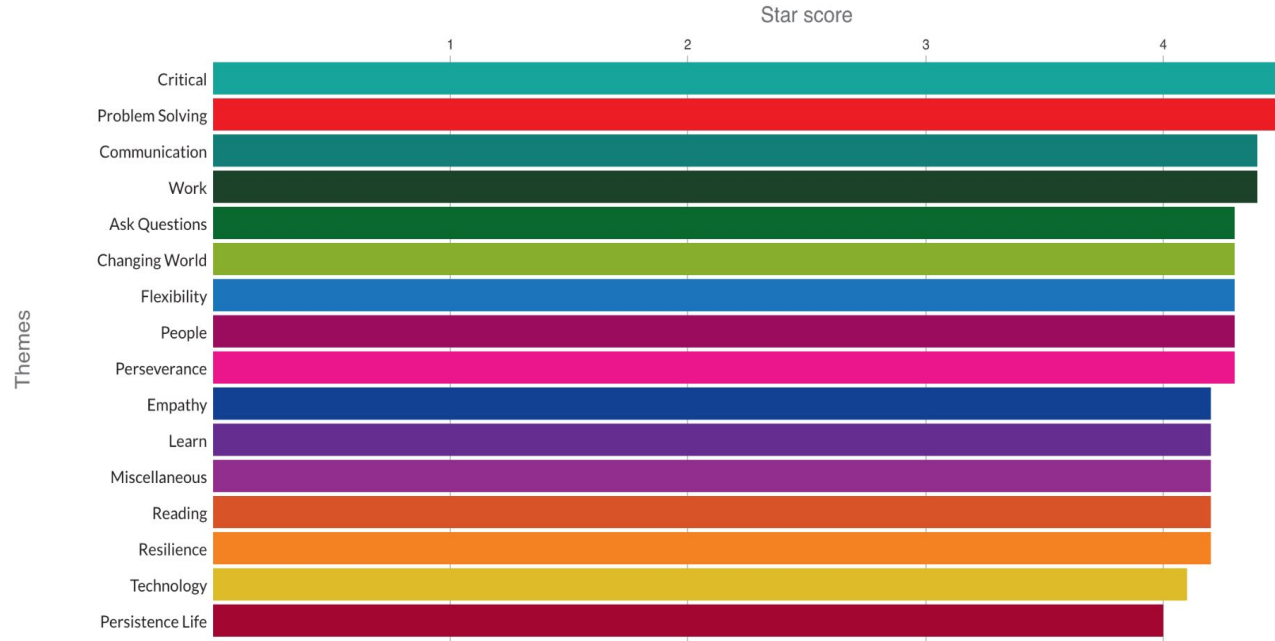


## Roadshow Round One: 1st Thought Exchange

❖ What are the skills that you believe Montana's young people will most need to thrive?



# Critical thinking & problem solving are the highest ranking themes



Critical Thinking: 4.5: 9 thoughts shared

Reading 4.2: 11 thoughts shared

# What Do Young People Need to Thrive Now and in The Future?

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## Core Skills

Students exhibiting their learning and growth against high academic standards on an ongoing/daily basis.



## Habits of Learning and Well-Being

Students develop an understanding of the power of learning and acquire skills that allow them to contribute to their own well-being and life satisfaction.



## Contemporary Skills

Students develop skills connected with future career success such as communication, collaboration, creative thinking, adaptive reasoning, the ability to stare down and learn from failure.



## Community Skills

Students develop skills that enable them to contribute beyond themselves such as personal and civic responsibility, seeking out the perspectives of others, courage, curiosity, respect, fairness, compassion.

# What Do Young People Need to Thrive Now and in The Future?



## Core Skills

Students exhibiting their learning and growth against high academic standards on an ongoing/daily basis.

5

### Basic Academic & Technical Skills

Basic academic skills, such as reading, writing, and math, along with technical literacy, are perceived as foundational for further learning and professional success. Participants advocate for sound proficiency in these areas to enable Montana's youth to access opportunities and navigate future demands. The impact of technology is substantial, making digital literacy and understanding technological applications crucial. Respondents view these skills as the basis for creative and critical thinking, facilitating continued education and adaptability in various fields. They also emphasize the significance of these skills in fostering innovation and preparing the next generation for a tech-driven world.

[Show references](#)

Roadshow participants' responses aligned with the skills prioritized in future-forward, learner centered systems.

# What Do Young People Need to Thrive Now and in The Future?

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## Habits of Learning and Well-Being

Students develop an understanding of the power of learning and acquire skills that allow them to contribute to their own well-being and life satisfaction.

1

### Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is frequently mentioned as a vital skill for Montana's young people, allowing them to analyze information, solve problems, determine the validity of sources, and navigate the complexities of the modern world. Participants view critical thinking as essential in a rapidly changing environment, where technology and misinformation are prevalent. They see it as a foundational skill that aids in making informed decisions, enabling individuals to adapt and thrive amidst challenges. The ability to think critically is also perceived as a tool to foster informed skepticism, help discern fact from fiction, and make ethical decisions. Overall, critical thinking is regarded as a core competency that empowers youth to be effective learners and contributors to society.

