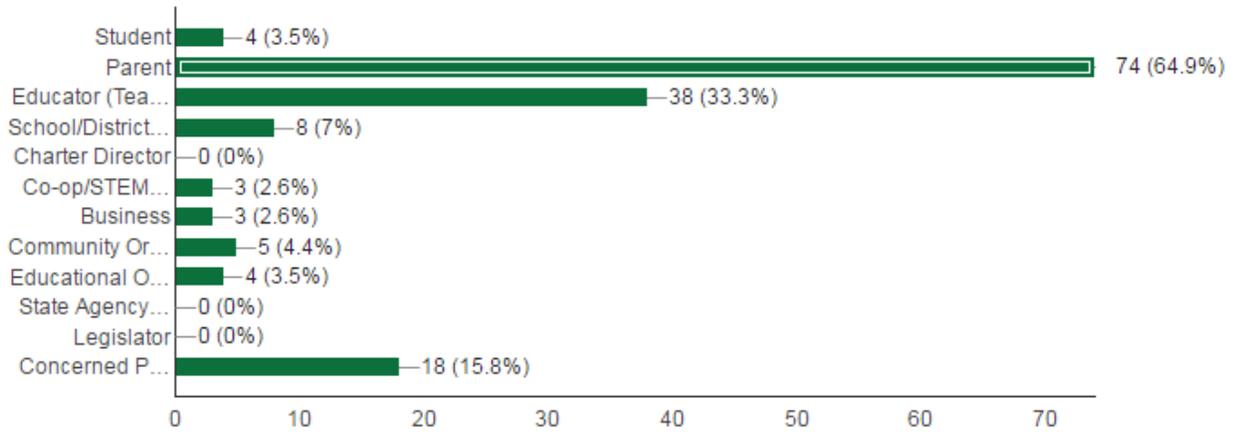


Arkansas Accountability System - Public Survey

I am a/an: (Check all that apply.) (114 responses)



What are the most important characteristics of your school?(110 responses)

- Teaching kids like me to learn to read
- Teaching kids like me to learn to read
- Quality teaching in a safe environment.
- Quality teaching in a safe environment.
- Student centered education
- Commitment to serve a diverse, at risk student population.
- The teacher/student ratio is very low and provides a more individualized education for my children.
- Excellent Teachers, Community Support, High Student Motivation, Above Average Test Scores
- High quality, goal-oriented, passionate teachers
- Teaching and Learning
- Equity, mutual respect among stakeholders (relationships), usage of data, citizenship building, preparing students for living and working in the 21st century
- Students are held accountable for their work and behavior
- Safe environment
- Teacher engagement in making education accessible to all students. Student safety is important, too many older schools lack basic security features on their campus. Collaborative teaching across the curriculum.
- As a general rule the staff are interested in helping most of the students learn
- Children are safe; Children are Learning; We are Fiscally Responsible

Good education, positive Role models

School climate, supportive teachers, and administrators with a long term vision.

Strong parent/student/ admin relationships

Safe, positive atmosphere, expectations of excellence, teaching students empathy

High expectations for students. Students must learn content very well to get A.

Compassion

diversity, helpful, community-oriented

Committed teachers

Diverse curriculum opportunities

It is near where we live and where my husband and I work, so we have the opportunity to be involved throughout the school year. The faculty and staff are top-notch and truly care about the students and their success. I love the economics focus of the school. I am an economist and truly believe it is never too early to begin to learn the basic principles of managing money. I do love the well-rounded education provided, with both music and art being provided every week as well.

safe for everyone

Good teachers, neighborhood school

Strong staff, arts program

positive, team oriented, student-centered

caring teachers, goals, caring students

Informed, educated, motivated, empowered, supported staff and teachers. A highly involved school PTA organization. Family participatory events and involvement in all aspects of our school.

Passionate educators and staff

Challenging safe environment with quality teachers

Hometown feel...we all know each other or know of them.

Small, rural environment, community where everyone helps everyone and support each others' success.

The quality education and closeness of the parent / school relationship . Education starts in the home so I think it is vital to have this close but professional working relationship .

High Poverty/High Mobility/Large ELL population

Social and Academic Success

Literacy and graduation rates

Opportunities to learn a variety of things.

Learning, safety, parent teacher/staff relationships and parental involvement.

that they educate my dyslexic child according to the way she learns.

Each student is allowed to be an individual.

