

Strategic Planning Meeting - Mission and Vision

April 16, 2025

Spanish Speaking Families

1. Comments Related to the Statement: "Empowering Atlanta students to shape the future"

- This was the most widely supported statement.
- Participants praised its empowering tone, particularly emphasizing **student ownership** over their educational journey.
 - *Melissa*: Suggested the phrase "their future" to reinforce personal responsibility and agency.
 - *Some participants* affirmed it as excellent and resonant.
 - *Other participants* mentioned that the phrase encapsulates both personal and collective futures.

2. Comments on the Statement: "Educate with excellence – creating growth, building grit, preparing graduates"

- This version did not receive as many direct mentions.
- Participants gravitated more toward the empowering tone of the first statement, which seemed more aspirational and inclusive.

3. Top Priorities Identified by Participants for Schools

Most Frequently Mentioned:

- **High-Quality Teaching**: The most echoed priority across participants.
 - *Participants*: Melissa, Ines, Elizabeth, Ana Lopez, Yeny, among others.
- **Whole-Child Learning**: Strong emphasis on inclusion of **students with special needs**.
 - *iPhone de M G P S*: Advocated repeatedly for better support and inclusion.
- **Equity and Inclusion**: Curriculum fairness, diverse learning needs.
 - *Angelica Tejada, Araliz Zavala*: Focused on access and fairness.
- **Early and Continuous Career Exposure**: Preparing students for real-world success.
- **Support for Special Education**:
 - Participants described current services as "chaotic" and insufficient.
 - Emotional testimonies highlighted neglect in services and need for systemic improvements.

4. Top Priorities for the District/System

Key Areas Identified:

- **Facilities and Infrastructure:** Upgrades especially needed for special education classrooms and technology.
 - *Andrea Valderrama, Ana Lopez, Ines:* Cited security and facility readiness as concerns.
- **Transportation Equity:**
 - Delays or lack of access affect student participation in extracurricular programs.
 - Seen as a barrier to opportunity.
- **Mental Health and Wellness**
- **Staffing and Scheduling:** Efficiency in resource management was suggested.
- **Nutrition and Housing Support:** Recognized as foundational to academic success.
- Multiple participants emphasized special education services must be part of all district-level upgrades.

5. Top Priorities for Family & Community Partnerships

Highlighted Priorities:

- **Accessible Communication:**
 - Strong desire for real-time updates, language support, and transparent dialogue.
 - *Some participants* called this foundational.
- **Tutoring and Mentoring:** Especially for marginalized communities.
- **Support for Marginalized Families:**
 - Emphasis on cultural and socioeconomic understanding in outreach.
- **Shared Responsibility:**
 - Encouragement of two-way accountability between schools and families.
- **Parent Education Programs:**
 - "Parent University" and career-exposure events seen as meaningful ways to involve families and equip them to support their children.