

BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (24)

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Your responses to these two questions help us recruit quality candidates.

1. What makes your community a good place to live?

1. Burlington is very inclusive
2. Extremely diverse compared to the rest of Vermont
3. Cool landscape
4. Summers are mild
5. Skiing
6. Forest behind school
7. Bike path access
8. Bus available for transportation
9. Free bus pass if you don't live within a mile from the school
10. Very Liberal
11. Lot of small businesses, which is good for the community
12. Extremely diverse and inclusive
13. Creates great learning opportunity to be able to succeed in life
14. There is a strong sense of community; family atmosphere; tight-knit
15. It is easy to assimilate into the community
16. There is always someone around to help students
17. It is a beautiful place to live; all seasons are nice
18. People are very passionate and all passions are accepted
19. There are many recreational and cultural activities in Burlington year-round
20. The waterfront is nice
21. It is a good place to raise a family
22. It is easy to get to know people-everyone is so nice.
- 23.

2. What makes this a good school district - for students and staff?

1. Very diverse/lots of people from different countries
2. Student are relatively accepting
3. A lot of opportunities such as the Burlington Tech Center, Burlington City and Lake Semester
4. Lots of Clubs, sports
5. Quality of academics
6. Teachers are dedicated to their students and are approachable
7. Many opportunities for athletics, academics

8. Welcoming community
9. Very great place to live
10. More teachers would provide more course offerings
11. Burlington-City-and-Lake semester-an immersive program into city life
12. Teachers are very welcoming to new students and get to know the students
13. The Year End Studies program is very enriching
14. There are a lot of diverse teachers who are good role models
15. There is much help for students outside of class
16. 504 Plans are implemented well
17. Students have access to lots of technology in the middle and high school levels
18. It is big enough to have many offerings but small enough for someone of any interests to find students with similar interests
19. Very little negative energy
20. The drama program is very strong
21. Most teachers reply to email in a timely manner

Your responses to these questions help us to screen applicants and the school committee to choose finalists.

3. What are the issues that a new superintendent needs to know about as he or she comes into the district?

1. Perception of teacher racism at middle school
2. In school district there needs to be awareness of LGBT community and protection of and support for them
3. Issues of vaping and drug distribution in school
4. More focus of addiction recovery that is not punitive
5. Accessibility needs to be improved
6. Issues with effectiveness of guidance counselors¹⁰ – completing needs of students
7. Instability of staffing
8. Principals have been switched frequently creating a sense of uncertainty
9. There needs to be higher-quality guidance counselors
10. Guidance counselors should develop relationships with students and provide career counseling to them.
11. There needs to be more personalized discipline i.e. get to the root of the behavior and try to resolve that versus merely punishing
12. Some teachers are not really teaching; complaints to guidance have not resolved the issue

13. The new Personal Learning Plan program has not been explained well. It just takes up time. Students don't understand it well.
14. Vaping is everywhere
15. Guidance counselors are really questionable; kids can't rely on them—but they have gotten better this year.
16. Guidance counselors should also address students' personal issues, not just be used for scheduling.
17. Some teachers don't seem to care about the work that kids
18. Some kids can do minimal work and pass if they are friends with the teachers
19. The programming for the YES programming needs to be better—the courses need to be broader and more interesting
20. The Advisory and PLP plans are not effective; they are time wasted. There needs to be more opportunities to talk with students rather than having a study hall atmosphere. (*This comment was made multiple times*).
21. The dual enrollment program is very good.
22. There is a lot of congestion and inappropriate language in C building hallway
23. There should be doors on the boys bathroom in C building.
24. In general, the bathrooms are gross; they smell like weed most of the time.
25. There needs to be better organization of the Green Mountain Transit buses
26. The high school lunch periods should be longer; it takes a long time to get lunch and they are also a time to socialize.
27. The curriculum in English, Science, and U.S. History should be examined and beefed up—maybe there should be less options and more content within the core classes.
28. There should be more School Innovation classes.
29. Senior seminar should be reinstated.
30. There should be a class in financial literacy required for graduation.
31. The drama club should be better funded

4. What skills, qualities and characteristics will the new superintendent need in order to be successful?

1. Be a good communicator with teachers
2. Be a good communicator with the support staff, too.
3. Someone who works in collaboration with teachers and their community to solve problems
4. They need to be open-minded – not biased
5. Open to opinions of students and community
6. Prioritize the focus more on student needs
7. Working well with students who have disabilities

8. People are very quick to point out mistakes; you must be able to deal with that in a good way.
9. You must be open to many opinions and be respectful of them even if you don't agree with them.
10. Bring new ideas to improve the school.
11. Make an effort to meet and understand students
12. Must be a strong public speaker
13. Must be able to make personal connections with students
14. Must be willing to get out of the office to see what is happening in schools
15. Actually take action when there is a problem rather than just giving it lip service.
16. Be a good communicator with students
17. Be approachable
18. Regularly assess problems and solve them.
19. Be able to accept constructive criticism to improve his or her performance
20. The super should be aware of the positive results that students are producing
21. Make the time to sit in on Advisories to examine why they don't work.