 months later still not a word... highly unimpressed. Every year you lose more and more students. I can't imagine why. My special needs son was kicked out of school more than he was in school in kindergarten... now my daughter is having the same issue.... I am called daily DAILY to come get her. Why?' Because staff is incompetent in dealing with behavior issues.... This school used to be amazing back in the day. We will be following suit with all the other family's this school has lost and moving districts. Let us know when the staff and principal have been replaced and we will consider returning.

Why are you so worried about student feelings when the school's primary job is teaching academics and GA is failing miserably at that. Get back to the basic of academics first, then move on to other stuff.

Yes I do not feel kids are safe on the bus or in the middle school. I also do not feel like kids with disabilities are given the services they need.

Yes on how can we handle bullying for younger kids. I've personally had my preschooler hurt by a 3rd grader on the bus. Bus bullying is constant and unsupervised and when I have questions the bus garage never calls back. I rarely call but would like better communication when I do.

Yes, I reached out to my middle school kid's teacher about some trouble he was having. She responded once and said she would follow up and then didn't. I have attempted to contact her again, but just nothing. We are doing our best to handle it all at home.

You fired the teacher last year that did a great job of recognizing when kids needed help or just someone to talk to.

You need to hold students accountable for their actions across the board

Other residents (n = 0)

Teaching and Learning

Q. Do you have any comments or suggestions about any of the topics in this section on *Teaching and Learning*?

More frequently mentioned comments about Teaching and Learning by parents and residents include:

- ❖ More instructional content and options for students who are academically advanced
- ❖ More electives for the middle school and high school students
- ❖ Support for students who are struggling academically
- ❖ Some parents feel technology is relied on too much by teachers and students; students are able to watch too many YouTube videos while at school
- ❖ Some parents feel there is too much homework, while others say there is not enough
- ❖ More communication from the teachers about what their child is learning and how their child is progressing
- ❖ More instructional content about daily living and “real life”

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current Parents (n = 38)

A small district without multiple opportunities in vocational, honors, or arts. Too much outsource and not enough in house.

Advanced children need to be challenged. There is no homework sent home. It would be nice to have some homework so parents can see what their child needs help with or at least what they are doing in class.

Broader opportunities needed for kids not in sports. Sports is being fixed with the bond mostly. Would still like to see more participating. School is about learning but also broadening your horizons.

Could have a better relationship and definitely better coordination of classes with KAMSC. However, the lack of schedule coordination has prepared our student for the real life problem solving as every year is a battle to be able to obtain the necessary classes.

Do better!

Doing great in these areas but always room to improve.

Friends of my children have older siblings leaving our district because of the lack of course offerings at the high school. We used to offer much more and then it seems like when we got a new superintendent, she cut all the electives kids were enjoying. We need more teachers for more options. I sure hope she hires more teachers when the bond updates are done and stops wasting money on the administrative positions she has created.

G-A graduates are ready for fast food careers

Go back to pen and paper less computers. Kids are having way too much free time to YouTube in class. Brought this to light when my kid was struggling and nothing was done, he would spend too much time on YouTube and less time on assignments. Remove the computers and have teachers actually teach again.

Having available wi-fi for students to contact their parents is what can be offered to students. Some parents can't afford data for their kids.

I am hopeful that GA will incorporate Spanish as a class for students in the primary and middle school levels. I also think there should be a mandatory typing class.

I am slightly disappointed in the opportunities in the middle school for students who would fall in the advanced group.

I can see what YouTube videos my child has watched while at school. He won't have assignments done but be on YouTube for hours. Teachers at GA in the past have taken away his privilege of using the chrome book, but his teachers this year have said that it is up to the child to make sure their work is done. I feel like the chrome books should be monitored more.

I did not answer question 24, 31, 32, and 43. I do not have an Accelerated Student, so I can not assess. None of my students have attended KVCC, WMU, or any other additional college programs, so I not assess. I am not aware of any programs supporting my students social and emotional levels, so I can not assess. I have never seen any of my students standardized testing scores, so I can not confirm if I am satisfied or not.

I do not know of any programs or education being offered to students to develop and support their social and emotional development, so that would be something I, as a parent, would like more information about. I feel some things are communicated very well, but others I've never heard of. My daughter in middle school never has homework. I pay very close attention to her grades and assignments on Powerschool, but I do not feel there is a lot of communication surrounding what tests, quizzes, etc. are upcoming for students. If my daughter receives a bad grade on a test or quiz, I have no choice but to address it after the fact rather than helping her to prepare ahead of time. More communication regarding what work students should be working on ahead of time would be nice. Also, at least one of my daughter's teachers won't give "study guides" back to students until 1-2 days before the test or quiz because there is a fear the student will lose it. It would help if things like study guides approved by teacher(s) were sent out to parents electronically so we could help our students at home, but they would still have their paper study guide in hand at school.

I said empathy slightly less important because younger children are less able to comprehend and learn empathy than self-regulation. I wish there were more diverse academic courses offered at GA schools without bussing our students to other programs but am grateful for the opportunities that exist.

I think more focus on education and less on parenting them would be a good choice. I understand kids need this as well. Structure and discipline but the main focus of our education system should be teaching them skills and education for their next steps. Respect and rule following should also be expected but not taught. Too much time and energy is wasted. These kids who are graduating and those that have before have all struggled when they go into post education. Dropping out, having to take semesters over. The basic skills for those who go into work as well are missing. How to study and learn are skills used by everyone. These are not being done well at the high school level.

I was very disappointed in the lack of a holiday music program (specifically for kindergarteners). So far the only parental involvement has been the Halloween parade. I'm not sure what happens in the spring however I'm hoping there is at the very least a field trip, a class field day, and a kindergarten graduation ceremony.

I've had little to no exposure and can not comment on many programs yet

In high school, they are not assigned homework and it seems like they have more partial weeks than full weeks of school. Not having any schoolwork outside of school may not set them up to correctly manage time when / if going to college.

