

Entry ID	In your own words, explain what school characteristics are most important to you.
22	When students can walk on a campus and feel safe. When students know their teacher care, but will push them to reach their full potential.
27	The students need to see options so that they can try and identify passions and follow them!
28	See above.
30	Small class sizes would give more opportunities for small group instruction in core areas to help reinforce standards to students. A qualified administrator who has true classroom experience and has an understanding of the teaching profession. Arts helps students reach other areas of their brain that are not always used in the classroom.
33	Students should get a quality education from quality educators, and not be lost in a crowd.
36	Family oriented, academically driven, quality educators providing a safe learning environment
39	I think if you have the above 3 a safe learning environment will happen as a result.
40	Class size truly makes a difference. STEM creates many needed skills. Qualified teachers will do what it takes, while using Best Teaching practices. AZ has a horrible reputation with educators from other states. Low pay, little appreciation and respect make it hard to recruit and retain quality teachers.
41	Every school should be rigorous, safe, and accountable.
42	Quality teachers are leaving Arizona due to the expectation that all children will learn AZCCR. These standards were implemented without considering the children already in our public school system. The AZCCR should have been implemented in stages, such as K-1, etc.
44	Seeing learning directed to whole child and understanding of development levels, forced use of too many standards and asynchronous development.
45	Reasonable class sizes (less than 30) so students can receive individual attention. Highly qualified teachers and administrators who have the resources they need. Support staff sufficient for school needs (i.e. full-time nurse, enough library assistants, enough security guards proportionate to the student body and campus size)
47	Schools need to provide a caring and structured school environment. Schools also need to provide students with options that might spark an interest of study or profession after graduation.
50	High academic standards, with emphasis on character building, community and self esteem.
53	First, all schools should create a safe learning environment for all students. Next, our students deserve qualified teachers and administrators. Last, the size of classes is important. As long as class size is small, the rest of the academics will follow because the teachers will be able to teach, watch, facilitate, etc.
57	I think making sure all students have their core knowledge in place is most important. This includes life skills like finances. Most adults gave no idea how to handle their own finances.
58	The most important characteristics are rigorous, relevant academics Progressive courses to make students ready for the competitive global workforce (STEM, foreign language) And A safe, supportive, goal oriented, learning community.
59	Funding for gifted learners, small class sizes for all grade levels (especially k-6th grade) , highly qualified educators , and STEM learning for all, as well as technology for all students.

62	Small class sizes are shown to have greater academic results for students but we MUST somehow stop the teacher shortage...it is going to get much worse over the next three (3) years!
63	A school that is seamless Grade to grade. Keeping adopted curriculum for more than a handful of years.
65	A safe, welcoming, orderly, and collaborative environment where all students are challenged to the appropriate level of their abilities is essential.
69	A school where every student is given an opportunity to succeed at whatever they choose, and is able to receive the support to do so.
70	I believe that our students need more mathematics and sciences in order to be competitive in the world market. To get students ready we need qualified educators that support a rigorous curriculum.
71	I believe that if you have qualified staff and smaller class sizes the more opportunities that can be given to enhance the students in the academic areas.
72	A place where teachers have time to devote personal attention to students and not just jump through hoops getting paperwork and assessments done.
73	Students should have the opportunity to explore their passion and learn in the way that works best for them.
76	Qualified teachers that are given the resources and tools to be successful is the most important characteristic. If we don't start addressing the need for adequate teacher compensation, there is no incentive to stay in the profession for long when you can make more money as a manager in a fast food restaurant. Also the state is too fast to keep making changes to standards right after teachers have received training or spent time and money on resources, just to turn around and change things again. This type of inconsistency makes teachers leave the profession.
77	CTE! CTE prepares students for the workplace by teaching employ-ability and workplace standards. Also, CTE is typically academically integrated with STEM and other academic subject in a "hands-on". project-based format that demonstrates relevance to academic courses and industry standards. CTE keeps students in school!!!
78	More funding for smaller class sizes so students can have more individual attention. Same for special Ed. Putting some kids with severe needs in mainstream classes isn't always the best learning environment.
79	Recruit, compensate, and retain qualified teachers and administrators who can establish a safe learning environment for teaching the rigorous CCSS standards.
81	Caring communities
82	Qualified teachers and parent involvement.
83	While many students leave school and move on to college, there are many others who do not aspire to that goal. These are students that support their family, have one of their own or have learning difficulties that turns them to work just out of High School. These students need to come to a school where they feel safe. There are programs and people that can accommodate each students learning ability and style and finally, have access to career training so that they can get a good paying job out of High School.
84	Core academics are important, but so are STEM and the arts. Without qualified teacher and administrators it will never happen. They must be supported and fairly compensated for the actual time they put in. They put in way too many uncompensated hours.
94	inclusive schools that support special needs, diversity, field trips
95	Research has shown that smaller class size is important

97	Rigor is an overused word that lacks a common definition.
99	Quality Health and Physical Education that will benefit all other aspects of a successful program.
101	A school who is more concerned about the students than a score on a test given once a year.
102	Arts is the heart of education and data shows being involved in an Art program of some kind helps students in all areas of academics. We need more physical education, or at least recess, for our students. The health and welfare of our young people is declining but education is/has/will continue to cut PE programs.
103	You cannot teach to the individual learning styles when you have large teacher to student ratios. Class sizes need to be much smaller as well as the implementation of Project Based Learning.
105	Schools need to be well rounded. Those in Education at the government level have forgotten or have never seen well rounded education...now they are worried about test scores and not the whole child or teacher
114	All of the characteristics listed above are critical for comprehensive high schools, but identifying rigorous core academics, STEM, and career training as the most important identifies the three most diversified areas to provide valuable options to ensure all students are prepared for the future.
116	Students should have a small class size with varied seating arrangements where they can cooperate and learn together. There should be academic opportunities for students to learn through projects instead of sitting and drilling the day's lesson into them. Students love music and yet we send them to a music class a couple of times of week. We need to incorporate this into their daily lessons. Students should be exposed to the theater and Broadway shows. They should have the opportunity to have an acting or dancing class.
117	Career training for our students to achieve authentic learning.
118	Producing graduates well prepared to compete in the local, state, national, and global economy while concurrently establishing and reinforcing school and community culture that appreciates and expects success.
119	Each of the expectations most important to me are (for all grade levels): 1st: Teach students critical thinking and social skills. 2nd: Students are experiencing rigorous core academic studies. 3rd: Students experience PE and art on a regular basis.
120	I want Arizona schools to focus on the whole child and not just be worried about academics. A student cannot learn if they are not healthy physically, emotionally, and socially.
121	Schools should be able to offer stability in a child's life. The school should be given enough funding for small class sizes and aides to assist the learning in the classroom.
122	As a teacher and a parent, I feel that we must have safe schools for our students. Feeling safe is a must have, before any learning can happen. Qualified educators are also vital to having an effective learning environment, without qualified staff instruction will be ineffective. Small class sizes are important because a small class ensures more attention from the teacher, as well as a less stressful class setting for everyone involved.
123	We are dumbing down the education of low learners and not holding them accountable for on grade level work and then giving them honors marks (principal list and honor roll) for doing below level work. We then push special education students into classes with high achievers and expect them all to learn the same thing. The high kids are not challenged and the low are frustrated. We continue to teach to the average, producing nothing more than average learners. Push in does not give students what they need at the level they are at.

126	Given the impossibility of projecting what jobs will exist in twenty years (half the girls in my high school were in secretarial practice), we must provide students with the ability to obtain, process and deploy information, and to think through the logical consequences of their actions.
127	See above!
129	You cannot teach to the individual learning styles when you have large teacher to student ratios. Class sizes need to be much smaller as well as the implementation of Project Based Learning.
131	Technology training! Thinking outside of the box! Tolerance!
132	I believe that all of the above are important characteristics. However, qualified teachers and administrators and rigorous core academics are essential. Each of the other characteristics apply to different subsets of the student population.
134	Integrated curriculum that is rigorous and meets the demands of future careers.
136	Today's schools need to be as diverse in their delivery of education as our students are diverse. Some children flourish in music and can apply that knowledge to academics while others flourish in academic settings. Schools need to be a safe environment for everyone from the janitor to the students to the staff and all input is valued. Teachers need to be valued as experts in their field and allowed to teach as their students need to learn.
137	Many charters don't even have certified teachers. How can we expect to produce good results when they are not trained themselves?
138	Small class sizes and good teachers change lives. STEM will prepare them for anything they want to do in our ever changing economy.
140	You can integrate core curriculum into physical education and sports yet schools don't. STEM is vital to student success! I have integrated it into my classes and students make better connections in all areas after being exposed to STEM.
142	Provided a rounded educational experience for all students and preparing them first in the basics to be successful.
143	Quality education where all students have the opportunity to learn.
144	The ability to provide meaningful and rigorous education in smaller classes to maximize student success. We need financial support from the government to achieve this.
146	In order for our nation to be great again, we need students to be able to think independently as well as being able to work in collaborative scenarios. Too many times, I students not able to communicate meaningfully or even think properly when confronted with problems. Strengthening academics with emphasis on STEM will help keep America competitive on the world stage.
147	In order for our nation to be great again, we need students to be able to think independently as well as being able to work in collaborative scenarios. Too many times, I students not able to communicate meaningfully or even think properly when confronted with problems. Strengthening academics with emphasis on STEM will help keep America competitive on the world stage.
148	Welcoming, knowledgeable, professional, supportive, caring, part of the community

151	In order to appropriately prepare our students to participate fully in our democracy, they need more than just the three characteristics that I identified. We should have high expectations for ALL students, but remember that ALL students are not equal. In order to fully meet the needs of ALL of our students, we need smaller class sizes and qualified teachers and administrators. Passing a test does not mean one is a qualified teacher or administrator. High quality teacher preparation programs are necessary as well. Students should be well rounded and afforded quality arts, STEM, physical education, and foreign language programs as well.
153	While I believe that rigorous core academics, arts opportunities, special and gifted education programs, PE/sports, foreign languages, STEM, advanced academics, and career training are all VERY important, it is absolutely vital that students are and feel safe at school. Small class sizes will contribute to this safety as well as increasing academic performance. Small class sizes (25 or less for grades 3 - 12, 20 or less for K-2) would also lessen teacher burn out. It is also critical that students have qualified teachers AND administrators.
154	Standards and curriculum that promote well-rounded education.
158	If children are not in a positive learning environment where they feel safe, valued, and empowered, they will be unable to learn to their potential.
160	All of the characteristics on the list are important to me, but everything is reliant on a safe learning environment and a qualified staff.
161	Qualified teachers are a must, Ess programs should always be taken into account with career training or life skills classes
162	Strong academics should be a given in any school. Not everyone is college bound or does well in the typical learning environment. Career training gifted classes and SPED programs (that truly teach not babysit) Can give success to all kids.
165	STEM - even the lowest-achieving students need a solid background in the basics of STEM to be able to compete in the post-high school workforce. Safe learning environment - a student will never build the esteem and confidence to try new things if they aren't given a safe place to try and fail and learn from those mistakes. Qualified teachers - teachers need to be qualified at the very least in how to talk to children and adolescents and how to maintain their composure even in frustrating, repetitive situations. If the student can sense a teacher's frustration, they will shut down and stop trying for fear of inciting anger or wrath in the adult. This is unacceptable.
166	I feel that a safe learning environment is key to a a successful learning environment for students.
167	I think small class sizes are most important for teachers to be able to reach each student.
169	na
170	I'm not interested in digital platforms and online instruction or testing.
172	Small class sizes are critical. Today's students are easily distracted and influenced by others in the class. The smaller the number of students, the higher the grades will be since there are fewer distractions and an increased perception of accountability by the students. All students, faculty and staff should feel they have a very safe environment free of the fear of weapons violence. Students with ample career training opportunities may find their passion or pursue a passion for their career while in high school. Consequently, grades in other courses may improve as a result of offering career training.
179	Extra curricular

180	Dual language programs should be the norm across the state, with opportunities for all students to participate. Students who are not proficient in English should be eligible to participate in a dual language program to support their language development and acquisition.
181	Without the school characteristics of qualified teachers, administrators, safe learning environment, there is no success in any area. Rigorous core academics need the support of the aforementioned items.
182	Having a small class size and being able to work with students one on one if needed.
184	Schools with small class sizes, possible with increased funding, can allow teachers to better meet students' needs. Significant gains are more accessible when you're not managing the behavior, progress, skill levels and deficits, diversified learning needs, and more of 35-40+ learners.
185	Excellent teachers and differentiation so that all learners get their needs met.
189	What they can offer my child to succeed. Organization, communication, collaboration including with community/parents, qualified staff, clubs, sports or programs, classes to prepare them for college/pass high school and updated curriculum.
191	Meeting the diverse needs of a diverse population of students requires highly qualified (and adequately compensated) teachers and administrators. Furthermore, lower teacher to pupil ratios as well as programs designed for those with special needs can be effective at meeting the needs of all students.
192	The most important component of a school is its teachers. For the last 18 years, since my retirement from Verizon, I have directed a math tutoring program having about 60 retired professionals plus about 10 U of A students from the math department. These tutors work with students in grades 3 - 12 during regular class sessions Our tutors have found that in general students are poorly motivated, teachers (especially in grade 3 to 5) that have a poor understanding of math, and a curriculum which does not prepare students well success after high school graduation
193	Schools should prepare students for life. Being a good citizen, problem solving, cooperative learning and working, skills that will translate to future careers or high school/college courses.
194	So I can't count three from that list is tough
195	Students need to have work related skills to be successful in the work force. Beginning in high school students need to have opportunities to work and acquire recommendations beyond their classroom teachers. Many students who graduate from high school will need to work while in college and they need time management and team building skills. Being able to problem solve, speak respectfully to others and have job skills.
196	Schools that are focused with teachers and staff willing to keep up with today's educational and technological demand is extremely important .
198	In order to meet my kids where they are, we need strong teachers and rigorous curriculum.
199	If we do not prepare students to work in terms of both hard and soft skills, we as an educational community have failed. As a result, the state needs to provide for an environment in which students can flourish. Forty-five students to a classroom is not it.

200	We cannot reach every student when our class sizes are at 40 per class (high school). With those numbers I can only provide the learning and keep order. To reach failing students or to challenge those students who need more, class size needs to be cut. I have seen what unqualified teachers have done and they have disrupted the learning process of students. Giving incorrect information (especially when students are young) is detrimental. Research has shown that elementary school teachers will cut math first. I think the State should make elementary school teacher more certified in the math area.
203	Arizona schools need rigorous core academics and STEM to succeed in this society. Career training is necessary to produce the next workforce for our society.
205	Sage learning environment science classes career training 4 years of physical education
206	Is the school meeting the needs of the demands of the community to educate their students in a manner that will set them up to be successful
207	Having qualified teachers that are paid with a salary comparable with the rest of the country. Too many good teachers are leaving the classroom because of money.
210	Students need an opportunity to grow but with the focus on test scores I feel out gifted and high academic kids loose out.
211	Students who are with qualified teachers, in a small class setting will be more likely to succeed.
214	Kind and welcoming staff at schools is a characteristic I look for. I also look for schools that honor and respect other cultures and any type of student. Science education is a must!
215	Classes should be small enough so that every student gets attention; not just the trouble-makers and gifted students. Administration should support teachers' needs and ideas. Funding for classroom necessities should not be reliant upon being provided by teachers' paychecks.
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217	Along with academics that should reflect the diversity of our society, and research-based content that teachers have some part in creating and choosing, Arizona schools need to foster creative and artistic learning in our students. Students of all walks should be exposed to culture, the humanities, music, visual art, dance, and other forms of expression, as part of the curriculum-- In ALL schools, not only private-funded charter schools. Students of every race should feel safe and cared for in every school, and teachers should be trusted to engage in professional development to learn best practices and culturally responsive pedagogy.
219	Caring, firm, performing, excelling, and fun
220	It's hard to pick the top 3 that are most important to me. I definitely think having qualified teachers is the most important because if you don't know what you're supposed to be teaching then you're setting the kids up to fail. You wouldn't have someone be a lawyer without going to school for it just because you're short on lawyers, so why should we do the same thing for teachers? Then I think it's important to have small class sizes. I've taught with 35 students in my classroom full time plus 6 students from split classes and let me tell you I get nothing done. It's basically crowd control at that point. These students aren't learning anything when the class size is that big. It's not fair to the myself or the students. The last characteristic that I think is important is to have pe/ sports as well as arts. These are great ways to see what students like to do and what they don't like to do. You never know what a student is passionate about until you give them the opportunity to try it out.

223	All students should have a safe, fun, rigorous environment that challenges them and broadens their horizons, without reducing their worth, or the worth of their teacher and their school, to a test score.
224	Both of my children are identified gifted students and I believe that they are limited in their opportunities in academics in elementary school. I would like to see more support given to them from the state and opportunities for excellence.
226	Schools should offer curriculum relevant to the students they serve. Not every community looks the same. Every student should receive a quality education no matter where they live but the local school board should have some say in the curriculum and requirements
228	Small class sizes.....30 first graders in one small classroom is way too much.
231	I like working at a school that has community involvement. Of course I want the school to be safe for students and the staff. I want the teachers to be emotionally connected with their students and stimulate their minds. I want school buildings to be maintained and not neglected.
232	A sense of community and commitment.
235	Career training to prepare students to work rather than do nothing.
236	I believe all schools should have a safe environment where students can be taught by highly qualified teachers. I believe an emphasis on STEM is imperative to meet the expectations of the 21st Century workforce. Schools should be focusing on ways to improve students understanding of STEM concepts while also educating the parents on the importance of the concepts not only for their student, but also our nations future.
237	The characteristics of a school that are most important to me are the rigor of its academics so my child is prepared to enter college without needing to take remedial classes. I want the school to have manageable class sizes that allow students to get the help that they need and for teachers to have the opportunities to meet the needs of those students. I want a school that holds its stakeholders to high standards (parents, teachers, administration and students). I want a school that has knowledgeable, qualified teachers and administrators who know how to get the best from the students they teach.
240	Rigorous academics, however, if a high school English class is the same as a college level class (dual enrollment) - what is the point of high school? Again, schools need to be rigorous and teach our children the basics as well as preparing them for university. It seems AZ has become a state that only cares about the number of students we graduate and how many graduate with a college degree from high school. I believe the high school curriculum should be rigorous and the college curriculum should be even more rigorous. What is the point of having all these "college" credits in high school when the students are still reading, writing and completing math assignments at an elementary level? I also believe that arts, music and PE are important to a well rounded curriculum.
241	IN order to deliver the best education, you need the best cadre of educators. They need to be provided with the tools and materials that are supported by research. The STEM focus is reinventing the classroom along inquiry-based and project-based learning, which fosters the deeper thinking and higher rigor needed for the 21st Century student.
242	Students can't learn in class sizes of 30 or more. They get lost I. Such a large group and sometimes deficits aren't found.
243	Highly effective instruction and small class sizes are essential for schools to ensure all students are successful.

244	A teacher needs to be highly qualified due to all the hats they must wear! Their knowledge base must be broad. A safe environment is key to learning for each and every child. If they don't feel safe it will get in the way of their learning . As for smaller class sizes, that is a no brainer! The smaller the ratio of teacher to student the greater the ability is to bridge the gaps the student is facing. Kinder should be no more than 20. 1st thru 3rd should not be any more than 25! I have taught 27 of my 32 years of teaching in the primary area! 10 years in kinder, 11 years in first and 6 years in 3rd grade! Having been directly in the classroom with the kids day in and day out, the ability for teachers to reach individual students gets more difficult with each additional student that is added,
246	Less red tape and 'proving' that our job is being done so that we can actually do our job well and give our time to increasing student knowledge and performance with a love of learning and ability to support our community.
247	As teacher, I can not do my job unless I am supported by my administrative team. The administration of a school sets the tone of the whole campus. So that is probably my number one characteristic. I work for people not for districts. A small class size is also key. Last year I had 30 kindergarten students in my room. It was challenging to meet the needs of every student by myself.
248	I believe that school should begin with a wide variety of adventures for students. As they progress through school, their fields should narrow to address their interests while also strengthening core academics. It is very important to address the sometimes disruptive and violent nature of some classrooms. Students are not at their least restrictive environment if they are afraid.
249	It's easy to come up with an "Every Student Succeeds" Act, but until our state gets serious about properly funding education so that quality teachers are hired and/or retained and class sizes are reduced, it will be extremely difficult for every child to succeed in Arizona. As an educator, I firmly believe in high expectations for ALL students, while giving them the support they need to meet those expectations. However, I have seen a revolving door of teachers who decide the pay is not equivalent to the job demands and they are not willing to do the job in a manner that is required to ensure that every child is successful.
253	Rigor , STEM oriented and career training. These three aspects will give choice to the broad spectrum of students with rigor being the driving force.
255	The school characteristics that are most important are reducing class sizes, increase the rigor, and promote advance academics that benefit all the students and will increase the amount of students entering colleges and universities.
258	Qualified teachers in every classroom, teaching a rigorous curriculum to all students, in schools that are safe for learning.
260	Small class sizes are imperative to students receiving a quality education. Teachers need to be able to work with students in small groups or one-on-one if needed, to ensure students are meeting the standards.
261	As both a parent and a teacher I value small class sizes where teachers can help every child, provide individual attention, and ensure that nobody slips through the cracks. I also reject a one size fits all philosophy and value a school that offers diverse opportunities for students to explore a variety of interests. I think schools should offer both college preparatory classes and vocational classes so that students can be well prepared for careers whether or not they choose to pursue a college degree.

262	A holistic education focusing on the whole child. Not just producing good test takers, and too focused on "data driven, research based" !!!!!!!!!
265	<p>An excellent and balanced principal can create and manage an environment that helps teachers develop better instruction.</p> <p>I have seen good teachers leave the profession because of intense leadership. Probably created by the demands of good "test scores"!</p>
267	<p>Sadly, due to budget limitations, the Arts and STEM classes are the first ones to be cut, or at least not focused on. These two areas are two of the ones that can make school fun and exciting to children. The Arts are vital to developing the whole child and helping foster of a love of learning. STEM subjects need to be expanded on and taught in an inquiry-based way, especially in the elementary level. Smaller class sizes would allow teachers to focus on EVERY child in their class. When elementary classes are over 22 students, students start to slip through the cracks. Class sizes around 30 are more the norm in this state, with 36 the norm in middle and high schools, and that is ridiculous.</p>
269	<p>An excellent and balanced principal can create and manage an environment that helps teachers develop better instruction.</p> <p>I have seen good teachers leave the profession because of intense leadership. Probably created by the demands of good "test scores"!</p>
270	If students do not have teachers who are qualified and strict core classes, then the arts and everything else is meaningless. They need these things to be successful outside of the academic setting.
276	Qualified teachers are really important. As an intern I am often overwhelmed by the lack of support and professional development offered by my district and the state as a whole. I would like to see education rise on the priority list for AZ and I would like the state to fight for teacher and student rights instead of letting the state legislature push us into the background. Does AZ really want to be known for producing quality Jack in the Box employees because that is where we are headed.
279	Those that celebrate individuality.
280	Our schools must provide activities that are engaging and provide rigor to prepare students for future opportunities.
281	We need more one on one instruction as well as STEM programs.
283	It is important that my child NOT become one in a crowd. I believe that making sure my child has a teacher with the time to understand how they learn and then designing lessons to bring out the most within my child is the number one characteristic. This will not be achieved when my student is 1 out of 25 to 30+ students in a K, 1, 2, or 3rd grade classroom.
285	Quality schools would have ALL of these characteristics
288	<p>Small class sizes (20-25)</p> <p>Tools and curriculum for STEM</p> <p>Good solid curriculum that goes deep instead of wide</p>

289	<p>Small class sizes are key to teachers being able to differentiate to individual students' needs. This one characteristic is the most important by far.</p> <p>Don't abandon arts and P.E. - these are so important to students performing well during the rest of the academic day.</p>
290	<p>A school with classes small enough that the teachers can "realistically" be able to differentiate teaching for students to learn the curriculum, not just have to push on to cover all the topics.</p>
291	<p>It has to begin with principals who are moral and ethical and willing to do what needs to be done for all students within their care. The principal needs to hire the right teachers who do the same for their students in their care. And, above the principal, needs to be a superintendent and school board who are willing to not think on public tax money as their own, and increase the size of a district office (hiring more district administrators) when their student population has not grown and may have even decreased. This is detrimental to gaining quality teachers, as there's not much left to pay teachers when superintendents grow their district office. Student opportunities should be grown.</p>
292	<p>The growing teacher shortage is a huge concern. Without competent teachers, none of the other characteristics are possible.</p>
294	<p>Most students will not attend a university and get a degree. Most will seek technical training or some type of certification in the workforce.</p>
295	<p>Schools are already considered a place of learning; learning to read, write, and solve math problems. Many fields of work require artistic abilities as well. It would be nice to not only focus on STEM but rather STEAM.</p> <p>I would not even consider sending my child to a school if I didn't believe they would be safe regardless of how high the test scores or rigorous the curriculum.</p> <p>And, obviously teachers can do far more with fewer students. Once the high 20's or 30's are reached the teacher is just focusing on behavior management.</p>
297	<p>Small classes are necessary to implement both rigorous and arts program if we want our students to succeed amongst peers throughout the country/world.</p>
304	<p>School Safety is #1, Qualified teachers and administrators will help ensure the school safety, smaller class sizes allow teachers and students to be more engaged in learning.</p>
305	<p>As a teacher in the classroom, having to handle extremely difficult students and trying to teach is not conducive to the classroom learning environment. It is not good for that student or the other students in the room. Any student or teacher should not have to put up with a student or students who are volatile and continue to disrupt the class. This was kindergarten class and it went on all year. What are you as a department going to do about this? Test scores will fall if this continues to happen. When is it okay to take the education of one student over the rest of the students education?</p>
306	<p>When schools cut PE and arts classes, they are cutting one of the main motivators for students to stay in school. They are cutting classes that develop LIFELONG skills, not just memorization of facts that are soon forgotten. There are many studies that show that recess, physical education, and fine arts education are valuable to a student's success in school.</p>

	<p>Rigorous academics.....Rigorous academics.....oh.....and.....</p> <p>Rigorous Academics.....</p> <p>Qualified teachers who genuinely WANT to teach their students at the school they teach at.</p> <p>STEM.....lots of STEM!!</p> <p>Classrooms and P.E. gyms, hallways, cafeterias.....a campus that is safe, friendly, clean and in many areas student work is proudly posted!!</p> <p>A library that is BUSY.....kids on computers.....writing at tables... working math problems....drawing stuff....you get the picture!!</p> <p>Yes to Career training...somebody wants to fix cars, cook, run businesses.....</p>
307	so let's show them how to have a thriving career!!
308	we need to make students more accountable for their learning, & choices. Parents should not be allowed to talk the school &/or district into a passing grade or award that their student has not earned.
309	Students need to be prepared through a well designed classes. It is expected that those who are exceptional shall be given learning opportunities that are structured for their needs. By this, I don't just mean special education, they DO NOT belong in the regular classroom. The gifted are also needing of more rigorous and carefully designed classes that improve their thinking skills and problem solving skills.
312	Smaller class sizes are most important characteristic as it affects several factors, in education. Smaller class sizes means students will have more time with teachers. Small group lessons, one-on-one conferences, building relationships with teacher and classmates and stress levels are negatively affected, by large class sizes. With more students coming to school with issues ranging from poverty, divorce, violence to anxiety and mental behaviors; it is so important for teachers to have the opportunity to provide a safe, calm and nurturing environment that is more beneficial for learning.
313	Class sizes are tied to student success - students do better in smaller classes. Small classes are common in primary grades, but middle schools and high schools often have class sizes that are too large. All the characteristics listed are important and it is hard to come up with the top 3!
314	STEM is where the job market is heading. Small class size has been shown by scientific data to be most effective towards learning, and career prep as a step stone to the workforce OR as a direct certification to be employable.
316	The most important characteristic is a caring, effective, well appreciated teacher in each classroom where collaboration is more important than competition, where high needs students have strategic class sizes, and where each student is supported by having access to essential learning tools...especially eyeglasses.
317	The most important characteristic is a caring, effective, well appreciated teacher in each classroom where collaboration is more important than competition, where high needs students have strategic class sizes, and where each student is supported by having access to essential learning tools...especially eyeglasses.
318	Whole child education.

319	I had a tough time picking three from the list above. First of all, all teachers should be highly qualified for the grade and/or subject they are teaching. We are already including and working toward rigorous core academics. However, if the class size is too big, (even if you have the best teacher delivering dynamic rigorous core lessons), this job becomes next to impossible. At our school our second grade classes topped out at 30 - 32 during 2015-2016. This was not good as many of those kids had multiple social-emotional issues as well as bad home situations. In addition, many many of them were struggling with ELA and math. We just didn't have enough people to assist with so many problems! All students in all school need to receive instruction and opportunities in all the fine arts.
320	In order for learning to take place students must be safe. We are so worried about being politically corrects we are allowing classes to be held hostage to a few individuals that disrupt the learning environment for the whole class. Our students need to be socially and emotionally fit, able to communicate, and have strategies and skills to help them learn and be successful outside of school.
321	Diverse opportunities, high expectations of student achievement, teaching student how to learn
322	It was hard to choose just three, because most of those things are important. All students and staff should have a safe learning environment, so they can focus on learning. Teachers and administrators need to be qualified, because they guide the instruction, and must problem-solve and make educated decisions to move all students forward. STEM subjects are the key to future careers, and students need to learn to question, solve problems, and answer the questions of the future.
325	Teachers and administrators should be of the highest quality. Subject knowledge and skills to impart this knowledge is necessary. Administration should not only be the community connection but also be a support system for the educators. Class sizes of 30 plus are not good arenas for education.
328	A school that has a collaborative staff working to meet the needs of all students. Our gifted population is absolutely ignored and it is such a shame to watch such talented students get frustrated and discouraged because there are not programs and certified teachers meeting their needs. Small class sizes are a MUST. A more rigorous system to determine the most qualified administrators. An evaluation system that truly measures what is happening within each classroom. Mentors set up to assist new and/or struggling teachers. The demands are growing each year and teacher burnout is inevitable.
330	Students need to be prepared for their future; college, career or life.
333	Qualified teachers that are not micro-managed, teaching rigorous academic standards to students that are ready for them (not socially promoted), in classrooms that are not over-loaded with students.
334	A classroom where teachers can teach and be respected enough that they are trusted to teach their students.

336	<p>We MUST have smaller classes! As a teacher, I cannot teach 30+ students as effectively as 24! Discipline and student engagement (distraction) become issues that are easily solved once class size diminishes. We also are making math requirements RIDICULOUS for students to be productive members of society. Why should ALL students need 3 years of 14 years of high school math?! I was a molecular biologist and never needed more than algebra and geometry. We need specific classes that teach critical thinking skills, don't just leave it to a science class which is already chock-full of "rigorous" content! Let's require a logic class instead of pre-calculus! That would be WAY more effective in producing students who can reason and make logical conclusions. How about intro psychology and sociology classes to help them understand the people and society we live in? School requirements are so far removed from their daily lives, we must make it more relevant which is currently impossible given the sheer amount of standards and testing teachers must deal with. Perhaps we should also explore the possibility of adopting the European tradition of students choosing a college or career path that would allow for better preparation of all students rather than trying to force college admission standards onto all students regardless of their aptitude. We could then use community colleges to help students become university ready if they changed their minds later but could at least help those not ready for college in high school to graduate with marketable skills and trades.</p>
337	<p>Classes are huge. 33-37 kids in 4th and 5th grade. That's crazy. Music and art is seen as babysitting once a week. It isn't. Music helps students with their academics. It isn't valued. Neither is library which is 'taught' by a para professional. Kids and teachers deserve so much more.</p>
338	<p>Schools need to prepare students to be life long learners. While I believe each student needs to have an individual path, we do need to be linked to national standards. It is important that core classes are measured against national academic standards. This allows us to be honest with our student results.</p>
341	<p>All schools should be able to offer unique learning opportunities for their students regardless of their economic area. Everything above is important.</p>
344	<p>We need to prepare students for life after high school and we need to realize this does not always need to include a 4-year degree. We need to pay teachers what they are worth so the state can attract qualified teachers. I work with too many who 'phone it in' and that just makes my job more difficult.</p>
345	<p>Small class sizes would increase the ability of qualified educators to work with children. Administrators should also be qualified (having a teaching background should be a requirement) and children thrive when art is included alongside academic pursuits.</p>
347	<p>The majority of students are not going to 4 year colleges, but to post secondary training or workforce.</p>
349	<p>Career training will help students have a direction to head in once they are in high school, which will help them with their preparation towards college/ not waste time "finding" themselves once in college. Teachers are better able to deliver rigorous curriculum if they have smaller, more manageable class sizes. 25 students in a class is too many students for one teacher to teach and reach in all grade levels.</p>
350	<p>I think it is important for students to feel safe or they will not take risks, which is where the learning happens. I also think class sizes need to be smaller to allow more individual attention by the Teacher to meet the needs of the students. Additionally, it is important for students to have hope for a future, whether that be an academic path, via college or a technical path, via vocational training.</p>

355	It goes without saying that STEM courses are rigorous and advanced. There should be opportunities for the arts and music, IB and AP, CTE, special and gifted coursework. This should not be governed by someones personnel beliefs or religion!
356	New textbooks
358	It is important that all students be able to read, write and make decisions for themselves. Not every student will go to college and therefore job training is very important. Smaller class sizes make it easier for teachers to make sure that each student gets the proper attention and core academics with programs like accounting, 'logical' math, phonix and spelling make our students able to become service and skilled labor leaders as well as college educated CEO's or CFO's.
359	Core academics should be a given but qualified teachers are also key to a child's education. Schools need to offer skills to get them out in the workforce since that is the end goal of an education.
360	There is no substitute for excellent teaching.
361	We always leave students behind when the class sizes are too great for teachers to give students proper attention. We should not dismiss the affects that the arts have on all of us. Diverse career training is important. Not every student needs to go to college. There should be other opportunities for all of our students.
362	Small class sizes is ideal for optimal student growth and to aid in preventing teacher burn out. 34 students in grades k-2 classes is too high.
363	Some of these characteristics are too broad. Elementary schools should have smaller class sizes. Higher grade levels deal with different issues and concerns. The most important one on your list is qualified teachers and administrators! You need to build in on keeping these qualified people. Administration should be instructional leaders- they need to be on top of the latest learning ideas. STEM also provides students with a solid education which gives business leaders skilled people in those areas. Sports keeps lots of students involved with school. Need to keep it! Arts, special education and gifted are necessary to develop well rounded students. We need to create learners with life skills that will take them into our future.
364	Class sizes should be kept small optimal results. Teachers should be qualified and Arizona should accept teachers who hold certification from other states without making them take additional coursework to obtain an AZ certificate. Most other states already provide a rigorous certification process. We are losing out on many excellent teachers because they do not want the hassle of investing more time and money for another certificate.
366	In order to be prepared for our global economy and world students should be required to take a foreign language in high school, they should also have to prove proficiency in both science and foreign languages. All courses should be rigorous and develop critical thinking skills.
369	Students work best when the curriculum is practiced and paced just slightly ahead of where students are at a given time to push them to the next step/level. Currently (with the exception of AP courses in upper levels only) students are lumped together, i.e. reading levels can range from 3rd to 13th grade in the same classroom! This leads to annoyance of the gifted child and frustration of the lower performer who may need a slower pace or more practice, but most importantly, to a disservice to both!
370	Having teachers who dress professionally and empower students to take risks; let them fail but turn it into a teaching opportunity. Schools should not look like a prison/institution but should be vibrant and that when a student walks in the front doors, students are excited to learn and explore and teachers are excited to have them walk into their classes.

371	A class of 25 or below is best.
372	Diversity
373	I believe that if classes are smaller, each student can more thoroughly be reached using rigorous core academics. Too many times, students in the middle and top of a class needs are missed because the major focus is on the lowest students. If class sizes are smaller, the needs of all students can be met. As far as number three, I chose PE and sports but I believe equally that the arts should be incorporated in the schools. Students need the opportunity to shine in their individual areas strength.
374	A safe, clean, healthy environment in which students, teachers and staff can thrive. Hiring the best professional educators (this may come at the cost of focusing on hiring coaches for sports activities, as there are tremendous teacher-coaches, but there are also terrible teacher-coaches who seem to be protected because of the value of coaching sports over their ability to provide quality high level academic instruction to their students and all of us suffer as a result). I want greater independence for experienced, highly educated, professional educators to do what is best in terms of instruction and assessment, and not be subject to AdvancEd who wants all teachers to teach the same thing in the same way and use all the same assessments, and this is what has been happening over the last ten years - it's degrading and not helpful at all for students).
378	Safety has always been and will continue to be the most important aspect of public education. We NEED to ensure that every educational environment becomes a safe place where every voice is heard and every person is valued.
380	I believe that rigorous academics do not have an impact on students without small class sizes and teachers who are well qualified and well supported.
381	Students need to find where they succeed. Arts and other extra curricular programs allow all students to succeed. We need qualified teachers and administrators leading schools. All students should feel safe at school.
386	I think that it is important that a student getting a public education in Arizona is the same as a student getting a public education in Massachusetts.
387	I think it's important to have diversity in course offerings, but I believe they should be integrated. STEM curricula is important, but STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, ARTS, and Mathematics) is better, as has been shown by brain science. Having rigorous curricula and high expectations for students is critical. All of this being said, we must have high-quality educators to facilitate student learning. Teachers should be compensated appropriately and given the necessary supports to do their job well.
390	Public schools need to meet what is being offered at private schools that is taking tax dollars away from the public. Private schools need to be held to the same standards as public school to receive any funds from the state, including taking students who are disable, low academically, and non English speaking.
391	All of the above are important. It was hard to decide, however, I believe that including the arts is super important to students.
393	The learning needs to be rewarding and educated. Not just information. They need to know the purpose and how to use it..
396	Every classroom should have rigorous academics, but that doesn't help students who are grade levels ahead. Gifted education is important, and needs to be differentiated from regular classes. Also, teachers candontheir *best* teaching with smaller classes. Larger classes mean too much time spent on management.
397	Quality teaching with teams of teachers working together toward common goals

399	I would like the requirements for high school to go back to the way they were. 4 years of math is ridiculous there is no room for error.
402	Teachers are the number one correlate to student learning - pay teachers more, let them make decisions, get the state legislators who know nothing about teaching to respect teachers and use their ideas to form legislation and budget priorities.
403	A class cannot be rigorous if the size is too big and the students cannot be managed by a Highly Qualified Teacher. Nothing will be learned if a student doesn't feel safe. Instead of STEM it should be STEAM which includes Arts with the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The Arts give the creative expression to get student ideas out there and change the world.
404	A school should focus on academics first and special area classes second. If a student is not performing at grade level in a core subject, he or she should receive intervention in that subject rather than spending that time in PE, Art, or Music class.
405	Student-centered, authentic learning.
406	STEM
409	I also believe all the above are important.
410	Students should feel safe while learning challenging lessons. Teachers should be highly qualified to teach his students and subject areas. Administrators should be able to be instructional leaders not managers. Administrative support should be available to conduct disciplinary matters whilst admin support students and staff in the area if academics through meaningful observations, modeling of lessons, and professional development.
416	To incorporate a system that is more like the European system. Have the responsibility go back on the parents around 7th grade. Have more teaching that is tailored to the individual child.
417	School should be a place where students come to feel safe and welcomed. It should also be a place where every student has the opportunity to learn. Large class sizes limit the opportunities for each and every student to receive differentiation or one on one support. With smaller class sizes and a demanding curriculum students won't fall through the cracks as they have in the past.
419	Arts opportunities develop the whole person. Foreign language develop students' understanding of their own language. Advanced academics allow the next generation of thinkers, experimenters, and participants in the grand narrative of history to achieve their potential.
420	By having qualified educators you can create safe learning environments for students. Keep smaller class sizes will also help in creating safe places for kids.
421	A socio-academic safe and inclusive learning environment where every learner is served to achieve and succeed.
422	Teachers and administrators should be qualified to teach in their areas and/or related areas. While other core classes are important, technology in this century is a critical component that needs to be addressed because students need to learn to perform tasks for the real world other than use social media and play games. Most importantly, in order for students to learn, they must feel safe in the environment and think of school not only as a place for education but also where they can trust teachers and administrators to provide help when needed.

