



A **LEGENCE** Company

Cook County Listening and Educational Space Adequacy Summary

November 16, 2023

Cook County Stakeholder Listening Sessions

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	DATE
School Board	8/4/23
Elementary Staff	8/28/23
High School Staff	8/28/23
Support Staff	8/28/23
Outside Coaches	8/28/23
High School Students	10/5/23
Grand Portage Community	10/5/23
Community Zoom	10/5/23
Open Community In-Person	11/1/23
Open Community In-Person	11/9/23



Listening Session Questions



- What are the Great Things happening in the Cook County School District?
- What are the Challenges facing the Cook County School District?
- What does the Mission Statement “Success for Each-Respect for All” mean to you?
- What would you like the Cook County School District to be Known For 10 years from now?
- What are the Skills and Mindsets students need for success?
- What are the Greatest Facility and Grounds Needs district wide?
- What Advice would you give the decision makers as they work through this process?
- What are your Expectations as we move through this process? (School Board Only)
- What would you want your Younger Siblings to have in school that you didn't have? (Students Only)
- What is the best way for the District to Communicate with you? (Community Only)

What Great Things are happening in the Cook County School District?

Internal Common Themes

- New and improved meal offerings
- Teacher leadership program
- Small class size
- School forests/outdoor space
- Great teaching/caring staff
- Beautiful culinary arts facility and teacher
- Unique and historic place to live
- Top notch science facilities
- Special Ed programs

External Common Themes

- School garden and outside education
- New administration and dedicated effort
- Sports
- Good teachers
- Culinary arts class
- Cooperation with playhouse
- Safety and certification options for students
- After school program
- AP classes

What Challenges are facing the Cook County School District?

Internal Common Themes

- Housing for staff and families
- Budget
- Storage in the classroom
- Cafeteria is loud and crowded
- Very loud building
- Windows that don't open and lack screens
- Uneven heat
- Bad bathrooms
- How much homework teachers give
- Lack of funding for certain sports

External Common Themes

- People wearing so many hats
- Limited options for alternatives/offerings
- Vast distance within the county
- Changing enrollment
- Affordable housing
- Retention of teachers
- Bus driver shortage
- Lack of childcare options

What does the Mission Statement mean to you?

Internal Common Themes

- Personalized Learning Pathway
- Each kid reaches their highest potential in a loving and supportive environment
- All students feel successful and teachers work with students to set up a plan for success if the student doesn't feel successful
- It means that all students deserve a rigorous education and all students deserve to feel safe

External Common Themes

- Diversity of people living in this community
- That success looks different for each child/family
- That every student matters
- Fostering learning for each child in a safe and supportive environment
- Students are able to be themselves and be respected for who they are
- A goal that should be on everyone's mind

What are the Skills and Mindsets students need for success?

Internal Common Themes

- Perseverance/Grit
- Adaptability/flexibility
- Critical thinking/problem solving and ask good questions
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Strong work ethic
- Time management
- Growth mindset in all areas

External Common Themes

- Open mindedness
- Think for themselves
- Financial literacy
- Collaboration and analytical thinking
- How to use technology
- Value of community service
- Resilience
- A two or four-year degree is not required
- Problem solving

What Advice would you give the decision makers moving through this process?

Internal Common Themes

- Listen to the people who use the space daily
- Walk through or try and perform the job that is in the current space to know why it is important for these updates
- Think big picture
- Consider effects on the environment with this improvement, consider solar, leads, net zero building
- Be up front and honest with the community and building users from the get go

External Common Themes

- Please keep in mind they are representing a diverse group of people and ALL voices need to be heard and at the table
- Utilize experts/already created info (previous data etc.) so we can fill in gaps knowledge
- Think big or go home
- Be reflective and thoughtful of what will benefit the student & community
- Stay engaged with all stakeholders
- Build for the long term in quality and efficiency

What are the School Board's Expectations going through this process?

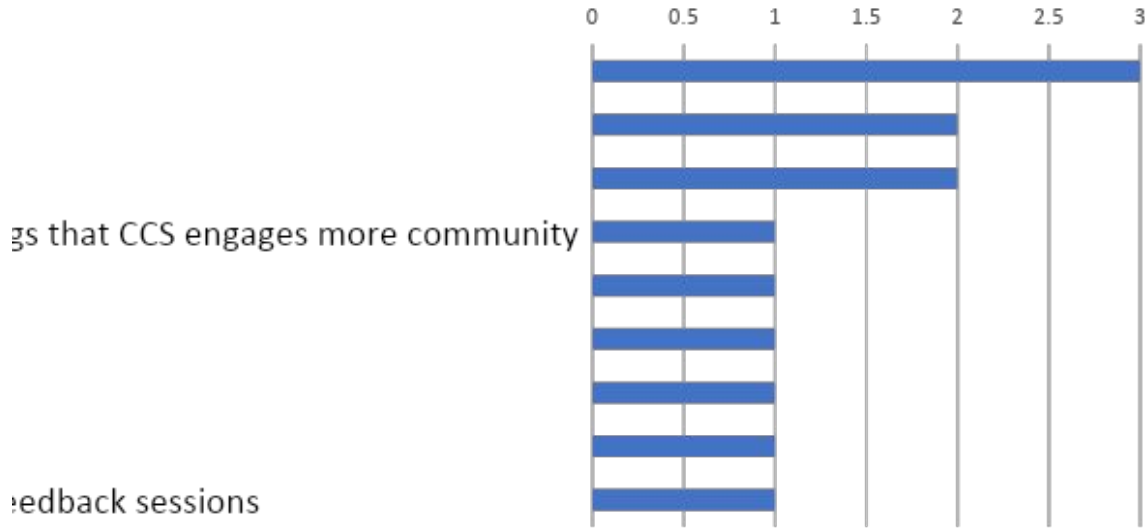
- Clarity
- Full transparency
- An understanding of what the community desires and will support
 - No BS
 - Full circle communications with the community
 - Attention to detail
- Organize current state and future needs so we can make good decisions
 - A relatively objective look of the needs of the facilities

Student Responses: What would you want for Younger Siblings?

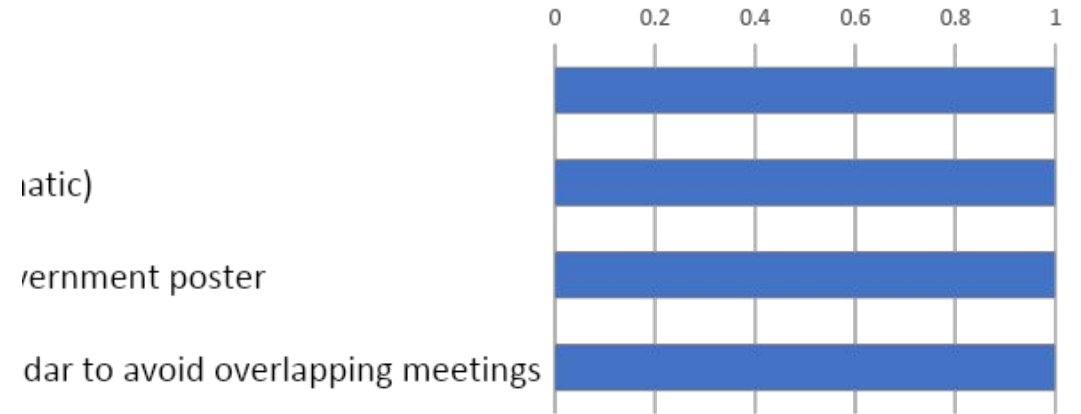
- Better bathrooms
 - Good food
- Less stress, 4-day weeks
 - Nicer kids
- Good coaching staff
 - Tutor opportunity
- Gender inclusive bathrooms, and more support for the LGBTQIA+ students that go to our school
 - A track
- Better football speakers and lights and turf
 - Less homework
 - Lights for the baseball field
- Softball field with lights, closer to school