It's obvious that our reading level for each grade is drastically below the benchmark. Even though we live in a lower income area we can't use that excuse as a crutch. The district needs to think creatively about strategies to help the students. There must be summer school and additional resources allocated for this foundational need.

More guidance is needed. Not only at the teacher to student level but most importantly at a staffed level for all students. Guidance Counselors at a level staffed on its own not ran by teachers who are already overwhelmed.

My child is advanced in reading and I do not feel he is challenged nearly enough in his classroom.

Need more outside the classroom learning and experiences

Not enough elective choices for 8th graders. How can we not have an art option? My child is slightly advanced and complains of being bored in class due to curricula seemingly repeating previous year's content, not enough new content, etc.

Our academics are unfair to kids in our community. Students in our community thrive in hands-on working environments and are not given the opportunity. Many of our families stay in the community, working in stores, on cars, building houses, etc...We don't have anything to help with that.

Our college freshman does not feel her education at GA prepared her well for college chemistry/science

Participated in a few activities with reading and writing, while activities are good for the students the level of writing that you consider a passing grade is concerning for those entering the real world. I feel Covid is used as an excuse and teachers need to hold students more accountable before moving them to the next grade. Passing everyone isn't going to help these kids long term when they struggle to even read or write

Personally, we do not feel that kindergarten students (or really any elementary children) need homework outside of reading each night. However we understand that this helps families guide children's learning. Also, we really hope that any screen time that our child is getting is quality screen time. Would love to know about how much time each grade level spends on screens.

Regarding homework - I truly feel that unless a student has be unable to complete work while in class that there should not be homework. Helping our kids know that down time is important and work shouldn't be so ingrained into our lives that it becomes our entire lives. Incentives for regular reading and learning outside of school are incredibly beneficial and have always been welcomed. Until this school year, my child has always had good grades some minor issues with focus. Unfortunately, I think because on paper it has always seemed they were doing well, the unfocused behavior was never fully addressed, most especially this is evident this year. it is in reference to these feelings that I am not terribly satisfied with how his successes, failures, or just skating by are all treated very much the same from my perspective.

Some of answers are probably because this is something that families should be teaching their children at home.

Teach children about real life as opposed to just what the curriculum requires. School doesn't prepare any child for the real life after high school.

The district needs to start holding back students who aren't ready for the next grade or establish parallel remedial learning. The students who are ready for the difficulty level shouldn't be held back by the students that aren't, just because the district is looking the other way on academic performance.

The high school needs to work on how they treat students with IEPs

We have so many things for higher kids, what about the "regular" or special education kids?

We would like if the middle schoolers were given homework (not only stuff they didn't finish at school but actual homework)

Yes, the lack of communication the high school has with parents is absolutely asinine. No matter how many times I have reached out of the last month, Nobody has contacted me back. Not the principal or the counselor. This is something that has been going on for years. I understand that the kids are old enough to be communicated with. Yet, When you aren't giving them full answers either and not treating them of the age they are it builds barriers. Your dealing with high schoolers there for you should be able to have a decent conversation with them. If that is a struggle then you should be returning phone calls.

You do not help kids that are behind in school or needing special education

Other residents (n = 1)

High school scheduling was a nightmare. Higher-level classes were often canceled at the High School due to low enrollment. Virtual classes have a higher expectation for completion the regular classes (no missing assignments). The process for dual enrollment was difficult.

Special Education Services

Q. Do you have any additional comments specifically about **Special Education Services**?

More frequently mentioned comments about Special Education Services by parents and residents include:

- ❖ Insufficient communication with parents about their special ed child's progress or problems
- ❖ Delays in evaluations and approval process to qualify for an IEP or 504 plan
- ❖ Some parents take the time to write that they are very pleased with the Galesburg-Augusta special education services ... *"My son is receiving special education services and I am happy with the results and follow-up with me and his mom"* and *"Ms. Smith and Ms. Baker are wonderful!"*

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current Parents (n = 25)

Evaluation is delayed unless the parents yeah request it. This is not acceptable. Early intervention should be our goal. It's rare that I receive update on progress. More communication is needed.

I feel like a child with special needs or one who is struggling needs more than a 20 minute session with the speech therapist or title 1 person. Yes you can learn quite a bit in that 20 minutes but I still feel as though sometimes it isn't enough for the student to feel accomplished.

I feel like she is still struggling a lot.

I feel like the special Ed staff doesn't even care. My kids are just a number.

I have a son who just started 8th grade in the high school and I have not had a single call or heard from anyone for his IEP!

I have not provided answers only because I am not familiar with the program, but have heard great things from other parents!

I think everything is good but I personally would like to have more frequent progress reports aside from scheduled conferences. Maybe a monthly quick meeting or report on how they are doing so changes can be made at home to focus more on a specific area.

It always seems like a burden to the special education teacher and director at the X School to have to "deal" with my children. They are more focused on lowering their case load than targeting the special need.

It is a joke trying to get help for kids with special education. You make parents jump through hoops and then fight you to get it

Mrs. Shea Peres at the high school is a A+ teacher, all students should have her

Ms. Smith and Ms. Baker are wonderful.

My son has been in speech therapy services through G-A since he was in the ECSE classroom at 3 years old. He is now 7 and I feel he has not made much progress at all, which is very frustrating because he started so early. Some sounds he is not supposed to make yet due to age, and his re-evaluations say he's making progress, but I'm not noticing it on a day-to-day basis.

My son is receiving special education services and I am happy with the results and follow-up with me and his mom.

Seemed like a lot of re-schedules or excuses when it came to communication or attending the catch up programs. Grateful for the idea of the catch up program, but poor execution. Specifically speech therapy program.

Sometimes our friends who have voiced concerns about their own children have been dismissed and talked out of getting them evaluated. I also don't understand how the middle school did schedules for students in special ed this year. My son told me that he has friends who don't have social studies class because they have special ed and have to take some classes twice.

