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### Comments

1. I think that the state needs to drop the cookie-cutter graduation expectations. Not every kid is good at every subject. If a student feels that he or she is not a "student" type of person, let them go to a trade school and become a useful addition to society.
2. Very cool
3. Students must succeed in order to have a good life. Help them do that
4. You people expect too much out of us as it is.
5. We need to focus more on reading.
6. Stop giving state testing and let the teachers teach, and don't tell them what to teach.
7. Education is important.
8. None of us know!
9. The first question is GOVERNMENT BRAINWASH!!!
10. It may help them alot if they do all these things and considerer them very important like I do.
11. People should be able to read and write before they graduate from high school.
12. The law should crack down on kids that ditch school!
13. In my opinion, students already have high standards.
14. If the county would crack down on illegal immigrants, you would not have to focus only on reading.
15. Encourage reading! Reading helps educate in all areas: vocabulary, mechanics, etc.
16. Schools should provide more on the job training like the Regional Occupation center provides.
17. I think the students of today come out of high school un-aware of the fact that they still have to do something, even though school is out.
18. Education has become more important as the years go by. It should be very important to teach our future youth.
19. The low standards here held me back from my full potential, when I came here from a state with higher standards.



- 20.** Kids should still be kids. There is a point in making children grow up too fast.
- 21.** The education strategies are already raised so high!
- 22.** A big problem with the low-test scores of the city schools is not the fault of the teachers. The problem lies with the language barrier. It would be hard to learn math for example if you do not understand English. There needs to be one common language. Maybe there should be Spanish-speaking schools that are separate from the English speaking schools. If this is at all possible I bet the entire test scores would go up.
- 23.** Education is very, very important to the improved growth and improved quality of living to our community.
- 24.** Social economic areas-(Niles street, East side area) can't be compared to average, above average ( river blvd, Martin Luther) neighborhoods- no hablo at home is tough...
- 25.** This MUST start with parents!
- 26.** Encourage students to look at trade schools, also, and not only colleges. Skilled workers are needed as much as college graduates.
- 27.** Build things for people to do, like an amusment park or something. There is nothing to do here, and we have way too many homes.
- 28.** I don't believe we should create new programs like the Target Reading First Collaborative is the direction we should be spending our \$ on. We should enforce the higher education standards in the schools where it should be in the first place. Get on board with English as the 1st language.
- 29.** Teach students to write properly. Over 60% of new students entering CSUB as freshmen need remedial training in math, reading or writing.
- 30.** Pay me now or pay me later (welfare)
- 31.** Establish humane education/kindness to animals programs to Kern County/Bakersfield community to reduce pet over-population crisis, stress importance of spay/neuter programs. Construct a new up-to-date animal shelter facility that encourages adoption of homeless pets and provides classes on related animal welfare programs and encourages career development in animal control field of employment.
- 32.** We don't already do this? It starts with the family. The place we lack is with kids that are ADD, ADH and other similar learning disabilities. They are the ones that are being lost in the system.
- 33.** Too many HS students are graduating and are not ready for community colleges! Reading and writing skills are below 8th grade levels! Quit graduating students who do not EARN the HS diploma!
- 34.** An educated population is crucial for maintaining a free society.
- 35.** You can't raise expectations with mandates such as the No Child Left Behind Act, or with extending teacher tenure as our gov has proposed, or with rounds of annual testing. Parents--and this is a shocking concept--should have to attend school with their kids so many weeks a year to learn about their kids, teachers, and schools. You can create endless partnerships, but the problem here is one you can find anywhere and that is about half of all parents do not support their kids' educations. School is a place to dump the kids and keep them busy. If parents had to attend school say two-four weeks a year, and could do this without losing jobs, they'd become more concerned and involved in their kids' educations. Here's an idea: Let's address the poorest schools first by trying to come up with ways to alleviate family poverty so parents could attend schools. That could help make a difference.