What is the best way for the District to Communicate with you? (External)

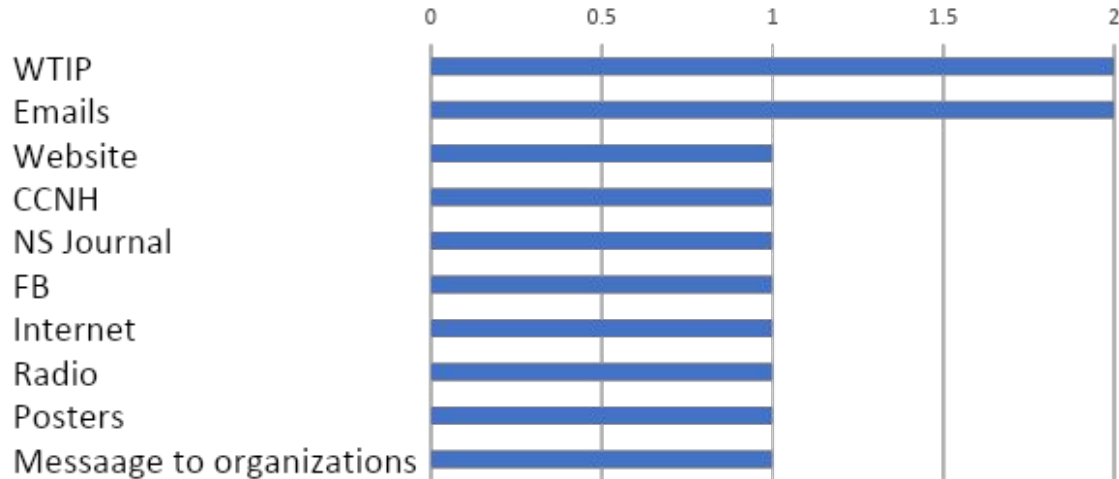
Parent Zoom



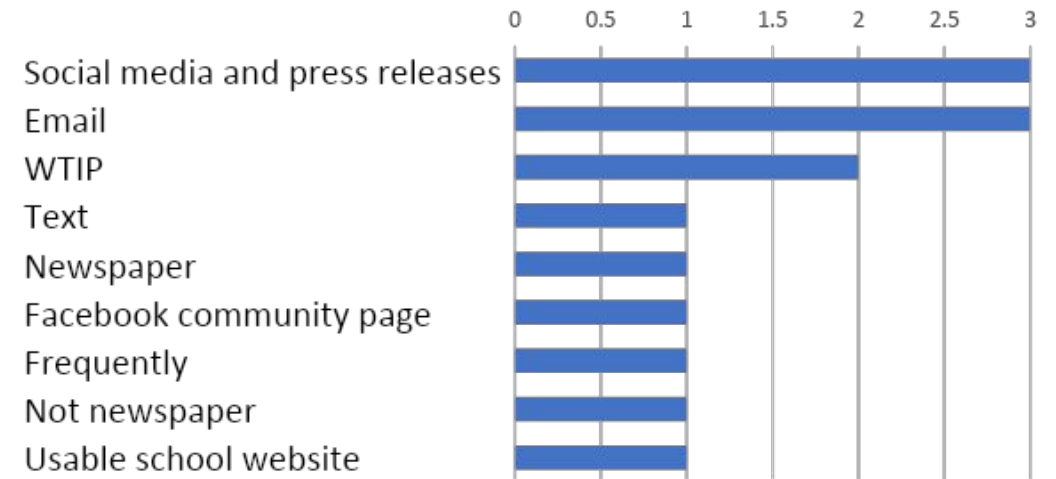
Grand Portage



Community In-Person #1