3

### Resilience & Flexibility

Resilience and flexibility are seen as pivotal traits that equip young people to endure and adapt to life's challenges and changes. Participants perceive resilience as necessary to maintain perseverance, optimism, and grit, even when faced with adversity. Flexibility complements resilience by enabling individuals to adapt to rapidly shifting environments, technologies, and societal expectations. These attributes are considered critical to personal growth and ongoing learning. Respondents underscore their significance in fostering a mindset open to change and learning, preparing youth to navigate and thrive in a multifaceted world.

# What Do Young People Need to Thrive Now and in The Future?



## Contemporary Skills

Students develop skills connected with future career success such as communication, collaboration, creative thinking, adaptive reasoning, the ability to stare down and learn from failure.

2

## Communication Skills

Communication skills, both verbal and written, are emphasized as crucial for Montana's youth. Participants believe effective communication facilitates teamwork, collaboration, and interpersonal relationships, which are essential in educational and professional settings. Communication skills are seen as a bridge for connecting with others, expressing ideas clearly, and overcoming misunderstandings. The increasing reliance on digital mediums makes traditional interpersonal communication even more valuable. Respondents highlight the need for young people to learn how to articulate thoughts meaningfully and engage in civil discussions, ensuring that their ideas are heard and understood.

[Show references](#)

# What Do Young People Need to Thrive Now and in The Future?



## Community Skills

Students develop skills that enable them to contribute beyond themselves such as personal and civic responsibility, seeking out the perspectives of others, courage, curiosity, respect, fairness, compassion.

4

## Empathy & Social Skills

Empathy and social skills are highlighted as essential for nurturing strong, compassionate communities and workplaces. Participants emphasize the importance of understanding and respecting diverse perspectives, which empathy facilitates. Social skills are seen as the connective tissue enabling effective interaction, collaboration, and mutual respect among individuals. In a world experiencing social media's influence, respondents stress the need for person-to-person communication to build lasting relationships and community bonds. These skills are perceived as critical in fostering inclusive environments and promoting societal harmony.

[Show references](#)



# Revisiting your priorities for students from meeting 1

## Academic Skills & Standards

- Strict standards on increasing proficiency in grades 1-3 (50% or 80%)
- Graduating seniors have to place into credit bearing classes
- Increasing math requirements to 3 years
- Fundamental knowledge of history and civics/citizenship

## Life Skills & Practical Knowledge

- Skills for daily living, checkbook, oil, tire
- Critical thinking and financial literacy
- Prepared to function as an American citizen
- College or CTE - need to be ready

## Cognitive & Problem-Solving Abilities

- Problem solving skills
- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- Know how they will use basic skills

## Social-Emotional Development

- Social skills → cooperation, conflict resolution, responsibility to a group
- Resiliency
- Motivation and initiative
- Self awareness/worth
- Sense that they are building their own identity/take ownership of
- Confident to enter adulthood "anxious generation"



## #1 → Teacher support

### 1 Teacher Support

Teacher support is a crucial category, highlighting the need for adequate compensation, resources, and professional development for educators to thrive and deliver quality education. Participants see this as necessary to attract high-quality teachers and retain them within the profession. There is a consistent call for improved salaries and benefits to ensure educators can live comfortably and focus on their important work. Respondents emphasize that the morale and motivation of teachers are directly linked to their ability to provide the skills and knowledge students require. This category also reflects concerns about teacher workload and the administrative support needed to prevent burnout.

## #2→Funding

### 2 Funding

Funding is a frequently mentioned category, with participants advocating for better allocation of resources to ensure schools and educational programs can meet the diverse needs of students. There's a perception that current funding systems are inadequate, leading to disparities and challenges in delivering quality education across different districts. Calls for increased funding highlight the necessity of supporting both basic educational needs and innovative learning opportunities. This category often intersects with discussions on equity, indicating a demand for a more balanced approach that addresses the unique circumstances of each community. Overall, participants see proper funding as foundational to achieving educational success and progression.

## #3→Providing students with practical, hands-on, learning

### 3 Learning Experiences

Learning experiences focus on providing students with practical and real-world applications of their studies, ensuring that education is engaging and applicable. Several responses mention experiential learning, suggesting that students benefit from hands-on activities that connect theoretical knowledge to real-life situations. Participants seem to believe that these types of learning sessions make education more relevant and can assist students in developing essential skills for their futures. Real-world experiences are seen as pivotal for preparing students to navigate today's complex society and workforce. This category also highlights the importance of flexibility in learning environments to cater to individual student needs.

## #4→Providing individualized learning tailored to learners

4

### Individualized Learning

Individualized learning emerges as a key priority, emphasizing the need to cater to the distinct educational requirements of each student. Participants advocate for educational strategies that recognize and adapt to various learning styles, ensuring all students have the opportunity to succeed. There is a widespread recognition that one size fits all approaches limit student potential and engagement. Personalized competency-based education is viewed positively as a method to achieve this aim, allowing students to progress at their own pace while ensuring proficiency. This category reflects a strong belief in the value of tailoring education to maximize individual student growth and achievement.

