



Education Task Force

Presentation of Findings
NISD Board Meeting
May 7th, 2024

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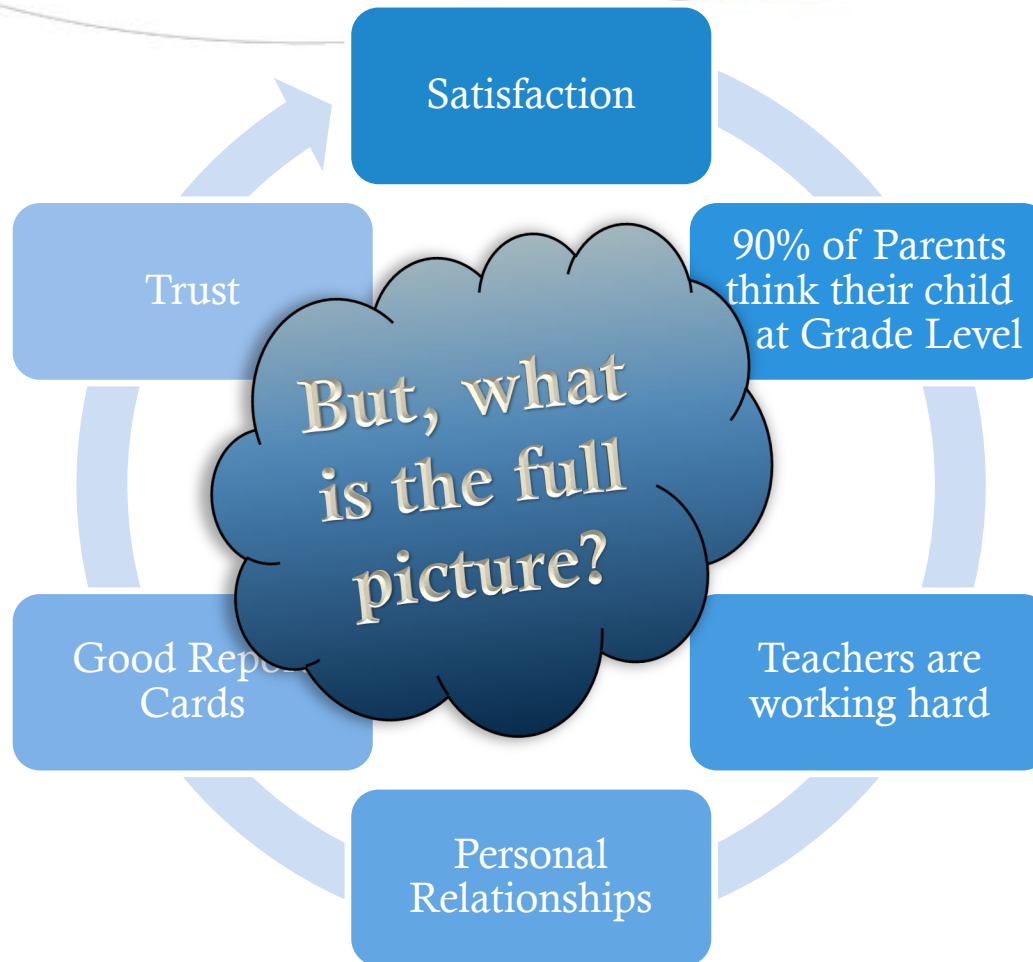
Newport Educational Task Force (ETF)

The ETF is a citizens group formed in 2019 that aims to help NISD become a top performing district that attracts and successfully educates students from all populations in Newport.

