

1. "I believe that the academic standards are set at an appropriate level for the UP students."

- With the exception of math. IMP has not provided knowledge of algebra or geometry as shown on SAT tests and running start tests. My student is going to take algebra and geometry as a senior at the Com Col. He always received A's and B's in IMP but could not pass the basic algebra exam for running start. His math SAT scores were low. *(2 responses identical)*
- Academic standards should be set at the highest level allowing students to rise to their educational abilities.
- Students just outside the gifted education category are insufficiently challenged.
- At the intermediate schools, "adequate work" is seen as doing well. Tougher standards need to be held up.
- Answer is based on the fourth grade WASL. We have no children in upper grades to evaluate the other assessments or tools being used.
- I have been less than pleased with my child's teacher this year. My child isn't receiving spelling tests on a regular basis.
- Depends on the teacher! Some, yes, others water it down
- Get back to basics, dump integrated math and the state test, use the ACT or PSAT. Why reinvent to meet lowest common denominator?
- I believe UPSD is working hard to teach my children what they need to be success academically.
- 4th grade spelling must be harder. Examples of words were: these, with, has... my 1st grader has harder words. *(teacher's name withheld)* Sunset seems uninspired
- "Setting the bar higher" and "teaching better" are two different things. Concentrate on the latter.
- Except for gifted children. My son had to wait 2 years for the program and wasn't challenged enough.
- More emphasis on helping those struggling or lagging behind the class please.
- The current standards set high expectations for student learning.
- Is scoring higher than the State high enough?
- However, they start Elementary school WAY tooooo early in the morning for the kids to MEET the standards!!!! Start time needs to be 9:00 a.m.

3. "In reading, writing, and mathematics, our test scores show that as a district we are making acceptable progress."

- Not at the high school level. Our scores have not progressed since our baseline. Our SAT scores have declined in math. Our scores for primary and intermediate are good- with the exception of UPP. *(repeated twice)*
- I have 4 children in the district, one at each level. Math seems to be a problem. I would like to see the district scratch the integrated math program. The junior high math department needs help!!!*(repeated twice)*
- Although, the district has made some improvement, current scores are not acceptable. For a Blue Ribbon school, test scores should be in the 90th percentile.
- Very good progress at 4th and 7th grade level...junior/senior high needs to improve along those lines.
- Dumping the IMP program will help, getting back to the "standard" algebra, geometry, pre-cal, cal/trig ladder will make a huge difference.
- We still need to push harder.
- In a district as small, with as much family and community support, I feel that we should not see a decline in any area. This is how things go wrong across the board, justifying small failures then next year another small decline. ___ S. D. probably started out with 1 year of a slight decline. Look at them now.
- I think we have very bright children. They need a little more push.
- Again, we are "dumbing down," not pushing and guiding to skills they can use—even if not an academic.
- UPSD is doing well, but I also do not believe standardized test scores are the only factor we should look at--well-rounded students are better measure.
- More individualized math curriculum please (4th grade) as well as more creative writing. Reading seems excellent!
- Not acceptable for students under IEP's. Plenty of examples.
- My experience with my child has not been good. My child needed more help with math and did not receive it. Teacher was not having her correct her work, also in writing.
- Gains would be greater if disruptive children's parents were required to come into the classroom as part of their child's program to be better citizens. There are ways this could be done. Improved behavior automatically improves learning.

- I believe the schools should have more input about where the \$ from fundraisers is allocated. The PTSA should NOT decide what the school needs and does not need!
- Secondary achievement is unacceptable. The block schedule and the math curriculum must be changed.

5. “In Adequate Yearly Progress as required by the Federal Legislation, our students are making sufficient progress.”

