

School District OR-1

April 30, 2015



YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS

**PRESENTED BY
LARRY L. DLUGOSH
EMILSSON, LLC
LINCOLN, NE**

Purposes of the Study



- The purposes of the youth survey were to gain information about the opportunities for youth in District OR-1 and to examine the kinds of things youth may want in order to make their schools and communities even better places to study, live, learn, and work.

OR-1 Youth Survey: *When and Who?*



On **March 25 and 26** a survey of students in grades 5-12 was conducted in the Palmyra-Bennet School District.

Total Student participation: 228

Bennet Elementary (5-6)	60
Palmyra Jr/Sr High (7-12)	168

45% Female

55% Male

Question: What do you plan to do following graduation?



	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Head Count</i>
Attend a four-year college or university	56.58%	129
Attend a community college or trade school	7.89%	18
Serve in the United States Military	8.33%	19
Work for a company or for someone other than myself	3.51%	8
Self-employment	2.19%	5
Other	4.39%	10
Undecided	17.11%	39
Total	100.00%	228

Perceived Work or Career Field



	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Head Count</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources	11.40%	26	(6/7)
Architecture & Construction	10.96%	25	(8)
Arts, AV Technology & Communication	16.67%	38	(3/4)*
Business Management & Administration	11.40%	26	(6/7)
Education and Training	15.79%	36	(5)*
Finance	4.82%	11	
Government & Public Administration	2.19%	5	
Health Sciences (Medicine, Nursing, Med. Tech)	25.44%	58	(2)*
Hospitality & Tourism	4.39%	10	
Human Services	6.14%	14	(9)
Information Technology	4.39%	10	
Law, Safety, Corrections, & Security	16.67%	38	(3/4)*
Manufacturing	5.70%	13	(10)
Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math	28.51%	65	(1)*
Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics	4.82%	11	
Total Respondents:		228	

Preparation



Is your school preparing you for your next stage of life?

	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Head Count</i>
Yes	58.77%	134
No	11.40%	26
Not certain	29.89 %	68

Rank your school as a place to learn

	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Head Count</i>
● Excellent	20.54%	46
● Above average	29.91%	67
● Average	43.30%	97
● Below average	3.57%	8
● Poor	2.68%	6

More or Different classes?



Percentage

Head Count

Advanced Science classes	28.96%	64 (4)
Advanced math classes	24.89%	55
Classes about types of careers and career choices	41.18%	91 (1)
Business Management classes	16.29%	36
Entrepreneurship classes	14.48%	32
Study Skills classes	22.62%	50 (5)
Foreign Language classes	29.41%	65 (3)
Speech, Drama, or Debate	20.81%	46
Technology classes	31.67%	70 (2)
Construction Sciences classes	22.17%	49

Other (please specify) (*See below)

16.29%

36

Automotive class, Auto tech, Mechanics (4), Architecture classes (3), Writing, Advanced Writing, Journalism (3), Photography or media classes (2), Military Science (2), Home EC (2), better sex Ed, more medical classes, How to Write Books, art teacher, sign language class, Survival, If there is any art classes I'd like to do that, Robotics, Health classes, Mechanical design or mechanics, Money management and sports managements, Wood shop, Some type of programming course, Clubs, Dance or gymnastics, Ag, Animal. Science, Welding, (a course that) goes in depth about each job,

Three Suggestions: make school a better place to learn

Category 1:	Suggestions related to the teaching and learning environment (63/114/19)	196
Category 2:	Suggestions related to adding more classes (57/35/16)	108
Category 3:	Suggestions related to student issues/well-being (12/10/8)	30
Category 4:	Suggestions related to facilities (24/14/11)	49
Category 5:	Suggestions related to school activities (6/6/0)	12
Category 6:	Other/Miscellaneous (8/9/21)	38

Rating the Community as a Place to Live



	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Head Count</i>
Excellent	24.54%	55
Above average	25.45%	57
Average	40.63%	91
Below average	6.70%	15
Poor	2.68%	6

- 1: Build a Swimming Pool 21 Responses
- 2: Pick up litter – keep the community clean/recycle 19 Responses
- 3: More activities for younger people (Community and school) 15 Responses
- 4: A bigger and better park (includes skate park = 4) 14 Responses
- 5: Pave the roads, fix the roads, new roads/streets 6 Responses

Would you live in Bennet/Palmyra/Douglas as an adult?



