

SUSD

2-8-18

Comprehensive  
Sexuality Education  
Parent Focus Group  
Input



# CSE Parent Focus Group

February 8, 2018

48 attended / 40 participants submitted feedback

[CSE Parent Focus Group presentation](#)

The Working Group has read all the feedback received and will consider all comments when narrowing the curriculum program choices to pilot in classrooms, and when finalizing the implementation timeline and opt-out plans.

# CSE Parent Focus Group



## SUSD Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Parent Focus Group Feedback Form

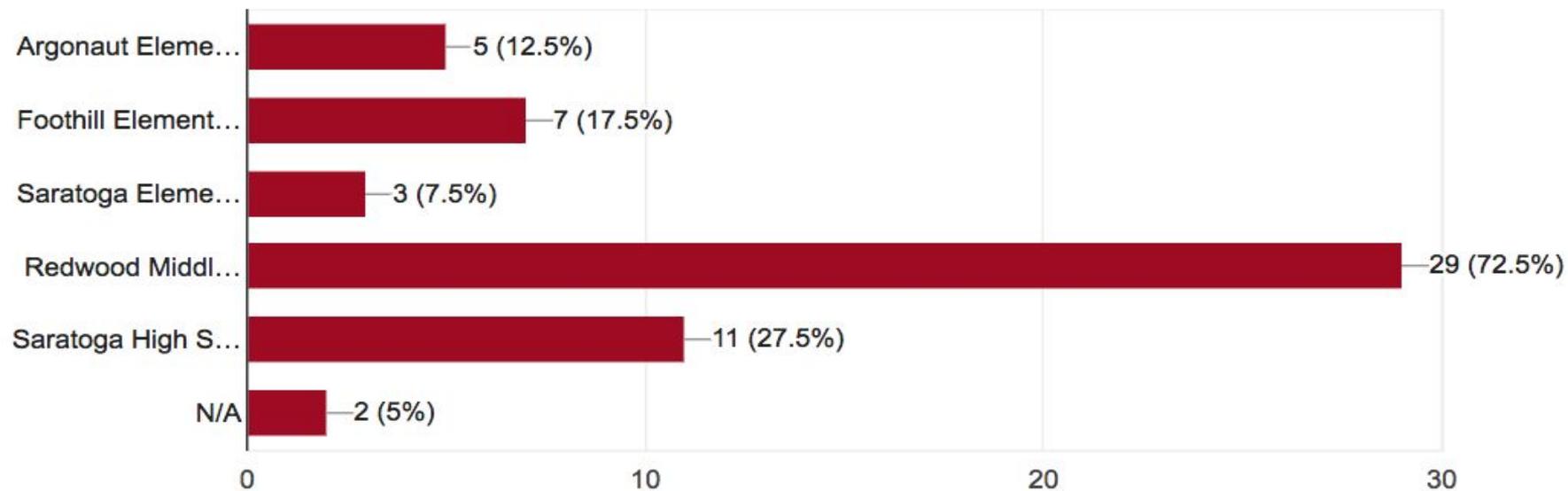
Thank you for providing your feedback to SUSD's Comprehensive Sexuality Education Working Group (CSEWG)!