425	<p>Arizona needs to put money into the school system to reduce the number of students in a class. This will allow a teacher to actually manage and teach those students. Teachers need to maintain their highly qualified status and administrators need to have time to actually observe the teachers frequently. All students need a safe place to be or learning will not happen.</p>
426	Hands on, non computer based, learning experiences
427	<p>Very hard to pick only three of these as many are important and overlap. They all encourage a well rounded academic environment that help students prepare for the future workforce. STEM is needed for the future workforce. We live in a multi-cultural state so a second language acquisition is an important skill. Classes need to be rigorous to help student learn to focus and follow through. Small class sizes help all students learn more effectively. Having qualified teachers and administrators help to make for a safe learning environment and play into having rigor in each subject.</p>
429	Clearly, rigorous core academics must be instructed by highly qualified teachers and supported by highly qualified academic school leaders.
430	<p>I believe that with the implementation of common core, we have the rigorous academics. The only issue there is with the students that didn't start out with the foundations provided by common core. We're only in the 4th year of the implementation so all those prior are lacking in the rigor of those foundations. They are evident in the high numbers of those falling far below where they should be. Obviously, without highly qualified teachers and administrators that is a category of students that will only continue to grow. Of course opportunities for Arts, special and gifted programs, and sports are important in providing diversity for students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to succeed the old fashioned way. STEM is the education needed for all students to better function in an increasingly technologically driven society. Without that type of training and education they will be lost. Physical education is important if we emphasize the health benefits. I believe so many adults having serious health issues stem from the decline of health driven physical education programs. Advanced academics are programs that should be in place at every grade level to enhance learning for students already performing above all the rest. Career training should be focused on in high school and college. And for students that choose to take on that type of responsibility early should be rewarded for it with college credits. Small classes provide better one on one opportunities for students that would otherwise struggle. It is difficult to pick only 3 as I believe each one has a place in educating the whole child.</p>
431	<p>All of the choices above are important to Arizona schools, but qualified teachers and administrators are key. Professional educators will be able to implement each of the characteristics in the most effective way. They understand the need for providing a safe learning environment (physically, emotionally, and academically safe), and they are committed to creating that environment. They are committed to rigor and meeting the needs of all children, and that both of these are best met in small classes. They understand the importance of physical education, the arts, and foreign language/culture study in the context of brain development and in the context of our society. Professional educators recognize the importance of STEM and career training in preparing our students for an rapidly changing technological age that may look completely different by the time our students enter college or begin a career. Qualified educators are vital to successful academic endeavors.</p>

432	With small class sizes teachers are able to give students more individualized attention and more in depth lessons especially in STEM. Sports and PE are essential to student health for focusing of mind, maintaining an able body, acquiring leadership skills, and working in group settings, and learning to set personal goals.
433	I agree with the boxes I chose.
434	Arts integration across the curriculum.
438	Students need a safe environment with a well qualified instructor and with classroom sizes that allow each student to be effectively challenged and remediated.
441	-high focus on academics -elevated respect for teachers -a safe environment free from bullying -engaging learning experiences
442	Schools should care about the students as people not just statistics
443	School should be a place that students and teachers can't wait to attend. Under the current tyranny of standardized education, children and teachers hate going to school. That system will only fill our welfare rolls and prison systems and perpetuate a generation of future adults who are even more ambivalent to public education then we are today.
446	Career training.
447	Career training.
449	The arts program is good to have because it can give student a way to express themselves in ways that they want like art, music, film production, etc. The STEM program is a good to use because it expands the learning experience for students. A safe learning environment is needed for students to be successful and they can enjoy school.
450	First and foremost, the teachers and administrators must be qualified in their field and at the level they are teaching and/or supervising. Second, schools need to be a safe place for students, so they can learn to the best of their ability. Finally, the class sized need to be a manageable size, especially in the lower grades. The more students there are in a classroom, the less learning goes on because of the different needs of each student.
453	I would like to see a renewed focus on a holistic approach. English, Social Studies, Math, and Science are critical, but without a framework in which they are applied, our students are a step behind. Electives are extremely important to fill this role, and I do not believe that Arizona schools have had the ability to provide them. This isn't simply a matter of funding, but of will: STEM has been such an extreme focus over the past several years that everything else gets pushed to the wayside.
455	Again it's what is best for kids...we have to be able to provide what students need to be successful for the next step in their educational career.
457	Schools should expand a student's knowledge of the world while giving them the skills to communicate , in a variety of ways, their understanding of that knowledge.(This would include all subjects. The arts are a core academic subject.)
459	We must provide an environment that allows all students to prepare for what is next once they leave our school. Whether that be vocational, university or straight into the workforce, our students lack the capabilities to be successful. This must end and we as educators need to quit worrying about the extra-curricular activities and fix the basics first.
460	High standards can only be met within a safe learning environment with highly qualified teachers and class sizes that are manageable.
461	Described above...but add that our students should feel safe, loved and challenged.

462	Schools should be a place for students to learn. They should be safe and comfortable. Academics, especially focused on reading and math, should come before all other activities.
465	A well balanced environment, where students are proud of our country and open to learn of others. An environment which expects good behavior, polite behavior and fabulous creativity.
466	All of the above should be important!
467	There are many students that will not go to college; either by choice or circumstance. They should have vocational training available, as well. It is not always about the academics. Many students are talented in other ways. Even if classes have special education students, when the class size is small, a talented teacher can reach ALL students.
468	Since AZ is ranked anywhere from 45th to 48th, we need ALL of the above and not just 3!!! Cut the business incentives. Companies are NOT relocating to AZ due to the K-12 education ranking. Increase our ranking and business will come. We offer weather and cheaper cost of living!
469	Realistically, rigor and a safe environment is created by the teacher and administrator overseeing that teacher. AZ needs to be competitive in hiring competent professionals. It starts here. AZ needs to help teachers by limiting the number of students expected to reach in a single class setting. It is not practical to expect teachers to reach every one of the 35 students sitting in the class without another professional with them. Physical Ed and sports are important due to the sedative life styles of our youth.
471	Students learn best when they feel safe. In addition, when students are in small classes, teachers are able to adequately teach their students and are able to really get to know each student that is in their class. I am a certified theatre arts teacher. I have seen first hand how when students are enrolled in arts classes the benefits these courses can have on students. Even students who may be placed in the class not by choice, but at the end of the class truly enjoyed it and realized that it made them a better person because of their experiences.
472	If we have qualified staff with the ability to differentiate for BOTH high and low kids (Gifted services in our state are very limited!) and small class sizes (no more than 25) and if teachers were allowed teach instead of administering TOO many tests (district benchmarks, state assessments) then all students could be reached and allowed to excel!
473	In order to give quality education to students class sizes must be reduced so that teachers can focus on students and their individual needs. The teachers and administrators I know are extremely qualified and committed to students and their education. When there are 35 to 40 students in a classroom it makes the environment uncomfortable to be in a crowded and cramped classroom daily. Sometimes there are not enough seats in the classroom. It is nearly impossible to provide interventions to individual students under these conditions. Also, many buildings are old and in need of updating purely from a health standpoint. It is a concern that we send our children to unhealthy environments because of the state's refusal to put more money into education. There are many qualified teachers but if the state wants to attract and KEEP qualified teachers in our schools they must be paid a respectable amount and valued as the professionals that they are. It is deplorable that a teacher can qualify for state aid like WIC. I feel that by reducing class size, updating buildings to a healthy standard and paying fair wages to teachers you will be creating schools where success is likely to occur.
475	We need to make sure that kids can use a computer not for playing games, but for doing research as any job will require them to use on just like every college does. This is the least thing that is taught to kids because for the most part older teachers have no real clue either.

478	These choices provided above should be required of all schools. A parent or educator should NOT have to choose between having a safe learning environment and a foreign language program.
481	Find finances to stop the good teachers from leaving the profession.
482	A safe environment to learn exactly what a student in Scottsdale or Chinle is learning at the same time. Early childhood education (PreK) supported and expanded in AZ.
484	Arts programs are PROVEN to help impoverished students make great academic gains, but funding levels are so insufficient and testing is so emphasized that these programs are suffering deep cuts.
	Culturally responsive teaching, critical analysis of modern world problems and data, development of professional and lifelong leadership skills
487	Small class sizes and qualified teachers are FUNDAMENTAL and ESSENTIAL. Without these components, students might as well educate themselves off of youtube.
490	Arizona needs to ensure that schools get enough funding to have small class sizes and highly qualified teachers.
491	School characteristics should support reasoning presented for the previous response.
494	As a teacher, I understand the negative impact of large class sizes no matter how qualified the teacher. Small class sizes and a safe environment should be the basic framework on which everything else can build.
496	I believe first and foremost we must fix the lack of young people who are seeking or staying in the teaching profession. We will always have students, however if there is no one to teach them it won't matter.
497	Small class is critical. As a classroom teacher I can tell you the larger the class size, the less differentiation, the less remediation and the less extension, is provided for students. When you have 36 13 year olds or 27 six year olds, your time is spent managing bodies. When you put small class size with qualified teachers in the K-2, the need for intervention is reduced. STEM and Arts are both selected because the both support and enhance learning of students. The Arts provided brain development that has been shown to improve reading and math. STEM is needed for students to be current in today's world. However there is challenge with STEM as many districts do not have resources (technology, resources, trained teachers). Many districts are also confused on what STEM is. It is not using an IPAD for a center. Students today should be learning coding from a young age. We can not teach children every "program" as the programs they use in 2 years, 5 years, 10 years will be obsolete. But we can teacher kids how to understand programs and solve problems. This is how we prepare students for the workplace. Highly qualified administrators and teachers is critical. Students should be taught by highly qualified teachers who have a teaching degree and several supervised internships before getting their own classroom. Administrators should have experience in the area they are supervising. I have had many principals at the elementary level who only every taught high school or special ed. This is not highly qualified. There are administrators who had less than seven years teaching, but are now principals. They lack the experience to be educational leaders on their campus. District administrators tend to have been out of the classroom for many years and many of them spent little time in the classroom, yet they are making decisions that affect thousands of children.
498	a school that has highly qualified teachers, rigorous academics and elective classes.

500	Qualified teachers are important to design quality instruction and challenge students at their just right level within an rigorous core curriculum. Students must also learn how to persevere to solve problems across curriculums, both independently and collaboratively.
501	Every single one of the above school characteristics is important if we want outstanding schools. They are all vital, as they address the wide array of needs for our students.
503	Arts opportunities create great people.
506	A safe environment for students and staff is the number one priority. With that, teachers and administrators need to be qualified and able to complete the job duties in order to keep the kids safe, while providing a safe environment.
511	I see schools working diligently to do a good job while they are constantly undermined by bureaucracies and government agencies. High stakes testing and teacher evaluations have created a negative culture in my school where students and teachers are dealing with stress rather than enjoying learning.
512	Schools should offer curriculum that helps students reach global academic expectations as well as life skills that helps close the academic gaps through multiple learning experiences such as arts and stem.
514	Qualified teachers and administrators who are not hampered by high stakes testing, and who are able to craft rigorous and engaging lessons based on core content, is imperative. Small class sizes where students are given the direction they require, and teachers are allowed to teach, are imperative. Integrating STEM, arts and extracurricular activities will provide students with a quality education.
515	-Teacher/ student ratio is one of the biggest indicators of student success across all demographics. -We need to prepare students with skills to use for a career in case they do not want to/ cannot go to college. College is NOT the only option. - You c
518	A highly achieving student populace, taught by capable educators.
519	This question is redundant. I answered above.
520	All schools should be safe.
524	Schools should prepare students to find successful careers, that one must work to earn a living, and not rely on hand outs. Things do not come easy and it is up to the individual to work at achieving goals.
525	The school characteristics that are most important to me, as a parent, are that my students are given every opportunity possible to expand their horizons and grow academically, so they will have a successful college experience. This involves setting standards that are not dumbed-down for the lowest common denominator, providing arts opportunities such as a quality Orchestra with a director who is versed in string instruments and not shared with a band instructor (who knows relatively little about strings), and that my students' gifted needs are met - daily - by teachers who truly know what a gifted student needs.
526	Focus on raising the bar for core academics, especially at the standard level -- students rise to the level we set for them. Students need access to non-academic classes as well -- arts or other career training because not all students are cut-out for college or the field they want to work in does not need them to attend a 4-year liberal arts college. Small class sizes will help teachers work with students more on a one-on-one basis.

528	In rural schools we often do not have the teachers nor the funding to provide advanced course offerings impacting the most gifted students. When we measure success of the school we are rewarded most for moving the bottom 25% but neglect the truly at risk, our top 15%. We need to nurture our best and our brightest and provide an equitable education for all students in all public schools. It would be nice to have a state wide on line advanced STEM program/partnership with Universities to serve underserved rural schools.
530	Art education is definitely high on my priorities list. We aren't giving students a platform to be creative any more and that's where they learn most of the high thinking skills. Small class sizes are also important to give each student the attention they deserve.
531	Schools need to be a place where a student feels safe, welcome, and wanted. They need to feel that they are there for a purpose (other than "because it is the law" or "because my mom is making me go"). Right now, motivation is a teacher's toughest job, but when students feel there is reason for what they are doing: that it will pay off later and is worthwhile, then this provides the most meaningful motivation.
536	A school's characteristics should include a personalized environment where students and staff feel a sense of neighborhood and community partnerships. Neighborhood schools should be equipped with the latest technology and have extended hours to meet the needs of parents and students within their communities. While schools of choice (charter/private) are gaining popularity with new buildings and facilities, neighborhood, public schools are run down, underfunded and becoming an eyesore which impacts the quality of education they can provide and lowers the property values in the area. A school's characteristics should include access to high quality neighborhood facilities that promote a sense of community beyond the school day and provide extended athletics and technology classes for families in the community.
537	A school will be professional , open minded to all learning styles, and provide a community dedicated to feeling safe, respected, and achieving at high levels.
538	I believe that a school needs to have qualified teachers and administrators that are capable of creating rigorous classes and done in a safe environment. I believe that is what is most successful for students.
540	Please consider where the student is (ability level) when they arrive at high school. Don't force us to teach them as if they are prepared. Many aren't.
541	Teachers and administrators that support critical thinking and rigorous academics as well as a focus on the whole child.
542	It is important that we push our students to think outside the box.
543	Safe environment Small class sizes Well developed curriculum Support for teachers All arts (Theatre, music, visual arts, and movement)
547	Teachers need support from an appropriate curriculum map that will lead their students to success on the standardized assessments, teachers need administrators who are trained in the programs and techniques that will give teachers success, and smaller class sizes will allow for more individualized instruction that will allow every student to be helped.
548	Schools need to aide children in assessing and developing their personal aptitudes in order to enter the work force. College should not be forced down every student's throat.

549	ALL are important! With appropriate funding classes will be smaller, and that will enhance the opportunity for ALL students to demonstrate growth. STEM is necessary for the future, and qualified teachers and administrators make that happen.
551	The most important things we need for our schools to be a success are dedicated teachers and administrators. I want teachers that are dedicated to being there every day for their kids and want them to love learning. I want administrators that come to school everyday dedicated to making sure the students and teachers are enjoying the process of learning together. I want small class sizes so each student can have individualized instruction and teachers can have time for each student. I want safe schools so all students can focus on learning and not fear dangers from other students, staff, community or the world. With all these in place the curriculum can be taught with much greater effectiveness.
552	It wasn't mentioned, appropriate funding.
555	<p>Small class sizes should be a given. A class of 25 students leaves time to expand on the subject matter, reaching into creativity and deeper understanding of a subject. "Rigor", then, is obvious. The larger the class sizes with the demand of meeting standardized test scores sets teachers, and students, up for failure.</p> <p>I am a proponent of physical education. Every psychological study regarding depression and well-being emphasizes physical activity. We can increase the mental state of students by keeping them moving so they can afford the attention level it takes to sit through classes.</p> <p>Qualified teachers and administrators, again, should be a given, but worth mentioning because I am afraid we will move away from high standards.</p>
556	Vision, values: caring/compassion/respect/responsibility/honesty (character starts with the adults/administrators/teachers modeling what they want to see in the students), culture of equity & high expectations for all students (all students engaged, no matter their level or circumstance), innovative & diverse course offerings/programs, intentional and continuous professional development for leadership and teachers, and strong parent and community partnerships.
557	Class sizes must be kept low enough so that teachers can impact students meaningfully. Schools need to be safe-havens for students to feel comfortable and security in schools needs to be a top priority for administrators.
559	Having small class sizes would help students get more one-to-one attention especially using technology in the classroom as we're progressing through the 21st century. This would help teachers diagnose any academic/emotional setbacks that students may have and resolve those issues.
560	The answer above should be all of the choices. Not three. This is why Arizona has such a racist charter system, we are not teaching all students, all skills and preparing for them to be successful Americans.
561	Small class sizes will help students and teachers. The more students in a classroom the less time per student. However ALL the items mentioned are important - no weeding out!
562	Career and Technical Education - CTE

	<p>I believe that the school characteristics that are the most important to me are ones that are designed to meet the needs of the students, their families, teachers, and the community. I think that class sizes should be based on how the teacher can best engage and interact with their students in a way that not only promotes learning but encourages forming a relationship built on trust and caring. Large class sizes do not promote any positive type of learning environment. I believe that teachers should be supported in exploring many different philosophies of learning and integrate them in a way that students can easily transition what they learn to what they will be dealing with throughout their life and also nurture their creative nature. I believe that there should be high but realistic expectations designed to meet all students needs. In order for teachers to be able to accomplish these lofty goals they need to have the emotional, professional, and financial support from administrators that will facilitate a successful application in and out of the classroom. I also believe that in our global world we need to be more open to what we can learn from other cultures and their classrooms. I think forming a collaboration on an international scale with schools using social media to work together would be an ideal that I strive for daily in my classroom. I believe that the arts, science, technologies, and physical education (including dance and gymnastics, etc.) are a vital part of the learning process and make for a more well rounded curriculum as well as students that become passionate about learning. If we can become facilitators of knowledge and offer learning experiences that meet these zones of proximal development then all expectations of rigor will be met.</p>
563	<p>*Small class sizes ensure that each child can be seen and heard as an individual. The teacher isn't focused as much on behavior and having to manage with 30+ students. The teacher can focus on the students learning and assisting them progress to the next level.</p> <p>*Qualified teachers and administrators ensure that teachers are able to assist the students learning and that admin is there for support. Qualified teachers do not mean who get the highest test scores. Qualified teachers get each individual student to the next level no matter where that students starts from. Administrators that are qualified do not get in teachers way and they are there for support when needed and assist teachers with their goals also.</p> <p>*A safe learning environment will ensure that all students are protected during the school day. Without a safe learning environment, students and teachers are trying to learn and facilitate learning in a destructive environment.</p>
564	<p>**A lot of the other options are also great, however, any qualified teacher will also have some of those aspects within their classroom.</p>
567	<p>We need more arts integration schools for our students to be able to become the innovators, explorers, designers that our country needs.</p>
568	<p>I feel that students are better serviced in small, academically rigorous environments where they feel safe to take risks.</p>
569	<p>Small class size!!!!!! That way students and teachers can truly learn and discuss and create non surface level knowledge!!!!</p> <p>Small class size - I teach with over 30 kids in room and 6 classes a day. It always is a surface level knowledge base.... its wrong!</p>
570	<p>The most mportant is quality teachers. This will create a safe environment and rigorous academics. Secondly, to help, smaller class sizes.</p>
573	<p>Again, all of the above are important and schools should be adequately funded to be able to provide all of the above.</p>

574	With a combination of the above noted selections a school should embody expected rigor in all core academics taught by qualified teachers, but allowing for the diversity of those students who may not be on the "university track". So, offering a variety vocational-type courses which help those "non-university track" students better prepare for the workforce upon high school graduation is sorely needed. High schools that focus the majority of their curriculum and attention on the "university track" students solely puts the "non-university track" students at a serious disadvantage -- the "non-university track" students still attend these high schools.
575	Qualified teachers and administrator than can effectively teach and manage current knowledge and skills that students need for post-secondary education and or the current and future job market. STEM is important in the preparation process, because of the highly technical nature of the skills that are now needed to compete in the global market. Finally, smaller class sizes are needed to provide individual students with more teacher contact. This provides teachers with necessary time that allows them to help students develop a better depth of knowledge.
579	Kids should feel safe to learn and explore. Less focus on test scores and more boutique the children.
581	A school where all students can learn safely without threats of violence or bullying from fellow students and from school faculty. A school that promotes group learning and critical thinking skills, to prepare students for tomorrow. A school that has extracurricular activities that will complement their core academic learning in Math, English, Science, and History. These could range from athletics to music to drama to CTE/STEM or what used to be known as Vocational Education, because you are not going to reach all students by just focusing on academics alone. You have to give students something to look forward to at school and this includes both learning academics as well as learning life skills.
582	Safe and supportive learning community.
583	We must provide a well rounded education which must include rigorous academics, arts and music, and physical education and sports. After that small class sizes are always preferable as they facilitate more attention to individual students by teachers.
587	The classes need to be small enough so the teachers can meet the needs of their students. Teachers need to be qualified and have the correct core academic knowledge to teach but also the materials to do it without spending so much out of their own pockets every year.
588	With small class sizes, teachers are better able to assist students who need help.
589	Qualified teachers, Rigorous core academics, along with advanced academics
590	These characteristics should automatically be embedded in our schools for success and well rounded individuals. Although all are important, to choose between a safe learning environment and small class size in the same category as academics, teachers and diverse class offerings in ridiculous!
592	Quality teachers and leaders will be able to meet the needs of all the students if there is a smaller ratio of student to teacher.
593	Children of all abilities must be served in the manner they can learn. Qualified staff means they have had the rigorous courses of education and or training which brings an understanding of working with the students. People can not learn if they do not feel safe.
595	Qualified administrator leaders and teachers, and small class sizes as well. Smaller class sizes allow for teachers to reach all students at a deeper level, and to ensure understanding and mastery of the content. Students get lost in larger classes.

597	PE to let the students get their "wiggles out" and to help promote healthy lifestyles! STEM to help our students grow in Science which in turn helps with our core subjects of Math and Reading! Small class sizes so students can get the attention needed and teachers the opportunity to delve deeper and in small groups easier!
598	Schools have moved from skills-based instruction toward a one size fits all mentality and the expectation that all students are destined for the university experience. School characteristics should lead with preparation for the workforce.
599	Diverse opportunities, high expectations of student achievement, teaching student how to learn
600	We need smaller class sizes in order to meet all the many needs of students entering our schools. Students will be more successful and teachers will be less stressed
601	A safe learning environment with qualified teachers not full time substitutes- who have materials and strategies to instruct children even those with special needs.
602	All of the characteristics above are important and cannot be isolated. Advanced academics, career training, and rigorous core academics require qualified teachers. Arts, physical education and foreign language classes should be part of any academic program. Special and gifted programs would work towards the differentiation that teachers cannot successfully achieve in the classroom with large classes and limited resources.
603	The school characteristics that I feel are most important are consistency, high expectations, and teachers who sincerely want to do the best job possible.
604	All of the characteristics listed above are important for a well-rounded individual. I believe that if a school is safe and faculty/administration are qualified, the other characteristics will follow as best practices in education.
605	All of the characteristics listed above are important for a well-rounded individual. I believe that if a school is safe and faculty/administration are qualified, the other characteristics will follow as best practices in education.
606	Schools (especially public) should offer smaller classes to provide more one on one teacher to student, teacher to small group, or student to student instruction. Overwhelmed teachers can't do everything no matter how much you pay them. Students of all backgrounds want a safe learning environment. Smaller class sizes, anti-bullying programs, counseling, addressing academic needs of students and parent assistance programs, a safe or home away from home, help students be more successful than giving them a grade on a mandated yearly test.
607	Our students are diverse in every spectrum....culture, home environment, academic emphasis within the family, academic capability of the student, etc. I don't believe that instructional rigor should be dropped; however, requiring students to learn in an assembly line environment (4 years English, 4 years Math, 3 years Science...), is not realistic. Students who seek rigor should be able to find rigor in more difficult, higher level academic coursework. Students who have increased difficulty or decreased interest in academic settings should have instruction tailored to meet entry into the workforce. Important school characteristics are that every student has the opportunity to succeed at their level with learning challenges to stretch their skill sets, but encourage them to remain in school learning versus dropping out or aging out. We need to strike a balance--an analogy of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" would fit my vision of school and education characteristics.
608	STEM is so important during this time of change.
609	I hate question #2. How is it possible to pick only three?
612	Students need to be ready for 21st century jobs, 60% of those that don't even exist.

613	Arizona's students are not doing as well as students in other states because of its lax view on attendance and funding. We must have strong arts programs to engage students in school, have small class sizes to meet the unique needs of our students--so many of whom have a mother tongue other than English, and we must have rigor academics so that students are appropriately challenged.
614	Read above
615	All of the above are important, but no learning can take place if the school is not safe nor if the teachers do not have skills and training. I also feel students learn better if they are not crowded into a small room with many other students.
616	STEM
617	Small class sizes is critical in reaching the student's needs (last year my average class size was 40 students, this was extremely difficult to monitor, reach each students' needs, etc.) The students have to be able to feel safe within the school environment, but I also feel students need to hold students accountable for their learning, this piece seems non-existent.
621	A good curriculum that does not change every year at the whim of government. Using a whole new curriculum every year burns teachers out and does not serve the students who have to start all over as well.
622	An open minded caring staff.
626	Due to the excessive amount of standardized testing, our students are missing out on enriching opportunities that they can be provided through the arts. Class sizes of 30 plus kindergartners is unacceptable.
627	<p>Small class sizes allow me as an educator to invest more time into each student's development. It is the difference between assigning a paragraph for five 40-student classes and assigning an essay for five 25-student classes. Students will achieve more when I can spend more time with them.</p> <p>Qualified Teachers and Administrators - Arizona has a bizarre way of ignoring valuable experience in their educators. I came to teaching with a graduate from Oxford and four years working for the federal government yet my school district does not recognize ANY of it and treats me (financially and personally) the same as a 22-year old fresh out of college. Unless things change soon, I'll be headed back to federal service where my experience and education count. Recognizing prior experience is a powerful incentive for those with diverse and valuable backgrounds. If you want students to excel in the real world, then please value educators who have lived and worked in fields outside of education. Some of the most ignorant statements I have ever heard have come from veteran teachers who have never done anything other than teach.</p>
628	Each school in Arizona needs to have a partnership between the child, the home, and the school. Communication to and from the school needs to be respectful, focused on the student's needs, and honest, so a mutual trust can be built between public schools and the community.

629	If I could have checked more than three above, I also would have checked rigorous core academics. All students have a right to an education that prepares them for life after school, including the right to advocate for themselves if they feel unsafe in expressing themselves. If they don't feel this at school, they won't express themselves for employers, which allows them to be taken advantage of. Rigorous academics and advanced academics allow students to gain the understanding of critical thinking, logic, and the simple knowledge base to ensure they can compete. Arts opportunities allow students to become complete, creative human beings.
631	Arizona need to bring our educations up to higher academics so our students have a chance for better future jobs.
633	Schools that are focused on student success and not a test score is in desperate need. That cannot happen with under-funded schools falling into disrepair.
634	Schools that are focused on student success and not a test score is in desperate need. That cannot happen with under-funded schools falling into disrepair.
635	Greater support of the music and art programs as they have been identified as core subjects under the new law.
638	I value smaller class sizes lead by qualified and enthusiastic teachers who care. I expect a rigorous curriculum with lots of advanced and regular class choices for core classes and a variety of CTE/arts electives for my child.
639	A safe caring environment.
640	Small class sizes first as nobody can get individualized help with 30+ students in a classroom. Next we need qualified and intelligent staff members and administrators who have actually had a job in the classroom at one point or another. Our kids need to be career trained or have an idea of what jobs are out there and how to get into those jobs.
643	Equal Funding that supports and makes the following accessible by all students regardless of school location. Safe learning environment that allows teacher attention for each student. Dedicated capable teachers.
645	Highly qualified teachers given the support (training, PD, clear communication on standards, etc.) and resources to meet the needs of the variety of needs from their diverse students. Through this, everyone can achieve more (students, teachers, schools, districts & the state). If the learner's needs cannot be met in the general ed classroom, opportunities should be given outside (special ed and gifted ed programs)
647	Rigorous meaning holding the bar high for mastery, not just following a curriculum map and moving on because we only have 3 days to learn one topic.
649	Training in the basics is necessary. Without solid and deep training in the basics, the rest is superfluous.
650	It was hard to pick only 3. I would also include small class sizes because it is easier to create the best learning environment with smaller class sizes.
651	Class size DOES matter! Quality, experienced administrators are the key to effective schools and with core academics that are based on current common core based curriculums.
652	We need to really be preparing our children for work and higher education. Schools should be a safe place to learn free from bullying and distractions. We need to provide the proper resources for our schools to be successful. Academic rigor is important, however, if we are not exposing our students to career standards, they can be bright and not be successful.

653	Students should have teachers and administrators that are qualified but also passionate about their work. They should also be compensated more for the work that they do. They have a huge responsibility. All schools should offer rigorous core academics so all students have the opportunity to be challenged in the classroom. Schools should also have Arts opportunities as research shows that students who are engaged in the Arts have higher GPAs than students who do not. ALL students should have access to these things regardless of the location of their school.
654	Small class sizes where teachers can really get to know their students. No more than 24 to 1!
656	Personal education with a caring teacher
659	I believe all students deserve the same opportunities as other students in other states, STEM leads itself into rigorous academics and allows opportunities for special and gifted education programs to be very successful.
660	Small classes equate to more student-teacher face time, which leads to greater understanding of critical information.
661	Schools are micro communities, and they need to be safe places where students are encouraged and comfortable exploring rigorous academics and participating in a variety of interests and activities. Most schools are in survival mode here, and barely rise above the basics.
662	A nurturing and caring atmosphere in which students have the opportunity to explore and excel in all academic, art, and physical education classes.
670	SMALLER CLASS SIZES TO REACH EVERY CHILD
674	The success I have seen for the average student in a rigorous academic setting with small class size leaves no room for doubt in my mind that this is the best learning environment and the one on which we put the least value. How is a teacher with little skill in academics, having wasted countless hours on mediocre educational psychology and statistics class highly qualified to teach? Many of those teachers can barely pass the exceedingly easy teacher tests. I have taken countless PRAXIS and AEPA tests without any formal or informal preparation and easily passed them all. If you want better teachers, set the bar higher and give them fewer students each.
675	A diverse range of opportunities for students to learn things they might not otherwise be exposed to.
676	Provide teacher training in the STEM areas and have small classes to really focus on students who are struggling. Large class sizes is managing, not focus on student's individual needs.
677	Teachers need to be trained and prepared to meet the demands of today's academic needs. A test does not determine if a teacher is a great educator.
678	While the STEM is important, it is so important to also offer arts, physical education, foreign language and counseling as well. We need to take care of all children. They need all of these exposures. Some kids do not come ready to learn daily and need help with coping skills. Others who are 4 year college destined need experience in other areas too.
680	When students enjoy extra activities they also enjoy learning.

681	I am a high school administrator and I can not say that one of these areas is more important than another. Our job is to prepare ALL children to be successful after graduation. We need to provide to level educational opportunities for all students. If we are saying ALL this means our most needy to our most advanced and capable. We also need to provide areas of study that will develop on going generations of students who are capable in sciences, STEM, foreign language, Health, Medical and Physical Wellness, the arts, etc. AZ would fail our youth if we narrowed our focus down to offering very limited opportunities. It will result in losing more students from our schools and education systems.
684	Socially diverse, adequate technology for curriculum support, safe and welcoming facilities, open and honest administration
686	Smaller class sizes would allow teachers to meet the needs of all diverse students.
687	1. Relationship development between teachers and students (schools must be safe, have high morale, and be allowed to interact with their community). 2. Student Growth (moving kids up)
688	Again, getting the graduates to leave with a skill and advanced training and opportunity in an area of interest. Then we given more opportunities to advance their skills at universities, trade schools, or what ever the studnet desires.
689	Students should be taught the basics: reading, writing, and arithmetic at a young age. Once those skills are established, they should be able to pursue subject areas that are of interest to them. By high school, students should be able to pursue classes that will either prepare them for college or a vocation. This could be done though classes in the schools or internship opportunities in the community that provide high school credit.
691	Again, getting the graduates to leave with a skill and advanced training and opportunity in an area of interest. Then we given more opportunities to advance their skills at universities, trade schools, or what ever the studnet desires.
692	Students should be challenged to learn and express themselves in a safe environment.
693	Having schools and teachers who actually teach students, not teachers who give busy work and then sit on their computers checking Facebook. Teachers should be able to handle classroom discipline and students should feel both safe and supported in class. Teachers should also feel safe and supported by administration. Students should be expected to do the work assigned and not skate through because their parent threatened someone.
695	Schools need to be safe places for learning with the autonomy to teach in styles or curriculum based upon their comminty's needs.
698	A school needs to understand that as educators, we are not doing the students any favors by just preparing them for the state test. Schools need to have a genuine passion for the students, seeking every opportunity they can take to help the students grow academically, socially, and emotionally so they are prepared to be successful, contributing members to society.
700	When taught by gifted and committed teachers, students can achieve more than many people think possible. Students today are more emotionally needy than a decade ago and small class sizes help meet those needs leading to more independent students.

703	The list above has many characteristics that a school needs. It is hard to pick only 3 because all are needed desperately. However, the one most important that seems to have gotten lost along the way is the one that can help teachers accomplish advanced academics, Art, language, STEM, etc. That is Small class sizes. You cannot justify Rigorous core academics or any other program when the ratio of student to teacher is 35 to 1. We are not giving our students the best learning opportunity possible when we drown them in an over crowded classroom environment.
704	Building relationships and knowing individual students' needs make it possible to teach and reach ALL students. This is almost impossible to achieve in a large class, in my experience. Arts and special/gifted education help students find their individual strengths, and help the teachers teach them holistically.
707	Technologically saavy, safe, up to date but not picking up the newest educational theory.
708	Emphasis on qualified administrators is crucial for success in the classroom. Too many administrators either have never taught or taught for only a few years many years ago. Unless they teach at least in the classroom now, they cannot understand the changes that make it more difficult to teach.
710	It is important that schools help develop well rounded individuals that are prepared for the real world. That includes health and physical education to help them learn to be healthy for life, art appreciation, practical math skills that they will really use in life(how to balance a check book, fill out financial firms, etc). Develop citizens that care about someone other than themselves.
711	If school are not safe no learning takes place. Small class sizes are of the utmost importance in order for teachers to provide the best learning environment. Academics must be rigorous in order to provide for ALL students no mater where they are academically. All need to be held to HIGH expectations.
712	Schools needs to have small class sizes, when your special education classes are bigger than the general education classes that's a huge problem. We need to be properly funded so we can fix that. We need our schools to feel safe. We need our schools to offer opportunities to all the different kinds of students we serve.
713	A school that works towards individuality (in students' gifts and talents) but allows students to participate in overall wholesome curriculum. Not a cookie-cutter program.
714	I think that all of the above characteristics are very important; it's hard to choose only three. If students and staff members feel safe in their environment, then the quality of education improves. Teachers and administrators must be qualified and continue receiving professional development opportunities. The curriculum must be rigorous, comprehensive, and attainable. Schools need to be properly funded and have the resources to do all of these things.
716	Our schools should focus on reducing class sizes run by highly qualified, well-paid instructors. A sense of safety should envelope all students AND staff members.
718	Students must feel safe, which includes not only the facilities and systems in place, but also the educators and students who contribute to the culture of scare and learning that students require. They must have access to critical and creative outlets such as the arts to fully round out and complete a true education.
719	Teachers need to be valued in AZ and be paid accordingly. There are great teachers and there are inadequate teachers. We need to either support inadequate teachers or have them leave the field. Smaller class sizes are important, especially in early childhood education. We need to focus on students being prepared to leave our schools who WILL NOT go to college as much as we focus on STEM or advanced academics.

722	Diverse classrooms where students feel safe to learn from teachers who are competent and care deeply about their students/ believe that every student can succeed.
723	I think it is important to keep class sizes small enough for teachers to really engage with their students in order to provide the necessary individualized instruction students need to be successful. By providing rigorous curriculum, students are encouraged to become thinkers and to develop skills needed in the workplace.
724	In addition to rigorous academics focusing on college and career readiness and delivered by highly qualified teachers, I believe that schools need involved, committed, effective administrators and an active, supportive parent/community base. Our schools need to continue to offer advanced academics, provide specialized programming for students with exceptional learning needs, including gifted students, and to strengthen STEM offerings. A very important characteristic that makes quality education most viable is small class sizes that allow teachers to focus on planning, assessing, and adjusting instruction to meet the learning needs of students; large class sizes prevent teachers from being able to manage work load in order to engage in and provide students with meaningful feedback to support learning and achievement.
725	You need to change STEM to STEAM. A for the arts! What good is the knowledge without the creative side to learning?
726	I believe that schools need to be a place of engaged learning. We need to reinvent what school should look like for all students. It should be creative, engaging, focused on the learner, responsive, less reliant on test results, and collaborative. In order to do this, teachers need to be trained on how to stimulate the learning environment, and understand how learning happens in the minds of students. This means that we need to give students opportunities in the arts and sciences with highly qualified teachers, access to quality food and healthcare for those on the low end of the economic scale, diversity and tolerance training for staff and student leaders, and more opportunities outside the classroom with partners in the community for both academic enhancement and technical and job training.
728	Instead of the top 3, I checked the top four. Career training is important for school staff, AND students alike.
731	Schools that offer smaller class sizes, fine arts, physical education, extra curricular opportunities are the most important characteristics to creating a quality education system.
732	Small class sizes, so a teacher is able do deeply know each child and work them to master the standards.
734	This is difficult to only pick the top 3 from the list above. I like them all.
736	STEM and smaller classes
737	If you don't have qualified teachers none of the other things will follow. you need both special ed programs and gifted programs to touch all the students as well as the majority of students in the schools to let everyone reach their greatest potential.
741	School is a practice arena for the life ahead. It needs to encompass the whole person; mind, body, and spirit. A person is a whole being. The whole being needs nurture.
743	Learning does not take place if a student is fearful or uncomfortable. Students need to learn about technology, math, science and engineering. The arts should be the parents responsibility not the schools.
744	The opportunity to realistically maintain consistent expectations as well as realizing the radical diversity of skill sets and levels of students and actually accommodating them.
745	The opportunity to realistically maintain consistent expectations as well as realizing the radical diversity of skill sets and levels of students and actually accommodating them.