- Once again look at our high school scores. As long as we are on the block schedule and our students do not have adequate instruction time, they will not get better.
- If you think it's acceptable that 4th Grade Reading and Math, and African-American students did not make AYP, then this district has more problems than I thought.
- We need to take care of our Special Ed population by setting realistic goals.
- I can only talk about Jr+Sr high school subjects, but most reading scores would rise if 3 basic steps were taken: 1) Vocabulary, vocabulary, vocabulary 2) diagramming sentences for better understanding [and use] of language and structure. 3) the reading lists for any grade are a disgrace. These books are fine - maybe read 3 or 4, but [particularly 8-12 grades] as a whole, these books are depressing, sad, not at all uplifting and provide very little in the way of a life lesson. What is wrong with humor? Fun? Clever use of language and/or story line? Fantasy [Science-Fiction]? For gosh sakes, how about something fairly current? How about mystery? What about the national or international best-sellers' list?
- More parental involvement? Provide after-school programs/tutoring opportunities - keep the students at school while we have them there?
- You already answered this question when you added the "note" to the introduction, 4th grade is in big trouble. if they did not meet the AYP for last year. The science WASL will be even more dismal. They must read to pass the assessment (2nd small failure). What is your plan for those then 4th graders and all of the Africa American students?
- There are many children getting left behind. They are taken out if their classes for special education. They are missing out on real classroom education.
- Race, sex, income should not be a factor (it is for federal funds) should push and not accept excuses for performance.
- Again, I believe UPSD is working hard to meet these standards.
- More math and science in 3rd/4th grades and more creative writing.
- Not acceptable for students under IEP's. Understand that separating Sp Ed students from their population skews statistics!
- My question is why does race matter. I'm so sick of "race" being an issue.
- Again, parent participation in their child's education is key to improved learning. Get black leaders to conduct discussions aimed at black parents. Get black parents into the classroom.
- Intermediate score improvements especially impressive.

7. “Although consistent with state and national norms, U.P. students are not making sufficient progress to close the achievement gap for special needs and African American students.”

- Once again I point to the block schedule. For high-risk students, this schedule is a complete disaster. 90 minutes is too long, and there is very little chance to bond with teachers when a student only has them every other day. (*Comment repeated twice*)
- It goes along with the culture of the rap music many of these kids are listening to. A careless attitude and “victim: mentality are what comes across in the music lyrics. I do not know what can be done to counter this. (*Comment repeated twice*)
- For an affluent district, winner of two Blue Ribbon awards, this should be an easy issue to remedy.
- I do not believe that special programs should be designated for African Americans. That is discriminatory for other students.
- This is an area needing concerted efforts of our families and our schools.
- There should be a great deal of shame that the students of African descent are finding it so difficult to succeed in this very small district. What is the real issue?
- It has less to do with schools and more to do with families of minorities. How many come from single parent families that can't give them the educational support they need?
- If you are teaching equally in class, what does a race have to do with student performance? Mental and physical handicaps can be addressed but not detract from others.
- I really don't know enough about this to comment

- I have no experience with either group mentioned.
- Benchmark other out-of-state institutions. e.g. certain Texas districts. No, money is not the answer, it is the scapegoat.
- Offer a study hall time during the day where students can receive help from peers or volunteer tutors.
- I agree if you consider gifted program a special needs.
- Get black parents into the school and classroom. Make them responsible for their child's success and behavior. Get black leaders involved in the process?
- The district must expect high levels of achievement from ALL students.
- We need a MULTICULTURAL parents club and not a BLACK PARENTS association (that is just not right). I think we could do more TOGETHER!!

9. "UPSD students are meeting the SAT standard in verbal skills at an acceptable level."

- This student body could be doing much better. (*repeated twice*)
- Again, for an affluent district and winner of two Blue Ribbon awards, current student performance on the SAT is unacceptable.
- Although participation rates are very high, our scores probably need to improve.
- Why is our participation rate decreasing? What are the students doing - where are they going after high school?
- What is acceptable?
- The numbers are impressive for SAT Verbal scoring averages!
- My children are Primary School students.
- Bravo. Let's all work to stall the erosion of the English language.
- The math program continues to produce students who are not prepared for college mathematics, as the SAT indicates.

11."UPSD students are not making satisfactory achievement on the SAT math."

- Those students who have been taking IMP can't even answer the basic algebra questions. Why was this program never assessed years ago to see if students were really getting a full year of algebra and geometry after taking IMP 1,2,3,4-as parents were promised? (*Comments repeated twice*)
- Again, GO back to the basics. Teach the disciplines of Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus. Forget the integrated stuff!! (*Comments repeated twice*)
- Math needs to be taught every day for 55 minutes. It is a sequential form of learning. (*Comments repeated twice.*)
- This is a direct correlation with the integrated math program and poor student performance.
- This is an area of weakness.
- Getting rid of IMP will help tremendously! Real-life use examples/applications would increase this as well— i.e. practical math or business math.
- "Dumbing down" math program.
- I would be interested in hearing why the District thinks the Math scores are below the state and national averages? What is being done to improve?
- My children are Primary School students. Am not sure SAT math is accurately aligned with real-world needs in BASICS.
- More math help is needed at an earlier time. My child is in 2nd grade and not getting enough help.

