

## Constant Contact Survey Results

**Survey Name:** Iowa Education Summit Questions

**Response Status:** Partial & Completed

**Filter:** None

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### 1. How can United Way and the community work with schools to improve educational outcomes for students?

#### Answer

<p>1. Help provide funding for programs that target specific issues and demographics that need additional support but are not well-enough funded by state and federal programs.</p>
<p>2. Help provide volunteers who work with youths and support their education via tutoring, mentoring, etc.</p>
<p>3. Being new to the Ottumwa, I don't know what programs may already be in place, but here are some thoughts: Provide backpacks that are filled with the necessary school supplies for children and families that need this assistance. Provide grants to be used by teachers to purchase various school supplies. Provide funding that would allow teachers the opportunity to attend various conferences, etc. that would supplement their continued learning opportunities. Provide funding for tutors in each school that could be used by students after school. Provide funding to better connect families with their local schools. This funding should provide opportunities for all families to feel comfortable coming to the school and being involved in a project of some sort that would improve the school and improve the parents knowledge of the school, etc.</p>
<p>-organizing parent-teacher organizations at schools that lack them -funding after school programs, such as Iowa Kids University -funding nutrition programs\</p>
<p>With budget cuts teachers need more assistance in the classroom especially at the elementary level. United Way could help to recruit volunteers. The foster grandparent program helps but more assistance is needed.</p>
<p>Help to involve parents more. Hold students more accountable for their work and their actions. Stop passing children through the system. If they do not understand the work, make services available to them so they can understand the work. Make services available to help students who suffer from test anxiety, who struggle with specific subjects.</p>
<p>more parent involvement</p>
<p>By providing afterschool academic support and mentoring programs to help with homework and reading</p>
<p>We need a lot more one on one, volunteers to help with math and reading. we have a lot of kids with ADHD and they can't stay on target and with one on one they can keep on track.</p>

Encourage the schools to welcome parents (every parent!) with open arms to the building.

UW should support the Building of the proposed single building for middle elementary grades. Many homeless and transient families could be assured that their child would have the stability of the same teacher, the same peers and the same principle regardless of where they lived on the south side. That consistency would help many children learn and retain what is taught.

family values... you can't teach children at school then send them home to a dysfunctional family, and have it work. encouraging children to improve no matter what the environment is, is worthless. Schools should not have the responsibility of raising children, you can't improve educational outcomes if you ignore the reason poor educational outcomes happen...Bad teachers who you can't get rid of, programs that only serve isolated groups, special favors for rich children, helping only minority groups. Put back the ability for teachers and parents to hold back students who are not ready to move to the next level. We are not all alike.

Continue to support organizations that provide a quality learning environment for students. This does not necessarily mean a formal school setting.

Morning and after school programs that are more than a babysitter. Providing learning experiences that challenge and enrich a child's learning process.

Assisting child care to prepare the children for their first day of school. By preparing children with the basics then that will assist the teachers with school ready children.

I think we need to broaden who the word "student" applies to. I work with adults in Southeast Iowa who do not have a high school diploma. I also work with students who have a high school diploma but lack sufficient literacy skills to support their families. I believe that we need to assist adult students to develop career pathways goals.

Help sponsor a quality afterschool and/or summer program for students that focuses on nutrition and reading (using an outcome based accredited reading program). Emphasis should be on students functioning below the 50th percentile in reading achievement. Must have a qualitative evaluation component for any services provided that provides useful data. Data should be analyzed to improve/change services provided. Just providing something without knowing whether it is making a difference should not be acceptable.

People have a problem in accessing programs if they are not within walking distance of their homes. It is very important to make programming accessible.

Volunteers - continuing the DOVIA meetings where agencies come together in the community to generate ideas for volunteers and can network, share resources, etc.

By empowering parents, through parental choice, to opt out of the limited educational opportunities (One size does NOT fit all) offered in the current system and to be able to choose the neighborhood school, a nearby school, or a charter school experience for their children. Make the overly bureaucratic schools compete for the children.

**2. How can we help schools identify outside effective organizations that can support out of school time and family engagement in learning?**

**Answer**

Coordinate with schools on programs that have met the qualifications for UW partner agencies and programs.
We can work with our schools to research this question and take a look at what organizations and processes are being used effectively in other communities.
-list such resources on school and UW websites in both English and Spanish -send home lists of events sponsored by such organizations
Provide an RFP to agencies that work with families to allow a grant opportunity that would provide organization to support family engagement.
Help them to find grant supported programs. Programs that will pay teachers to be tutors, college students to tutor, etc.
educate on community resources
Ask who they are successfully working with already
Send list to schools to send home or work with the paper to let everyone know what help is out there for them
Ask the parents who, outside the school, is more helpful to their entire family.
Recommend that organization to other families in the school.
It is not the schools responsibility to do this. schools should be focusing on their internal short falls. If you improve the teachers and the classes, put discipline back in schools and encourage learning, improvment will follow. The decline of our society can't be changed by a teacher who doesn't care.
Provide the organization's mission statements, projected activities that align with quality learning experiences, and staff information. We as educators would never want to recommend a program that we were not sure the staff would be qualified as well as officially checked our for safety purposes.
Assisting child cares with funding to help with the purchase of materials when hosting family nights that give parents ideas on things to do with their child(ren).
With data-there is data out there that corroborates importance of parent involvement. What happens in the family unit affects the individual. Right now K-12 education's main focus has been the student. To be successful we have to look at family/community needs and address them. Whether it is nutrition, mental health, clothing, health care, access to library or other reason; if we don't have the means for families to access the help they need, everyone suffers; the family, the individual, the community.
Offer a variety of incentives for reading books, time spent in the school/college/community library participating in a reading program. Offer incentives to child and family. Without the family receiving an incentive they will not work to make the program successful. Family incentives might include: a \$50 gas card, a \$50 food card, a membership for the family at the Y, a mini vacation to Des Moines (take a busload-Science Center, Farmers Market, I-Cubs game, etc.).
give them the information, the benefits
By providing a website with lists of approved, safe (background checks for providers), and effective (show the figures for success)purveyors of family support.

