



**Glen Ellyn School District 41**  
**2020 Parent Survey Comment Analysis**  
**April 1, 2020**

The Comment Analysis Summary is intended to identify and represent the prevailing themes collected through the comments gathered in the parent survey. A major theme is identified as a result of having multiple participants referencing similar issues or concerns. Supporting comments are included verbatim within each theme.

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## Respondents expressed their support of an all-day Kindergarten program.

As a district, we need to have all day every day kindergarten for all students. 80% of the schools in Illinois already do this. In D41 we want our students to keep up with all the other kindergartners to set them up for success in first grade and beyond.

Why doesn't d41 have all day kindergarten? Nearly all districts in IL have it. I see this as a bit of an embarrassment

Would have liked to have had full day kindergarten for my children.

Need all day kindergarten. Of all the districts not to have it, are you kidding? Enough said

We do need full day kindergarten. I don't need it anymore for my child but it should be a part of what we offer families in our District.

I used to like the idea of full day kindergarten but now that my kids are older, it doesn't matter so much. I know that spacing is an issue but I think it should still be considered for the future.

I would change to all day kindergarten. It won't benefit my family at this point, but it will benefit other families. I would also give the after school programs at all the grade schools more space. It is brutal during the winter months being stuck in the gym for hours after a long day at school.

Full Day Kindergarten!!! It's unacceptable for the amount we pay in taxes that we can not provide full day classes for Kindergarten. Common core is math and reading objectives are demanding and we are grazing over other important subjects(science and social studies). It's also not fair to those parents who can't afford \$250 a month to send their children to Kindergarten enrichment programs that our children can attend.

Offer full day kindergarten. We nearly did not move here solely based on this. It's disappointing and unacceptable that such opportunities for better, more well rounded education for our Kindergarteners is not valued and prioritized by D41.

It would be great if they offered full day kindergarten. I know this is an ongoing issue with the district with funding, referendum, taxes, space, etc. However, it would be great if they tried for this again as a long term goal.

Overall we are very happy with Forest Glen but continue to wish full-day kindergarten was offered- our first grader continues to struggle with academic confidence, which I believe is related to cramming too much into a short time period last year. He definitely felt pressure to finish things quickly or else fall behind. Overall better balance this year.

All day kindergarten for the taxes we pay

## **While some respondents are satisfied with District communication, others offer suggestions for improvement.**

The teachers communication. It was nice when we received a weekly or monthly newsletter, but depending on the grade and teacher, some do it, some don't, others rotate, some email one, some make a google doc available which I would always forget to check as there was no prompt. Anyway, it would be nice to know what the expectations are for teacher communication.

While I generally believe the administration is doing a good job, I believe it could do more with the community via communications. The divisive political climate has crept into D41. It would be beneficial if the administration helped mend some of the divide through communications that focus on our students achievements and commonalities

Immediate standardization and communication of expectations for all stakeholders and roles. Ensure that expectations are same between schools, classes and teachers, then enforce those rules. Next create open dialogue with the community and enable free 2 way communication for all, this should not be restricted to public meetings only but OPEN so that community and stakeholders can engage as they feel necessary when they have time to participate.

Communication from building leadership and teachers needs to be improve.

Streamline communication process from the principal.

Proactively share plans and changes before implementation

I would suggest better communication with kindergarten families on events. I have felt that staff expects us to know what events entail but if we have never been involved, it is hard to understand. I have been made to feel like i should have known certain information and it makes me less likely to ask about other events. Email from principle included a sentence alluding that i should read my email, which I did, but the event details were not clear for someone who has never participated before.

Would love to see more updates on day-to-day goings on in the schools. There have been some lately, but would like to see more.

Simplify your messaging and make information easier to access on your website. There are too many portals and sources to access information for the student.

The district website could use a revision/face lift. It is difficult to find basic information relevant to parents, such as school supply lists; website is not always updated in a timely mannter. Live streaming of board meetings is helpful and should continue.

Teacher communication is very good, but I would appreciate more communication from building leadership on overall school programs.

## Some respondents feel more can be done to prevent bullying.

The only thing that really is a struggle for me is bullying with one of my kids. Let me say, he is incredibly sensitive. I need him to be able to talk to teachers and staff more if he needs it. I want to give him tough love, but he shuts down from it. Whereas my other kid benefits from tough love. How do we know the bullying programs at school are effective? I don't expect teachers to be social workers. We struggle with this every year. I can't wait for him to go to Hadley to get a refresh of new kids. Nothing is perfect and recognize that and life is hard. Maybe more proactive bullying programs?

I would also like to see more programs on anti-bullying and empathy with real life examples. I think some kids may not realize they are the problem.

Overall we are happy with D41 but feel one really has to jump through hoops to get bullying issues noticed and action taken towards ending them.

The handling and communication to parents when there are safety and bullying issues that directly affect my child.

2) zero tolerance for bullying and racism. Leadership is not doing enough. Kids who violate the policy need to be removed from the district.