111 respondents indicated **yes**;

	Percentage	Head Count
• There are jobs or business opportunities in the community or nearby.	19.47%	22
• This is a good area to raise a family.	57.52%	65
• I have family ties to this area.	53.98%	61
• The cost of living in this area is reasonable.	31.86%	36
• The schools are of good quality.	55.75%	63
• Recreational and entertainment options are plentiful.	19.47%	22
• Other (please specify)	21.24%	24

Would you live in Bennet/Palmyra/Douglas as an adult?



111 respondents indicated **no**.

	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Head Count</i>
• I can make more money somewhere else.	48.31%	57
• There are no opportunities in this area for the type of career I want to pursue.	66.95%	79
• I want to live in a larger community.	49.15%	58
• There are not enough entertainment or recreational opportunities in this area.	44.07%	52
• The schools are not of high quality.	19.49%	23
• The cost of living is too high in this area.	4.24%	05
• Other (please specify) (*See Below)	16.10%	19

Question 14: If an adult leader invited you to become involved in a committee or task force to help make your school or community better, would you volunteer?



	<i>Percentages</i>	<i>Head Count</i>
Yes	81.00%	179
No	19.00%	42
Total		221

Students Entrepreneurship



- Approximately 16% of student respondents indicated they were engaged in a business of their own at the current time and approximately 20% of the respondents indicated they would be interested in starting a business in the communities as adults.
- A variety of business ideas were suggested (See detailed report)

What Do the Results Reveal?



- First, the responses are the perceptions of 228 students ranging from age 9-18. Their perceptions are influenced by their friends, family, their own observations, and their hopes for the future of their community and school.
- Next, about half rate the community as an average to above average place to live and half rate it average to below or poor.
- In terms of the school, approximately half of the respondents rate it and above average to excellent place to learn and half rate it average to poor.
- Finally, **81%** of the students surveyed indicated they would volunteer to make their communities or schools better place to live and learn **IF** an adult asked them to serve. **Young people want to be involved.**

What do the Results Reveal, continued?



- Approximately 64% of the respondents indicated they wanted to attend a 4-year or 2-year college following graduation. (Those who indicated community college or trade school was fairly low (8%).)
- Almost 65% of the students revealed they were interested in seeking jobs related to health sciences or S.T.E.M fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
- Students indicated they wanted to know more about: **career choices and preparation for careers** of the future (41%), then **technology** (32%), then **foreign language** (29%), then **advanced science** (29%), then **study skills** (23%).
Advanced math was 6th with 25%.) They appear to be focused on learning **how and what** to learn.
- Students want their learning environment to be active and challenging and they want to be **engaged** in the learning process. (There were 196 responses about the teaching and learning environment.)

Suggestions



- The school district and communities continue to obtain and share common, essential, and trustworthy data.
- Continue to develop the school board vision of the Palmyra-Bennet School District of the future.
- Changes are coming – be prepared to address them before and after they arrive.
- Continue to monitor short-term and long-term plans for the school district; be prepared to revise as necessary.
- Continue to make accommodations for additional educational space.
- Monitor the impact of early childhood education on student numbers and building space.

Suggestions



- Kids and learning are your mission; continue to ensure that current and future students of Palmyra-Bennet are important enough to commit to their success.
- Monitor the impact of Lincoln's expansion and influence on Bennet and Palmyra and their schools.
- Continually communicate the district's vision and mission. Everyone needs to be at the table, however, decisions must be made immediately and those decisions drive the future.
- When new citizens arrive, listen to and monitor their requests. Continue to deliver on your mission and vision so their children will want to attend OR-1 schools.
- Continue to plan and act at the same time.
- P-12 learning is a competitive field – be prepared to compete.

Questions/Comments ?



- What are your questions or comments?