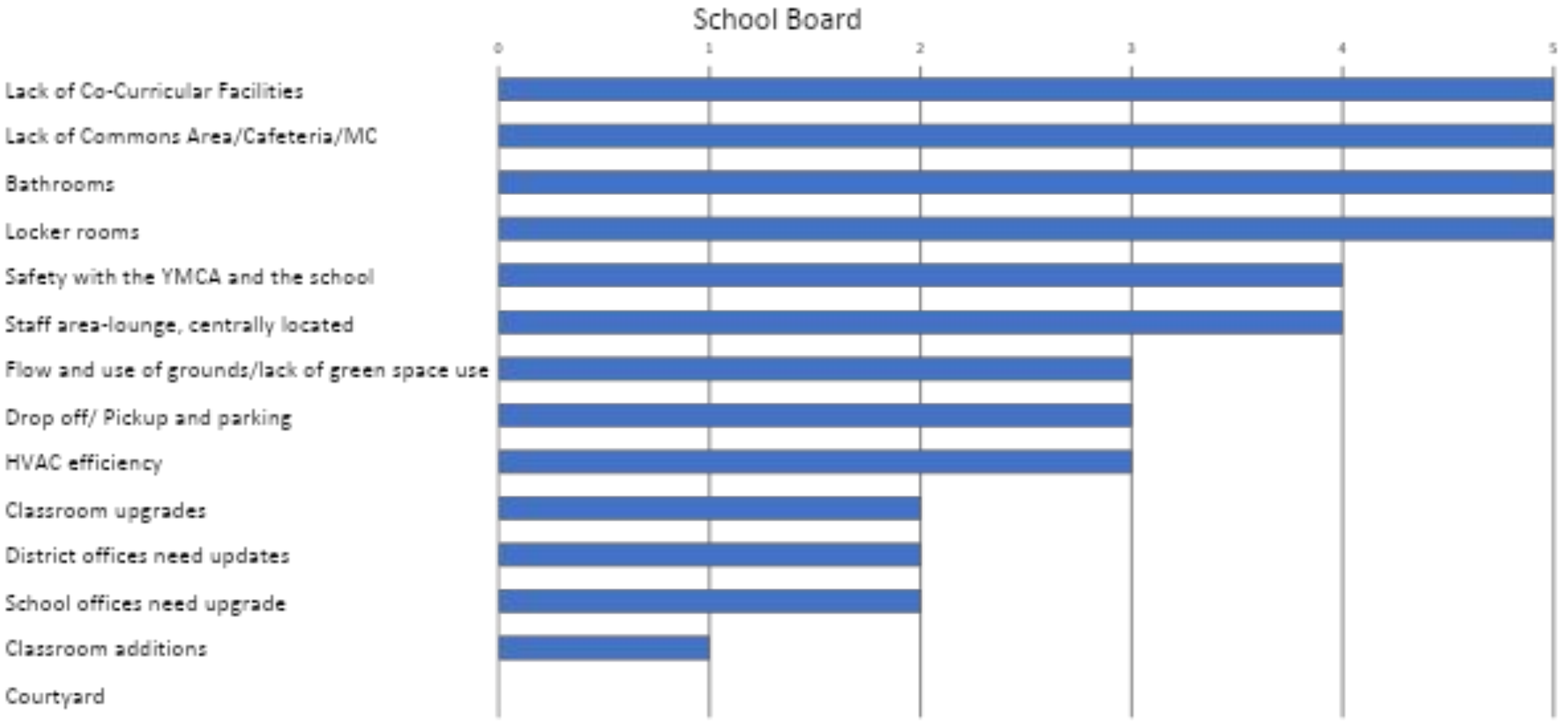
Community In-Person #2



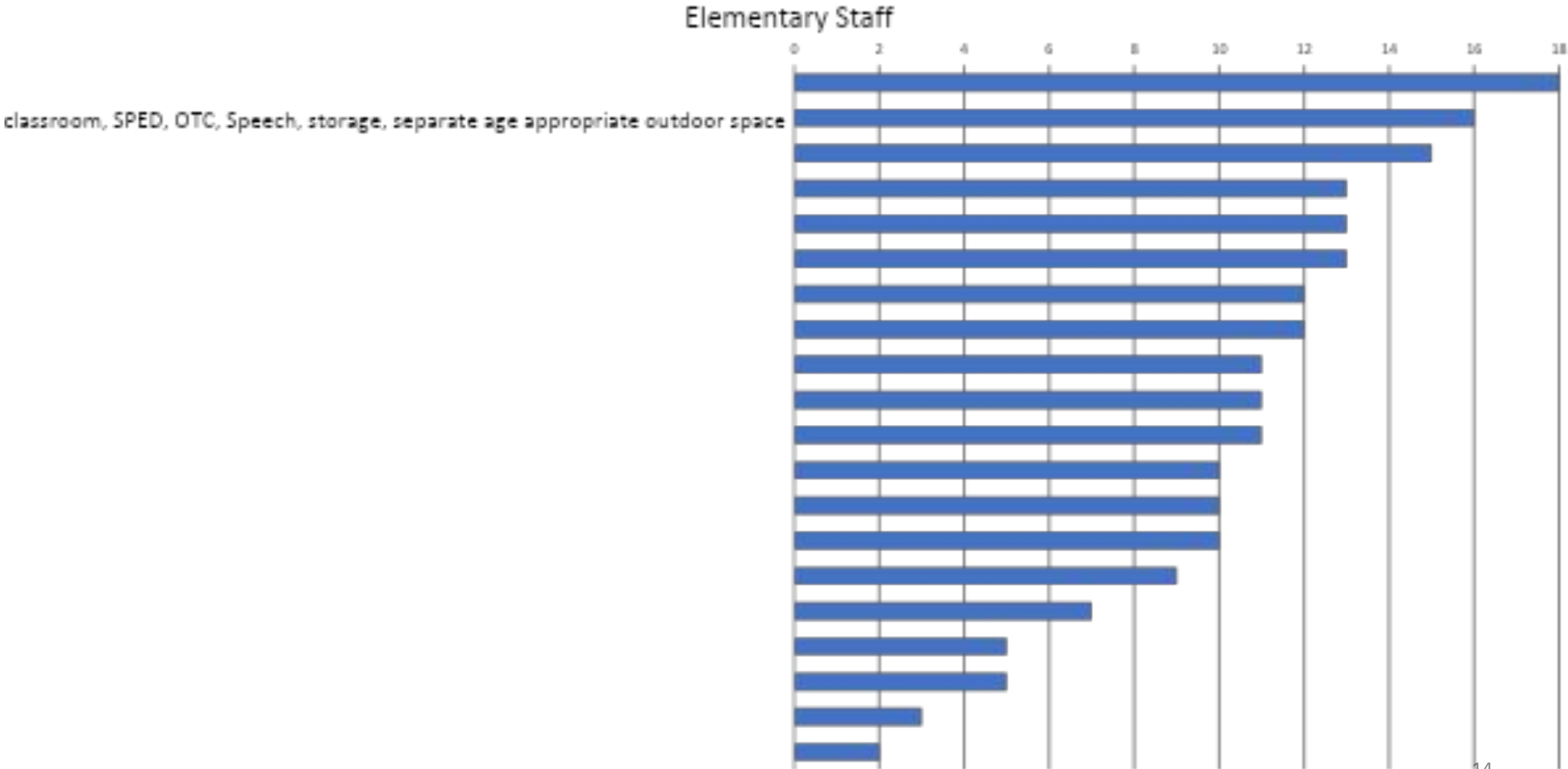
Cook County Schools



INTERNAL - What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?