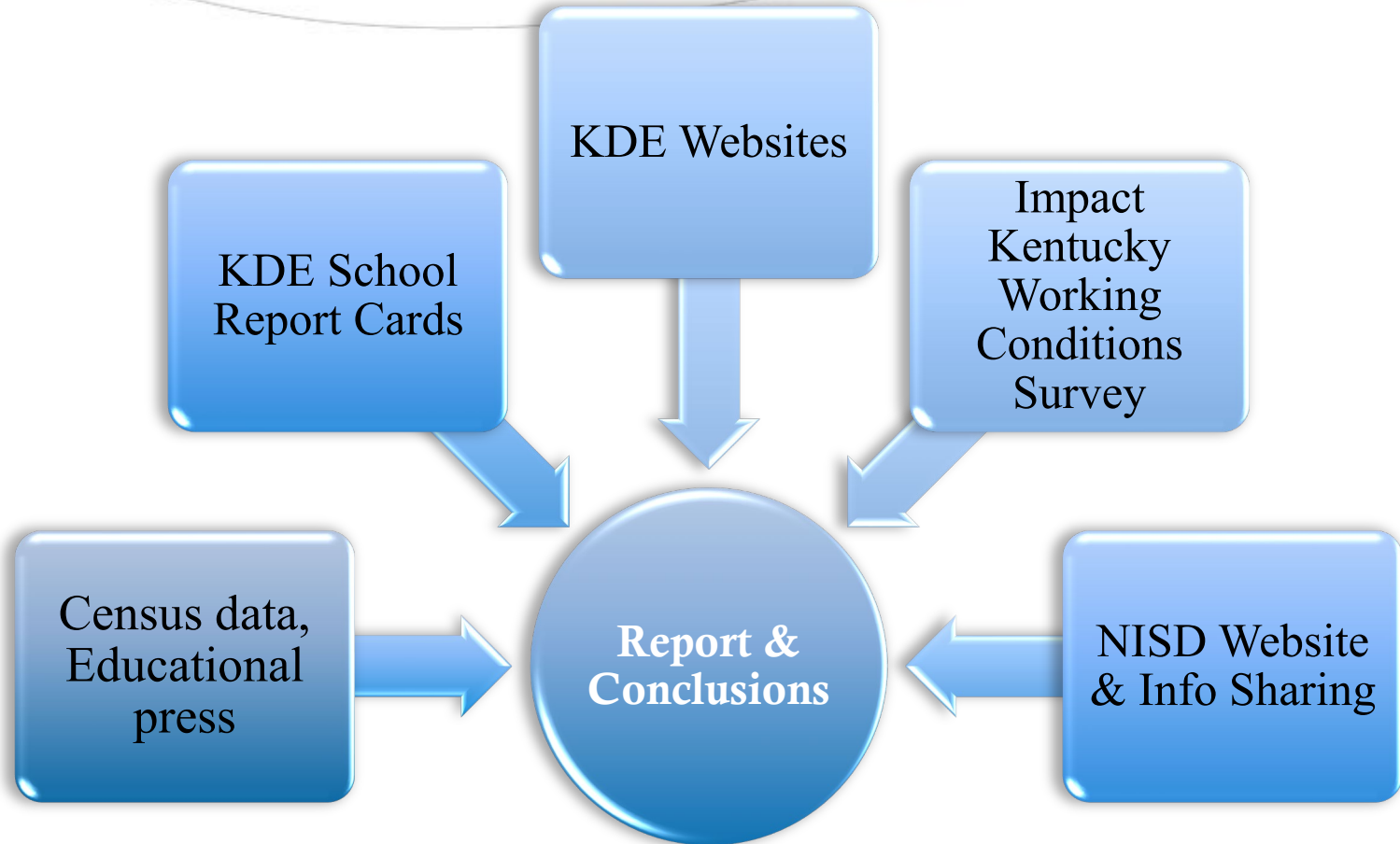


Schools & The Community

A Special Relationship

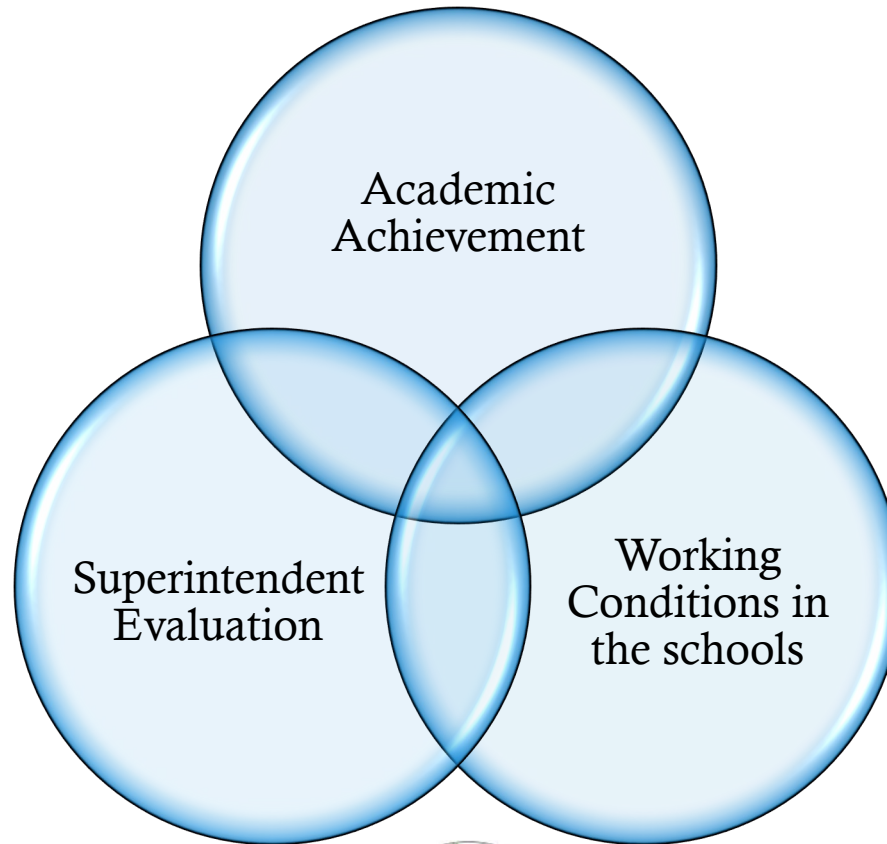


Fact-Based Analysis



Data Driven Report

The 2024 Report draws on data informing three areas:



Academic Achievement

The foundational purpose of all schools is
to impart the skills and knowledge
preparing community youth for life and
work.



Academic Achievement

Overall Performance Rating

NISD 2022/23 Scores

Legend ● Red (Lowest Performance) ● Orange ● Yellow ● Green ● Blue (Highest Performance)

Overall performance rating is one (1) of the five (5) color-coded performance levels that aggregates all available state indicator data for performance status.

Elementary School



Orange
FEDERAL CLASSIFICATION ⓘ
Not Applicable

Middle School



Red