### 3. How can the business community support schools to improve educational outcomes?

#### Answer

1. Provide volunteers via JA and other programs in the schools.
2. Support initiatives aimed at improving facilities and programs within the schools.
3. Communicate clearly with school leaders what the business community's future needs are--math, science, technology, basic work skills like attendance and dependability.
4. Create job shadowing and internship programs for youths to learn about different careers, esp. those that don't require a 4 year college degree but are high quality rewarding careers such as welding, medical technology, culinary, auto mechanics, etc.

The business community can become more involved with the schools by possibly adopting schools to partner with on various projects. I believe that it's very important to show students of all ages what various professions do. And then once we get students interested in various occupations; it becomes easier to interest the students in the classwork that it takes to occupy these various job opportunities.

-sponsorship of specific field trips or programs

Provide funding for equipment and services not funded through education funding.

Being more involved.

By helping to fund extra activities such as after school enrichment and mentoring programs and to give their own employees an hour or two off every week to volunteer as mentors helping school kids between 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

All business need to be community minded and need to have employees do mandatory community work and give employees bonus for helping the schools. so many kids need help with their homework and some parents just can't do the math and history or what ever the subject may be.

Or donations to help pay for teachers that have the time to stay after and get paid for doing so.

We could also use busineses that would let students come to do work study programs and learn hands on expecially for high school student that may need that experience.

Continue what they are already doing- providing jobs.

Family values, encourage family activities, get parents involved when things go wrong or right.

Business need to sponsor quality extra activities that are more than just selling their product. They need to get on board for the purpose of assisiting with the growth of our future... our kids. They also need to me aware of the types of things they are encouraging. Take a stand against bullying, violence in movies and in video games, inappropriate use of weapon images, and adult content photos, video games, and movies/tv.

Once again see the importance of quality child care that wraps around their preschool program. Assisting child care teachers with trainings that will continue updated learning and teaching skills.

Provide the incentives needed to encourage family participation in learning programs. They could also help provide the personnel needed to make these programs successful. A great way to give honor and respect to their employees.

Work programs - providing education of work training

By adopting schools and providing management advice on how to cut costs and be more efficient.

**4. How can we focus learning to support a birth to work education model? - Responses**

**Answer**

Support licensed pre-school programs, support child nutrition programs and elimination of hunger in the schools, provide mentoring and leadership programs and volunteers, and summer job/internship opportunities for youths in the community.

We have to do whatever is necessary to provide every child an equal opportunity to learn from the day that they are born and going forward. We have to continue to educate parents to help them understand the hope that they provide their children by being an integral part of that child's education from day 1.

Increased parental involvement but that is difficult to do with some families as they are busy worrying about their next meal. Somehow education needs to become a priority to them. Not sure how to do that when their other needs are so great.

Making students be more accountable. Teach them that there are always consequences for not following through. Teach more character building in all classes. Not just specific courses. Students today have no concept of accountability. They want everything handed to them and feel they should not have to work for privileges.

Provide funding for dual language projects such as the dual language preschool program that is being developed by IKU in order to reach parents and children in mono-lingual families and facilitate school readiness in two languages. This program is designed to increase and maintain parental involvement in their child's education from an early age(3-5) by increasing their comfort level and involvement while speaking dual languages.

no clue

I am not familiar with the birth to work education model.

Surely education has more value than creating smart "worker bees".

what do schools have to do with birth or the age before school, It is not the business of the schools. I don't give to United Way to help schools I give to help people who are in need, i.e. disaster, mental illness. I pay taxes for the schools.

Parenting classes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our problems as educators so often lead back to parenting.

The focus has to be on family/community needs. If a family is so overwhelmed with dealing with mental health issues, poverty, sickness, behavior issues then the first thing that suffers is their attention to involvement in children's schooling and activities.

We can't just applaud the high achievers in our school system and communities anymore. It is more important to applaud every gain made by each student, no matter how small. The selective programs schools use, such as The Discovery Trip at the Junior High for A grade students has to stop. It puts the biggest percentage of our communities children in the "losers" bracket.

In sports we need to make community sports (physical exercise/health) more important. There are only so many spots on the high school varsity teams. Once again, the vast majority of our students are made to feel they are the "losers."

hands on learning

We (other than parents and children) cannot do this without adopting the models of Eastern European Communism, which did not work to democratize those countries, but rather provided more perks for the apparatchniks.

If we eliminated poverty in the US, we would not worry about "supporting" a birth to work education model. Informed parents are already opting out of public schools and homeschooling. Any more social engineering in educational provision will simply alienate those American families still able to provide a stable environment for their own offspring.