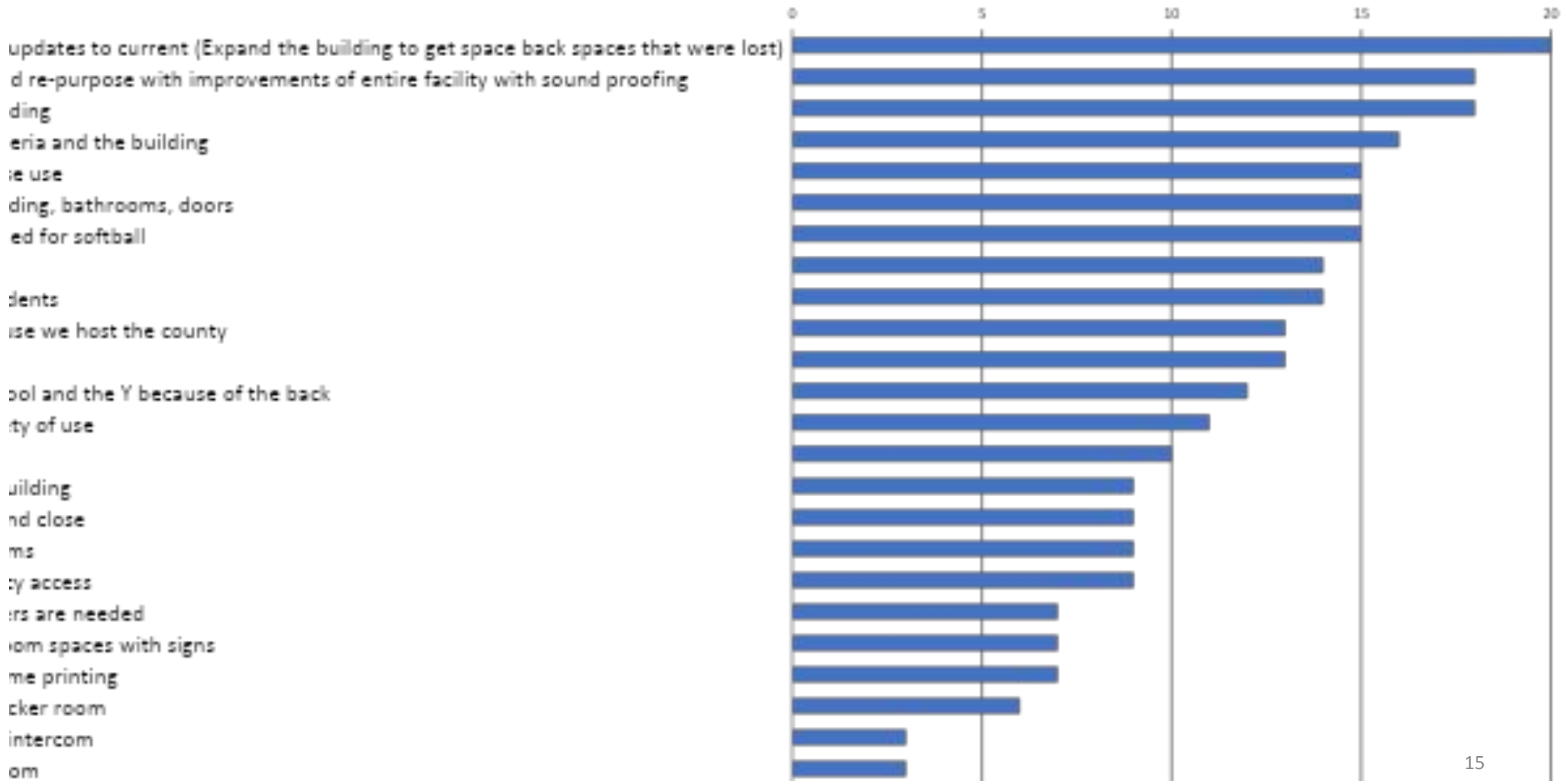


INTERNAL - What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?

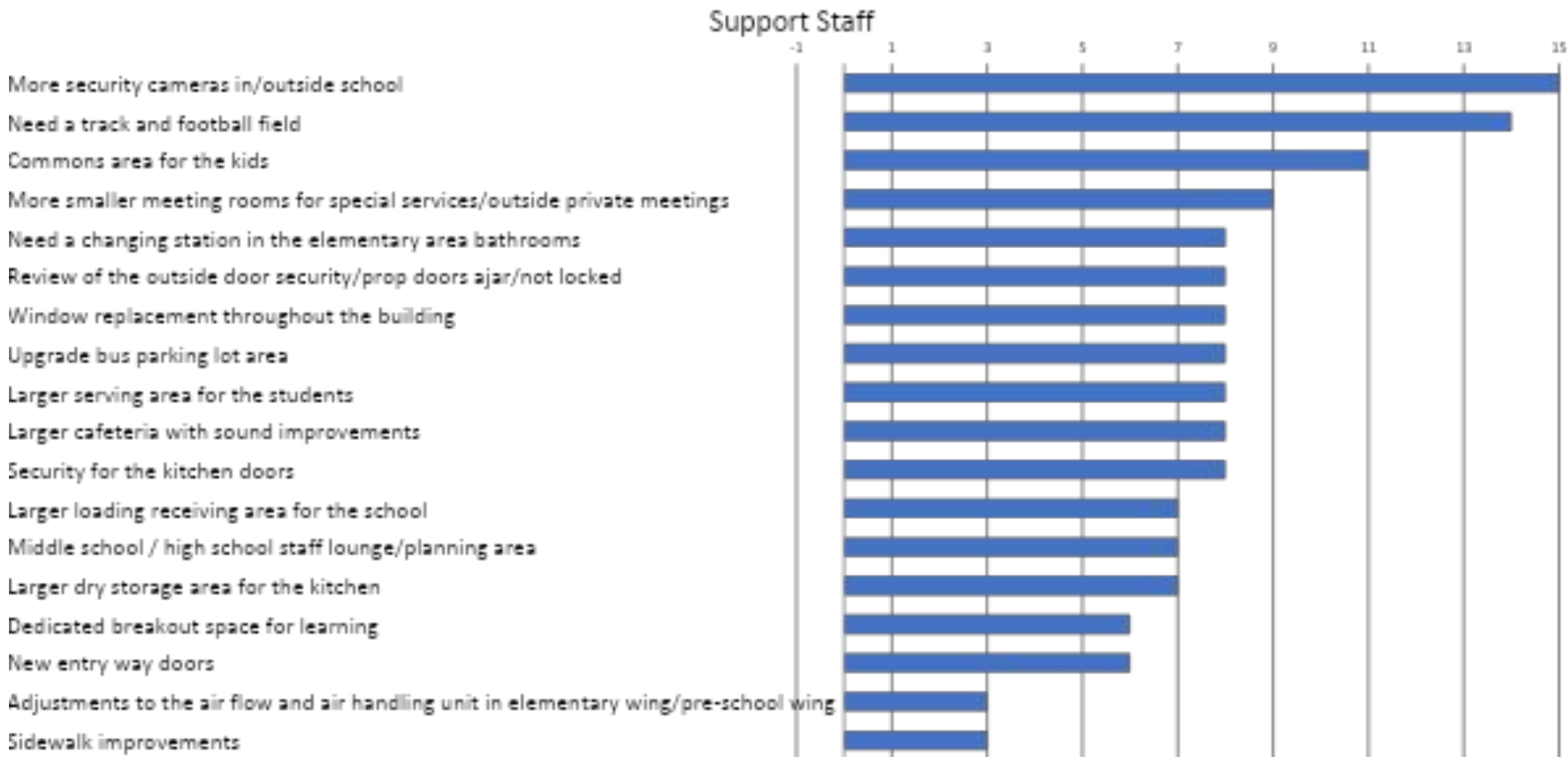


INTERNAL - What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?

