



September 2026

Garaway Local Schools Facility Master Plan Survey

Community Input Summary



Facility Master Plan Community Survey

273 Responses
Fielded Aug 17 – Sep 4, 2026

This survey reveals a community that cares deeply about its schools but is divided on how to address aging facilities. While many respondents support building new schools, others strongly value the district's small-town elementary schools and worry about taxes, transportation, and community identity.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. *STRONG AGREEMENT THAT FACILITIES NEED ATTENTION*
2. *AIR CONDITIONING WAS THE MOST CONSISTENT CONCERN*
3. *COMMUNITY IS SPLIT ON CONSOLIDATION*
4. *COST IS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION*
5. *COMMUNITY VALUES SMALL SCHOOLS, LOCAL IDENTITY*

Respondent Demographics

RELATIONSHIP TO THE DISTRICT (PRIMARY GROUPS)

Parents/Guardians (largest group)

School Employees

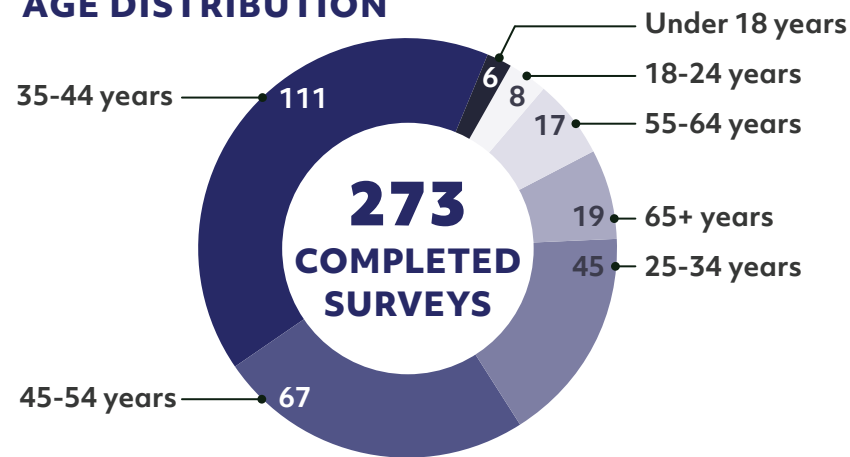
Students (under 18)

Alumni

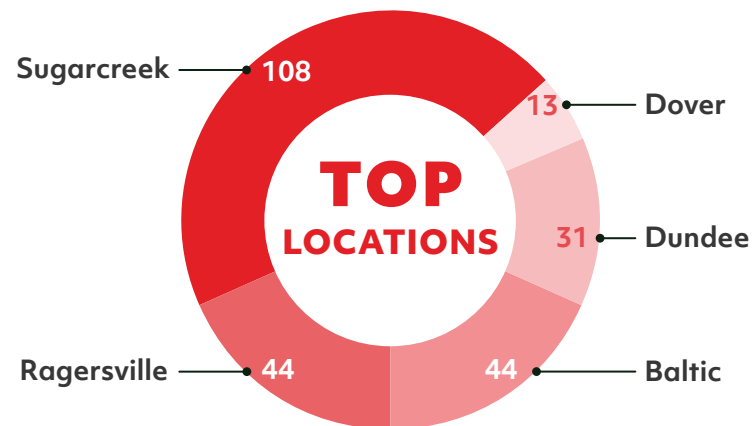
Residents Without Current Students

The results reflect a broad cross-section of stakeholders, with particularly strong participation from families most directly impacted by future facilities decisions.

AGE DISTRIBUTION



PLACE OF RESIDENCE



Key Takeaways: A Closer Look

Strong Agreement That Facilities Need Attention

The most frequently mentioned concerns included:

- Aging buildings and infrastructure
- Heating and cooling issues (especially lack of air conditioning)
- Maintenance and repair costs
- Accessibility challenges
- Safety and security concerns
- Limited classroom and support-service space (speech, OT/PT, counseling)
- Parking and traffic challenges at some buildings

Many staff, students, parents, and residents described the buildings as outdated and difficult to maintain. Comments repeatedly referenced uncomfortable classroom temperatures, especially in the 7-12 building.



