

# Discover: Advanced Learning

## Results

Seattle Public Schools

October 23, 2017



# Agenda

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1. Project Overview
2. Understanding Top Thoughts
3. Digging Deeper
4. Next Steps

# Overview - Steps

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Participants share answers to open ended questions



Participants consider ideas from others and add stars to the ones they like best



Everyone discovers what is important to the group

# Overview - Questions

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1. What are the most important things for us to understand as we consider changes to our high school advanced learning services?
2. What are some things we could put in place to increase high school advanced learning opportunities for more students?
3. What questions do you have about these possible changes?

# Overview - Participation Numbers

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1,819

PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED



4,903

THOUGHTS  
CONTRIBUTED



169,270

TOTAL  
RATINGS

# Overview - Demographics

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16.2% 294  
Elementary

4.1% 75  
K-8

38.9% 707  
Middle School

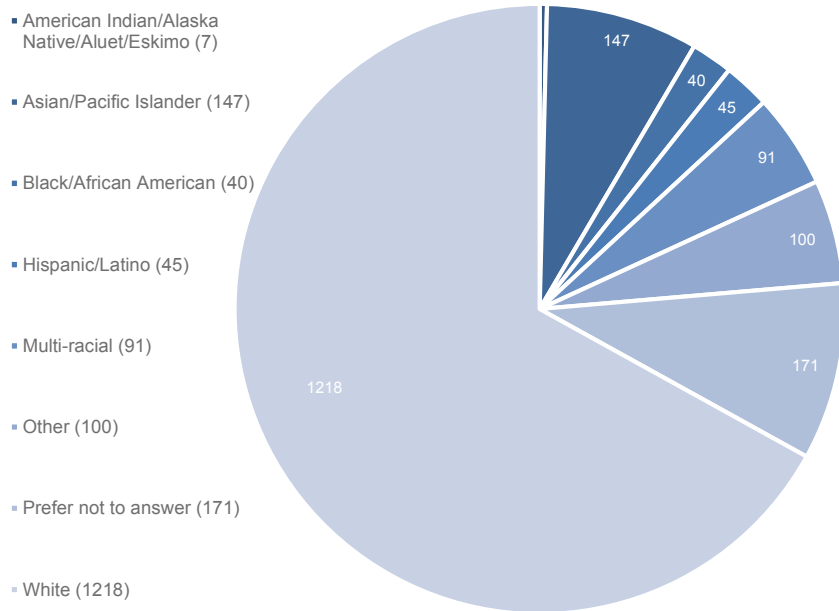
40.5% 737  
High School

0.3% 6  
Service School

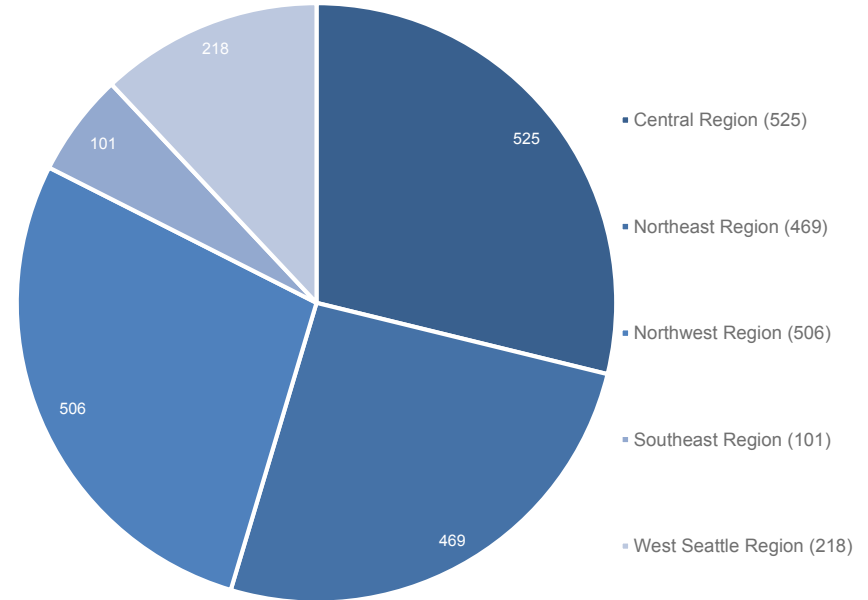
# Demographics

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## Race/ethnicity



## Region



# Analysis Methodology

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The top 20 thoughts from each school were examined, and thoughts with an average star count of 4.0 and above were themed.



