



Fall 2017 Student Focus Group Takeaways

- **Students find the graduation requirements too restrictive.**
 - Many students noted that they know what they're passionate about and want more time to explore these passions.
 - Across all 7 focus groups, students said they did not want to take four years of science, social studies, math, and English.
 - While students think all of these subjects are important, they do not think all of the District's requirements are important. The most common subject-specific feedback was that many history classes are repetitive and move at the wrong pace.
- **Students feel that graduating is an accomplishment, but they acknowledge it may not be enough to find a job.**
 - Students at several schools felt that a diploma SHOULD be enough to get a job.
- **Students want to change the art, language, and music requirements.**
 - Students thought all of these subjects should be available but should be optional and fulfill elective requirements.
 - Students noted that they wished they'd started studying a language earlier or were able to choose from a greater variety of languages, since many schools only offer Spanish.
 - Students wanted art and music offerings beyond general drawing and music appreciation courses.
- **Students are very interested in classes that teach "life skills."**
 - Examples included financial literacy, cooking, childcare, interview prep/leadership, driver's education, graphic design, anatomy, and general technology.
- **Students value community service, but 100 is too many hours.**
 - Students think civic engagement is important, but are split on whether or not it should be a requirement. Some think it makes students volunteer for the wrong reasons, and others think requiring it helps people form good habits.
 - Many schools require more than 100 hours, and those students seem particularly overwhelmed by the requirement.
 - Some students mentioned that it was easy to cheat the system and get credit for hours they hadn't volunteered.
 - Many students recommended cutting the requirement in half.
 - Many seniors had not yet started getting hours.