- 36.** I feel teaching 1-5yr olds some things are important, however what I'm seeing is this age group not being allowed to be "kids" anymore. They are now expected to be able to read, write, know numbers & letters and even some computer things by the age of 5! It has reach the point tht if your child does not know these things they are already behind! Also, those who get to kindergarden should have a working knowledge of the English language. If they don't put them in a "special class" so the English speaking students are not held back nor are they "expected" to learn the other language. You can promote all the ideas you want - however, if they are not implemented it is a usless thought. It is too bad we have reached a point that we have to "raise" educational expectations. Used to be a "given"
- 37.** help the schools to achieve all these things and make sure that the schools have enough money to run safely and all the materials that they might need. ie. books, workbooks, etc.
- 38.** I believe there is currently too much emphasis in academia and in government on pushing high school graduates into college. Of course, college educated teachers think this is the panacea. A look at the



college drop-out rate should cause people to think again...and look back to the time when vocational skills were taught in high school. Costly programs, yes, but they gave students skills to go directly into well-paying and proud careers. There are private vocational schools turning out heating and a/c technicians who earn more than teachers. There is a "graying of auto mechanics" with the average age approaching 55 and a real shortage of new people entering the field. A Glendale based consultant has projected that in the future, we could be waiting three months for an appointment to have our cars repaired. An ASE certified mechanic working on base + commission in a private shop can gross in excess of \$80,000 per year. Nurse aides are certainly needed in our hospitals, nursing homes and doctors' offices.

- 39.** Teachers are very committed to the success of their students.
- 40.** It is critical that learning be based on rudiments and not just concepts. Return to the 3 R's, to include intensive concentration on reading and reading comprehension skills; writing, to include the rudiments (grammar, parts of speech, diagramming sentences) as well as handwriting development. Also drills on spelling, a lost art. Math basics need to be more effectively dealt with. Also, greater support in the classroom; each teacher should have at least one in class Instructional Aide.
- 41.** After graduation, education must be a persons own choice. Not everyone wants to go college. Make sure career options are a choice.
- 42.** Well educated people succeed, earn more money, contribute to pleasant communities and pay higher taxes. Put the money were it has been PROVEN to work - in educating our population
- 43.** This doesn't say how you would promote early childhood development. I think our public schools are a mess and throwing more money at the problem isn't going to help. The educational expectations of students who come from families who have an education is higher than those who don't so the question is geared toward more parents with less education. Most teachers see students as either college material or high school dropouts. We have many kids that could be successful if the teachers didn't give up on them.
- 44.** If these questions are not very important to everyone in this community then something is wrong, very wrong, with the community itself. the questions seem almost ridiculous to ask - doesn't everyone say very important?
- 45.** I'm sure you all have the statistics showing Bakersfield's lower educational output. We pay the price of having an uneducated workforce with a growing lower class and increased crime rate.
- 46.** K-1 thru K-12 in California is a joke. The teachers unions have destroyed education in California. Dump the whole system and go to private education. This will eliminate drugs, STDs, abortion and crime in our kids.
- 47.** Need to promote all types of learning skills and enform the community to the w,w,w,w,w,so our youth have choices in the style of learning.
- 48.** Do not forget the libraries, they are the first ones to take the hit when there is any sort of money cut.
- 49.** I believe that vocational training is very important. We have concentrated on college for everyone that we are leaving hundreds of kids behind everyday. Train them to be productive. College is not for everyone. We need people that can work with their hands (ie auto repair, AC repair, cabinet making,cement work, etc )
- 50.** The Kern County Library is a vital component of our educations resources. I would like to see specific recommendations about funding the expansion of resources provided by the library as well as increased staffing. As of now, the Kern County Library is woefully underfunded when compared to other public libraries of similar size in California.
- 51.** Too many parents with lower backgrounds in educationm and lower socio-economic levels, look on schools as babysitters, and pull their children out any time during the school year to take trips (usually to Mexico). Many don't start their children in school until a week or two after school has started in August. We need to educate the parents about the importance of being in school and being on time for school, as well as scheduling appointments for after school times, and keeping their childre in school.