746	A good school needs a good leader that supports learning and teachers. A good school has class sizes that allow teachers to teach more effectively. A good school offers opportunity for growth and improvement.
747	It is important for students to feel safe at school and that the people in the schools are highly qualified but also work to help the kids learn and grow. Smaller class sizes would allow for teachers to have more time to help students one on one.
748	Challenging students to reach goal while setting high expectations. Our school system is broken and we should be modelling our schools systems off worlds best school system and not trying to reinvent the wheel.
749	Small class sizes = provide more individual attention Physical education and sports = constructive ways for students to use their energy and increases self esteem Rigorous Core Curriculum = allows students increase academic achievement
753	I feel that a solid foundation in grades K-8 is of utmost importance, because that is where you gain the abilities that you will need to succeed in life. This includes rigorous reading, writing and math classes at the very least. All students at this level should be able to finish 8th grade with solid writing and applicable math skills that are needed for any career. A rigorous academic program would already require qualified teachers, so small class size would allow those teachers to truly tailor their lessons to the needs of the learners. I also strongly believe that all students at this level (K-8) should be intermingled for optimum language development.
755	The 3 characteristics that I chose can all be related to the others. In order for students to achieve the goals set, all of the above characteristics must be in place.
756	Supportive of struggling students Supportive of struggling teachers
757	Have a successful special education program that will help the classroom teacher with students needing special services and not make it so difficult and time-consuming for needed students to obtain those services. Small classroom sizes is essential for student success in the classroom. Qualified teachers are also a very important and a supportive administrator helps in making a successful school overall.
758	Having the time to teach skills necessary to compete globally.
759	There should be a combination of academics, arts, and career training courses offered, providing all students the opportunity to be successful. Some students are college-bound so their academics need to be solid, while others are more likely to attend trade schools so the ability to explore trade jobs is important, and for those students that will not continue their education, real-world life skill courses should be available.
760	Small class size allows teachers to better meet the needs of all students and be able to provide a rigorous curriculum. Students thrive when art education is offered. It is a reason many students do not hate school.
761	Quality people are essential to success. Then the environment needs to be safe and then the true learning can happen.

762	The state doesn't want to pay teachers what they deserve so too many good ones are leaving. More students in a classroom may cost less up front but students need to have one on one teacher support through out the day to learn to their full potential and learn appropriate behavior. Students need true early interventions from specialists for academics and behaviors BEFORE the big problems show up. Early interventions would cost less in the long run But those cost too much up front so are not taken seriously. Behaviors and and learning problems are soaring when too many of them could have been taken care of early.
763	We need all of those and ways to support students who don't learn the same way as the majority. Don't leave behind the disadvantaged. School vouchers will not better prepare kids in my neighborhood as they do not have the family structure to support most of them.
764	Schools should be a safe place, with qualified teachers that prepare students for the future. Class sizes should be small (ideally primary grades less than 25; high school grades less than 30). Students also should be exposed to the arts, physical education and other extra activities.
767	I picked four that are vital to success of students. Smaller class sizes are often overlooked and need to be part of the change. Teachers are stressed more than ever with so many demands and students are feeling those effects and suffering from them. Students deserve better and will benefit from a safe learning environment if smaller class sizes are a norm. Rigorous core academics and qualified teachers/admin are a given and should just be expected that every Arizona school possesses them.
770	Safe schools, strong and invested community, rigorous academics at all levels, and students ready to tackle the next academic or professional milestone.
771	I want my children to go to school and get a full year's education instead of a two quarter education, a quarter of test prep, and nothing after state testing. I want less benchmarking, STEEP screening, Dibles, AZMerit prep, etc. it's time to stop testing our kids to death. I want kids to explore with STEAM topics, PBLs, the arts, and be able to truly self select literature to read freely, not just for AR points. I would love for teachers to love what they do, with less pressure from ridiculous teacher assessment protocols and testing requirements. I want AZ to either lessen the burdens on teachers, or actually pay them for the work they do. We cannot continue to have enormous expectations on teachers and pay them so little. We will only continue to lose high quality professionals if this practice continues. Teachers with higher degrees, board certificates, and longevity should be paid accordingly. It's preposterous that a veteran teacher with higher degrees only makes a few thousand more a year than a brand new teacher. Happy teachers equate to happy well educated students.
776	I truly believe the smaller the class size the more the students will learn. Also, about a decade ago, schools became a business for profit. We no longer hold students and parents accountable, we don't suspend students, and definitely do not expell. This needs to stop if you want to put the focus of school back to education.
777	Schools need to be safe places for learning with the autonomy to teach in styles or curriculum based upon their comminty's needs.
781	Choices, different opportunities, the ability to function on society after graduation
782	Children need basic skills in all areas of academics. They need to learn life skills - critical thinking, communication skills, persistence, empathy. They need to be in classrooms that are not over populated which just allows the children who need the help most to fall between the cracks. They need to be supported by teachers who feel they are respected and appreciated.

784	I think having a well educated campus that can work together brings a safe campus and lots of opportunities. From that, we need to keep up the Art, PE and Music for all students in every aspect. I am really tired of the cuts made to these areas. They are just as important to students as the academics.
787	If you want to get more teachers, and higher quality teachers to achieve any goal, you need to start paying and treating us as professionals.
791	We need to offer a variety of opportunities to meet the individual needs for our students.
793	must prepare the diverse student population for what they will do next, whether that means raising a family, working in industry, college, or simply daily life
794	Schools should have complete arts and PE classes. Students who participate in arts and physical education do better than students who do not. Students should be held to high academic standards that hit all areas, not just reading and math. These high standards should be the same across the country at every school.
795	You are forgetting character development. Truth, goodness and beauty are not subjective.
796	Administrators are not leading the way they should. The school or district should be data driven so that teachers know where their students are. This I have not seen here in Arizona. You can tell because of the low standardized scores that schools and districts earn. Until you have a system that is data driven, you will not be able to understand the needs of all the students.
797	Discipline, respect, understanding subject material over memorization. Goal to work in reverse. What jobs are needed in the workforce. By high school graduation what to they need. Junior high needs to prepare for high school and grade school goals to be prepared for high school.
798	Productive and supportive leadership, positive attitudes, open and honest communication, professional development, mentoring program, purposeful vision, core values, diversity, inclusiveness, equality, fairness, academic standards/assessments, evidence of success, family and community involvement,
799	It is important for students to learn to communicate with elders that are none English speaker.
800	Safe schools that provide opportunities for all students in a variety of electives, special areas, gifted and remedial classes everyday.
801	A well rounded student! Respectful, caring, compassionate, etc. will make up an outstanding student.
803	Highly qualified staff will have the proper training to effectively teach students. Being safe ensures teachers and students are undistracted in their learning. Small class sizes allow for teachers to meet all students needs by being able to monitor and adjust on an individualized basis rather than as a whole because there were too many students in the classroom. Smaller class sizes will also allow for a one-on-one instruction to advance students who may need extensions or to help reteach students who may need more support.

804	I think Arizona schools should have rigorous core academics that challenge students. Schools should always have an environment that allows students to be creative and innovative. (This is what America was good at until heavy testing was introduced). Ultimately, an all rounded student is what is most important. Intellectually stimulated, physically fit and healthy and cultured, diverse in thinking and appreciates the fine arts because all these make for a better, well-balanced person. Limiting schools to 3 top characteristics is restrictive in itself. We should not aim to be like other countries where testings have a dominant place in achievement. However, periodic Standardized testing is important as it shows what the student has learned and which area(s) the student needs help in.
805	Small class sizes so that a true teacher/student relationship can be developed
806	I look for schools that invest in a culture of learning, student leadership, embrace significant amounts of physical movement for students within their day, and strive to offer balanced academic programs (Art, music, Humanities, Foreign Language, etc).
807	School characteristics need to enhance diversity in the education of students because they need a range of skills in the future and the students have a variety of interests and strengths that need to be addressed.
808	Arts. Sports. Safety.
809	I believe that many highly achieving students are left behind due to the "no student left behind" program. Small class sizes make a HUGE difference in learning for the students.
814	Having a well rounded curriculum of reading, math, writing, science, and social studies. I beleive music, art, and P.E. must be incorporated along with technology.
816	That teachers remember to teach to the whole child, to observe and practice delivering instruction in different modalities.
817	Rich and varied opportunities for children of diverse backgrounds to be challenged academically, supported in arts and sciences, supported in social and emotional development, by supporting the ones with them every school day.
818	In title I schools, class size should be reduced to allow teachers to serve students and their various needs that differ from traditional students; teachers must wear more hats in these schools.
820	Students are given exposure to education they choose to be a part of. Students should be able to choose their path for success b
822	Academics needs to be rigorous K-12 because most students barely make it out of secondary school and often feel failures at College/University level. In order for this to happen, schools have to look into betterment of teachers and administrators. Class size needs to be smaller if we are to have ELL and Special Education in our classrooms. Special Educators job seemed to change, where they tell us they are only a support to our classroom yet get as much pay as we do. Regular teachers are not well trained in Special Education yet relied on for Special Education students. Special Education teachers need to do their own lesson plans and work as support one on one in classroom. And what does 30 minutes once.twice a week do for Special Education student? Yet, they are assign to regular class full time.
823	Teachers should have a reasonable amount of freedom in how they run their classrooms.
826	Providing an education for all students
828	The testing is killing both teachers and students. Its driving teachers out of the profession and students to more problematic alternatives. There has to be an infusion of joy into the educational experience. That can be achieved by enriching of the academic experience of each student through project based learning the connecting the workplace with the classroom in a relevant and engaging manner.

829	Competent administrators, qualified teachers, active parents, engaged students.
830	Students should be well-rounded through a required curriculum that includes math, science, literature, fine arts, and foreign language. Career and Technical Education courses should take a back seat to the core academics.
834	The greatest give you can give a teacher is a smaller, more appropriate class size. (If I could pick 4, I would have picked special education and gifted education programs. However, those programs are already in place with federal money.)
836	I believe that if a school has enough sports activities, extracurricular activities, and art activities, along with a rigorous curriculum, it will produce a well-rounded student who will be ready for the world!
837	Schools are only as good as the teachers that are working with the students. Highly qualified, passionate educators make the difference between a stellar education and an adequate one.
838	The most important school characteristics to me are small class sizes, highly qualified teachers, and opportunities for career training. I believe these are important because without them, we cannot have successful students. You can provide a rigorous core academic program, gifted and special education programs, a safe learning environment, and many of the other listed Characteristics by providing the top three I listed.
839	Safety is number one b/c without it one can not learn. STEM is the future and we need qualified teachers to do the job.
840	The above three qualifiers are important as the foundation, but a solid core curriculum is needed that not only addresses STEM, strong literacy, fine arts but also values education with community involvement needs to be a natural part of what we want children to learn and do.
841	Students generally do not stay in school because of core academic classes- They need electives that motivate them such as band, ROTC, etc
843	Ability to better train and retain teachers and offer opportunities for advancement.
845	Students who struggle in the classroom deserve to have a program that is tailored to them, so they can be successful. I also believe that a smaller class size would give a teacher the opportunity to work more one-on-one with each student. Finally, students need arts opportunities in order to be creative and have something that they really enjoy.
846	Students should come to school knowing they are safe on campus and in classrooms. Disruptive and violent students should not be allowed in classrooms, where learning time is lost when teachers must deal with their extreme behaviors. Teachers should be highly qualified to teach, and academics should be rigorous for all students.
847	In urban, high-poverty schools (that typically under-perform) there is a need for smaller class sizes and specialized programs/teacher training to help students succeed.
854	Class size should be the number one. Average class sizes of 35 are absurd. Teachers must develop relationships within the classroom for there to be respect and rapport, which motivates students to want to excel. Too many students negatively impacts a teachers ability to develop this relationship. In addition, too large of classes makes it nearly impossible to adequately meet the learning needs of individual students.
855	Students need to feel safe first. Teachers and administrators need to be not only qualified, but passionate about kids and learning. Students need choices outside of core subjects. Arts, sports and socialization is super important in order for most students to be successful in core.
857	Characteristics should focus on individuals rather than a one size must fit all.

859	I also think we need rigorous standards and safe sites.
860	We have a lot of teachers and admin that have no experience in the real-world, they have only gone to school to learn how to teach at a school. They don't understand industry and look down on students that are not going to college.
864	In order to reach every child, class sizes need to be smaller. Differentiating curriculum for 35 students in 4th grade is impossible. Also, the special education students and gifted students really need programs to help teachers meet their needs. Again, these programs help teachers to differentiate curriculum and meet those student's needs.
865	Students must be in a safe environment, challenged in the classroom and under the care of qualified teachers and administrators.
866	I feel that reaching out to more students is the most important thing. We ruin their creativity early on with the core academics.
868	Welcoming environment, highly qualified teachers, high expectations
871	A good curriculum with great resources for students to practice and take home. Small class give you the opportunity to go one on one and students will be more successful
872	The characteristics that are most important are those that will have the greatest impact on the most students. Small class sizes will allow qualified teachers to better support students by challenging them and helping them learn the skilled needed to be successful.
875	Schools need to have highly qualified teachers, with districts ensuring the highest level of professional development is given and available. Small class sizes helps reach more students. Special Ed programs with small group sizes allows those who learn differently to have better access to materials based on their learning needs.
877	I think warm adult bodies in not a solutions, we need highly qualified teachers in K-3 to set good foundations for learning. Bridging gaps and trying to get student to catch up in 3rd grade with two years behind is not the smart way of doing things. The gap is almost never filled.
882	Providing an education that provides rigorous core academics, Arts opportunities, and Physical education and sports will develop a well rounded, self possessed and self confident adult.
883	In order for teachers to teach and students to learn, staff must be qualified and experienced, students must feel safe. Small class size allows for student learning, one-on-one instruction to help struggling students, and the smaller the class, the less disruption takes place.
887	Rigorous core academics will encompass STEM, Advanced academics, foreign language and career training. Qualified teachers/administrators ensures that students have a teacher that is trained in the necessary pedagogy required to help students learn new material. To me, highly qualified doesn't mean passing a state test, it means someone that produces results because they have on-going training. Safe learning environment means that students have a calm and well-maintained school. The school building is clean and maintained. There is a school wide discipline plan that has been communicated to all stakeholders. Students are training in the necessary social-emotional skills they need to be successful by teachers that have been fully trained in how to teacher them. Students are held accountable for poor behavior choices and rewarded for good behavior choices. Systems are in place to find a new placement for students that continually disrupt the learning environment.

890	All the above characteristics are important. Education is not a one size fits all. As a special education teacher I see all the above allowing choices. Students need to feel safe in schools and be allowed to make choices. Being exposed to a variety of opportunities allows students to try and decide.
891	Teachers should be not just qualified, but competent and interested in kids! Meeting basic qualifications does not necessarily make a good teacher. Special education for mentally and physically challenged is important as well as serviceing gifted students before they get bored and "drop out" mentally is also important. Giving students career path oportunities is also important, so STEM, languages, and other opportunities should be considered (ie hairstyling training, mechanics, foodservice, etc.) for high school. Physical education and athletics is also important to address not only student interests but also for exercise to prevent obesity and maintain overall health
892	students need more diverse courses
894	Our state is lacking the needs to support gifted and special education programs. A safe learning environment is promoted by caring and supportive adults. Smaller class sizes will enable teachers to better reach their students.
898	Students have various interests so a wide variety of classes should be offered. Every class teaches different things that are important in life. Obviously small class sizes would be beneficial for learning and physical education and sports help students work with others to be successful and help students learn ideas to stay healthy in life and it also helps open synapses to help retain information learned in other classes. Sports are important to bring a school together and to help students get their college paid for. Most leaders of companies have been involved in competitive sports and it helps them succeed in our competitive lives. Of course a safe learning environment is on everybody's mind these days and we need to get away from our lack of discipline in our schools. There are major consequences for our mistakes in life and there should be strong consequences for mistakes in school. Two major reasons teachers leave Arizona is lack of pay and lack of discipline. Nobody wants to come here to teach long term and many experienced teachers cannot wait to retire. It will take a while to change these attitudes but with a commitment from our state (which is extremely lame) and with a commitment from districts to be more strict with students, this could change 10-15 years down the line. I am so glad that my oldest is done with Arizona education and my other child is close to being done with Arizona education. It is embarrassing to me as a teacher how little our state cares and embarrassing to see good teachers who came from other states returning to their old states because they think Arizona is a joke.
899	A safe learning environment committed to fostering personal growth and academic excellence.
900	With the basics of qualified teachers, administrators, a safe learning environment, and rigorous core academics all students should have the opportunity to achieve to their highest potential. From this, other programs can be initiated like STEM, special and gifted programs, etc.. I am very much a proponent of get a good foundation first!
901	Students need to be taught in a safe environment by qualified instructors. That is where any successful educational endeavor begins. Personally, I put career training and rigorous core academics on the same level as everything else. Students can come to those things through areas that are more interesting to them.

903	Small classes to allow individualized support and attention, career training since college degrees are over rated and skilled workers are in high demand and safe environment which requires financial and human resource commitments.
904	ALL of the above options are important and inter-connected. You will not have successful students unless ALL students are considered - from the lowest functioning SpEd student to the valedictorian of the high school. Our students are the future.
905	Children learn and grow at their own pace. They need to have smaller class sizes in order to focus and get individualized instruction. They also need to have specially trained individuals on their campus that they can talk to about anxiety over academics and what is going on in their home. How to deal with pressures, acceptance of other etc..
906	I believe AZ schools should characterize rigor in their core academics, provide students with a safe learning environment, and to promote STEM opportunities.
907	Safety is a given and not even worth mentioning! Academically, I'd like to see more real-life skills taught. Kids need to practice interacting more positively as human beings! Also, smaller class sizes so that teachers can taylor their lessons more. And we need more creative thinkers! Gifted programs and the arts are CRUCIAL for this expanded thought!
909	Our children need to be pushed and pulled forward to academic success.
912	First is safety, because we are getting violent students require a lot attention to help them. Usually these students get angry and assault others including the teachers or runaway from the classroom. Principals attend a lot of meetings, and consequently we don't get the support we need to make the classroom safe.
916	Everything begins with quality instruction.
917	Rigorous core academics includes phys ed, sports, arts, gifted and special, foreign language and STEM while providing for advanced academics. Qualified educators, administrators and support personnel are key to implementing a rigorous core. Small class sizes give students access to the support they need to meet demands. If we stick to this, students will be prepared for careers.
918	How can you choose top three when these are all important?
919	Safety first--- have metal detectors in all schools. Drug-sniffing dogs is a bright idea to employ. The teaching field comprises mostly women. Change that environment and make it 50/50. The teaching field is mostly caucasian. Change that environment and have minority representation as well.
920	Students should leave prepared for the workforce or college. Students with different needs should have access to a more rigorous or modified curriculum.
922	I believe that schools should employ teachers who have completed the necessary tests to be licensed, as well as to provide professional development courses to keep all teachers current on new policies and practices. STEM is extremely important because it allows students to learn from hands-on experiences and enriches their learning experience. Small class sizes are a must and is common sense. I had 30 kindergarten students last year and did the best I could to give them individual attention. However, it is difficult and exhausting to do because there are 30 kinder students and only one of me!
923	Students need diverse learning opportunities and opportunities to construct their own knowledge. Teachers should be facilitating the learning process.
924	I believe that children who are gifted should be able to excel and be given every opportunity possible. The Arts are so important because they can give children an outlet to express themselves.

925	Many students do not have opportunities outside of school to participate in arts or sports. These things are important to overall development. Small class sizes helps students receive more individualized instruction and STEM instruction will help students be prepared for the workplace as they get older.
926	Class size that really allows individualized adjustments to the curriculum is necessary. An environment that is free of threats from outside factor or peer bullying is critical. A movement toward use of technology for most curriculums and a movement away from traditional textbooks will provide an environment that more closely resembles the work place that will be encountered by our students.
927	Teachers need support from parents and the community to work with their students. Additionally, underperforming teachers need to be removed.
930	same as above...stop forcing a curriculum as if all students are university bound...when it is intelligent, problem solving individuals that make up the majority of the workforce.
934	An ideal school is where students are actively engaged with the curriculum; where teachers are qualified, respected, and paid fairly; where administrators work with the teachers and staff as a team; and where students are caring, friendly, and courteous.
937	An environment where teachers are highly qualified, trusted, and respected and they in return create a safe and rigorous environment for their students.
938	I think the most important school characteristics are strong academic curriculum, arts opportunities, and PE/sports. Having qualified teachers and administrators should always be the goal in staffing, that should go without saying. I want my children to feel safe at school, and have staff that are trained to protect them in case of an emergency.
939	Rigor in advanced academics allows students to challenge themselves and rise to expectations of teachers and colleges.
944	Getting students ready for the workforce
945	I want to know that my child is going to be safe each and every day. Students cannot learn in an environment in which they do not feel safe. No matter what mandates the state puts out, if the teachers in the classroom are not quality teachers, the mandates WILL be ineffective. Schools must have Arts programs in order for students to be well rounded individuals.
947	The characteristics I believe Arizona schools should possess should not be limited to only three. Every one of these characteristics are critical and relevant to the success (now and in the future) of our students. Once we told our children "Vanessa, finish your dinner because people in India and China are starving." Now we should be saying "Go finish your homework because people in India and China are starving for your jobs!" If we are truly teaching our children to be prepared for college and careers, then we must prepare them to complete with other college graduates with Masters and Doctorate degrees throughout the world.
949	Students learn best when they have smaller classes and more personal attention from good teachers.
950	Arts makes people into people that can work well in their own society. Arts teaches students how to express themselves, work well in teams that are driven toward the highest expressions of humanity, and develop their own selves in a way that physical activity and academics cannot.

	A safe student environment for my students, where I can differentiate learning for a reasonable number of students. I feel like the majority of students are being deprived of an environment that is conducive to learning. When I have a class of 31 first graders, all with different needs and abilities, it is next to impossible to do my job even with a class of well-behaved students and supportive parents. However, now most teachers are faced with not only large class sizes, but also with students who are violent and disruptive to the learning environment. When you are faced with a student who routinely throws chairs, tips over desks, etc. the other 29 to 30 students are expected to either go into the hallway and wait for this student to stop his violent outburst or go into a neighboring teachers classroom where they can at least receive grade level instruction while the violent student calms down. It seems that every year, there are more and more of these types of students. Students who have IEP's for behavior should be in their least restrictive environment. However, the gen. ed. classroom is not their least restrictive environment if they are disrupting the learning of the other students. As a teacher, I end up with a classroom of students being suddenly moved into a neighboring teachers room, thus one student being routinely allowed to disrupt the learning of 60 children. Not to mention, the other teacher is now attempting to teach and safely manage 60 students. I feel like I can't do my job anymore!
951	
952	Having a safe learning environment. My son is unable to attend his high school because of an incident that happened to him and has not helped with his severe anxiety and social phobia
953	Belief in one for all and all for one!
954	I think schools should offer programs and time for students to develop healthy life habits such as exercise. Being involved in team activities is important too.
957	Teachers are the #1 in-school factor affecting student learning. We could have the best standards on paper (and we once did, i.e., CA and MA pre-Common Core), but that wouldn't mean much without great teachers. We should focus on their support, training, and compensation. It's frustrating to see resources squandered on Taj Mahal buildings, bonding debt, compliance with myriad federal regulations, along with general overhead and non-essential administration.
959	Arts must be intertwined in all subjects. Kids can't learn and be engaged with large class sizes. Reduce the teacher:child ratio.
962	I do not think that large class sizes have made it possible to provide the proper rigorous core academics. I would like smaller classes to provide the best education to ALL students.
965	Schools that have positive relationships with staff, students and stakeholders. Schools that are safe, well-rounded and disciplined.
967	Again, I reject the idea that these should not ALL be key objectives of Arizona schools. It is ridiculous to believe that only three of these should be targeted. And a safe learning environment, qualified teachers and administrators, and rigorous academics should be ASSUMED.
968	I would like to see education that is better tailored to every student. 3 of my 4 children were ready for algebra in 9th grade, but all had to take it. Why not have those who aren't ready take preparatory classes and then take algebra when ready in 10th or 11th grade? This makes more sense to me than does the current system.
969	I think that students need to know themselves to become successful in our growing economy.
970	It's hard to just pick a top 3. Schools should challenge the students and prepare them for the jobs of the future through STEM courses as well as create well-rounded students through access to the arts and career training. None of this would matter though if the students don't feel safe or do not have highly qualified teachers.

973	Just teach the curriculum; use basic tests; select texts that have no bias or progressivism where it exists, provide supplemental readings offering counterpoint; stop the fads like the beyond textbooks movement; make sure tests are neutral and do not push a political agenda in the way questions are formatted or in the answers required.
977	To have experience teachers engage our students in a safe environment with relevant curriculum and provide experimental settings in STEM related fields.
978	prepare students to be accountable and self reliant
980	Schools have moved from skills-based instruction toward a one size fits all mentality and the expectation that all students are destined for the university experience. School characteristics should lead with preparation for the workforce.
981	Small sizes are very important. I really believe that a small class will help a teacher move to be a better qualified teacher. Safe environment is essential for the motivation of the students.
982	Qualified teachers/administration and smaller class sizes with the needed resources available to actually produce a successful class.
983	If they can't read, write or do math; then why does all the fluff matter? If the student or teacher do not feel safe; then it doesn't matter how well a lesson is taught, the student will not learn.
985	Small class sizes are key in title 1 schools. Do you want to know why we have a reading problem in third grade? It's because we have kindergarten, first, and second grade classes of thirty plus students. Of course there are students whose needs haven't been met. When was the last time any of you tried to teach something to thirty or more five year olds?
986	Well rounded and diverse opportunities provided qualified, supported individuals that have the freedom to determine the best techniques for student learning
988	Students need a well-rounded education that includes rigorous academics, opportunity to diversify their skills through interest-based academic opportunities, and access to resources that provide additional support if needed. Small class size have a direct effect on students as learning can be more individualized and students have more access to learning support. Students absolutely need qualified teachers and administrators who are well-trained, well-supported, and well-paid.
991	We need schools that have highly qualified people. This does not mean however that just because they have a certificate they are highly qualified. This is why it is important to have excellent administrators to ensure our schools have great teachers. Safety has to be our top priority. If students do not feel safe they will never learn. It does not matter how rigorous your academics are.
992	If we had smaller class sizes it would make it easier for teachers to reach ALL students. Currently it is difficult when you have class sizes of over 30 students. Although all the items on the list are important I think they can be accomplished.

993	Far and away, the most important characteristic of a school is the personnel working there. If there are teachers, administrator, custodial staff, IT support staff, etc. who are not only qualified but passionate about what is truly best for preparing students for their future (and nurturing them in the meantime), a school will be successful and those staff with individual interest will advocate for the multitude of other programs that should be available to students. For example, I feel that rigorous core academics, physical education, arts, foreign language, etc, are all of equal importance, but I was given only three options, so I selected those closest to me. If a school is filled with caring, competent staff, the variety of programs that should be offered to every student will become available. How can one say that STEM programs trump the arts? The arts carry the soul of a people: inspire, rejuvenate, unite, and so much more. And similarly, how can one argue the opposite? STEM programs advance technology to the betterment of our cities, bodies, and creation of all things new. In fact, the arts and engineering are quite similar, feeding one another's creativity and ability to think outside the box. And that is just an example of one set of competing programs. Programs should not be made to compete, but to collaborate. Who makes that happen? The staff.
994	Fostering creativity, collaboration and critical thinking are skills students need. From there, they should be expected to achieve foreign language skills, advanced academics, career training and STEM. Qualified teachers should be a given and if Arizona makes teacher compensation and respect a priority, this will happen. I guess I want it all.
995	Small class sizes, especially in at-risk communities, allow teachers to give students better attention and support.
996	Choosing 3 of these is like deciding if I need arms or legs more. Frankly, all of these are important.
997	I want a school that is diverse in its population and diverse in its course offerings. It all starts with hiring qualified teachers and administrators. Too many schools do not even have a physics program and we are desperate for chemistry and physics instructors in this state because the pay is so low.
998	I believe that if you strengthen your STEAM programs you will see an increase in your other areas which will ultimately increase overall rigor. Many students leave public schools because of safety and emotional stress, so having a safe learning environment is the most important.
999	In middle school and high school, teach the basics and allow for two tracks, One track leading to college and one leading to trade/technical school. Respect both equally.
1000	Students learning how to be successful in society.
1001	School provides safe learning environment for all of the students.
1004	These areas are the most neglected. Small class sizes are the key. Valuing Arts and Physical education as much as academics will produce better rounded citizens.

	<p>I think it is imperative to have qualified teachers and administrators in schools to ensure that they have the training, pedagogical knowledge and strategies to best serve diverse groups of students. Without a certificate to qualify a person to fulfill these roles, it trivializes and lowers the expectation and accountability within that position.</p> <p>I also believe career training is integral in a school that successfully supports students- especially at the secondary level. We must not assume that every student is going to go to college and offer students that are interested in trades and other career opportunities a place to learn and practice skills. Ideally these students could earn early certificates for their training and begin working right after graduating.</p> <p>While I do think STEM is important, I think that the Arts should not be ignored. I think that there should be an emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). These different subjects are often considered mutually exclusive and do not have to be. Using different disciplines to help teach students information and skills helps students be more successful in the long run by retaining more.</p>
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1006	<p>It is important to me that schools spend little time on mandated, state-wide testing and significant time teaching and instructing. It is important to me that schools are staffed with experienced, caring teachers, who are well-compensated. It is important to me that children are viewed as individuals, rather than pieces to be assembled on a pipeline.</p>
1007	<p>With the shift from a manufacturing society we need to stay advanced in technology and STEM is a huge part of that focus.</p>
1009	<p>The STEM, because our building focuses on reading, writing, and math. Science take a backseat.</p>
1010	<p>When students are in a small class setting they can ask important questions and get answers. Students can work in groups that are relatively quiet with lots of motivational thinking when the groups are smaller. The learning environment must make the student feel safe to take risks in their thinking. Not just physical safety but mental safety is very important to mental growth. Also great academics can then be taught. Teachers can slow down if needed and teach all students so they do well and still do the core academics. That way teachers reach all students instead of just most students. Success is important to keep motivation going.</p>
1012	<p>It is difficult to choose only 3 characteristics from the given list. Arts, PE, sports, STEM, foreign language, rigor, qualified faculty....they're all important to student learning and personal development.</p>

	<p>I expect health program (including sex and drug ed) from k-12. I expect foreign languages mandatory from 7 through high school. I want Arizona to come out of the turn of the century and begin offering a science curriculum designed to meet the job offerings of today. Biology in 7th. Physics/chem in 8th. How can we grow doctors and engineers if we keep teaching geology and water cycle? My kids are bored. I get Arizona has rocks, copper and a water problem but its time to have a full science ed. I dissected animals by 7th grade and had 6 of my own in 9th grade. I watched a table of 5 kids share one animal in 10th grade bio here in AZ in a A rated district. That is pathetic. Kids need to ALL participate in the arts. Every kid should be on stage from k-8 doing something - playing an instrument, singing or acting. It develops self confidence to be expected to present in front of an audience. This is a workplace skill.</p>
1015	<p>Growing up in NJ, I had about 20 kids in my class each year. By the time I reached advanced classes, only the kids actually capable of producing were allowed in. That gave us the individualized adult attention we sought. Today, my kid is penalized for bad editing because his partner in his 34 kid classroom is not capable of editing another student's work. Teachers should have the time and classload to give individual conversation to each student.</p>
1016	<p>We need to develop the whole student, this means challenging them academically, encouraging self expression and creativity through the arts, and opportunities to have the teachers' attention and help.</p>
1017	<p>While we need Arizona students to be able to compete with students from other states, we also need to have more career training programs for our students who are not college bound.</p>
1018	<p>Though arts, PE, language, and STEM are all important, a student would thrive if they have small enough class sizes to feel safe and for them to receive feedback on their progress.</p>
1019	<p>I would support STEM, if it were STEAM. Which included the arts in a rigorous, all around complete education. The Federal Department of Education has passed STEAM, why hasn't Arizona?</p>
1021	<p>Attracting qualified teachers, those graduating and entering the teaching field from College, still seems to hold Arizona as a less attractive income source compared to other states. We have a hard time replacing and creating more classes because of the teacher shortage due to other states salaries and opportunities.</p> <p>Special Education really struggles financially to keep up with the growing student to teacher ratio. An ever increasing number of students being identified as Special Education candidates has caused huge class sizes with no greater funds available to meet the needs.</p>
1024	<p>Rigorous standards for our general education and gifted students. Information on modifying the standards for our special education students.</p>
1025	<p>I want my children and students to have options and choices in their learning. I want my kids out of desks engaging in learning not just listening to teachers. Teachers should be facilitators of learning and guide students on ways to learn, rather than telling them what they should know.</p>
1026	<p>Diversifying instruction to meet the needs of low, average and gifted students.</p>
1027	<p>If I could I would select all the options but in the end qualified teachers and administrators is probably the most important. Schools need to be able to eliminate teachers and staff who are not providing what our children need to succeed. Stricter and more rigorous accountability of our teachers.</p>

1030	As a special ed teacher, I want my students to be successful in the classroom and in the real world. I also want them to feel safe. Bullying by peers and administration hinders their learning and experience in school. Administration needs to understand and learn about how a special ed classroom works. They should be required to sit in a special ed room in different setting to fully understand how the teacher works with the students.
1031	Schools should be safe. They should employ teachers and administrators who are qualified, passionate and dedicated to educating our youth. Schools should offer academics that prepare students for college or employment in the workforce,
1033	Qualified teachers and small class sizes would give Arizona students the opportunity to excel which has been missing for decades.
1036	diversity in curriculum instead of massive over testing on math and language arts.
1038	It is unrealistic to have to choose only 3 of the above. I believe we should have all of the above, and should not be thinking that we have to choose from this list, but that we should expect all of it. It has to begin with that expectation. That's the only way we can achieve delivering a good education for students in Arizona.
1039	All of the above characteristics are vital to a good educational system. The particular curricula and programs should be available within a safe environment, staffed by professionals, where appropriate attention to individuals is not overburdened by excessive demand in large classes.
1040	Schools must supply rigorous courses to all students and expect students to succeed. Classrooms and schools need to be safe places to learn for all students, and students who make it unsafe must have appropriate consequences. All students are not college bound and different types of career training must be available for these individuals.
1041	Quality professional development courses for educators
1042	Smaller class sizes allow teachers to accurately and effectively do their job
1046	A friendly environment, where students and parents feel welcome and want to be there.
1047	Rigor is an artificial context. We should focus on learning
1050	Small class size is probably the biggest concern, since that will lead to safe learning environments and rigorous curriculum for all classes. Opportunities to be trained in non-college career choices should also be a serious consideration, since not all students will be college-bound. Those students should be presented with a rigorous curriculum incorporating the most up-to-date training possible, along with rigorous work ethic and continuous improvement skills.
1051	A school needs to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to learn according to their individual needs. The school needs to be a place where students feel safe physically and emotionally.
1053	Most important to me are small class sizes where education can be differentiated for all students. This is hard to do with 30 to 35 students in a class.
1055	Rich offerings in all subjects (Language, Arts, Science, Math and Physical/ Athletic content). Teachers who are well prepared to teach and administrators who are effective communicators, facilitators and supporters. Most important is a community of parents and neighbors who believe and support their public schools.
1057	Qualified teachers who teach core content and small class sizes to be able to meet each students' needs.
1059	Empathy to children,
1064	Personal, fair & rigorous education for all students. Project-based learning model.
1065	Of course the best prepared and paid teachers.

1066	Qualified educators who are passionate about their subject area. Arts opportunities open doors that other subjects do not open.
1069	STEM is a big thing right now. We need to be able to compete in those areas. We also need to include the arts in there so that it is STEAM - students learn in many different ways. For some, the arts help them focus and become more successful. Smaller class sizes would make it easier for teachers to be able to help the struggling learner(s). With 35+ students in a class there are frequently several who struggle and need extra assistance but may not get as much help as they need because there are other students who need help as well. 10 or 20 minutes a day a couple of times a week may not be enough. With more special needs students in the general ed classroom it is hard to give everybody the help they need. There are also the ELL students in the classes that teach those students, usually not enough for a class of just them so they are with the general ed students and the special needs students. Again, reducing class size would help all students. If there happens to be a student who is a bit ahead of the others they also need some extra guidance to keep them challenged.
1071	Schools need teachers who are valued as professionals by the community working with students in small groups in integrated courses containing arts and music across the curriculum to be ready to lead the world in the 21st century
1073	Highly qualified and well paid teachers, individualized rigorous academics, great test scores not just in the state but national level. Administration that is focused on the goal of creating a learning environment for all children. Low staff turnover, high parental involvement (which I realize is an issue here in AZ).
1077	Health and intellectual development of our youth, good teachers and administrators know how to offer this
1078	Small class sizes make a world of difference. Foreign language taps critical thinking skills. The arts foster creativity.
1079	Elementary school should be about learning all core subjects, including art, music, and PE. With technology integrated into subjects.
1081	Every child should learn the STEM curriculum, however it is beneficial to brain development and problem solving skills to learn a foreign language. Arts are also a way for children to put their stresses elsewhere and feel comfortable with themselves and the work that they can do physically and also mentally.
1087	High standards for both students and faculty; The belief that all students can learn; Knowing that teachers make the difference
1091	STEM and IB and efforts like that in elementary do not outweigh foreign language, get rid of charters they are watering down everything.
1092	The school should be Teacher and student focused. Happy teachers make for better teaching which in turn makes for a better learning environment for the students.
1094	Misrepresentation of class size numbers is ridiculous. They need to be reduced by 5 to 10 students.
1096	I want a school that has highly qualified, decent human beings teaching students a curriculum that touches on all aspects that it can. From the arts to math/science, I want my kids to be well rounded.
1098	All of the above!
1101	Students should have smaller class sizes so their individual needs can be met. Giving students an opportunity for physical activity is essential. They should also have access to quality teachers and administration.

