

Question #4 – Previous Themes – Certain themes emerged from previous 212 regional meetings; what are your observations regarding these themes?

Responses:

- There are many of the same concerns.
- Where have we failed? – Why?
- Have the demands on students increased?
- Motivation – Self
- Why is it so difficult to find balance?
- Emotional Stability
- Parenting skills
- Pretty similar to ours.
- We are entirely weak in math/science skills.
- Please don't dumb down the math/science standards any more than we already have – Benchmark internationally
- Parent education. Stop the helicopter parenting.
- These were/are very much alike – to CO springs Pikes Peak Area.
- Parent education all levels.
- Themes are quite similar – more specific on content. A difference is we included parent & teacher education on work force preparation issues.
- Home training issues more emphasized in Gunnison
- Cultural shift – universal alignment
- Included an emphasis on financial management skills that was not included on Gunnison's list for question #2
- Vocational opportunities dealing with mobility of workforce/remote control/digital generation.
- Need to communicate first.
- Disconnected from world via technology.
- Persistence to stay with one goal until finished.
- Department of Corrections
 - 50% of Fremont County works w/DOC
 - 13 prisons in county
- Fremont County Challenges
 - Thursday – 75 federal inmates will receive H.S. diplomas – How do we integrate that population into these discussions?
- A lot of similarity/consensus
- Shift from home → school to teach basic life skills = the need for parental education.
- School-to-work partnerships
- Financial/stress management

- Self: skills, self to world, communication – self presentations etc.
- Knowledge: basic reading/writing/math, academic skills, technology, problem solving, etc.
- Preparedness: enter school → enter college → enter workforce
- Flow school skills – grade level skills, prepare for college, college prepares for jobs – workforce
- Contributing Factors: economy, cultural diversity, special education needs, military
- Don't lose remediation!
- Soft Skills: rename – Essential skills, vocational skills, job readiness skills.
- Need: vocational skills, arts, physical training.
- Fix “no child left behind.”
- School-to-work programs
- Global awareness
- My observation is that the skills and qualities mentioned at the Gunnison meeting are similar, if not exactly, the qualities, etc. mentioned at our meeting in Colorado Springs.
- There are apparent geographical differences.
- More emphasis on content (academic) and language skills – that's a good thing.
- More detailed . . .
- I agree with almost all these themes; they say them much better than we did – more specific and content based
- Themes are common in other areas [of the state] but should have the flexibility to adapt to unique areas.
- No definitions for topics (skills, content, etc.); therefore, skills (tools to accomplish) are confused with content (knowledge and perspectives to grasp). For example – creativity is not a skill but a way of “seeing.”
- Necessary step – simplify.
- Themes – parental skills; no significant changes.
- In sync with ours; addition to region[al] items – thinking beyond job opportunities locally: “Global.” Different than Colorado Springs: small community focus, recreation focus, public land focus. Missing: military (CS), mobility, prisons (Canon City), defense industry, engineering, security.
- Initiative; flexibility + adaptability; leadership; vision; persistence.
- Students enter school at grades K or 1 already behind.
- Education/motivating parents to be strong/responsible parents.
- Missing global literacy, cultural competence
- A mission reflection: understanding that college/4yr education is not for all high school graduates.
- Many are similar to ours.
- I think people need to be asked to specify exactly what X is, e.g., what does critical thinking look like in writing, math, social science? What does reading critically look like?
- Query groups about Colorado's culture vis-à-vis education: paying lip service to education's importance, while not supporting education through taxes, advocacy for education, etc.
- A lot of resonance.
- More specificity about content.

- Why the different questions?
- The current assessment (CSAP) needs to be revised to include the 21st century skills – all levels of questions are currently not asking the “right” type to prepare our students – rigor – critical thinking – synthesizing.
- Many similarities – consensus in that students need and what we need to do. Problem – how to go about doing this? Much of this should have been learned in family.
- ??? Seems like schools are expected to provide a great deal of what should be good starts in family/??? in the village/home.
- Unique to Gunnison: Interpersonal – don’t use email instead of personal contact.
- Basic Geography
- Curiosity
- Story-tellers
- Persistence
- Vision – they’re doing what they’re doing for a reason.
- Decoding & comprehension.
- Ask questions.
- Commitment + healthy lifestyle.
- Lacking global awareness.
- No discussion about specific demographics / family make-up in that community.
- Stress management.
- Competency, not seat time.
- Mental health – emotional maturity
- Financial management / literacy
- Physical health / wellness – preparedness
- It’s not one shoe fits all – requiring different pockets?
- Does our PWR need to recognize universal but CO-unique?
- State needs a goal (used to be a national goal): this is what we are educating our kids toward....
- Radicals & Visionaries – “WAWRO”
- Specific core content, live math, not mentioned in Colorado Springs
- No significant differences
- Western slope as a region recognized more – government land and recreation opportunities and options
- The skills needed for postsecondary readiness and for workforce readiness should not be different
- I think we need to structure our levels of education to our society today and future endeavors, not only enhancing our old structure but encourage new approaches to new requirements of society.
- Keep it simple
- Our state is too top heavy with administration, and expensive. We need to work the trenches and take demographics into account. Dialogue with all segments.