# Q1 Participants' Top Rated Thoughts

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- **Equal Access**

*“AP should be available to all students, not just those in the ‘AP/HCC track’.”*

- **Availability of Advanced Education**

*“HS students need access to a diversity of challenging classes, including a variety of AP offerings. For HCC pathway students who have experienced years of acceleration, and in order to grow they need to be challenged in HS, which requires depth of AP”*

- **Support Advanced Learners**

*“That you continue to place a priority on meeting the educational needs of advance learners at high school. At times, advanced learning is considered by some to be an “extra.” It is about providing an appropriate education for all students.”*

# Q2 Participants' Top Rated Thoughts

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- **Equal Access**

*“Let all students know all students can take advantage of advanced learning if they want to be in those classes and have a good work ethic. All students should have access to advanced learning”*

- **Availability of Advanced Education**

*“More AP Classes at more schools More accessibility to classes will increase learning opportunities”*

- **Eligibility Testing**

*“The district should implement universal screening for advanced learning The standard process for identifying gifted students, based on referrals of parents & teachers, misses many qualified students”*

# Q3 Participants' Top Rated Thoughts

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- Information and input

*“How will we hear what concrete options are being considered? It would be very helpful if parents were provided with concrete pathway options that are the “finalists,” once things are narrowed down”*

- Timeline and planning

*“What would be the rollout plan for moving students to Lincoln? Families are clearly concerned about the change to their student's school assignment”*

- Grandfather policy

*“Will current Garfield High School students be grandfathered? Changing schools well into high school careers is a lot to ask, particularly as many advanced learning students have been through several splits/moves”*

# Elementary School Priorities

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- **Information and Input**

*“Clarity on the types of advanced learning options available across the district and at each school”*

- **Support Advanced Learners**

*“I worry that HC kids sent to many neighborhood schools would lose the opportunity to truly excel academically and would not be challenged*

*A critical mass of HC students is needed at a school to make sure that there is a full slate of advanced learning courses to take”*

- **Curriculum and Programming**

*“A curriculum designed to challenge gifted students*

*Teaching this population requires more than just accelerated curriculum. Should be taught in greater depth and with an emphasis on problem solving”*