1102	Very difficult to choose only 3. As a school psychologist and parent of a child with special needs, I feel there needs to be programming that meets the needs of all special needs students. Students on an IEP in the general curriculum have unique needs. Some progress at a more successful rate receiving special education support in the classroom (inclusion), while others need more specialized support in a pull-out setting (resource room). Also, students have various needs within self-contained special education settings. In order to be effective and help these students reach their full potential, they must not all be clumped together.
1103	Qualified teachers and admin will allow for a school to offer more to their students. STEM fields need more qualified people working in them and STEM classes will give students an opportunity to explore those fields. Small class sizes give students more one-on-one time with teachers.
1104	Most of our high school graduates do not complete college degrees and k12 does little to prepare them
1106	Students must feel safe in their school. There continues to be much bullying that many times adults at the school are unaware of. As a teacher I immediately take care of bullying issues if I witness such or hear of such, but at the same time many students demonstrate characteristics of being bullied but I have no idea who is doing the bullying let alone how I can help said student. More needs to be done to empower students to feel safe enough to go to an adult and that the adult will actually do something about the bully. That is another issue, reports can be made but if administration can't or won't do anything about the problem what's the point of reporting it? Small class sizes is a given. I taught kinder with my average class size about 20 students, those were the good ole days. I had students coming to me in August that couldn't spell their name let alone know the letters and sounds of the alphabet. By the end of the year said students were my top readers. Why because I had the time to spend working with them. If I had ten more students that would be ten more students that needed my help and ten more behaviors that most likely needed to be addressed. Parents always say, but he/she doesn't act like that at home? Of course not, he/she doesn't have 20 or more other same aged students to feed off. Arts opportunity: my school is a good example of the lack of arts opportunities. The students share a music and art teacher due to budget cuts. That means for a solid year (2 semesters) students at my school either do not receive art or music instruction. When they do get both arts, the teacher has to "cram" in a year of curriculum into a semester. How is that fair to students or the teacher? Additionally, there is no band or orchestra offered in my district- again budget issues. Research shows the benefits of the arts, especially band and orchestra, particularly reading. The arts also could include home ec and shop. These two areas would help students practice using math in a real world environment, but again the budget isn't there to support these special areas.
1107	Class size!! Teachers are educated and know how to teach, but when class sizes are so large they spend more time with classroom management than teaching. My children deserve to learn and not have 34 students in their 4th grade classroom!!!
1110	All of the above! How can only 3 be picked out of a list that includes environment, content, and professional expectation?
1111	With qualified teachers/administrators, a safe learning environment, and small class sizes teachers are able to reach all of the students. I feel that teachers will teach the appropriate curriculum and help the students progress to where they should be each year. Each student is different so progression for one student may be different from the student next to them.
1112	Schools need to remember that they are there for each student not numbers.

1114	A place where students can explore more than just core reading and math.
1117	It's hard to narrow it to 3, when the entire list is equally important.
1118	Schools must be collaborative, flexible, supportive and prepared for all types of students, nurturing to creativity, positive, welcoming, cutting edge, innovative, but must value childhood and the importance of play.
1119	Qualified teachers who have small class sizes are able to meet the individual needs of all students. The arts have been scientifically proven to increase academic ability and to keep kids in school.
1121	Students should not be packed into a classroom as this is not what is best for learning. If we have smaller class sizes we can create deeper learning experiences for them.
1122	My answer above covers this as well.
1123	Top three can be difficult, but qualified teachers and administrators is at the top. Without that, the others mean nothing. Small class sizes are crucial in meeting the needs of all students. Arts opportunities open up so much for kids and sadly are often only a part of middle school and high school. We need to put arts education back into the elementary schools. That is one step that will surely boost scores, attendance, motivation and interest, and create well rounded individuals.
1125	Students should have a well rounded education so that they can explore and learn many skills. This is the foundation of lifelong learning.
1127	Students come to school to learn. When teachers have large class sizes, the teachers are merely doing crowd control. What size is too large? Ask teachers of each grade level! There should also be a square foot per student requirement.
1129	Students need a safe place where they feel appreciated and successful. Since not all students learn at the same pace or level, they need to have personal successes, not standardized tests thrown at them every other week.
1138	Students need small class sizes with highly qualified educators to have optimal learning.
1139	Multiple learning styles to reach all students methods of learning information
1141	A better gifted program. Or smaller classes so that my children, who are gifted, can be challenged.
1142	Not everyone is going to be a scientist, plus not everyone is a test taker. Thirty five years ago a group of Japanese educators came to Phoenix and admonished future teachers not to do as they had done and make test results the criteria for success. They warned that what had occurred in Japan had destroyed creativity and created a community of test takers. Guess what we did???
1143	Providing an atmosphere where all students can succeed
1144	Gifted kids ARE special needs kids. When you don't challenge this segment, you lose who could become the next generation of great thinkers and leader. It's a crying shame each gifted kid doesn't get an IEP.
1145	The rigor is there and always will be, Special education classes being either gifted ed or special ed are being swept to the side in favor of an inclusion model. The reason these kids are in special education is because the general education model simply does not work for them. Placing them in an inclusion model with another teacher in that room with a special education teacher in the class does not make it a reaching model for the special education student it turns the sped teacher into an aide in the gen ed class and the sped kids get further and further behind. Teachers have to be trained and highly educated. It is a profession and it is time it started being treated like the highly skilled and educated profession it is again.

1146	Smaller class size = more individualized instruction. Which means children are getting their needs met
1147	The rigor is there and always will be, Special education classes being either gifted ed or special ed are being swept to the side in favor of an inclusion model. The reason these kids are in special education is because the general education model simply does not work for them. Placing them in an inclusion model with another teacher in that room with a special education teacher in the class does not make it a reaching model for the special education student it turns the sped teacher into an aide in the gen ed class and the sped kids get further and further behind. Teachers have to be trained and highly educated. It is a profession and it is time it started being treated like the highly skilled and educated profession it is again.
1148	I believe all of these are important. I also believe that the best education begins in the classroom with a qualified, caring teacher. We definitely need more STEM classes to create a competitive workforce. Studies have proven that art education helps students develop many important life and social skills.
1149	United, community involved and focused
1150	Safe environment, trained and qualified staff, programs to provide diverse experiences for all Students to learn-not only STEM! Dedicated staff
1152	These are all important. Kind of hate checking on stem reading is pretty important too... How do you make us choose?... offer it all. If a tiny town of 1200 people and a school of roughly 600 kids k-12 can offer Spanish, music, art, band, TAG, sped, volleyball, baseball/softball, honor choir, swing choir, cross country, track, basketball, cheerleading, summer reading, football, and wrestling as well as all the core classes, what is Arizona's excuse?
1153	Gifted education should be given the same rights as Special Education. Accelerated courses are not gifted courses. There should be mandated funding for Gifted Education, just as there is for Special Education.
1155	It is all of these options. I know you want my top 3, but it truly is ALL of these options.
1159	College prepared
1162	Students should be exposed to a wide range of disciplines and humanities. STEM is far too important. We need a return to liberal arts to create a balanced education.
1164	Schools need teachers that can effectively teach and not ones that can simply pass a test. Teachers need administrators that will stand their ground and do what's best for the kid, not the easiest. Students need more interaction today than ever before. They aren't learning at home the skills to be successful in careers.
1168	Learn new things, enjoy learning and school.
1169	They need to stay active it helps them focus. Small class sizes allow for more learning and less distractions. And career training to prepare them for life. Not all kids will go to college almost all of them will need a job.
1170	In order for students to have the opportunity to succeed, they need smaller class sizes. Sitting in class with 34+ students is not the ideal learning environment.
1172	With the growing diversity of students and their learning needs, I think that schools need to be able to reach students through smaller class sizes, more resources and programs and kids and teachers need to feel that they are in a safe environment.
1173	Rigorous academics should be a given. Beyond that I believe students need choices within their academic day. At the HS level, elective courses show them how to use math, English etc. in a practical way.

1174	Students should have the opportunity for college-level curriculum High School level, taught by highly qualified teachers who are proven to care about students and who are proven to do an excellent job in the classroom.
1176	Rigorous standards are crucial but should be designed by expert teachers who know their students developmentally capabilities. PE, sports, arts, and gifted are all equally important because they equally appeal and draw in students seeking alternative schools. As a teacher, class size is imperative. This is the #1 reason we are losing students to private and charter schools.
1177	I believe that safety is number one. If a child doesn't feel safe coming to school, then he/she will not learn to his/her full potential. Also, small class sizes are crucial so that you can truly meet the needs of every student. With all of this said, you must have qualified teachers and administrators in order to make sure you have a safe campus and classroom as well as are able to meet the needs of every student.
1178	A school should not only be instructing a student but allowing each of them to grow as a person. In order to recognize this, the fact that standardized testing will never properly measure the ability of every student needs to be acknowledged.
1179	Quality admin and staff only remain when given the opportunity to work their own magic. What matters most is not rote lye following the rigidly prescribed curriculums, but trusting qualified teachers to open minds to make connections. Lock-step curricular approaches might be easier for admin to watch over, but the art of opening minds is an un-measurable but critical component in the art of teaching. When we force teachers to follow a path, we lose the very thing we want -- teachers who inspire, wonder aloud with students, wander through many paths to associate content, rather than make it stand alone.
1182	It is extremely difficult to narrow these characteristics down as they are all very important in the cycle of learning. We must first start with and provide a smaller class setting with rigorous academics.
1184	All of them listed above!
1185	I am a special ed teacher. I expect that my student's special needs will be respected and they will be prepared for life as the people they are. I can't prepare an Intellectually Disabled child to be a typical adult. I can, however, prepare thrm to be a competent,working adult if I am allowef to teach to who they are.
1187	Students need teachers and admin who are supported by the state and feel that they are valued for their passion and dedication to children. This results in good morale and school environments. Students need to feel that they are seen as important and worthy of resources that the state can provide. Small class sizes can translate to a more personalized connection to the community. Of course, rigorous core academics is vital. We need to produce citizens of Arizona who are prepared to enter the work force with the skills necessary to be successful.

1190	I think that first and foremost, the students need an environment that is conducive to learning. If you cram students in overcrowded classroom where good conduct isn't enforced and/or discipline isn't taken seriously, it doesn't matter the diversity of courses that are offered--academic learning will not take place. Also, it doesn't matter if Arizona wants qualified teachers and/or administrators. They need to attract and retain qualified teachers and administrators. Right now teachers are underpaid and continually set up for failure (No prep materials for AZmerit and inconsistent curriculum). With merit pay tied to invalidated tests, year to year contracts (that are subject to change at a district's whim), and no opportunity for monetary growth in the profession, Arizona is not able to retain young teachers and are riding on the coattails of seasoned teachers that are just riding out the madness that has become AZ education until retirement.
1191	They are all important characteristics, but if you have a teacher who is qualified in every aspect of teaching, a place where students feel safe and class sizes that make it possible for students and teachers to be successful, all the other characteristics can happen. Good teachers know their students. They know if they need art, music, PE and support those areas. They know if they need to raise the expectations or occasionally adjust them to meet the needs of struggling students. Qualified teachers know that it is important to stay on top of new methods and strategies to keep up with rigorous academics while realizing that they are children.
1198	Hold parents and students accountable for behaviors - allow teachers to teach instead of dealing with behaviors all day!
1201	See last comment.
1203	Schools should be fully funded to support all of these items.
1204	I want it all. I want to bring back recess and the arts. I think my child deserves a certified and caring teacher in the classroom, with a small enough class size that he will get more one-on-one interaction. I want a clean classroom with enough desks for my child. I want a well-rounded curriculum.
1206	I want my child as well as his teachers to feel valued and give him the education he deserves and allow the teacher with the flexibility to do his or her job in a safe environment.
1208	all those above are important but especially the ones I picked for the diversity of students
1210	A safe place to pursue the interests of the students as well as academics is very important.
1212	STEM. If we are to compete in a global economy, this is a must.
1215	Qualified teachers who are paid what they're worth, small class sizes, and challenging and developmentally appropriate curriculum.
1217	1. Safe and clean school environment. If the school is dirty, smells dirty, and looks dirty, kids will say it's Ghetto and no one cares about them or their education. I saw this first hand how "caring" and a clean safe school environment impacts a school's success. It is transformational for staff, students and families, breeding success on all levels. It takes a strong dedicated leader to oversee and facilitate this expectation.
1218	Diverse educational opportunities and ability to try different aspects of education
1220	We seem to think that if we want smarter kids and better test scores then we better focus on Math, Non-fiction and Science. The funny thing is that research shows that to excel in these subjects then a student must have a high interest in things like the arts, literature, history, and the humanities. It also shows that students who are doing more hands on learning, solving problems in the real world and using tools will be more successful in life whether they choose a career or college.

1222	All public schools are going to have the core academics. It is also important for students to use what they know about the core in other elective fields such as arts and humanities.
1223	Critical thinking and exposure to new experiences.
1224	Schools need to be bastions of learning, not fact factories. Teachers should not be so inundated with students the middle performers are neglected, since they have the ability to improve. Lessons should instill a desire to learn more in students, and students should be able to pursue topics that they are better suited in at an earlier age than college.
1226	A positive sense of community supporting higher achievement.
1227	Start career paths as early as possible.
1228	All of the choices listed above are important! Again this comes back to AZ funding education!
1229	Small class sizes would allow for much more independent learning, project-based learning, and meeting the students specific needs. This could include STEM, The arts, foreign languages, and so much more with the teacher as a guide to self-directed learning from the students.
1230	The diverse needs of students should be met and celebrated. No cookie cutter curriculum. Students learn differently. Differentiate curriculum!
1231	Please don't eliminate arts, music nor athletics. Update teaching methodologies with less busy work, more inspiration, even changing the look and function of a "classroom". Current training for today's jobs plus updated home and social skills.
1232	Safety shouldn't even be listed...that's required. An environment with supplies and staff for all...policies on bullying, staff trainings, working equip, funds to purchase needed supplies.
1234	It's important that students have a good balance of STEM, literature, arts, and physical education.
1235	Small class sizes enable teachers to achieve more of the rigorous core academics. A longer school day with opportunities to participate and fine arts and music programs would benefit the students as studies have shown. Career training needs to be offered for those students who are not capable or do not wish to continue their education into college.
1236	As I know as an educator children learn at different rates and with different modalities. Our standardized testing is not fair for students who do not learn the same way as the majority.
1237	Schools should provide opportunities for all students to be well-rounded citizens.
1239	Teachers should be the decision makers. Teachers should be supported by everyone else. Students, parents, and administration should respect teachers.
1240	Kids really need all of the above. Why can't we go back to what is important for the child. Structured phys Ed is not as important as recess, to give them a break. Opportunities to try different arts and academics. Teachers who care about the child, not their score.
1241	Difficult to pick just three as all of them on the list are important. Particular given the diversity of needs and interests in today's students.
1247	Small class sizes and a safe learning environment provide the foundation for students to learn at all levels, but especially the higher, more critical thinking levels.
1251	I feel that the students should be getting the education that they need to be successful in the future. If the students are behind or ahead they need to be able to be challenged while still being taught. The students should not be in a class that is so large that teachers cannot work with and know the students personally. Furthermore I feel that the students should feel safe in their classrooms and schools because if they are worried about their safety they are not going to be concerned with their education.

1253	Teacher that inspire, children taught character, and preparing them for their future.
1255	In creating well-rounded citizens, it is important to provide a variety of learning experiences that allows all students to share their gifts. Learning is an interpersonal experience. Large numbers in our classrooms inhibit that experience. If we were to have an ideal ratio it would be 15 to 1 in K and 1st, 22 to 1 in 2nd - 5th and 28 to 1 6th - 8th. The state of Wyoming has numbers set by legislature to prevent overcrowded classrooms, but there is also equalization which helps alleviate rich district vs. poor district.
1258	A calm learning environment.
1259	That schools provide a learning environment where all students can succeed and learn rigorous academics - what it means to be educated!
1263	A successful school should focus on holistic learning (not teaching towards testing) and be sensitive to children's developmental needs. It should create a loving, inclusive environment that celebrates accomplishments of the students and unity through school spirit.
1266	We need educational leadership that empowers teachers and students the freedom to exploring without doctrine or limits. We must foster creativity, teamwork, and problem solving. Learning must be relevant to real world conditions and support universal values and cultural diversity.
1269	We have to reach ALL students. I would like to see us fund Special Education at 100%. Arts education encourages students to use both sides of their brain and to learn, ALL students must feel safe.
1270	I feel that it should be noted that the 3 choices I made for item 2 above are from those choices offered in this survey and are only the most important of those offered and do not represent what I feel is the most important characteristics(s) of the public school system of Arizona. I believe restoration of school budgets, teachers salaries and benefits are the most important characteristics necessary to insure the best teachers remain in this profession.
1272	The most important part is that all school staff are there for the safety and progress of students and that they care about each individual. Without empathy, it is difficult to create leaders.
1273	School characteristics should include more options for students classified as gifted or special needs. Class sizes should be small, and we should be challenging the lower students rather than holding back the better students. Physical activity and creativity should be encouraged.
1274	Quality educators and administrators will build schools that have all the characteristics above giving all students opportunities to be successful especially if they are in classes that are smaller than what we are seeing in our schools today. A teacher with 30 - 40 students in a room would be more successful with 25 students.
1275	Also Stem should be changed to Steam, the arts support stem in many ways and the incorporation of arts and art classes supports this. I do not know of any inventor or scientists who does not have a strong art background of sorts.
1277	Through rigorous core academics, qualified teachers and administrators students will be able to excel. Arts opportunities, sports and other programs (I could only pick 3 above) should also be made available to all students. Not all students are only academic--some need the arts or sports to excel.
1278	Not all students want to be a college going student. Some want a career.
1279	Safety, Qualified Teachers and Administrators, Administrators should be required to have a minimum of 7 years of classroom experience!

1280	It seems schools tend to push higher order thinking skills when students don't even have the basic skills on board. Students need smaller class sizes so teachers can make the connection with the students they have, and then make the students accountable for their learning in a way that they can excel at...not necessarily tests.
1281	It starts with qualified teachers who can challenge students and help them rise to the academic level that is required for university studies. Arts opportunities are important for top students to be well rounded. Yesterday's career training is not the same as it is today. CTE classes are proven to help the top student to be college ready. Of course, a safe learning environment is important, but that comes with qualified administrators doing what they know is best for the entire campus.
1283	See previous answer
1288	This is difficult because I think that students should also have qualified and certified teachers. I do not think anyone should be in a classroom without proper certification from the state. I also think that rigorous academics are important but so are sports and physical education. Language classes are also important. Students should be well rounded and have many opportunities to explore what interests them as they progress through an education system.
1289	Schools need to provide both rigorous and well-rounded offerings to students of all ability levels.
1291	<p>An environment free of worry for a student, whether it be a worry over ridicule from his peers or even educators. Once a child is relaxed, learning is possible. Make classrooms worry free zones.</p> <p>Professional educators who are certified in what they do, again, this will require a respectable wage.</p> <p>Initiatives to vest children in their own education and increased responsibility as such. Support groups amongst themselves to foster learning on their own</p>
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	Professional educators who are certified in what they do, again, this will require a respectable wage.
1294	Initiatives to vest children in their own education and increased responsibility as such. Support groups amongst themselves to foster learning on their own
1298	A safe school environment that provides an engaging academic curriculum that looks at the needs of the whole child.
1300	Quality versus quantity.
1302	The number one impact on kids is teachers. Qualified teachers who have small class sizes can give kids the attention they need to learn. Rigorous academics and arts opportunities are also important, but they are worthless without good teachers and one on one attention for students.
1304	Students need to be required to take subjects other than core academics to achieve this goal. Arizona needs to require courses at the middle school level like personal finance, home economics, basic home repairs and nutrition/health. Physical education, art and music/band classes should be required daily.
1306	Having a SMALL class sizes allows the teaching to happen at a higher level. With large classes, all that happens is classroom management and therefore, lower level thinking skills.
1307	Qualified teachers working in safe, up to date buildings (structure and technology) lead by qualified administrators who support our difficult task of teaching rigorous core academics.
1308	Seriously? How can any of the above rank over the others? Every student has different needs, which is what today's educators try to tailor to when delivering lessons to a diverse set of students. Educators then help students develop and broaden their horizons to achieve other areas of learning according to each of their students' needs. Regardless, qualified teachers and administration lay the foundation of a great learning environment, which means safety and smaller class sizes before any form of learning can take place within a classroom.
1309	College prepared
1310	Supporting students in achieving their greatest potential.
1314	Real world skills, not test scores. I want my children to know they are more than a test score and they have many talents and strengths.
1316	Small class sizes are the most important. The smaller the class size, the more effective a teacher can be. With a small class size more students can get personalized attention. I also think it's important to offer a variety of opportunities for students. Students who need special accommodations should get them. Also giving students a lot of options for classes (PE, arts, foreign language, etc.) will help them explore things about themselves that they wouldn't know if they weren't able to take a class. Core academics are very important, but I think other options are equally as important!
1317	Making learning enjoyable.
1318	Kids need to feel safe, and need to have time to explore the world around them.
1319	Environment, safe and well educated staff.
1321	Politics need to stay out! Education should be free of all teacher persuasion...just teach facts and let kids make their own judgments.

1322	Assuming that qualified teachers and administrators should be a given, not a choice, STEM, Arts and PE should enable a student to pursue his/her future, which does not always mean college, or college directly after graduation.
1323	Offering diverse programs, providing something for everyone.
1326	Students and teachers need to feel safe in all classrooms. Administration and superintendents need to go back into the classroom to experience the real struggles teachers experience daily--- apathetic parents, diverse students abilities, overcrowded classroom, very poor pay, and continuous training to keep teachers current on the newest teaching strategies (even though the pendulum will swing back).
1327	Schools should provide students with a diversity of opportunities to learn in a supportive environment. STEM, The Arts, and Humanities are all key priorities.
1328	If you want quality anything you have to pay for it. Pay teachers and admin. Hire more counselor and librarians. Stop all the "do less with more" rhetoric. Raise taxes And stop giving money away to business. I want AZ to move from bottom of spending list to TOP. Pay teachers \$60,000 a year and then hold them accountable.
1329	Communication and parent involvement
1331	The teacher is responsible for the life or death of learning. We must attract the brightest and the best teachers. Administrators must know and understand the art of teaching as well as management. All must love children. It is impossible to meet individual needs with large class sizes.
1332	There are no "top 3" here. Rigorous academics do not matter if you do not have "qualified teachers" and a "safe learning environment." Career training doesn't mean much if you do not have STEM classes as part of it - which also require qualified teachers etc. By picking three the others may be viewed as unimportant.
1333	More outside time. Recess
1335	Let children more time to play and interact each other
1337	In order for students to feel successful within our classroom we need a safe learning environment with a rigorous curriculum to challenge the higher students and support the needs of all student. This become very difficult with 35+ students in one classroom with no aid or additional support
1338	These are all very important but the most important is having qualified teachers that really care about students academic growth and well-being.
1342	Schools need ALL of these things. I can't choose the top 3. The increased costs and time needed for reporting and keeping in compliance along with many years of budget cuts have diminished the quality in the classrooms.
1344	Teachers need a strong understanding of pedagogy so that they can help students progress in the ways best for them. Students do best with strong teacher support that can only be provided to small class size. Students can only progress if they first possess the basics--reading essentials, math foundations.
1346	G
1347	I feel that it is most important to get back to the basics and start teaching students reading, writing, and math the way it was taught before so much technology. It seems that a number of students and teachers are struggling with the use of technology in the classroom.

1349	Since the State will now have more control it is important that salaries for teachers are equitable across the State. Teachers in Paradise Valley should not be making more money as schools in rural areas that do not have a property rate to support higher salaries. The State should set up the salaries for teachers State wide and make up the difference for those schools who cannot support higher salaries due to property tax rates. A starting teacher who passes the State required exams should earn \$45,000/year. If it bothers people that the school year is only 9 months, then have school year round. I also don't believe that the state should support Charter Schools as part of a parent choice option. Public schools are dying because of lost revenues and then are expected to do more with less.
1350	A safe environment that makes students want to come to school and learn, and staff that are committed to helping all students achieve their potential.
1355	Great teachers and leaders meet the needs if all students.
1356	So many things are important. Having been an educator in a science classroom, small class sizes are important for hands-on activities and for reaching a diverse set of learners.
1357	Creating life long learners who can persevere in and through the learning process by thoroughly investigating the thinking process.
1358	school characteristic involve an environment designed for learning where both staff and administration work together not adversely towards getting students to get the most out of them.
1359	These are all important
1360	Safe environment that considers each student but does not put the needs of a few over the needs of the majority. Teachers who care and know what they are doing. Chances for fun.
1361	Smaller classes allow for more growth and support of each student. It is not reasonable to expect a teacher to meet the needs of each student when there are 36 students in the class. Teachers must know their content and have the ability to help each child grow in their skills no matter what they know at the start. Also regarding rigor, if a student does not master content we need to be ok with holding them back. We need to ensure student learn and retain important knowledge and skills for their future.
1363	Again-every single listing in question 2 is vital. ALL those characteristics must be in every school. Checked 3 because it is required that I do so.
1365	Children need advanced academics for college preparation and the career training to enter the workforce. Arizona graduates how many children that can NOT read or perform basic math? Those are the children that need our help and we have continuously forgotten about them. Well trained educators are needed in classrooms. No more pie in the sky edicts, real world feet on the ground teachers. Enough with acts and time for action.
1366	LIFE Skills!!!!
1367	Technically all of the above are needed. If kids do not feel safe learning will not happen. If the teachers and administration are not properly trained, the individual does not understand developmental milestones or be able to identify learning disabilities. If we do not special classes like special Ed, gifted or arts we are not diversifying for the students who learn differently. We need to give students life long learning skills for their health and careers (I.e. Physical education like yoga and training for careers such as plumbers, electricians and other classes that students will be able to get into the work force when not going to higher education). Education or school characteristics is NOT a one size fits ALL.

1368	School funding not dependent on the zip code of the student body. Opportunity to receive arts, language and other enrichment classes for ALL students, regardless of test scores and school population makeup. Caring teachers and administrators with high expectations for all students. A community of learners from the top down. Less focus on punishing schools and teachers and students for the results on a test.
1369	School characteristics help students prepare for life outside of school.
1370	Students need to be able to make connections with each other and with their teachers... this requires small class sizes at EVERY grade level. With smaller classes sizes teachers can focus on STEM curriculum that will prepare them for life outside of the school walls.
1371	Having a safe learning environment for all children with caring, life-long learners as teachers and administrators.
1372	I think students benefit from smaller class sizes, safe learning environment and the opportunity for high school students to receive career training.
1374	Teachers who care and make a difference
1375	There are too many teachers who do not seek to try new ways of helping students learn. We have become too tied to rote memorization instead of encouraging students to take skills and get creative and innovative with them. Education should be a joint journey.
1378	The training for all is so important as well as programs for those who might not fit in elsewhere.
1379	Schools that are equipped to support rigorous and individualized instruction is vital to me. This requires enrichment for students, teachers, and parents. It also requires smaller class sizes, flexible assessments, ongoing and individualized teacher PD, well- educated academic assistants, and duty aids. Teachers also need TIME to reflect and to prepare appropriately, as opposed to doing it on the weekends and evenings.
1382	It is hard to pick 3. I selected the three strategically as decisions may be based on priorities. Small class sizes enable highly qualified teachers to engage students in meaningful learning. That learning must definitely include STEM and arts.
1383	Students need choices as our state has loudly expressed. Provide more opportunities for Career Training for those students not wanting to go on to college. Provide a rigorous curriculum for those students wishing for higher education. Teachers need to be compensated for their valuable abilities and recruit highly qualified staff to teach our students.
1384	A safe, challenging, caring place in which students of all ability levels can learn.
1386	Learning to learn not test
1387	We'll trained teachers make for well managed classrooms that Foster student learning. Gifted and sped programs are necessary to meet all learner differences across the spectrum.
1389	A school with highly qualified teachers that can teach advanced subjects is important. Also small class sizes make the students more able to receive individual attention and guidance.
1390	Give businesses what they want to hire
1391	The ability to fund schools with the same enthusiasm as the State funds prisons.
1394	Teachers need smaller class sizes to implement the basic academics and STEM. With smaller class sizes, the students have the opportunity for more hands-on learning and discourse and more of the teacher's focus and attention.
1395	It is important that schools do everything they can to support a safe environment for all students. Students who are victims of violence and bullying must be supported. Students who are perpetrators need consequences and programs that can support a change in behavior.

1396	Students need to master basics before moving on to specialized learning.
1398	Well funded schools -- so we are not confronted with the false choice of focusing resources on 2 or 3 school-characteristic goals instead of developing schools to be good at everything at which they need to be good. Allow me to exercise my right as a parent to afford my children the religious upbringing of MY choosing -- not my school district's choosing. Religious texts are spiritual guides, not scientific treatises nor reliable history; they have no place in any school supported by a dime of my taxes. All high school teachers should be certified to teach at the community college level, such that the brightest students can take Freshman- or Sophomore-level courses in high school classrooms that would count meaningfully toward Bachelor's degree requirements (not just "elective credit").
1401	Class size matters, as does having the necessary supplies readily available.
1402	Allowing student to thrive by giving them any and every opportunity to do so with differentiated tasks supported by access to laptops or tablets will foster a safe environment where all students feel comfortable, successful and engaged.
1403	There are too many subs in the classroom long-term, and too many good teachers leaving the profession because of an extreme disparity in pay compared to parallel careers with the same qualifications and job duties. Because of such, we do not have the best teachers in the classrooms, which is sad. Additionally, as an employer students are not graduating with skills which are transferable to the job place.
1412	Teaching the kids respect and integrity. These kids have no consequences for their rude behavior and actions.
1413	I have identified rigorous academics, the arts and small class sizes. I believe Arizona is on the path to success with its current standards and with adequate funding the arts can be maintained. Class size is more difficult. It can make a huge difference, I believe, when coupled with rigorous standards, but at this point I don't see our state as desiring to put the funding forth to reduce class size by any significant amount.
1415	Supportive. Administrators in behavior discipline of students, student achievement, & positive morale among faculty members
1416	Having rigorous core academics must be achieved by meeting students where they are and measuring success on growth as well as final scores. The standards being taught need to reflect the developmental stages of the students.
1420	I honestly believe all are important because they all meet the needs of our individuals students. We need to be growing our future engineers who are on that path, we need to be providing strong special and gifted ed education to the students who need that, we need to support athletics for those who that is their strength. We need to be catering to the individual rather than deciding on what is best for the whole, because there isn't one best.
1421	This is a very hard choice. But, if there are qualified teachers and administrators, they can help to ensure they are including art, physical activity, and exposure to career training. But, I believe STEAM (science, technology, engineering, ARTS and Math) is the most needed in our schools.

1422	Each school should show characteristics that are needed by the students of that school. There should be programs available for what each student is interested in and if it cant be provided at that school, then students should have the opportunity to attend a class at a nearby school that does offer that opportunity. I get that there may only be a few students at a school that are interested in a certain thing, however, if you take those few students and add them to the few students at each of the schools nearby, this should be an opportunity to create a learning environment that will foster these students interest, instead of school becoming boring because there is nothing there they are interested in.
	In all honesty, there are more school characteristics that are important to me. Including foreign language and phys ed.
1424	Safe learning environment? what does that even mean?
1427	In addition, qualified teachers and administrators and a safe learning environment are also critical.
1428	All the above!
1429	For kids to come to school and feel welcomed, where teachers have high expectations and show kids how to meet them, where kids are shown how to work hard and celebrate their success.
1430	Children spend an enormous amount of time at school, and the people they meet and interact with there form them into the adults they become. Education has to be more than just training to be a cog in the wheel of the economic machine. Skills training for work is important, but is not the only purpose. I selected arts, qualified staff, and foreign languages because I think that those three are critical to building a well-rounded school.
1431	Classrooms need to be funded in a manner that allows for smaller class sizes in order to provide quality instruction while building collaborative relationships. Teachers need to be effective and qualified to produce the best instruction possible.
1433	Schools need to be safe. Schools need quality instructors, and small class sizes have been shown to have a positive impact. Schools use to offer art, foreign languages, and all the sciences, they were required for graduation. Trade programs were also available to prepare students who did not plan on attending college. we need to meet the needs of all students.
1434	We need excellence in the teachers and administrators attracted to AZ schools or little of the rest will matter very much. A safe and healthy learning environment makes a big difference.
1436	An atmosphere that is not standardized test driven.
1437	We need smaller class sizes for all public schools, including CTE classes. When a teacher has more than 30 students per hour, every hour all day, it is extremely difficult for the teacher and the students. The very second a teacher is tasked with more than 30 students, there should be an anonymous hotline to call, and consequences
1438	Schools where all students are respected and feel safe to explore and make mistakes. Having teachers who know how to teach the whole child and are not focused on meeting an arbitrary standard set by non-educators. Students who have the opportunity to explore and understand the concepts they will be dealing with in the real world.
1439	Schools should have qualified, dedicated teachers who have access to ongoing professional development. Administration should be as lean as possible, certainly less administrators than most schools now have. Schools should be clean and stocked with quality books and other educational materials.

1440	I think a diverse and rigorous set of core academics, including STEM and STEAM objectives would greatly benefit AZ students. HOWEVER, Art, Music, P.E. and other types of opportunities are just as important and should NOT be left off the daily/weekly schedules of students and schools.
1441	As stated in question 1 we really need to consider the drastic elementary classroom changes we have made in the past decade. In a kindergarten class the children are required to grasp concepts of a first grade classroom. They sit at desks most of the day being expected to write and read by the end of the year with little time to acquire the basic foundation their brains need to learn before reading and writing skills can be met . We have got to understand that many children are not going to go to preschool, Headstart, day care. They have not learned to cut with scissors, string beads, hop on one foot, walk backwards, communicate effectively, sit in a group setting, take turns- this list goes on and on. A Kindergarten classroom must require these skills to be mastered before going to the next step of learning. We should not place all the burden on the parent or parents when most have to work. Reality is we really can't force parents to do what teachers need to be allowed to do in the early years of educations. I have two boys who are grown and I loved and wanted to best for my children when they were little. We as a family had to work multiple hours to keep up with the economy and both my husband and we did our very best to be apart of our children's education. Before I became a teacher I did not know all the areas I should have been working on in their preschool/ kinder years. I went through a stage of feeling like part of the problem until I thought critical (as we learn in college) and realized we need to look at what we are requiring our young children to do in school. Developmentally we are asking a lot of these little beings who have only lived in the world five or six years. Childhood is a loss and it is not helping the later years of each child's education.
1444	Qualified teachers and administrators cost money, as do small class sizes but we need to think about the future as well as the present. Spend a dollar now to avoid spending thousands later in behavioral health and correctional facilities. Also, I am tired of the USA being made fun of for being monolingual. Make foreign language classes required - they are for college admittance anyway - and have the qualified instructor's curriculum include cultural proficiency as well. In this way we produce students who are interested and willing to learn because they see something besides themselves in their future.
1445	You can have the best curriculum in the world, but if you don't have qualified and experienced teachers, the curriculum is worthless. It is so important for kids to have art, music and athletics as well.
1447	Schools have to have quality teachers and that has to be the ADE's number one focus given the lack of funding in AZ. With that you can have quality academics. AZ should focus on dual language and immersion school from an earlier age.
1451	I wanted to choose 4 from the above list since qualified teachers and administrators are essential also. Class size needs to be small. Large classes cause discipline problems, are unsafe in science and other hands-on classes, and do not allow the teacher time to spend with each student. STEM is critical. But it's important to note that math needs to include consumer math. Again, not all students need the higher math classes. But, all students need common-sense, every day, useful math so that they can balance a checkbook or statement, be savvy consumers, and learn the value of saving / investing money. Safe learning environment - students get nowhere unless they feel safe. Period.

1452	The characteristics important to me include well prepared teachers and challenging classes. Reading and math must be emphasized. Possibly have several tracks including career training.
1454	Not just qualified teachers but excellent teachers where you can see success. Art and music are important for a well rounded education. It stimulates the brain and studies prove that knowledge of music shows success in math.
1455	Small class sizes taught by qualified teachers.
1457	Art, sports, and culture.
1458	that the schools prepare our kids with what used to be called a liberal arts education, and, even though some students may not choose college as a path, that we prepare them for that option
1460	I expect all teachers to be qualified and all schools to be safe. Period. STEM, reading, writing, foreign languages and the arts should be part of the main focus.
1461	The best way to teach children is to motivate them to learn. Arts are a great way to get kids excited about education. Great teachers with small classes understand the learning needs and the interests of their students, and can better motivate students to reach their potential.
1462	<p>#1 - Teachers effectively trained in use of formative assessment to drive instruction/progress monitoring to identify where students are at and guide small group interventions within their classroom & positive classroom management strategies hands. Then student teachers and first year teachers have practice under mentor teachers utilizing this training. Research shows teacher's use of formative assessment has the highest effect size, when it comes to academic achievement.... next to that is class size...</p> <p>#2 - smaller class sizes (or if you cannot lower class sizes, provide funding to schools for floating teacher aides to assist teachers in classrooms)</p> <p>#3 Developmentally appropriate curriculum that scaffolds, and in addition to core academic areas, includes social-emotional learning, diversity/cultural learning, study skills, organization, critical thinking skills, life skills (checking, investing, car maintenance, cooking, perhaps even gardening or basic home repairs), and pre-vocational skills</p>
1463	I believe my choices reflect a more well rounded student. I don't feel the need to explain each one more thoroughly.
1464	Quality teachers who have many opportunities to reach individual members of small lasses
1465	Warm and welcoming environment. Enthusiastic teachers supported by their districts and administrators. Students who are engaged in and enthusiastic about learning.
1466	All of the characteristics listed above are important to me. For example it is clear that small class sizes increase student's academic achievement yet so does participation in and access to a variety of fine art and CTE courses. Providing quality education should not be limited to three primary attributes.
1469	The arts and humanities teach empathy and allow for expression (I say this as an engineer). Small class sizes and qualified teachers/admin insures that students are getting quality and quantity in terms of time.
1471	Our schools need to prepare all students which requires career training for some and college prep for others.
1474	Teachers need more training, especially teachers in special areas (special education, gifted teachers, etc.).
1476	Higher pay for teachers

1477	More funding, smaller class sizes, better pay for educators, bigger emphasis on behavioral health.
1479	Teachers need to be able to work with students on academics and not spend too much time on classroom management. Primary grades should have low class sizes to allow teachers maximum teaching time on math, reading, and writing. Primary teachers would benefit from shared aides who can help work with struggling students.
1480	Hands on relevant classes. Students should learn what is needed in life, not for a test.
1482	Safe place physically and emotionally. Constantly stimulating growth. Nonforced. Student responsibility.
1483	Environments that foster learning in a safe and caring manner that emphasizes the opportunity for all individuals to participate.
1484	A safe environment is paramount! With the high expectations regarding data and student test scores, qualified Adm/Teachers need to be part of the formula. Small class sizes impact the learning and growth of our students. especially when teachers have limited support in the classroom (paras).
1488	Having qualified teachers that LOVE their job. Small class sizes gives the teacher the opportunity to provide rigorous content for the subjects. It also gives the teacher the chance to work with any behavioral and learning disorders, especially since Kindergarten gets no additional services to help with these disorders.
1490	Diverse opportunities and career exploration. You should be able to play sports and attend EVIT or be in AP and take career exploration courses.
1491	Safe learning environment, varied academic classes available at advanced levels, arts and physical education classes, career/life skills classes available
1496	I feel smaller class size directly impacts student learning and teacher's well being
1497	Qualified teachers and quality course offerings.
1498	opportunities for ALL students despite SES. When I was younger, I didn't have to pay for after school sports and clubs. Those SHOULD BE FREE!!! It is not fair that a poor kid who wants to play baseball at a school sponsored baseball program cannot play because his family is poor.
1499	Children need to know how to be good citizens of their community and country. Young children need to learn how to listen and respond kindly and appropriately when they disagree with someone. They need to learn how to have a conversation about what they are learning. I know this is addressed in the "listening/speaking" standards; however, there is a push to put young children on computers for their collaboration before they actually know how to communicate personally.
1500	I'd envision a safe place where all students are valued & given opportunities to excel.
1502	With the 3 I chose, you can obtain the others.
1503	Most of these are important because they help achieve the goal in #1.
1504	I believe we need small class sizes to really make a difference. Implementing a rigorous academic curriculum is difficult and at times ineffective when classrooms have 32 to 40 students. Behavior issues arise, which leads to an unsafe environment. We also need physical education and sports not only to stay healthy, but as a break for all individuals.

