

My child attends: (check one box)	A1. The school offers a challenging, rigorous curriculum.		A2. The school is focused on academic achievement, setting high expectations for students.		A3. The academic program includes a wide selection of course offerings.		A4. Teachers meet my child's needs by including a variety of teaching strategies and activities.		A5. Teachers assign high-quality homework that supports learning.		B1. The academic needs of my child are recognized by staff.		B2. My child receives additional help as needed.		B3. My child receives additional challenges as needed.		B4. Support staff, including educational technicians and literacy and math strategists, help meet the needs of students.	
Freeport High School																		
1 Strongly Agree	27	23%	32	28%	33	29%	17	15%	20	17%	27	23%	34	30%	12	10%	19	17%
2 Somewhat Agree	65	57%	45	39%	52	46%	43	37%	47	41%	48	42%	46	40%	36	31%	34	30%
3 Neutral	6	5%	13	11%	8	7%	23	20%	23	20%	18	16%	14	12%	26	23%	32	28%
4 Somewhat Disagree	11	10%	18	16%	15	13%	20	17%	12	10%	12	10%	7	6%	27	23%	4	3%
5 Strongly Disagree	3	3%	6	5%	6	5%	11	10%	9	8%	8	7%	5	4%	7	6%	3	3%
Not Applicable	3	3%	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%	4	3%	2	2%	9	8%	7	6%	23	20%
Total	115	100%	115	100%	114	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%

My child attends: (check one box)	B5. My child's emotional needs are understood and properly addressed.	B6. (For parents of students receiving Special Education services only) Special Education services meet the needs of my child.		B7. (For parents of students receiving Gifted and Talented services only) GT programming meets the needs of my child.		B8. The school provides excellent support services (guidance, nursing, mentoring, college planning, etc.).		B9. My child learns life skills such as managing time, prioritizing, meeting deadlines, responsibility, and communicating clearly.		C1. The school offers a broad range of co-curricular activities (drama, etc.).		C2. Students have access to a wide selection of sports through the school's athletic program.		D1. The atmosphere at school is positive and conducive to learning.		D2. The school encourages students to show respect for each other.		
Freeport High School																		
1 Strongly Agree	21	18%	0	0%	2	2%	22	19%	26	23%	59	51%	50	43%	31	27%	45	39%
2 Somewhat Agree	27	23%	4	5%	2	2%	39	34%	32	28%	37	32%	40	35%	49	43%	42	37%
3 Neutral	26	23%	2	2%	1	1%	24	21%	20	17%	10	9%	11	10%	13	11%	15	13%
4 Somewhat Disagree	14	12%	0	0%	5	6%	16	14%	24	21%	4	3%	4	3%	18	16%	7	6%
5 Strongly Disagree	9	8%	3	4%	10	12%	12	10%	11	10%	4	3%	5	4%	3	3%	5	4%
Not Applicable	18	16%	72	89%	64	76%	2	2%	2	2%	1	1%	5	4%	1	1%	1	1%
Total	115	100%	81	100%	84	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%

My child attends: (check one box)	D3. Adults who work in the school treat students with respect.		D4. Teachers have built strong relationships with my child.		D5. I feel welcome at my child's school.		D6. Parents have opportunities to participate in school activities.		E1. Staff handles discipline fairly, consistently, and effectively.		E2. School staff have a positive impact on students' behavior.		E3. Staff proactively educates students about the impact and prevention of bullying.		E4. Teachers manage classroom behavior effectively.		E5. Behavior expectations are made clear to students.	
<b>Freeport High School</b>																		
<b>1 Strongly Agree</b>	42	37%	29	25%	45	39%	38	33%	21	18%	28	24%	34	30%	16	14%	38	33%
<b>2 Somewhat Agree</b>	40	35%	51	44%	42	37%	48	42%	28	25%	43	37%	37	32%	42	37%	46	40%
<b>3 Neutral</b>	18	16%	18	16%	14	12%	16	14%	30	26%	26	23%	28	24%	32	28%	18	16%
<b>4 Somewhat Disagree</b>	10	9%	11	10%	6	5%	9	8%	11	10%	10	9%	4	3%	16	14%	7	6%
<b>5 Strongly Disagree</b>	4	3%	4	3%	5	4%	2	2%	6	5%	7	6%	7	6%	4	3%	4	3%
<b>Not Applicable</b>	1	1%	2	2%	2	2%	2	2%	18	16%	1	1%	5	4%	5	4%	2	2%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%	115	100%	114	100%	115	100%	114	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%