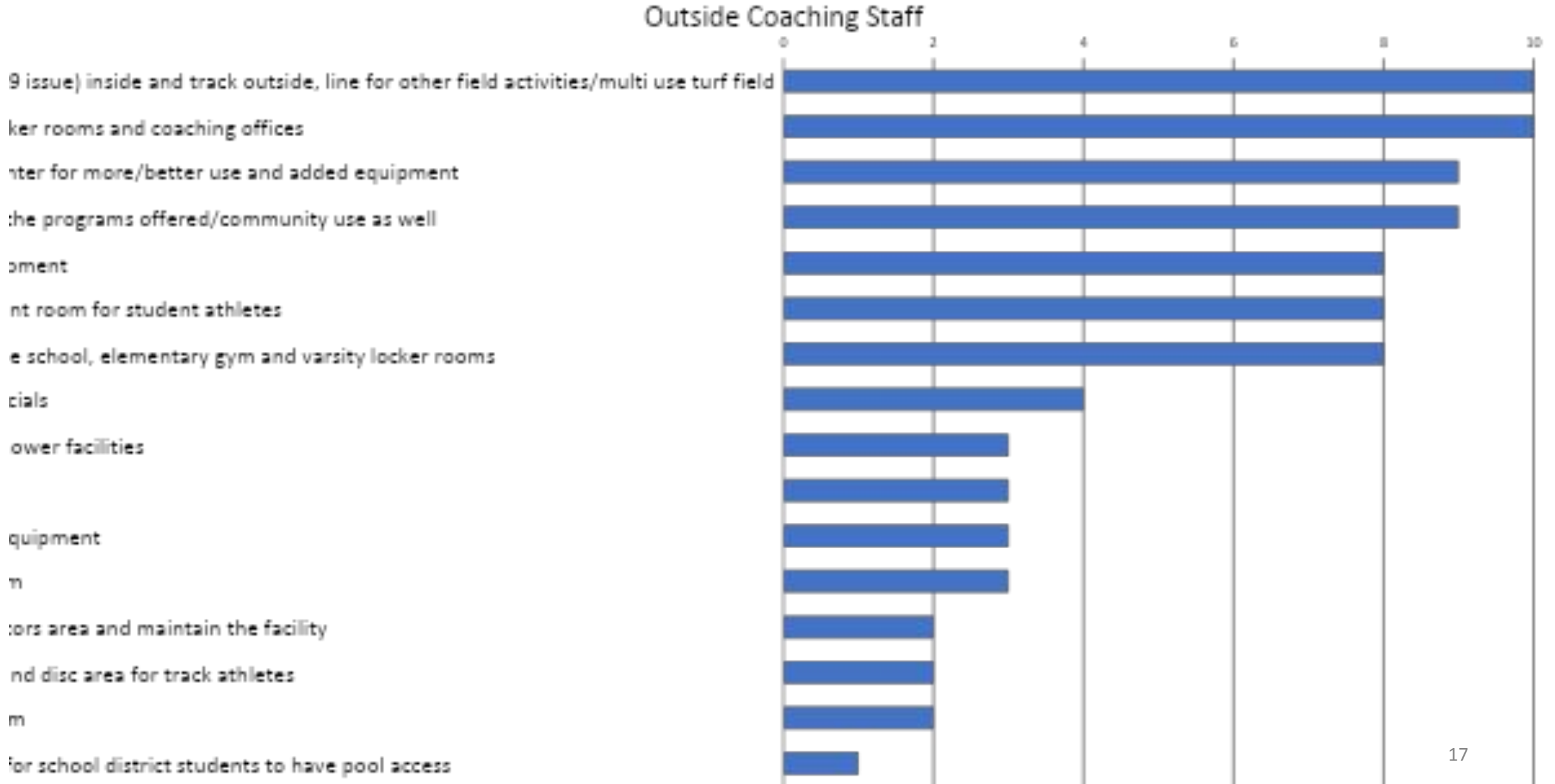
High School Staff



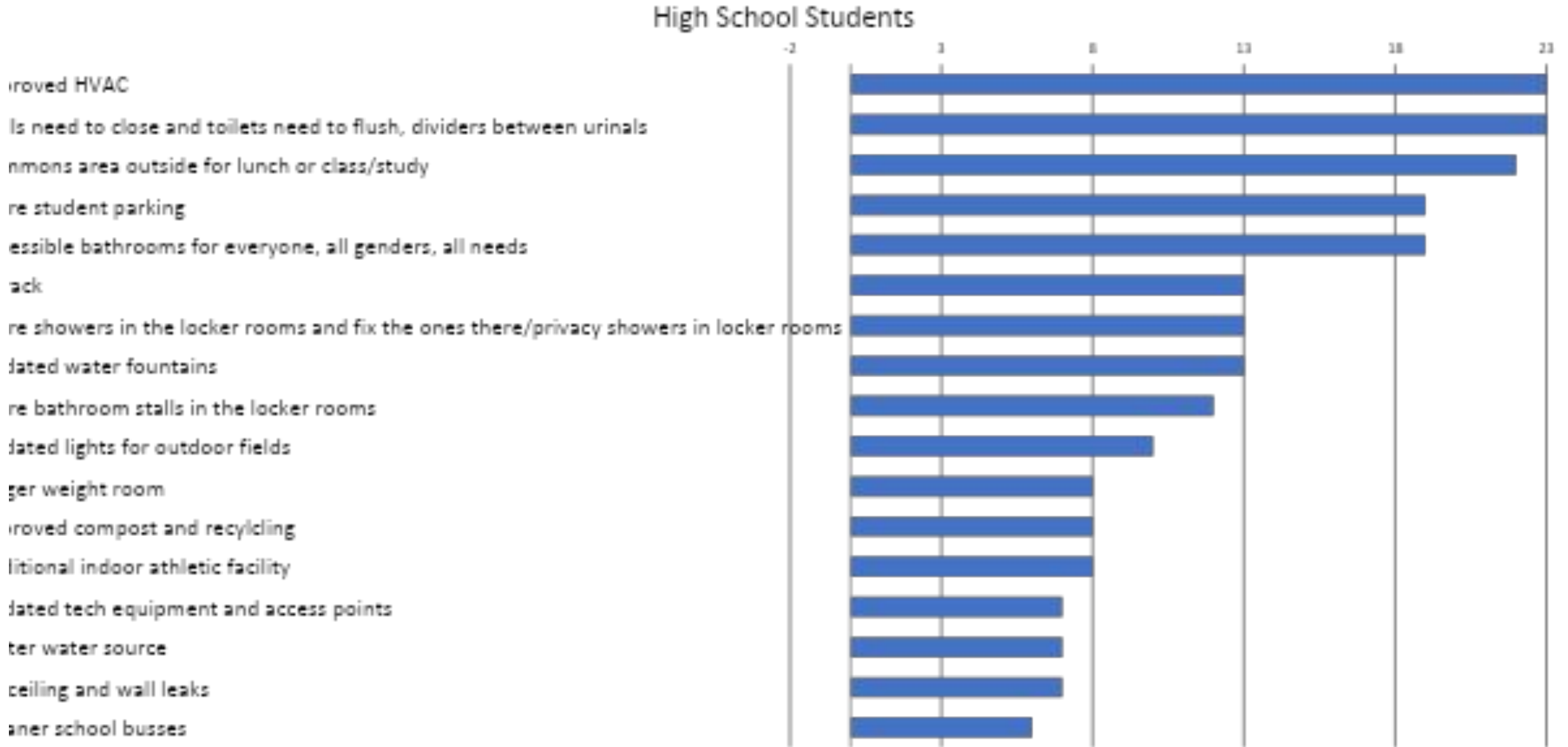
INTERNAL – What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?



INTERNAL - What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?



INTERNAL - What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?



Top Overall Facility Issues From INTERNAL Listening Session:

