

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 1:15 p.m. on February 8, 1995 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Brenda Dunlap, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: John Schmidt, Chairman, Reno County 2000
Frank Alexander, Reno County 2000
Kim Moore, Reno County 2000
Richard Robl, Reno County 2000

Others attending: See attached list

A presentation was made to the Committee by Reno County 2000. Reno County 2000 was formed in 1992 as a partnership between public education, the business community, and other community groups involved with youth. Its mission is to articulate the belief that a quality education for all students is both necessary and possible, and to work cooperatively with all school districts and citizens of Reno County to make quality education a reality for each student. Formed independently of any other organizations, the group has been working to make the community more aware of the stake its citizens have in educating all our youth.

There are increasing pressures on schools from many directions including taxpayers, the Boards of Education, business etc. Business people hiring high school graduates are finding them less prepared than they used to be. One of the reasons graduates are not as well prepared is that businesses are restructuring and requiring different knowledge and skills from employees. Restructuring is being done to meet new needs such as becoming globally competitive, using new technology, meeting consumer demands, a shrinking market, price pressures, and quality concerns. The American market is shrinking and moving to foreign countries, i.e. Japan. Japanese employees are achieving better quality by working together in small teams and problem solving to make a product. Japanese Managers promote initiative. Computers are replacing Japanese middle management. Our schools need to be restructured to address the changes in the business world.

Social factors affect education in America. Many children live in poverty. Only one in three jobs can support a family of four. Thus, 59% of students have either both parents in the work force, or come from single parent families. There has been an increase in children born out of wedlock and the number of divorces, which is creating more single parent families. Low birth weight babies also increase the cost of education, as more money is needed for special education, and more children are repeating grades. The use of alcohol, drugs, antisocial behavior and violence is also on the increase, which also affects education. And the question is, can schools provide the desired education if these problems are not addressed?

What should schools help children learn? Basic skills - reading, writing, arithmetic; applied skills - higher level thinking, to work in small groups, to be self-managed; and basic values such as citizenship, responsibility, fairness and justice.

There has been a change in student makeup. There is now much more diversity among students in their skills and their ability to learn; they are visual learners with a short attention span; they are very verbal and want to talk constantly; when they are told to do something they want to discuss it and give their opinion; and, they have extensive electronic experience. In addition, every year, more and more children are not ready to learn - they just don't have the skills to learn.

We need to change our premises in teaching to reflect the new needs.

OLD PREMISE	TO	NEW PREMISE
talent		effort
teacher responsibility		student responsibility

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION Room 123-S-Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on February 8, 1995.

OLD PREMISE	TO	NEW PREMISE
activity based		learning based
time based		mastery
remediate		accelerate
knowledge		applied skills
textbooks		multi resources
grades		products
transition to college		transition to work
mass education		individual education
new programs		total quality - continually trying to improve quality

A survey of what the public expects from its public schools was sponsored by Reno County 2000. The survey was taken in late Spring, 1994, by almost 2900 Reno County citizens including 198 business people, 2,126 parents, and 550 educators. The survey asked persons in all six Reno County public school districts and Catholic Schools their opinions about the role of schools, standards, and accountability in education, how schools organize, and the need and support for change. A copy of the survey is attached. General agreement was found on the following: students need to be taught more than the "three R's"; Reno County does not want inclusion; schools should address social problems and values; mastery learning is effective; the support for technology in the classroom is very strong; and computer education should start in kindergarten. (See Attachment 1)

A motion was made by Senator Jones to to approve the minutes of the February 6, 1995 meeting. Senator Corbin seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 1995.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 2-8-95

NAME	REPRESENTING
HAROLD PITTS	SELF
Herchel Poor	CIT
Bill Juice	BOEING
Pat Baker	KASB
Oran Burnett	USD 58 #
Kim Gagnon	Reno County 2000
John Schmitt	Reno County 2000
Bob DeBole	Brown County 2,000 - Hutchinson
Math Huell	AP
Aally Winslip	Leadership Overland Park
Garth Cowden	Don James Lee
Dannetta Cook	Leadership Sumner Co.
Sam Schneider	Leadership Sumner Co.
Diane Gjerstad	USD 259
FRANK ALEXANDER	RENO COUNTY 2000
Mark Tallman	KASB

Results of Survey of Reno County Public Education

A survey of what the public expects from its public schools was sponsored by Reno County 2000. The survey was taken in late Spring, 1994, by almost 2900 Reno County citizens including 198 business people, 2,126 parents, and 550 educators. The survey asked persons in all six Reno County public school districts and Catholic Schools their opinions about the role of schools, standards and accountability in education, how schools organize, and the need and support for change.

Reno County 2000 was formed in 1992 as a partnership between public education, the business community, and other community groups involved with youth. Its mission is to articulate the belief that a quality education for all students is both necessary and possible, and to work cooperatively with all school districts and citizens of Reno County to make quality education a reality for each student. Formed independently of any other organizations, the group has been working to make the community more aware of the stake its citizens have in educating all our youth. The survey was conducted to assess what the public expects from its public schools.

