

## Q2 INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE

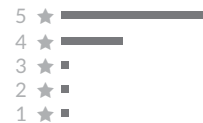
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board  
Building Brighter Futures Together @OCDSB

### Q2 What are some ways that the OCDSB could improve how we support learning and well-being?

#### Be More Flexible With Assignments. Allow Specific Moderations for Each Student.

Students should be able to do show their understanding their way. Don't force a non-creative person to do something creative and vice versa!

4.2  (26 )



*Students Grades 9 to 12*

**Music in Class** I love listening to music, it really helps me focus. I would appreciate it if the OCDSB were maybe more open to the idea of listening to music in class

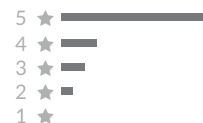
4.2  (9 )



*Students Grades 7 to 8*

**I feel strongly that arts and creativity are not well provided to students in the elementary school grades. More music, dance, and arts of all kinds.** More physical activity should be incorporated in all levels of education. Learning is a whole body experience.

4.1  (18 )



*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

**Know the students well enough to challenge them to reach their full potential** Engage with parents to work on getting the best out of each and every student

4.1  (14 )



*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

**Creativity is just as important as literacy and we are given no time to develop our creativeness. I want a radical change of our school systems. To cultivate creativity & acknowledge multiple intelligences so we can get the best out of people. You are educating people out of their creativity.**

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

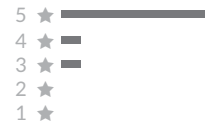
4.1 ★★★★★ (12)



**Support students so that they can speak about the AMAZING ideas they have. A tall tree comes from a small seed.**

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

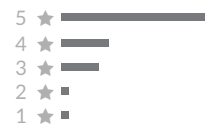
4.1 ★★★★★ (9)



**Incorporate physical activity into the classroom, especially for younger kids**

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 3*

4.0 ★★★★★ (26)



**So many expectations yet so little flexibility. Change the way education works to let kids learn what they will learn best. Look at switzerland. Trying to many us do everything at once is taking away our motivation to do anything at all. I get three hours of sleep a night, no time for it all.**

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

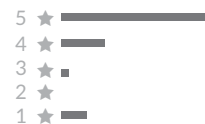
4.0 ★★★★★ (25)



**Too much play-based learning in kindergarten is not preparing kids for French Immersion in Grade One. Need more guided learning.**

*Elementary Staff*

4.0 ★★★★★ (25)



**Change kindergarten to reflect a more skills based approach that still prioritized social and emotional development** The current play-based model does not provide enough skill development and as these kids head to primary, they are woefully unprepared to move forward

*Elementary Staff*

4.0 ★★★★★ (24)



**Allow more flexibility in teaching methods and curriculum material** Too much focus on standard tests can limit variety of teaching material and methods.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

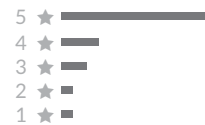
4.0  (19 )



**more acknowledgement that sometimes traditional teaching works well - e.g. times tables** both kids needed the basic before being able to build off of it in math - seems weird that this needed to be taught at home

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

4.0  (18 )



**doing more hands-on experiments in physics and science to increase their interest in science subjects**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

4.0  (17 )



**Less spilt grade classes.** We are not able to offer students the time and attention they deserve/need.

*Secondary Staff*

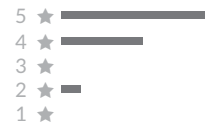
4.0  (16 )



**Teachers need to collaborate with other teachers.** We can have 4-5 things due on a single day!

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

4.0  (12 )



**There isn't an education system on the planet that teaches dance everyday to children they way you teach us mathematics** Yet all kids have tremendous talents and the education system squanders]them, pretty ruthlessly.

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

4.0  (11 )



**Teachers and administrators need to be better informed on developmental psychology approach based on attachment theory and intrinsic motivation.** Instead of managing behaviour with punishment or reward (extrinsic motivation), teachers should be focussing on relationship-building with students.

*Community Members*

4.0  (5 )



**Allow support teachers to withdraw students when appropriate, rather than teaching within the same classroom.** Classrooms are crowded and noisy already. When you have two teachers teaching at the same time, it can become a non-optimal learning environment.