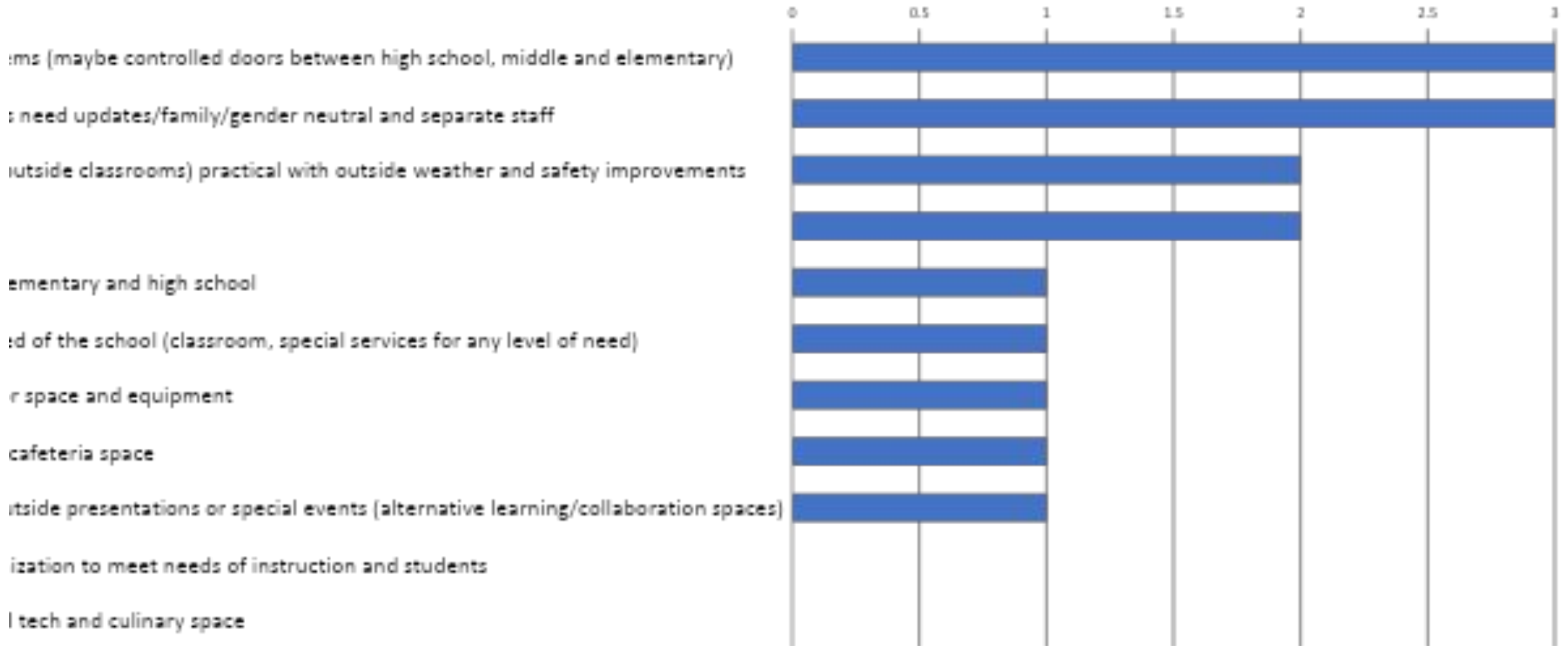
- Lack of co-curricular facilities (track and softball, light on baseball field)
- Commons/multi purpose space
- Bathroom updates and gender-neutral bathrooms
- Locker room updates
- EC-Pre-K wing updates
- ADA access in building and on playground
- Natural light for those who don't have it
- More classroom space at the HS

Cook County Schools

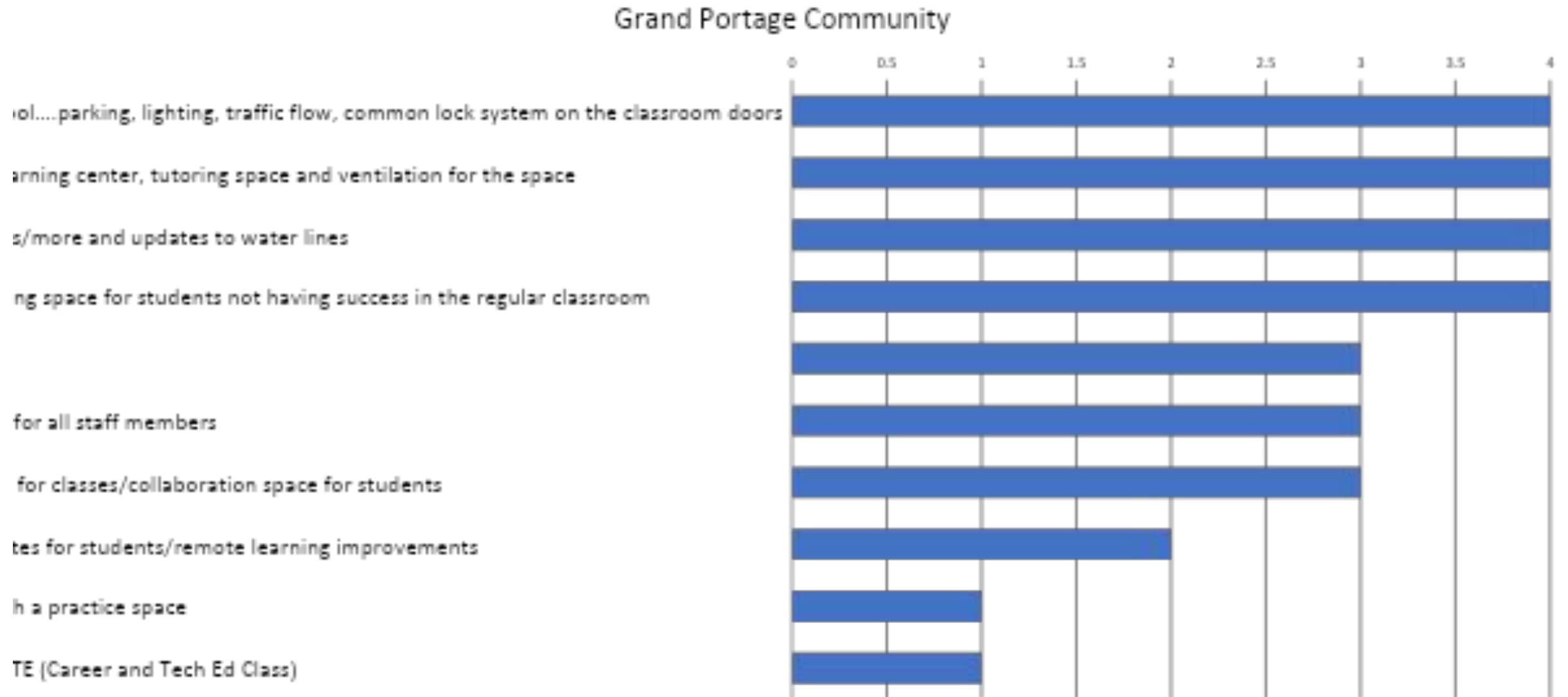
- Noise improvements in cafeteria and in the building
- More small meeting spaces
- Updated security inside and outside
- Office space for male and female coaches
- Larger fitness center/weight room
- More gym space
- Improve HVAC in the building
- Storage for building and athletics

EXTERNAL - What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?

