

## **AI Generated Summary of Open Ended Survey Questions**

Community Survey: December 9, 2024

Compiled using Artificial Intelligence - Chat GPT

The community has expressed clear priorities for addressing various needs within the Fruitport School District, spanning facility upgrades, transportation, educational expansion, and extracurricular improvements. Key themes emerged from the responses, with a strong focus on addressing both immediate and long-term needs in the district's infrastructure, educational offerings, and community engagement.

### **1. Facilities and Building Maintenance**

A major concern is the district's aging buildings, with a significant emphasis on the need for updates across all schools, including Edgewood Elementary, Beach Elementary, and the Middle School. Specific issues mentioned include the need for new windows, HVAC systems, roofing repairs, and general facility maintenance. Many respondents highlighted the urgency of addressing the outdated infrastructure, particularly at Edgewood, which was frequently mentioned as a priority for a new, modern building. There is also a call for more space in classrooms, storage, and specialized facilities for special education programs, including Emotional and Cognitive Impairments (EI & CI). Some respondents expressed concern that existing spaces are not adequate for the growing community and the needs of all students, especially those requiring additional educational support.

### **2. Early Childhood Education and Expansion**

The demand for more early childhood education spaces is a key concern, with many respondents emphasizing the limited availability of preschool and before/after school programs. Expansion of the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and additional classrooms for young learners were frequently mentioned. Respondents also called for a more equitable distribution of spots for local families rather than being filled by "outsiders," suggesting that more opportunities should be made available for residents who pay taxes within the district.

### **3. Athletics and Extracurriculars**

Athletic facility upgrades were a high priority for many community members. Specific requests included improvements to the soccer field, including turf installation, restroom upgrades, drainage improvements, and better seating arrangements for spectators. Similarly, concerns about the baseball and softball facilities were raised, including seating and parking issues. Additionally, there were requests for updates to the high school's football field bathrooms and for enhancing the band and extracurricular spaces.

### **4. Transportation and Safety**

Transportation infrastructure, including the need for updated buses, was highlighted as a critical concern, especially given the district's expected growth. Some respondents also suggested improvements to the surrounding roadways and traffic control measures for increased safety, such as adding flashing lights or roundabouts near schools. The need for better safety measures within the schools, including more security and safer environments, was also

mentioned multiple times. Additionally, concerns about the safety and comfort of learning spaces, including temperature control and building security, were frequently voiced.

### **5. Community and District Growth**

Several responses pointed to the growing population within the district and the importance of preparing for future expansion. This includes building new schools, particularly Edgewood Elementary, and ensuring there is enough space in classrooms to accommodate increased enrollment. The growing need for more specialized spaces, including for mental health support, was also mentioned. Some respondents also suggested that the district should consider a long-term master plan to guide future growth and facilities development, including the possibility of building a new combined North Fruitport K-5 school.

### **6. Additional Comments on School Programs and Funding**

There was a call for more educational offerings to support mental health, specialized education, and extracurricular activities. Respondents suggested expanding academic and sports programs, such as more advanced classes for middle and high school students.

Overall, the survey respondents have identified several areas of need that encompass facility upgrades, the expansion of educational programs, transportation, and athletic improvements. Many feel that the district must act proactively to address the growth in both population and programmatic needs. There is a widespread desire for the district to balance updating existing facilities while preparing for the future with new buildings and expanded services.