A graph of the responses to most of the statements posed in the survey are shown on the following pages. Respondents were asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement to each of 50 statements. The results are shown in chart form, using the scheme shown to the right.

The results of the survey are organized around several topics or "constructs". An outline of these topics is as follows:

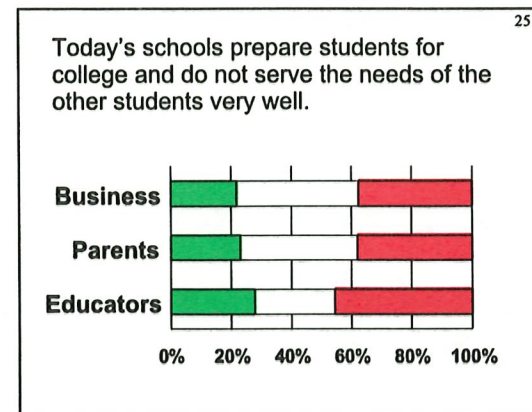
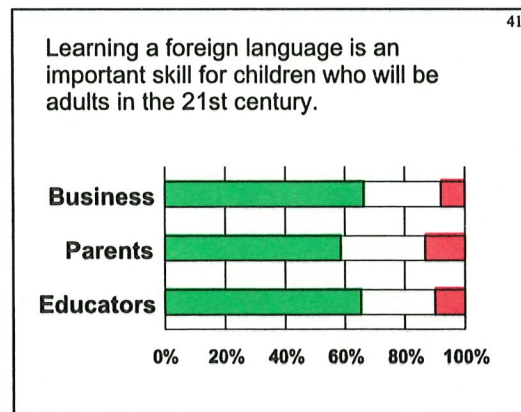
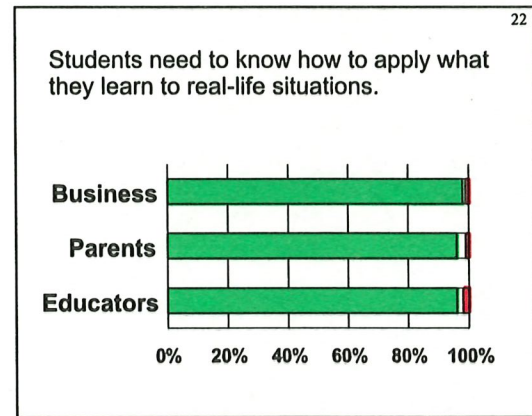
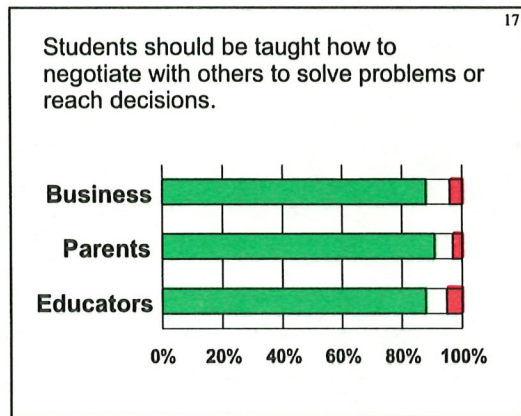
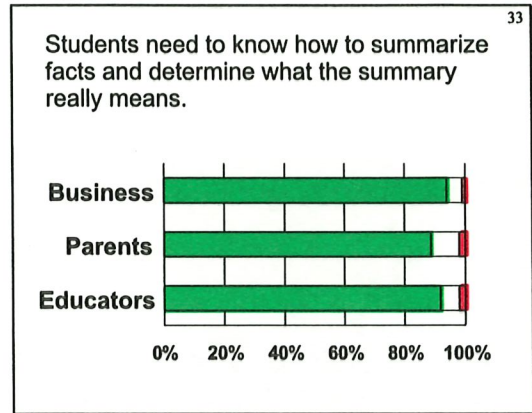
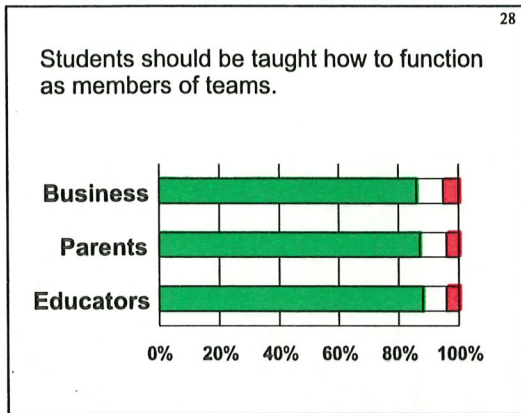
1. **The Need for Change**
 - a. Assessing the needs of students
 - b. Assessing the needs of the workplace
 - c. Assessing the needs of society
2. **The Role of the School**
3. **Standards and Accountability**
4. **School Organization**
 - a. Traditional Methods
 - b. New Approaches
 - c. Technology
5. **Support for Change**

