

Essay

Please write and title a 500-700-word essay on the following theme:

Looking back over your high school career, what would your message to your School Board be on improving the education of those who follow you?

As a student, it is difficult to give advice to the people that helped me to gain a great education. However, by looking back over my high school career, there would be some advice I could offer on improving education for those who will follow me. The best suggestion I could possibly give to my school board and others is to view the policies that are set in place from a student's point of view.

Sometimes, school boards get so caught up in creating consequences, they forget that there are actually people behind the policies set forth. For example, I have friends who come to school late. At my school, if you're even a couple seconds late to first hour, you receive a warning the first offense, but you receive time in the alternative education program (AEP) the second offense. Why would you punish a child that is late to class by making him or her miss more class? Many of my friends will skip an entire school day if they know they will be late to first hour just to avoid AEP. This attendance problem could be avoided if school boards would make an attempt to view policies from a student's point of view.

The attendance policy set forth isn't the only thing that I could find fault in, but it is a complaint I hear about quite frequently as Student Council and Student Relations Board President. Although my advice for school boards everywhere is to view policies from a student's point of view, this may be easier said than done. The best way to view how the students feel about certain policies is by listening to the students.

I understand that the thought of viewing policies from a student's point of view might sound like an ignorant idea, but it is the only way to improve our educational system. The United States derives its power from the consent of the governed. After all, our government should always reflect the ideas of the people, because the people have chosen their government and expect to alter it as needed. With this being said, a school board should always be working on ways to improve education by listening to the students. In fact, without the students, the school wouldn't exist at all.

Another great idea is for the school board to reward good behavior instead of just punishing bad behavior. Many people come to school to get an education and get involved, yet there aren't enough incentives to be a good student. I've had perfect attendance throughout my whole school career, and I've only received twenty five dollars. Many students would agree that there is a lack of incentives for good grades and attendance, which is why it is vital that a school board should make an effort to receive feedback from its students.

As a high school student, I would also like for my school board to make a mandatory international studies class. Across the world, people know the name of our President, but could you name Mexico's President? There are high school students unaware of the difference between a country and a continent. As a college bound student, I couldn't imagine going to college sheltered from foreign affairs and lacking common geography knowledge. The simple fact is that the world is getting smaller with

the help of study abroad opportunities, a world economy, renowned transportation, and up-to-date media. If a school board expects its students to become global citizens and shoot for the moon, it should try its best to give every opportunity to its students.

In conclusion, every suggestion I could possibly offer to a school board is from a student's point of view. Therefore, a school board member can identify possible improvements in a school's policy by looking through a student's perspective. Not to mention, the use of laptops and computers in schooling systems makes the process of sharing ideas easier than ever. A deep look into the opinions of students could drastically improve the nature of education. This, in turn, would create a school that has done everything possible for its students to succeed in whatever field of study they choose later in life.