1506	A safe learning environment needs to include freedom from constant interruptions from other students. Administrations seem to do everything they can to keep these kids in school. The 90% of our students who want to be here and want to learn need to come before the 10% of students who cause constant disruptions to the educational process. That 10% takes 90% of the effort and it should not be that way. The money a school gets for keeping these kids in the seats should not be as important as the 90% of the students who willing come to learn and do their best.
1507	All of the characteristics are extremely important, so it was difficult to narrow it down to three. Who wouldn't want all these characteristics to be part of their child's education? If we prioritize only a few of these options and don't consider the rest, we are failing the children of Arizona by placing them into a standardized education box that won't allow all of our kids to succeed. Please prioritize all these options.
1508	Academically rigorous curriculum that prepares my child to be a productive citizen
1509	While the content remains the focus; a safe environment, with qualified and dedicated teachers is absolutely essential to deliver that content. Additionally, administrators must be able to make tough decisions in the best interests of students regardless of political or parental influence. Finally, studies show a direct correlation on class size and achievement and must be addressed.
1511	With the teacher shortage I am noticing that schools are "taking what they can get". There cannot be rigorous academics and remediation without small class sizes. Lastly, there needs to be career training; there should be life-career classes offered from 7th grade through 12th grade. Children need to know basic life skills like cooking, money managements, basic health care and it should be taught in schools. Not everyone is going to college but everyone needs to know basic life skills.
1515	Many students graduating from high school are ill-prepared for what employers expect when entering the workforce. Those who choose to attend college are often not prepared, either. They cannot read college-level material, do not have experience working in groups to achieve a goal or finish a task, and sometimes don't even understand the importance of being on time (to class or a job). Schools should go back to basics and offer courses that interest students, but also prepare them, such as finance math, career placement, home economics, wood-shop, and other courses that will enable students to find work, be confident in passing introductory college courses, and even enable students with life skills that would enable them to create future goals.
1520	Go back to trades classes. Blue collar occupations have been ignored. Technology has left the skills trade hurting for experienced tradesman and women. We are stealing the fulfillment of working with our young peoples hands. Very few kids want something other then sitting behind a desk because they are being led that way.
1522	Good teachers and administrators can ensure that many things on this list happen. Expectations need to be high for students to learn.
1523	I want my children to feel, safe, loved & enjoy school
1524	This whole list is important and a safe learning environment should be a given. Rigorous academics are vital but you need highly qualified teachers and administrators and both gifted and special education programs to ensure each student truly masters the material to the highest level of their ability
1526	The most important school characteristics to me are that we get back to the basics of Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. To be strong and advanced in these areas ensure that students will be able to be productive adults and be college and career ready.

1528	In order to successfully engage and ensure learning of rigorous academics, which is crucial, I believe small class sizes are critical. Likewise, significant learning can only happen in a safe learning environment.
1530	FUNDING FOR GIFTED EDUCATION!
1532	Of course schools need to be safe and teachers/administrators should be qualified. That should be nonnegotiable. Smaller classes allows teacher to actually teach. The larger the class, the more time a teacher must devote to classroom management. STEM classes and similar focuses on science, math and technology prepare students to be thinkers and problem solvers not just doers.
1533	Arts and stem should go hand in hand.
1537	I would like to see schools that are led and staffed by professionals (qualified educators, not business people or politicians). The schools need to incorporate core academics and the 21-century STEM skills in a way that is meaningful to the population and neighborhood the school serves. While the standards are the same for all schools, the methods of getting there should be unique and tailored to the community.
1538	SAA
1539	<p>Choosing three from that list was extremely difficult. To choose three, it would suggest that the others are not important or as important. I think simply hiring "qualified" teachers and administrators is not enough. I have personally encountered many "qualified" teachers who should have never stepped foot in a classroom with students of any age. Likewise, under federal law, special education programs cannot and will not be cut, so that is why I did not select that option.</p> <p>Considering the three characteristics that I did choose, a safe learning environment is priority. All students should feel emotionally and physically safe when they attend schools. A safe environment at school is one where students can feel comfortable and protected from physical, mental or emotional aggravation from teachers, staff and other students in order to academically learn, question and explore.</p>
1540	Qualified (and stable) staff plus small class sizes will promote a safe learning environment and rigorous academics that are appropriate for each school.
1541	All of the above are important but for me helping students learn at their individual rates, learn things that are important and practical, and be prepared for life after high school.
1542	I believe that having small class sizes truly does help the characteristics of a school. The smaller the class size the more opportunity the teacher has to work with all the students in the class. I also believe that any teacher that is hired needs to be qualified. I worked last year with a person that was a long term substitute that shouldn't have been kept on longer because they didnt have the training.
1544	Each school should reflect the society we want to have by being a safe and accepting place to be yourself while respecting the rights of others, where students are engaged in the operation and management of the institution as well as holding responsible those who make poor choices.
1545	Student and teacher safety in and out of the classrooms

	First, qualified administrators must hire higher qualified teachers who are well educated in their field of study. Core academics should be rigorous. In history, students should read and study original texts (eg. the Constitution, Plato's Republic, Emancipation Proclamation, presidential speeches). In literature, they should read complete texts, and not simply excerpts, from the Western tradition (eg. Plato's Republic, The Odyssey, The Iliad, Shakespeare's plays). In math, they should study at least one up to Pre-calculus. In science, they should study biology, chemistry and physics. They should be required to take one foreign language. Primary students (up to junior high) should be required to study Latin.
1547	If administrators hire qualified teachers (and continue to give them excellent training) and class room size is manageable (
1548	Achieving the aforementioned important goals and doing it creatively. There is no need to separate out arts. It could be a value within the goals.
1549	Qualified teachers are the most important facet of learning. Teachers are responsible for catering to diverse learning styles and unique personalities and for this, they must be able to fully understand what they teach enough to teach in many ways for many learning styles. Arts and Sciences are equally important in students self exploration of themselves and the outer world. I do also wish that schools offered more "training" so to speak for real world scenarios such as taxes, home/car buying, college applications, job searching, career training, etc. Psychology is also an extremely important subject that students should be learning in order to make good life decisions for themselves.
1553	Schools need qualified teachers and administrators combined with smaller class sizes and high academic expectations in order to facilitate students to reach their full potential.
1556	It is essential to have highly qualified staff who use the best teaching practices and provide students ample opportunities to learn. There needs to be classes that students are interested in and challenge them. We need more students who are strong in the STEM field for the demands in the workforce.
1557	Funded in top 50% of US states, equal funding for all students. Diverse course selections while also being tied to national standards so teachers can easily collaborate.
1559	Without a safe learning environment, teachers and students cannot perform to the best of their abilities. Quality teachers will deliver quality instruction. Arts opportunities have long been proven to increase overall student success.
1560	Students should be able to engage in academic instruction that prepares them for, not only college, but career and life. The arts, sports, and extra-curricular opportunities are an integral part of this, but I only got three choices above...
1561	Schools need to be focused on education the whole child; academics, social, and emotional skills. A focus on these three areas instead solely academics will help us bring up children who are ready to be productive citizens in our society. Students who are experiencing social and emotional issues are not ready to learn, so we need to foster these areas too.
1562	Hire more teachers to have smaller class sizes. RESPECT teachers. They are there because they want to be. You will have better results.
1563	All of these items are important and that should go without saying.
1565	I think you have to have qualified people to guide this process, while maintaining rigorous core academics and a safe campus

1566	During budget crisis, we immediately cut the Arts and libraries. These are classes where students can express themselves and learn about the world. Having qualified teachers is so important, and teachers should be required to have a background in the subject area they teach in the middle/high schools. Bullying programs are everywhere, but how effective are they? Schools need to move to a no tolerance policy and stop looking at the student population as a dollar sign.
1567	We need to provide an environment where the students can receive the attention they need in the material and are motivated to learn it. We still are cramming students into classrooms and force-feeding them the same diet of information regardless of skill level and future aspirations. We need to decrease classroom size and increase career paths for students.
1568	Respect, Empathy and Community are most important to me because they create a safe and supportive environment where students can take risks, learn from mistakes, and celebrate each other's achievements.
1569	High quality teachers who know how to challenge, engage, and motivate students in a respectful and safe environment.
1571	I believe that in a safe healthy learning environment my child could grow with the instruction of qualified teachers and administrators. Offering a variety of Art, STEM, foreign language, sports, core and career training provides the perfect setting for success. I also believe that in an environment too big my child would just be considered a number and not an individual. Her true potential or challenges maybe overlooked.
1572	Strong school culture within students,teachers,administration and parent buy in.
1574	The learning environment MUST be as safe as possible. Small class sizes so if my kids have questions they can be addressed. Teachers that are qualified and CARE about education.
1576	Every characteristic above is essential to ensure each students' learning experience is equitable so they develop enduring knowledge and meta-cognitive, executive functioning skills that will transform their quality of life and long term trajectory.
1577	Rigor should be a given. Class offerings should be varied, interesting, and motivating to students.
1580	While core subjects need to be rigorous, we also need to scaffold instruction so that students are not left behind due to their cognitive abilities. There are many ways to increase a students understanding of complex issues, and one of these ways is through the arts. Of course, if teachers and administrators are not qualified, or if they are not willing to shift with the times, then none of this can happen successfully. It is really shameful that Arizona legislators show such little support for all aspects of education.
1582	I feel strongly about creating learning environments under pedagogical practices around culturally responsible/sustainable curriculum. When a child feels they belong in a school, and see that who they are is also considered of value, they foster a sense of place and being in school. Most times in my 18 years of teaching, children who are not representative of the curriculum have the door shut fast in front of them as they become quickly to realize that school is not for them, what they bring as a person is not valued, and as such, they turn away from education.
1583	School leaders and teachers need to work together to provide a safe environment for students so learning of rigorous academics including the arts happens on a daily basis.

1584	Schools need an environment where students/parents feel that they are getting an education that will serve their future needs. With rigorous academic requirements and teachers that are qualified, motivated and compensated appropriately, then schools will be able to engage students for higher learner.
1585	Having the ability to learn about and how to work with people of diverse backgrounds to prepare them for a globalized workforce.
1588	I believe children should receive core academics and fine arts in small class sizes. I also believe they need to learn how to interact with one another in a safe learning environment that focuses on building a strong classroom community.
1589	In high needs (Title 1) districts, class sizes need to be smaller! Also, the neighborhoods are concerned with a child's safety both on and off campus. Highly effective teachers should be given additional SUPPORT & incentives (not necessarily in pay but in smaller class sizes and money for the classroom) to teach in high needs districts.
1590	We need to have quality teachers in the classroom who know the content they are teaching well - not just how to do the mechanics, but how to transfer the knowledge and show conceptual understanding. We have 1,000's of jobs unfilled in this country due to the fact that we do not have people qualified to do the jobs; this has to change.
1592	strong academics but not common core
1593	Our education system is being bought and sold to the highest bidder. Students need a wide variety of educational activities from which to choose. Long overlooked is the fact that most of the characteristics that have taken a back seat (arts, music, physical ed, recess...) aid in the development of well-rounded students.
1596	It is important that schools have the resources, training, and flexibility to focus on student academic achievement above all else. This starts with flexible and fair rule making that allows teachers to focus on teaching and caring for each child. Students should have the opportunity to enjoy school and learn how to be productive members of society in a safe and caring environment.
1597	Small class sizes will have the greatest impact on student success.
1599	Our students must be given the greatest opportunity through educating them to meet the needs of the workforce in our State.
1600	Real life experiences! Most day the students do nothing but work from a textbook or worksheets (especially when using the Engage NY curriculum). Students need to be able to select elective classes from an early age that meets their interest and shows them how important the core content classes are in the field of study they are most interested in.
1602	Small class sizes is most important for student success. Many students today need one on one instruction because of low skills, which can be accomplished in smaller class sizes. After such, then rigorous core academics can be implemented and schools can afford to teach STEM classes.
1606	kids are creative in several fields and cutting things or not allowing them in younger grades is affecting us compared to other states in the nation and other countries too---if you have no idea what it really means to be in education, politics has no place in making policy on it
1607	because people need to be safe at school to learn, and learning other languages earlier instead of just in high school/college is better, and arts to expand our minds in creativity and keep imagination strong

1608	<p>I miss that my kids don't get economics (banks/real-world), shop, home-ec etc.</p> <p>I miss that kids don't get celebrations for finishing kindergarten, middle school----it's all high school only in several districts.</p> <p>I miss seeing more equality across the board too. Teacher pay, student success and classes offered etc.</p>
1609	<p>I do not like that you put physical education and sports in one category, physical education is equally as important as rigorous courses, but sports are a completely different entity. Sports in Arizona takes students out of the classroom, which causes the students to miss important concepts and curriculum. I believe Arizona needs to restructure their sports system so that all students can spend a maximum amount of time in the classroom. Students in rural Arizona really miss out on a quality education because the sports structure if set up to benefit the Phoenix and Tucson areas.</p> <p>That being said, the most important characteristic of a school is qualified teachers and administrators in all areas. Many teachers and administrators have not taken the rigorous classwork that is needed to become quality educators, therefore our students are missing out on a quality education.</p>
1610	<p>The school that encourages self-exploration and promotes its students to pursue their interests is the most successful in my opinion. We are only formal "students" in a classroom for a short time in our lives. Those who cannot learn and adapt without the classroom environment will be left behind shortly after they graduate. We should therefore be teaching our students to learn independently, not feeding them a menu of material.</p>
1612	<p>Safety is first. Many of our state's schools need funding to repair and maintain their sites. We need rigorous standards to compete with the nation and the world. The old standards were a watered-down mess. And we need highly qualified, competent, confident educators who deserve an income that brings them above the poverty line.</p>
1613	<p>students need a school that provides options to prepare them for the future and motivate them to participate</p>
1614	<p>The return of moral and ethical capitalism in education. Student education should be the mission rather than institutional financial gain.</p>
1615	<p>Teachers must be highly qualified in their fields; don't lower standards. Academics must be rigorous and tied to strong academic standards; these standards must be common with those of other states to best serve all students. Advanced academics are appropriate where supportable, but all students must have access to high quality core academics. Schools need to be safe and welcoming off all students, and to the greatest degree possible, classes should be limited to no more than 20~25 students.</p>
1617	<p>Smaller class sizes will automatically lead to better educated students.</p>
1619	<p>The campus should be a safe place where all students feel welcome. Learning should be the focus. Engaging from various disciplines with competent teachers and administrators. The school should be valued by the community, offering opportunities for parents, students, and neighbors.</p>
1620	<p>The campus should be a safe place where all students feel welcome. Learning should be the focus. Engaging from various disciplines with competent teachers and administrators. The school should be valued by the community, offering opportunities for parents, students, and neighbors.</p>
1622	<p>I think students should be prepared and be able to compete for a career first, and secondly to be prepared to deal with the coursework and rigor of college.</p>

1624	Although I choose a safe environment, small class size, and qualified teachers and admin, I also believe special education is imperative. More and more we are seeing students coming into the education system with many needs, and in order to support these students the teachers need to be trained on how to work with special needs students. If teachers are going to work with students with special needs in a mainstream setting I also believe compensation should be a topic of discussion. Special education teachers receive an additional stipend and so I believe the mainstream teacher should receive training and additional funds.
1625	I don't like the word rigorous--it just connotes hard but not deep, necessarily. It also implies more testing.
1627	If schools can provide well trained teachers in smaller class sizes, many of the other characteristics like rigor and safe environment, will follow.
1628	A school should offer and encourage an environment that allows student ownership of learning by offer relevant curriculum with real world application and problem solving skills.
1631	Interesting choices above. ALL of the areas are important. The challenge is ensuring that the resources are made available to provide each of them.
1632	A school should provide an academic/education that meets the needs of every student.
1634	A wide variety of classes to be offered, to include core academics, art and foreign languages. Teachers that inspire and hold students to their highest abilities of learning. STEM classes and programs that prepare for the next 30 to 70 years from now. Career training that will offer higher level jobs coming out of high school.
1635	*Smaller class sizes No more than 25 students per classroom
1637	I think teacher training amd experience is important, but the students should come first. Their safety, their learning....that's first. Politics shouldn't be in it. Let teachers teach. Common core and other ridiculous and unnecessary programs are taking away from the value and importance that schools used to have.
1639	Increasing our states overall standing in regards to education is most important to me. Learning can best be done in a smaller-sized teacher:student ratio and there needs to be changes made in special education and opportunities for gifted learners, and it shouldn't be based on how much money that particular district has to spend.
1640	Schools need to provide a broad LIBERAL ARTS education and not just be workforce based. Students need to be in classes of NO MORE THAN 25 otherwise it is just babysitting. Schools need to offer challenging and interesting courses.
1641	Diversity in curriculum is the single most important characteristic for any school. It is unfair to only check three from a list where each characteristic listed is crucial to a different demographic of student. Students should not be so inundated with specific course requirements from a "one size fits all" sequence of classes that they are unable to explore subject and career options that they otherwise will have missed. No child should be unfulfilled or ill prepared just because they are not choosing a life path that our legislators have decided is the optimal choice.
1643	Students need to be successful. In order to do that, they need to have academics that build upon prior knowledge. Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade should have the opportunity to learn a foreign language. Students should have opportunities to build upon prior knowledge in other classroom settings if needed.

	<p>All the training, professional development and money in the world won't change a thing if we do not demand that parents and students be held "just as accountable" for the process as the teachers and administrators. The family has been changed for the worse and we are not teaching, but housing mis-behavior in too many cases. Students lack the drive because we have lowered the expectations so we get federal funds and the "mark".</p>
1644	<p>We are not doing our kids any good by lowering standards and allowing students to "pass" in any circumstance if they do not receive at least Cs. When were Ds ok? That is the standard too many are happy to obtain.</p>
1646	<p>Equip teachers to train students for the future by not over crowding classrooms and allowing safe environments</p>
1647	<p>Schools should be a safe place where students are welcome to learn at their own pace and learn what they need to succeed in what they want to do with their lives. Their education plan should be geared toward their future success and giving them the chance to succeed without having to fight to be heard because the classes are packed.</p>
1648	<p>As a teacher I believe class sizes need to be smaller to meet the needs of our diverse populations. Teacher cannot "reach" 35 students and expect great results, class sizes must be smaller to allow small group work instruction and make our children ready for our global communities. I also believe all students deserve a place to go that is safe, community minded, where character and the morals of our society; which are not being taught at home, are built into instruction. A place where children can "bloom"!</p>
1649	<p>Students must be prepared to take on the world in a way that makes sense to them. As a result, high level core and specialized academics as well as real world education are vital. STEM classes are also highly valuable although not appropriate for every child. Above all, education should be tailored to the needs and interests of each student.</p>
1651	<p>STEM is most important to prepare students for jobs in the future. Therefore we need more hands on learning, science experiements, science labs, science fairs, student created computer websites, presentations, guest speakers, field trips, robotics, building, understanding and use of simple machines, utilize our mines, zoos, factories, post office, etc... for field trips... Many factories won't let students in due to insurance...</p>
1652	<p>Preparing students for "real life"</p>
1654	<p>Rigorous academics and the freedom for teachers to decide how that teaching takes place. I am tired of seeing classes of students do worksheet after worksheet to prepare for a standardized test when they should be learning creatively. Teachers are trained to teach, not to have children memorize tests. Common core standards are standards, not prescriptions for how to teach. Let us adopt more generalized models of evaluation. We also need to take into consideration some districts have more resources than others; therefore, basing funding decisions on who shows the best test scores is discriminatory.</p>
1657	<p>I believe that STEM classes are critical to future workforce, as well as the opportunity for advanced academics in core classes. Students should be college and career ready when they graduate high school. I also believe that by hiring quality, qualified teachers and supporting them through salary, continuing professional development, and opportunities for growth we will have the most profound impact.</p>
1658	<p>qualified teachers who are knowledgeable in their fields, 2) the school is a safe place to learn and explore 3) administrators are supportive of the teachers and committed to making the school a safe place for teachers to be able to teach their students 4) a physically save environment for both the teachers and the students</p>

1659	Everything listed above. Well-rounded students are best prepared to succeed. STEM, arts, language, and physical education are all important in preparing students for success outside of school. Small class sizes and qualified teachers allow for effective intervention, rigorous academics, and personalized attention. When students feel cared for, like they're more than a number in a school, like they're part of the community, that makes the learning environment safe. That is easier to achieve in smaller groups.
1662	Smaller class sizes have been proven over and over again to be the most effective tool in increasing rigor and improving student success. Arts/Physical education teach the collaborative skills required for success in a newly global society. By getting out of the way of educators and providing teachers with the ability to teach using methods that have proven successful, we can see a positive impact for Arizona's students.
1663	Our world is quickly becoming technology based, we need to prepare our youth for careers not yet imagined. Technology will be required in any workplace.
1664	Arts opportunities and STEAM education are important in developing students who can think creatively and solve problems as individuals, yet work collaboratively as an intricate part of a team. Schools need to provide these opportunities in a safe and appropriate learning environment.
1665	1. Small class sizes allow teachers to differentiate and reduce management difficulties. My largest classes were in the poorest neighborhoods where students needed considerably more one-on-one help with real world problems that often overshadowed their perceived need for an education. 2. Brain research supports use of arts for increased brain flexibility, including actual physical changes made to the brain through learning string instruments and piano. 3. Special Education - We continue to learn about special learners and ways to help them succeed. This exceptional group needs continued support and innovation.
1666	Qualified teachers, safe learning environment, academic and career offerings.
1668	Rigorous training and professional development for teachers is key to teacher retention.
1669	See above.
1671	Teachers must be well-paid and have good benefits. The community should be actively involved in the schools. The schools should be engaged in helping meet the needs of the community, as well as the students. Schools should be environments that emphasize creative learning and experiences both inside and outside the classroom. STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) are important. More important is natural systems thinking and developing meaningful relationships with the natural environment and with communities.
1673	It is important to provide a connection for all kids to our schools. Often extracurricular activities keep students engaged in school. We live in a high tech world, our kids need to be prepared for it.
1674	Very difficult to prioritize, but please see above, but i realize, for the record, that my opinion absolutely doesn't matter to you.
1676	Schools should provide a safe environment in which core academics and opportunities to apply the skills are provided to all students, while promoting the concept of lifelong learners.
1677	qualified and Pasdionste teachers are a must. Smaller classes for better infraction. Academics that prepare students for their next step. Arts/rigor all important for a well rounded student.

1678	School characteristics that are important to me are respect, follow-through, and supportive. I think if all teachers were respected, with follow-through for the needs of the classroom, we would all be supporting the students, in the way that lessons are prepared, resources are plentiful, and time is respected for all.
1679	The students should be the focus. They need to be prepared with humanistic approaches to high academic achievement. One size does not fit all.
1681	Schools should have high expectations for all students and provide them with a roadmap for how to succeed. Schools should be safe havens that develop confident students who know how to work hard and are eager to contribute to their society.
1683	Schools need to meet the diverse needs of all learners in a safe, welcoming environment led by passionate, well-qualified teachers and administrators. Schools should be comprehensive (including the Arts, Physical Education, CTE, Personal Finance, etc) and offer a variety of classes at all levels of academic growth with quality before and afterschools activities.
1684	Students need a balance of rigorous academics, physical education, and the arts. These classes need to be small enough so that all students can receive personal attention. Arizona schools need to lower class sizes so that students can be successful.
1687	<p>The level of rigor needs to be increased. We need to teach our students how to think. When we teach them how to think we can continue to raise our bar of expectations. Our students will meet the bar wherever you set it, as long as you give them the tools to get there. Career training is important because far too often our students are leaving high school unprepared to be successful in college.</p> <p>From personal experience with my own children, when we moved to AZ from PA, my kids were so far ahead of the students here it was almost embarrassing for them. As the years passed here, I watched my children's expectations of themselves in school diminish. They were not and are not challenged in the school system here. If my children are in the AP classes, I expect that they would have a rigorous academic learning experience that brings them to a love of learning.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the classrooms here, from what I have seen, do not have teachers or the resources that will enhance the learning environment to the levels that are necessary. Had my son been challenged in school, as a gifted, high level learner, he would not have floated through Junior and High school without any effort at all. He didn't have to work for anything and was continuously bored. He went to college without any of the tools to survive and only lasted one semester. I blame the school system here for lack of rigor, lack of gifted enhancements, and lack of career and life training. My daughter will be Junior this year and I am watching the same things happen.</p>
1688	Students do not all have equal opportunities at home. Unfortunately, some students HAVE to be given opportunities to experience life skills at school as well as rigorous academics.
1689	Schools that are providing classes that motivate students to think and learn real world skills. More in the nature of STEAM rather than STEM, because we need well-rounded, innovative students.
1690	Students need to be able to enjoy school as well as learn. They need time to play and explore. Less standardized testing and homework and more real world activities.
1691	If a school believes and practices putting the students first and creates a safe, open, accepting environment for learning, students will thrive. True collaboration between parents, teachers and administration with neutral parties available to help mediate and resolve conflicts/issues/problems. Everyone grows and develops - not just the students.

1693	<p>The most important thing to me is that we have highly qualified, fairly compensated teachers and administrators in our classrooms. If we could attract the best and brightest to education, like we do to technology or business, imagine the innovation that could happen in education!</p> <p>Our kids need to understand how the world works-- both the world we've created as humans AND the natural world. Without a deep understanding of both, we will fail in preparing our kids for the future. We need kids to have basic knowledge of how ecosystems work-- not just science in a broad sense. They also need to be able to reach into their creative selves to problem-solve and recharge. For this reason, I feel that we need to support creative opportunities in schools.</p>
1695	<p>Arizona schools must hire and retain talented educators who possess the skills to connect with students as people and then how to deliver the content of their academic area to students in a way that seeks to engage their interest, and offers them a rationale for taking the courses they are required to take.</p>
1696	<p>Qualified teachers to prepare students for life. Rigorous academics that work along with qualified teachers. Small classes to allow teachers to provide quality education.</p>
1698	<p>Learning another language is important because it fosters a more peaceful world through understanding other cultures. Special and gifted programs because every student should be able to fulfill their potential. Environmental education is a must because learning job skills is useless if students also learn the unconscious behavior that leaves them with a planet that can't support their needs.</p>
1701	<p>We need to focus more on individual strength development and less on the ability to pass a standardized assessment.</p>
1702	<p>Smaller class sizes allow for individual instruction at many levels. Behavior problems decrease and more learning can occur.</p>
1704	<p>Teachers who are able to understand and interpret aligned assessment of student progress.</p>
1705	<p>Students in the 21st century who do not understand PHYSICAL science will be left behind in the workplace for decent and higher paying jobs. Arizona does not need OUR high school graduates to take low paying jobs. Arizona employers should be able to hire locally vs. import college graduates from other states.</p>
1706	<p>A school needs to be a safe place where students have opportunities to learn in a safe environment. If the schools have well-educated and prepared teachers and administrators with time to collaborate, high quality curricula will follow. If class sizes are small, classes will be manageable, leading to a safer environment; high quality learning will result. If students have the opportunity to explore themselves through the arts and humanities, the development of self-awareness and empathy for others will proceed. These qualities will contribute to achieving all the other desirable characteristics in the checklist.</p>
1708	<p>As the parent of a student with a learning disability, it is important to me that schools know how to work with my student to allow him to gain as much from curriculum as possible. He may or may not decide college is for him&lt; so I want him to have access to quality career exploration and training. Finally- learning environments should be safe for all students.</p>
1709	<p>Opportunity in all areas - so every student can find his/her strength</p>
1710	<p>Effective, dynamic teaching/learning practices which allow students to move as quickly through mastery as they are individually able. I am aware that the state has been exploring the techniques of Accelerated Learning Laboratory in Tucson. Having taught there, I can attest to its profound effectiveness and wish such a program could be effected statewide. I have never been happier as a classroom teacher, and the progress students can make there is astounding. I felt that both teachers and students were set free.</p>

1711	Highly-qualified and -paid teachers and administrators
1713	Teachers who want to be there and are able & willing to teach their students in the way that best works for those students. I believe that STEM opportunities can be tied to other types of curricula such as visual & language arts, physical education, etc. and can be the foundation for a successful school environment, but I also believe it is important for educators to understand that STEM does not just mean science experiments and math equations - educators should be better educated themselves on what this means.
1714	Class sizes are too large for the amount of struggling students we have in Arizona. The curriculum could easily be tailored to students if there were fewer students to teach.
1715	There are more than 3 characteristics that I feel are important in schools. Students must have highly qualified teachers that have specialization in the areas they are teaching. Students need electives so that we are teaching the whole child. They need smaller class sizes and a safe environment where they are not afraid to come and learn.
1716	The characteristics that I feel are most important for a school are that a well-balance, multi-cultural, education be provided where children are nurtured and encouraged to be the best person they can. This includes learning history, the arts/music, and physical activity. It should not be based on test scores and pigeon holing children into pre-determined molds.
1720	Again, all the characteristics mentioned before are important and should be part of a school.
1721	Again, providing a quality education for all learners should be a top priority. In order for that to be accomplished schools need to provide services that meet individual students' needs. Students also need to feel safe at school before learning can take place and small classroom sizes facilitates a more positive learning environment.
1722	If children are provided a rich and engaging learning environment, they will learn. We don't need to force "rigor" on them. They are born with an innate desire to learn if we can restrain ourselves from driving it out of them. The most important job of the classroom and the teacher is to provide those safe, nurturing, inviting environments that are developmentally appropriate and lead the students to academic success. I am much more concerned that the students learn to cooperate, problem solve, and work through issues with each other than that they memorize every factoid for the test. Kindness, compassion, and a full range of physical, mental and emotional development will serve them much more than any test score ever will.
1723	An environment that offers experiential opportunities and leadership potions for students. A high academic standard from teachers comparable to universities. A focus on STEM programs. A standard moral boundary system to hold students and staff accountable, while allowing for expression and independent personalization.
1724	A strong outdoor academic program that casually has a platform in the outdoors for education.
1725	I like what my school is all about. They have great respect for each other and we all work as a team!!!!
1728	All of the above are so important!
1730	A safe learning environment ensures that the brain can concentrate on growing with new knowledge, not retreat in fear and stress. STEM careers of the future will need every worker to be fluent in technical and procedural skills. Research has proven the value and importance of arts opportunities for students' brains, bodies and future.
	Small classes and a safe learning environment run by qualified people will result in high-quality programs that students need to succeed.

1731	It is hard to pick certain characteristics because I believe all are important and students are unique and should have choices in their educational career.
1733	Over and over we have seen qualified teachers be able to teach in various subject areas and over numerous grade levels. Our problem is the constrictions we put them on for state and district requirements in regards to testing. We need to come up with a better accountability system so that we are not running are most qualified educators and administrators out of the profession. We continually make the class sizes bigger and do not meet our own state requirements for class size limitation. Finally, I do feel that the state and districts have done a very good job to keep our campuses safe. We need to keep up those standards that we have already set and met.
1734	A safe and nurturing environment in which staff are highly qualified to meet the needs of all learners.
1737	Positive school climate = higher academic achievement
1738	We need to make sure all students have strong foundational knowledge and that gifted students are given the opportunities needed to keep them engaged and advancing.
1739	Each classroom is filled with students with varying interests/abilities/skill levels. I am done with the one size fits all model. Teach kids where they are--some classes may spur ahead in some areas so let that happen rather than temper the learning to make sure everyone can solve a math problem 5 ways. When kids need more time...given them that! Trust the teachers you hire and which you've certified. They know which kids need more/less on lessons. Let them innovate and create. Collaborate with parents instead of telling them...don't help your child with their math homework because you'll confuse them not knowing the Common Core "strategies." Shunning parents hurts kids and creates distance between the true partners who matter most in a child's life.
1740	Research is consistently misquoted that class size doesn't make a difference....I beg to differ and ask that research not be misquoted. The research states that after a certain number is reached there is no difference. But if we want all students reading by 3rd grade and being successful this district needs to get a clue and do something about the class sizes....
1742	Poor students need to have access to quality teachers, education in rigorous subjects, a comprehensive curriculum of all core subjects, and equal opportunities to learn. It feels like the schools try to keep the poor kids in poverty by denying them opportunities to learn that wealthier families have. There are major differences in the quality of teachers at the wealthier schools in my district compared to the poorer ones. ADE needs to support and train the struggling teachers how to teach science, math, social studies, etc.
1743	To start off with, I believe we need highly qualified teachers and administrators who can deliver rigorous core academics in small class sizes so every student is given adequate time with the teacher on a daily basis.
1744	Qualified educators can teach any subject if the students are housed in a safe facility, within small learning environments, governed by a solid administration.
1745	Students need to feel safe in a learning environment in order to succeed. Safe not only physically but emotionally and academically. If students feel the security of being taught by a qualified teacher and guided by a qualified administrator all students (Special Education, ELL, Gifted) will reach their maximum potential.
1746	Small class sizes ensure that teachers at least have a chance at meeting the needs of each of their students. Right now, Arizona has the 4th highest class sizes in the nation, and this makes it nearly impossible to reach students on an individual level. At the H.S. where I teach, I will have 170 students every day, and that's simply too high.

1747	Helping individuals find their strength and voice
1748	Children need everything. If a teacher wants to help each child they must have smaller class sizes.
1749	Providing a safe environment that is conducive to learning is crucial in order for students to achieve their full potential. Smaller class sizes would better allow teachers the ability to deliver effective instruction and meet the needs of a diverse group of students. It is imperative that every student receives a rigorous curriculum that will prepare them for college or work after graduation.
1750	Small classes, great teachers, art classes!
1751	Teacher pay must attract and keep highly qualified educators.
1753	Teachers are respected and paid for their experience and knowledge they bring into the classroom, administration that support teachers with student behavior and guidance
1755	Our children need to be well rounded. Art, music, chorus, etc. are important to that end. They should be educated enough to get into a community college, tech school, the military or find a job where they can be contributing members of society.
1756	A continuum of services, from accelerated programs to special education programs for those students for whom a traditional academic education is less valuable and a skills-based program is more appropriate.
1757	A certified educator must be in every classroom. There must be training for a variety of employment and career opportunities for our students. Both students and educators must feel safe in the school environment.
1759	I expect teachers to be certified highly qualified, general education classrooms with under 20 student, and fully-funded SPED programming.
1760	Supported (financially, community and policy wise) staff members that provide rigorous yet varied core academics with a variety of other opportunities for student involvement and achievement.
1762	Students need to understand Science, technology, and mathematics as this is where our society is going, despite the lacking skills in this arena. Students should be able to perform consumer mathematics, but it would be ideal if they understood how their garage door opener worked and how to use a desktop computer system. Science it all around us, and the next big break could easily come from an encouraged student right here in Arizona. Students also need to feel safe and free from harassment, threats, and sexual assault. I believe the arts are important, because students hone important and critical skills in both their brains and motor skills.
1763	Students to be well rounded and appreciate the arts and sciences.
1765	Smaller class sizes by highly qualified educators taught rigorous standards for knowledge and critical thinking.
1766	Each student is seen as an individual whose needs should be met
1767	Teachers and administration that are quality and put kids' needs first in a safe environment where individualized attention is possible in order for them to excel to the highest extent possible.
1769	I'm very concerned about our schools investing in technology with one to one goals of each child having some sort of technology. There is no evidence to support this and it is not financially sound since most technology is outdated the day you begin using it.

1770	Safe, non-stressful expectations. Why does everything need to be honors, ap. In my children's honors and ap classes they didn't necessarily learn more, but they had more work. Work doesn't equal learning. I hated when my children received non learning homework. When each teacher gives one hour of homework, that is six hours of non learning busy work.
1772	All
1773	That my children have loving teachers who care about them. They have more opportunities to learn speaking and debate skills so they can learn how to stand up for what they believe in as adults.
1774	Each student is seen as an individual whose needs should be met
1775	I hesitate to mark "rigorous" because it tends to be associated with a back-to-basics curriculum, and I do not support that statewide, although I don't have a problem with that as an option for parents in some schools. I support true rigor, where students are challenged within the context of a meaningful curriculum, where learning is both hands-on and minds-on. That should be the status quo in schools.
1776	They all are important.
1777	Education more directed towards their job
1782	Schools should be places that know their students intimately and support their growth, working to give them opportunities where they can practice problem solving, making mistakes, and growing from those mistakes.
1785	They all are. I would have preferred STEAM to STEM. Developing the whole student including Art, Music, PE healthy habits and other life skills.
1786	All of the items listed are important. Schools need to be better with their special education allocations. Too many districts are not providing for their students with hearing loss the way they should be. Mine in particular. One teacher for all HI students is shameful in a large district. Special education monies should be used for special education!!
1787	Small class sizes allow for the core (college ready metrics) education to be taught properly. If the students can enter college, they can enter the workforce with minimal training. Core critical learning needs to be mastered in the 4-year high school environment. If kids can not graduate in 4 years, then the K-8 education is lacking and must be corrected immediately.
1789	I like the idea of my kids going to a school where every student is able to contribute to a academic-enhancing project in some way. I think everyone should be able to contribute in a way that interests them beyond standardized academics and not based on merit, but interest. I think the performance scores will follow when kids are engaged in something that interests them and makes them realize they have something to offer.
1790	Students must utilize as many sections of their brains and be able to integrate knowledge to have a solid base to move into adulthood. Small class sizes that have ample time to be project based along with a strong surge toward real world learning would do much to accelerate the interest level and confidence that students need to grow. Economics, history, politics, learning to discern what ideas resonate to produce productive, active citizens will create a child's ability to enter adulthood and take care of themselves and others. Why are we neglecting these vital aspects and creating individuals who cannot budget an account, purchase a car, vote with intelligence and protect themselves, and endorse and support community?