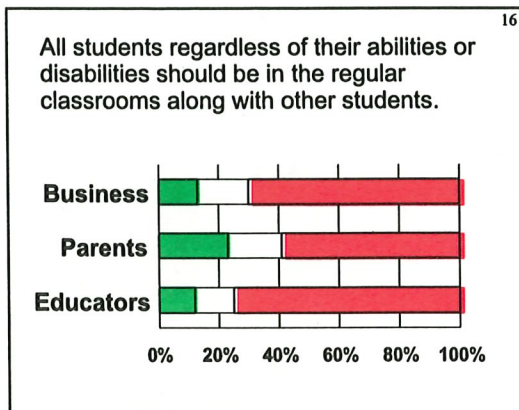
Presentation of data

A = strongly agree	
B = agree	
C = Tend to agree	
D = disagree	
E = Strongly disagree	

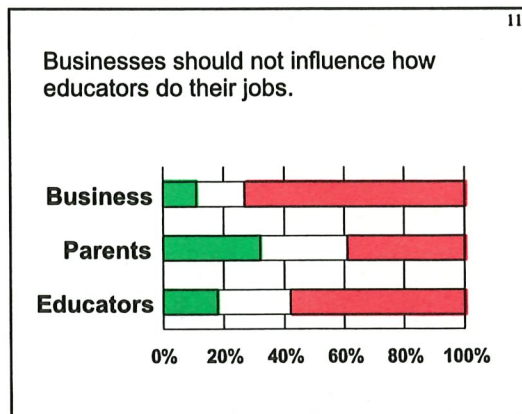
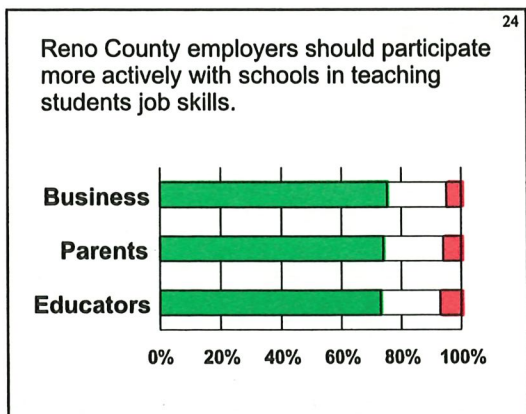
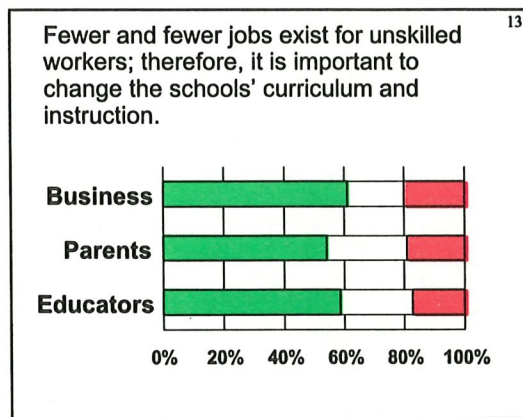
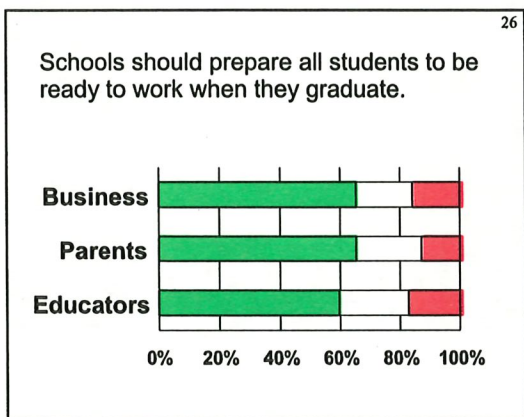
Need for Change

In order to assess the level of awareness in our community concerning the need for change affecting education today, three areas were probed. The first area was the changing needs of students, the second was the changing needs of the workplace, and the third was the changing needs of society at large. The following statements address the changing needs of students.