- 52.** ditto
- 53.** Although all these points are important, education should start at home with the parents.
- 54.** Teachers have pretty high expectations. The problem is chiefly with the students and the community. If we invested half the effort in academics that we do in football and other sports, we'd be ahead of the



game. But this involves changing a deeply-rooted cultural thread in our community. It won't be easy, but it is vitally important. Reading is extremely important, but so are math, science and critical thinking. We need to prepare our kids to compete globally!

- 55.** Change the age to enter Kindergarten to must be 5 before they can start. Must be 5 by August 22.
- 56.** Of course, all of this goes along with hiring more teachers/professors and paying them a decent wage, not the pittance they receive so far!
- 57.** Higher educational expectations can only be met if all parties (parents, teachers and the state) are willing to make it happen.
- 58.** Newspaper articles have shown statistics that our children need to improve their education. Students arriving at the college level, do not have all the skills to be college ready. Collaboration between the schools and colleges would help work in the right direction.
- 59.** I think teachers have high expectations, but when the community and business, and government consider them as second class citizens, no better than babysitters, and do not give education the respect and value it deserves, then Kern County will forever be economically and educationally depressed. When we go back east to the New England Area, a noticeable value is placed upon education and educators like that in China and Japan.
- 60.** You're always preaching to the choir. The problem parents of the problem students don't care. Help and services are available. Throwing more money and new programs at parents that don't care will never solve the problem.
- 61.** Children need to know English before they start school; otherwise they're left behind and additionally hold up the rest of the class... and not every child has a textbook which is criminal.
- 62.** It will be difficult to increase quality of education in our local schools until we are able to stabilize the population in Kern County. We are too overburdened with immigrants already and now more people are moving here from LA because most of the jobs here in Kern County are labor or service industry.
- 63.** For the first two items add: Through informal education as well such as through programs and resources at the Kern County Library
- 64.** We need better parenting. There may be problems in our schools but teachers could do a better job of teaching if parents did a better job of raising their kids to be respectful. This is not a job for government to fix.
- 65.** Parents especially need to see that they are an integral part of their child's education--even before the child gets to school. Reading, holding a pencil, listening to directions...these are all important parts of childhood that start way before kindergarten.
- 66.** Parents should be held responsible for their children's behavior.
- 67.** For a community that is relatively small, it is very disappointing to see a large number of schools not meeting the No Child Left Behind policy. Smaller communities are usually better able to maintain funds and generate support from the community. I want to see Kern County rank as one of the highest educational areas in the country. This includes BC and CSUB which needs to offer more evening classes and a broader range of classes that address technological developments.
- 68.** Education is priceless.
- 69.** Don't forget the importance of the Workforce Investment Board. Don't forget the importance of vocational education as we critically need our skilled trades.
- 70.** Quality parenting is important.
- 71.** Our academic standards are substandard to those our students will compete with in the national and global workforce and university level. We need to raise our expectations of the local school board and our schools.
- 72.** Education should not be targeted mainly to develop a ready workforce to existing businesses, but must importat to encourage other areas of business development out of the traditional Bakersfield economy. Film and art, musica and theatre, all other not directly production related areas that would encourage the young people to view living, and staying to raise families, in Bakersfield as something more than doing time in purgatory. People should feel they stay here not because they have no other choice, but because they love thier city.



- 73.** Make parents accountable for their children. The schools should not be expected to raise children for the parents!
- 74.** Throwing money at the schools won't help. Demand continuity of excellence from teachers.
- 75.** The schools could do a better job of teaching self esteem to the students that have been "tract" and left behind. Alternative schooling for those who don't fit the model student mold or don't test well, but excell at things that are not in the standard curriculum.