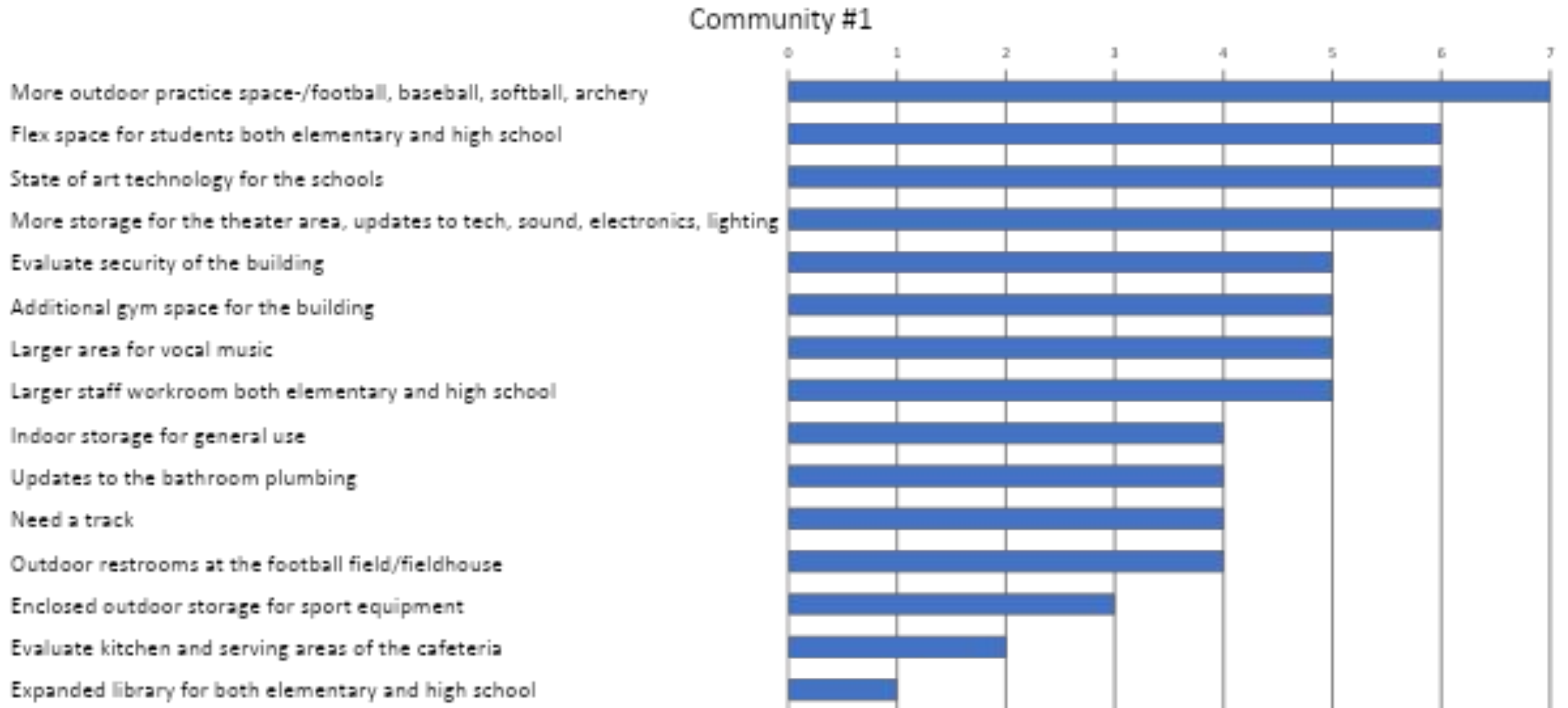
Community Parent Zoom



EXTERNAL - What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?

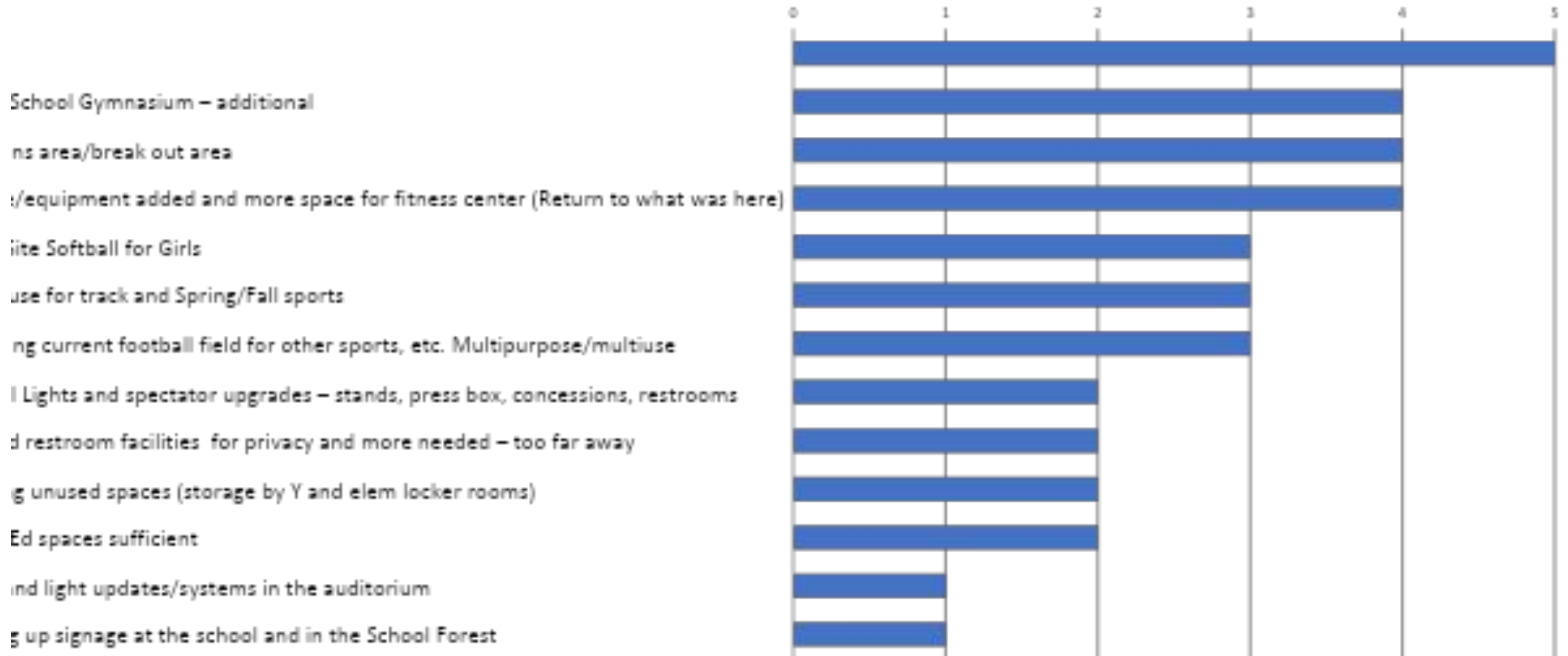


EXTERNAL - What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?



EXTERNAL – What are the Greatest Facility Needs of the District?

Community In-Person #2













Top Overall Facility Issues From EXTERNAL Listening Session:

Cook County Schools

- Better security system for door left ajar/common interior locks
- Bathroom updates
- More outside learning space
- Larger cultural center
- Alternative learning space
- More outdoor practice space for all sports
- Flex/multi use space used for both elementary and high school
- Storage space for the theater
- Larger vocal music space
- Track
- More gym space
- Commons/breakout space
- Larger weight room
- Onsite softball field
- Enclosed outdoor storage space

Top Facility Issues From ALL Listening Session:

INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS		EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS
Commons/multi-purpose space		Commons/breakout space
Multi-purpose/flex space		Multi-purpose space
Updated security inside and outside		Better security systems/common door locks/doors ajar
Bathrooms and gender neutral		Bathroom updates
Larger fitness center		Larger weight room
More gym space for all programs		Additional gym space
Small meeting spaces		Flex space for Elem and HS
Track		Track
HVAC updates in the building		HVAC improvements
Storage for building and athletics		Enclosed outdoor storage for sports equipment
More student parking		Outdoor learning spaces
More classroom space at HS		Alternative learning space

Thank You!



QUESTIONS?