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Not Applicable

High School



Red
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Not Applicable

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Academic Achievement – vs Benchmark Elementary/Middle School

KY State Assessment Testing: % Students scoring Proficient (goal) or Distinguished (highest)				
	Elementary		Middle School	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
NISD	26%	18%	28%	14%
State	47%	42%	45%	37%

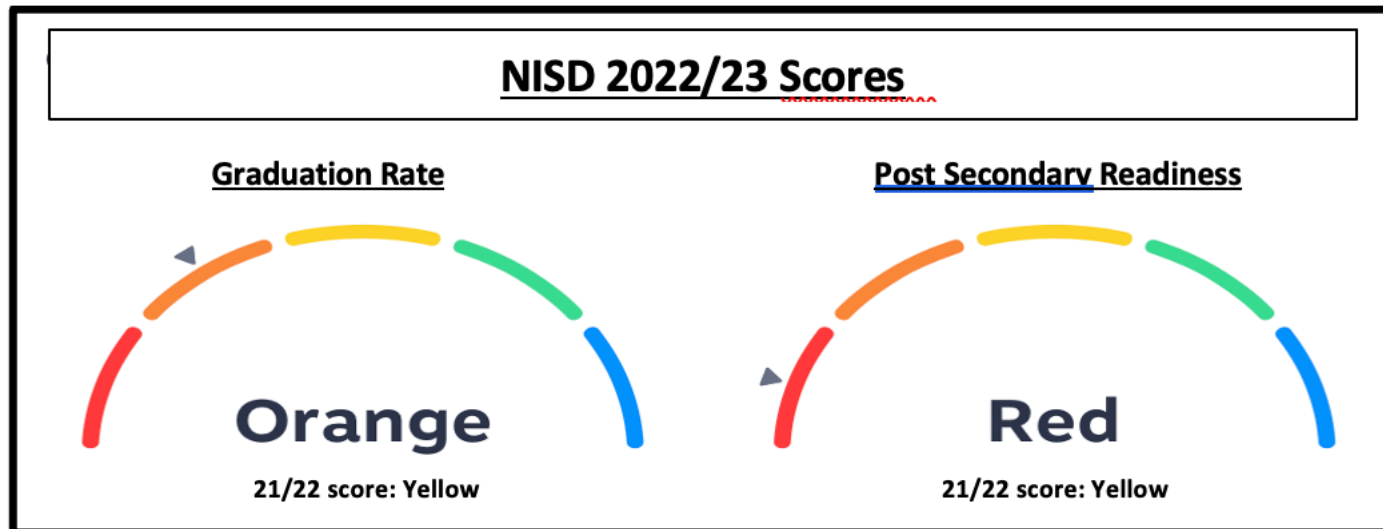
NWEA MAP Testing - NISD Percentile ranking versus National						
	<u>Primary (K-2)</u>		<u>Intermediate (Grades 3-6)</u>		<u>Middle School (Grades 7-8)</u>	
	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>
2022/23	54th	61st	30th	22nd	35th	24th
2021/22	47th	57th	39th	27th	35th	29th