# Q1 – CONSIDERATIONS: PRIORITY THEMES

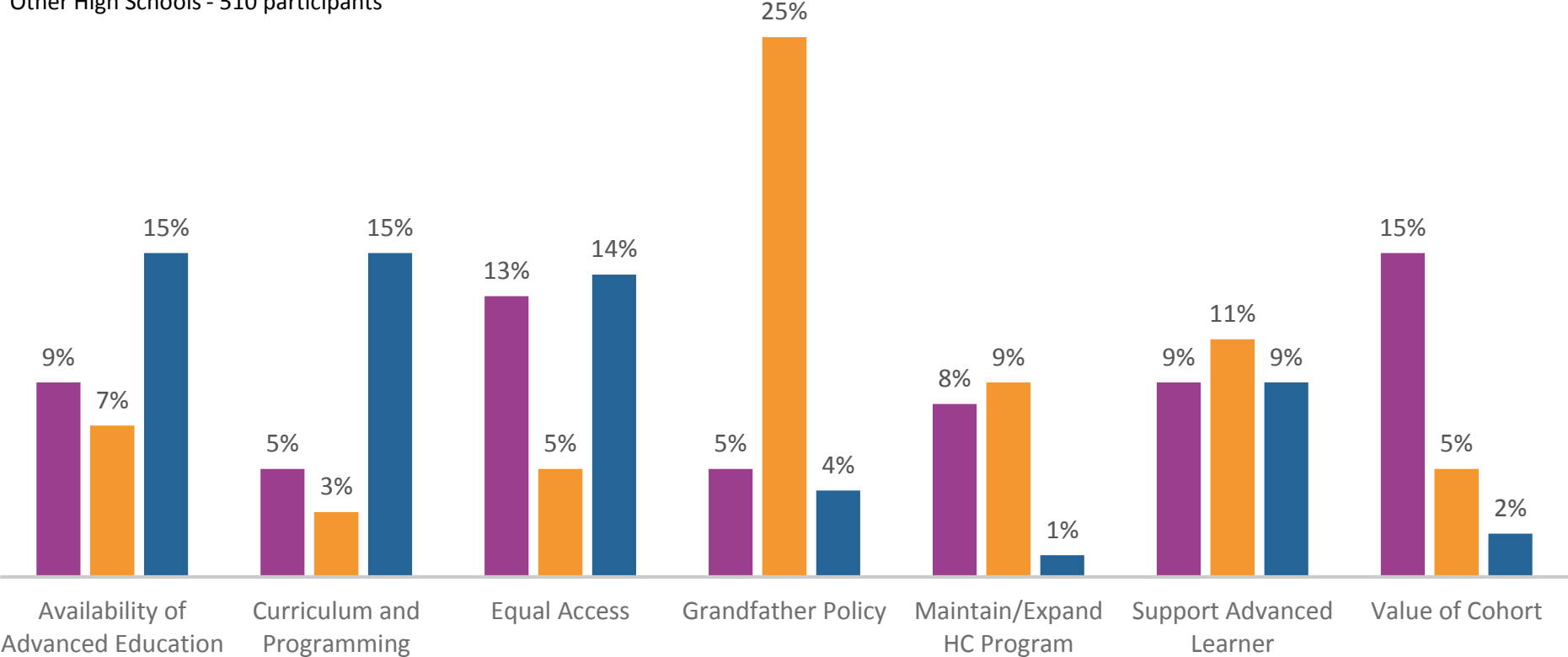
■ All Middle School   ■ Garfield High School   ■ Other High Schools