- 76.** Bakersfield has expectations? Never guess it by our high school dropout rate. Emphasize zero-tolerance for drugs and alcohol and you will improve education in the schools automatically. Elimiate teen and unmarried pregnancy through various programs and imprope it even more. Require pre-marriage counseling for every marriage license (lowering the divorce rate) and education quality will improve even more.
- 77.** One language, English!
- 78.** Stricter adherence to the basics. Computers in every classroom.
- 79.** Need better manage programs like the First Five - does not need to be run by a former county good old boy
- 80.** How about starting a program for English Language Learners that is seperate from the rest of B.C.S.D.? It is not fair that No Child Left Behind expects ALL students to be proficient in Reading. Some students come right from Mexico and don't speak a word of English but they are tested the same as English speakers and their scores reflect negatively on our schools, so they seem like they are underperforming. When in fact the scores are going up in every subgroup but the ELL students. It is very frustrating!!!!
- 81.** CSUB needs to concentrate on their facilty, offering classes at night with teachers working their day job and then teaching "part-time" limits the classes to evening ones, turning the campus into a commuter school
- 82.** Regarding your last statement above....here's a comparison - Garces says to its incoming freshmen "What 4-year college do you plan to attend?" Public schools say to their incoming freshmen "Try to graduate from high school". It's all about expectations.
- 83.** I HAD MY SON GRADUATATE FROM SOUTH HIGH IN 94 AND HE WASN'T READY TO ENTER COLLEGE AT ALL. I LIKE THE IDEA OF HIRING SOMEONE TO INCLUDE IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS AS A CLASS IN OUR HIGH SCHOOLS. MAKING SURE STUDENTS ARE ON TASK AND READY TO ENTER OUR COLLEGES.
- 84.** 0 to 6 months the psychotic mind forms for children, it would be cost effective to teach parents how to be a positive role model, "How to have a blue ribbon baby, child, student"? I put my money in early childhood education for the family.
- 85.** This is a very tender subject...Teaching to the tests is becoming the norm...our children are losing out on a well rounded..and necessary education. We are creating NON thinking, test taking students...how sad!
- 86.** Research shows that parental support for education is the key factor in academic success. The amount of language/vocabulary a student knows when entering Kindergarten is also a key predictor of success, so you can expect that students who do not know English well when entering school will have a much more difficult time when acquiring educational concepts.
- 87.** Additionally, mathematics is an area that needs promotion, particularly amongst minorities. Perhaps we can jump on the band wagon with NACME?
- 88.** I'm a teacher, so I'm just going to hold my tongue...
- 89.** All students who graduate from high school should not continue with their education!
- 90.** Literacy is the key to just about everything. I'm all for raising educational expectations as long as there are appropriate opportunities and standards of achievement for students with a variety of academic and vocational interests.
- 91.** The educational expectations brought on by NCLB are already impossible to attain, yet teachers are trying their hardest to meet these goals for their children, their school Districts and the state. Let's give them some credit, not beat them down more with accusing them of not having high expectations for their students. Please!!
- 92.** Teachers' expectations are up high. The parents, especially immigrant and low socio-economic families, need to raise their expectations and their abilities to support teacher expectations for the children.



- 93.** Shocking how little parents are involved in their child's education in Bakersfield.
- 94.** Reading is very important but not at the expense of keeping children physically fit through Physical Education. Childhood obesity, diabetes and heart disease is on the rise. All students should have P.E. every day at school. The other programs are important also. Music, Fine Arts, Home Ec, Computer Classes, Math, etc. make school fun and help children to think about their future. Students should be required to pass a grade level exit exam before they move up to the next grade. There are too many 6th grade students at a third, fourth and fifth grade level. If a student knows they are not going up to the next grade unless they pass they will try harder. Teachers are doing everything they can to help students. Class sizes are too big.
- 95.** I'm more than a little suspect of the one about high school students and their academic readiness. I believe the local high schools need to move back to career training (i.e. business, auto mechanics, carpentry, etc.) for those students who either have limited academic ability or other interests. The idea that high school should prepare ALL students to go on to college is a pipe-dream from someone who DID inhale!