My child attends: (check one box)	E6. The school tells me about behavior expectations for my child.		F1. The school is safe and orderly.		F2. The school is clean and well-maintained.		F3. The school reflects the pride taken in educating our students.		F4. The school provides quality teaching/learning materials and technology equipment.		G1. Administrators and teachers communicate with parents/guardians effectively.		G2. I have opportunities to share my views about the school.		G3. Teachers and administrators are responsive to my concerns and suggestions.		G4. I feel comfortable talking with my child's teacher(s).	
<b>Freeport High School</b>																		
<b>1 Strongly Agree</b>	32	28%	41	36%	57	50%	44	38%	42	37%	27	23%	30	26%	23	20%	53	46%
<b>2 Somewhat Agree</b>	30	26%	52	45%	47	41%	42	37%	46	40%	42	37%	37	32%	26	23%	34	30%
<b>3 Neutral</b>	23	20%	14	12%	7	6%	20	17%	14	12%	15	13%	29	25%	21	18%	15	13%
<b>4 Somewhat Disagree</b>	11	10%	6	5%	0	0%	5	4%	9	8%	17	15%	10	9%	22	19%	8	7%
<b>5 Strongly Disagree</b>	8	7%	1	1%	3	3%	3	3%	3	3%	14	12%	6	5%	14	12%	1	1%
<b>Not Applicable</b>	11	10%	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%	3	3%	9	8%	4	3%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%

My child attends: (check one box)	G5. Teachers respect agreements and decisions reached at parent teacher meetings, and follow-up on those suggestions.		G6. Teachers help me understand how my child's work is evaluated.		G7. When reporting about my child's progress, teachers use language I can understand.		G8. The school helps me understand how to best support my child's learning at home.	
<b>Freeport High School</b>								
<b>1 Strongly Agree</b>	25	22%	23	20%	52	45%	11	10%
<b>2 Somewhat Agree</b>	28	24%	39	34%	36	31%	34	30%
<b>3 Neutral</b>	23	20%	20	17%	9	8%	30	26%
<b>4 Somewhat Disagree</b>	12	10%	16	14%	8	7%	22	19%
<b>5 Strongly Disagree</b>	4	3%	12	10%	6	5%	8	7%
<b>Not Applicable</b>	23	20%	5	4%	4	3%	10	9%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%	115	100%

## Freeport High School - Comments

### Please share with us your suggestions for improving our schools:

Continue to support all students, not just college-bound students. For example, encourage, support, and show the potential income and justification for students headed to trades like carpentry, electricians, etc. Show how work ethic, knowledge, and personal skills are universally applicable for living a successful life.

Stop identifying G/T kids and not providing them with a special program or differentiation. More busy work and online self learning is not the answer for our best students. They need more and are ignored.

I already filled out a survey for the high school but forgot to write about the athletic department. The athletic department needs to have an open process for hiring for coaches positions instead of instantly giving these positions to teachers. If Freeport wants to have a strong athletic programs it starts with good coaches. We consistently have had poor coaches in [REDACTED]. Also it is important that the athletic department supports students as they do drama and music along with sports. There needs to be a POLICY that does not punish students for belonging to sports and drama so they can be well rounded. This should not be left up to the coaches. Stop penalizing kids for trying to be more than one thing.

email notifications come way to often and of the same subject matter from multiple sources. We should have (1) communication from the school a day with all pertinent information

the formatting of the daily announcements are horrible - put a kid in charge who understands graphic design or publishing and have them do it, develop a template, some items are on the daily announcements multiple times

bring back home economics, cooking, mock trial!

There seems to be zero follow up on issues by the administration. A major issue this year was swept under the rug and never dealt with. Zero. Follow. Through.

We've had problems with some mediocre teachers or teachers that are adjusting to pbe in sloppy or inconsistent ways. The worst example is probably [REDACTED] who grades slowly and inconsistently and refuses to provide rubrics. Pbe students need to understand there is an achievable path to a four for each grading term. It's evident as a systematic problem with only one student on high honor roll. I'm not looking for easier grading, just a clear and possible system. The Latin teacher is great, but the program is way behind grade level for other schools.

My child never has homework, not enough homework gets assigned.