The amount of advocacy that goes into a parent getting their child evaluated is insane to me. You have to write a letter before any request for an IEP can be accommodated. Why aren't teachers taking these 0 scores to a higher up with bigger concerns so these services can start at a younger age? Why when a child is in a county wide program they cant receive services in the school district in which they reside in? A school district that was willing to give more support then what there given where they are attending school at.

The child I moved was title 1. In elementary it was amazing, middle school feel short this is why we switched schools and the lack of education provided in high school. After moving schools the change in title 1 at the other school was far superior to the support at Galesburg.

The district needs to hire more support staff to help these students.

The high school needs to work on how they treat kids with IEPs, I never been so disappointed on how my child is treat we d

The way you treat disabled students is complete crap. It's a hudge failure. We are looking for alternative schools like Gull Lake for a disabled children. Severally disappointing!

These services do not apply to my children

They seem to do a great job once things get diagnosed, if it's something they feel they can handle. Once things get tough with the kids, they were real fast to get them shipped somewhere else.

Too few individual resources and teachers to meet needs. Takes too long to get IEP or 504 evaluations. "Normal" teachers often ignore/forget accommodations

We have some missed opportunities for our son, who qualified all year for Physical Therapy. This was not caught until we were starting to review for our new IEP in February. Please note our teacher(s) is the best and highly recommended. Also, our speech therapist was out on maternity leave which is totally fine but the interim we aren't sure what happened during that time. Not sure what the process is for that and if we can help collaborate on that gap.

When a child has a special need but is not on a plan because it is a mild need and it is written to let teachers and staff know why is it not getting passed to teachers would be a better

Other residents (n = 1)

We need more aids to support children who are receiving special education, during their time in the regular education classes.

Early Childhood Education and Before/After School Care

Q. Do you have any additional comments specifically about before and after school care, preschool, or early childhood education?

More frequently mentioned comments about before and after school care, preschool, or early childhood education by parents and residents include:

- ❖ More consistent monthly invoicing for the before and after school care program
- ❖ Some feel these programs are too expensive
- ❖ Some parents take the time to write that they are very pleased with the Galesburg-Augusta before and after school care program and staff ... *“Before and after school care is great and I feel my children are well cared for and loved”* and *“Jillian and Joan make the preschool program an amazing start to lifelong learning and create a family environment that encourages and nurtures our children”* and *“Ms. Turner and Mrs. Jessica are amazing teachers! They take time out to make sure every student has the best care and learning options!”*

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current Parents (n = 26)

After school care (primary), we use it and appreciate having it however, consistent billing is a huge problem. We constantly have to ask for a bill to keep on payments otherwise we randomly get a bill for a \$1,000+. When we ask how much we owe or could we get billed on a monthly basis, the admin person has no clue even while looking at the computer screen. Don't feel confident they know what they are doing and frustrated by it all.

All 3 children of mine have been through the GA school system and the program has yielded three very smart children.

Before and after care leaves a lot to be desired. I know my child is being watched, but they don't do much with the students. Especially in the winter. My son does not like going for those reasons as well as some attitudes of the staff at times. They can be abrasive and unfriendly to students. Not all staff, but some.

Before and after school care is great and I feel my children are well cared for and loved. The only complaint is the payment process, I wish there was an online payment process as at times when I write a check it takes months to cash (this year 2 checks took 3 months to clear)

Child care rates are outrageous at this school. The fact we were told that rates went up \$2 and owed back child care from 2 previous months without any warning no notice nothing is beyond frustrating and unprofessional. We are in the process of looking into school of choice and will be following with a new daycare

Cost is a bit too high :(

Excellent before and after school care. Needs more resources for staffing.

I can't thank our LEAP program enough. I think inclusion is very important. Honestly it helps with less bullying down the road as early acceptance helps kids like mine feel as normal as possible. I believe it is needed in every classroom.

I tried having my daughter in the before/after school program and I was not at all impressed, so I took her out fairly quickly. There was a huge lack of communication, and the staff weren't very attentive or welcoming to parents coming to pick up their children. My friend has her two children in the program now and there have been a lot of concerning problems she has told me about regarding bullying, staff not paying attention or supporting children when they are getting bullied, etc.

It would be nice if more information was provided to parents. I had no idea when my child was enrolled that the before and after school care existed, let alone details. After half a year I still only know what other parents have told me. I also don't feel that I know much about what is being reviewed each week and how in order to support that learning at home.

It's too expensive

Jillian and Joan make the preschool program an amazing start to lifelong learning and create a family environment that encourages and nurtures our children

Lack of invoices for before and after care program. A Monthly invoice would be nice.

Lack of mid day transportation for the 3 and 4 year old pre-k is a significant challenge.

Mrs. Bell is the best!

Ms. Turner and Mrs Jessica are amazing teachers! They take time out to make sure every student has the best care and learning options!

Need before and after, not enough staff to allow our children to go

Not all, but most of the adults that oversee the before/after school program don't interact with the kids and for the most part are doing other things during this time. I wish there was more interaction during this time rather than on devices. Also have been very unhappy with the payment and the lack of processing of payments. Four months of outstanding payments is unacceptable and this has been expressed multiple times. The online program for payment charges crazy fees but in order for my payments to be made regularly, this is what we have to do.

Payment for the after school care is not a good process. I prefer to pay online, but the convenience fee is excessive. If I want to pay over \$100 it's \$5.90 and if I go over \$200 it's 8.85 and up from there. On the GA website it says there is only a 1.95 convenience fee. So instead I write a check and those don't get deposited until 3 months later. Which makes it very difficult to keep my bank account balanced.

Some individuals need a lot more training on working with kids. They scream all the time. This has been an issue with a few people at the primary over the years though so maybe it's a bigger problem.

The before and after school care program is a genuine lifesaver. We have been very happy with GA schools overall, and the child care has been equally excellent.