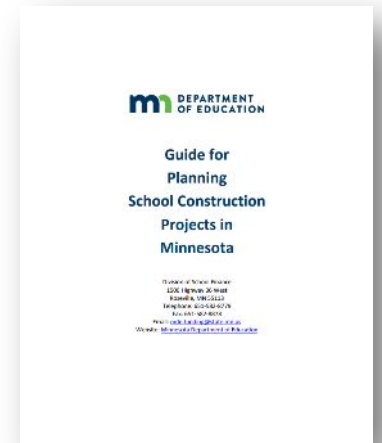
Cook County Schools Educational Space Adequacy Report



What is Educational Space Adequacy?

Educational Adequacy is a complete analysis of a school building focusing on the 18 categories as listed below

1. Classroom Size and Suitability
2. Cafeteria/Kitchen/Serving
3. Security and Supervision
4. Main Office/Nurse/Support Services
5. Science Classrooms/Labs
6. Art Classrooms/Labs
7. Music Classrooms/Practice Areas etc.
8. Teacher/Staff Collaborative Planning Areas
9. Student Commons/Break-Out Areas
10. Physical Education/Athletics/Locker Rooms/Pool etc.
11. Site Suitability: Fields/Green Space, Playgrounds etc.
12. Parking and Bus Drop-off: Staff/Students/Parents
13. Technology
14. Library/Media Center: Location/Size/Layout
15. Special Education/Support Services
16. Auditoriums/Performing Arts Spaces
17. Career and Technical Education
18. Hallways/Washrooms/Lockers/Maintenance/Other



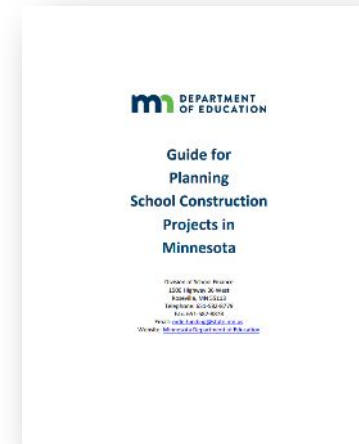
Educational Space Adequacy (example)

1. Classroom Size/Suitability

- General Purpose Classrooms 850–950 sq. ft., Kindergarten 1200–1500 sq. ft., Early Childhood 1000 sq. ft.
- Adequate storage/cabinetry/countertop space
- Adequate number of electrical outlets/computer/data drops
- Natural light
- Interactive white board, tack/white boards
- Furniture – easily movable – flexible for small groups

How The Process Works?

- ICS Educational Consultants walk through the building and evaluate all the spaces in the school comparing them to suggested MDE guidelines
- An Educational Adequacy session is held with the staff identifying Perceived Areas of Need and Perceived Areas of Satisfaction
- Consultants meet with the building administration for input, review and feedback



Educational Adequacy Color Key



Green

Adequate – Meets 4-5 of the Analysis Criteria – including MDE Guidelines for School Educational Adequacy.



Yellow

Questionable Adequacy – Meets only 2-3 of the Analysis Criteria but may be considered adequate based upon current programming/ enrollment and/or size of area.



Red

Inadequate – Meets 1 or none of the Analysis Criteria – Is perceived as a significant need by staff.

Educational Space Adequacy Results



Educational Adequacy Results

Cook County Elementary School



Green

Adequate – Meets 4-5 of the Analysis Criteria - including MDE Guidelines for School Educational Adequacy



Yellow

Questionable Adequacy - Meets only 2-3 of the Analysis Criteria, but may be considered adequate based upon current programming/enrollment and/or size of area.



Red

Inadequate – Meets 1 or none of the Analysis Criteria - Is perceived as a significant need by staff

CATEGORY		COLOR
1	Classroom Size and Suitability	G
2	Cafeteria/Kitchen/Serving	Y
3	Security and Supervision	Y
4	Main Office/Nurse/Support Services	Y
5	Science Classrooms/Labs	NA
6	Art Classrooms/Labs	NA
7	Music Classrooms/Practice Areas/Etc.	Y
8	Staff Lounge/Collaborative Planning Areas	Y
9	Student Commons/Break-Out Areas	R
10	Physical Education/Athletics/Locker Rooms Etc.	R
11	Site Suitability: Fields/Green Space/Storage Etc.	G
12	Parking/Bus Drop-Off: Staff/Students/Parents	G
13	Technology	G
14	Library/Media Center	G
15	Special Education/Support Services	G
16	Auditoriums/Performing Arts Spaces	NA
17	Career and Technical Education	NA
18	Hallways/Lockers/Washrooms/Maintenance space	G

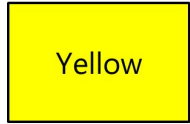
Educational Adequacy Results

Cook County High School



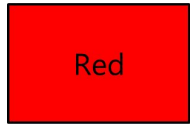
Green

Adequate – Meets 4-5 of the Analysis Criteria - including MDE Guidelines for School Educational Adequacy



Yellow

Questionable Adequacy - Meets only 2-3 of the Analysis Criteria, but may be considered adequate based upon current programming/enrollment and/or size of area.



Red

Inadequate – Meets 1 or none of the Analysis Criteria - Is perceived as a significant need by staff

CATEGORY		COLOR
1	Classroom Size and Suitability	R
2	Cafeteria/Kitchen/Serving	Y
3	Security and Supervision	Y
4	Main Office/Nurse/Support Services	Y
5	Science Classrooms/Labs	G
6	Art Classrooms/Labs	Y
7	Music Classrooms/Practice Areas/Etc.	Y
8	Staff Lounge/Collaborative Planning Areas	R
9	Student Commons/Break-Out Areas	R
10	Physical Education/Athletics/Locker Rooms Etc.	Y
11	Site Suitability: Fields/Green Space/Storage Etc.	R
12	Parking/Bus Drop-Off: Staff/Students/Parents	G
13	Technology	G
14	Library/Media Center	G
15	Special Education/Support Services	G
16	Auditoriums/Performing Arts Spaces	G
17	Career and Technical Education	G
18	Hallways/Lockers/Washrooms/Maintenance space	Y

Final Educational Adequacy Results

CATEGORY		Cook County Schools	
		Elem	HS
1	Classroom Size and Suitability	G	R
2	Cafeteria/Kitchen/Serving	Y	Y
3	Security and Supervision	Y	Y
4	Main Office/Nurse/Support Services	Y	Y
5	Science Classrooms/Labs	NA	G
6	Art Classrooms/Labs	NA	Y
7	Music Classrooms/Practice Areas/Etc.	Y	Y
8	Staff Lounge/Collaborative Planning Areas	Y	R
9	Student Commons/Break-Out Areas	R	R
10	Physical Education/Athletics/Locker Rooms Etc.	R	Y
11	Site Suitability: Fields/Green Space/Storage Etc.	G	R
12	Parking/Bus Drop-Off: Staff/Students/Parents	G	G
13	Technology	G	G
14	Library/Media Center	G	G
15	Special Education/Support Services	G	G
16	Auditoriums/Performing Arts Spaces	NA	G
17	Career and Technical Education	NA	G
18	Hallways/Lockers/Washrooms/Maintenance space	G	Y



Thank You!



QUESTIONS?