13. "The number of UPSE students staying in school to graduate is at a sufficiently high level."

- Compared to ____ S.D. and ____ S. D., the rate is acceptable. (*Comment repeated twice*)
- Again, for an affluent district and winner of two Blue Ribbon awards, current student graduation rate is unacceptable.
- These numbers are offset by the inflation of grades at Curtis.
- How do you rate "move-aways"? Running start?
- Have our numbers of special education students, etc., increased to compensate for these changes?
- Graduate if they have the grades, why care about the level except to ID areas internally to fix?
- Schools cannot make students stay in school, only offer the best opportunity for ed. possible. Students MUST take responsibility as well.

- My children are primary school students.
- At last check, we were better than average- but still alarmingly low.
- Is the alternative school still an option? If NOT, it NEEDS TO BE and we need MANY MORE OTHER alternative programs to help those who are likely to drop out! I'd LOVE to teach them by the way...
- Not high enough, we should be working for increases each year (regressed in 2002, 2003)

15. "UPSD academic goals/standards are sufficient."

- They are nicely written goals. (*Comment repeated twice*)
- Goals are adequate. The problem lies with the districts' inability to translate stated goals to measurable outcomes (improved test scores).
- Needs additional work on these non-WASL learning goals to be able to measure progress.
- Does the curriculum require that all students must study the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence?
- Get the basics going and get grades online for parents, I never hear from teachers. It should be life prep to a skill or college prep for those with the drive.
- Test scores have value, but well rounded young people who learn to think critically and learn independently is more important in the long run!
- My children are primary school students.
- Life skills, health and fitness awareness very much lacking statewide.
- Many girls are overweight or obese. Get the junk food out of the school. Improve the school menu (serving good, low fat and the right fat meals is not expensive or difficult.) Get rid of the pop.

17. "Goal 2 Lifeline Learning, Goal 3. The World of Work, Goal 4 Contribution/Service are sufficient to prepare students for their future?"

- These goals sound great- how are they to be put into practice? (*Comment repeated twice*)
- There are wonderful opportunities to achieve goal # 4 that the district has in place for high schoolers! Keep it up!! Goal #3 could be improved by stricter standards for behavior while on campus, not just in the classroom. (Banning cell phone usage on campus, foul language etc., dress codes, etc). (*Comment repeated twice*)
- Your goals do not reflect the practices within your facilities--students are not encouraged to be life-long learners, nor are they prepared to meet the workforce challenges of the 21st Century.
- Needs further discussion among the community.
- Don't know the programs. That says something right there.
- If the student takes it seriously. You get what you put into it, and the school is not responsible for giving children EVERYTHING they need for their future.
- ____ (Sunset) teaches "Life Skills" and gave parents the same list used in class-very excellent! All teachers should do the same! My son knows almost all of them by heart!
- I would value organized and mandatory community work programs more than organized sports.
- Need to see a few years of results before this can be rated.

19. "What is the ONE most important strength of our academic programs that will help our students meet these standards/goals?"

- The parents, students and most of the staff are incredible. (*Comments repeated twice*)
- Parent/School communication!! Expect parental involvement and make opportunities for parents to gain knowledge in what the district is doing. The English department at the intermediate and high school level is incredible! Keep up the good job! (*Comments repeated twice*)
- The only strength I can think of is the lip service you give to the community. The injustice negatively
- Teacher and parent involvement.
- Variety of program offerings.
- Accountability
- The quality of the majority of our teaching staff- caring, dedicated, and educated teachers.
- Back to Basic Learning.... Reading Writing and Math
- The size of the district should allow all students to thrive in all of your academic goals and programs. I firmly believe that the small town environment is one of the keys to a district's success in educating all children.
- TO BE LIFETIME LEARNERS ALL IS NOT LEARNED JUST IN CLASS