## #5→Role of Standardized testing

### 5 Standardized Testing

Standardized testing is critiqued by responses that suggest this form of assessment is often restrictive and fails to capture individual student learning accurately. Participants call for a reduction or elimination of standardized tests, arguing for more flexible and diverse assessment methods that truly reflect students' understanding and skills. The perception is that a heavy focus on testing can hinder meaningful learning experiences, stressing both students and educators and limiting creativity and analytical thinking. Responses indicate a need for educational frameworks that recognize and accommodate diverse learner profiles and that value learning over rote testing.



# Revisiting System Priorities from Meeting 1

## Public Trust & Transparency

- Restored public trust and confidence in schools and decision making processes
- Transparency in teaching and expenditures
- Level of trust – if we keep goals at the center and trust each other I think we can get there
- We don't necessarily align funding to strategic plans and needs assessments

## System Goals & Equity

- System objective → raise proficiency rates and close proficiency gaps between districts
- Set a very high goal for proficiency. It's not too much to ask that students can do the reading and math of life. How do we get the most? We have to set a high goal. It's a winning system if the system gets the kids where they need to be. The system can't be the main failure point
- We need a system that can intervene to minimize cross-district differences in proficiency but I'm not advocating for a test scores only proficiency measure

## Assessment & Measurement

- Measures of effectiveness at classroom level (not same as students) and data requirements from within the system
- Be deliberate re: proficiency - may not be test scores, may be remediation at college, may be stacked credentials, some measures and assessments but not solely test scores
- It might take a bit of time to come up with the right measures



# System Priorities

We asked participants to ‘drag and drop’ these statements into their preferred order. The most important was at the top and scored “1.”

Please rank the following priorities for Montana's educational system from most important to least important. \*

*Drag and drop the options into a prioritized order. The rankings only come into place once at least one option is moved.*

A teacher pipeline that prioritizes "real classroom" training and supports to retain teachers



High quality K-3 learning that sets the stage for success through graduation



Clear assessments that inform instruction, identify needs for student support, and correlate to industry credentials and postsecondary enrollment requirements



Funding is aligned to clear goals, provides resources for high-quality curricula and materials, and expands access to a wide variety of courses



The system provides transparency on its investments and spending, incorporates parent and teacher voice, and inspires public confidence





# Funding Priority Rankings

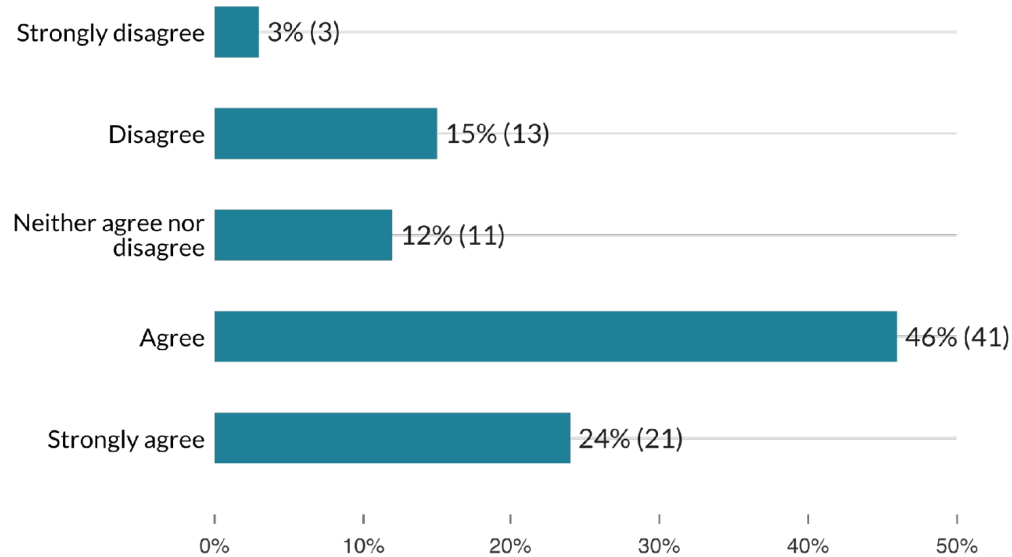
Ranking	Priority
1	Funding is aligned to clear goals, provides resources for high-quality curricula and materials, and expands access to a wide variety of courses
2	A teacher pipeline that prioritizes "real classroom" training and supports to retain teachers
3	High quality K-3 learning that sets the stage for success through graduation
4	The system provides transparency on its investments and spending, incorporates parent and teacher voice, and inspires public confidence
5	Clear assessments that inform instruction, identify needs for student support, and correlated to industry credentials and postsecondary enrollment requirements

Rankings from **highest to lowest** order of importance across all Roadshows.



# Degree to which participants understand how their investments in education are being spent

I understand how my personal taxpayer investments and my community's tax investments in public education are being spent.



Participants % (#)

# Initial thoughts regarding funding

Answered: 89  
Not answered: 12 ?

We asked if Montana's educational needs **can be met** at the current level of funding if officials can allocate funds efficiently and flexibly.

86% of Roadshow participants **did not agree.**