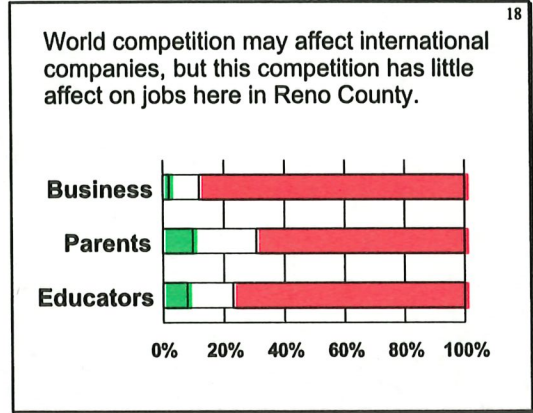
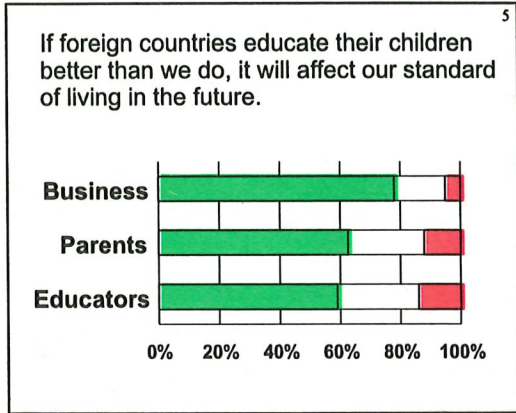
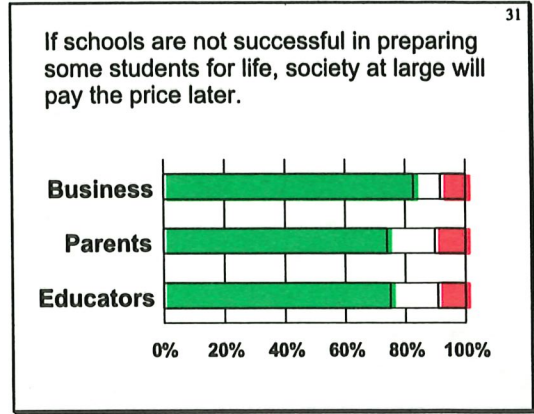
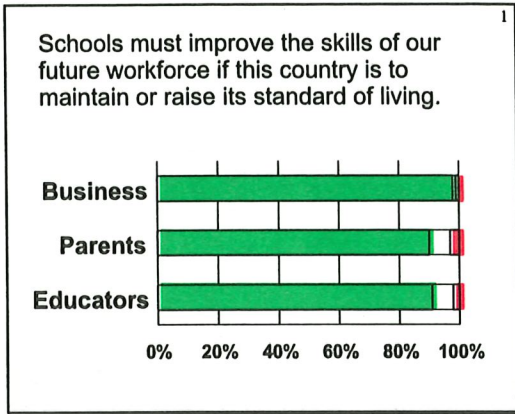




The following statements address the need for change in workplace skills:

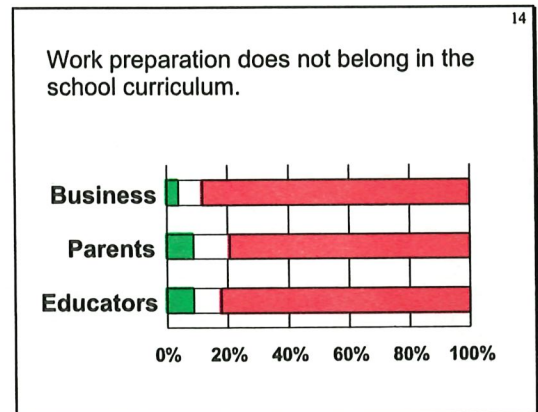
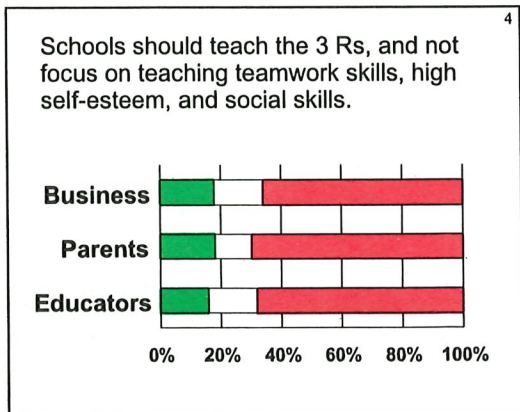
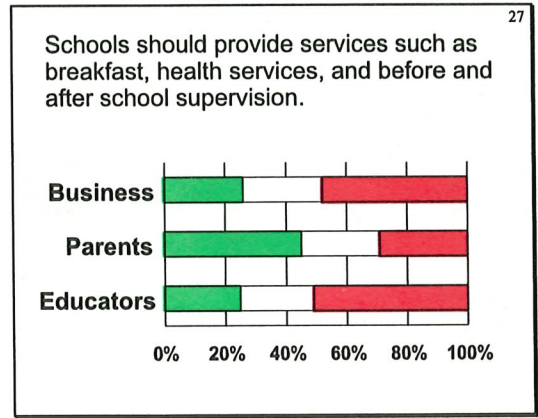
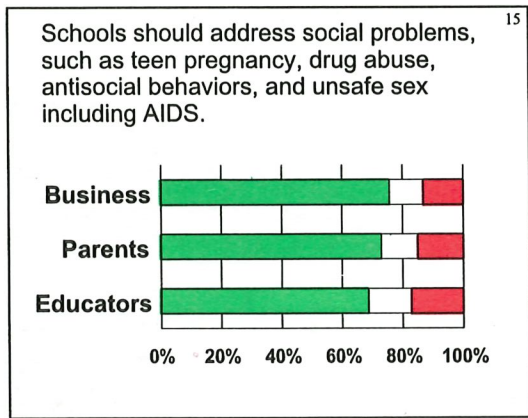
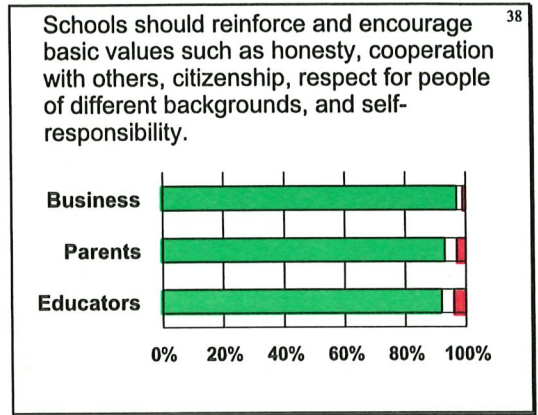
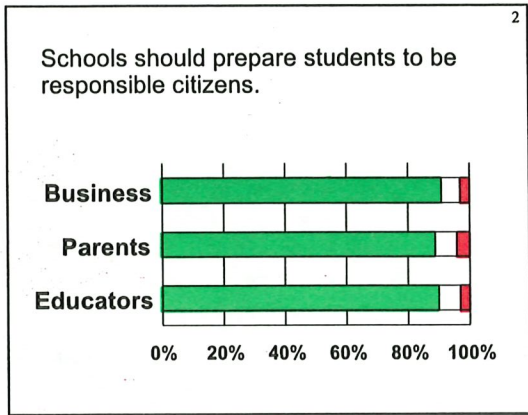