All kids reading at grade level.

Hometown vibe, Most want the best for the kids

Quality Education for Every Student!

friendliness and dedication of staff

That it WAS family oriented

We have a new elem. school. Great teachers and staff. But would like to see more advance subjects.

Emphasis on academics and social learning. Teaching students how to behave in a classroom, in a school, with peers, etc. Building a culture of learning where misconceptions are used as learning opportunities is a high priority.

Student/teacher engagement in learning

The parental involvement coupled with teachers who care, are experienced, and very well versed in meeting our children's educational needs as well as their social development.

Quality teachers

Quality teachers & staff

Teachers who have the children's best interest at heart

Accountability, Responsibility, Family-like feel

Our schools have engaged parents who work together with the teachers and staff to make sure all of our students have the best opportunity for success. Both the elementary and middle school have academic success and opportunities are being offered to ALL students, even those who may not have the support systems outside of school to succeed.

quality of education, teacher retention, diversity

communication between all parties, curriculum, qualified teachers and administrators

Curriculum (NOT using Common Core!) Progressive, self paced and multi-sensory.

N/A

healthy learning environment

Health and learning are our priorities

Universally designed curriculums

An environment where children will thrive.

The safety of every student is paramount. The building must be conducive to learning.

The ability to prepare students for a future career that is valuable to our community.

Focus on science. Challenging kids in upper grades. Smaller size.

Teachers, administration

Neighborhood school with great community support.

They try to make learning fun

Parental involvement, problem based curriculum

Best available education

All teachers are trying to help students reach their highest potential.

Caring and loving teachers

It's ability to adapt to new strategies for learning and let go of outdated strategies that no longer do.

The community feel between Students, Teachers, and Parents.

Dedicated faculty, disciplined students, rigorous academics

Sports

Parent Involvement

Working as a team, having high expectations for everyone

Innovative, student focused

Caring/family atmosphere, high standards for achievement, curriculum focused, data driven

Instructional programs that serve all students.

Culture, rigor, character education

Leadership, parent Involvement, Standards of the heart, high academic standards

Producing academically prepared students who are advanced in problem solving and communication skills.

Flexible, focused, engaged, not tolerant on discipline

IB program

A cooperative work environment, a quality and well-rounded school library and media program

Friendly, caring environment

They teacher child the way they learn and have a safe environment for learning

Integrity

Children come first

Safety

accepting and respecting cultures

Teachers hold the students accountable.

Teachers can give a lot of individual help to each student.

Family - every child can succeed at something and feel valued.

Hamilton offers struggling students an alternative environment to learn.

Putting the needs of each child first

It is a warm safe environment where learning takes place but students are excited about coming to, the teachers look forward to coming as well.

Quality teachers and staff

Good teachers who care, strong administration

Socioeconomic demographic

Diversity, rigor, positivity, excellence

The care the teacher has for the students

Safety and quality AP Classes and teachers. A Staff that cares about each student and their potential, cares for their future for higher education. A school that will work for your student and be not a hindrance to them but an asset.

Teachers and community involvement

What are the best measures of success/quality of your school?(108 responses)

Reading levels at grade for every student.

Reading levels at grade for every student.

Graduation rate, college enrollment After High School, follow up on how students are doing as adults maybe up to 10 years later.

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Authentic teacher, parent, stake holder response

Individual student progress based on multiple measures.,

My children's success in school is not a test score. It is made up of many things: their grades, comprehension of the material taught and how they are doing mentally/socially in school.

High Student, Teacher, Community Morale/Satisfaction.....Test Scores

Proficient at appropriate grade level

Prepared Graduates

attendance rates, disciplinary referrals, additional post-high school training (not only college), individual academic growth of students

graduation rate and ACT scores

assessments

The student's confidence in their capacity to apply their education to their life goals.

student performance on standardized tests

Graduation rate; students graduating with industry certifications; concurrent credits toward college; having the soft skills necessary to achieve in the workforce; student achievement measures that are measured by academic growth, intermittently, throughout the year and not based on a one-time spring assessment snapshot; engaging students in technologically integrated critical thinking project-based learning activities.

Number of kids continuing education after high school and those that aren't are making a positive impact in community.

Producing capable student that can thrive in life outside of the school setting.

Reading levels, Graduation rates, GPA, Act scores,

The long term success of it's graduates.

High test scores. Teachers that show they care about students.