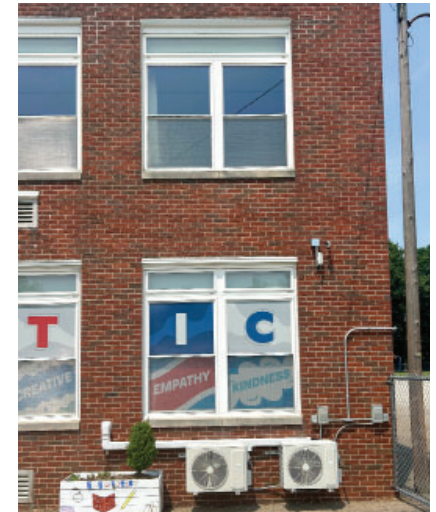
Air Conditioning Was the Most Consistent Concern

Across nearly every stakeholder group, heating and cooling systems were among the top concerns.

Many comments described:

- Hot classrooms
- Poor learning conditions
- Students and staff struggling during early fall and late spring
- Teachers purchasing personal AC units

Air conditioning improvements were viewed as a priority regardless of future facility decisions.



Community is Split on Consolidation

An idea was posed for a new PK-12 campus which generated both strong support and significant concerns.

138 SUPPORTERS



135 WITH CONCERNS

Reasons for Support



Modern Learning Environments



Improved Safety



Lower Long-Term Maintenance Costs

Greater Accessibility

Better Staff Collaboration

More Equitable Student Services

Future Expansion Opportunities

Align with Modern District Models

Reasons for Concern



Increased Taxes



Loss of Hometown Elementary Schools



Elementary mixing with older students

Loss of Community Identity

Longer Bus Rides

Traffic and Congestion

Vacant Buildings Left Behind

Frequently suggested alternatives:

- A campus with multiple buildings
- Separate PK-5 and 6-12 buildings
- Maintain neighborhood elementary schools; replace secondary facilities

Cost is a Major Consideration

Even among people who support new facilities, many expressed concern about:

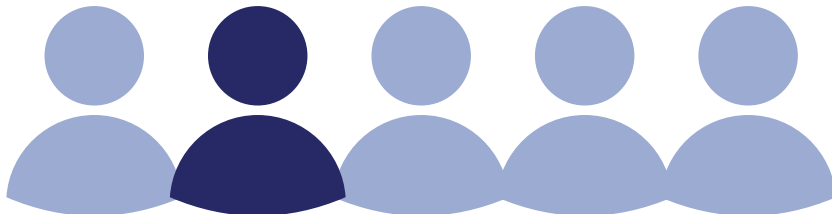
- Property tax increases
- Affordability for families
- Impact on senior citizens
- Long-term operating costs

Several respondents stated they would support a project only after seeing:

- Detailed cost estimates
- Tax impact information
- Funding sources
- Comparisons between renovation and new construction

"We need more information."

**1 IN 5
RESPONDENTS**
raised concerns about cost,
funding, or taxes



Community Values Small Schools, Local Identity

Residents consistently identified the following qualities as important aspects of the Garaway experience. **These themes emerged repeatedly** across survey responses and community feedback.

Neighborhood elementary schools

Small class sizes

Community pride

Walkability

Relationships between families & staff

Local traditions and history

Programmatic Priorities

Respondents were remarkably consistent regarding the types of spaces they desire:

Academic & Career Programs



- Robotics
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Foreign Languages
- Career Tech
- Agriculture/FFA

Student Support Spaces



- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Counseling spaces
- Space for intervention specialists
- Sensory Spaces

Arts & Activities



- Auditorium/performing arts center
- Theater space
- Choir and band facilities
- Dedicated wrestling room

General Facility Improvements



- More parking
- Better accessibility
- Indoor recreation space
- Community meeting areas

Most Important Factors for a New School Location

- Safety
- Proximity to athletic facilities
- Traffic and road access
- Future expansion opportunities
- Student transportation
- Cost of the site
- Proximity to the community

Overall Community Sentiment

What We Heard

The survey indicates **strong agreement that facility improvements are needed**, particularly related to building age, air conditioning, maintenance, safety, and accessibility. However, the community remains **divided on the preferred solution**. Supporters of a consolidated campus cited efficiency, modernization, and equitable access to services, while others emphasized preserving local elementary schools and maintaining the district's strong sense of community identity. Regardless of preferred approach, respondents consistently expressed a desire for **clear cost information, transparency, and detailed comparisons of available options**.



Areas of Broad Agreement

- School facilities are aging
- Heating and cooling issues need addressed
- Student accessibility should improve
- Safety should be a priority
- More information is needed before major decisions
- Transparency with the community is essential
- Future planning is necessary

Areas Where Perspectives Differ

- Consolidated PK-12 campus
- Multiple new schools
- Renovation of existing schools
- Preservation of neighborhood elementary schools
- Acceptable project cost and financial impact

The survey revealed broad consensus on facility needs, but differing perspectives on how best to address them.