

# Strategic Planning with Spanish Speaking Families

## 3.16

### Schools

- **Bilingual Education:** Strong desire for students to become bilingual from a young age, and for language learning to be available to all students—not just those in DLI (dual language immersion).
- **Academic Core Skills:** Emphasis on reading, math, writing, computer science, and values-based education (like respect).
- **Real-World & Career Readiness:**
  - JROTC and vocational exposure are valued.
  - Students should begin thinking about careers early and learn what scholarships are available for advanced education
- **Classroom Quality:**
  - More individual attention from teachers (concerns about large class sizes).
  - Teachers should avoid favoritism, inappropriate behavior, or distractions (e.g., personal cell phone use).
- **Equity in Learning:** Families want their children to feel capable and empowered, both at school and at home.

### Operations

- **Special Education Support:** Request for special education classrooms to be better aligned with student needs by type of disability.
- **ESOL:** The ESOL program is helpful and supports language development for English learners
- **Technology Access & Language Support:**
  - Students struggling with English should have bilingual support outside of class hours.
  - Homework is challenging without bilingual assistance.
- **Workshop Access:** Parents suggested informational workshops on college planning and scholarships.
- **Safety:** Concerns for children's physical safety were raised and valued.
- **Student Devices:** Families want children to use phones responsibly—only for emergencies, not for games in class.

### Community/Family Partnerships

- **Family Engagement & Communication:**
  - Continued, clear communication with families, even as students grow older. Bilingual communication channels are crucial for family involvement.
- **Respect & Cultural Awareness:** Families want schools to reinforce respect for parents and cultural values at home.
- **Workshops and Guidance:**
  - Parents want guidance in supporting student academics and navigating the school system.
- **Gratitude & Appreciation:**
  - Many parents expressed heartfelt thanks for being heard and supported during this session.