\* Required



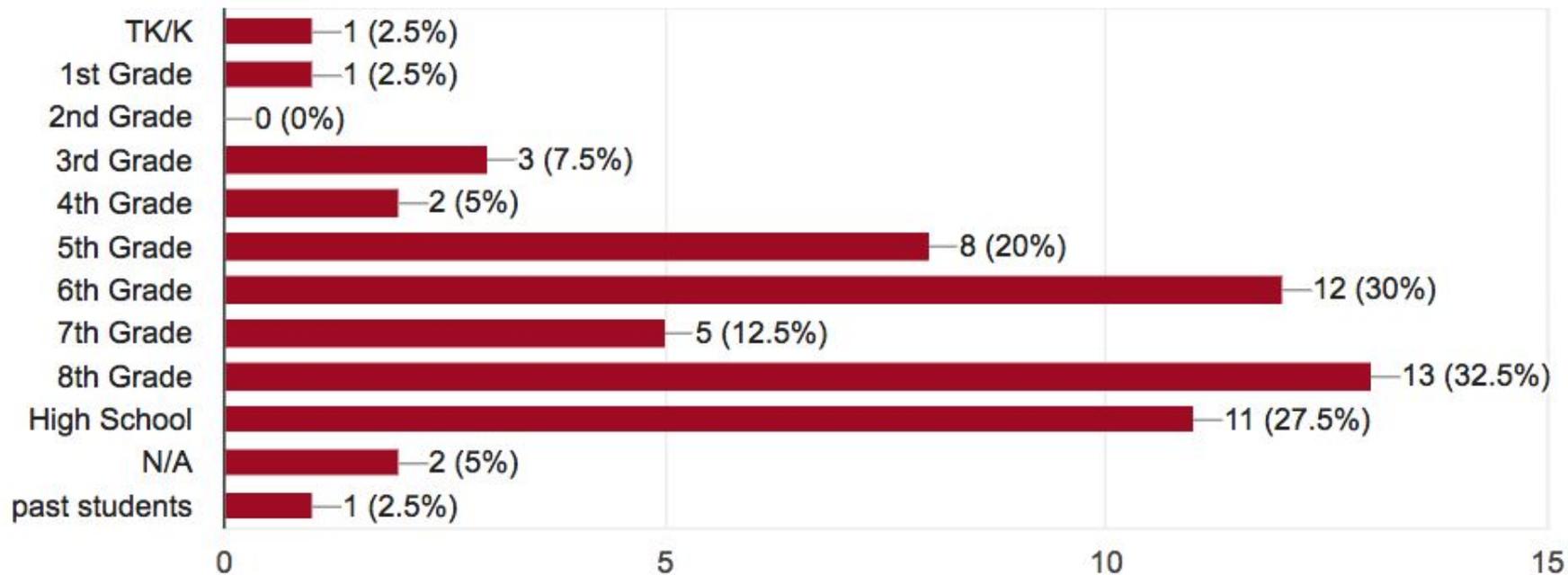
## I have a child(ren) who attends: (check all that apply)

40 responses



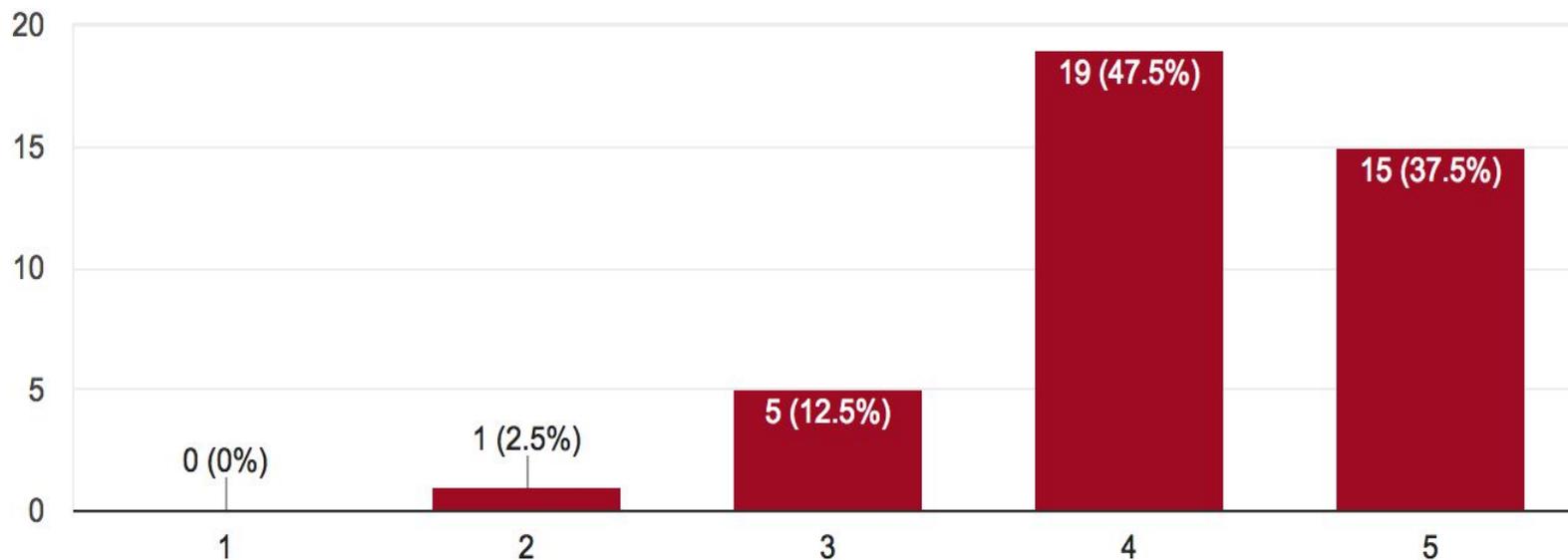
# My child(ren) is/are in: (check all that apply)