The fee is not affordable when you only need 1 or 2 days a week.

The preschool does a phenomenal job! We were excited for the opportunity for our children to start education, to be connected to their school community and be prepared for Kindergarten. The before and after school care helped us to be able to send our child to G-A with the early start and end times. As working parents, we would have no other way to get our children before 4. They've had some great staff whom we trust with our children.

Too expensive! Do not put the students first across the board.

Very dissatisfied with hearing that summer childcare is going to cost \$1,000 a month. This is very expensive and I don't know how many families will be able to afford this. For this reason we are looking into other childcare options for our summer as I've heard many other families express as well.

Was very thankful to have been able to access the Montessori school for preschool and kindergarten

Other residents (n = 1)

I would love to see our GSRP program and our tuition program integrated. When my children attended Pre-K the children were in the same classrooms not segregated.

Extracurricular Activities and Opportunities

Q. Do you have any additional comments specifically about Extracurricular Activities and Opportunities?

More frequently mentioned comments about Extracurricular Activities and Opportunities by parents and residents include:

- ❖ More all types of extra-curricular opportunities needed, including sports, arts, and academic and life interests
- ❖ More and better communications needed to inform parents and students about the extra-curricular activities and programs
- ❖ More partnerships with other schools or districts to provide extra-curricular opportunities not available to scale in Galesburg-Augusta

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current Parents (n = 28)

About 40 kids willing to do a fishing club. Learn about 4H. Little robotics for younger there's not much out there aside from sports for the youngers.

Besides what Mr Merasco does (which is amazing) there isn't any other options for these young kids to do and its sad. We are the only school who don't offer anything

GOLF

HS Boys & Girls X has a lot of room for improvement, as far growing positive relationships with their coaches and teammates.

I seem to miss communications on extracurricular activities/sports that are available. I would certainly be interested if I was aware what was available. Maybe a centralized spot to find this or communication on how to sign up.

I wish there was an opportunity for "try outs" for middle school sports rather than students just being allowed to participate because of their grade level. For example, my 6th grade daughter was on the 7th grade Sharp Shooters team for their whole season, but was not allowed to try out or participate to be on the 7th grade school team. I have been told other schools have procedures or rules that so many students from a lower grade level are allowed to try out and/or be on the team, so it would be nice if there were opportunities for the same at our school, and that those opportunities/rules were clearly laid out/explained.

I wish there was an option for "battle of the books" to celebrate our students that have a love and passion for reading. Soccer and baseball sports, and a club that focuses on art and creativity.

I wish we had coop opportunities for sports that are not offered at GA

I'd like to see more clubs/classes related to science and art (animation, CAD, coding, drama, kinetics) I am asking on behalf of my two daughters that have interests not related to sports. :)

If we can't field a certain team like soccer or tennis we should be joining another school to offer those opportunities

Mediocre sports without adequate coaching, trainers or facilities. Struggling arts programs without adequate resources or facilities. I never hear about clubs or programs other than sports.

More clubs, even if they need to be parent/student led

More methods of communication regarding the extra circular activities. Facebook is a good method or maybe a mass email thread to let all parents know if extra activities/club happenings. Middle school dances?

My son loves to sing and dance but there isn't anything as an extra curricular for this. Schools focus a lot on athletics and forget about the arts.

Need more clubs for kids to get involved in

Need to focus more on other opportunities for couches vice same coach for the decades

Not really sure what is available for students

Perhaps having an electronics/robot extracurricular for MS

The Art program seems to need a little help. My daughter had enjoyed art but has not at the middle school level

The book club is a nice addition. There are several evidence-based programs to enhance student leadership skills (slstoday.com) is one of my favorites because it is a student-led process.

There are no athletic or art extracurricular activities for Kindergarteners unless they are not being communicated.

There are not nearly enough opportunities for extracurricular activities.

There should be a wider age range for some of the programs offered, not just high school. Also, drama club of some sort. I can't believe we don't have anything to be able to put on performances. My child doesn't like sports-but they do love to sing, dance and write plays...none of which are offered at school.

Timing for primary and middle school student extra curricular activities could be better for those of us who work until 5:00 every day.

Was bummed to not have the music program as promised and no alternative opportunity was given. Our son loves music and this was a huge pull for us!

We need a soccer team for the high school

We should have some club opportunities.

You do realize the district generally doesn't offer "Extracurricular Activities and Opportunities", right?

Other residents (n = 1)

Please look into expanding our robotics program, and provide more funding. Our High School FRC team showed significant improvement last year. It would be amazing to start a Middle School team of course that would take additional coaches perhaps someone from our Middle School or Steam leadership.

Facilities, Operations and Management

Q. Do you have any additional comments specifically about Facilities, Operations and Management?

More frequently mentioned comments about Facilities, Operations and Management by parents and residents include:

- ❖ Better, more nutritious food options
- ❖ School lunch portions don't provide enough food, kids are still hungry
- ❖ Acknowledge shortage of bus drivers while also noting some bus drivers have poor attitudes
- ❖ Bus routes are too long
- ❖ Better cleanliness needed at the Primary School

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current Parents (n = 35)

As a community, I don't think anyone is really aware of how the school allocates its money. Publishing periodic financial reviews, in a way that people would actually understand would improve that. Question 53, none of my kids ride the bus, so I can not assess. However, they play sports and ride at those times. More than once, they were late to leave for their game because the bus driver didn't show up or the bus was broken. These are very disappointing situations. 55 and 56, none of the kids have said how much they do or don't get, just that the food is rarely good. Usually they come home starved, saying "lunch was gross again today."

Bus broke down. Never got a call to let me know that my child was safe that the problem was going to be fixed. When I called to find out where my child was I got an answering machine and then never received a call back

Bus route should be shorter in the afternoon for children that live close to the schools like it was a few years ago.

