

Backgrounder

SSBA “Add Your Voice!” Survey – Highlighted Comments



- “Each community has a unique culture that is only really understood by people who live, work and recreate there. This culture is mirrored in the schools. Our school boards need to understand and support the unique characteristics of the community.”
- “Right now, local school board members see our children as children and if we change that I am almost sure my child will become just another number on a piece of paper. Things are going great as they are. Why try to fix something that is not broken? Leave well alone and keep our local school boards.”
- “I am a teacher and am deeply concerned about the possibility of school boards being amalgamated.”
- “Locally elected trustees and school boards are critical to the governance process necessary to ensure local student needs are met and to ensure senior level officials are held accountable to supporting these needs effectively. We are seeing improvement in student learning and in efficiencies sector-wide. This practice needs to be maintained and a shift away will not support the growth the province is experiencing.”
- “As a principal from a rural school, I see no benefit in moving the boards farther away from the communities.”
- “I appreciate having a locally elected official as a school board trustee so that when there is an issue in my child’s school, I know who to talk to about it. A local face makes you feel someone is going to bat for you versus someone the government puts in place who may not understand the demographics of my area.”
- “Boards must represent local interests and must be elected. I believe that is called democracy.”
- “As a mother of two small children that will be entering the school system soon and as a teacher, it irritates me when I hear that there is consideration that school districts will amalgamate even more than they already are. I live in a very small rural area and even though we are small, we have an opinion, a voice, and our children’s education is very important.”
- “I am in a support role and work with staff and students on the front lines. There is no one model or delivery method that works for every scenario and situation. Local boards are best at understanding the unique requirements of their communities and are therefore most qualified to implement education within their areas.”
- “A province-wide school board does not know what the smaller communities need. Locally elected school boards keep their finger on the pulse of what is happening in the schools. You take them away, you take away what students really need.”
- “If decisions are taken away from locally elected boards, many communities will be forgotten.”
- “Education is an investment and I believe the local taxpayer continues to pay between 50 per cent and 60 per cent of the cost of education in this province. As long as local ratepayers are paying the education portion of property tax, they should be choosing who governs the education system locally.”
- “Nothing is more inefficient than centralized bureaucracies that evade public input.”
- “We must all work together to maintain our local school boards who support the complex and diverse needs of our schools, and most importantly, the needs of our students.”