## Participation for Context

All Middle Schools - 707 participants

Garfield High School - 227 participants

Other High Schools - 510 participants

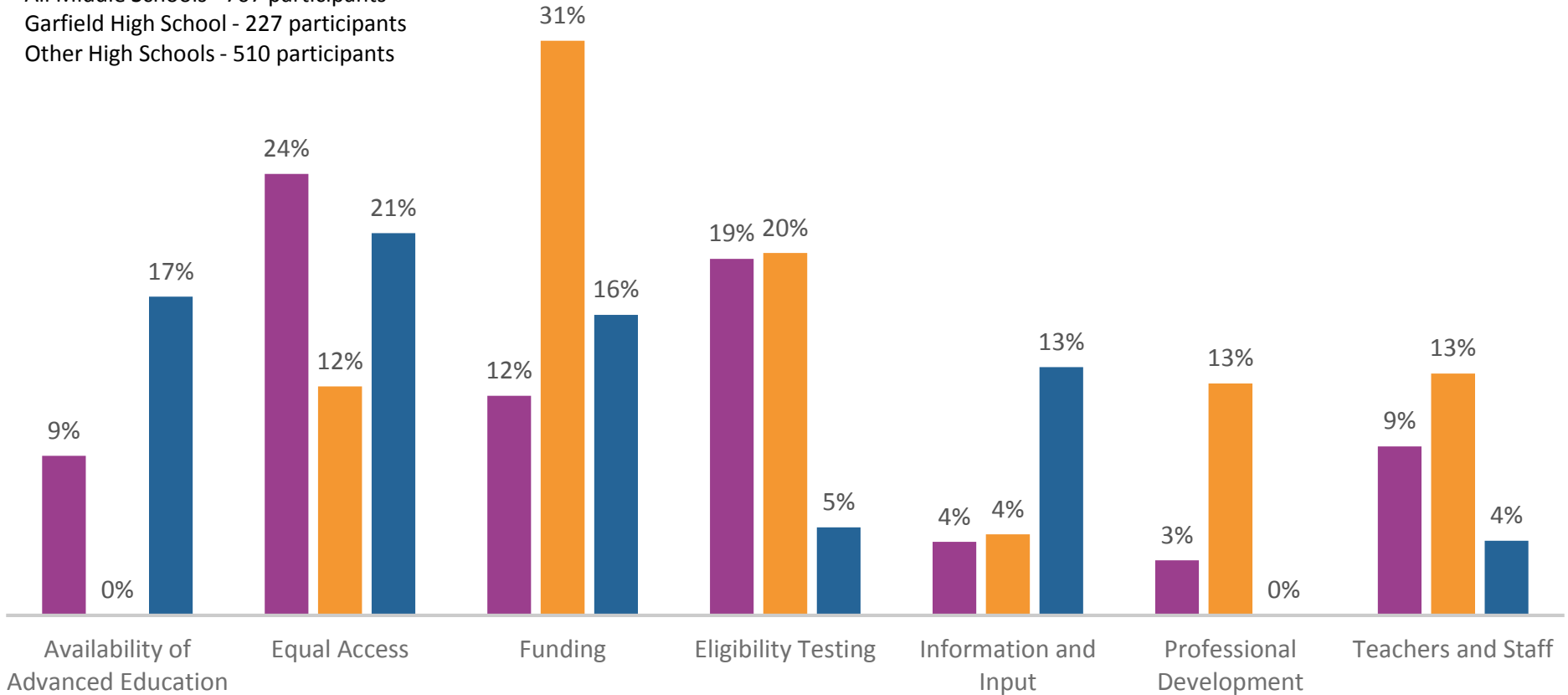


# Q2 ACCESSIBILITY: PRIORITY THEMES

■ All Middle School ■ Garfield High School ■ Other High School

## Participation for Context

All Middle Schools - 707 participants  
Garfield High School - 227 participants  
Other High Schools - 510 participants