40 responses



# How would you rate SUSD's efforts so far to educate parents about the updated CSE laws?

40 responses



# How would you rate SUSD's efforts so far to educate parents about the updated CSE laws?

(common comments from 40 Focus Group attendees)

- Good presentations
- Transparent
- Proactive changes
- SUSD is trying hard on this task
- Thanks for all your efforts you did
- SUSD keeps parents informed promptly
- District is taking great effort to educate parents
- Information sessions keep parents informed
- Put info in multiple places that are accessible for parents - that is good, but it is better to have explanation
- Need to open all parents to access the candidate books as early as possible
- Many opportunities for parents to join a group of learning

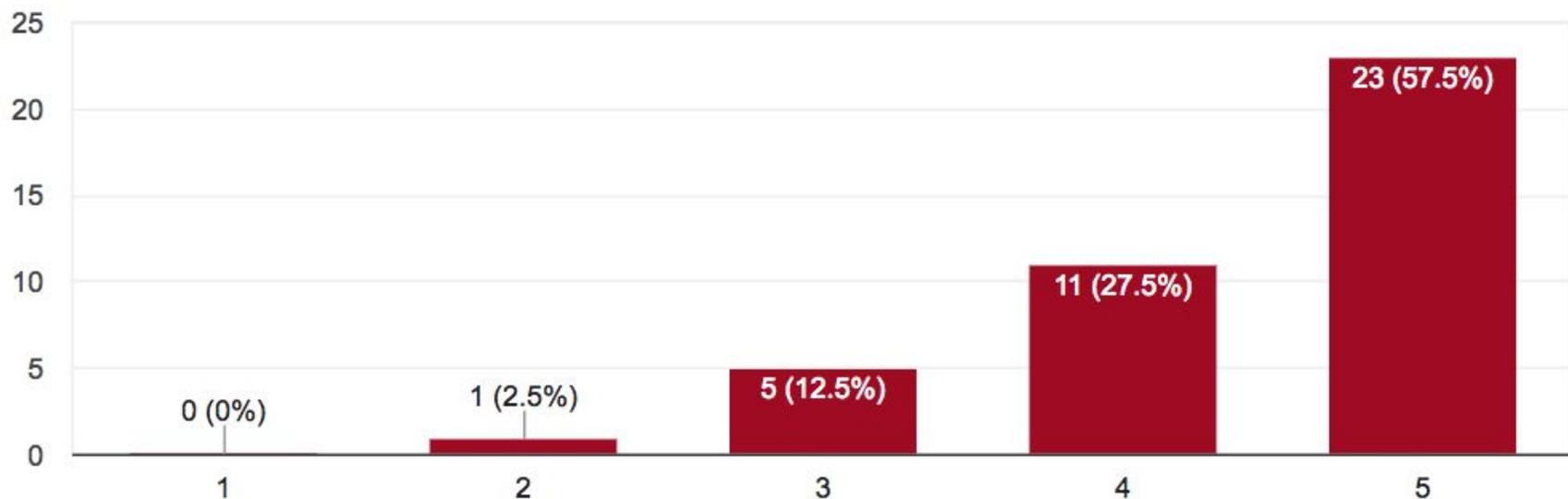
# Ideas & Suggestions for Educating Parents on CSE