The following statements address how society is affected by our schools.



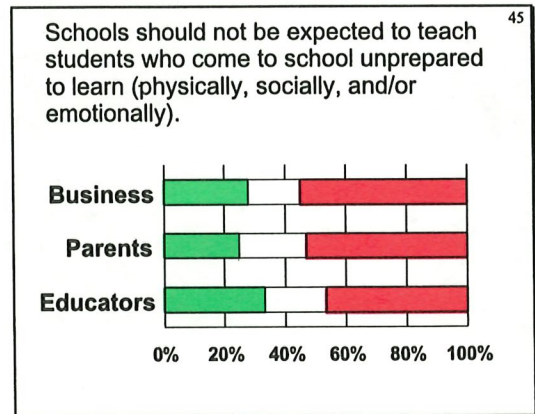
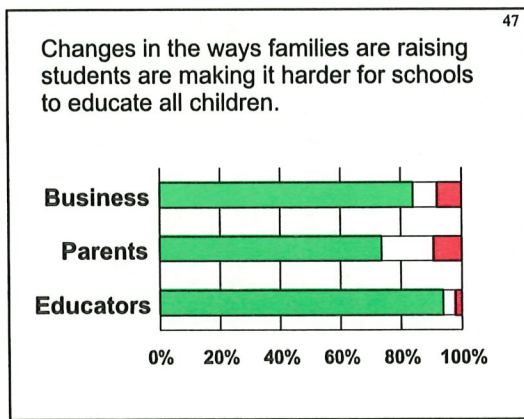
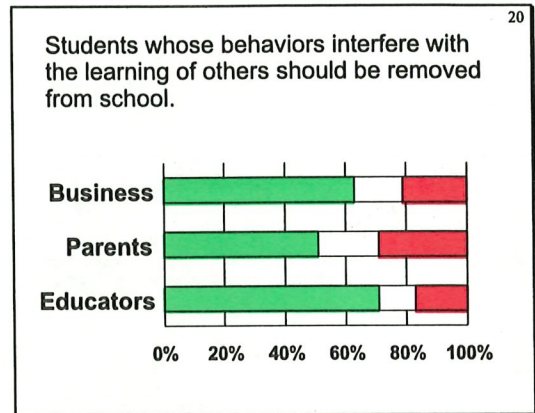
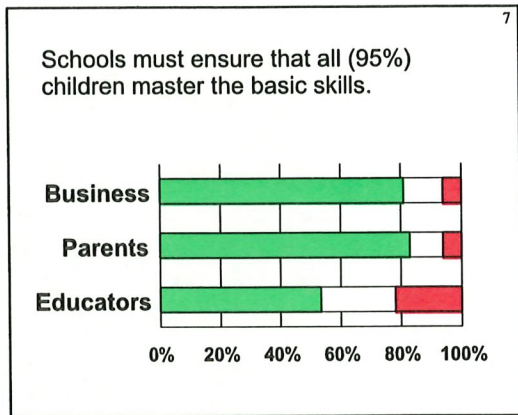
Role of the School

After assessing the need for change in educating students, another area of inquiry by the survey was the specific roles schools should play in meeting the needs of students, families and communities. This question of the proper mission of schools is one of critical importance in determining both the direction of change and the readiness for change in the community.