Public opinion

Parent/student feedback; class visits by administration, specialists

Test scores, subordination of students, positive student-teacher relationships

I think standardized tests are only one piece of the puzzle. Student classroom performance/grades/and their true understanding of the concepts presented is more important, if difficult to measure.

student and teacher attendance

Parent/teacher participation

Output within the community through service and innovation

student led activities, students able to learn from doing

everyday actions of students

Ideally, it would be high pay for teachers and staff, and recognition of their dedication throughout the district. As it stands though, it's usually just recognition within our school itself by other staff and parents.

Use of a variety of modalities to teach, focus on quality of knowledge

Test scores, academic readiness for the next year, child preparedness

Currently, test scores, but would like to focus more on the whole child.

Test scores are a portion of that .

Data

Graduation rates

Extensive list of different class types

Parents and staff working together

that they follow state and federal educational laws to educate all students how they learn.

Happy productive students.

Literacy rates

I love the teacher that wants my child to learn not just get him to the next grade

Definitely NOT TEST scores. Growth in learning. Assessments in a different type of context.

Comprehension/applying the information properly to a situation. Meaningful measurements. Every student do not TEST well, and this should not be a measure of performance.

positive learning environment

how everyone USE to help

It's a new school and we have great teachers and staff.

Students ability to communicate. Student intrinsic motivation. Students ability to defend, justify and explain using information. Student attendance. Students questioning the content, each other, etc. Student perseverance. Student participation and involvement in extracurricular activities. Students willingness to support the community. Students competing academically against each other and themselves (self-goals/self-evaluation).

Student and teacher growth

Although test scores are important, I also measure the success and quality of our school by the happiness of my child's educational experience as well as by the joyful environment that they learn in.

Graduation rate and preparedness for future, be it college or a technical career or another path. Prepare our students for life.

Reading level of ALL students

That children are learning based on measurable standards, but not necessarily based on standardized tests.

Raising mature students who can think for themselves

Engaged students who know they are cared for each day. Engaged teachers supported by our Board of Education in the form of asking Governor Hutchinson to explore more ways to increase teacher salary, particularly for public school teachers who work in non-charter schools.

performance in the classroom - the dependency on standardized test performance diverts focus from individual student needs and learning styles

Students who are ready not just for college but also votech. Students who are not so stressed out from homework that they get burned out before HS. Teacher who want to teach to make a difference. Administrators who are concerned more about students then the bottom line. A school board that works together and is willing to listen.

One big test does not adequately measure the full spectrum of a students success. The best measure of success are students with consistently improved grades and low teacher turn-over. Superintendents who seek out PD that's not a waste of money and teachers time.

As a business we expect schools to turn out students who can pass certification exams, work independently and not need a year of remediation after they graduate.

What they are learning and if they are happy

Test scores, student achievement as individuals, and health and wellness

Success post graduation

Combination of staff, parents, administration working together!

The building was newly constructed and is equipped with the newest technology. Every effort should be made to raise the students' interest in learning to use every resource, electronic and otherwise.

High School Graduation. Graduates' success in their careers. Ability to convey the value of an education to parents and the effort given to help students succeed.

Good scholarships, high test scores, Happiness of kids and staff

The children can use computers to help learn

Students who are respectful, think at deep levels and are problem solve. Number of students on grade level.

none that I can see as of yet

Perseverance, student engagement

Accountability

Our students are learning and their test scores are showing their progress.

The excitement of the kids

When all children have equal access to education an are seen as separate and unique individuals and not a statistic or test score.

The determination of the staff to make Arkansas Arts Academy E/MS the best school in Arkansas.

ACT scores, ratio of students who obtain employment after graduation

Student reading levels with test grades

Every child is given the opportunity to learn and achieve goals.

Students engaged and thinking. You can see this only through observation, not a snapshot on a high stakes test.

Individualized progress

Family/community surveys, testing, plans developed by school and data showing implementation

At least three measures, teachers to be included as professionals.

College acceptance and employability of graduates

Tests,

Project based assessments

Progress made throughout the year

testing for higher education

Student achievement, teacher turnover, parental involvement

Student/Parent surveys

Success should be measures by each students success not just at a grade level.

The integrity of the staff

Word of mouth

Student attendance and discipline referrals

children having all needs met, not just academic scores

Student attendance and graduation rate

Graduation rate

Kids feeling like they serve a purpose and belong. Surveys/input from parents and other stakeholders.