(common comments from 40 Focus Group attendees)

- Make it mandatory and after 6 pm so more parents can attend
- Make it available online and make the presentation live so that parents from wherever they are.
- Ask students to bring home the homework for parents
- Parent attendance should be mandatory if district truly believes that parents are the primary source of sexual education for the kids. Please invest in teaching parents to teach this subject at home. Families come from different culture, background, etc. values that families have are very different. What is not considered in Ca Healthy Youth Act is the child's personality, interest, and emotional well-being.
- Select some of the CSE topics that the school is teaching students and teach the parents in parent workshops so parents can experience what students' CSE class looks like.
- Set-up a training session for parents. They are more likely to attend it if they feel that will help them communicate better with their teens
- Allow parents direct access to all curricula.
- Invite consultants from various backgrounds instead of from groups or agencies of similar value/backgrounds.

## Parent Engagement: In general, how would you rank the level of parent engagement required (i.e., homework assignments) when selecting CSE curriculum for SUSD?

40 responses



# Importance of Parent Engagement

## (Common Comments from 40 Focus Group Attendees)

- Homework assignments will spark discussion within the family. The material sent home will give parents a guideline as to what to address at that point in time.
- This is the first time I became aware of this. Parents need to be more involved in providing input for the curriculum.
- At the end of day it's parents' ultimate responsibility to conduct sex education. Whatever program the school selects shouldn't hinder or overwrite parents' efforts.
- Families have various value systems, no single curriculum can satisfy the variety.
- I didn't have much talk with my 9th grader before today. I'll start talking today.
- Very uncomfortable topic for most parents. Parent engagement is preferred, but we can't drag parents in who refuse. I believe best approach is to at a minimum, have parents NOT opt out!
- As every seminar pointed out, family and parents are primary sex educators for our students; the selection of curricula will be one of the most key parts for parents who can get the ideas and link family values to school teaching. Being involved in the selection process, as parents, we also have a chance to realize the reality and adapt the way to educate and communicate with our kids.
- I feel it's very important for students to talk to parents about this information and having homework assignments helps with that. If the parents know there are homework assignments for every lesson, they can ask their child about it if they are not forthcoming themselves.

# Most Important Criteria to Consider when Selecting CSE Curriculum (Common Comments from 40 Focus Group Attendees)

- Good scientific information that can be presented in a matter-of-fact fashion.
- Success in other districts. Accessible information for parents and children. Scenario practice for students.
- Developmentally-appropriate, age-appropriate
- Be sensitive to our community composition and select curriculum that other districts with similar demographics have found suitable.
- Parents' feedback, teachers' evaluation, reasonable lesson plans
- Educate both kids and parents
- Safe sex, responsibility, protect self and respect others, be healthy
- Remove examples that promote sex at middle school age. Do not mix boys and girls in the class unless fine line of sexual harassment has been explained. Later in adulthood, they need to avoid making others to feel "uncomfortable". I am worried that mixing boys and girls in the same sex education class will send a wrong message that might cause some sexual harassment problems in the future.
- Good disease prevention; option to opt-out part of sessions which parents consider inadequate
- A curriculum or way of instruction that honors and emphasizes that the value system for families can be different from what's being taught at school and that does not mean that the family values are wrong... in such cases, students should talk to their parents.
- Balanced curriculum and parental education and involvement.

# Comments About *Health Connected*

(Common Comments from 40 Focus Group Attendees)

- Too much focus on the physical and emotional part of a relationship and anatomy. There is no focus on values.
- Really extreme and bad case studies in the curriculum. Being interactive is not a good form of sex education. Class discussion of 20 young kids is not an effective way of learning this topic. When did we adults openly discuss sex in such a large group?
- Too explicit. Please do not use this one.
- Looks like a great curriculum. The website is excellent and resources are accessible
- Looks good! Would like to see more about dealing with the peer pressure.
- All curricula seem to be very similar
- Oral and anal sex - is that really necessary?
- I need to get more info. But I like the idea that sex is positive and not taboo. I think there is a balance in their education.
- Disease prevention, healthy and correct/positive sexual understanding
- Heard and read from newspapers that this HC is very controversial. So please carefully review.
- Health Connected covered most topics but is weak in parent engagement.