I completely do NOT understand the report cards and grading system. My child and I both want the return of A-B-C grades!

I have much disdain for the proficiency based learning system (my son is a freshman at FHS)

Fewer tests, less homework.

I'm concerned about drubs in the school. My daughter is a freshman and she tells me the upper class students try to sell the freshman's cigarette and vape pens on the new walking path. This concerns me greatly.

Proficiency based education is a complete mistake that is both incomprehensible and serves to flatten achievement while baffling parents. It seems like an experiment being conducted on our children without our permission. An experiment undertaken to improve the results of marginal and unmotivated students at the expense of students committed to learning and education.. Our student doesn't understand it, the teachers cannot explain it and a third-party could not read a report card and gauge success/failure. I am resigned to the system hurting my kid. We'll have to make up for the damage being done at school at home. If I instituted such an unproven, confusing, excellence killing scheme at my company I would be justly ridiculed and most likely fired. You are doing the kids and the community a disservice. The kids know it. I think the teachers know it. The administration and board should know it. One student achieved academic High Honors in the Freshman class yet the list of those achieving "Honors" in both categories was huge. A flattening experiment hurting achievement and education and excellence. Stop it while you can.

9th grade PBE has been great in improving instruction

Better quality of materials when needed, improvement of teachers who are biding time until retirement who need to have an alternate job to better service kids, making sure that all staff who are engaged in children and experiential learning styles.

## Freeport High School - Comments

I've personally reached out to administrators that have never returned my phone calls on more than one occasion. I specifically reached out to an administrator due to the lack of respect shown to children and parents alike from one secretary. My question is how do we reach out children to be respectful when they are forced to interact with an authoritative adult who shows no kindness or respect to them?

At least my daughters are not ready to be completely on their own with homework assignments so teachers could encourage more time for kids to record assignments or the teachers should have their websites updated daily so kids can check online. My children often struggle with what is due and when because they didn't write it down and it is not online. Also, the homework load is waaaaay too much. They are not getting enough rest if they participate in sports or drama.

Going back to the old grading system.

The skills-based-benchmark-outcomes grading system is a joke and nobody likes it.

Too generalized a survey too accurately report.

More foreign languages, not leaving kids behind school's sport

The investments we have made with the high school renovation and track and field have been a huge addition and there will be benefits that we don't even know about yet

First, the questions in this survey should separate administration from teachers. Teachers and administrators are not the same and have different impacts on the school environment. Top down reform does not work. The administration should have teacher input for any educational changes. These decisions should be collaborative. The teacher morale at FHS is low because of the administration's lack of respect for teachers.

I send my child to school for academics not to learn how to be a better friend. We provide a home where we teach morals, boundaries, ethics, this is not the high schools responsibility. The time spent making sure my child feels ok is a waste in my opinion, as academic time is lost.

My child is a high school senior. He is identified as GT. He has NEVER met with anyone since he started high school. The website used to say that the honors/AP classes were to meet the needs of the GT students. ( It no longer does. It now is increasingly "hands off" for GT kids. ) In my experience, there are limited class sizes and availability and my GT child is not given priority for honors/AP classes. I'm not saying he should be necessarily, but if that is how the school plans to meet his GT needs, he should be able to get in to the classes. In addition, I feel that there should be more direction and planning about course choices starting in 9th grade to optimize the available classes for those intending to go to college. There is misinformation or confusing information about pre-requisites, etc. For example, if your student wants to take calculus by their senior year, they need to double up on math one year. No one tells you this is an option or how to best go about it. I think that allowing the students to make class selection without more input from the schools or the parents sets them up to miss out of opportunities that would benefit them in their future.

I don't believe the administration and staff at Freeport High School truly encourage academic excellence. Too often, even in "honors" classes, teachers waste time - easily distracted to shift class time from teaching to personal matters ( [REDACTED] ), allow students to not participate and mock those that do participate ( [REDACTED] ), and start to lose interest in teaching by the middle of May, claiming students aren't interested in learning. In today's competitive environment, in order to excel at college, students need a challenging high school academic environment. AP and honors classrooms where mediocrity is accepted, where cell phones are permitted to be used (under desks, but still), and where teachers don't have a good grasp of how to teach challenging subjects, are way too common at FHS. Teachers need to expect and encourage excellence. We need to recruit better teachers and train them so that Freeport graduates aren't falling behind. My sense is that Freeport teaches to the middle - and in doing so, treats students who could otherwise excel as being acceptable in mediocrity.