How well our kids are doing not only academically, but socially and emotionally.

Students meet their short/long term goals to successfully transition back to their home school.

Whether the children are learning AND love to learn AND trust the adults

Improved test scores and the low teacher turn over

Literacy scores

Student portfolios, engaged students

Growth of student

Education level of the community

School climate, parent/teacher/student satisfaction, academic success

Improvement in each individual be it big or small

The happiness of the students and parents. The fairness to treat all equally under the law. That they abide by my student's 504 and give him the best possible educational shot towards the future. A school staff that will work with the parents and student to succeed. A staff who cares about the job they are doing and wants to help each student do their own best. A supportive staff and teachers who don't just look at the surface but look at the whole picture and want the best for my student. The amount of scholarship money offered and the willingness of the staff to make sure that each student gets their best shot at scholarship money for higher education.

Student participation, certified teachers, community involvement

How do we make sure every student in Arkansas has opportunity for success?(108 responses)

Enforce the dyslexia law of 2013 and 2015

Enforce the dyslexia law of 2013 and 2015

Offer an incentive for the best teachers. Make parents and teachers accountable for the success of students. Make the student accountable as well require them too serve as a volunteer. Introduce them higher education at a young age and just make it part of the expectation that it's part of their educational experience.

Offer an incentive for the best teachers. Make parents and teachers accountable for the success of students. Make the student accountable as well require them too serve as a volunteer. Introduce them higher education at a young age and just make it part of the expectation that it's part of their educational experience.

Enforce truancy laws

Enforce truancy laws

Insure every school and educator has resources needed to provide given opportunity w/ individual student, parent, district strengths, weekneeses & needs fully understood by lawmakers.

Allow educators to educate without excessive legislative meddling.

By making sure each child is taught to his/her ability and is given tools that are individualized for that particular student.

Parents must support the teacher, students should be on on near grade level when entering school or being promoted, teachers should be motivated and teaching be their main priority, legislators and the state department of education should know if the state and district are able to provide the money and resources needed to carry out requirements before the requirements are mandated (research all aspects

of the initiative), training for programming should be completed thoroughly before setting starting dates are established and not OJT as you go....

Professional salaries for high performance teachers

Be consistent.

I do not believe there is an answer for this question. I will be interested in hearing or reading about the responses to this question.

Enforce attendance and hold students back that do not perform at or above grade level

Technology must be utilized and top notch and equal in the hands of all students no matter the size of the district

For students with disabilities, Arkansas must move toward an inclusive collaborative teaching model. Special education in Arkansas is too often a location rather than a service.

Think of them as individuals and not as a member of a group or category

Adequate funding, flexibility in the model to allow each district to customize instructional programming that best meets the climate, culture and readiness of its students and their community. This CANNOT be a one size fits all approach, our state is too diverse for a rigidly prescriptive expenditure model.

You must understand success level is different for different kids. Everyone can't be a doctor.

Trust in competent teachers and administrators to what is best for students.

Educate teachers on dyslexia! Follow the law. Accountability.

Include and welcome all parents in the education of students

Encourage all students to reach their potential (both low achievers and high achievers).

Accountability. Do not make rules that are not governed by someone!

by providing them the tools needed to success

Equally fund schools in every community

Better pay for teachers, providing more incentive for better educators in our public system.

Laws that dictate schools be a certain size are short-sighted. I doubt any student has received a better education because their school was consolidated. More time commuting to a school where the student's are unwanted by teachers and other students is bad policy. I think focusing on providing students a quality education means limiting charter schools, which I believe are unconstitutional and will eventually be ruled as such, is a good first step. I understand that we need to take care of the urban schools we do have, but by refusing to upgrade facilities or build new schools in areas like West Little Rock where the tax base now lives, will only ever result in an alienation of that tax base and the inability to ever pass a millage increase so that we actually CAN improve schools in other neighborhoods.

stand pay and teacher training across the state

Local control of schools

Broaden our definition of success

keep classes small so students have the opportunity to lead & the teacher has the chance to really get to know the students. Also, vertical and grade level planning for teachers is ESSENTIAL!!

stay up to date on demographic changes, community needs, budget appropriate monies, offer free preschool to four year olds

I can only speak for my district, but I say that the people of LRSD have a say in the education and practices of our school district. We need and demand a local, vocal, elected school board where parents have a say in the implementation and choices our district makes for the students of LRSD. I want to feel like my children are benefitting from things I care about as a parent, not just what our governor or Johnny Key thinks should be done. The advisory board HE chose is only an advisory committee by name. They are minions to do what he wants. There is no room for community or parental involvement in his plan. And speaking of plans...what are his plans for LRSD? Why does he continue in a course of allowing charter schools to be flush with money from private organizations with profit as the main goal, while what's leftover of the district gets the crumbs of what's leftover. Please stop allowing him and the governor to have sole control over our district. I want a say in the continuing education of my children.