# Comment About *Positive Prevention Plus*

(Common Comments from 40 Focus Group Attendees)

- Not sure the role playing would assist in the process.
- Why is there no focus on values?
- I like this curriculum, all necessary subjects are covered in a factual way.
- I really like it because that it involves the parents more, and the way it is organized is logically clear and great!
- Closest to traditional sex education
- More suitable to the values of this community
- Positive Prevention Plus is excellent program to provide all the necessary unbiased facts in leading children to positive sexual activities and preventing negative consequences. Great in emphasizing parents' engagement. Highly suggest to use this as main material for CSE in our district.
- Seems like there are less interactive scenarios in this curriculum than Health Connected. Not sure if that's a pro or con.
- Details about disease transmission with different types of sex is good but I would prefer not too many details.

# Comments About 3Rs (*Rights, Respect, Responsibility*)

(Common Comments from 40 Focus Group Attendees)

- The anatomy section should be a must because it's scientific and fact based.
- Again - too much focus on the physicality and anatomical parts.
- Like the transparency. Would love to read more.
- Good basic focus
- I understand and value that the information is available online. I am worried that parents will pre-teach the curriculum and their child will not be fully engaged in their teachers lessons. I feel this will change the program and make it ineffective for some.
- Acceptable, but I think it's too much content.
- Easy to access
- Need to study material further
- 3R's has good supplemental materials. Will be good add-on to Positive Prevention Plus.
- I really like to choose from all three and create one that is more whole oriented toward our specific needs as community. Have you ever thought about it? Why not? It also needs to be fluid; it does not to be a fixed program. Life is changing, population is changing.
- There doesn't seem to be much parent interaction as homework or required discussions which seems to be a con.
- Some of the information available on the website had too much explicit information about periods, not sure if everyone really needs to know that.

# Comments about Implementation Plan

(common comments from 40 Focus Group attendees)

- I feel the district is doing this right and is ahead of the game.
- Not sure about kids going through two programs. It's very time-consuming and discussing a very sensitive topic twice?
- I don't think it's necessary to have 2 curriculum to pilot, extra money spend and extra work for the teachers, and it will eventually still go down to one curriculum, so just pick PPP.
- I will need to evaluate as the implementation unfolds.
- I trust that our school district will make the process transparent, and based on the community feedback. For pilot phase, I am just wondering how to pilot two at the same time for 8th graders.
- Need to enable parents to learn more about these curriculum in more details, then take into consideration unique cultural and family background in SUSD community through parent input.
- How do you split the students? Who will take this curriculum and who will take that one? Should we just choose one curriculum instead? The problem of the different teacher teaches the different curriculum is that the teacher's teaching style really affects the students' experience about the curriculum? How do you minimize this effect?

# Comments about Opt-Out

(Common Comments from 40 Focus Group Attendees)

- Supply materials to parents who opt-out so at least hard copies are provided. Perhaps the parents would like to just give out information to their kids based on what they see need.
- Parents should have the right to opt-out.
- Parents really really really really need to think about opting out their child.
- I prefer all our kids be educated at the same time since they might become lifetime friends.
- Will consider opt-out depending on what curriculum is chosen
- It is parents' choice and should be granted
- Opt-out is important for satisfying different value systems
- I believe we owe it to our children to have as many (ALL) kids get this information. Make opt-out difficult and have a chance to reach out to those who do opt-out.
- Good have it, but not a good idea to opt-out
- It depends on the parents. Parents have to know that kids will learn about these topics from around them. It's better they know accurate information from a trusted source.
- I think it's personal choice. If parents feel uncomfortable with Sex Ed curriculum, opt-out is a very good option.