- 96.** Educational issues are being addressed by state and federal governments and agencies - other than partnering and educating the general public - these educational plans are redundant.
- 97.** My educational expectations are already very high! Your question sounds as though "we" generally have low expectations.
- 98.** Educators are doing a good job in this community. Parents need to become more involved with their children's education. That's what needs to be promoted.
- 99.** Small children need to learn to play. The emphasis on "education" for the youngest babies is poorly conceived. Children can't learn until they are physically ready. ECE isn't all that great an idea. Let them stay home and be loved. If parents took care of their children and made sure they did their homework correctly, there would be no need for "raising the expectations" through a community program. If parents don't guide their children, then community programs won't matter.
- 100.** Students should not only be academically ready, but for those students who are not college-bound, technical training should be given based on the needs of the economy. Many students are willing to work, but hit roadblocks because there are few training programs available to them during high school that prepares them to be auto mechanics, air conditioning technicians, electricians, plumbers, etc. These are vital needs in our community.
- 101.** Work in a coordinated way to revise the No Child Left Behind educational catastrophe.
- 102.** I have a child that is ADHD and PDD and the school in the county that he is going to will not help him in his reading and English and comprehension studies they rather see him fail because he is not able to understand I think it needs to be put in action that if children need help help them to understand we need help
- 103.** State standards and the current educational programs throughout the state have already addressed these issues. As a community we need to promote education and hold students accountable for their education. Students also need vocational training. As a community we are also facing some real issues of overcrowding at schools. There should be a plan for new schools.
- 104.** Common sense, respect for others and the community are more important than reading right now in Bakersfield. Quality of life before we worry about reading levels!
- 105.** No public funds for charter schools no N.C.I.B. no standardized testing none of this is equitable or effective. Raise expectations for ALL -- not just the teachers. Parents and community need to be held equally as accountable. Teachers have become scapegoats.
- 106.** Early childhood education development and school readiness should come from the child's home. If I remember correctly, my parents prepared me for kindergarten. Although, the expectations have been raised it is still possible for parents to prepare their children for entering kindergarten by actually getting involved with their children. I also agree that we should promote the idea that all students graduating from school must be academically, socially, ready to enter a career. Career training is an excellent start. We have a significant number of drop outs in Kern County who in turn often become single parents on assistance. Career training I believe would help these youth to see the value in themselves and that society is depending on them to contribute by doing their part to the lender and not the borrower.
- 107.** The problems with education cannot be solved only by money.
- 108.** Quit dumbing down the students, higher expectations from teachers



- 109.** Student will only enter kindergarten ready to learn if you can change how people in poverty behave - Responsible parents are already doing their part and paying for it out of their own pocket. As a working mother I would never receive any services because I earn a living. More money should be spent on preventing teen pregnancy and preventing unwanted pregnancies. I do not want city or county government moving into the schools - the federal and state government has put enough standards on the schools.
- 110.** Find ways to help our non-English communities (legal and illegal residents) to assimilate more quickly by having more accessible ESL programs available. We are getting a larger and larger non-English block in Kern county. The increase is going more rapidly than our schools and other agencies can keep up. The adults need to learn to speak, read and write English as soon as possible, for their children's sake as well as their own, as they try to find good-paying jobs. Along these lines, I highly recommend that you read Mexifornia, by Victor Davis Hansen, a professor at Cal State Fresno and a life-long resident of Selma. He is an advocate of the empowerment of Mexican immigrants through more timely and thorough assimilation. He says that as long as these folks remain unassimilated, they will become a drain on the economy rather than an asset.
- 111.** Focus on THE PARENTS!!! It is PARENTS who should lead the way in giving their kids a good education.
- 112.** I think the yrs it takes to become a teacher and the units that they need to take to keep their credential in most cases produces well educated teachers. I believe that parents are a prime reason our students are not successful.