The gifted program in RSU5 is virtually non-existent. My child has been identified as gifted in math, but nothing -- NOTHING -- has happened. She has not received ANY additional, challenging course work.

Can't think of anything right now ....

[REDACTED] needs better oversight from superintendent and school board

## Freeport High School - Comments

Remove [REDACTED] ASAP

Have a review process of teachers and coaches by the students.

Make the Athletics department work with the performing arts department for no scheduling conflicts.

Explain to the teachers, when a principle announces he is leaving, dancing in the hall ways and celebrating is not appropriate behavior in front of students.

[REDACTED], there is [REDACTED] evidence that has been presented to numerous principles, school board members and superintendents. [REDACTED]

Guidance should promote technical eduction more, especially the starting pay and lowere college debt.

Guidance should show freshmen what a college application looks like, so they can see how well rounded they need to be.

Allow opportunities for children to get to know each other without the pressure of academics.

an easier to navigate (requiring less interpretation and technical layers) report card, school could use higher compensations for qualified teachers, the school could engage additional specialty support and teaching to expand student assistance and offer more courses in the arts, the school could add more AP classes particularly in the humanities, the school could commit resources for higher achievement in proficiency based criteria (how do the best schools succeed in proficiency based learning?)

[REDACTED]  
Have a review process of teachers and coaches by the students.

Make the Athletics department work with the performing arts department for no scheduling conflicts.

Explain to the teachers, when a principle announces he is leaving, dancing in the hall ways and celebrating is not appropriate behavior in front of students.

[REDACTED], there is [REDACTED] that has been presented to numerous principles, school board members and superintendents. [REDACTED]

Guidance should promote technical eduction more, especially the starting pay and lowere college debt.

Guidance should show freshmen what a college application looks like, so they can see how well rounded they need to be.

Make oppörtunities available for outside learning

More comprehensive drug and alcohol abuse awareness and health effects. More education on common mental health issues for teens and what to do if a friend is struggling without asking adults for help.

Give the students the opportunity to take a surveys and give feedback into the teacher's annual review.

When my child tries to use the literacy or math additional help, the teachers are often busy with many students, and he is not able to spend the time he needs with the teacher.

This school year there have been multiple challenges with teachers behavior as well as kids mis use of vaping etc. I appreciate the effort to stay on top of this and not to let either of these issues getting further out of hand.

The automated nature of administering student progress has either intentionally or inadvertently factored parents out of the dialogue between home and school. I get the distinct impression FHS has no interest in working with parents and devoted its time and resources to crunching numbers and not building strong relationships with students nor parents. Why there are not even enough slots for every parent to meet with teachers for conferences. I never get any feedback from , have never been contacted by or approached by my child's teachers. When I called the principal about a problem my child was having with a teacher, I was told that other students enjoyed his style and the follow up she would have with both the teacher and my child never happened.

The other area the school should focus on is the social life of students. There are very few school-sponsored social events. The few dances the school hosts feature grinding which makes my daughter and her friends uncomfortable to watch and prevents them from participating. They do not want to dance like that or have others "pressing against them." In light of the Me Too Movement I am disappointed the school condones a form of dancing that creates a social expectation that puts young women and men in uncomfortably close quarters with peers they may not know well or at all. It seems the school would rather create a sink or swim approach for its students in the social sphere than wade into a dialogue with faculty, parents and students to arrive at a solution that empowers students. The fact that grinding goes on at the dances when it must make faculty, parents and students uncomfortable speaks to the lack of leadership the school has at present.

We need more project based learning- less memorizing/rote



## Freeport High School - Comments

Better mentor ship programs and vetting mentors

Kids do not always tell their parents what is happening in school, would be nice to know as parents what is going on in the classroom and with our children.

Rules and regs are too black and white; curriculum and teaching styles and behavior expectations not updated to ensure this generation prepared for world they are headed into; teacher tenure restricts ability to hold them accountable to higher standard; administration does the tough work to support, grow, and, when needed, refine behavior and methods; community, student, parent input requested to give perception of inclusiveness of views, but don't actually include/want outside views; support skewed to highest and lowest learners, others lost in middle; Honors teachers don't feel they need to teach; athletic code and honor roll initiatives are not designed properly to fulfill their intent/mission.