# Q3 - QUESTIONS: PRIORITY THEMES

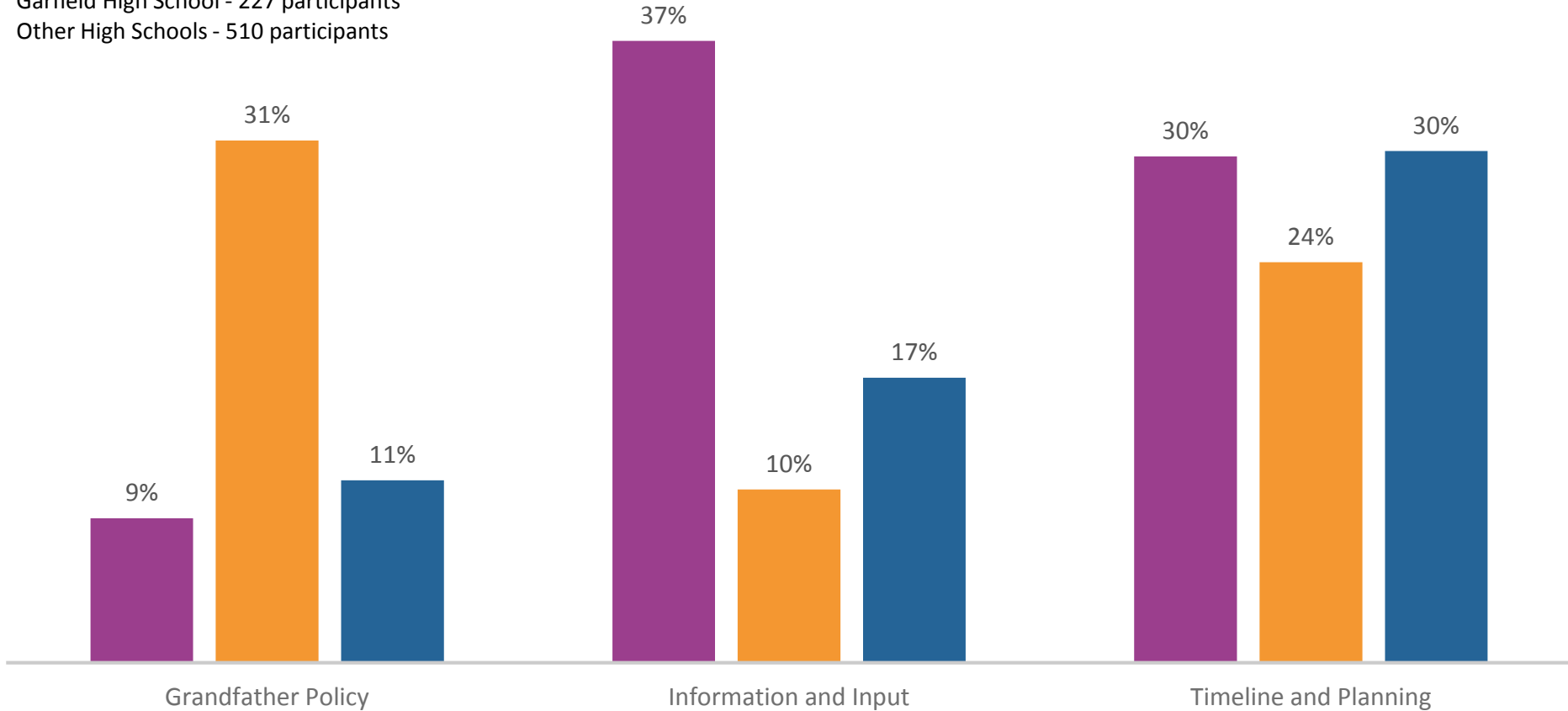
## Participation for Context

All Middle Schools - 707 participants

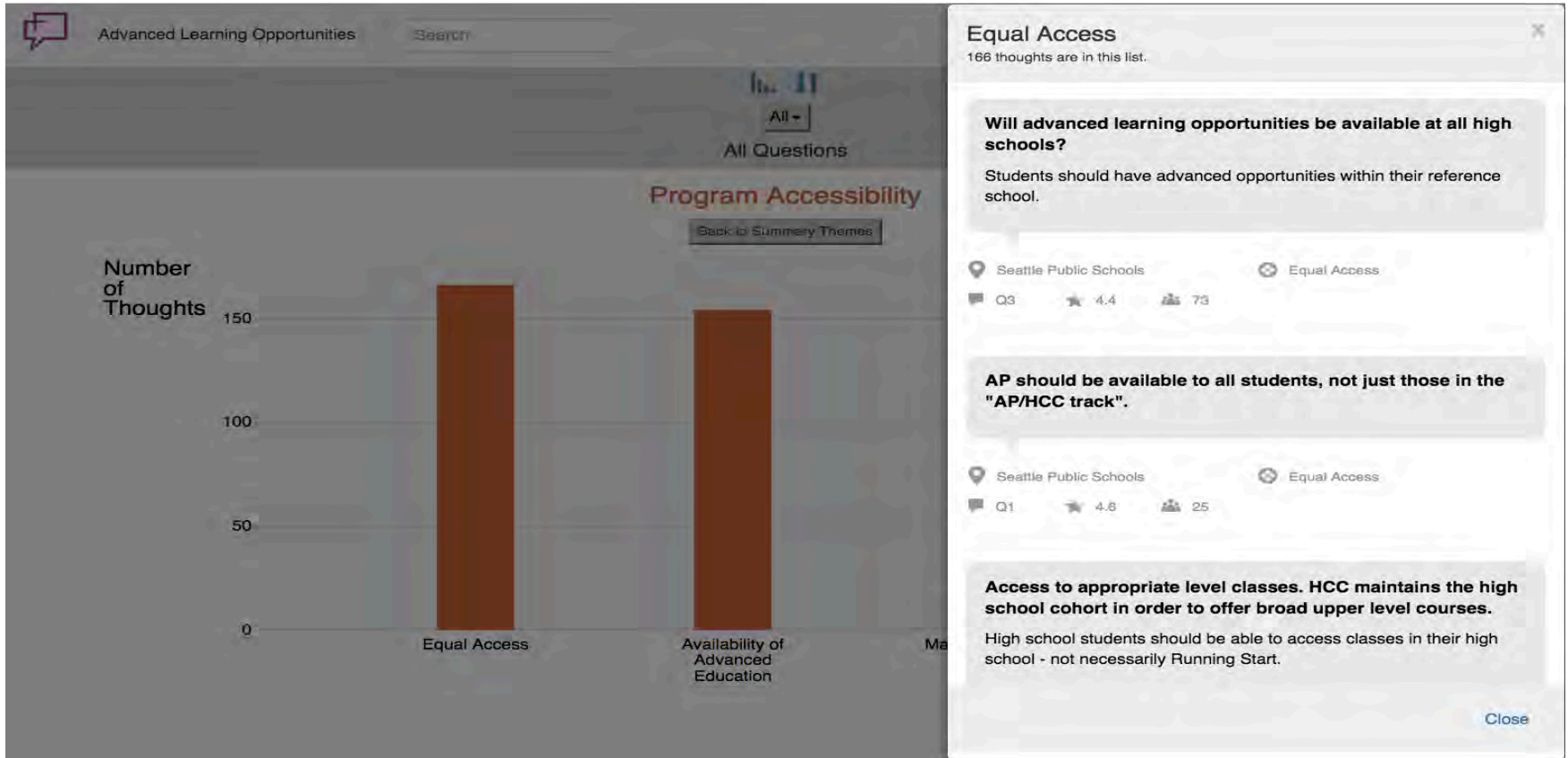
Garfield High School - 227 participants

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■ All Middle School   ■ Garfield High School   ■ Other High School



# Analysis Tools



Interactive Bar Charts



# Analysis Tools

	Question		
	Q1 Things to Consider	Q2 Increase Opportunities	Q3 Questions
Equal Access	35	54	17
Availability of Advanced Education	75	56	13
Information and Input	16	15	77
Timeline and Planning	13	4	61
Maintain/Expand HCC Program	28	21	19
HCC Testing	20	42	4
Grandfather Policy	24	1	41
Support Advanced Learners	48	1	13
Teachers and Staff	19	24	10
Funding	3	32	11
Curriculum and Programming	26	11	3
Meeting Diverse Learning Needs	24	12	3
Transportation	23	7	8
Value of Cohort	22	4	11
Diversity	18	7	9
Instruction and Program Delivery	19	18	
Academic Transitions	10		8
Professional Development	2	15	
Class Size and Capacity	8	2	1

Heat Maps

# Home Language Community Meetings:

## Advanced Learning in High School(s)

**Language Groups:** Vietnamese, Somali, Chinese, Spanish

100 Participants, 4 meetings

### **Methodology:**

- Native language focus groups
- Paper based version of ThoughtExchange questions
- Public report out and capture of top thoughts including ranked priorities



# Participants' Top Thoughts (Q1-3)

## Top Thoughts across language groups:

- Increase access by providing Advanced Learning opportunities in all regions and or schools
- Improve communication for ELL families on opportunities.
- Provide student and family supports (i.e. partnership, tutoring, SAT prep, summer support)
- Improve testing and identification (i.e. access, information, frequency).



A decorative header at the top of the slide features several overlapping speech bubbles in various shades of blue and white, set against a dark blue background. The bubbles vary in shape and size, some pointing downwards and others upwards, creating a sense of conversation or dialogue.