- 113.** Put the responsibility back on the parents, as it used to be, to have students ready for school, ready to read and ready for a career. Parents don't do enough. They expect teachers and schools to do it all.
- 114.** As an educator in this community, I want to see more people becoming lifelong learners, using our public libraries and Parks and Recreation Dept.
- 115.** Early Childhood Development and School Readiness need to be offered at EVERY school site within every district, not just grant funded schools and districts. The entire community needs to be involved in the readiness of our children.
- 116.** All the above are related to a well rounded physical education program! Why are we cutting that program? The answer, to save the music program in the BCSD.
- 117.** Raising the expectations of students, teachers, parents, and the community is a wonderful idea as long as the children aren't "tested" so much that the actual education falls by the wayside. In other words there is so much importance put on the testing that the teachers don't actually have a chance to teach - they introduce the concept and then go on. That's the way the state and federal government has determined children should be educated. This is not education. In 5-15 years this should start to become apparent if something isn't done now to prevent a great number of children from falling through the cracks.
- 118.** I believe 80% of high school students have no desire to go on to college. We need academics, yes, and we also need skilled laborers. Why not offer charter schools that promote learning and a skill or skills? I believe this would be a good strategy in reducing our high school drop out rate
- 119.** While I agree wholeheartedly that education at all levels is important, and that we MUST take steps to provide ALL types of education, including auto, drafting, metal shop etc., the implementation will be very difficult because the "No Child Left Behind" is forcing our teachers to simply make sure that students know how to bubble-in correct answers, rather than have a constructive thought process to arrive at answers or solutions. We are promoting "thoughtless" graduates.
- 120.** I think reading is important, but would not go so far as saying it is the "most important part of a quality education".
- 121.** Stop pushing kids through school then having the kid have to deal with not graduating and being dumped into the real world...Problems should be identified early on and dealt with THEN!!! Stop teaching to pass the standardized tests and teaching the kid stuff he will actually use in life.
- 122.** The schools need to offer trade school education for those who are unable or just choose not to seek a higher education so they enter the job market ready to compete.
- 123.** The parents need to accept responsibility for their children's education and stop expecting the teachers to "fix " the problems.
- 124.** In addition to reading, strongly support science and math at all levels of education.
- 125.** Don't grade them teach them. Some will learn more than others. But they will all contribute.



- 126.** One of the keys to improving on our educational statistics is the expectation to achieve minimum levels - not promoting students on until they meet those levels - providing the necessary help to get them there. The earlier we start with this, certainly the better - if the expectations do not come from home, they have to come from the schools and community.
- 127.** Research shows that a child's brain develops most rapidly during the first 3 years of life and this time is crucial in the development of a child's emotional social and cognitive development...setting the tone for life long learning. This therefore makes it even more necessary not just recognize school as starting when a child enters kindergarten and should heighten our focus on children's early care and education. Support in this area can be provided by focusing on the promotion of a quality, trained licensed child care supply and development of early intervention programs. On the flip side, I believe we must also develop ways to support families through education and parenting classes, in an effort to encourage early learning within children's homes as well.
- 128.** Our post-secondary educational opportunity are third world and should be a scandal. We need a Doctoral level university in Bakersfield.
- 129.** I think it's very important that children speak English when entering school. Those students who do speak English are ready to start learning the fundamental basics and are not being heldback by those trying to learn the language. In addition, parents need to be more accountable for their children's education and be involved in the process, instead of depending on teachers to provide the much needed parenting tasks.
- 130.** Kindergarten was actually started as a social service program intended to prepare kids for school or first grade. It seems more appropriate to build on the instituion of kindergarten we have rather than create another program.
- 131.** I believe an additinal goal should include forming a community partnership among businesses, the community college, and the university.
- 132.** Don't know what you can do about this one. You need parent participation and less educational adminstration.
- 133.** Expect reisdents to speak English first!