I am not happy that the school system chose to implement the new grading system. I understand the grading system however, I do not like it or agree with it.

open campus for high honor students, increase twenty fold the places to study after school in the bldg, bring back lunch in teacher's classrooms. Need to improve study hall: desks too small, lighting very bad, student's talking is disruptive, chairs are uncomfortable, attendance takes toooooo long (could student's sign in via a computer program or paper copy or check in - this is a problem because a student can lose study time and could not have the opportunity to go to the library. Promote and add more music, theater and choir programs - FHS emphasizes SPORTS way too much! For instance, the music program budget is so very tiny, relative to the very talented music teachers. Students need opportunities to move during the day, for instance, stretch periods, walking down the hall to take a break from a 80 minute class, (they do this at Mast Landing and it is very effective, students can go to stations throughout the building and do the designated stretch, we have these at my place of employment as well, humans need to move to be productive with their brains. TRUST the students more.

Stronger math curriculum and better hands on science curriculum. Learning from a textbook solely and regurgitating material is not creating an environment that promotes the love of learning.

Powerschool could use some attention. It seems only some teachers fill it out occasionally, and the user interface is horrible from a parental standpoint. We are not pleased about the new grading system. Unfortunately our child now believes a 2 and a 2.5 is average and acceptable. This is worrisome to us.

maintain a high standard

I believe the school needs to get tougher on drugs as they are in the school. My daughter is a freshman and she tells me the upper class students try to sell drugs to the younger students. Thank god she knows better to get involved in this.

The only area of complaint is the cafeteria food and candidly I would welcome the opportunity to come in and prepare lunch sometime for all the students.

A - E Grading easier to understand and more consistent for students, parents and staff.

use the 1-100 grading scale for PBL students

As always parent communication is important. Simply assuming that parents are checking power school is a faulty assumption.

In reference to sports. Student should be allowed to play/be involved in more than 1 sport during a given season, especially if the school does not offer that sport. Also, school should not allow coach to make student sign contract that they will only participate in that one sport. School is losing some very talented individuals who would like to participate in a school sport and an outside sport activity.

Please support the teachers of RSU 5 - they have made a huge difference in the life of my daughter.

The basketball coaching staff needs to work on encouraging the athletes instead of putting them down in front of the team.

NO personal technology in the classroom (phones!); it's such a distraction for everyone. PLEASE, please enforce this as a rule.

Parents are invited to share, but their suggestions are not necessarily taken seriously. Coaching needs to improve- my son's coach know next to nothing about the sport he coaches, and he doesn't even promote team spirit or support individual athletes during meets.

The grading system in the 9th grade has lots of problems, from inconsistent rounding up and down of grades, to lack of clarity in what each grade means (different things to different teachers). Please listen to parents and give more gradation in grading and make sure there is consistency across departments and teachers. Thank you

I forgot to say when I completed the survey: Our son could use more guidance in regards to college application. There are few opportunities for him to meet the counselors and when he schedules a session he doesn't always know what questions to ask to make sure he's fully informed

### **Freeport High School - Comments**

Provide the traditional A-F, percentile-based grading system. Encourage/support teachers to develop creative, project-based, authentic and engaging teaching methodologies, rather than getting bogged down in this unnecessary, vague, counter-productive 1-4 rating . Keep class sizes small especially PreK-6 so teachers can effectively differentiate instruction. Embed feedback loops into the HS culture that puts administrators in touch with the genuine, day-to-day experiences and constructive ideas of students and teachers. Just asking for input is a not a dynamic process if stakeholders do not experience a resulting give and take change process. For the past several years, RSU5 has been too top-down ( current and previous superintendents in particular). Many teachers do not feel their voices are heard or that their buy-in matters... admin is not responsive. District keeps rolling over and getting distracted by government educational "initiatives" rather than tapping the insights available internally to create joyful, fulfilling learning and teaching environments. Not sure what "rigorous" means to the board, as used in this survey. School Board members should spend more time becoming familiar with all of the schools, getting to know teachers, understanding the actual impact of their decisions. I hope students and teachers will have an opportunity to complete a survey specific to their roles.

I feel that the plato program could be better supervised and the person in charge could keep up more with the students. Checking in with their progress and helping them set goals. And letting the parents know when their child is not making any progress or accomplishing anything.

Need to find a solution to the bathrooms being locked. It's not acceptable to have only one bathroom available for the entire student body. Especially in a school that is physically spread out.