Bussing is horrible not due to drivers need extra staff on the bus we no longer live in the same world. We shouldn't be going without a bus for our kids due to staffing. Bringing back the buses to the school volunteer sign up with pay incentive for teachers and staff to help sub and support bus routes not mandatory to help fill the void everywhere is struggling with staffing and retention.

Bussing overall gets kids where they need to be. The fact that the schools are not responsible for finding kids when they have not come home rather to the bus garage is wrong. The schools and bus garage should be in communication to make sure all kids leave and get home safely. Personally had to find my child twice this year because they did not get off the bus and NO ONE called me. I had to find out from my other child who did not see him get off the bus. One time is too many.

Food is not only fowl I wouldn't feed it to my dogs. The amount of time these kids are expected to shove food into their mouth and screamed at to get outside is disturbing. These kids should be encouraged to take their time and slowly eat their food for proper digesting. To personally witness these young kids getting screamed at and told by staff they don't care if they are done eating or not or if they are still hungry but forced to throw away their food is appalling.

Food service needs funding and menu overhaul. Poor use of funding balance. I know the funds are restricted use but we do not do enough to get federal and state free meals.

Free and reduced lunch should be offered again for all students. It has been reported that due to the school missing a deadline to receive the funds our school did not get that opportunity to offer that to all students.

Galesburg Augusta Bussing could do better. The bullying on the bus and the drivers that don't care is sad to me.

I believe there could be better cleanliness in the bathrooms of the primary school (especially the 3 year old preschool bathroom) The bathroom of the preschool consistently smells of old urine and it could be that the bathroom floor needs to be replaced.

I feel like the kids are always hungry and not getting enough during the day from the school

I understand that the primary is older but I have noticed a very distinct mold/musty smell when entering. I just wonder if having the building's air quality evaluated and updating or installing a purifying system would help.

I wish the food options were more varied and ethnic

In my very limited experience, the grounds at the middle school had significant litter.

Just today my daughter said the other grades were given seconds of the main dish which left her with 2 choices she didn't like. Probably should wait until all students eat before giving away rest.

Kids constantly complain about food options. There have even been times they ran out of food. We have a few amazing bus drivers but busses are old and some drivers are not who I want transporting my kids.

Longer lunch periods so the kids can actually eat before they're shuffled out for the next group.

Lunch portions for high school students should be re-evaluated. My upper class man (and athlete) has been having to buy double lunch portions with multiple snacks to get him through the day. Especially the student athletes with practice after school need more to eat. Perhaps student athletes, as part of their pay to play fees, should get a card that gets them bonus portions of food for the cost of a standard lunch. Or perhaps a fundraising grant could be sought after to achieve this.

Need busing for activities after school. Students should not be driving to athletic events for school at locations other than GA.

No student should need to be on a bus for one and half hours. My middle school student gets picked up at 6:30 and does not arrive until 8:05 to 8:10. Unfortunately, she is the 2nd student on the bus and because we live fairly close to the school, we opt to take her to school.

Our school lunch is ridiculous. How is a Bosco stick a meal?! How does that even meet minimum nutritional requirements? Also Management of who is receiving a lunch is poor. My primary child who's never Received school lunch is regularly billed for lunch when he's always packed

Overall MS food has improved over last year.

Per my children when something happens on the bus and they tell me I will ask them, did you say something to the bus driver and both primary & middle schooler will tell me "why say anything to her she doesn't do anything" Sometimes I was told they don't stop for the train tracks or stop at stop signs in the trailer park. I understand there's a big shortage of bus drivers but they need to be qualified.

Still wondering why the overall new classroom sizes at the primary were reduced compared with the initial plan. Were there any other reductions made from the initial bond proposal that the public was not made aware of?

The bus drivers that I have felt with so far have terrible attitudes and if they talk to parents the way they do I can only imagine how they treat the kids. When you call transportation about a question they say they will get back and then never do.

The bus ride duration is excessive. My child would have a 1hr+ bus ride to and from school each day (2+ hrs total). Instead of fairly switching the route so she would have a long ride one direction and a short ride the other, they do long both times which makes it an extremely long day which does not permit us to utilize the bus system.

The food is terrible. It's not nutritious or good tasting. Sometimes my middle school students say they can't tell what kind of food it is because it looks like slop. The veggies are not fresh. I would pay more money for better food choices!

The food that is served is subpar. My children bring their lunch everyday and are so disappointed that some of their classmates have to eat school lunches.

The primary gym smells horrible and should be looked into why it smells like that and the kids should get longer lunch my child never feels like they have enough time to eat and now get stomach aches because she tries to eat fast at all meals like she has to at school lunch

The primary school does smell like an old musty basement. I can smell it on my children and their things when they come home.

The safety on the busses is non-existent and the new wing is not going towards the 4th graders.

The types and amount of lunches needs to be addressed...

3/4 year olds should never be bussed with high schoolers

Too many half days/partial days. Too many snow days. Delay start every month was ridiculous. Disrupting entire student and parent group to provide for educator meetings. "Mid-Winter Break" perfect time for educator meetings. Student off, teachers complete the meetings.

We had some problems early on with an interaction with our youngest and a middle schooler on the bus. This was taken care of by the transportation department, but the age difference on the buses still worries us. We want to "protect our young eyes/ears" as long as possible.

Other residents (n = 2)

Transportation services and custodial services were much better when G-A hired their own staff. Many of our bus drivers and custodians were community members.

Very poor quality of food and the serving sizes are small. I would rather see a child be offered more than less. Very unpleasant food service people. I have found them very unhelpful.