*Elementary Staff*

3.9  (23 )



**Emphasis should be placed more on the effort put into schoolwork instead of the grades that are received.** I have developed terrible concentration and procrastination issues because I can get a 4 with almost no effort. Gifted students need to be challenged.

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.9  (21 )



**Flexibility for Homework/Assignments** I'm in Scouting so it's hard to complete homework sometimes. Every Tuesday I'm rushing to complete assignments. I usually don't get the best mark I can

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

3.9  (10 )



**Kids get too much homework. It compromises family time and adds unnecessary stress to their lives, especially if they have other outside activities.** Elementary and middle school students need time to relax and play. Many of their lives are scheduled to the minute and they have no down time.

*Community Members*

3.9  (6 )



**Teachers and administrators should be versed in basic conflict resolution skills to help children learn to manage conflict in a healthy respectful way** Conflict is inevitable. What matters is how we handle it. An important life skill to be able to hear and be heard, understand and be understood.

*Community Members*

3.9  (5 )



**I genuinely think there should be a limit on the amount of homework assigned per night.**

This sounds like the request of a lazy student, but when you're drowning in homework, you can't get enough sleep and stress levels go through the roof

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.8  (25 )



**Don't give lots of group assignments that require too much coordination over the weekend between kids who don't know or like each other**

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.8  (24 )



**Have the non-homeroom teachers be more "hands-on"--less paperwork, more actual teaching in the classrooms. Being given more paperwork to do--or websites to search--by itinerants is not helpful. Giving me ready-to-go resources would be helpful.**

*Elementary Staff*

3.8  (22 )



**I think that split classes are not good for students to learn. I think that split classes are unfair. More so to the older grade, but to the younger grade as well. I think this because it's like each grade gets ha**

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

3.8  (21 )



**Less homework PLEASE, while I may sound like a lazy bum, kids my age have more projects and extracurricular activities. Tone it down a little.**

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

3.8  (21 )



**Students need clear boundaries to help the manage their time and responsibilities students need boundaries and teacher need the support of the board to provide them for students to build resilience and time management skills**

*Secondary Staff*

3.8  (20 )



**I feel like the should be teaching more hands on stuff and encourage more creativity in homework and in class stuff.** Because a lot of times its just "fill out this booklet" or "memorize this chart" and not enough actual stuff that will be useful like cooking.

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

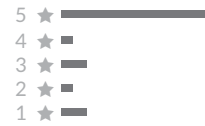
3.8  (17 )



**No TV Shows** Children should not watch Peppa the Pig in class or EDP. There is no educational value to that show.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.8  (17 )



**Reasonable amount of homework rather than projects and oral presentations each week. Children need a healthy balance of activities, homework and play**

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.8  (14 )



**Listen** Most teachers will ask for ideas, then say "well this is what I think we should do" and we do that no matter how many good reasons we give against it

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

3.8  (12 )



**More time to work on assignments in class. Teachers giving students more time to Work on assignments in class gives students more time to work on their assignments and also a reminder that there is an assignment**

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.8  (12 )



**Teachers should only assign work IN class, and restate it online in a timely manner** Often teachers post assignments too late the night to complete them and sleep and one is pushed to get them in on time and well done

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.8  (12 )



**These curriculums are created by policy makers most of which have never taught a day in their life just obsessed with standardized tests** like the literacy test we wrote last year, yet how can you really define success based on such a test.

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.8  (12 )



**We need to support our EFI teachers with better ways to help their struggling students in the classroom** The basis for success in French is oral language. Doing varied, modified oral programs simultaneously on your own is challenging

*Elementary Staff*

3.8  (8 )



**ensure all teachers embrace modern approaches to teaching and learning** all students need to benefit from emerging philosophies of teaching

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.8  (8 )



**Encourage new teaching methods that consider child psychology and development** Provide teachers with the training and development opportunities that can teach them to incorporate new methods.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7  (25 )



**Take on new learning methods** We hear very often about how well the education system works in countries like Sweden and Denmark yet do nothing to change learning for the better

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.7  (25 )