Encourage the use of a wide variety of teaching modalities, incorporating more hands on learning opportunities, less focus on standardized tests results and more focus on each child demonstrating understanding of the material using more natural methods than standardized tests

After school help for those who don't get it at home. Maybe even weekend workshops for those in need

You need to have more parent involvement instead of teachers and principals making all the decisions

Focus on indicators of the Whole Child, including being healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged. We need to be able to allow for flexibility where students are concerned in order to meet the individual child's needs. I think the funding needs to be looked at because we are high-performing, but have a very tight budget. We don't get any extra funds because we are doing well. There are schools in certain parts of the state who are basically throwing funds away because they have to be used or they lose them. I just think there's a way to make it more equitable. I would like to be able to get creative, but I can't because of budgeting issues, but I will never see any more because we are high-performing. I think part of this is because the funding matrix hasn't been updated. It says we only need one principal for 500 students and other "recommendations," but with the increase in duties of the principal, I don't feel those numbers are accurate. I think the funding matrix needs to be reevaluated for this reason, among others, because what is "recommended" is not what is reality in our schools.

Promote parental involvement.

Hold parents and teachers responsible. Have a plan in place for students that need extra behavior support or have issues at home that keep them from being successful at school.

Enforce education laws on the books and hold accountable the schools that do not.

Educate our teachers in many styles of learning

Keep them in school and keep the parents involved

Make administrators follow the laws, make superintendents and principals pay dependent on grade reading levels of their district students. If the school football team was only winning 31% of their games, the coach would be fired, but upper administration continues to be rewarded for only 31% reading on grade level.

Encouragement and modifying the lessons, when needed.

By providing quality teachers and a safe learning environment.

I would like to see Superintendents and upper administration held accountable through their salary depending on their district grade reading levels. When a football team only wins 31% of their games, the coach is fired, but when only 31% of students read on grade level nothing changes.

Accountability to make sure schools are truly wanting the best for kids, not just the numbers that they report.

Creating a learning environment that is applicable to every student's unique need. Some are visual learners. Some are 'hands-on' learners. Some are learning as they are moving. Find that appropriate learning style for each child and format instruction to everyone's success.

Make sure every child is taught how to read by a scientific evidence based Orton Gillingham Approach with fidelity and hold the School District Accountable for doing so.

Add more gift and talented subjects. We have a lot of smart kids that go there but get bored in class so we need more subjects so they can keep on advancing

Ensure there are certified teachers in the classroom who receive meaningful professional development and opportunities to work with an instructional specialist. Opportunities for teachers to collaborate, grow, and reflect are essential to student success. Invest more in the teachers and educators willing to do extracurricular activities.

Smaller student to teacher ratio

Education starts in the home and therefore it is crucial to have parental involvement at the highest level!

Demand quality of admin and teacher staff. It starts at the top.

Every child in this state deserves the opportunity to learn how to read. Dyslexics are being overlooked. I've had to pull my son out of LRSD's dyslexia intervention bc teacher wouldn't administer w fidelity. I'm paying over \$400 a month so he can learn how to read. What happened to FAPE?

Make district officials accountable. Make district officials follow state and federal law. Let the teachers advocate for their students.

No charter schools. They are not the answer.

By engaging with parents and reviewing and acting on objective data to enact policies that are good for every student, regardless of gender, race and socioeconomic background.

By ensuring quality teachers in all schools who have the support of administration and access to the tools needed to provide a quality education

We have to revamp our reading instruction in this state. The majority of students read below grade level which sets them up for sub par work in every subject. Get rid of the whole language/guided reading approach. Look at research and evidence based successful curriculum. Therefore, be ready to work with kids who have learning differences. We happily plug a lot of \$ in GT programs (just look at your schools budget) but go the cheapest route when trying to educate kids who learn differently. 20% are dyslexic but all kids can learn to read using the methods developed for dyslexics. The science of reading needs to reach our educators.