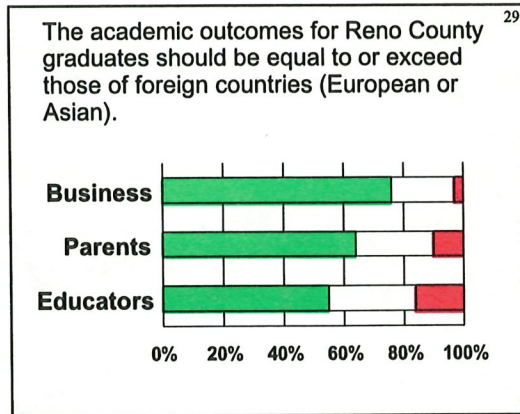
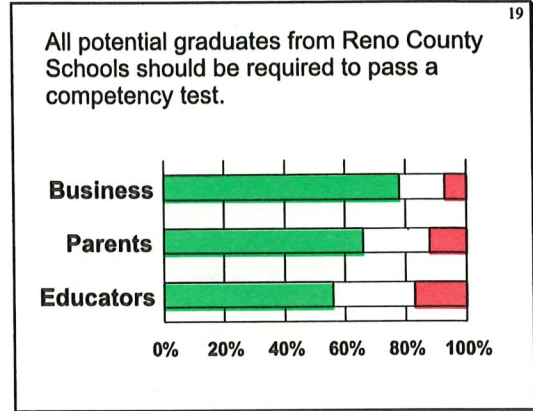
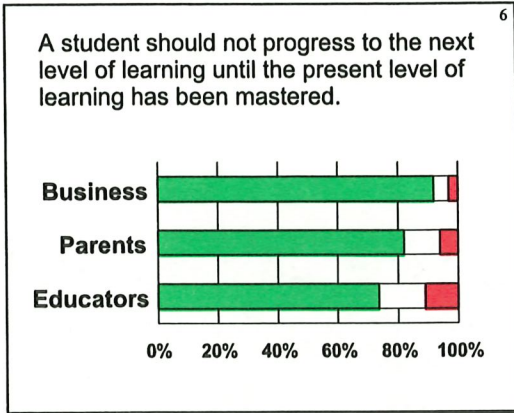
All Children can Learn -- All children must Learn

Fewer children... fewer students... fewer workers... higher skill demands for any job... the need for personal flexibility to change jobs and to grow in an occupation... These and other aspects of the vision many see for the future in this country make the failure to reach even a few students with appropriate and meaningful education an unacceptable outcome for public and private schools. Many educational reforms are driven by the need to succeed with all (or almost all) students. What does the community think about these twin ideas: all children can learn, and all children must learn?