# Questions?

# Next Steps – Taking Action

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- Will share data publically including native language focus group feedback with families
- Will share Advanced Learning recommendations based on community engagement
- Regional community meetings (5) to share what we learned and recommendations

**Question 1: What are the most important things for us to understand as we consider changes to our high school advanced learning services?**

**SPANISH**

**We don't have enough information to give proper answers (need more information)**

**We want to be engaged and included by the district**

Make sure to communicate in our language so it is not a barrier.

**Each region should have at least one school with the HC program. One elementary, middle and one high school per region.**

**Because navigating the education system is difficult for minorities/ELL families, the district should provide annual trainings (about important dates and how to use the systems)**

District should provide interpreters all the time

To start, there has been a lack of information to the Spanish community about the existence of this program at all

We need teachers to inform us if our students are good candidates for the advanced classes

We want budget for our school area and not only the north area schools

it is important to give the students opportunities for advanced education in our own schools

**VIETNAMESE**

**Advanced Learning HS pathway in three regions such as North, Central, and South to keep neighborhood students together, decrease travel time**

**Build an additional HC HS school**

**Better communication to families**

Every school should offer advanced learning programs

Time spent traveling

**CHINESE**

More resources (trained staff, budget) at neighborhood high school to support advanced learning

Does advanced learning also support emotional intelligence?

