



A Message from the Superintendent: Community ThoughtExchange Results

Dear Chehalis Families,

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the ThoughtExchange where we asked you, "What's working well in the Chehalis School District, and what can we improve?" We had a very positive participation rate where we received 351 thoughts that received 11,704 ratings!



These results have been shared with building and district administration so they can review the data and build out any building or program-specific plans as a result of this exchange. This information is vital for making your voices heard and sharing what is important to you.

We continue to look at these results and may take action in the future, but I wanted to share a few themes and some of the action items we have already taken as a result.

In this message, I will be reviewing three themes from the ThoughtExchange:

- Vaping
- Bathroom Supervision
- Student Behaviors

Vaping

In response to the vaping epidemic sweeping across the nation, we've already begun working to help tackle this problem. It's no surprise that this issue is important to you as well!

Earlier this year, the Chehalis School District joined a vape litigation combatting companies targeting youth and marketing vaping products to younger demographics. Within our buildings, we hired a second school security officer who starts July 1 stationed on the Shaw Campus and we are in the process of hiring an additional staff person dedicated to supporting lunchtime and passing period behaviors at the middle school. I believe the presence of these two new hires will help us combat the issue of vaping in our schools.

We contract with True North Student Assistance and Treatment Services. This organization provides comprehensive behavioral health services to school-aged students. True North is certified by the Department of Health as a provider for outpatient and intensive outpatient treatment services and provides our schools with drug and alcohol counselor support. Contact with this partner is one of the first steps a student participates in when caught vaping.

Lastly, we are running events for students and families, including a W.F. West assembly

presented by Todd Thornburg, Chehalis Schools Security, on safe behaviors. We also just completed an event for parents of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders called: Parenting a Pre-Teen in 2022. One of the topics discussed at this event was vaping. We are dedicated to providing ongoing vaping education, prevention, and intervention.

Bathroom Supervision

One theme that emerged from the ThoughtExchange was behaviors in the bathroom and the desire for more supervision, primarily at the secondary level.

There are a few areas we can address right away. Main bathroom doors that are currently closed can be propped open and secured. Privacy for those using the restroom will still be maintained; however, securing the main bathroom doors open will allow for less seclusion for those looking to misbehave.

Since we received the results from this exchange, building administrators have increased their presence in the halls and around restrooms, and hall passes are being used more consistently and enforced.

Student Behaviors

It's critical to explain the *why* in some of the behavior changes we have seen in our schools. We have seen an increase in inappropriate social behaviors directly related to over two years of hybrid and remote learning. The stress of the pandemic has taken its toll on our youth. We are seeing this in the behaviors of our students, who are relearning how to act and interact with others in a school setting appropriately.

In addition to reinforcing expectations for students, we aim to support their social and emotional needs better. We are contracting experts to provide support for students' social-emotional needs from our Local Educational Service District, behavioral specialists, and True North Student Assistance and Treatment Services. These partnerships will help with the work already being done by our excellent mental health and school counselors.

We continue to offer public events on issues students face related to or heightened by the pandemic. On a school-by-school basis, work is being done to help inform, include, and equip parents grappling with the same issues we are facing in our schools.

Again, we are continuing to review all of the data from this exchange and will implement changes in the future to best serve our students and families. Thank you for your dedication to your children and the opportunity to partner with you in caring for them.

Sincerely,



Dr. Christine Moloney
Superintendent

[Click Here to View the ThoughtExchange Results](#)

If you want to learn more about ThoughtExchange and other ways you can share your voice,

please visit: <https://chehalisschools.org/yourvoicematters/>

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