Enforce the dyslexia law.

We have seen a marked decline in applicants who can read well. This is a serious issue when trying to attract jobs to our state. If you can't read you can't do anything and affects individuals quality of life and ultimately our states. If the ADE can enforce Common Core, they can enforce the dyslexia law and give us employees who can read.

train teachers and put discipline back in schools

Create an environment where they are expected to succeed.

Tie superintendents pay to test scores

Get rid of Johnny Key

How is parental support and caring legislated?

Back off and let school do their job without massive government intervention. Certainly accountability is key, but tying a student's success in education to a standardized test doesn't present an adequate picture of true success.

Address special needs, don't let kids fall through cracks, encourage parental involvement,

Lap top to use and no homework

Teach them where they are in classes with students who with similar interest/ skill set. Give students choice

By providing them with accommodations and testing to receive the accommodations that they need to learn and excel in school without consequences of being sent home for things that teachers don't and won't understand or try to work with the child on. More testing needs to be done for a child that struggles and given the ability to learn in "their" way as opposed the school way

Pay for teachers need to be addressed.

Be involved and CARE

By employing people who care and are qualified. Who will go the extra mile for their kids.

Getting parents involved

By creating laws to protect their unique and individual needs as students and holding those that are suppose to adhere to these laws accountable.

Bring back AP classes in E/MS.

More hands on training for secondary in specific labir areas such as welding, cooking, auto mechanics, graphic design

Make sure they can read and comprehend

By testing less and giving the teacher and students freedom to teach and learn in less conventional ways.

Highly qualified teachers and parents being involved

Allow schools liberty to program based on student needs; expecting schools to use evidence based instructional strategies

Give each student equal access!

Building relationships with students, especially those at risk.

Charter schools

Restructure learning and career pathways. Allow courses like Marketing count for an english credit as students wrote business plans, allow engineering chooses count also for math and science. Create blocks of instruction for this. A morning in engineering with a math and science teacher in the room with the engineering teacher. Etc.

Less tolerant attendance mandates, more school funding, more technology and grant opportunities

Ensuring that every student is provided the proper study skills and techniques to succeed in College.

Also, making sure that students are prepared for the workforce or other community engagement.

Provide the opportunity for students to to demonstrate content knowledge in a style that is aligned with their learning styles and desires. Respect and provide for the Intellectual Freedom of every student (i.e. through the school library).

Stop putting so much emphasis on standardized tests

Teach every child they way they learn.

Employ great staff

Get personal

Increase teacher pay and levelize across the state regardless of district. Make teachers state employees. provide equal education for all

We encourage them and show them they are valued.

By meeting the student where he/she is today. Be it additional help in reading, math, to learn to read, help with their home life and parenting classes for parents who aren't there for their children.

You can't. Only God can. If you let Him work through you, you will have best success. Our knowledge is twattle. Love each kid, recognize each child's gifts, strengthen weaknesses, put all adults in trenches with as few 6 fig. Educrats as possible. No more vilifying oarents and negative comments. Can't ask kids to be nice when we aren't. Ibey Golden rule and stop bullying lawyers from eating away education monies. Put science based reading curriculum back in elementary schools that teach ALL kids to read instead of only 70-80 %. Imagine a fast 25% boast! But too many adult problem whiners instead of positive problem solvers. Be positive. Don't shift blame. Let patents send kids to the schools tgey want. Build a community high school in West Little Rock. Have IEPs for every child. Screen PK and K kids for dyslexia BY AN EXPERT and then carry out best plan for every child. Look at other states with succrssful programs and be open to adopting/implementing them. I could go on....

By making sure students that have an IEP or 504 are getting required intervention

Keep parents and community involved, teach them where they are even if its below grade level, keep expectations high

By offering fair and equitable education

Break the cycle of poverty

Offer rich programs at all schools, hire highly qualified teachers, implement dyslexia intervention and FYI, provide wrap around services, universal pre-k

Personalization

To make sure that each student is evaluated for their particular needs. To give each student the keys to success. To work and support the student and his family with their problems and issues. to abide by the law with things like special needs, 504 and special education. To let each student live up to their own potential by supporting them and their family. To treat each case on a one by one basis, fairly and equally under the law. To make sure that ALL staff working with my student (or any) love their job and do their best to support them in the best learning environment possible for each student.

Make sure strong public schools are available