#### **STOP BULLY'S**

\* Please stop the 1-4 grading experiment before it impacts our children's chances to get the widest possible range of college acceptances and the best possible merit aid packages from those schools. This applies to upperclassmen, who see 3s translated as 88s - the lowest B grade at FHS. Standards-based learning is addressed through curriculum design -- It is not inherently connected to a 1-4 grading system.

\* We think our student is in the GATE program, but honestly have no idea. We never heard much after middle school and figured that honors/AP was the FHS equivalent.

Use a GPA for attaining honor roll status instead of a certain grade in each class.

### Freeport High School - Comments

Thank you for this opportunity. I do have a few issues about which I feel passionate. My over-arching concern, of course, is school safety in the light of our country's 'AR 15 loving' culture, but I currently have no suggestions here at our district level except supporting a national teachers' strike. If you do participate in something --and I hope you do-- I will march with you. The following, though, is what I was stewing over before this Valentine's Day.

Honors courses could use more enriched content and academic rigor. My teen reports being disappointed at the lack of student participation in class discussions, underwhelmed with depth of instruction and assignments (Lisa Blier is a well-loved and respected exception) and feels generally under-challenged in non-science honors classes. And we don't understand why there is no honor level Western Civ class option when there are honor level classes in all other departments.

There are not enough time slots available for meeting with teachers at student conferences. By the time I get to scheduling conferences (even the day after scheduling is open), many teachers' time slots are completely full and I have to find time to schedule separately, which is not easy. This has happened to me every year.

Regarding student cell phone and lap top use at the high school: while I have not looked up the school's official policy on cell phone and the district-issued lap tops, it is shocking to me that whatever guidelines are on paper are not systematically enforced. Screen overuse in school is insidiously isolating, distracting and counter to academic learning and developing healthy social interaction. That any teen is able to text, play games during classes, or watch youtube, internet surf, etc, in lunch is not only unnecessary, it is bizarre and it contradicts the very goals of any decent learning institution. My teen reports that over 70% of students are on their phones during lunch and that relatively little actual social interaction occurs. Students secretly texting in class is distracting to the non-texting students as well. Please invest in locker boxes for cell phones and systematically enforce their use. Please strip down the laptop software and monitor more closely. If you adopt and enforce stricter policies in this area, I would happily become the personal champion of the PTSO or wherever I would be needed most! Teens need to be learning how to look peers and teachers in the face and shake hands, interact, discuss, debate and do that tough stuff. These 'soft skills' are getting increasingly harder to learn, and have always needed life-long practice and incessant honing. We are direly under-serving the future stewards of our society if one of the biggest influencers of our children --our learning institutions-- condone, promote or look the other way with blatant screen overuse. This is serious! We need to be pioneers in consciously teaching children how to use tech effectively and efficiently, not as a third appendage. Please enforce stricter policies here.

I strongly urge increasing PE requirements for non-athletes. Ideally, the options would be more in tune with activities that non-competitive or non-team sports types might enjoy if they were required to try like, yoga, pilates, dance, speed walking, martial arts, nordic skiing, snow shoeing --in addition to the excellent choices you offer already. Instead of one credit for four years, I suggest one or two credits each academic year. All teens need to learn to move their body in healthy ways; this supports all learning. If we don't make it required and consistent in school, many kids just won't try.

Continuing on the theme of supporting a holistic healthy learning environment, please give all high school students the opportunity to get outside DAILY during school hours. That wonderful courtyard, why is open so seldom? Again, I don't know the history here; I imagine students may have abused the space at some point, or there are too few hands available to monitor, but can't anything be done here? I just know my kid can't get out there and very much wants to. Sitting under a tree looking at a flowering bush for five minutes or even 45 seconds is arguably a much more helpful and true break than texting head-down in a corner. Please let teens sit somewhere outside during the school day.

The kids elsewhere who are coming to schools with their guns and their plans are talking to everyone, certainly. I am sure you all must think about this at least as much as I do. I know how hard, almost impossible your jobs are even without the dark overlay of the amazingly horrible reality of school shootings. My suggestions above seem soft and irrelevant in light of this terror. Going forward chin-up though, I do think we serve all our children and our community best by continually re-creating a learning institution here in Freeport to become one which is more academically rigorous with all the tech bells and whistles, yes, AND also holds dear and teaches with heart-full commitment what makes us truly and wholly human.

Thanks again for this opportunity to be heard.