Academic Achievement – vs Benchmark High School

2022/23 ACT Performance: % of High School Students Meeting State Benchmarks* Derived from ACT Scores				
	ACT Score (Max 36)	Reading (% benchmark)	Math (% Benchmark)	English (% benchmark)
NISD	15.6	22%	16%	33%
State	17.8	44%	33%	47%

**Benchmarks are a measure similar to “proficiency,” the level at which competency is demonstrated.*



Contributing Factor (1 of 2): Kindergarten Readiness

While not a “school-only” problem, better Kindergarten preparedness programs are needed in the City of Newport.

2023/24	Newport	State	Covington
Composite Score* (% Ready)	19%	46%	32%

**The Kindergarten Screen composite is a score based on entry testing. It is used to help school personnel determine if a child will need enrichments or intervention support in the kindergarten classroom.*

	Early in Year	Later in Year (better readiness leads to better perf)			
	Kindergarten Readiness	Reading (iReady)	Math (iReady)	Reading (MAP)	Math (MAP)
2022/23	33%	51%	57%	69 th Percentile	72 nd Percentile
2021/22	21%	35%	35%	N/A	N/A



Contributing Factor (2 of 2): Mobile Students

Stronger programs specifically designed to the needs of mobile students are needed to get them up to speed faster within NISD.

A Comparison of mobile students (those who have transferred in/out) versus those who have attended NISD regularly

Proficient + Distinguished Scores: Mobile vs Continuously Enrolled NISD Students

	6th Grade			10th Grade	
	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>		<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Continuously Enrolled	35%	54%		29%	43%
Mobile Students	22%	33%		6%	15%
Difference	+13%	+21%		+22%	+28%



Working Conditions


The key foundation to enable positive change. Essential to improve the overall academic results.



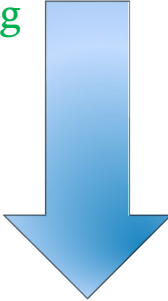
Working Conditions

1. The Impact Kentucky Working Conditions Survey is taken every two years. For 2024, 84% of NISD teachers responded to this survey.
2. The data reveal NISD scores statistically significantly lower than State averages on 4 of the 9 topics. This is an improvement versus 2022, but still worse than 2020.