# Comments about Parent Workshops

(Common Comments from 40 Focus Group Attendees)

- Please publicize these sessions and stress parents to provide input.
- I would love to have real course materials to review.
- Parent Workshop was well organized; chromebook for feedback is a good idea.
- Have them in the evening so more parents can join.
- Having the actual teacher binder and student material will help. Parents may have specific topics of concern and not having the samples makes it difficult to evaluate the different curriculum.
- I really want to look through the whole curriculum to understand more. Will the district open the curriculum to review by the community?
- Have multiple review sections to fit in to the schedule of more parents.
- Align with high school material and let parents know the differences.
- We should try to make all this info available online (soft copy of curriculum) or have future meetings through online media

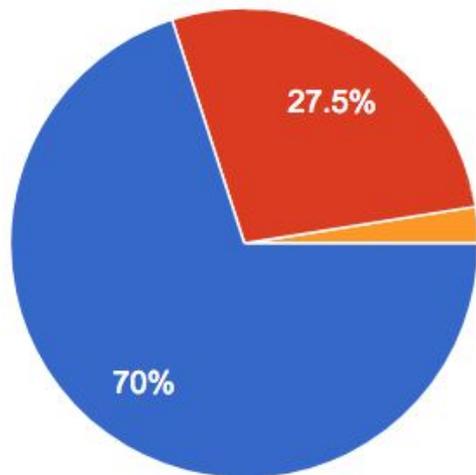
# Comments About Parent Communication

(common comments from 40 Focus Group attendees)

- Need more publicity; send email reminders; notify parents via flyers, wechat, etc.
- Keep transparency
- You already did very good job, thank you.
- Need more details about the material
- Please send us email, I love to meet with other parents, it's a community issue, we all love our children and want the best for them.
- Choose evening time for working parents, recording presentation for later access, use social media for online live presentation (for example, facebook live)
- So far so good. I feel I got notified of upcoming workshops/meetings ahead of time. The district is doing a good job in communication. I appreciated the Mandarin-translated communications very much. They really provide clear info in Mandarin so I don't have to guess.
- Will keep myself in the loop through email
- In addition to the workshop, can these presentation materials be sent through email to parents who cannot come to the meeting?

# How would you rate today's Parent Focus Group meeting overall.

40 responses



- **SATISFIED:** Overall I was satisfied with today's meeting.
- **NEUTRAL:** Overall I feel neutral about today's meeting
- **NOT SATISFIED:** Overall I was not satisfied with today's meeting

# Comments about Parent Focus Group

(Common Comments from 40 Focus Group Attendees)

- I love to learn what the kids are taught in school so we can have the conversation at home.
- The presenters were very prepared and knowledgeable. I learned a lot.
- There were areas that I was not thinking about.
- It was overall a great presentation and I understand more details of the programs.
- Get basic idea and given chance to feedback
- I think the team has done a great job.
- The information is general.
- I would have preferred to have material of all 3 curriculum now instead of waiting until we prune it down to 2. There are only specific topics of interests/concerns so while it make take a long time to review all the material, it might be feasible for me to evaluate the specific content in each of the curricular in a reasonable amount of time. Having to rely on an overview to determine which curriculum is most appealing for my family based on a high-level overview isn't necessarily that helpful.
- Thank you for the comparison, I have more ideas about the curriculum now.
- As parent we are more interested in the difference between the programs.
- Thanks for involving us, I think it is very important to be together in this matter.
- It's informative. Looking forward for more details of viewing the 2 programs

# Additional Questions, Comments, Suggestions for CSE Working Group

(Common Comments from 40 Focus Group Attendees)

- I appreciate what you are doing.
- I think condom demonstration is important, but it sounds like decision has been made for the district.
- Please ask parents to review the school program before it starts.
- Please remind the children that the parents may have different thoughts and they should consider listening to input and lessons from them 'ALSO' not just what is thrown to them at school.
- Don't think the middle school needs to actively interact with the content. Just teach the facts.
  - Continue the outreach and give parents more opportunities to provide feedback, even if they can't attend the meetings.