### Freeport High School - Comments

You have a consistency problem.

Examples:

My daughter was told to wear her coat for the rest of the day because when she raised her hand to answer a question, her belly showed. Yet, I see young women walking around with the bottom of their butts hanging out of their shorts. This is not about the dress code, this is about consistent policy.

Teachers teaching the same class should use the same grading system. When one looking toward standards based grades with a 3 = 88 and the other grades on the 1-100 scale student's gpas are adversely affected.

There are teachers who take many days even weeks to enter grades. Unacceptable. More than 2 weeks is too much, how is a student to know their grade, or know to seek help in a topic that has passed?

I do not understand how any student, other than one experiencing a tragedy, should be on honor role with incomplete work, what does that teach kids, don't complete work on time but still be rewarded?

There is not consistent disciplinary actions and from outside it certainly appears there is favoritism.

There should be SS honors classes instead of honors option. The latter is not rigorous and giving honors credit for an "honors project" is just a way of inflating honors grades

### Please share with us one or more things we are doing well:

Jen Gulko and Charlie Mellon are wonderful with students. I am very pleased with Freeport High School and hope the school continues to innovate and improve!

Offer more honors, AP and challenging courses for the kids who are needing them. Stop watering down the curriculum.

the new addition, cafeteria et all is gorgeous!

Most of your teachers are amazing and are committed and passionate about their students-thank you!

Support for individual needs of students is excellent and caring from independent studies options to teachers and all support staff.

Teachers and administrators are doing a better job of supporting the athletes.

Holley Berkemeyer!

Education about drigs and what they do you you.

There are select teachers who are simply outstanding. From outside their value appears to come from within rather than from the district. Drama is as outstanding as ~~athletics~~ are terrible ( ). The Principal of Freeport High seems to truly care and she seems energetic and engaged. I would not be surprised if she does not approve of PBE - her staff are dull and listless. There are some amazing classmates - the guidance department is terrible (what do they do all day?).

Wasting Durham people's money on your school we didn't even want to send our kids to

meeting my child where he is as a GT learner

hiring many other excellent teachers who are engaged in children and experiential learning styles

The guidance staff does a wonderful job talking with and counseling my student. I'm truly appreciative.

The timely and frequent emails from Mrs. Gulko about important issues are wonderful. The daily announcements are also super helpful.

What happy, clean cut, friendly, athletic looking kids! Is it permissible to say "all American" any more? Just walking in the building and seeing the students puts me in a good mood. I've been to Edward Little and Lewiston High and I don't feel that the kids there are as safe or happy or helpful as they are at FHS.

## Freeport High School - Comments

Great atmosphere

The district hires good teachers. The key is to treat them well so that they stay.

I appreciate the communication from the high school principle. I feel more informed than in previous years.

Freeport is friendly, and cares about students as individuals, offering a lot of sports and extra-curriculars that are open to everyone.

The school district's teachers are very engaged and obviously care about the children they teach. Physical improvements to the school itself and the new track and field are good steps in the right direction.

Many things! Improved facility, parent/teacher conferences, Principal's communications on important issues, recognition nights (academics as well as sports), Model UN, Math Team, honor roll breakfast, Latin Club - too many things to name. But lots of opportunities for kids to branch out and feel supported in trying new things.

strong booster clubs with parents

Diane Whitmore - AWESOME teacher. Has the respect of all of the students and parents. She attends a lot of after school activities, plays in the band, the students LOVE her. Saturday night a college junior and his parents all made a bee-line for her to give her a hug. I have a FHS alum that says she was the best teacher in the school. Interview her before she retires and replicate her style.

Keeping me informed when my child is not present for the day

Glad to know FHS is considering student's artistic input in making FHS their own through the student body's creative efforts (something that is evident when visiting neighboring schools). FHS is doing a good job communicating day to day calendars and events, FHS does a good job conveying that they care and are invested in the school's future and doing well

Diane Whitmore - AWESOME teacher. Has the respect of all of the students and parents. She attends a lot of after school activities, plays in the band, the students LOVE her. Saturday night a college junior and his parents all made a bee-line for her to give her a hug. I have a FHS alum that says she was the best teacher in the school. Interview her before she retires and replicate her style.

Communication from administrators

fostering a welcoming, inclusive & respectful environment

Parent communication.

Many things. I feel the school offers a challenging and engaging curriculum. My son feels comfortable in the school's environment and enjoys his relationships with his teachers.