The leaders of FG do not do a good job of relaying bullying and safety issues to the district or to parents. We are finding out about these issues/incidents at school through kids and parents. The staff/leaders at FG should be doing this.

I've heard through friends that online bullying is not dealt with at Hadley. Surely the district understood the pluses and minuses of bringing technology into the schools, but dealing with consequences is part of the deal. Get involved to solve these problems.

Also, bullying is tricky. My child was bullied and it just flies under the radar. I taught her to stand up for herself, but the bullies still exist and don't back down. They also know how to evade the adults.

Take bullying and the safety of our children more seriously. This has been an ongoing issue for over 2 years for MANY families.

bullying creates an environment where kids don't feel relaxed enough to be able to learn in an optimal way. Even when teachers and staff are made aware of it, bullying is happening at times where there is not as much supervision (passing periods, lunch, recess). There should be zero tolerance for this kind of behavior and with repeated notification, the school should remove the offending student from school.

We have not been satisfied with the level of bullying and harassment by other students at Churchill.

Unfortunately, I do not believe Hadley does a great job of enforcing disciplinary actions. It's inconsistent & not tough enough, in my opinion (and many parents share the same view). My children unfortunately, don't always feel safe at school. That's unfortunate & frightening. Hadley can do better.

## Parents/guardians offer suggestions on how to improve the effectiveness of parent teacher conferences.

Parent teacher conference are way too short to have any meaningful dialogue. It also appears that some teachers are afraid to give any feedback that might be perceived as negative

My only suggestion would be to have parent teacher conferences in the spring. Since the first one is in November ... it's a long time to go with only the report card to see how our children are doing

Please consider more detailed parent/teacher conferences to allow for discussion on both academics and social emotional development.

I do not think meeting the teachers once a year (conferences) gives a parent a good picture of how their child is doing in school. There should be a second conference in the spring to check in with how a child is doing in school. I feel 90% of the communication between the school and myself about my child is driven by me, the teachers respond quickly to my emails or calls but it is me reaching out. When I do reach out the teachers state they noticed similar issues my child was having as well and were about to reach out to me...I just always seem to reach out first...

Teacher conferences are too soon in the school year. There isn't enough time gone by to give adequate feedback. Either have a winter conference or fall and spring; not just one conference in the Fall.

I would like to see more than one conference per year. The fall conference is good, but would be more useful to have one in the spring when the teacher really knows my child and has a more robust record to talk about.

10 minutes for a parent teacher conference is crazy. The time was so rushed and there was no time to ask any follow up questions.

I would like to see a spring parent teacher conference to enhance communication.

I really wish parent teacher conferences would be made longer. 5 minutes is just not enough time. I feel like teachers are always rushed during them but do the best they can.

Parent/teacher conferences are too early in the year, and too short to give meaningful information.

Parent/teacher conferences are fine and informative, it would be nice to have them at the beginning and end of the year to see progress.

I made a disagree comment on parent teacher conferences. I'm not sure if that medium and not the way they were conducted. I don't know if the format makes the most sense anymore because of it's frequency (not very) and how rushed it is. I realized this is a tremendous burden on the teachers to conduct these in their evening hours. I personally would like more touch points on student performance to make sure that if we need to help at home and can do that in a timely manner but i don't need that to be face to face.

## **Respondents share some of the best things about the District, including parent involvement and high-quality teachers and staff.**

The kids all seem happy and there are so many fun learning activities going on that add to their enrichment.

Innovative approach to learning coupled with high standards.

Support - financially, volunteers, etc.

Kids are given many opportunities for growth, both in the classroom and outside of it.

The teachers are of high quality and personable- they support each other and in learning - They Care A Great deal for the Students and help them Develop emotionally as well as in their intellect.

Family involvement and community feeling at the school.

PTA, good students, good community

Willingness to try new things and do whatever staff can do to help students. Teachers are very friendly and keep parents informed of what is happening in the classrooms.

Our teachers, support staff and principal. We have a positive and collaborative school community

FLES, the close communication between Lincoln principals/teachers and parents, and the involvement parents in student life at Lincoln (much of this is done through the PTA).

The teachers and individual school administration are strong and caring.

Very impressed with the level of genuine care District 41 teachers and staff put into the educational and emotional well being of the children. :)

The faculty! They go above and beyond every day to do the best job possible to help children learn and grow. They juggle the learning process, the children, parents, peers, and community. The collaborative culture is impressive and facilitates higher degrees of success for every stakeholder.

The teachers are mostly engaged and truly care for their students. The resources they have to help learn such as the library services and technology are fantastic and we are very pleased on this front.

Leadership, staff, communications, inclusiveness, use of technology, forward and progressive mindset

I love the way everything seems to generally be pretty student centered. I also love the way homework is limited. Most of all I love the way my kids love their teachers. They must be doing a good job of making Learning at a desk/in a classroom seem fun.

The teachers and principals go above and beyond. My kids generally enjoy going to school and feel safe.