**Add more advanced learning courses in every school**

**Students should be in mixed class together in every school.**

**Each school should provide AL courses to challenge all students**

More information about how parents and schools could work together to help students prepare for/learn about AL

There are not enough seats at Garfield

Supports for parents to understand AL eligibility

More communication about AL to ELL parents

**SOMALI**

**Begin outreach and awareness at an earlier age to Somali families and community**

Ask school staff to outreach directly to families



**Question 2: What are some things we could put in place to increase high school advanced learning opportunities for more students?**

<b>SPANISH</b>
We want more funding to schools in our areas to offer more advanced learning opportunities
<b>We need more opportunities for testing (more than once a year) to be able to access these programs</b>
<b>We want advanced learning/AP programs across the district, regardless of students' language, background, or income level</b>
<b>More information should be provided about the programs the district is offering</b>
<b>Information should be provided in home language</b>
<b>We need more information about how to enroll/test into advanced courses</b>
To increase the opportunities in high school, the whole community needs to be included, starting in elementary school
We want to be informed in a timely manner of the testing schedule, and testing should be done each quarter
We prefer to be informed in Spanish documents since not all of us use computers
Language is a barrier to have access to services and programs
<b>We want to belong and want our opinions considered</b>

<b>VIETNAMESE</b>
<b>Better communication: reaching out to ELL parents/newcomers</b>
<b>Make testing available to all students to participate</b>
No more referral from teachers in order to apply
<b>More high schools beside Garfield</b>

## CHINESE

**Nourish student and provide challenging courses**

**More teacher involvement, more homework, more discipline**

More diversity

All around knowledge about program

**More communication between the school and parents**

**Update information about this program**

**All communication should be translated**

**Tutoring**

Family support: resources for families to support students

**Support at schools for students to prepare/know about advanced learning options**

More and better communication from the school

**Share stories of famous people who have been successful to boost students' confidence**

Advanced courses in more subjects

**After school tutoring options**

More involvement/communication from teachers

Unfair to other schools because Garfield gets more resources

Are all students using the same curriculum at Garfield

Would a new policy make Garfield more elite?

Teachers should be more aggressive in making recommendations to parents

## SOMALI

More high schools that offer these courses



### Question 3: Other questions or comments?

#### SPANISH

We want you to keep us informed of the decisions that affect our children. send us messages through the school or PTA.

Most of the people in this room do not know about the advanced programs. What efforts is the district taking to get to the families and to include everyone regardless of language/origin

We do not have enough information to be able to provide opinions because we do not know how this program works/have never heard of it.

#### VIETNAMESE

Do students spend more time at school?

Is there added pressure or challenges?

Which subjects are taught in advanced learning?

More transportation available for students

#### CHINESE

Concern that Garfield already has an established program

**What about the budget shortfall? How will the district ensure fair distribution of resources to support HC/AL to each school?**

**Can other advanced subjects be taught?**

**Improved communication about AL programs to families (specifically ELL)**

How does an English language test support ELL students to truly show their ability?

Increase more highly qualified teachers. Every school should have an AL program. Every school needs to have both HCC and regular students. How can schools and parents work together to prepare students for this program, How do parents know if their child has the potential to become an HCC student? Teacher need to refer students to the program

Teachers need to be more proactive in referring students to the AL program, in the summer, provide courses so that the students can prepare for the tests. Free SAT prep courses for HS students

How does an English language test support ELL students to truly show their ability?

**If students are in advanced classes can they skip a level, can they stay in their school?**

Does AL put an extra burden or provide support to students who may already be struggling academically and emotionally?

If students are advanced in only math or English, can they still test?

**More communication to (ELL) parents about the content of the program**

**More communication about the AL program, eligibility testing, content and options for AL courses**

#### SOMALI

More high schools that offer these courses