The culture on Nordic and lax teams are awesome. There are some fine teachers and interesting projects in the Humanities.

Teacher-student relationships, multiple ways of learning, engaging instruction

My child has wonderful relationships with her teachers and feels that FHS is a second home. That is a good feeling as a parent

Communication about activities and events are great with emails being sent everyday.

The school does well to keep parents informed and make a positive learning atmosphere for my child.

school very clean and the janitors go out of their way to be helpful, all times of day. the increased time allotment to eat lunch has been increased to a doable time. Thank you for the gender neutral bathrooms. Math and Writing lab - fabulous!!! Academic achievement awards, keep them coming. Attendance check in for students who are late, flows well, but could you be more lenient for students who walk in when the bell rings (sometimes homelife is so hectic in the morning and the high schooler is the only one ready).

Administration is easy to work with. They hear your concerns and will act upon them effectively and efficiently. Handful of teachers who seem to really care about educating students holistically - spirit, body and mind.

Your principal shows tremendous devotion to the welfare and growth of the kids.

Communicating (Ms. Gulco)

### **Freeport High School - Comments**

Academics are top priority and the teachers do a great job educating our kids

Building a sense of community, where everyone is respected, valued, and treated fairly

Since my daughter Meredith received high honors, I can't think of any way to improve on what you are already doing.

Excellent communication

You've done an outstanding job providing an advanced academic track for my two children. With PBL, my youngest is now at risk.

Building a child's self esteem and promoting a strong variety of activities for all types of students.

I was very impressed with the challenge program for incoming freshmen. All three of my high schoolers have benefited from aspects of the mentor program. Ms. Gulko has done a wonderful job with parent communication, even with some especially difficult topics this year.

Promoting the arts and foreign languages!

The teachers are incredibly hard working and caring.

I love how students are being graded on their habits of work.

wonderful teachers and strong school spirit. strong, present leadership.

Communication from administrators is very positive and frequent

Most of the teachers are very good

You send out a lot of good, positive information to parents and students. I'm not so sure you listen as well as you send info out.

I am extremely disenchanted with RSU5. Freeport has lost its soul with the splintering of priorities and control due to consolidation. Our Visual and Performing Arts education is wonderful; facilities are coming around; let's match those with innovative, active, child-centered curricula. Let the teachers lead the way in transformative teaching methodologies with the support of admin rather than fielding legislative compliance directives.

The teacher respond to emails in a timely manner. The special education staff have been remarkable and patient with our child. We feel like they care as much about our child's success as we do.

Ms. Gulko has done wonders for this school. She has great communication and proactive approaches to problems. She listens carefully to staff and students and makes the changes needed to solve issues.

Ms. Gulko and Mr. Mellon have been instrumental in improving the atmosphere of the school and are model administrators with respect to showing a genuine interest in the health and well being of their students, demonstrating care and compassion while maintaining a controlled and orderly learning environment. They are a true gift to our school and the positive learning environment and community that exists within the school and student body. Having had children at FHS under other administrators, the experience is completely different and so very much appreciated.

\* Diverse course offerings

\* Veteran teachers who care deeply about their students and their skills

\* Strong arts and extra-curricular activities portfolio

Providing plenty of assistance.

### **Freeport High School - Comments**

The physical plant is looking great! The bright paint, the art in the cafeteria, the new flooring --all of it-- it all looks sharp and makes a big difference. Thanks for the hard work here.

I appreciate the police presence at the door. So does my teen.

RSU can hire and keep some stellar faculty. Lisa Blier, Charles Andreson, 'Mr G', Rachel Lawson (I am sure there are more, but these are the ones I hear about) obviously love what they do, can connect with teens and inspire them to do their best work.

I love hearing about programs like Challenge Day and Boys to Men. Thanks for offering these and other like them.

Overall the school does many things well. The lack of consistency dropped my ratings.

I have, for the most part been treated politely and friendly.

There is clearly an effort to communicate with parents, I am not sure it is always the right information or concise enough, but it is noted and appreciated.

There is clearly school pride shown by staff and students.

There are a good variety of classes.

Thank you for getting most of the annual forms in digital format. Now just work on that lengthy blue form with tiny fields to fill out!

Communication regarding updates and school news is excellent. Where communication is lacking is when it comes to seeking input from parents--and taking that feedback to heart