1791	One of the biggest challenges kindergarten teachers face is the shift to more rigorous and academic environments. Play is and can be academic but many kindergartens don't have it anymore and that is sad! Many kindergarten classrooms don't play anymore and have cut recess time due to principal or district policy. It seems as if when we stated "racing for the top" and added Common Core standards we really lost sight of what is developmentally appropriate for children our age! Social and emotional development is lost!
1792	Schools should be a safe place. No one can learn or teach if they are not safe. Schools should pick the best of teachers. Teachers have the highest impact on how my child's education. I want the teachers to be well qualified and picked carefully. The teachers who are selected after a rigorous screening should be given the creative freedom, resources and authority to teach them. The schools should be a positive place where everyone is smiling and having fun as they learn not forlorn, frowning, exhausted and stressed. The class sizes need to be capped so each student gets the individual attention and time they deserve.
1793	Again I want my boys well-rounded and ready for college.
1794	I support rigor in the curriculum along with extended learning opportunities that incorporate art, music, PE, STEM and other activities that address the whole student. When the focus is on developing the full potential of all students in an inclusive environment, then, I believe other issues around school safety, parent involvement and community support will follow and be managed for the benefit of all students.
1795	I feel that education takes a second place to athletics and extracurricular activities at most schools and their needs to be a change in this mentality for teachers, parents, students, administration, and school boards. The funds to accomplish this goal would be greatly appreciated and funding that supports the academic achievement of every student in Arizona schools.
1796	The most important school characteristics are rigorous academics, STEM, AVID, safety, the Arts, Nutrition, and Cleanliness.
1801	We need to fulfill all of the above school characteristics. We have no reason not to. It requires making public education a priority of the state budget and state legislature. We should not have to prioritize a few of those characteristics for all students, not just for the students in privileged zip codes.
1802	It's extremely difficult to limit the all important needs in our school to just a top three list. The overriding importance of all these aspects just means we have to creatively find ways to do it all. Our students deserve all of these characteristics in our schools. NOTHING should be omitted.
1803	We should be educating the "whole" child. Test scores show that someone can take a test successfully..not who or what that child is or have achieved. We need to get out of the Testing is the know all factor of educating.
1804	A school needs to provide opportunities for all students to thrive by providing challenging content and the support needed to master this content
1806	Are you kidding me? Only 3? If we have qualified teachers and admin then we will have rigorous teaching and students will be prepared for the future.
1808	I think Arizona schools need to provide more professional development in the area of working with underprivileged children.
1811	Arizona schools should encompass all of the listed characteristics. It is not one or the few but the collection of positive elements that make a great education.
1814	A school that values the arts and other special areas at the same level as math, ELA, science, and social studies

1816	Qualified state and district officials. People should not be allowed to use education as a platform to push their own agendas. Further, people who do not have experience in the classroom as teachers should not progress beyond the classroom profession, and those who are in educational government positions should be required to have spent time in elementary education classrooms as the teacher, especially those in low-income communities.
1818	A safe and caring environment with an emphasis on anti-bullying.
1820	How can you expect anything less that diverse graduates when only three of these choices can be most important? When does a safe learning environment trump qualified teachers and administrators or foreign language classes being more important than physical education and arts? For a productive and successful economy and future, all of these should be strong characteristics of any Arizona school.
1821	Positive school environments
1825	There is not one of these characteristics that is not essential.
1827	I would like to see a school where administrators and teachers have sufficient resources for teaching, and they are not overwhelmed with constant assessments to prove they are doing their jobs.
1830	Proper educated administration goes a long way.
1831	Successful schools provide well-rounded, advanced opportunities for growth for the students and staff. Students must feel safe, both physically and emotionally, and teachers must be prepared for diverse learners and curriculum.
1832	I chose Qualified teachers and administrators because if you have those then rigorous core academics, advanced academics, and a safe learning environment should follow. I chose Arts opportunities because they get less play that sports, but I think Arts and Athletics and Career Training are equally important. I think small class size matters as the more individualized attention a teacher can give the more successful the students will be. If you can reach the children and they know you care about them magic happens.
1835	I would like to see schools with a diverse curriculum that embraces excellence. This would include, in addition to core curriculum, art, music and physical education. Small class size would be a bonus. Emphasis should be given to students on both sides of the norm.
1836	I am selecting the 3 characteristics that I believe are too weak or inadequate at this time, however I do feel class sizes have to be reduced. certainly there is room for much improvement for many of the other qualities listed above.
1839	Foreign languages, arts and good teachers who want to and love teaching.
1841	Why choose only three, better option would be place a number on level of importance! all of the above are so important in education. I don't want my kids to lose specials, but of course they need to get their core academics.
1843	Academics, arts, social time, great healthy lunch and time to eat it.
1844	Students who are able to spend more time individually working with a teacher on their specific needs tend to me more successful. Large class sizes prevent this important interaction. Additionally, in order to prepare students for the work force, they should be able to interact, discuss, and share ideas. Both rigorous academics in core areas, as set forth by the Common Core, and STEM programs assist with these areas.
1846	Schools with well-qualified teachers and administrators with a rigorous curriculum can provide opportunities for students to be successful in a global economy. Without resources teachers and administrators are unable to provide even basic necessities for students to feel safe much less provide a challenging curriculum.

1850	Basics need to be mastered before moving forward. Qualified teachers and special ed teachers are necessary. Teaching the child not just teaching for tests.
1851	Basics need to be mastered before moving forward. Qualified teachers and special ed teachers are necessary. Teaching the child not just teaching for tests.
1852	Quality teachers!!!! That is number one. They are flocking away from this field and Arizona is not doing much to draw them in. High stakes assessment is driving good administrators out and good teachers out of the field. There is not enough funding to attract and retain quality teachers.
1856	Qualified teachers and administrators, safe learning environment, and small class sizes are most important to me as without them students struggle to learn. Without qualified teachers and administrators, there is no management in the school or classroom so students can't learn. If a child is not safe or does not feel safe, the brain focuses on survival instead of learning. When there are small class sizes, teachers can more effectively teach, differentiate, and provide small group or even one on one help to ensure student success.
1858	Rigor is needed to ensure high expectations for all kids are met. STEM is the demand of the evolving world we live in. If our children do not feel safe they may not take risks.
1859	As a parent who is paying \$3000 per year for out of state private school, I would love to see AZ free of common core and a return to traditional education. Classical language arts literature, traditional math, latin, etc. Less focus on national curricula and testing, more focus on teaching how to think not what to think. More parental involvement, even for the poor. Personal responsibility is a part of a good society.
1860	According to some U.S. Department of Labor studies about 60% of all future jobs will require a two year degree or a certificate. Most of the jobs that need filled or new jobs on the immediate horizon will require STEM skills. To support these STEM skills we need rigorous core academics in Math and in the ability to Read at a higher technical level. Schools need to focus on students that are career ready, college ready and have advanced Math and Reading Comprehension skills that address the needs of an economy that is becoming more STEM based.
1861	The most important characteristic of a school is its Arts education, and the feeling of community. Teachers should feel supported, students should feel supported, parents should feel supported, and administration should be supported. We should follow the Texas model of mandatory music education for middle school students - all students take band, choir, or orchestra. The research shows that music education is what closes the achievement gap, so more resources should be given to our lower SES elementary districts in particular (Murphy, Roosevelt, etc.).
1862	The arts benefit students for the remainder of their lives, even if they do not pursue a career in the arts. For example, they learn how to work for a long period of time on a complex and demanding project. Also, students of the arts discover how to present professionally to an audience.
1863	My number one need in a school is how many art opportunities are being offered in partnership with the sciences and literacy skills such as reading and writing.
1864	The arts provide for rich and varied creative approaches and problem-solving opportunities. The arts allow students to work together and develop collaborative ideas.

1865	Students should be able to learn how to manage a well balanced life after school. Many do not know how to do the basics, yet our course curriculum is so rigorous they skip the basics and how to problem solve. Students don't have time to dive deep into an issue because they are being dragged across the surface of many concepts, skipping concepts in the process. They need to connect and have ownership. We forget that teenagers can't think like adults. Their brains are not developed. WE need to help STRETCH their brains, this takes time and patience. Teachers do not have time to go deep. Health, nutrition, play, interaction, involvement acceptance are all building blocks to learning. Build a stable foundation first.
1866	School is a home away from home for many and creating a safe environment with highly qualified and passionate faculty is important for success. If we treat STEM as STEAM and include an emphasis in the arts, the students can have the opportunity for a quality well-rounded experience.
1867	Of course small class sizes, safe campuses, and rigor in academics should be a part of the public school system. However, to truly be prepared for the real world students should leave high school capable of thinking creatively, problem solving, managing their money, searching for a job, have compassion and empathy for other humans, understand their own skill set, learning styles, and personal passions. By taking diverse classes students will be more prepared for the varied career opportunities that are a part of the modern world. So the characteristics that are the most important to me are the ones that will best prepare them to understand how they help themselves and others succeed in society during these difficult times.
1868	Students learn better and teachers teach better when classes are smaller. Students do better in their academic classes when they are also involved with the arts and learning languages, etc. Students gain motivation through involvement with their own diverse interests. They will not find those interests unless our schools can provide exposure to them. Not all students have access to these opportunities from their families and home lives.
1871	All of these things are extremely important depending on the student. We can't offer a one-size fits all approach anymore because students learn and thrive in completely different settings and in completely different programs. Offering an array of different things for students to develop skills and interest in is extremely important, from STEM to foreign languages to arts.
1872	We should be able to offer high quality academics in a hands on applied environment with an emphasis on skills and content that will support each person and our nation.
1873	Students have an opportunity to experience multiple subjects. Trade classes more available. Art classes more available. Giving future opportunities in many directions.
1874	Administrators and districts and politicians who allow teachers to practice professionally, and part of this is reducing class sizes and giving teachers time and freedom - within curricular boundaries - to operate.
1875	A safe learning environment where teachers love teaching and where the students are engaged in a fun learning environment. Arts programs are extremely important to a child's learning and creativity. As well as rigorous core classes that get them to think and ask questions regarding their world and environment.
1879	If these three are in place, then the other selections will follow. Schools then work to include the STEM, art, ect.
1881	Small student to teacher ratio, technology up to date. Equity
1882	It is important to me that our students be well rounded in their education so that they are able to rise to any challenges or opportunities that come their way.

1887	Children should be able to experience a broad education that meets the needs of the whole child, develops critical and creative thinking, and is appropriate for their unique needs. Kids do not grow teeth or learn to walk or talk at the same time. Their shoe sizes and height vary. The average age range for students within classrooms is between 16-22 months. Putting up arbitrary yardsticks that sort children into groups that limit their opportunities to grow, and continually enlarge the achievement gap are irrelevant. There is no research that correlates elementary school achievement and success in life. But negative labels do create self-fulfilling prophesies.
1888	The fact is we shouldn't have to choose which characteristics are "most important" they are all important. I wouldn't give up academics or arts for safety nor would I sacrifice small class sizes for career training. Arts are now a core academic subject so why is it listed separately? If i choose the basics for health and safety, am I sacrificing higher learning? knowing you need a tally, i've selected three but this is a no win question.
1895	both core and elective subjects are necessary for students to be well rounded individuals.
1896	(1) Great teachers - Qualified teachers aren't always great, and since we can't attract them with our current compensation packages, lets offer Free Career Training to current and future Teachers and then lets lower the class sizes enough for them to actually put into practice what they've been taught. Differentiated Instruction, the latest buzzword in education simply isn't going to happen very often in large classes - there is no positive incentive for the teacher to do it, only punitive measures (such as withholding of bonuses) if the ever increasing benchmarks aren't achieved. Besides, with the move toward mainstreaming all but our most severe SpEd students, differentiated instruction basically becomes law. Statistically, 13% of students qualify for IEP mandated SpEd services; meaning in a class of 30 students, 3-4 will qualify for IEP services - which doesn't address the unknown number of other students who fall into the category of being 0.1 to 1.9 standard deviations "behind" in any given subject. Helping at-risk students requires time. In large classes, there simply is not enough time to dedicate to all those who need the attention. IEP requirements get ignored as it is because mainstream teachers can't, don't, or won't follow the plans, for various reasons. Many claim not to know what the IEP says or how to implement it in a GenEd classroom. And then there are some teachers who are simply too tired to care that an IEP is a legally binding document, because ... let's face it, what are they going to do ... fire you? Not likely. Districts get slapped on the wrist for ignoring IEPs. Students sometimes get "compensatory services" (a joke). And nothing systemically changes. So, give teachers an incentive to work the program you've taught them - the incentive of a classroom where they can realistically meet student needs.
1899	Safety and qualified educators/administrators should be a GIVEN! Pretty much EVERYTHING on this list should be!!
1901	Safe environment through team building.
1903	FFA, along with a variety of electives for kids to choose from. Skilled teachers and preparation for college and preparation for those not attending college.
1904	A holistic program of study presented by qualified teachers will help most learners.
1905	Schools should be safe, nurturing environments. They should meet the needs of the school and the community. School should be the hub of the community and should reflect the needs of the people attending the school.
1906	A realistic plan and execution from the top including all types of students (not just sports)

1907	Career and technical education is the single most important thing that I experienced as a student. It was called vocational education back then. CTE and student organizations changed my life. I would not be where I am today without career and technical education. I would highly encourage you to maintain CTE and the leadership of the youth organizations and the funding for them.
1908	Qualified teachers but not in the sense of having jumped through artificial hoops such as passing a specific exam or taking a specific class online to get that darn SEI out of the way. Qualified should mean prepared to be in front of children, specified to the age and unique composition of a given population and campus. It means being flexible and learning daily how to modify and adjust, despite what a webinar suggested would be the best practice, and it means being humble enough to learn from other teachers/administrators who have been successful. A college degree is a must as a starting point, and some training in the area being taught. But if a person has full certification - which takes the equivalent of 30 or more education classes -- from a Montessori school in Houston, Texas, he or she should be able to teach in any Arizona classroom without having to take a dozen classes and pass two or more AEPA/NEC tests. Especially if that person has taught in a Montessori school for a few years and her students have scored at the meets or exceeds rates on AzMerit far above state averages.
1909	Providing a safe learning environment for students to learn Advanced academics well in small classes that provide more one-on-one attention to help learn about their future
1911	Small class sizes are important so learning can actually happen without a lot of discipline issues. We need qualified good teachers that care about their students and have the freedom to make learning fun. We need art and music in our schools. Studies have shown kids who have art and music do better academically. Also what great talents they develop!
1912	Making a well-rounded individual.
1913	Caring teachers who teach developmentally. Administrators who LET TEACHERS TEACH!! Children do not learn well in large class sizes, no matter what John Hattie says. Music and other special type classes create a well-rounded child who has an easier time with the learning process. "Rigorous core academics" and "career training" are last on my list (my children are elementary age).
1914	Schools with teachers and administrations that understand the importance of STEM education in preparing students for entrance into meaningful careers.
1915	All of the above. Picking the top 3 seems 'watered down' thinking.
1917	Great site and district level administration that makes teachers feel empowered and supported. Higher teacher salaries.
1918	There should be diverse class offerings and evidence-based practices
1919	It is most important to me that my child is safe while in school and the teachers are well qualified.
1922	An emotionally healthy, growth mindset-driven community
1924	Teachers qualified for the position and academics meeting the requirements of its students instead of students meeting academic requirements.
1925	Accountable for a safe learning environment and qualified school staffs
1926	Even within the same district, the opportunities among schools are vastly different. Just because I can't afford a 1/2 million dollar house, my child should still be given the same opportunities (e.g. STEM)

1928	Qualified and well-paid teachers and administrators. An emphasis on STEAM - The arts are important to well prepared and interesting citizens! Let's have a refocus on teaching respect to students!
1929	"Top three" is impossible and this is not a zero sum game. I refuse your false choice and marked five.
1931	There should be emphasis on social development in the early years and more time spent playing.
1934	Safe and well funded and maintained environments that address the needs of all students.
1935	Equity for all students throughout our diverse state
1937	No student can learn if they do not have a safe environment to learn in. With in that safe environment the adults around them need to be qualified to teach them the skills they need to succeed in life.
1939	A safe environment where students can participate in courses that stimulate their thinking and are meaningful to them. They also need to have activities that provide a break away from core curriculum.
1942	Teachers who care about their students enough to want to give them a good education.
1946	Qualified educators Small class sizes Intervention efforts Arts courses and elective opportunities
1952	Students should want to learn and be prepared for the education they will receive. In many cases, this means early intervention and ongoing support for students who are not as prepared as they should be. This could be because of a learning disability, but it could also be from a variety of other reasons. Every student should be supported, regardless of any label they might hold. Students should also be exposed to math and science in real world applications so that they see meaning in what they are learning.
1953	Schools need programs of inclusion - students are much more successful when they belong and buy in to something that is bigger than themselves, whether that's a musical group, a sports team, a club, or the student body itself. A school with high levels of involvement is much more likely to see student success.
1954	It's important that all students, parents, teachers, and staff are valued and treated with respect. It's important to recognize the issues that low income schools face and ensure those schools have the proper tools to make a difference. It's very important to help those students who have difficulty learning to read and give them proper support. When students struggle with reading, they struggle with all classes. I see so many students who do not have the required mastered reading skills to be successful and this has such a negative impact on every part of their lives.
1955	How do you pick just 3? These are all important. Kids need to be educated for the future. We need smaller class sizes. Our kids need to be taught by teachers who are educated and want to be there.
1958	Small class size for teachers to have more one-on-one approach with students
1963	I would like to see more Blended Learning Environments. Flexible Scheduling is key.
1965	Most important to me is class size. It is very, very difficult to teach in a kindergarten or first grade class with 32+ students. It is even more difficult to teach middle or high school with 40 students. Another area I have great concern with are class times that are spent with non-certificated/classified staff. I think this is especially common in elementary schools.

1966	Safe environment where my child receives a rigorous course of study that prepares him for success in a global world. Immersion programs are a MUST.
1968	I want qualified teachers to teach my children with a rigorous curriculum that allows for advanced academics and opportunities.
1970	Schools and teachers should have autonomy. Government needs to get out of the classroom.
1971	Diverse opportunities for students. Not just arts but also sports provided by qualified teachers in classrooms where students are able to benefit from a moderate class size.
1975	I had to leave a district (TUSD) due to the unsafe conditions for students. Students should have a sense of a safe community where they support each other.
1976	High performing teachers that are respected as professionals.
1977	Guiding students towards careers with apprenticeship programs. STEM for students showing aptitude in those areas. Basic, core education without all the ridiculous things now in common core.
1979	With smaller class sizes, teachers are able to build better relationship and meet the individual student's needs better, thus impact student learning.
1980	A school is a learning place for its community. So each school should reflect the characteristics and values of the community it resides in.
1981	CTE classes are cut every year - students need the career training as well as sports in order to learn to work as a team member
1985	Every students needs career training - my daughter graduated from U of A and could not get a job, she needed more career training courses in high school
1987	A large amount of options for students to choose from including foreign languages, arts, and music. SMALLER class sizes!!!! Schools need more teachers so that students receive more attention from teachers and are not in classes with too many other students to ever get their questions answered. Students need SMALLER class sizes to be able to flourish.
1988	How can you pick only three top choices for our schools? All of the above options should be available in our schools! The future needs well rounded people to assist in the progress of our country and its successes.
1989	Students should have a safe place to excel in academics. Students also need sports and fitness programs to be healthy and learn how to handle adversity.
1993	School characteristics which focus on the whole student are important to me. Students need challenges and opportunities to succeed.
1995	Small class sized allow teacher to work more with individual students meet the needs of all students.
1996	Because my areas of strength are in the arts and foreign languages, those programs were most important to my education. However, other people have different strengths and need to be provided opportunities to discover and develop those strengths. That is why it is very important that certain of these programs/characteristics not be lost at the expense of others. Especially at the elementary, middle school, and early high school levels, all of these opportunities should be available to every student.

1997	<p>Can we start with smaller class sizes??? Please?? Yes, teachers have learned how to manage larger class sizes, but the amount of meaningful instruction has been reduced due to the increasing behavior issues that arise with there is more students in the room.</p> <p>Physical Education should be mandatory in all schools at all grades AND for more than 30 minutes per week. Too many of our students live a sedentary life. They spend 1/3 of their day at school and, hopefully, another 1/3 is for sleeping. However, more funding needs to be provided to pay for the extra teachers that are needed to fulfill this need.</p>
1998	All students should receive the same benefits as those with IEPs. Accommodating students and modifying curriculum must become a best practice for educators. Schools must provide a safe learning environment for all children....period. Faith and/or religion are not matters concerning education.
2000	A true liberal arts, classical education that incorporates rigorous academics and opportunities for instruction in art, music, physical education and foreign language taught by well-qualified teachers and overseen by true administrators who are master teachers.
2001	Class sizes are too large for students and teachers to be as productive as they can be. By decreasing class sizes, schools can be more rigorous and have a deeper impact on student learning. The state needs to better fund public education.
2002	Extensive course offerings that provide direction to our young adults. Career and Technical Education is valuable to all students in high school.
2003	As a teacher small class size is important so that I can sit with those students who need extra help. Classes of 30+ are to large and I cannot take the time I would like. Also, being sure that students are able to comprehend the work, read and and understand directions, and those able to write and speak in an intelligent manner.
2004	Small class sizes always help to address specific needs of individual students. All staff in all schools need to be qualified and certified in order to fully address those needs. Arts are often overlooked as unimportant, but they are essential to form an overall person who appreciates music and the arts.
2007	Part of a well-rounded education should include the core subjects, but also classes in the arts such as music, visual art, theater, etc. Courses in the arts can be used to support learning in the core subjects, for much that is learned in those subjects crosses over in to literature, history, science, math, etc. It is also important that the teachers are qualified and know the subjects they teach.
2009	Safe learning environment, clean and maintained, supportive teachers and administrators, thorough communication and follow-through.
2013	For my family personally we wanted to see a school that had a great performing arts program.
2014	Safe schools, teachers that are invested, well rounded offerings, preparing for the future
2015	A diverse well rounded curriculum housed in an atmosphere driven by mutual respect, accountability and academic success to meet the needs of all levels and types of learners.
2017	The priorities of importance are 1) safe schools with a safe learning environment, 2) having highly qualified classroom teachers and competent administrative teams to be able to move the district and, as such, the students forward academically and socially.
2019	A nurse in every school would support a healthy, safe environment for children to be successful in their academics.

2020	If you want to know how a student is doing, ask their teachers. There is too much needless time spent on assessment and true learning is becoming a thing of the past. We need to reach all students and let our teachers teach so true enthusiasm for learning is achieved.
2021	Having great teachers and all school personnel who are dedicated to their students success rather than worrying about their jobs or funding because of one test score. I want our schools not to feel like work.
2025	Effective verbal and written communication skills are essential to being successful in society. Rigorous content may support the development of these skills.
2026	Small class sizes, experienced teachers and curriculum that is given to the teachers so there is some consistency.
2027	Students need to feel they are being taught the necessary skills to take them further with their goals and know that they can get any help they may need, when they need it. They need to have a safe learning environment. There should be very good communication between the students, administrators and parents.
2028	Just about everything on the list is important. However, no one can learn if they don't feel safe so that has to be a major priority. To go along with that, we do need to address class size. Once a class becomes too big, then that in itself becomes a safety hazard. It also prevents teachers from being able to give one-on-one attention to students to be able to identify their strengths and weaknesses and help build them up from there. To go along with diversity, we need to make sure that we are addressing the needs of our special education population. Besides being a federal mandate, these students deserve the same opportunity for an education that any other student does.
2029	I believe that the school should help the student become a better person. To help build his character. He should have a personality and character to succeed in this world.
2032	Adequately funded classrooms. Too many classes lack enough supplies or equipment.
2036	Qualified teachers and administrators is key to instruction. Research shows the teacher is the #1 factor in student learning. Recently, changes at ADE in Certification policies have reduced teacher requirements to the point that anyone can get an Emergency Certificate and teach. Also, there is talk Gov. Ducey is wanting to do away with Certification. This would be a travesty and an insult to all of AZ Certified Teachers. Teaching is an admirable profession that requires knowledge of pedagogy, instructional strategies, and the art of instructing. To say that certification requirements are not needed denigrates the profession. It is a wrong move for AZ to reduce the quality of teachers, in exchange for a "warm body" in the classroom.
2037	Classes that lead our youth to be contributing members of society
2038	A safe learning environment is a must, which will allow/promote rigorous core academics. The reality is that we will still have special populations and we need to accommodate to their needs. I believe that well-thought out special programs will reach all learners modalities and interests taking care of the arts, Stem and physical education, etc. The matter of qualified teachers and administrators should be even an option that must be an expectation.
2041	It is first of all crucial that a school have highly qualified administrators and teachers. Along with that, a strong and rigorous academic program that provides not only plenty of opportunities for academic advancement but that also prepares students for life-long learning. In addition, a strong and diverse CTE program and career planning programs that provide hands-on experiences is beneficial as are extra-curricular activities for students.
2042	Also, special area classes, technology and after school events.

2043	Having a safe learning environment will mean every child will feel comfortable enough to take risks with their learning. We need different programs to meet the needs of all children. Our current system only teaches towards students who do well in language arts and math.
2044	Create for profit schools. Provide social services for students at school.
2048	Student centered not test centered teaching and learning
2049	Every classroom should be a stimulating, safe learning environment. "One Size Fits All" doesn't work in education; therefore, dictating that all curriculum include STEM or even be rigorous is inappropriate. Example: An Amish child should not be required to learn how electricity works. It is the government's responsibility to prepare citizens who can vote intelligently, have a work ethic and be career ready.
2050	Small class sizes that focus on student-centered learning experiences and NOT TESTING!
2051	This is a very hard question because students need to be well rounded and given opportunities in MANY areas - it is important to have rigorous core academics, arts, physical education and sports, special and gifted programs, foreign language, STEM, advanced academics and career training. ALL of those should be available to students. In addition the climate of the school program that includes qualified teachers and administrators, a safe learning environment, and small class sizes are VERY important. We need comprehensive schools to help our Arizona students succeed in an increasingly complex society.
2055	I picked STEM because we need to be enhancing our children's education into the "time period" that they are currently living. I believe small class sizes work because you can reach all students at their level of learning. You can always teach a large group of students, but do you know them, are able to really teach, and are they learning everything that they need to know to go on each year. I also picked a safe learning environment because "bullying" is continuing to be such an issue because students are not being prepared at home to work with others. It is the school's job to do so much of the preparing students and teaching safety.
2058	RN on every campus for student safety. Children are coming to public school with much more severe health issues and the role of the nurse is only getting more specialized and difficult.
2059	Providing all students with a curriculum that is challenging. Also ensuring that students are free from bullying and can feel that their school is a safe place for them to grow.
2060	As an educator of gifted students, I've noticed that many public educators ignore these students. If all educators would tap into their gifted students capabilities, our nation could be the premier nation for inventions, solving of the world's problems, technology innovations... We need to tap into this highly neglected population, instead of focusing on our low performing students.
2061	The education system should be a merge of skill development (construction/culinary/arts) with rigorous core knowledge learning.
2062	A school should have qualified leaders (administrators), qualified teachers (not through state testing, but through experience, professional development and classroom observations), autonomy (some checks and balances in place but not micro-managed), safe environment (for students and staff), and have current technology (that which students will encounter once in the world of work and college). All educational institutions K-12 should have the same requirements in place, including standardized testing.
2063	Basics can become boring and children need to be excited about education. We need to teach as though each child was gifted and have them truly stretch for their own success. Small classes are the key to a real education. Indiana has voted to have all classes K-3 no larger than 22 students.

2064	<p>We are seeing more and more children with life-threatening chronic illnesses like diabetes, asthma, and seizure disorders. A registered nurse in every school would support a healthy, safe environment for children to be successful in their academics. This is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics:</p> <p>http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/863648?nlid=105567_2822&src=WNL_mdplsnews_160527_mscpedit_nurs&uac=217203MJ&spon=24&impID=1110064&faf=1</p>
2065	<p>We must be able to interact with our students, which is facilitated through the school. Therefore, we must provide them with an environment that is conducive to that learning atmosphere.</p>
2067	<p>Teachers must be qualified to teach and prepare our kids for the future. They should be safe and protected at school from negative influences and not just their physical safety but also the safety of their traditions and values. Schools should keep in mind that they are preparing kids for their future careers.</p>
2068	<p>Schools need to hold students and teacher accountable for learning and succeeding. Qualify teachers that deliver instruction and administrators that take measures for students to be successful at school by contacting parents and giving academic support to the ones that need it.</p>
2073	<p>High School students should be given realistic meaningful class instruction in the field of work environment such as filling out a job applications, writing an effective resume and a letter of interest.</p>
2077	<p>Safe Welcoming Friendly Supportive</p>
2081	<p>Classes that are small enough to allow for remediation of students who enter below grade level. Also, student who do not want to be at school and are a constant distraction to those who want to learn, need to be someplace other than the classroom.</p>
2082	<p>A learning environment where the teacher's and staff are respected, paid what they receive back east in their salaries, and a safe learning environment for teacher's staff and especially student's who want to learn.</p>
2083	<p>Students become better citizens when they receive a well-rounded education that includes the arts and humanities. Communities become better places to live, are more interesting and highly engaging for its citizens.</p>
2085	<p>I think class sizes should be small. This allows for more personalized attention to EACH student and more differentiation. The teachers are able to reach each student where they are and create growth. STEM activities teach students perserverence and problem solving skills.</p>

2086	Children can not concentrate on the learning process unless they feel safe and valued in their learning environment. We entrust our educational workforce to provide said environment. In order to attract highly qualified teachers and administrators into the educational workforce in Arizona, we need to have adequate funding to provide competitive salaries and benefit packages, and attractive work environments. Unfortunately, the majority of our schools are outdated in appearance and materials. It is extremely difficult to attract bright, highly qualified and motivated workers, when salaries are close to or at poverty levels for the average American family with benefits and work environments that are among the worst in our US workforce. No one wants to choose a career that is stacked against success of it's product, which is at it's fundamental level, preparing students to have competitive skills for success as a citizen and worker. All research shows that student success in the learning environment can be improved simply by having small class sizes. Class sizes of a maximum of 12-15 students demonstrate a higher degree of success when measured by any of the items listed in the next question simply by maintaining enrollment caps at this level.
2087	A thoughtful caring environment with high quality instruction that offers enough variety to meet all students interests and needs.
2089	Children need more "face time" with instructors. They need to feel that they are important and worth the efforts their teachers and the support staff at the school give to them individually.
2090	Schools that allow students to become productive members of society and the workplace. Healthy and active adults that are able to become a productive part of the work force and community
2091	Schools should provide challenging educational opportunities for students at all levels and exposure to a range of key skills
2094	Small class sizes and a living wage for teachers.
2096	If schools aren't safe - from the neighborhood, from disruptions by adults and children, then the environment of school is not conducive to any learning or motivation. Too much disruption is tolerated in schools in the name of "public schools are required to accept me/my child".
2100	It is important that teachers are highly qualified, but is also important the size of the classes, the interventions provided to students to make sure each student is receiving the best possible education.
2101	Quite honestly, there are far more characteristics that should qualify has important. The core academic areas are indeed important, but without a safe learning environment and small class sizes, students will struggled to succeed regardless of the qualifications and dedication of the teacher. That said, programs like PE, Arts, Music, Foreign Language, and STEM must be a part of the curriculum as well, as it serves as a motivational tool for students.
2103	Common Core needs to be GONE!! Also the No child left behind remnants. The Children don't need sooo much testing! That does not prove how well they do, especially if they are better presenters than test takers. School need more physical activity and music. Music needs to be one of the specials just like library and computer.
2107	I believe the arts are vital to a well rounded education. Career training is important for those students not wishing to attend college
2108	Having a positive environment, for both students and teachers, happy teachers= happy students. Collaboration among teachers Parent engagement/ teachers and parents working together

2109	Small class sizes is the only item on this list not relevant to providing children a fundamentally sound educational foundation that will allow them to become well-rounded adults who contribute positively to society. The three I chose are the bare minimum with which we must have to start. Small classes are an extraordinarily expensive way of teaching; highly qualified teachers are the most cost effective way to teach children.
2110	Safe nurturing climate for students and adults so all can achieve their full potential.
2112	All of these characteristics are important.
2113	All of these characteristics are important.
2118	Qualified teachers and administrators should be a given. Not sure why this would be a choice. In reality that's what we've down though is this is not a given.
2119	Well qualified teachers given the necessary supplies, small class sizes and professional freedom will equal high achievement from the students.
2122	Qualified teachers and administrators should be a given. Not sure why this would be a choice. In reality that's what we've down though is this is not a given.
2123	It is incredibly difficult to qualify children for special ed. This must change.
2124	Qualified teachers are able to provide rigorous academics if given the flexibility through district and administrative demands. They are also able to provide support to the gifted or special Ed students if given the appropriate support by support specialists. Qualified teachers would also be able to provide a safe learning environment.
2125	Allow teachers to have a manageable class size so ALL students are successful and the resources to help those who need extra attention.
2126	A school that meets the needs of each individual student and provides valuable educational experiences that will prepare students for the real world.
2131	Small class sizes to help my child learn, and not get lost in 30 plus kids in a class. I would like to see qualified teachers and administrators that I believe do not understand IEP's or 504's or don't have the support.
2135	Our children deserve certified and qualified teachers in small classes. Our schools must be safe both physically and emotionally. We should also provide all types of opportunities for students to study in areas that interest them to develop them into graduates with a variety of skills.
2137	Safety, caring, high expectations, and parent required involvement.
2139	Students should have the opportunity to have a safe learning environment where they can interact with all of their classmates and teachers.
2143	Small class sizes give students a better learning environment and teachers seem to thrive and do quality teaching more with less students. A safe environment is crucial for all our kids. We can't send them to school unless we know they are safe. Students can't get to their potential without quality teachers and admin. Period. Though I can only pick 3, Rigorous core academics, Arts, physical education and sports, are certainly highly important. The arts is no brainer, kids need music, art, band, to stimulate their brains. I would even include a cooking class. They don't even include that in high schools anymore. Sports are another outlet for our kids to be a part of something bigger. Kids love playing sports for their school and it teaches them how to work together for one outcome. It also builds community with the parents.
2148	I believe for our children to be successful in our state and our country it is relevant to ensure our graduating students are well rounded, academically prepared, and socially capable to become leaders.

2149	We have to have rigor. We can no longer simply ask students to memorize facts. They must understand them. That being said, if students aren't in a safe environment or aren't being taught by qualified teaching professionals then they have no chance of being successful. Kids must feel safe so they can focus on the curriculum.
2150	School characteristics that are most important to me are 1. An individual plan for success for every student that is rigorous and equal to National Standards, 2. Quality and qualified teaching personnel, 3. Attention to community and service, 4. Arts and enrichment opportunities, 5. Discipline and safety, 6. Sports programs, 7. Health/Character instruction, and 8. Leadership opportunities
2152	I can't choose just 3...I fully believe we need career training for those students not going onto college (like other countries do), but in order to learn, having small class sizes, qualified teachers and a safe environment are all needed. I also believe in having rigorous core academics.
2153	I think schools should provide safe learning environments that offer a wide range of course offerings and CTE classes.
2156	High expectations, highly competent teachers, career and college prep
2157	Safe environment, qualified and engaged teachers, rigorous courses for college bound students.
2159	A good school is staffed by qualified educators, not substitutes or fast-track trained "teachers". It provides a wide variety of subjects to meet every students' needs and interests, led by teachers who are not overwhelmed with politically-motivated paperwork and oversized classes so they have time to prepare quality instruction.
2160	Gifted education has been cut from most public schools. Gifted students need special education opportunities in order to thrive. Gifted education being brought back in all schools is my biggest priority. Protecting arts programs is my second. There are enough studies that prove arts programs to be beneficial to all around learning. Qualified teachers are next because I filled teaching positions are being filled by college graduates who have zero education on how to teach children. Pay teachers enough that we can attract the best for our kids.
2161	Safety is paramount. Students can learn best in a safe, respectful environment.
2162	Teacher recruitment is becoming impossible. We need to create renewed interest in the teaching profession. This can be done in part by allowing teachers classroom autonomy to exercise their craft to enrich rigorous standards.
2163	Highly qualified and engaged educators/school leadership, diverse student body, involved parent community, strong academic expectations, but opportunities for sports, arts and other activities that make kids excited about school and help develop important life skills.
2168	Holistic approach that recognizes multiple intelligences and helps students find and develop their individual talents within the context of a cooperative, collaborative community that celebrates diversity and values the unique contribution that each individual gives to the whole, preparing students for the next level of schooling and career as well as meaningful adult life.
2169	Students should be prepared for a new world and that requires a revamping of the current system, which is still stuck in a 1950s mindset. Technology and innovation are the crux of the futures. We need students who think independently and work imaginatively, to use their knowledge, not just regurgitate it.

2170	I think schools should focus on academics. Hiring and retaining excellent teachers is crucial. High teacher turnover indicates a poorly run (and funded) education system. I think a school cannot be considered successful if it falls below national standards on standardized tests.
2171	Environments that foster understanding, acceptance and cooperation so students are excited about learning
2173	Great teachers and principals produce talented students but they must have the resources (including a safe clean environment) and deserve a good wage
2176	We need a balance between academic and hands-on activities. The non-core round our talents and some are gifted in them. Judge a fish on how well it climbs a tree and it will fail....let it swim and it excels!
2177	Same answer as above but teachers must engage with each student and put effort into recognizing each learns differently
2179	I want all of the aforementioned characteristics! Other places get to have those things, why shouldn't AZ? If I have to narrow it down, I think humanities subjects are important because they teach students how to think. Given that basic foundation, people can figure things out.
2180	Gifted education has been cut from most public schools. Gifted students need special education opportunities in order to thrive. Gifted education being brought back in all schools is my biggest priority. Protecting arts programs is my second. There are enough studies that prove arts programs to be beneficial to all around learning. Qualified teachers are next because I filled teaching positions are being filled by college graduates who have zero education on how to teach children. Pay teachers enough that we can attract the best for our kids.
2181	Highly qualified teachers make a difference in every other factor listed above.
2183	Those that meet the needs of the population being served. Not every city in Arizona has the same and the schools service these unique communities.
2184	A warm welcoming environment with caring staff
2185	Motivated teachers who are allowed to teach to the moment.
2187	Qualified and stable staff, diverse curriculum including a strong arts program, STEM, up-to-date or state-of-the-art instructional equipment, where teachers have a voice in their working conditions.
2188	The whole child must be educated in an environment which is both physically and emotionally safe, where the child can learn both fine and visual arts, physical education, music, scientific methods, and citizenship responsibilities with a diverse population of students and teachers.
2196	All children are different and have different needs. A safe learning environment for children of all academic levels should be provided for each child at his or her learning level. Educators have the proper education and training to educate children. Foreign language would be a major bonus!
2198	A safe learning environment should be a given and never a selection over another characteristic. That should be standard protocol for all schools, not an overriding one that supersedes other important needs.
2199	Small class sizes which facilitate differentiated instruction.
2200	1. Small class sizes which enable teachers to really connect with students. Kids rarely fall behind if the teacher has a strong connection to them.
2203	All students should be in an environment that is conducive to learning. The United States is falling behind in STEM. We must keep up if we are to have a vibrant economy.
2204	Arts opportunities, quality teachers, and safe environments.

	It is all about quality teachers. Until AZ pays teachers an appropriate salary, the schools will never improve. Teachers are the keys to student success. Schools should also have social workers to assist children who come from families who are unstable and chaotic.
2205	I also believe in STEAM-(Science, Tech, Engineering, Math and ART) We need to feed our souls as well as our brains.
2206	Balance is important and the survey does not reflect that option.
2211	All of the above. Our changing challenging world needs students ready for whatever happens next, and it will change.
2212	Of course having a safe environment is important. Why wouldn't it be? But small class sizes taught by qualified and passionate teachers in challenging academics is important to me.
2213	Hands on projects that require more critical thinking and less rote memorization.
2214	Arizona schools need to have educational opportunities for all students.
2215	providing arts and music
2216	While STEM is very important, emphasis on STEM and training to join the work force should not exclude nurturing humane citizens of the world.
2217	Variety, enough with the college for all mentality.
2218	see novel above. If we could cut other items from the state budget and have a truly ELITE educational system and support with all of the above, I would be thrilled.
2219	Small class sizes that focus on the rigorous learning of standards by students. I don't want them to just learn the material for a specific test, I want them to have the material ingrained so they will remember it long term. PE and sports are also a big must along with other extra curriculums due to the obesity rates and socialization needs of our kids.
2221	To have a well rounded education.
2228	A school should have highly qualified educators teaching rigorous academics that include STEM and prepare students to be successful as a contributing member of society.
2229	A school with reasonable class sizes, qualified and well-compensated teachers, teachers who are allowed to TEACH and not under constant pressure to produce standardized test results and a school that is flexible enough to accommodate multiple learning styles.
2230	The only schools that merit funding are those that create intelligent, informed, and responsible citizens who are capable of managing their own affairs as well as of making effective decisions in public life. A school whose graduates cannot read beyond an 8th grade level is unacceptable and needs to change its model immediately. A school whose graduates cannot explain the branches of the United States government or the Bill of Rights is unacceptable and needs to change its model immediately. A school whose graduates become criminals is unacceptable and needs to change its model immediately.
2232	Safe environment to encourage a love of learning. Stop the stressing of over testing. Test less, leave more time for teaching!
2240	Quality education demands quality teachers first and foremost!
2242	Small class sizes with experienced teachers who are able to teach what students need and not just teach to be ready for a state test that does not seem student appropriate.
2244	Differentiated instruction, evidence based learning, positive environment.
2249	A school needs to have options for any type of student. Those who know their plan is to move into a University setting should have every opportunity to do so. Those who either don't have a plan, or know university isn't for them should have equal opportunities, and our schools should prepare students to move in any of those directions.