**I noticed most of the subjects rely on memorisation, while that's important, you should encourage creativity and discovery with more of your subjects.**

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

3.7  (19 )



**Continue to allow staff to focus on integrating ways to develop exit outcomes** We need to keep working on this for a while longer

*District Office and Centrally Assigned Staff*

3.7 ★★★★★ (18)



**Encourage staff to consolidate and extend inquiry approaches in classrooms**

*District Office and Centrally Assigned Staff*

3.7 ★★★★★ (18)



**Some children need to be given more challenging work, not just more work.**

Providing extra worksheets penalizes the children who are more advanced, but it doesn't challenge them intellectually.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7 ★★★★★ (18)



**Some students require more repetition to finally grasp and apply concepts. Send them home with exercises so we can complement what is done at school!** Teachers need to adapt to students learning styles. It's frustrating not knowing what is going on at school, and how to help the learning process.

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.7 ★★★★★ (15)



**Be more progressive,** As a previous high school teacher, I find the teaching styles old fashioned and lacking in imagination. Be more innovative.

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 2*

3.7 ★★★★★ (14)



**Try not to make fun, effort and learning to be mutually exclusive. It could even be argued that fun is what one feels when getting or refining a skill.** besides which a task being unpleasant and productive is often the exception and I think taking joy in work is the first part of a good work ethic.

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.7 ★★★★★ (14)





**Be more understanding that school isn't the only thing in our life!** We have extracurriculars, we need to spend time with our family, but teachers give homework as if homework is all we have to do!

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

3.7 ★★★★★ (13)



**Hands-on, hard tech courses for all students.** Exposes students to different opportunities. Allows students to be more creative.

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.7 ★★★★★ (13)



**Teachers should coordinate their homework.** Teachers think that if they give 30 minutes of homework it's not a lot but if all your 7 teachers give 30 minutes, it adds up.

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

3.7 ★★★★★ (13)



**Focus more on engaging students while meeting curriculum** It is important for children to enjoy time in class, it is too early in life to dislike Mondays

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.6 ★★★★★ (27)



**Some teachers do not take well to student feedback and questions and stick to the curriculum like glue.** Even in the gifted programs, teachers do not branch out from the required information.

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.6 ★★★★★ (25)



**The school system is progressively getting harder but the way we learn does not change. There is so much pressure, that older gens dont understand.** It may seem like we're being babies but rates of mental illness are rising and the pressure school puts on students is killing us, sometimes literally

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.6 ★★★★★ (25)



**Be more flexible. Our learning environment no longer works in today's society, it's burning us out. Many are afraid to say something, or play it off..** But the pressure is causing a lot of problems. I'm not saying change the material, but change the way you teach it. Life is hard enough as it is.

*Students Grades 9 to 12*

3.6  (23 )



**Standardized testing is hurting our learners. I think teachers and administrators need to stop focusing on how to increase the school score** We need to focus on the individual learners

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.6  (18 )



**Teachers coming to us for help** For some people they are scared to ask for help so teachers should come to us

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

3.6  (18 )



**Teach to interests and highlight strengths first** A student who is engaged and rewarded for success will handle constructive criticism better and foundational confidence will help build resilience

*Elementary Parents and Guardians - 4*

3.6  (17 )



**the teachers give way too much paperwork** We forget to work on our things sometimes and giving us a 0 for it is just unfair. My family takes me to places often, sometimes I don't have the time

*Students Grades 7 to 8*

3.6  (17 )



**Important to teach basics and provide notes for students.** Helps provide foundation for learning and notes provide structure and facilitate organization for learning.

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.6  (14 )



**Training teachers. I believe that one of the more important, of all skills for a teacher to acquire is his/her ability to know the learner.**

The more teachers know about students the easier it will be for teacher to adapt and craft (design) the lesson such that there is maximum benefit .

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 3*

3.6  (10 )



**Using alternative formats for educating and reaching out to students such as outdoor education, physical activity, and technological advancements.** Students can be motivated in a variety of ways, do not limit them to classrooms. Learning takes place everywhere and opportunities are limitless.

*Secondary Parents and Guardians - 1*

3.6  (6 )