Better than or similar to State:

- 
- ✓ Resources (Technology & Learning Spaces)
 - Professional Learning
 - Feedback and Coaching
 - Emotional Well Being/Belonging
 - Education all Students (Diversity)

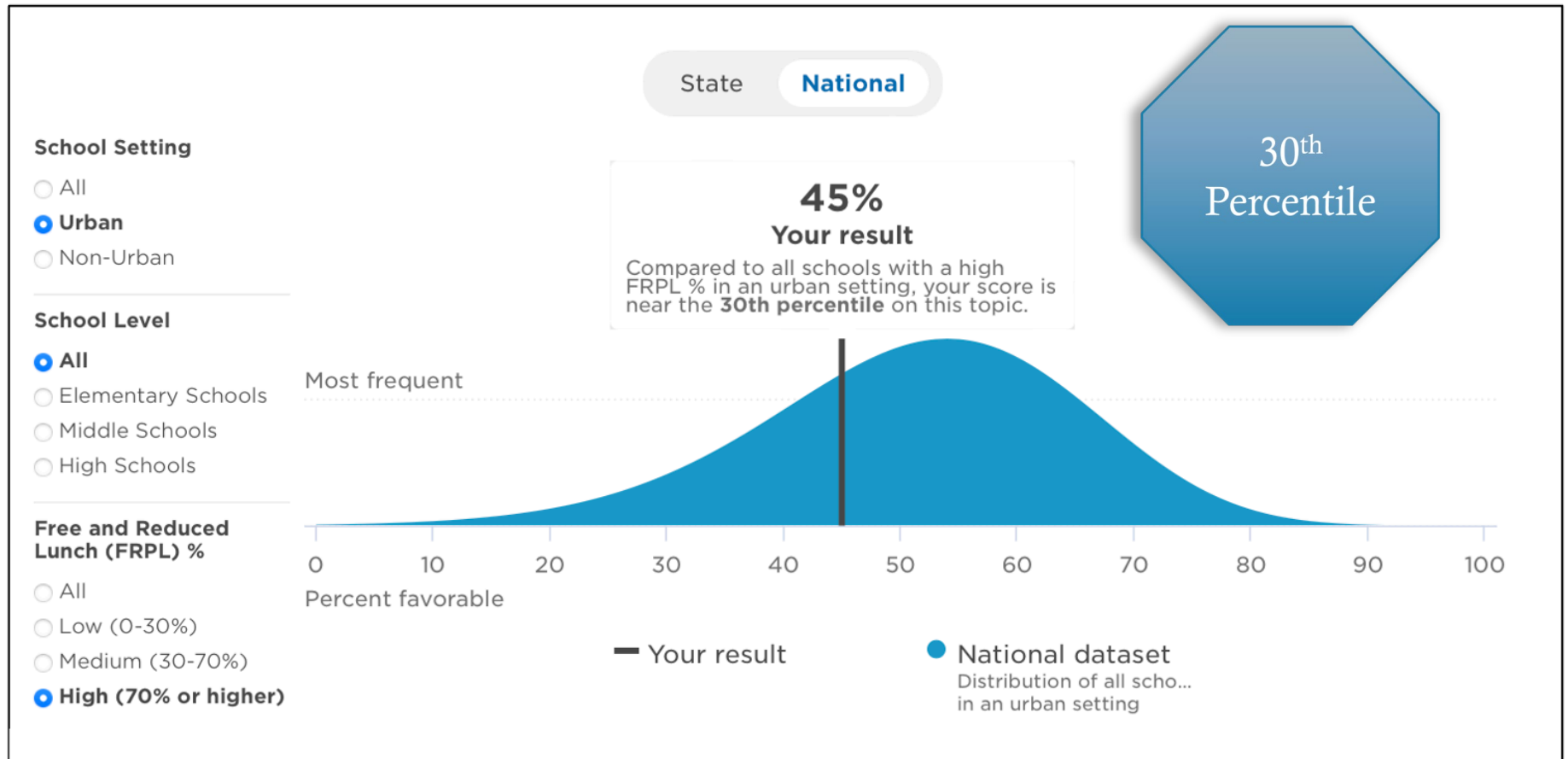
Statistically Worse Than State:

- 
- x School Climate
 - x School leadership
 - x Staff-Leadership relationships
 - x Managing student behavior

3. The subpar working conditions in Newport schools are likely contributing to the high turnover rate of 32%.



Working Conditions



Superintendent Evaluation

- ❑ We are thankful that the NISD Board has been consistently fulfilling this responsibility.
- ❑ In reviewing the most recent summative evaluation of the Superintendent, it should be more specific and measurable.
- ❑ Specifics were given in the report. Here is one example:

Current Goal Language	Language with clearer expression of purpose	Measures of Performance & Notes								
2. To continue to model and promote high expectations for academic excellence.	Superintendent will raise academic achievement among all students and programs.	<table><tr><td>Exemplary</td><td>Accomplished</td><td>Developing</td></tr><tr><td>Grade level proficiency at 75% (as per Strategic Plan)</td><td>At State Average</td><td>10% improvement</td></tr></table>			Exemplary	Accomplished	Developing	Grade level proficiency at 75% (as per Strategic Plan)	At State Average	10% improvement
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Finances

- ❑ NISD is a well funded school district

Per Pupil \$ 2021/22	Newport	Ft Thomas	Covington	KY State
Number of Students	1295	3064	3449	3732 (avg)
Total Spending per student	\$26,827	\$15,573	\$19,321	\$16,422
% Change vs previous year	+15%	-15%	+7%	+9%
<i>Admin as a % of Total Spending</i>	10.4%	11.6%	14.6%	9.2%

- ❑ In 2022/23, NISD increased enrollment (+2.5%), increased per student spending and decreased % spent on administrative.
- ❑ Newport Schools have one of the highest tax rates in the region.



Summary

1. There has been some improvement on internal measures:
 - ✓ School climate versus previous survey
 - ✓ Administrative spending on a % basis
 - ✓ Collaboration with the ETF
 - ✓ Increased enrollment
 - ✓ Some academic improvement at the Middle & Elementary School level
2. The anticipated turnaround of NISD has not happened, and NISD continues to rank among the lowest performing districts in Kentucky while being well funded.
3. Working climate, while improved, remains behind the State and 4 years ago.
4. NISD's low Kindergarten readiness scores are impacting the proficiency of early learners.
5. The academic results of continuously enrolled students are outpacing the results of mobile students.
6. The Superintendent evaluation process needs to be more data-driven and objective.



ETF Recommendations

Academic Achievement – Elevate Student Performance:

1. Develop a Pre-K program in the city. While not a school-only problem, NISD should take the lead to get a broad reaching all-day Pre-K program in Newport.
2. Improve or change the supplemental programs (and/or policies) for mobile students.
3. Use a more measurable scorecard to gauge performance of the Superintendent.
4. Increase expectations and supervision for all employees, especially for leadership.
5. Hold all employees accountable with precise measures of academic achievement.

Working Conditions – Improve the work environment:

1. Leverage the current NWEA contract on school culture more heavily to enable faster and bigger work environment improvements and address the working conditions deficit.
2. Increase teacher salaries to rank among the highest in the region.



Conclusions

- ✓ While there have been some positive changes over the past 2 years, expecting new and different results with only minor changes is unrealistic.
- ✓ Continual improvement is the enemy of innovation and NISD needs innovation. Now is the time to make more dramatic, creative, and significant solutions.
- ✓ In 2020, the ETF stated that if results were not realized by 2025, we would recommend more significant change, this needs to be explored.



Questions/Comments /Discussion?

Contact the Education Task Force via:
NewportEducationTaskForce@GMail.com



What can you do?

- ✓ Ask tough, fair questions
- ✓ Attend School Board Meetings – they answer to YOU
- ✓ Insist that the City Council make this a priority and follow-up
- ✓ Run for School Board or support others who are qualified
- ✓ Volunteer at the school (eg Reading program, mentoring)



Community Feedback

- ✓ Why does NISD spend so much more than others – what are we getting for this investment?
- ✓ What or who needs to change at the school?
- ✓ If our teachers are paid less, then what are they spending money on?
- ✓ Why has there been little to no academic progress versus 2 years ago?
- ✓ Frustration that we are doing a disservice to many of the kids who continue to move through the system.
- ✓ What changes are the Board focused on to make fast, positive progress?



ETF 2022 Recommendations

- ✓ Increase teacher salaries to rank among the highest in the region.
- ✓ Dramatically improve the quality of school climate, management of student behavior, and teacher-leader relationships.
- ✓ Hire a third-party culture expert to identify and address the working conditions deficit.
- ✓ Locate, recruit, and hire talented, resourceful educators to meet the needs of NISD students.