2250	We must demand certificated, highly qualified and licensed educators and great instructional leaders who can support educators in the best learning environments (well equipped, modern, innovative, low class-size,...).
2251	For the elementary schools I feel that Physical Education, sports, and the Arts are very important. I also feel that any type of language should be offered earlier than high school. Smaller class sizes would be great!
2253	Basic math skills. Interaction with the public Voc Tec skills.
2260	I feel the kids should have PE everyday. This is something our kids need.
2262	Arizona is teaching a generation that has no idea how to be held accountable. They are passed through the grade levels being coddled. We are raising a generation of dummies
2263	Special areas have a place as several kids soar in them and then do them after school. Technology is important in today's world as well, but if a child and the staff don't feel safe then not much can be achieved.
2266	A safe environment is essential! I don't feel the kids are prepared for the workforce unless they get a job at a grocery store or gas station.
2267	Some of these are basic expectations of schools, like qualified teachers, safe learning environment.
2268	Teachers must be experts in their field and have the appropriate training and competitive salary (with other professional fields) to have this ability. Ideally class sizes should be no larger than 25 students such that teacher can provide individualized instruction as needed. Additionally, no science class, if it is to be hands on, should ever have more than 25 students. It just isn't safe. The curriculum should be rigorous. Students will rise to the occasion. The AZ current standards could even be tougher; however, the amount of curriculum (wide and shallow versus narrow and deep (preferred)) is still overwhelming.
2270	Arts education
2272	Arts education
2273	Focus on individual not the collective.
2277	Safety goes without saying and my elementary school, Cimarron Springs, does a great job. Core academics is critical and obviously qualified teachers and administrative staff that holds the students accountable is a must.
2278	Safety goes without saying and my elementary school, Cimarron Springs, does a great job. Core academics is critical and obviously qualified teachers and administrative staff that holds the students accountable is a must.
2280	Small class sizes so students have a more one on one with teachers
2281	Develop global diplomats
2282	We need qualified teachers to teach diverse academic and career classes. Not all students are going to college. All students need to be able to survive after high school and offering the proper training should be a priority. We are only catering to a smaller less diverse part of the population, not to the majority of the students who will go right to work or the military.
2283	When it comes to a school, the most important characteristic to me is professionalism and caring. I want teachers that care whether or not my child succeeds, not teachers that are just there to obtain a paycheck.
2284	Caring staff Goal oriented Concern about student well-being (school starts later, enough time for meals) Experienced teachers

2286	I think standards are way to low. It requires qualified teachers and smaller classrooms to change this. Sometime I feel that my child gets lost in the crowd.
2290	Educators and school staff that know how to identify and address the academic needs of youth in foster care.
2291	I truly believe that qualified teachers and school administrators are the factors that will have the most impact on our children's academic success.
2292	For too long, Arizona has underfunded education. As a result of that, the reputation and quality of education has been diminished. This translates to the profession of teaching and teachers being viewed by society as not valuable. This harsh reality impacts the recruitment and retention of strong teachers. Might as well wait tables, you could make more money, and probably get more respect. A strong public investment in our public schools, is a strong investment in our students, our youth, our future, our economy.
2293	A school that has a leader who knows how to use data effectively, engages the staff and stakeholders to support the initiatives at the school, and fosters an inclusive environment supporting all learners. Teachers at all public schools, including charters, must be qualified to teach and meet the requirements set forth by ADE. Far too many charter schools hire unqualified teachers.
2294	Nationally Cert teachers in many subjects.
2295	Once again, it is important to focus on offering a broad base of opportunities to students that, while focusing on rigorous core academics, meets the special needs of all students. Of course it is important that our schools have safe learning environments and qualified teachers and administrators.
2297	The school characteristics I believe are important are having teachers that are able to spend more time with our children as they work with students to push them to learn the most they can and to prepare them for HS and then college or work.
2299	Reading, writing, math
2300	It's not as simple as selecting the top 3 and then making sure those are adhered to. While the top 3 may be the same, the needs of schools may vary greatly depending on the individual school makeup and location. A school that has children who start Kinder already meeting Kindergarten standards may not need smaller class sizes to ensure the same growth that a school with Kindergartners who are significantly below in their first year of school needs to ensure grade level achievement. This would also be different in schools where the class size is already small but that they may have a challenge keeping highly qualified educators due to low pay.
2301	That we educated the whole child! We have taken away the arts, PE, and specialist classes from many schools. Students don't have home economics anymore and even technology classes is a rarity. That is so sad for our students.
2303	Well rounded educational opportunities which includes the music, art & life skills.
2307	It should not be the job of a local school to teach behaviors or morals. That should be done by the parents at home. This also included sex education and the trend in our society to break down the traditional-family values. A school should be only teaching academics with direct input from the parents on what is being taught with a continual dialogue going on back and forth!
2309	Having a teacher who truly cares about their students and wants to see them succeed
2311	I believe that the teachers need to be qualified, however, simply holding a degree or degrees DOES NOT qualify them to teach. Offer smaller class sizes will help teachers help students learn the expected objectives

2313	I believe rigorous academics sets the stage for students to achieve in life and beyond.
2315	Knowledgeable teachers, a challenging curriculum and extra curricular activities
2322	The school characteristics that are most important for me is a school that can meet the needs of my child in an academic environment. To do this there must be teachers and administrators that love what they are doing, small class sizes so individual children can have individual attention and programs that are going to meet their overall needs to be productive students.
2323	These areas are the future. Our children won't be able to compete with the world without this.
2325	School need to prepare students to succeed in our changing world. They all need STEM courses so that they will be able to function in our world. They need qualified teachers and administrators to help the students learn.
2326	Meeting each students diverse needs with an open curriculum that will engage the student in becoming a life long learner
2327	Again, I believe that an education should consist of music and the arts, foreign language, sports/pe, academics, and out of school time activities. A balanced education can create a balanced adult who is prepared to navigate the complexities of a global world using their whole brain.
2328	It's ridiculous that "qualified teachers" and "safe learning environment" are even choices here. These are BASE EXPECTATIONS. This is a first world country and these should not even have to be named. Let's move on to a quality curriculum and teacher/administrator accountability (along with expectation of parental involvement and responsibility) so we have a chance to catch up to every other industrialized nation.
2330	The arts are hugely important to me as they helped shape my future career. I believe smaller class sizes give the teacher time to devote to each student so no one falls through the cracks. Career training will help kids be more prepared to enter the workforce.
2331	For me, a healthy and safe environment, Ratios, curriculum are a foundation to an great academic success. It all starts with the student and how important they have these to continue their education.
2332	Good teachers, pay them well, give them respect (no, I'm not a teacher!), varied opportunities for each child to find their passion and succeed.
2334	I know I checked off more than 3, but I think our Schools should have all of these characteristics. Why Not!
2336	Once again, ALL of these areas are important. Arts, PE and sports, foreign languages, STEM, advanced academics, career training, and special and gifted education programs. You don't mention bilingual programs for those who need them, but they are also important.
2338	I think that students should be adequately prepared for the work force or college which means they must be able to process information , make critical decisions, and have appropriate writing and reading skills for their age level.
2339	They should have staff who are prepared to meet the needs of all students.They have to be able to adapt the curriculum to keep ALL kids engaged and learning.
2340	There are too many teachers on emergency certification. It is unfair to students, to put just a warm body in the classroom. I also believe that two years of teaching experience is not long enough for administrators to have a grasp of running a school. I would like to see more time spent shadowing and learning on the job for administrators rather than time in a university classroom.

2342	By hyper-focusing on test scores, our students cannot problem solve. This places them at a disadvantage in the workplace. Additionally, AZ students have missed out on the benefits of arts education. It is shocking to me, as a non-profit professional who assists low-income student achieve a college education, the number of HS graduates who cannot do college-level work!
2343	The opportunities that have been checked above are the most important to me because it provides students the opportunities to shine through whichever medium they are most capable at.
2345	Qualified teachers with small class sizes - 18 to 20 max - will be able to provide students with individual attention required to achieve success with a rigorous academic program. Employers need employees who are knowledgeable, Able to think critically, and confident in their abilities. Individual attention promotes those qualities.
2346	Schools that meet the diverse needs of a diverse population!!
2348	Just teach the material! Forget the "let's all explore and then test how you explored"!
2349	Students should have ample opportunities to participate in physical education and sports along with opportunities for fine arts education of THEIR choice. Students should not have to choose between the two in their schedule or be placed in a class they have no desire to be in. Students should also be constantly challenged and propelled forward. Students should be driven by themselves to not be content with basic and remedial classes that serve as holding grounds.
2351	Students need to be prepared for the work force.
2352	See above.
2353	Children can be in an environment where they can learn. The large classes the teachers are working with are not conducive to learning. Children should be working with new technology. Paper text books should be obsolete. Learning should be interactive and done with online assistance.
2354	A school who's instructors are only concerned about the students well being and mastery of course material
2358	You can't learn if you are hungry or unsafe. You can't learn if your teachers are idiots or cruel. You can't learn with 40 kids in a room.
2360	Freedom from bullying and intimidation is vital to everyone's success, and the quality of the learning environment is impacted first and foremost in personal interaction between qualified, competent adults and students who know they are valued and respected.
2361	Too many of our students are completing grade and high school without mastery of the basic skills needed to compete in our job market or pursue a post-secondary education.
2364	The most important thing is results! Are schools turning out educated, capable, caring citizens. If not, they need to improve.
2366	You are too limiting in the above list. What community member does not want a safe learning environment and qualified teachers and administrators. Your force choice limits responses and almost guarantees certain responses. We should have a strong core curriculum but we also need to provide for arts, physical education, foreign language, and special and gifted education. And, the classes should be of reasonable size and not necessarily what they are now.

2368	Teachers who are prepared to work with children with a variety of learning styles, and who are working in an environment that allow them to use these skills (smaller class sizes, paid appropriately for their skills). Schools that are compelled to 'rote drill' facts to pass tests are NOT a desired characteristic. Exposure to all types of learning disciplines - arts, languages, STEM, literature, career training - are all valuable in ensuring children find their 'fit' in the school environment.
2369	Special education is extremely lacking ! Our children should not be passed on because of their age. Summer school should be a must for special needs children. You shouldn't put a first year teacher in a contained classroom of special needs children.
2370	All of the above are important, it was difficult to choose 3.
2374	Smaller classes - teachers that know how to motivate - hands on learning as well as verbal and written.
2375	Schools where teachers love to teach and students are eager to learn Schools where positive student interactions are encouraged and supported Schools supplied with appropriate technology and supplies to allow all students to learn
2376	teachers and administrators who really care about children and respect parents and the communities where the schools exit.
2380	I believe the while child must be considered when designing appropriate learning environments. Children need to learn to use the right and left side of the brain as well as movement. Too much focus on core subjects reduces mental and emotional development in children.
2381	I think that school should be for learning reading, writing and math. That's basic education. It's not that other things can't be incorporated into the curriculum, but no student should pass high school without some basic skills in these subjects.
2382	The three characteristics above are the main fundamentals for students to learn, evolve, and prepare for the future.
2384	Academics are important and will be retained better with qualified teachers and administrators. Smaller class sizes will allow teachers to focus on children on an individual basis and be attune the childrens' needs. Arts are important to help nurture the childrens' gifts and spark creativity which can lead many to build on bigger dreams.
2386	The ability to have alternative learning opportunities for students that need something different.
2389	All of the above are highly important to the well-rounded education each student should receive. None of these should be eliminated to make room for the other.
2390	All children should have tools they need to be successful-from lowest I Q to highest. You need highly qualified staff to do this, as well as support staff. School RN's are need so that student's special and daily health care needs are covered and they are a le to attend and pay attention in class.
2391	All of the above.
2392	Learning is more effective when the teacher has classroom size that enables her/him to interact with students as material is being presented. Class size is paramount to good learning outcomes. We must decrease the size of classes especially on the secondary level. Also we must have qualified teachers especially in secondary level instead of long-term subs....this necessitates of course, paying people a salary that represents their academic rigor.
2393	Teacher qualifications and class size have a significant impact on learning outcomes. Arts education utilize children's multiple intelligences and support learning in all other areas.

2396	That which makes our public schools a representation of the community, not how much income their parents earn.
2398	We need to pay our teachers a comparable salary as those in peer institutions in similar cities in Arizona and other states. The low wages may be keeping good educators out of our system. Keep the arts. They are important to wellness, and, those curricula are aides in other courses.
2399	Respect among and between staff and students, honoring differences and encouraging the best provide the environment in which learning can be enhanced.
2400	Schools that are safe, supportive, rigorous and have teachers that are highly trained and well paid.
2401	This is of course all but impossible to do as all are important and necessary in an appropriate balance. (Malcolm Gladwell pointed out in one of his books that "small class size" is far less important than optimal size.) Characteristics? a school that is able to incorporate core academics, recognize and encourage the special as well as the gifted; provide arts instruction in the form of music (so universal in all cultures, as well other forms); physical education for health; safety of course; and a mix of other offerings that would speak to the needs of the child and world-daunting
2403	Civics education should be given greater emphasis, especially in our high school students.
2404	Every school should prepare students well for college (academia) or the work force (non-academia). Both are essential to our society. Not every student wants to pursue a college degree immediately after high school. Some are better suited in skilled vocations whereas some pursue a college degree later in life. We must provide opportunities for students in both areas (college prep route vs vocation/technical skills route) to prepare them for life beyond high school.
2405	Teachers are trusted to make decisions about how they teach and not ranked by test scores. All children are valued for their individual strengths. All adults believe that all children are capable of success, no exceptions. Active learning environment with children engaged in the things they are learning. Libraries and librarians.
2406	An environment in which every student can learn something and can be motivated to continue to learn on their own. To help provide a joy of learning!
2407	It all starts with teachers being paid well, that kids are safe at school and the class size is not too large. All of the above are important but you have to have the foundation first.
2408	Teaching encompasses more than classroom education. Parents must be partners with instructors and administrators to enhance learning.
2409	My daughter is gifted. Currently, the GATE programs are underfunded, and insufficient.
2411	Qualified teachers- what makes a qualified teacher? To me, it's quality and making connections with the students. Teaching, lecturing, making the lesson come alive. Engaging kids, making them think.
2414	A school must be a safe place where every student feels valued and where good character is built. Faculty must be well-paid and given the respect they deserve.
2415	First, it has to be a safe environment. Diverse populations of students need diverse career opportunities. Career trainings can motivate students to seek higher education in later years. Schools in areas of poverty have proven that students introduced to science, technology, engineering and math can also achieve similar levels of learning as other schools far from poverty. The students just need the introductions, funds, tools, training and instructors who believe in these students.
2417	Safety, good education (standards-driven), multiple ways of measurement

2421	The word "qualified" could mean anything when it comes to teachers. To me, a qualified teacher should be engaging and inspire a sense of curiosity in students, but they should also encourage students to develop a broader sense of what their learning (at every level or grade) means to them as individuals, as well as the impact of their learning on society. Missing from the above list is the practice of MINDFULNESS. There is an abundance of scientific literature showing that the practice of self-analysis and meditation contributes to the development of skills related to focus, self-direction, decision-making, etc.
2423	Kids need to have a safe place to learn and they need to have a core curriculum that challenges their young, elastic minds. They need exposure to the arts, a pressure-free physical outlet (track where they can walk or run at lunch and breaks, supervised weight machines for those who want to build strength). We need kids who are given the chance to sample what the world has to offer through dedicated and WELL paid teachers and creative administrators.
2425	Strong accountability systems to ensure graduates are prepared to succeed in a world economy. This requires all the elements above, plus a testing system to evaluate whether students are being adequately prepared.
2428	The class sizes need to get back to a manageable level or provide assistance to teachers that are overloaded. Qualified teachers would be a priority as well. Tired of my kids taking classes to learn how to pass state tests instead of actual learning
2429	Education that focuses on multiple subjects to allow students to prepare for live choices that make them happy and productive.
2431	The ability to access each student individually.
2433	Opportunity for arts, career training, academic and life skills.
2435	All of the above actually. We cannot expect excellence from our schools unless we are willing to recognize teachers for the professionals that they are, give them the tools to do great jobs and reward the ones that reach for excellence and innovation on an ongoing basis.
2440	Rigorous academics that include science education and STEM. Teachers whose competencies include working with multicultural students, technology driven ideas, innovation and inspiration with a constancy of purpose. Open the world of work to discuss careers, college readiness and preparedness and life goals. Teach business acumen and survival skills to manage student's lives and relationships. Offer sports to build physical strength and learn team building and winning.
2444	STEM, Arts (music) and core academics are the most important characteristics to me.
2447	A welcoming school that values diversity and individuality. Highly knowledgeable and skilled teachers who are compensated well and have high job satisfaction. Administrators that facilitate teachers in their professional growth and provide the resources and support necessary for teachers to engage students in projects and hands-on learning.
2448	I'd like the school to make up for what I cannot teach them. A foreign language. Math I never was proficient at.
2449	In the perfect academic environment all the characteristics above are important. Allowing students to respond and thrive with a variety of offerings gives them the best chance to succeed and use their unique gifts.

2450	As a parent of a young child who thrives in learning through nature and movement I want to know that the spark I see when she is dancing or climbing will not dwindle when she enters elementary school. I want to know that she will be challenged to think critically, work with others and gain empathy, create and problem solve. Not be restricted in her movement and not be forced to sit long hours with big worksheet packets for homework of which we no full well are not developmentally appropriate.
2451	Ideally, I wish that all schools had all the listed characteristics available to students & teachers.
2452	Dedicated skilled teachers and small class size
2453	Arizona lags behind in science and math, but I believe unlike our ability to choose more than 3 above there should be options to choose electives such as arts and choices for PE and sports as well. Foreign languages are also needed to be successful in global economy and college entry level required. Tracks for students who choose more career training should be available at certain schools.
2455	Special education needs to provide better services with teachers that are trained in each program that they use i.e., Full Wilson reading certifications. Also, more technology programs in order to help student prepare for the modern world.
2463	Pre-school programs and all day kindergarten are important for student success across the board. Why was this not listed?
2465	I think asking for the top 3 choices from the list above is not a good way to gauge the needs. I would have preferred to rank the list as all are important for the whole development of students--some more important than others but none should be excluded based on they didn't get chosen.
2467	Consistency is all but gone from the public school system. Too many boutique and experimental curriculum plans have been implemented in a system that allows charter schools to cherry pick students. There is no true accountability because there is no longer a consistent standard. The single best attribute of any American school over the last 100 years has been that you could count on receiving roughly the same education as previous classes and between institutions. This is no longer the case and the reasons should be studied carefully.
2470	School needs to be more than just a place to hold our kids during the day. It should be enriching as well. This includes art and music as well as history and science. Smaller class sizes are also better for individualized learning.
2471	I want my child's teacher to be qualified, provided training opportunities and paid fairly. Hopefully, a smaller class size.
2472	Schools should be a place for all types students are able to have their individual learning abilities supported and enhanced. Schools also need to be safe places for children to socialize and learn rules of society. We ask a lot of our schools but do not provide the supports to meet these important responsibilities.
2473	It is important for students with special needs or accelerated learning potential to be challenged and supported academically based on their skill/educational level. Arts in schools is a great supplement to core curriculum and can help students engage in another aspect of social learning and skills development. However, without qualified teachers and administrators to oversee successful implementation of these educational opportunities, quality programming may be compromised. I also feel that qualified staff deserve appropriate compensation for the hard work they do in their extremely important roles as teachers.
2474	small class sizes

2475	School campus should be closed to the public during school hours, for a safe campus. When a visitor enters they should enter through the office! All other gates should be locked and secured. Campus should be clean and offer places for the children to play.
2476	A safe and emotionally healthy environment is essential need and must be met first. Teachers need classrooms small enough so that they can individualize teaching strategies to meet each student's need.
2480	Schools, especially high schools, should also be preparing students for basic life skills such as family and financial planning
2481	As stated above, I would like Arizona schools to more aware of a child's individual needs. For example, not all kids can do their work in the time allotted. Some can finish their work in 15 min., while for other's in may take an hour. For those taking an hour, the work can be overwhelming causing various emotional issues such as increased anxiety, low self-esteem, and a dislike for school and learning. With my son, it's like administrators are telling me that he is not "autistic enough" to be in a special ed program, but he's not quite fitting into the regular curriculum. There's no in between.
2482	Safe Schools Quality educators Parent Involvement
2483	Children have to have an excellent learning environment - safe school, excellent teachers, and a small enough class size to get help when needed - the rest comes naturally after that.
2484	Schools should have enough resources to do all the above well, they are all important for well rounded students and future workforce.
2489	I'd like my kids to learn things that they're going to use in the real world. I'd rather they be taught about budgeting and home economics than some of the math concepts that they'll never use again (not to mention the homework that disrupts the peace in our home). There needs to be more common sense and communication lessons instead of wasting time teaching concepts that 90% of the students will never need. Students need to be prepared for real life.
2490	The three I selected are overarching principles that will lead to all of the rest.
2491	Schools with outstanding dedicated teachers, small classes, sufficient funds to keep those teachers plus to have arts, PE, as well as up to date technology, field trips, lots of after school activities, clubs -- so all children can find something they are excited about.
2492	it should not be limited to 3!
2495	Nothing impacts education more than a qualified teacher at the front of the classroom.
2498	Children have a mastery of the fundamentals of reading writing and math and can function beyond a 6th grade level as measured against other middle to top tiered states. Az competes with Mississippi and Louisiana not company that will win us any accolades. With our standing we will lose out on the high paying jobs and remain a tourist state with minimum wage employees and kids in poverty.
2499	TIME, for teachers and students to learn. Individualized learning programs that allow students, after a certain point of basic skills development, that will motivate students to learn the skills they need via the subject matter they are curious about. Emphasis on learning THROUGH failing, vs. seeing failing as a bad thing.
2500	ENGAGEMENT: of students, teachers, administrators, parents, community, businesses. Period end of story.
2501	Students need to be well-rounded, teachers should not be required to teach for a test.

2502	The above list asks us to choose between curriculum and safety. A safe school with qualified teachers should be a given for every student. Also, why isn't the school library mentioned on this list. That is where many students learn how to be life-long learners. You didn't even put an "other" category on Question 2 like you did with the rest of the questions. You need to redesign Question 2 if you want an accurate response.
2505	Each student should be able to learn as much as they can....no distractions from religious teachings, and promise from the school board to provide enough funding to hire the best teachers that apply for the job.
2506	Qualified teachers with AP or honors courses!
2507	It is important for us to be paying teachers a comparable salary with other states, which will attract qualified teachers. We need to have a legislature that supports education and is willing to fund education adequately. Small class sizes are important.
2511	Prepare the students to learn and be able to enter college and the workforce.
2512	I feel that having well educated, well qualified teachers and administrators is important because they can work to make the most out of what little is given to them by the state. Having STEM programming is important to prepare the kids for success in their future academics and careers. Since I could only choose three options, I choose PE and sports because physical activity is so important for growing bodies, however I feel that foreign language and art are also important. Art has been proven to help kids with their academics and learning about other cultures helps to create adults who appreciate diversity.
2514	I want my child's school to be a safe place to learn academics for every child. I do not want the government to decide what my child learns about sexual issues.
2515	A nurturing environment that promotes a love for learning and creates lifelong learners in academics, the arts, and technology.
2517	In addition to the marked above, I would have to say that all are important.
2520	We need good teachers and administrators who are allowed to do the things that excite students and make them want to learn and do their best. Curriculum should be as diverse as budgets allow.
2521	A safe environment with qualified, passionate teachers who teach varied subjects make for successful learning.
2522	Safety and the relationships created both student to student and student to teacher create the foundation for all successful schools. After these two, I feel that every teacher should truly believe in their students and hold them accountable to the high standards embedded into every school. Third, a school should offer various opportunities for the students to excel. Everyone can succeed once they find their area of strength.
2523	STEM should be STEAM, i.e., in addition to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, ARTS should be included to encourage students to think for themselves. ARTS encourage brain functions that foster broad communications skills.
2525	I think that qualified teachers who are not overwhelmed by too many children in the class and core academics are important.
2529	A variety of approaches to suit the needs of ALL children; a balance of science, math, literature, music and the arts, physical activity, nutrition, and a safe, caring and nurturing environment in which to learn.

2530	The school needs to be a safe environment for all students. This includes students supporting each other in a positive way. We need to have a truly well-qualified staff that not only teaches a subject but where everyone is a good role model. Parents need to be involved in different ways such as holding themselves accountable for teaching their children school readiness, volunteering for something at their children's school - however small it may be. Class size needs to be such that the teacher can give students attention and help as they need it.
2531	Expectations for high achievement, and more vocational training.
2532	Having qualified teachers and administrators who aim for quality teaching. Having a safe environment where children could feel like they can participate and feel like they can depend on the adults who care for them. Small teacher-student ratios are important so the children can have the opportunity to be heard and not fall through the cracks of a large classroom. Having Stem programs to prepare children and help them grown a love of math and science.
2533	Reducing waste, bureaucracy, and busy work by focusing on what the school exists for: education. Failing these measures, the education system should support succeeding teachers and fire failing teachers.
2536	A school with small class sizes, qualified personnel and high academic standards will lead to all of the other options listed above. They will all fall into place. AGAIN, I don't believe the survey is providing an opportunity to look at K-12 education. Some areas are not necessarily age appropriate.
2538	Respect and safety for students and staff, excellent well-prepared teachers and administration, tolerance for, understanding of and appreciation for differences (racial, ethnic, LGBTQ, religion, abilities, etc.) A rigorous curriculum with varied opportunities for students.
2539	Pay for the teachers that will respect their education and dedication . this will retain them and motivate them. My daughter's specai led masters cost \$40,000 her salary is \$35,000, what's wrong with this picture. She gets bitten ,spit on and abused daily by her students. The principal does not give a s...t about the teachers, just hw she looks for the district. Piteful.
2540	See above paragraph...
2542	Schools with a heart. Children have changed, the world has changed and children need more than ever to have a school with a heart for helping and learning. Parents need to understand that teachers need them more than they realize.
2545	Qualified teachers should be teaching rigorous materials to students who are ready and able to learn the concepts.
2546	A holistic approach to learning. We should not compartmentalize these as though they were not interdependent. Arts feeds creativity which is correlated to improved understanding of Math and Science, they are all interrelated.
2547	I think that our children need to feel physically safe and mentally safe to express themselves in whatever subject it may be. It might we wise to give some training to the parents of what is expected of their child!
2548	Order. Discipline. Rigorous academics.
2549	Schools need to be able to offer more competitive salaries to high performing teachers. In addition, teachers need to have assistants or grading assistance for larger classes. Schools themselves need to research what courses need to be taught to students in order to keep up with the times. For the sake of safer campuses, good citizenship and CPR/ first aid should be mandatory subjects.

2550	Schools should be safe, filled with knowledgeable educators, should have enough funding to ensure programs can run to offer students alternatives to laziness or crimes after school ends, schools should offer a plethora of opportunities and real life understandings.
2552	SPED kiddos programs should require inclusion. Bottom line MOST programs do not have criteria for academic achievement of SPED kiddos.
2554	Those that engage students in critical thinking and decision making.
2555	Small classes with well educated teachers, therapists, assistants. Every class co-taught meaning a teacher and an assistant. Safer campuses to protect the children. Career training programs so the child could graduate high school and go straight to a career. Provide a program where juniors and seniors could attend class half of the day and work internships half the day. Pay teachers more so we can the top teachers in Arizona!!! We need qualified teachers who love there job and are not struggling to survive. Provide money to teachers to stock their classrooms with necessary supplies, they should not have to pay out of pocket!!
2556	Feeling safe is a huge part of successful learning. Having qualified teachers and administrators and small class sizes will contribute to that safety feeling. I also believe that fine arts, and special interest/needs (Special/Gifted, foreign language, STEM and physical education) are critically important as well. Rigorous core academics should be planned on an individual basis, as some students are better able to handle it than others. If we are successful at the lower education levels, then planning for future careers should come automatically.
2557	Providing the best educational experience possible for all students to achieve academically and helping them to be caring contributing, productive and responsible citizens. These elements do not stand alone; they are interdependent and part of a dynamic process.
2558	the three areas which are marked would be my top three, but I am concerned about STEM as well.
2559	STEM classes are important, but we need more than that for a well-rounded citizenry. Teachers are overloaded and need more support.
2560	Students need to be educated by the best teachers that can challenge higher order thinking.
2561	Schools that are student and family-focused, that develop and employ effective and insightful teachers, and that teach students how to think.
2563	Qualified is a minimum for teachers and administrators are a must! Without great leadership the whole system fails.
2564	This should allow for 4 choices because academics are very important to me. But before, academics can be taught you need to have a strong school foundation which consists of qualified staff, safe environment, and small class sizes.
2565	An education system that can compete with those from not only other states but other countries. See http://ktar.com/story/668359/report-arizona-ranks-among-worst-states-in-nation-for-public-school-education-funding/ We're 47th? That would be embarrassing to most but not our AZ government I guess.
2568	Quality principals and teachers who are mutually supportive of each other, parents and children. Have a commitment to giving each child the best education possible, not accepting mediocrity from the staff nor the children. Academic standards are slipping at all levels and should not be tolerated. At the same time sensitivity when the situation calls for it is needed, so that children are not left out and drop out.

2569	Small class sizes will increase rigor and allow teachers to meet with students more frequently. Teachers have a big job but they are given large groups of students and the only way to close the gap in student success is to provide high quality grade level instruction and meeting kids where they are in a small group.
2570	The school characteristics that are important to me and my child are rigorous/challenging academics, that are not rushed through, where the student spends enough time on content curriculum to learn, practice, and master before moving on to the next, because force-fed education does not construct cognitive memories. Teachers should be well trained and qualified. There should be advanced academic opportunities, career training, Art opportunities, way more foreign languages (Spanish, French, Italian, Mandarin, Japanese, and German) offered at EVERY Arizona school and starting in the middle-school grades through high school. High schools should have 6 to 7 periods a day and more elective opportunities, laptop in classroom program should be adopted from middle school thru high school. The environment should be safe, but without a negative prison feel.
2572	"Rigorous core academics" should not be confined to standardized tests. As a former English teacher, I know that many key skills cannot be effectively measured on a standardized test. Further, forcing all students to attempt a high level of science and math is not productive. Finally, students need more guidance about post-graduation opportunities.
2574	The best characteristics of a school are as diverse as each school community, but all should achieve consistent academic improvement of every student with outcomes commensurate with each student's ability to join the workforce or continue to higher education.
2577	All of them.
2578	Sorry - ALL of these characteristics are very important and should all be goals of our schools with proper funding from the legislature for each.
2580	Teachers that are qualified in classrooms with the student population that is manageable
2582	Schools that educate the whole student. It's time to bring back recess. Some of our littles barely get 15 minutes a day. It's not logical, science based or wise.
2583	Schools that understand that we are training kids for life and life is not a standardized test. Life requires well rounded individuals, not just good test takers.
2584	Children need to be children. Stop putting so much pressure on little ones to achieve academic success. Give them recesses and stop making them write stories before they know how to write a sentence.
2586	Keeping fine arts & physical education; academics are important but kids need to move & experience the fine arts. Their brains need it. They can't sit in their desk all day. More recess & less homework. We are over killing the academic side to make test scores.
2587	Class sizes!!! What happened to smaller classes?!? All of my kids have 33+ kids. My 7th grader just got another teacher added after having 37 kids per class. Impossible to learn and teach with that many kids.
2589	Students should be given the best trained professional in the classroom. Class sizes that are reasonable, allowing for one to one, small group instruction along with whole group. Class size that allows the teacher to teach the whole child! Community schools which collaborate to help students succeed inside and outside the classrooms. Schools that are safe environments that ensures each child feels safe, free from bias, bullying, racism, etc. Although I choose the above three...all items listed are important parts to teaching the whole child!

2590	Valuing input from parents. Having options that allow students to choose where they excel in, ie English, math or arts,sports.
2591	At the very least schools should have qualified teachers, safe campuses, and classes small enough to afford individual attention. In addition a variety of academic levels should be given equal attention, including advanced/gifted and low performing. Diverse courses including foreign language, stem, and arts is a plus, and schools should keep the traditional public model that includes sports and other after school activities.
2600	As a parent of two children - one that qualifies for special ed and one in the gifted program - I believe it is important that AZ be committed to educating ALL students. Special Ed has deteriorated into expensive state paid babysitting. My son is in a fabulous gifted program, and I would like to see such programs continue to be offered. We need to attract highly qualified teachers by offering better compensation packages. This could be accomplished by eliminating duplicative administrative positions. AZ should consider moving to a county based school district rather than all of the current smaller school districts (consider Florida's model). Career training is extremely beneficial for those that are not interested or do not have the aptitude to further their education. At least these students would have an employable skill in great industries that provide a living wage.
2602	Again, it is ridiculous that we should have to choose. ALL of these characteristics should be part of schools.
2605	Small class sizes are imperative for successful classrooms. Obviously students need to feel safe. The opportunity for students to be in classes that are advanced and rigorous.
2607	I had a hard time choosing only three! Our students need to be presented with a diverse selection of classes and our teachers need to be qualified for all of those courses. Our youth is falling behind other states in academics because of the lack of funding for our schools and teachers too many teachers are leaving the profession.
2609	Gifted programs, high expectations from students but offer flexibility and independent thinking, rigorous in academics, school sports, and STEM classes.
2610	All of these are important to me.
2611	Smaller class sizes is high on my list. Also grouping kids on the same level rather than based on age. STEAM classes benefit ALL kids.
2612	Small class sizes so that students who need more time with teachers is a given. Academic Intervention and support from teachers and school staff.
2613	Extra time for recess, adequate special education resources
2614	STEM, to keep with the here and now. It's imparative our children focus on science and technology to know how to move about and properly interact in the world once out of school. To be educated in small class sizes will allow teachers are allowed more time to focus on each student. Huge class sizes so many kids are overlooked, it can stress teachers out as well which in turn has massive negative impacts on our children. Most important, teachers need to be qualified and able to withstand the work load and successfully teach our youth, our world's future.
2615	Students should have rigorous core academics to prepare them for education beyond high school. Investing in qualified teachers and reducing class sizes will help students learn and optimize the educational environment.

2616	As a teacher in a public school setting, I have had small class sizes and very large classes, I feel that 20 students is a perfect number to teach the Common Core Standards. I will be able to teach and work with students that need extra help, and the ability to do so without interruptions/class room management becomes easier.
2620	Effective, engaging teachers who facilitate with passion and mastery of their subject area to smaller groups of students to ensure that all student needs are known by the teacher and are being met daily. Student to teacher ratios: 22/1 in kinder 25/1 in 1st 4th 30/1 in 5th-8th
2621	Small classes where my children can learn advanced science and mathematics in a safe learning environment.
2623	The three that I marked are the most important to me. If a teacher makes the class interesting then they hold the student's attention and the student will learn.
2624	That was covered in my statements above.
2625	Recess, teachers using behavior modification techniques based in science not beliefs, an atmosphere that grows lifelong learners not kids worried about grades and passing tests - if we ignite the fire in them that loves to learn, they will FLY in life.
2627	A safe learning environment and qualified teachers are expected of schools. We need brainwork, physical activity and specialization ie STEM.
2628	It is important for me that students be in an environment that will best help them achieve academic success. That means with qualified teachers who are continuing to learn and keep up to date with current trends in education, with administrators who have high standards for their teachers and are themselves instructional leaders, with class sizes that are small and allow for one-on-one attention for students so rigorous curriculum can be taught.
2630	Large class sizes negate other factors. Small class size allows teachers to teach, students to learn, and classrooms to function more harmoniously.
2632	The best teachers for each school fire the employee's that are just there for a paycheck. Less school administration and more teachers and teacher aides and qualified tutors in classes as well as outside classes.
2633	focused attention to students strengths, preparation for careers and and work ethics. Individualized attention to promote student confidence in their own success.
2635	Feeling safe allows students to thrive. Qualified teachers provides individuals who are prepared to provide for students in a multitude of areas, not just academics. Arts opportunities allows for children to be creative and use more project based learning and aquire skills taht will ultimately make them more successful in other academic areas.
2636	Why can't we have ALL of these!?
2637	Having opportunities for all students to participate in their school through a variety of academic experiences and extra curricular options
2638	It doesn't need to be formal physical education classes, I am a firm believer that kids need recess! Curriculum should also be tailored to help every child be challenged and engaged regardless of their intellect.
2639	Excellent teachers, opportunities for students to enhance their knowledge and challenges for their mental, physical and job opportunity growth.
2640	I feel that it is important for all kids to have both learning opportunities, but also to be physically active every day. Science has shown that active kids are better learners.

2645	It is important to promote STEM programs especially among young students. In addition, research shows that art opportunities promote brain health throughout life. Of course physical activity is necessary for healthy futures.
2647	Because I am a science teacher, and we need students to go into the fields of STEM, I think that is important. But if you are looking at the over all whole, career training is important. Most students are going out into the workforce not prepared. Class sizes make a big difference, both on the students ability to learn and the teachers sanity.
2648	Welcoming and including EVERYONE.
2649	None hostile work environment where teachers are treated as professionals
2650	Teachers should be certified no matter where they teach (charters should not have different rules). Courses should offer students an opportunity to express themselves through the arts, and have access to advanced classes (AP, IB, dual enrollment, CTE, etc.)
2651	Teachers need to have lots of continuing education opportunities and the ability to tailor education to the kids in their classrooms.
2652	The shift away from experienced, highly qualified educators is extremely troublesome. There are far too many long term substitutes in the classroom who have no education training, and often have no degree in their content area. This is unacceptable and the culture needs to change.
2657	Explained in above written paragraph
2660	Core academics are important since they are the foundation for learning. Programs to help those children in need or those who are excelling exceptionally should be in place to support children at every level. Qualified teachers and administrators are important so that the children are being taught and schools administered by people who have experience and necessary training and education to help our kids the in the best possible ways.
2661	If you have qualified teachers and administration a safe and productive learning environment will naturally follow. It is important that students also be exposed to the arts as it improves their capabilities in the core academic areas. Students also need recess times. Unfortunately, this free time is being neglected.
2664	This should NOT be limited to "choose 3!" Each of these is vitally important!
2665	A well rounded curriculum focusing on teaching each child to think critically & not just regurgitate. More varied classes for the kids to explore different subjects.
2666	It's hard to pick only 3. There are a lot of science lab classes like chemistry and physics that have too many students. The NSTA and many other organizations recommend no more than 25 students per lab class. It's impossible for a teacher to supervise 35+ students working in the lab. Many states have mandated limits on lab class size, with the most common number being 25. Qualified teachers are necessary. STEM subjects should be better funded--science supplies are expensive.
2667	It is hard to choose just 3. Occupational studies INCLUDES STEM and Advanced Academics. Math and Science are HELPED by music and art. All humans NEED DAILY physical fitness for at least 1 hour. Every student benefits from small class sizes.
2668	Really AZ needs to overhaul the entire system
2668	If you have qualified educations, small classes and a safe environment all the other important learning can take place.

