

SECTION A. - STUDENT RESPONSES GRADES 6 - 7 - 8 - 9

Of a possible total of 1098 students, 205 (19%) were surveyed for this report.

1. PRIORITY ISSUES FACING YOUTH.

Question: Please check the three most important issues facing you as a young person.

Students were given sixteen pre-written choices and three blank lines. They were asked to select or write in the three most important issues facing them as young people. A total of **494 responses** to this question were received. The top 3 responses represent 31% of the total number of responses received and are in bold print. The bottom three responses are also in bold print. The responses, in descending order were:

11% budget cuts in education (54 students)

11% teen sexuality (53 students)

10% alcohol and drug abuse (50 students)

8% stress and career/college pressure (41 students)

8% lack of opportunities/activities outside of school (40 students)

8% smoking (39 students)

8% safety (38 students)

6% transportation (30 students)

6% lack of youth-related organizations and programs (28 students)

5% health issues (24 students)

4% environmental issues (22 students)

4% discrimination (21 students)

4% negative adult perception of youth (20 students)

3% hunger (15 students)

2% housing/homelessness (10 students)

2% racial tension (9 students)

2. ACTIVITIES PERCEIVED BY YOUTH AS BEING HELPFUL.

Question: How helpful are these types of activities in helping youth?

Students were offered twenty-one activities and asked to rank them as to whether they are very helpful, somewhat helpful, or not helpful. Each student was asked to rank each activity.

The activity perceived to be **most helpful** for youth was **Competitive Sports**. 59% (121 students) found this to be a Very Helpful activity. Recreation, including non-competitive sports and crafts, was found to be Very Helpful by 56% (113 students) of students who took this survey.

The activity perceived by youth to be **least helpful** for youth was **Leadership Training and Activities**. (43% (83 students) found this activity to be Not Helpful. "Drop-In" or neighborhood centers were found by 36% (74 students) to be Not Helpful.

Complete results to this question are on the next page.

Question: How helpful are these types of activities in helping youth?

	Types of activities: (Total # of student responses)	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not Helpful
1.	204 Competitive sports (not school-based)	121 (59%)	80 (39%)	3 (2%)
2.	232 Homework assistance or tutoring programs	86 (37%)	73 (31%)	73 (31%)
3.	205 "Drop-in" or neighborhood centers	32 (16%)	99 (48%)	74 (36%)
4.	203 Arts, writing, or music-focused activities/workshops	99 (49%)	80(39%)	24 (12%)
5.	204 Clubs/groups with specific focus (environment, running, "girls only," etc.)	57 (28%)	80 (39%)	67 (33%)
6.	203 Recreation (including non-competitive sports, games, crafts)	13 (56%)	81 (40%)	9 (4%)
7.	206 Mentoring type programs (Big Brother/Big Sisters)	86 (42%)	79 (38%)	41 (20%)
8.	202 Brochure, videos, pamphlets, that inform about risks or where to find help	37 (18%)	108 (53%)	57 (28%)
9.	202 Classes or groups to help quit smoking or using drugs	89(44%)	83 (41%)	30 (15%)
10.	204 Programs that teach self-defense strategies or martial arts	73 (36%)	128 (63%)	3 (2%)
11.	201 Programs that explore job or career options or job preparation	99 (49%)	83 (41%)	19 (9%)
12.	206 "Real life" learning experiences (Baby-Think-It-Over, drunk driving goggles)	73 (35%)	89 (43%)	44 (22%)
13.	204 Outdoor experiences, camps, or challenge courses	92 (45%)	85 (42%)	27 (13%)
14.	203 Programs that focus on teaching a skill or a hobby	77 (38%)	96 (47%)	30 (15%)
15.	201 Programs that involve parents or the entire family	48 (24%)	105 (52%)	48 (24%)
16.	200 Professional counseling programs or crisis intervention	60 (30%)	92 (46%)	48 (24%)
17.	207 Motivational speakers or presenters in school	51 (25%)	115 (56%)	41 (19%)
18.	194 Leadership Training/Activities	41 (21%)	70 (36%)	83 (43%)
19.	203 Transportation programs	67 (33%)	96 (47%)	40 (20%)
20.	194 Community Service Opportunities	48 (25%)	105 (54%)	41 (21%)
21.	201 Social Activities	89 (44%)	96 (48%)	16 (8%)

3. WHAT YOUTH RELATED ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS WOULD YOUTH FUND.

Question: If you had the money to fund programs, which youth-related programs or activities would you fund? Please check those that interest you.

Students were offered seventeen potential programs and the option to write in programs. They were encouraged to choose as many of the programs as appealed to them. A total of **1022 responses** were received to this question. Below are the responses in descending order. The top three responses, representing 32% of the total responses received, are in bold print. The two types of programming receiving the least responses are also in bold print.

- 13% after school sports (133 students)**
- 10% art classes (98 students)**
- 9% fitness classes/workshops (96 students)**
- 8% music classes (89 students)
- 8% after school recreation (78 students)

- 7% job development/employment programs (70 students)
- 6% school social activities (60 students)
- 6% social activities at local community centers (58 students)
- 5% tutoring programs (55 students)
- 5% skill building workshops (49 students)
- 5% community service opportunities (46 students)
- 4% leadership activities (43 students)
- 4% transportation services (43 students)
- 4% community social activities (42 students)
- 3% counseling services (33 students)**
- 3% mentoring programs (29 students)**

Question: When is it most important that activities be available?

For this question the students were given three choices. We received **265 responses** to this question which indicated that some students felt that more than one choice was important to them

- Summer: 53% (141 students)**
- Weekends: 34% (90 students)
- Evening: 13% (34 students)

4. CURRENT ACTIVITIES.

Question: What do you currently do during your free time? Check all that apply.

Students were given fourteen pre-written choices and three blank lines. They were asked to select or write in activities that they participate in during their free time. A total of **1453 responses** were received. The top three responses represent 36% of the total number of responses received, and the two types of activities receiving the least responses, are in bold print Responses are listed in descending order:

- 14% hang out with friends (200 students)**
- 11% spend time on the computer (167 students)**
- 11% go to movies (163 students)**
- 10% sports (151 students)
- 9% surf the internet (133 students)
- 7% music, art (105 students)
- 7% study (104 students)
- 6% read (91 students)
- 6% family activities (84 students)
- 5% work (79 students)
- 4% church activities (59 students)
- 3% recreation (50 students)
- 3% volunteer (46 students)**
- 1% take classes (21 students)**

Question: Please check any of the following that limits your participation in after school and/or weekend activities?

For this question the students were given three choices. We received **263 responses** to this question which indicates that some students felt that more than one reason limited their participation. Student responses in descending order were:

- Don't know what is going on: 46% (121 students)**
- Transportation: 30% (79 students)
- Money/activities too expensive: 24% (63 students)

Question: How busy are you?

For this question the students were given three choices. We received **225 responses** to this question which indicated that some students felt that more than one choice was important to them. Student responses in descending order were:

- Busy: 65% (146 students)**
- Not busy enough: 20% (46 students)
- Too busy: 15% (33 students)