- 134.** As pertaining to the last statement, I feel in some cases the expectations are already very high for students and teachers, but not for parents. California has the highest standards in the entire country, so I feel we need to try to attain the ones that are already set before we raise them higher.
- 135.** Our high schools are the weak link in our community. Based on the adjusted performance indexes most rank in the bottom 10% for performance in similar demographic areas. Our elementary schools do much better. We need to focus on that problem and correct it.
- 136.** the expectation of parents should be raised. Some parents feel that teachers are the only part of education a child needs. They are not involved. I would like to see some parents of children either get involved or get fined or something. It is a crime that they don't help. It is the child who ultimately pays the price.
- 137.** Lets listen to the educators not the politicians.
- 138.** Education alone is not the total answer for workforce challenges, there must be intregation of programs and mentors to explain value of motivation, positive attitude, goal setting for middle and high school students. Must reduce the number of low achievers.
- 139.** It is very crucial that the educational level is raised instead of lowering the standards. I am a foreign born citizen myself and firmly believe that English and ONLY English should be used. We should concentrate on teaching the children English and they in turn should teach their parents. Perhaps some kind of incentive program might be appropriate.
- 140.** This is soooo insulting to teachers.
- 141.** I don't like the idea thatkids need to be pre-formed like something coming off an assembly line. It discourages idependent thought and entrepreneurialism. Not everyone fits neatly into society's box and we need to build up the square pegs as well. Most people are aware Albert Einstein wasn't a model student. Keep this in mind!
- 142.** I also believe that it is important to raise the accountability of the parents with regards to the educational and SOCIAL expectations of their children. I am a very liberal individual, outspoken and the furthest from a Bakersfield Republican you'll find, however, "Please, Thank-you, and Excuse me" should be used by





each person, young and old. It would certainly change the level of respect people have for each other.

- 143.** I don't know anything about the Target Reading First Collaborative. Reading is a vital part of education but so are math, writing skills and certainly critical thinking skills. Reading by itself does not enable a person to contribute to a better society if that person does not have the skills to examine what is read.
- 144.** you can't accomplish any of this by teaching them how to brush their teeth and provide them with free meals. The facts to accomplish the above is to concentrate on the three R's, kinda like what used to be done in the classroom.
- 145.** Money use in some non profits or programs, give to the teachers to teach and not to baby sit or administrative work, classrooms are for teachers to teache to read, write, etc. ncuriche reading at family level at home ¿were they are the parents? I think they are the ones they need to start learning how to read to .....
- 146.** Promoting is a waste of money.
- 147.** Sounds great but we know that there are too many who will not graduate, so we will lower the standard to give all a diploma regardless.
- 148.** If the county is serious about improving its image then education must be at the top of the "to do" list. The unmotivated, uneducated, and eventually jobless individual quickly becomes a burden of the state and county. It's a vicious cycle passed on to offspring.
- 149.** As well as encouraging high schools to offer more occupational alternatives such as woodworking, auto mechanics, clothing and design, art and music
- 150.** All foreign born immigrants should be emphatically encouraged to speak English as a first language! That is the basis for success in our educational system.
- 151.** First of all, you must expect some discipline in our schools. I hear so often from teachers, "We can't discipline the kids." I am not talking of spanking. I do expect children to be in their seats when tests are given or when there are discussions. There must be respect in our schools and that includes their clothing and their personal looks. We should be training young people how to look when they go to work. Even the teachers look sloppy. There is no respect. When you have a classroom and the kids are in their seats and listening to their teacher they can learn. But, I have seen classrooms where there are kids crawling around under tables or getting drinks or sharpening pencils while a test is being given. I have also witnessed teenagers coming in between classes and threatening a teacher to raise her grade. What are we teaching kids today. HOW TO PASS A TEST IN THEIR SENIOR YEAR.