2669	Culture is crucial. First and foremost, kids should feel safe coming to school: they should not have to worry about their personal belongings being stolen from their lockers; they should not have to worry about being bullied because of their appearances; they should feel safe in class sharing their ideas. But even going a step further: A culture of love, a culture of respect, a culture of acceptance....this not only enhances the learning experience, but it provides a place of solace for those who need it most. Culture is a very powerful tool and can deeply influence a society. The values and ethics of a society are mirrored in its schools.
2670	A safe learning environment means teaching social/emotional skills alongside traditional academics.
2671	There is a huge need for schools to have lower class sized and staff that are better trained to work with special needs and gifted students. Schools need to have the ability to hire more teachers, aides and paraprofessionals to work with the special populations.
2673	Smaller class sizes and more money spent is a given. We do not spend money on education in this state and it shows. We also are not producing learners who are able to function and prepared academically in college settings. It isn't about rigorous academics as much as instilling a love learning by making education something kids want. Passion based, project based, creative learning, finding way to teach the core concepts with out drilling the information in and destroying the joy of learning.
2674	Providing smaller class sizes allows qualified teachers and administrators with the time they need to provide individualized attention to each student and to provide them with skills they need to be successful in their career.
2675	A well-rounded education is vital to the development of a student. Education needs more funding in Arizona and less standards and focus on reading and math.
2677	Arizona schools should have rigorous academics on par with Massachusetts (#1) in the states and/or the Scandinavian countries (close to #1 in the world). As the job market continues to go global and people are no longer living close to home, I worry how my child will compete. Additionally, in some areas of Phoenix the disconnected youth rate is about 1 in 3. CTE programs link education to careers for many youth. If done properly in collaboration with business and trade groups, CTE has the potential to stem the flow of high school and college dropouts, as well as lift youth out of the cycle of poverty. As for the arts- it teaches reasoning, performance, and social skills. They provide enjoyment while enhancing overall wellbeing. That and even STEM professionals listen to music, read novels, and enjoy an occasional movie or play.
2679	When we have large class sizes, students feel like numbers. I mean large to refer to classes greater than 26 in size. Also, we must make opportunities available for students succeeding on a higher level. Move on When Ready is great where it is offered, but that does not apply everywhere.
2680	Regardless of what the requirements are for teachers and schools, the number one contributing factor to student success is the person who spends the time directly with the students, their teacher. Having qualified teachers who are hired by qualified and talented administrators will have a significant impact on student success. Small class size is one of the most helpful components to successful students.
2681	Schools should provide well-rounded programs workout pigeon-holing them into 1 category of interests. They are too young for that.
2682	Safety and rigorous academics.
2683	I expect staff members to be informed and available.

2685	Having small class sizes allows each student to get extra assistance I would say no more than 22/class unless there is an assistant in there all day, then you can get up to 30.
2686	I hate the adage "Those who can't, teach." It implies that the education system we currently have is sub-par to the real world. There needs to be better incentives for good teachers to do what they love - teach children.
2687	Honestly, everything on this list is important, but I want to focus on the ones that are the most practical to change. Students need to learn not to fear math. It's present in all of life's situations, but students don't see the practicality of it when they're only being taught the theories. STEM can bridge that gap. Safety should be a priority in schools because from some students, school is a haven from the chaos at home, and learning can only occur when the basic need of safety is met. If students feel threatened - by condescending teachers, abusive teachers/staff (verbally or physically), or rough security/police on campus, they cannot learn. The SPED departments in many schools need to be looked at. Some are really great and help students believe in themselves and learn; however, there are many that either aren't willing or aren't able to meet the needs of all of the students with disabilities in their care. Teachers should probably get more education on the SPED process as well, so they may be more invested in the success of that program.
2690	I think that STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) would be the best approach. It is very important that arts is included in the foundation of education. Teachers who are qualified and prepared to teach in this curriculum are crucial to success. Additionally, students should feel that they are safe both physically and academically.
2691	An open, welcoming, helpful environment where staff and administrators are willing to help students succeed to the best of their ability.
2692	All of the above!
2693	Safe environments that engage students and their families in life-long learning, with diverse, committed, well-paid, competent teachers, who look like their students in cultural diversity.
2694	That any child may be guided by knowledge.
2698	Teachers should first and foremost be capable; a person should not be allowed to teach if they are not qualified. Having unqualified teachers is really the same as having the students teach themselves. Arts should be a part of the lives of each student, as appetites control many of our actions; in this, students should learn to understand their own expression as well as others. As for career training, it should not come as a surprise, something that is not part of school; high levels of career integration should be sought. Universities should be serving businesses by providing career ready and experienced students.
2700	Qualified instructors capable of presenting information in a fun and engaging way for all learning levels - daily physical activity incorporated into school schedule (proven to enhance learning and testing successes) - opportunity for students to be challenged beyond set standards.
2701	ALL of the above!
2703	A diversified experience to prepare students for the work force. Not an emphasis of standardize testing.
2706	Children are provided access to solid core academics and the support of quality teachers and administrators to assist them in developing interests and knowledge to match the expansive work opportunities in the USA. That we are helping to build individuals that have the opportunity to succeed, which includes physical education, sports, and the arts.

2708	Having qualified teachers should not be a "characteristic" it should be a requirement. Being safe should be a priority. The fact that I have to choose these over the actual education my child receives is nonsensical.
2709	A school atmosphere that is encouraging while challenging. A good working relationship between the students and their co-horts, students and the teachers, and teacher-with administrators. Making sure that all children are clean, have good nutrition, and self-confident. They are encouraged to learn at their own rate and success if very individualized. A school would provide a challenging curriculum full of students using thought-provoking ways of solving problems.
2713	Allowing students to have a well rounded education and an equal emphasis on all subjects
2714	Well rounded with more than one of the above optiins!
2717	See above
2719	I believe that students should be able to have arts opportunities, physical education and sports, as well as small class sizes for their actual classes. The combination of these 3 allows all students to succeed.
2720	A very high percentage of our students do not continue their education. We need to provide better training programs to be aligned with small businesses. Small businesses representing 80% of the states workforce.
2721	I think that good academics are incredibly important, but I also think that kids need other things as well because not all students are on a path to college.
2722	I believe with smaller class sizes and STEM implementation it will set up students for success. When you have qualified teachers who are able to focus in on their students and give equal attention they will better be able to determine where these kids might need more help or whether they need to be challenged more. With obesity at an all time high P.E. should be an every day class. Not only will it teach healthy lifestyles, but it will also give students a break to burn some energy and refresh before continuing lessons.
2726	Teachers and administrators directly impact the students' experience in the classroom, regardless of what curriculum or programs are offered. Therefore, while a variety of quality coursework and extracurricular opportunities is imperative, the available incentives for qualified individuals to teach is the area that requires the most attention. This will allow a schools' most important characteristics to be possible, because without great teachers and administrators the most important characteristics are impossible.
2727	An environment that focused on what a student CAN do not what they can not.
2729	We should offer soft skills, career education, make PE a daily routine, home education and stop teaching our students how to pass test made by people behind a desk that all they do is push documents...
2732	The teachers and administrators are the core/foundation to the school. Without a qualified staff, the students will not receive an excellent education. Students need to be and feel safe while at school; it is crucial. Lastly, physical education/activity and sports is important because it may be the only time they do physical activity for the day.
2733	Arizona does not have a comprehensive education plan. The school choice while good for a minority of families leaves so many students without good choice. We have underfunded education in this state over the past 20 years to the point where we are 49th in the nation. Employers do not want to move their companies here. We need to change this image. Stem, smaller class sizes, pay our teachers, provide each student with a well rounded education including music, pe and arts. Its not hard...it takes money and commitment from our legislature.

2734	All of these selections are very important and need to be balanced throughout the grades none of these should be minimized.
2735	most important is to teach social and emotional learning in all classrooms
2736	Good schools are open and supportive of parents who care and will volunteer their own CAPABLE time and energy to help their kids and the school succeed. Conversely, they will deal, in a straightforward manner with parents whose sole function seems to be griping and complaining from the sidelines. I know of single moms and dads who gotta work extra hard, but who still find a way to participate, volunteer for SOMETHING and contribute to their kids AND the school.
2737	Smaller class sizes help students learn more and feel more connected to staff and peers.
2741	I believe the priority should be to ensure our schools are staffed with qualified teachers who are given a safe and supportive environment to do their jobs. The specifics of the curriculum should be decided by the needs of the local school/community - not at the state or national level.
2743	In this day and age, with students from so many diverse backgrounds and home situations, small class sizes would make an enormous difference. The teacher can spend more time with students to address each child's needs. I am finding that schools are taking on more and more of what used to be the role of parents. Because of that societal trend, we MUST have smaller class sizes to truly reach each child. I also view STEM as the need for the future for so many careers. If a student is well-versed in those areas, I feel they will have the skills to do well in many future career paths. STEM would be a relevant background for all students, not just college-bound ones. We need to make sure we populate our schools with the best educators possible. In my 20 years of teaching, I have seen both dedicated professionals and ones that are there because it is an "easy" job with summers off. Students deserve to have ALL their teachers be the most qualified and truly there to make a difference in students' lives.
2744	Less focus on tests and more emphasis on creative learning. Kids learn by involvement, less drill and kill strategies so they look good on a test.
2745	Professional capital and a safe learning environment are most important. After that, anything that adds diversity and depth to the offerings is priority.
2747	If we want all students to learn at high levels, we need to provide services and resources that meet the needs of all types and levels of learners. The expectations and standards for learning should be the same for all students, with the exception of those with severe cognitive disabilities. Special education programs and enrichment programs are critical. With that being said, teachers and administrators need to be equipped with the training to adequately implement and sustain those programs.
2751	We need students who can impact the world. This means a solid understanding of STEM fundamentals, the ability to communicate and learn about other cultures, and being in touch with our humanity through art.
2752	I think that first and foremost, schools are for learning and should challenge all students. As a science educator, I have also noticed a lack of funding and interest in STEM classes and activities, even though that is a huge job market and a great pathway to future success to our students. Finally, I think that having qualified teachers and administrators who have leeway in their classrooms and adequate planning time is the key to making every student's classroom experience positive.

2753	Classrooms where qualified teachers can help students learn with smaller class sizes to achieve this. More individual attention will result. Students need Art opportunities across the curriculum.
2755	<p>It is a given that all teachers should be qualified in their area of study, and that all parents want a safe environment for their children. Secondly, all children, including my own, are different. I want each child to find a niche where they feel comfortable, can thrive, and where they are excited about learning. When I was younger I thought college was the most important goal. Now, as a more experienced parent, I realize that although I still expect college for my children, attending college is not more important than my children's mental well-being. I want my children to thrive in school and enjoy learning. That should be the #1 goal for all schools. That environment will be different for all kids, so now I really appreciate the different programs each district school has to offer. When kids are doing well mentally, better grades will follow. Also, we have been blessed by so many staff, aids, etc. that really filled in the gaps for my oldest when he was having trouble. It's all about helping each child be mentally strong enough to learn. Of course most parents expect the school to do way more than is possible. I think it's the schools job (in today's lazy parenting culture) to educate parents on ways they need to be responsible at home. For example, kids can't learn if they are up all night playing video games. Kids need a lot of sleep. Kids need good nutrition so their brains are able to focus. Parents need to make their kids practice in areas where their child is struggling. I think the school has to do a better of letting the parents know that teachers have a set schedule of how much they are required to get through each year, and they can't stop every time a couple students are struggling in an area. Parents have to help their kids, or those kids are going to fall behind. But, the schools have to do a better job of making this clear to the parents. The schools could provide tools for the parents, for example math apps like www.xtramath.com.</p>
2756	The key is teachers have time for students in and outside of class. It means smaller class sized, fewer mandatory meetings, and a livable wage so that the teachers do not need second jobs.
2757	Small class sizes so the teachers are able to teacher in a more positive calming atmosphere. Qualified teacher should be a top priority as this is needed for good teaching and classroom management.
2758	In a growing global economy and landscape, our students need to be exposed to foreign languages at a much younger age and more consistently (pre-K and on).
2761	<p>If Arizona can raise salaries and hire more qualified teachers and administrators then I think safe learning environment, advanced academics, and career training will all be improved. I also believe all students should start learning a second language beginning in pre-K, not middle school. Research shows kids perform better in the long-run learning a second language. Also, knowing 2 languages opens more employment opportunities.</p>
2764	Teachers and administrators should be qualified. I can tell when my colleagues are faking it, and so can the kids.
2765	Nobody learns anything if the environment isn't safe. Campuses and classrooms should be physically and emotionally safe all the time - from bullies, from unwarranted criticism, from broken equipment, from demeaning materials like trashed books, from unfair policies.
2765	Well balanced teachers and students

2766	Schools need to focus on important stuff, like basic STEM, reading on grade level, exposing kids to the arts. It's super important that they give children time to be children, not bog them down with homework. Do away with "resource officers" and replace them with councilors and social workers.
2767	Exposure to all disciplines, and an environment where they will be able to learn and get individual attention to foster growth after leaving the public education system.
2770	A well rounded school would incorporate many of these. Obviously staff needs expertise and education for a diverse population of students. Safety is paramount as are differential learning techniques and experiences.
2771	Despite not being in the top 3, I believe that the arts, physical education, technology, and extracurricular opportunities are vital to our students' health and development.
2772	STEM and rigorous academics.
2774	Arizona school must meet the diverse student population. That includes students who are struggling with the support they need to be successful as well as challenging those students who exceed general district expectations. Also, students at all schools, regardless of SES, deserve the same educational opportunities through highly qualified staff and administrators, as well as resources. Finally, teachers are more effective and students are able to higher levels of learning when class sizes are small. Unfortunately, the Arizona legislature's yearly budget cuts have negatively affected all three of these areas.
2778	Small class sizes provides the teacher with more opportunities to work with groups of students to meet their needs, qualified teachers are a must, as well as a challenging academics program.
2784	Safe environment that is welcoming to all students. Teachers that are excited about their jobs and administrators at both the district and state level that are there to do what is best for kids.
2788	Students should have rigorous core classes, but should not be limited to that. We must teach the whole child through a wide-ranging curriculum and course offerings.
2794	Our classrooms are not built to teach. We build based on the lowest bid possible. Therefore 25plus 4th,5th,6th graders is just to cramped to be conducive to learning.
2799	Schools that serves the whole child. Fosters diversity and embraces everyone's potential. Promotes a community of learners where everyone benefits from strengths and weaknesses.
2803	Different kinds of graduating diplomas so students can succeed in some way.
2808	I teach special education. I've had class sizes of 27 students before. That is as much as a regular general education classroom. That is too many students to be able to provide adequate specialized instruction.
2821	Safe, challenging environment that provides well rounded education. Not just reading and math. Physical education, art and music are the reason a lot of students even want to go to school.
2823	not just academics, but other opportunities for children to enjoy coming to school, more out of seat experiences, more health topics since half of todays children will develop diabetes in their lifetime
2824	Work ethics and ability to get a job.
2827	In order to recruit and keep highly qualified teachers, schools need to be a priority in the state of Arizona. Teachers will continue to leave Arizona for states valuing education and respecting their profession as well as paying them a living wage.

2829	Educating the whole child is the most important to me. Rigorous and accessible curricula is essential for the success of students. Providing them with various hands on learning experiences and opportunities to flourish are essential. The minimum high school requirements do not even prepare students for college. It is insane that Arizona does not require that all high schools offer foreign language classes to their students. Two years of foreign language are required for a student to enter a 4 year university; yet, many high schools claim to be college prep and do not even offer foreign language. Why is that the case?
2831	small and appropriate class sizes/groups. Less testing and not counting students as a number but incorporating fun learning.
2832	All students are respected and kept safe regardless of their race, gender, religious beliefs, country of origin.
2833	Its time to focus upon the majority of students.
2835	an environment that fosters critical thinking skills NOT teaching for the test. Less testing.
2836	Qualified teachers and administrators. Safe learning environment.
2839	Diversity is a MUST!!! My child is "Gifted" and there are less and less differentiated programs for her to be challenged. Therefore, I do more enriched teaching at home.
2840	I believe that a school is only as good as the teachers/administrators in it. They are those special people that always put kids first, providing encouragement, support, and opportunities to achieve wherever they are.
2841	The purpose of a school is not to be a third parent, but to be an institution that properly equips and meets the needs of those who are willing to learn.
2842	Safe, vigorous, enjoyable.
2844	I believe each of the above listed characteristics is important. As a parent, I love that my school offers dual language and some gifted opportunities for my son.
2846	good academics, polite students, safe environment, small class so students can get individual attention
2848	All students should be in an environment where they can have individualized attention from a qualified teacher who is supported in their role.
2858	Integrity and sweat
2861	Resources and support available to teachers. Small class sizes. No class should have more than 30 students. An average of 25 students in a class is more appropriate. Special Ed. groupings should be no larger than 15 students in a room. Relevant curriculum that is consistent and vertically designed between grade levels. VALUE the TIME a teacher needs to do their best work.
2865	Students should be challenged to learn beyond just the test. A learning environment that promotes academics as well as respect should be implemented as best as possible.
2866	Students can only meet their potential in a safe environment. With that in place diverse and rigorous instruction can proceed.
2869	Safe, caring environment with choices offered for real life experiences, technology to prepare for future, arts available for richer experiences, and a broader spectrum of experiences to ready students to be independent leaders.

2871	While I highly valued many items listed, sadly AZ is so far behind in maintaining the basic necessities that make for a safe and well ran school. This means our facilities are maintained, with current cooling systems, working drinking fountains and plumbing. Furthermore, if we are not hiring qualified teachers and keeping class sizes reasonable we are not able to maximize the learning of students or even begin to tackle the importance of physical education, gifted programs and so forth
2877	Transparency, opportunities for children to expand their experience in life, and good teaching instead of high test scores.
2879	Students should enjoy learning many things and not be stressed out by teachers teaching to the state test.
2880	In a comprehensive school system, everything is important.
2882	CTE funding is very critical for the success of MANY students.
2884	stop putting teachers through the grindstone and go back to basics. all this extra nonsense is just to keep members of the education dept. employed.
2885	I want my children to have qualified teachers teaching them in a safe environment with options of PE/sports, Arts, STEM, Foreign language classes that are rigorous and advanced. We should not have to choose between a safe environment or qualified teachers. Those should be the established minimum
2887	Sufficient numbers of qualified teachers, support staff and administrators to allow for smaller class sizes and more individualized attention to student needs, along with broad-based curriculum.
2889	Training for a realistic future.
2894	Rigorous academics, second language learning, arts, physical education for life long health, vocational training for a strong work force.
2895	All of the above-listed items are important! In addition to the checked items, I would also prioritize STEM and a safe learning environment.
2896	Children need to grow in all ways and to be exposed to the basics before they can understand and work the world around them. Testing and directed "filling the brain with information" is limited; activities and assignments where they figure things out successfully and collaborate with peers. PE is important for all - games, dancing, tumbling and so on - Mental/Physical needs met every day. Field trips to expand horizons.
2897	I would like evidence-based school policies that support well-rounded academic success. Who would vote against a safe learning environment? Perhaps you should also ask whether schools should be weather-proof or have electricity and indoor plumbing. You are losing important information by including some of these options.
2901	I urge officials in Arizona to encourage districts to prioritize funding for low-income students' AP Exam fees.
2903	Small class sizes are easy the most important characteristic of a school. It's not a question. It's a simple truth. Small class sizes allow teachers to better reach students and to create those personal connections that students crave from authority figures. It also allows teachers to provide the one-on-one support that students want and need. From here, we do require strong core academic concepts. We want kids to go into the world well rounded in their education (much like what was expected of students in years past), but we also want them to prepared in careers. This is not just "career training", but life training, such as basic accounting skills, useful knowledge (such as job and housing applications), and so forth.

2905	Let children be children! Play, get involved in music, be healthy, be social. Develop character and a love for learning.
2907	qualified teachers provide quality education, focus on STEM that are essential in most jobs, and advanced academics that push students to be competitive.
2908	All these choices are very important. The most important is to have qualified, and not merely by certification or degree, educators and administrators. If these persons are not committed to truly educating our young people, students will aspire to mediocrity and many will fall short of that goal.
2910	I just want a school that have the necessary tools to educate my children. I want a math teacher to teach my kids math, not a homeroom teacher who kind of knows a little bit of math. I don't just want a "science" teacher to teach my kids. How about a chemistry teacher or a biology teacher? People who studied specific fields to become teachers in specific areas. I don't want a catch all teacher. I don't want my 7th grader to color Thanksgiving turkeys in math class, when he should be learning Algebra I; coloring is for art class and he can celebrate Thanksgiving when he comes home from school, he doesn't need to be doing that at school unless it's related to history class.
2911	I believe that for a student to be successful and be ready to successfully move into the workforce they need a school environment that challenges them. Rigorous academics taught by qualified teachers and administrators is the most effective way to achieve this.
2913	Proactive leadership. At this school, I see nepotism (teachers, paraprofessionals, etc. are related).
2914	Learning environment, teachers/educators, advanced academics so that students can be excited about education instead of dreading going to school.
2915	I believe Arizona schools just be safe, inclusive learning environments for all students. Arizona schools should have more of a focus on small class classes that are designed to teach to the way each child learns. I believe that teachers should be well-qualified and offered career-training outside of work hours, as well as on-the-job training. I believe that Arizona schools should build strong foreign language programs as early as preschool, and should develop strong arts and physical education programs.
2918	Qualified teachers need to be compensated appropriately, they need to be supported by experienced mentors, and they need time to collaborate with colleagues.
2920	All of these are important. If we have safe learning environments and qualified teachers and administrators with small class sizes the others will follow. Obviously we need education to be targeted to the unique needs of all students--from special ed to gifted ed and everything in between. We need counselors and social workers and other support staff and community/parental involvement to make all of this happen. And we need adequate financial resources for ALL SCHOOLS, not just those in high income communities with larger tax bases.
2922	Smaller class sizes are extremely important in order to reach the needs of all students. Class sizes of 30-38 students are extremely difficult to manage and to meet the needs of each and every student is also difficult.
2925	Teachers are respected in quality schools.
2926	A safe and fun learning environment with qualified teachers and admin. Physical education and sports are essential to benefiting the overall well being of the student.
2927	Academics, qualified teachers and administrators, and safe learning environment.
2935	Healthy, active kids learn better and the lack of health and physical education opportunities have lead us to an obesigenic class of students who are not given the best opportunity to learn.

2939	Schools need to educate the whole child. Students should be challenged academically and physically, so they can grow up to be active, healthy, productive members of society.
2941	Foreign languages should be held at a higher standard. Other countries have children that start into their career path before graduating grade school as well as speak at least 3 languages fluently. This should be a standard.
2943	Great academic learning with the best teachers that are passionate and skillful and also nurturing and caring with young adults
2948	Schools that are focused on the needs of the children individually.
2958	Schools need qualified teachers, will manageable classes that prepare students for life beyond high school.
2980	This is an almost impossible question. All of them are important, and having to select 3 is ridiculous. It's like saying if you have to choose 1 meal a day, which 1 would you choose?
2982	more kids stay in school
2985	Again, preparing them for THEIR future.
2986	I teach advanced classes at a lower socio-economic school. I worry that the programs will be reduced and that the segregation of the modern era will not be race, but economics with the rich areas having the best programs and the poor having few or none.
2987	WOW. How can you only pick 3? And how can "safe" not be a part of it. I feel all of the above are important.
2988	Smaller class sizes. Currently a teacher with an average class size of 40 students spends maybe 1 minute per student per day of individual time. Decreasing class sizes should increase potential rigor and transfer of knowledge.
2992	I also want to see the arts and physical education offered in all schools, as well as foreign language and career training in high schools.
2993	Getting students on a career path early on. Supporting the academics
2995	Schools need to offer relevant courses geared towards students' ultimate career goals. For those with no career goal, we need to offer courses that can help them figure out what they want to do besides play video games all the time. There is nothing worse than a graduating senior with no plan.
2999	Schools should provide a variety of educational programs that fit diverse learners. Students need to be prepared for the workforce and/or college. Schools focus too much on preparing students for college instead of providing them with important opportunities to gain necessary skills outside of the college realm.
3003	caring loving and watching student progress not only through standardized tests but through daily learning. Building students confidence and teaching the students hands on with students rather than making them find the answers
3009	Small class sizes allow the teacher to meet the needs of all students it allows for the inclusion model to work as designed and create a safe classroom environment. STEM activities help prepare students for the jobs of the future by training them in qualities that can be found in any job.
3011	Although many of the above are important, our students should be able to compete with other students if they go to college. This requires rigorous academics. To enhance learning, students need to feel safe, and they need to be taught correctly, which is why highly qualified instructors are needed. My 4th choice would have been smaller class sizes, as they lead to better learning, and safer environments.
3015	There needs to be a wide range of opportunities for diverse learners taught by highly qualified instructors.

3018	The students need to get a well rounded curriculum which includes, Physical Education, music, Art, and vocational opportunities
3022	Well rounded education and respect for teachers
3024	Character, patriotism, respect, community, loyalty, God and country,pride, initiative,sincerity, forgiveness, responsibility and generosity. Helping your neighbor, doing what's right, being a good citizen
3025	Teachers and administrators that CARE. Everything else will flow from that.
3027	Class sizes and career training. Class sizes are important at this time due to students are coming to school with more emotional issues and a smaller class size would help the child not feel overwhelmed with no breathing room. Not all students enjoy going to school we need to offer more career training for those students that excel in the areas they are interested in.
3028	Small class sizes with qualified teachers able to work with students individually as needed. Local control by persons who know how to best serve the community and population
3029	A school with qualified teachers to educate and inspire students to learn. students need to be well educated in core subjects and encouraged to find their path for the future.
3031	I believe it's imperative to have qualified teachers and administrators.
3032	We need to have a variety of electives that prepare students for the workforce as well as post secondary schools.
3036	A qualified teacher should be able to provide a safe learning environment. However, if you don't provide her with the resources, salary and a classroom with 30 or 40 students - you are setting up a qualified teacher for failure.
3039	First and foremost of importance is in keeping our students safe. Without the students being in an environment in which they feel safe, nothing else listed above matters or will be accomplished. We must have qualified teachers and administrators, and quite frankly, until we offer competitive wages in Arizona, we will never have qualified teachers and administrators. We will remain where we currently are, taking who we can get, and a being in a constant state of not filling all positions. Since I want all my students to become scientists when they grow up, the STEM program is extremely important to me, personally. Globally, if we want to compete or keep up with other nations, we need to have a STEM-rich classroom. Small class is extremely important as well. It is very difficult to teach 25+ students math when they are all at different levels of understanding or having the background knowledge necessary to learn. In the restaurant business it's called, "being in the weeds" and keeping all students engaged is nearly impossible. Not listed is the importance of teaching children the reading skills necessary to learn. As far as curriculum being, "rigorous" that word is just a catchphrase that teachers don't actually use, and it needs to be retired from usage in the classroom setting.
3044	I want a school that offers training in a trade for those best suited for a trade and Advanced academics for those hoping to go to college.
3047	Academics. Period. We have some of the WORST test scores in the nation. I am afraid, because we are only offered public schooling in this rural area, that my daughter will not have the same college opportunities.
3048	Without an understanding of science and mathematics it is not really possible to understand the world around you. We are less competitive today in the world because our children are not learning science and mathematics to an extent that would allow them to compete in the world markets.

3051	STEM and Arts offerings are the most important and most relevant topics for current students. Forcing students to attend in PE is an outdated concept when time could be better spend learning STEM/STEAM subject matter.
3056	While all of the above are of vital importance, the three I selected represent what I believe schools should primarily focus upon.
3057	Challenging academic standards and academic assessments; accountability, support, and improvement for schools; supporting excellent educators; supporting all students.
3058	Well rounded education that promotes and encourages the Arts.
3059	Instead of trying to get every kid through the "system" councilors should cater each student to a curriculum. I went to school in Illinois and councilors were required to sit down at least once a quarter with each student to track their progress and change their curriculum if needed. This was vital to my success in my career.
3060	Reliable teachers, accountability, teaching with Stem/STEAM, and having history brought back, learning cursive writing, keeping physical education and arts in schools.
3061	Being able to provide my students with an environment that does not limit their success. They have access to technology that is needed. They have textbooks. They feel safe. A school that has a "community" environment rather than a super straight "prison" environment. I school that is well maintained and clean.
3063	School characteristics that are most important to me are qualified caring compassionate educators who are there for the well being of the students and not just there for the job. Also to be help prepare our students for the new fast paced world and changes. To be up-to-date.
3064	We need smaller class sizes if teachers are to be expected to maintain academic rigor and discipline.
3066	see above
3067	These are difficult choices: what parent doesn't want a safe learning environment for their child? And advanced academics go along with qualified teachers. All of the characteristics listed are important
3068	Three "r's" are important to enforce....and pertinent educational opportunities that will help students beyond just the basics r's.
3069	GREAT TEACHERS
3070	diversified learning
3072	SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE VERY HIGHLY NEEDED IN SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES. IT WOULD HELP STUDENTS HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR WORK AND THE ONE ON ONE HELP MAKES BETTER STUDENTS.
3073	There are more than three areas of importance. Academics, art, music programs and sports all add to the overall achievement of students. Quality teachers and administrators who are positive role models are essential!!!
3078	education that is appropriate and challenging for all types of students with an excellent opportunity for extracurricular activities that reinforce teamwork, leadership skills and practical knowledge
3081	With everything that's going on in our nation I believe a safe environment is a huge concern for our schools. Aside from that a great education, school spirit, and parent involvement.
3084	Equality and Understanding
3085	Qualified Teachers to prepare our kids for a college education.

3086	It is important that students feel safe when coming to school. They need to want to come to school in order to learn. The administrators and teachers need to be qualified and trained to teach and lead to high expectations. Students need to get the most out of their education, rigorous lessons need to be planned and executed properly.
3090	Patience, Kindness, respect
3093	Diverse safe environment that allows students to explore their gifts/natural tendencies and is viewed as a gift not a right by the student population.
3094	Smaller class sizes leads to more personalized care for each student and teachers can better individualize lesson plans.
3096	Safe, friendly, teaching children (not tying up teachers with too much paperwork other than planning for instruction).
3097	Safe, rigorous, and fair
3098	Please stop just focusing on three things. We need more arts in the schools as well. ALL of these things need to be addressed. I am sure you are aware.
3099	I expect that the arts are a part of every school curriculum, especially band, orchestra and choir.
3102	It is important that my children learn core academic classes (Math, reading, history, science) in an avenue that they learn best. It's important that I feel safe sending my children to school and it's important to trust those in administrative roles.
3103	With smaller class size, quality PD and more resources, schools can provide rigorous academics while individualizing for students needs (gifted, SPED, ELL, etc) All students learn differently and schools should have the resources to provide for the diversity that is in every classroom
3106	Help the student brain for form. Be focus on social skills: conflict resolution, emotional intelligence, learn skills to be ready for college or a technical school.
3114	Child must be allowed to expand their knowledge and still be allowed to have arts opportunities.
3115	I teach full-day Kindergarten in a public school. I've been a teacher for 25 years in AZ and CA, and in many different elementary grade levels. I see less parental support at home for these kids coming to us now. Parents who do want to help simply don't know how. Fewer and fewer are coming to us having had experience in preschool or have been in poor quality HeadStart programs. I have 26 students in my class with no assistant. Many Kindergarteners come in with several being unidentified Special Needs kids. I spend more and more time on classroom management and less on quality instruction because of the high numbers. The current research states that more than 20 is not conducive to quality instruction. This is especially true for at risk, low-income, and ELL students. That encompasses most of my class. With smaller class sizes students are less likely to be retained, there is better teacher morale, which makes for a more positive learning environment for all involved.
3117	It is important for the students to feel safe. It is important to have a variety of programs and curriculum for well rounded students. It's also important that students are expected to be responsible for their own success in life and not rely on handouts. Students need to know that hard work can lead to success.
3118	Diverse curriculum with qualified, compassionate teachers and administrators who are PAID according to the amount of time and effort they put in to their school.
3119	Environments where students and teachers can be successful without being highly stressed, including space for introverted children to be able to do their best work.
3121	Arizona needs great teachers, not just "highly qualified" teachers.

3133	The most important characteristic of a successful school is a well trained and supported staff.
3137	Academics, STEM, and career training are vital for the success of our future labor force. Arizona has been very low in many academic areas for a long time and that needs to change. The world market is moving more into the STEM knowledge and our students need to be exposed to that learning. Without career training, students won't be prepared to even know how to get a job or even keep one after graduation.
3141	Teach the kids to be able to survive and learn how to survive on their own after high school.
3142	Teachers make a huge difference to the learning environment. Numerous research studies indicate how children learn and in an encouraging, loving environment. Teachers are the foundation of influence.
3143	kids getting the teaching that they need and if need help get the proper skills for what they learning .
3144	an environment that values teachers as the most important element and allows them to have a voice in all decisions as the experts and most impacted stake holders in the system.
3149	Safe, enriching and diverse
3150	I want to go back to the idea of educating the whole child. We have become so academic focused (and not successfully) that I think we have missed an opportunity to engage students in learning. Now they just go to school because they have to but if we can stop shoving academics down their throats and teach more integrated and project based I think that we can increase a love of learning which will in turn affect our core academic scores. We can't lock kids in rooms and drum English and Math at them instead we need to engage them so that they need English and Math to understand the things that are important to them. At that point English and Math become important.
3152	A safe learning environment is important to me because without it, students could not learn.
3153	Schools should teach critical thinking and problem solving skills. They should offer a supportive environment and real life applications in their classes; especially important in STEM classes.
3155	Teachers who care about kids and who believe that all students can learn and grow given the right opportunity in which to do so
3156	broad range of course offerings by teachers who want to teach and you are attentive to the students, an inspiring educational environment and teachers who are appreciated for their efforts with an honorable salary, and an educational environment that is inspiring.
3157	If our class sizes were small and taught by qualified teachers, then naturally they would be more easily able to cater to higher and lower level students. Teaching at only one level is outdated and inefficient. I also believe that enriching curricula with arts and physical education opportunities will benefit students with their academics, as well.
3159	Education for all. Our current system is focused on about 20% of the population.
3165	Our kids need to be prepared to go out into the world and make a difference as well as be socially enabled to deal with people and to be able to provide for themselves.
3167	Safe schools and learning environments are also important to me, as well as smaller class sizes, special and gifted education programs and p.e. and sports.
3168	Schools should have quality teachers who are knowledgeable about their subjects and have proper credentials. To get and keep these quality teachers, salaries MUST be adjusted upward.
3171	1. School must be safe. There is no excuse for unpatrolled and unmonitored school campuses.

3174	Without qualified teachers, all the rest is useless; fewer administrators & more involved parents would be most helpful. Top 3 characteristics from this list is impossible choice -- special & gifted programs, arts, languages -- all those are important to sending students out into the world as well rounded persons. But, the basics have to be there before anything else makes sense.
3177	Students need to feel challenged in a safe & respectful environment . A school culture that fosters this is essential.
3178	Qualified staff will support the need for academic level of success required to be prepared for careers in STEM.
3182	Although I picked "rigorous core academics," "qualified teachers and administrators," and "advanced academics," I firmly believe the other components are equally important. However, these three would determine that every Arizona student, not just those whose parents can get them to a highly-performing school, has master teachers in the classroom with high expectations and support to help all students determine and achieve their personal best.
3184	Allow students to take vocational tracks for graduation rather than one size fits all requirements.
3188	Girls athletics at the high school level is still grossly under-represented. We have an 18% gap between boys and girls, though not due to lack of interest. When comparing similar sports between boys and girls, the gap is only 1%. Football is the other 17%. So give girls what they want, Girls Flag Football. Problem solved.
3189	Curriculum and rigor
3190	Education that meets the diversity and needs of all students, not just the majority.
3191	Vocational and Arts education. The rest should be based on student abilities based on testing.
3192	I feel rigor is important so that the standard is set high for all students. I want my child to be safe at school so they can focus on there studies while at school.
3198	A school with a strong staff can focus on core academics, preparing many students communication and problem solving skills for the next step in their lives. Career training provides students, who are uninterested in college, opportunities to develop the skills they will need to support themselves after high school.
3200	We need more diversity in education--academic and vocational. The current, and academic-oriented approach is too broad, and does not fit the needs of every student. We are trying to fit far too many square pegs into round holes.
3202	I would have checked all the boxes above if I could. We need to provide a breadth of experiences for students. Concentration in a narrow field at HS age is not good.
3212	It is important to have qualified/certified teachers in an appropriate class size to provide the diverse classes that enable each student to be successful in their learning to enable them to enter the work-force as competent young adults able to earn a living wage or ready for high academics of continuing education.
3213	I think children should have opportunities to explore all areas of learning. All kids need music, P.E., computers, and/or art. I believe this helps them in all academic subjects.
3214	The learning environment supports students and recognizes their differences and needs for Multitiered systems of supports. Varied curriculum that includes art, music, physical education and after school enrichment opportunities.

3219	Offering a varied curricula with academic support/enrichment, emotional support, art/music, and athletic opportunities is important to develop a well-rounded child. In today's society we cannot assume that children are getting these opportunities at home. In addition, not enough time is spent building social and emotional regulation skills. Schools don't have mental health personnel (school psychologists and/or counselors) to support student needs, and yet this is crucial to student success.
3227	A school that provides opportunities for success but allows success to be defined as more than just "ready for college".
3228	Geared to the individual and their strengths
3230	Students should feel safe and know that they are learning when they come to school.
3232	It is important for a school to offer both Academic and Extracurricular opportunities for students to prepare for their chosen post-secondary option.
3234	Teachers can only succeed if they are able to truly connect with each student. Small class sizes have been proven, again and again, to be one of the most important factors in student success. You will only get small class sizes if more teachers are hired, and more teachers will enter the work force if AZ offers a competitive salary.
3241	Students should be able to leave high school with enough knowledge to flourish on their own. Whether continuing on to college, trade school or entering the workforce.
3243	Good opportunities for students to find opportunities and classes they enjoy and help motivate them.
3247	Kids need to be actively engaged in all forms of the Arts, be prepared for the work force and have class sizes that will afford them every chance for success.
3250	A rich learning environments where each student is empowered to do their best each day
3253	An Arizona school must provide rigorous academics across ALL subject areas supported by cross-curricular opportunities provided in a safe learning environment. Specific examples of cross-curricular opportunities for Physical Education with other disciplines may include Science/Physical Education-Cardiovascular System; Math/Physical Education-BMI and Calorie Calculator; Language Arts/Physical Education-quick writes, tickets-out-of-class, reflections, self-assessments; Social Studies/Physical Education-Geo cashing. Arizona schools must teach to the whole child to meet the needs of all students.
3254	Students should have high quality programs to meet their needs.
3258	The teachers need to be qualified and the administrators need to have been in the classroom prior to being an administrator. Many schools focus on the Special Ed part of the school, but more emphasis needs to be placed on the Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Students. The hands on classes should be brought back, Auto Mechanics, Home Economics, etc.