Communications

Q. Do you have any additional comments specifically about Communications?

More frequently mentioned comments about Communications by parents and residents include:

- ❖ Inconsistencies in communication timeliness, frequency and thoroughness ... some school buildings and teachers are very good with communicating while others are not as good
- ❖ Some parents ask for more interactive communications via Facebook, while other parents feel Facebook is relied on too much by the district
- ❖ More information and communications about events, activities and updates
- ❖ Some parents don't know there are guidance counselors and social workers at the Middle School or at the High School

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current Parents (n = 27)

A once a month newsletter is not enough

Communication about extracurricular sign ups needs major improvement. Just putting a sign up sheet in the office isn't enough. If you want people to join it needs to be announced in the announcements at minimum. It would be great if it was shared on Facebook too.

Communications have notably improved. I often miss notices about activities at the high school.

Didn't even know there was a FB page. Also the website is difficult to find the most needed things. When we tried to register and fill out forms in the summer the website wasn't ready and to find the district calendar is pretty challenging.

Facebook pages should be done buy school members ie booster staff coaches parents should not be in charge of a page that is affiliated with school or school activities boosters are doing amazing with trying to keep up with every activity that is going on just need more coaches and teachers to inform them of the news

Find a better communication method than Facebook. Finding out my kid needs something for school through Facebook is not efficient or appropriate.

How can the guidance counselor at the high be responsive when there is NEVER one employed there

I get confused with the Facebook groups because there seem to be multiple different pages.

I have not got one phone call regarding my daughter who has a IEP about how she is failing every class and not one call about her being bullied

I would like to see improvements in communication within the district about events, activities and updates. There are multiple sources from newsletters, to documents sent out, papers sent home, multiple different Facebook pages, and the website that is not completely up to date. I personally like the emails and texts with updates on conferences, the link to schedule conferences all at once at the Primary School.

I would rather not use FB to communicate school updates. Mr. Merasco's FB page is the best I'm not familiar with how my primary student is using Power School

It would be nice if I got a response to emails when I send them to the principal.

It would be nice to be able to ask questions and get them answered from the facebook pages

It would be nice to have a counselor or social worker available at the middle school level.

Maybe we could find a high school guidance counselor that actually contacts parents back. The communication there really lacks

No communication is sent about a school lockdown, knives on busses. Kids struggling at school and you send nothing home about it.

Please don't allow Facebook to become the primary mode of communication

Since moving here, we find out about conferences thru email and school sign out front. The first year we didn't know about the first one at all and by the end of the year only on the sign out front. The second year has been a little better with us getting information through emails. I have never received any communication from a teacher in regard to any issues with my students.

Some of the answers might not have been what the survey was looking for. They in no way should reflect poorly on the school. Timely delivery of information doesn't always depend on the school, it rests on the students bringing it home to their parents too.

The new guidance counselor at high school is great. But the last 4 were horrible. Hopefully she will stay!

There can always be more communication. I believe I receive monthly newsletters from the primary school about things that happened that month although I haven't received a January edition yet. The section on next month dates could include more such as every activity that is school wide. My child participated in the half day \$1 hat day and said there was only one other child in class who participated. The note came home the Friday before and the day before was Valentines Day. I don't know how participation for other classes was but a social media announcement/reminder might have helped.

There is no point in communicating anything... once an issue reaches Wendy, she sweeps it under the rug

Too aspartic and different by building and teacher

Two out of the four primary teachers are responsive, the other two have never responded to a communication I sent, so I marked slightly satisfied. I do not get any communications about my child unless I reach out first. The Facebook and website are very well-kept for events and overall schedules.

Website has many outdated things on it

Would always love to see more pictures!

Other residents (n = 2)

Need to update pictures and information. Many pictures are from last year.

The sports booster and high school athletic teams have great Facebook pages. They have improved over the last couple of years. Our district pages can use improvement for example, conferences were canceled a week ago and no information has been provided.

“Liked best” attributes of Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools

Q. What do you like best about Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools?

More frequently mentioned “liked best” attributes of G-A Community Schools by parents and residents include:

- ❖ Small town, family-oriented community feeling
- ❖ Smaller classroom sizes and smaller schools allow for more individual attention
- ❖ Friendly and caring teachers and staff
- ❖ Responsive communications

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current Parents (n = 88)

Class size is small to allow for extra support, great PTA, does special gender events such as the DADDY/ daughter dance.

Close to highway

Communication is really good with teachers and administration.

Community feel of the school, before and after school care, small classroom sizes

Community.

Engagement with staff and families

Everyone is very friendly and really takes time to know each child.

Family feel

Family feel and small town atmosphere.

Family oriented environment where I feel my children matter.

Friendly and helpful staff

Friendly, Responsive, cooperative, and understanding

Good communication from the school, quick responses parent teachers. Mr Sportel is doing a great job as Principal.

Has always seemed community oriented, staff are always friendly and greet my child by name and often have something positive to share about them with me

How friendly the staff is with kids and parents.

How the Primary school treats my kids and how they follow there IEPs

I enjoy the small school environment for my children. I love the closeness of the community. I appreciate how the staff cares about my children.

I like that it's a small town that prides itself in getting to know students individually and making sure their needs are met.

I like the arts and sports programs. I feel there is good communication and the leadership of the program (including coaches) are instilling important values into the kids on and off the court/field. I like the communication through Facebook and robo-calls for cancellations.

I like the friendly and respectful teachers/staff. I like the sense of safety for our children in the school district. I like the prompt communication from teachers and front desk staff.

I like the small town community feel. I see that the community is on the up-swing with more positivity and spirit after the passing of the bond, and the work beginning at the Primary and High Schools. Our children have had very positive experiences with their teachers and other staff at both the Primary and Middle Schools.

I like the teachers very much

I love our school, everything has room for improvement, but I have watched the school make positive move after positive move. My kids feel seen and supported at school and I love that.

I love the support in the primary and middle schools. The high school has a long long way to go. If I had a way to transport my child to another district, she would be at GA high. She is a KAMSC student and loves it there. She hates walking in the door of GA high and doesn't even feel like it's her school since she started KAMSC. The GA high classes are a joke to her. She never studies for GA classes and feels like they are light years behind her friends in other districts.

I think the majority of staff do an amazing job working with students and building relationships.