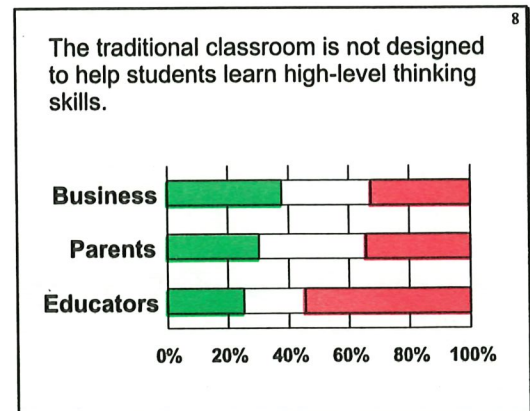
Standards & Accountability

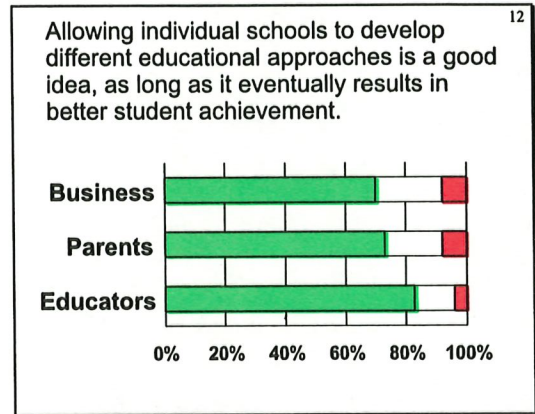
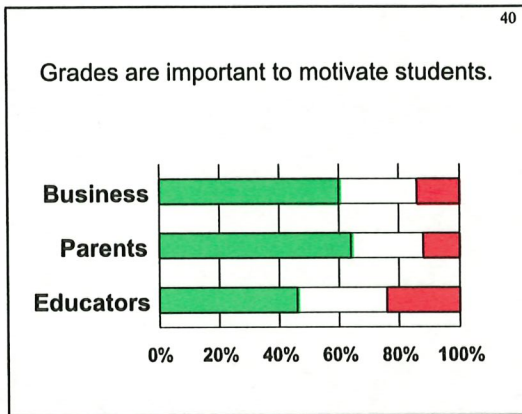
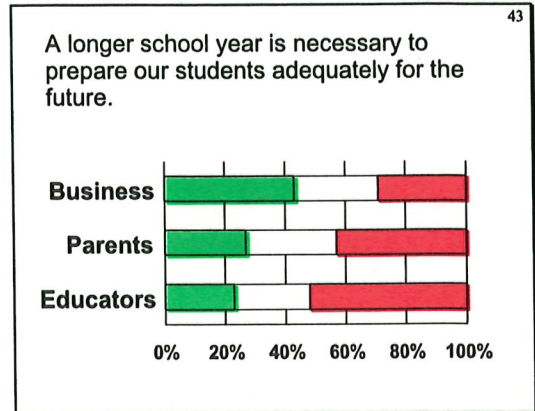
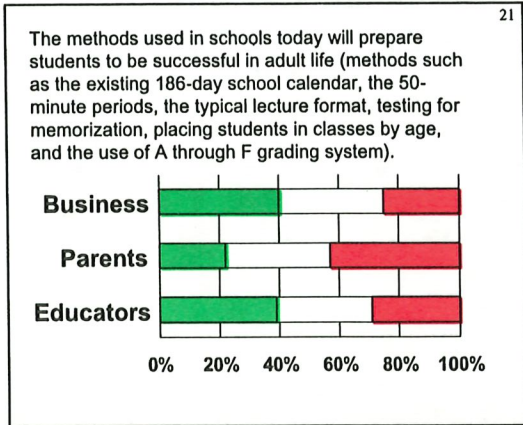
How should students be held accountable? Against what standards should students be measured?



Organization

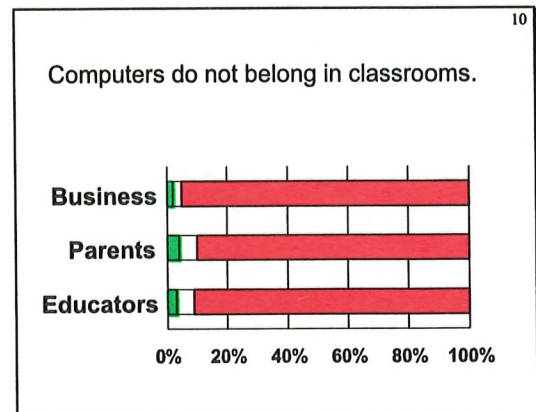
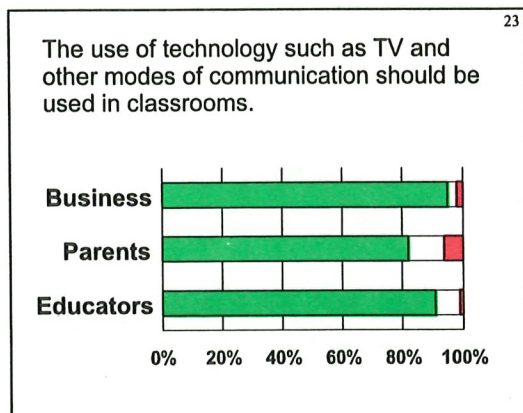
Schools must be organized to insure student achievement. Questions were asked involving traditional methods, new approaches, and technology.

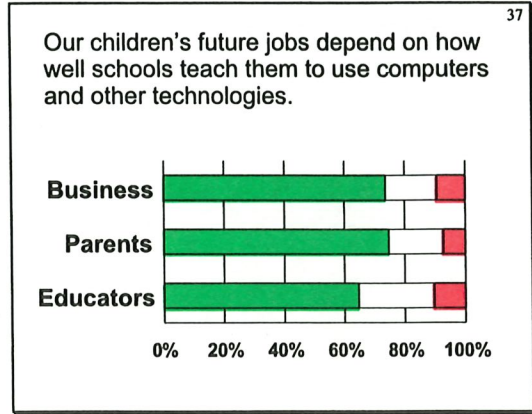
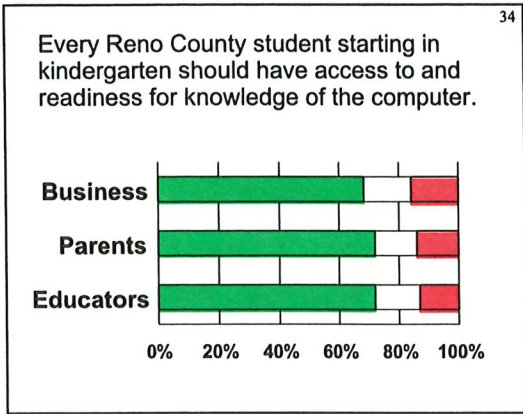