- They make the children responsible for themselves while getting the assistance they need.
- Instilling the concept of personal responsibility and respect for others is strongly emphasized in UP. Keep it up!
- To know that they can do anything that they put their minds too. And that there are people to help them when they need it.
- Strong teachers and parents that care and are involved.
- A good base to actually produce college or skilled people for our country.
- Well-educated, committed teachers who care about the needs of all the children and individual children as well.
- Teaching "Life Skills" (see ____-Sunset). These taught at school as well as home will be the best asset in adulthood. No question!
- Willingness to involve parents more and use online tools.
- Both my husband and I graduated from Curtis and also college. The current academic programs for our kids are definitely better in preparing for the "real world" than what we were taught. I appreciate that, but know we can do even better, especially in Math and Science and getting minority parents more involved.
- Hiring and maintaining quality teachers who not only know the subject matter they teach but care about, respect and assist our children.
- Research-based programs at the elementary/intermediate have been successful in raising student achievement
- Concentration on reading skills starting first thing students are in school.
- Community involvement
- Consistent display of leadership principles by faculty and staff, continuing effort to engage parents and community businesses to increase involvement. For example, Junior Achievement programs, etc.

21. "What is ONE gap or improvement in our academic program that needs to be made for our students to meet these standards?"

- Moving from a 4x4 schedule to a 6 period day where kids have consistency with teachers. Kids need English, math, science and world language every day. They do not need to take 2 PE's a semester, have early dismissal as a junior or be a TA as a sophomore. Having a decent math program where assessment is done on a regular basis. (*Comments repeated twice.*)
- I would like to see stricter standards for behavior at the jr. and sr. high school levels. US History and World Cultures teachers need to teach more historical fact and less personal opinion. (*Comment repeated twice.*)
- The most powerful improvement this district can make is creating a culture of academic achievement that begins in kindergarten and continues throughout their stay in the UPSD.
- You do not seriously address the needs of all students. The theory that we want to be "one big happy family" does not work!
- Better pay for teachers.
- Increased emphasis on math at the secondary level.
- Get rid of the block schedule - it robs the students of time and necessary continuity in core subjects
- Getting rid of the minority of teachers who are not doing the best for our children.
- Skilled professionals...not just babysitters
- Earlier intervention in reading and math. The use of databased instructional materials. (Read Well, Open Court, Star Math) Assessments must be an on-going process and frequent.
- TRIAD OR LIKE PROGRAM RETURNED FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE HIGHLY CAPABLE, BUT DON'T MEET CHALLENGE CRITERIA OR CHOOSE NOT TO BE IN THAT CLASS
- When they are taken out of the classroom for extra help, they are not learning what is going on in the classroom.
- I believe the children need more reading. The 3rd graders should have more book reports to do. That way they are prepared for what comes in the 4th grade.
- Instead of all the school improvement meetings for teachers, let them use that time to work together to plan and prepare.
- MATH: finance starting in elementary school, Business in middle, History not the news and how it does or doesn't affect you.
- I am unsure at this time.
- Higher spelling and creative writing standards.

- Anything hampering the above strength?
- Math.
- MATH help
- Tie parent/classroom participation together. If all parents had to give time in their child's classroom at least three times a year, test scores would increase without any other changes. This is proven in public schools run by the military.
- Need stronger math and science emphasis.
- Attention to the Arts and Sciences programs, especially in elementary years.
- A rigorous curriculum in place for secondary students---we no longer have a college prep curriculum. Eliminate the (*block-sic*) schedule!
- Improve the secondary math program and get rid of block schedule. Achievement gap is very troubling.
- START SCHOOL at an APPROPRIATE TIME!!!! My 5 year old just got out of (barely) taking naps to waking up to an ALARM clock at 6:45 am. for Kindergarten??? There is something VERY WRONG WITH THAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- A goal that includes ways to encourage parental involvement with the student's life on and off campus.
- PLEASE REQUIRE TEACHER/STUDENTS TO USE A SYLLIBUS FOR ALL CLASSES STARTING IN JUNIOR HIGH. This is the only way to consistently keep parents, students and teachers on the same page. The agenda system used now is not effective!

23. "What other idea do you have that the district should consider as we work on these standards/goals?"