It's a small community where everyone knows everyone. It's also comforting knowing that there is staff that has attended GA, and they have pride and want to continue supporting GA.

Low classroom size

My daughter so far is getting a very good education

My kids don't come home and say they have been bullied. They went to kalamazoo schools 4 years ago and complained all the time

New HS administration has been a good change.

Not much anymore

One teacher.... Who has done AMAZING with all 3 of my kids... MRS BELLAND. that is the only one I can honestly say has her act together and knows how to teach all varieties of kids. From special needs on.

Primary is amazing about helping children, middle school and high school it seems to depend on the teacher

Primary teachers are great

Sense of community & close knit feel

Small

Small and personal

Small class room sizes

Small class size

Small class sizes and smaller school feel.

Small class sizes are amazing!!! Small class sizes are amazing!!! Small class sizes are amazing!!! Should I say it again???

Small community feel with manageable class sizes

Small community feeling.

Small community, very "hands on" faculty and staff

Small district, more individual attention per student

Small schools and class sizes. We have only experienced the pre school program so we cannot say 100% for the primary school but thus far we have been very happy with the pre school.

Small town atmosphere, always smiling staff. People look out for each other and the students

Small town big hearts

Small town community feeling.

Small town family feel.

Small town feeling. Teachers and staff know my kids.

Small town school where you are never a "stranger"

Small town, love our community and that we all know each other for the most part.

Smaller class sizes with more individual attention

Smaller class sizes, small town feel, leadership at the Middle School and High School is very solid.

Smaller community, more opportunities for individual attention

So far, Mrs Bell is the only good thing GA has going. I've had issues with all my students teachers communication besides her. They (all of the staff) should take notes from her!

The 4th graders are going back to the primary school where they belong.

The 8th grade teachers this year are wonderful, have connected with my student well, and are the only reason we have stayed for this school year (we are in GA as school of choice, came from Gull Lake)

The class size is small which should help with one-on-one attention, but it doesn't seem to be that way.

The community

The demeanor of the students, and the athletic programs.

The education and sports programs! The staff is caring and so amazing!

The feeling of community

The kids are like family, and the staff appears to care about the kids in both the primary and high school.

The primary school is an absolute gem among primaries. The middle school felt unwelcome always when my boys attended and I'm honestly scared for my primary to move to middle school and I feel the high school is falling apart in all aspects the principal is trying her absolute best but is pailing water out of a sinking ship

The programs younger kids can participate i

The responsiveness of the teachers

The safe environment for my children

The sense of community

The small town community feels.

The small town feel we all know it takes a village to raise a child and this is my village

The small town feeling and more responsive

The smaller size and strong sense of community. The student to teach ratio and the amount of individual attention that students receive.

The staff

The staff in the Middle school is very very encouraging. The high school needs to engage more with ALL kids not just the outgoing ones.

The staff knows every family and is very welcoming.

The staff! The teachers and support staff have been incredible with my kids.

The teachers and admin staff are very sweet.

The teachers are amazing.

The teachers are the face of the school. They show true compassion and caring for the kids they teach.

The teachers are world class. It feels like he is getting a similar experience I did in school which shows how much he loves school. It will be tough to move back to our district after preschool program.

The teachers my children have had

The teaching staff is quite remarkable.

The understanding of the students who have special education and iep or 504 plans im happy with the way this all works that attend the primary

Their friendliness

Wonderful staff

You have amazing staff and support staff at both the primary and middle school. The high school needs some help!

Other residents (n = 2)

Our teachers! The small town feeling of family.

Small district. Caring and competent staff.

Single most important improvement for Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools

Q. Please suggest the *single most important* thing to improve Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools.

More frequently mentioned suggestions for improvement by parents and residents include:

- ❖ More frequent, responsive and thorough communications from teachers to parents on how their children are progressing in school and what they're learning, especially at the Middle School and High School levels
- ❖ Address bullying when it starts or happens
- ❖ Consistency when enforcing discipline
- ❖ More programs for academically advanced students more
- ❖ More support for students struggling academically
- ❖ More elective options for the High School students

{Individual comments are sorted alphabetically.}

Current Parents (n = 90)

Accountability for students- whether that be teaching more time management tools, mental health skills, respect, etc., and holding people accountable while working with the team to make sure needs are met.

Addressing bullying and enforcing discipline for repeat offenders. So exhausted from a miserable 8th grade student feeling like it doesn't matter how often they report things, because nothing concrete happens to stop it.

Available wi-fi for after school events for students

Be consistent

Better caring teachers

Better communication about activities (not flyers sent home, that usually end up lost or damaged, or sent to only one household)

Bringing back the care for everyone to succeed in the right path

Bullying

Bullying needs to be addressed properly and follow the policy we parents sign each Year

Bullying not being tolerated. Many kids are being bullied and either nobody notices or the bully is a teachers favorite.

Bullying within the middle school and high school. Communication with the high school. Something they strongly lack. Not from teachers from everyone in the office.

Bullying, bus drivers, encouragement for quiet kids or acedemically advanced kids more of a challenge

Challenge the advanced children

Change the entire school staff up to the top

Communication

Communication

Communication

Communication

Communication (district plans, activities, athletics, other opportunities)

Communication and better education

Communication between all schools and families with all things would be important to improve.

Communication between school staff, GALC staff and parents if an incident occurs between students in regards to bill of another student.

Communication with parents that may be out of the home could be more consistent. As a dad with shared custody, it took a while for me to be included in emails and updates.

Concentrated education and training surrounding DEI for all staff. Then for those staff and teachers to include their knowledge in their lesson planning, classroom education, opportunities, etc.

Conferences times. Friday mornings don't work for most of working parents. We have to stalk Facebook to quickly get 2 time slots for our primary and middle school kids on Thursday night. Friday night time slots would work much better than morning

Consistency

Create our own path instead of following everyone else's. We are not leaders in the small districts because it looks like we are trying too hard to be like a big district. Everyone is okay with mediocre around here, especially the athletics and music departments. Set the bar higher. Make opportunities for these young people that make them want to do better.