Technology

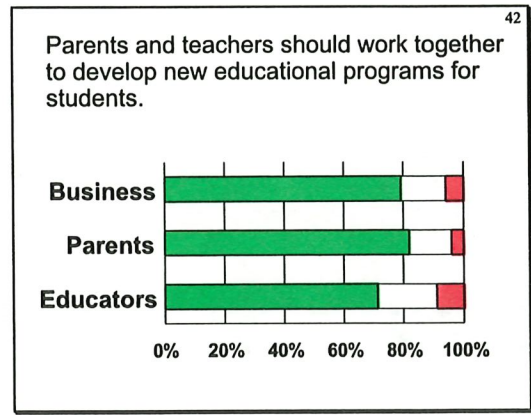
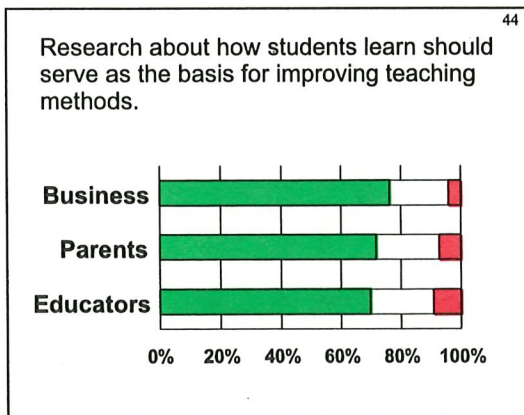
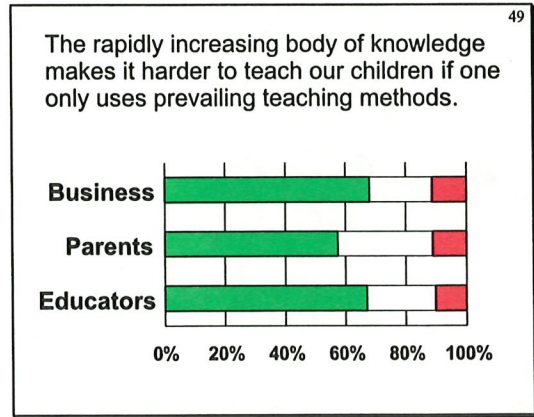
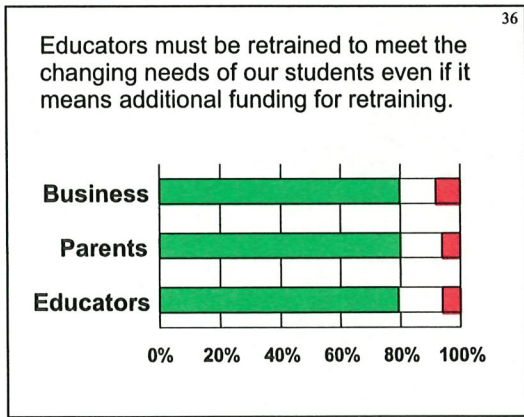
Technology has increasingly become a dominant part of our daily experience at work and at home. What should technology's role be in the school?

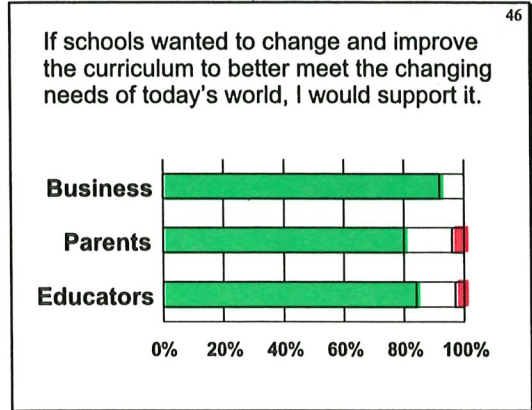
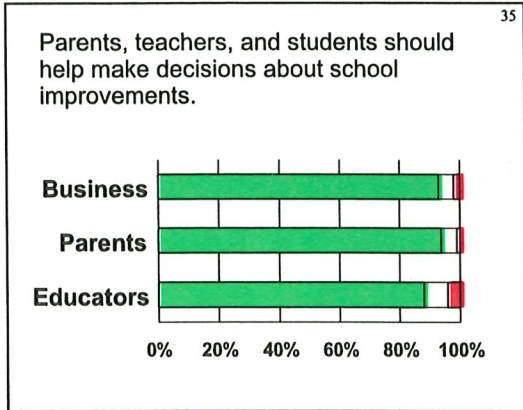




Support for Change

If education is about preparing our children for their needs as adults, and if schools must constantly change to meet those future needs, is there an understanding in our community for this process of change, and support for it?





Closing

This survey was conducted by Reno County 2000 to provide a better understanding of the expectations Reno County citizens have for their public schools. The reader is encouraged to review the information carefully and identify those areas where there is strong consensus among the three groups, where there is disagreement among the three groups, and where there is a lack of consensus within the groups. Public education is presently undergoing pressure to change. This survey provides data to assess public support and resistance, and therefore give direction to change efforts being made. It is the hope and intent of the Reno County 2000 coalition that this survey will serve as a useful guide to all persons interested in reviewing the needs of public education.