- 152.** First of all children must be children let them learn by playing and interacting with other children before they are force fed rules regulations and the like. Children need to learn to develope their own characters rather than being forced to be like someone else. The problem with the world is that life is too expensive for parents to take an interest in their children. People want children but they have the morgage to pay so who suffers the children, as they are handed from baby sitter to baby sitter only to be passed to another baby sitter that being Kindergarden teachers which are low paid un-appreciated baby sitters.
- 153.** Largest improvements in the education system start with the parents. If they are not behind it then it will fail.
- 154.** Promotion is just a way to spend money and get nothing out of what you spent. The parents should be promoting education to their children..
- 155.** Students can only learn as well as the teachers teach...there are a lot of dumb teachers that should not be teaching, listen to what students say not just school administrators.
- 156.** Education of children also requires particiation of partents. It isn't just the responsibilty of teachers. Possibly something to help partents in working with their children to help them be more willing and able to assist.
- 157.** Work with the Hispanic community to encourage education and intelligent lifestyle (better health, eliminate gang influence and crime) within their own communities.
- 158.** I think we fail our children/students when we put the burden of school readiness and quality education solely on the back of our local government. The expectations of parents and their involvement in their children's education is key to any initiative, whether it be community based or school based.
- 159.** Aren't some of these items mandated or addressed on a state level?



- 160.** Educational expectations for students and teachers are higher than what they were when I went to school. Example: When I went to school Pre-algebra was expected to be taken in High school now it is being taught in Middle school as a requirement in most cases. Students are already expected to know more today when they start school and 10 or even five years ago. If the student slips up once or dose not understand the concept being taught he has a tuffer time getting cougth back up to the class. If anything at all we a a community need to raise the educational expectations of parents and there involvement with their child's education.
- 161.** Kern County schools are good, but still aren't getting enough students ready for college level academics.
- 162.** Parents are (or shoudl be) responsible for getting their children ready for school. If children can't pass a simple test for entry to kindergarten, they shouldn't be allowed to go until they can pass. Parents need to be held accountable and responsible. Teachers should be held accountable for teaching. Children should not be promoted to the next grade level if they cannot pass exit exams. It should be a given that kids know how to read before they leave school. It shouldn't take more than teachers and parents to teach children write from wrong, or who to read, write, or do math. I understand that the influence of non-english speaking children is bringing down our test scores. Perhaps these children should be taught to read and speak english in separate classes until such time as they can be in a class without slowing down other students progress. If that means that the child doesn't start grade 1 until he/she is 12 years old, so be it. Why do we need to promote this idea? It should be a given. Period! Again, hold people accountable!!! From where it is now - YES we should expect better from our teachers, students and parents. The community as a whole probably already DOES better!
- 163.** Education starts at home. Not a village. Need to stress that parents are responsible for their children not educators.
- 164.** How do you propose to implament the first question more Government won't work I am not so sure about Target Reading 1st Collab.
- 165.** Although Raising the educational expectations of students, teachers, parents, and the community is important...Student self esteme might be atstake due to the fact that they may feel that they are not smart enough to meet the higher expectations so they figure why try!
- 166.** Parent re-education of their roles is also vital to increasing the expectations of the students.
- 167.** These strategies are lofty too but I wonder how these goals will move the community to reaching them. Can we think of specific strategies that can be done to move us to these goals?
- 168.** Education is very important! I think that reading is a huge deal and that it prepares you for a lot of different things. You have to start with children, they are the future. I think promoting any of these is an excellent idea especially the one about students being ready for a career because a lot of people stop caring after high school and they don't want to make anything of themselves. Expectations should be high for everyone or no one will care about education.
- 169.** Social promotions should be prohibited. Educational progress must be real, not artificial.
- 170.** Our community has some big challenges due to poverty and language proficiency levels. Addressing these challenges means we need to go to the base start point and work up from there (school readiness, reading, expectations).
- 171.** Stop pushing BC so much - high school kids here aren't ever pushed to look beyond BC. It would be better to help kids go to outside universities and encourage them to come back to Kern to work.

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