Drop off and pick up at the primary school

Education or the desire to learn and do more.

Eliminate some administrators making so much money. They don't even see the kids and we are a small district, so it makes no sense to have so many making so much. There should be more parapro support in the special education department since they are the ones who work so intently with the students. They should also be at meetings to give real input, rather than the screening tests that go with the evaluations from the special education teachers.

Far too much district admin and not enough support for front line teachers and admin.

Focus on academics. If the district is unwilling to teach/challenge students at their ability, partner with other schools who will.

GACS needs to focus on **KEEPING** good administrators and teachers in the district. Too many good admins and teachers have been pushed out the district or left on their own accord for various reasons and the turnover in leadership only hurts the students.

Helping kids who are struggling

High school parent-teacher communication! Just because high schoolers are older, it definitely doesn't mean they are responsible.. so much classroom/school event info never makes it home.

I think the special needs area needs a little improvement. Maybe a separate classroom like they did when I was in school

I think there is a lot to improve upon that doesn't seem to be addressed. Especially in the high school, there continues to be a level of favoritism within the student body with teachers, especially with those involved in athletics. When I went to school there 15 years ago it was the same thing, very much a good ole boys club that favors certain families. While I do appreciate the fact that those families are involved and have coached for many years, it would be nice to see a change in staff that seems more able to look outside of just coaching their children and their friends.

I would say more strict on assignments such as no late or missing work to be accepted given they don't get homework and have flex time every day making it easy. Also the athletic class is not as important as education but I'm surprised at what little is done in there as physical education is important to overall health.

IEP meetings for my student

If something is needed to communicate to the parents, make it happen on 1 platform!!!! Not facebook this time, see saw next, ooh wait it's on the school website this time!! Or post on all of them every time!

Increase HS class opportunities

Increase in academic opportunities

It probably doesn't pertain to us but not sure what is going on at the primary school. I know the milage passed and got photos but not sure what actually is happening. I think the more info, the better. Even though we have emails on the process we don't know what is being built. Also there have been invitations to meetings and we don't get the information until late notice.

Keep small class sizes throughout the district!!!

Keeping teachers.

Letting parents be involved more like we use to be able to. And field trips I don't feel I see Galesburg doing as many as other schools for educational purposes. Museums etc.

Level of education starting in middle school and especially the high school

LONGER LUNCH TIME

Making buses a safer environment for students. Holding students and their parents accountable for their actions.

Making sure that students are getting placed in the appropriate classes for their level. Ie: advanced reading or math. More variety of classes as the kids get older and more structured athletics for some of the boys programs.

Mental & emotional health supports for direct care staff. Secondary, more structured creative outlets for students this can be a healthy outlet for difficult feelings. Recently found this free product <https://cartoonversation.com/> to support difficult conversations

Mental health awareness and better anti-bullying policy

More advanced academics

More challenging options for those children with higher academic abilities

More class time less time off.

More communication from the high school and middle school, I know they are older kids but parents would still like to know what is going on with the kids, I don't know anything that happens at the middle school or high school and I would like to know things about my kids and things they are doing

More Educational support for kids moderately struggling with reading. Support is there for those way low, but not for the kids who are moderately lower to average.

More opportunities for gifted and talented kids at the primary school level.

More time for lunch and recess could be beneficial to students

Neurodivergent friendly classroom environments.

New leadership at the top that will bring this district back to how great it was and how proud people used to be of G-A

Non-traditional job exposure

Opportunities for growth

Parent/family involvement and communication.

Putting interventions in place earlier for our struggling readers.

Racism

Reading!

Resources for teachers and staff. Guidance resources for all kids. More transparency. I do not use electronics and hate that form of communication. Facebook should only be used as a social media not for everyday communication.

Security. Everybody can come in, the school does not seem safe at all in my opinion. With everything we see on the news, I do not think the primary school is prepared.

Setting a higher bar before passing students

Shape up the high school.

So far so good!

Special education

Special Education

Staff retention

Staff support at the high school level. Our superintendent needs to be adding quality teachers at a much faster rate and the AD needs to retire and someone who actually cares about athletics needs to step in. We have a beautiful thing at Galesburg but it can't hold with the level of support given

Staffing seems to be an issue and limited class options. Also, extracurricular activities are limited.

Streamline communication

Take care of the teachers and provided them with education and support they need to teach the students.

Teacher's keeping up on their job.

The board needs ask questions and not assume what they are told is the truth. It is easier to believe the lies than accept the difficult truth.

The high school needs better communication with parents regarding their students

The investment in our students futures. Opportunities to get them there.

The single most important thing Galesburg schools could do is offer a second language (Spanish) to all children grades K-8.

There can never be enough communication. High school I get because we are trying to teach them to be more responsible, more like 11-12th grades but grades prior, parents need more communication sent home or emailed.

There is a toxic union which creates unnecessary conflicts among staff and students.

Thinking long term with its goals. Utilizing the Learning Center to hold on to students as they wrap into the Primary and hopefully keep families and students in district with a good experience early on. Looking at what is working well within other districts and making that our own.

This survey only covers very broad and vague questions, allowing the same kind of responses. I think a secondary, more detailed and in depth survey covering the negative rated areas could be beneficial.

To actually listen to parents. I have felt that meetings, school board meetings where we are told you want our options but you have already made your decision. So now with this survey. I was actually thinking what's the point.

Transportation

Other residents (n = 2)

Get the new projects done so we can get kids back in the buildings which they belong in and provide a safe modernized place to hold and host football, track and other sports that will make families want to come here. Seriously think about not having too many preschool classrooms where people who never intend on staying in our district come for free.

Our leadership needs to improve. We need more communication and transparency from our superintendent and school board.