- Change 4x4 schedule to 6 periods as strongly advised at the first link meeting and by all research. (*Comments repeated twice.*)
- Look at your survey of students coming from low-income housing and compare the progress made to those students who are coming from a higher income home. Nationwide, income levels are correlated to academic performance. Possibly working on communication and parental involvement with these families may help. (*Comment repeated twice.*)
- The district needs to practice what it preaches...Honesty, Following Rules, Teamwork, Cooperation, etc. When administration exhibits these values so will your students.
- Not all homes instill standards and guidelines for their children. You should acknowledge this and make the necessary changes accordingly.
- More after-school enrichment programs.
- Must remain focused on reading, math, and writing skill improvement.
- Hire a consultant (or lawyer) who is experienced in education issues/law - who can advise our district how to get rid of non-performing teachers, and who can provide backbone & the law to stand up to parents who threaten to sue.
- Forget testing and teaching towards the WASL...teach the basic learning skills needed to enter upper level educational course work at college.
- We should benchmark successful districts in the nation for best practices and settle for no less than their results.
- DISCOURAGE EDUCATORS FROM FOCUSING ON MAKING KIDS PREPARED FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL~FOCUS ON HAVING THEM MASTER THE GRADES (*Content?-sic*) THEY ARE IN NOW!
- Remove the disruptive children from the classroom.
- More and more parental involvement in school activities to free instructors to do what they do best...teach! UP is already great at this!
- Cut out the half day Wednesdays for the jr/high and high schools. Or, as mentioned earlier, let the teachers use that time in a more productive manner.
- Online reports, I do work for my job to get it done, teachers need to input grades and comments (use the computers) and get them online to the parents. I had monthly reports in grade school.
- I would need to be more involved before making comments about items as important as this.
- Public speaking, weekly spelling bee's, Life Skills role-playing, creative writing assignments and competitions
- Get a grant (hire a professional grant application writer) to fund some of these ideas.
- Add community service.
- Focus on how to get math scores at a more acceptable level.

- Use the resources available to you in the community to assist you with educating the children and providing funds for the schools.
- Give the superintendent authority to radically change the secondary program, especially in math and English. Get rid of lame electives.
- Are we trying to do too many things and spread ourselves too thin? Concentrate on the basics.
- I've emailed _____ twice on starting school at a more appropriate time for younger kids- and haven't heard one peep back from her. PLEASE DO SOMETHING-- at the LEAST... listen!?!)
- As stated in #21 using a syllabus is the best way for the students to stay on track. My oldest son recently graduated and when he went to college, he said how much easier it is to stay organized because of the syllabus. We should offer this tool to every student.

24. “Comment: Please limit your comment to three lines per question.”

- Nothing seems to be done from the information from the link meetings. What will be done now? One reason USPD shines in South Pierce County is that they have no competition from the neighboring districts. *(Comments repeated twice.)*
- Quit the rhetoric and start educating kids in a collaborative, respectful environment where learning is fun and involves all key stakeholders.
- UPSD is doing a great job over-all. We moved to University Place because it has great schools, and that is why we are staying.
- Our sons have had nothing but success in UPSD. Our concern stems from the saying that “it takes a village.” We are a small caring village in UP, and we should be a beacon that all districts aspire to. The only way this is possible is to “leave no child behind.” _____, I believe this is in your heart, and you can make it so. We will do our part
- Thanks for the opportunity to respond to this survey!
- Rework the bus schedule so the primaries start earlier and the high school kids, who can't function so early in the morning, start later. The schedule is backwards!
- Great base to work with, but get away from social programming and get back to school.
- Overall, I would rate UPSD as excellent. I commute 1-1 1/2 hours EACH WAY for work in order to keep kids in UPSD.
- The 27th question (“*help us sort our data to make sure that we are sensitive to cultural diversity*”) does not allow more than one selection to be made. My family is white and Native American. Mixed race does not really accurately identify for purposes of analysis, the demographics of the school population. *(Note: “Mixed race” is the only way to honor any mixture given the number of response choices allowable.)*
- We have been in the school system grades K-4 for 2 years. I don't know much about the Jr./Sr. High curriculums to have an opinion about the rigors of the program. In general, I think our nation should put a lot more money/effort into education, as it is our future.
- To ensure a safe learning environment for our children that encourages them to be active participants in their education.
- This is a wonderful school district and my daughter has learned a great deal here. We will continue to live in this area because of UPSD
- Thank you for giving this opportunity.