

Educational Program Survey

PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND SCHOOL SIZE SUMMARY

The following summary represents assessments made by 450 members of professional staff, K-12. It does not include central office staff members. Comments in quotations represent preponderant feelings across the system.

School Facilities, Size and Renovations

- Physical facilities affect the educational program

a great deal	46%
moderately	41%
not necessarily at all	11%

(Muzzey JHS voted 19%, 49% and 30% respectively- a significant variation)

- Newer schools provide educational advantages not found in older schools

yes	78%	no	16%
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"Mechanical and physical facilities ease the process somewhat; space and flexibility allow for more diverse programs and teaching formats."

- Older schools provide educational advantages not found in newer schools.

yes	59%	no	27%
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"Older schools afford a familiarity and closeness not attainable in larger plants. There is less hubbub and higher morale. It often encourages teacher and student creativity and innovation. But staff is most important, not the building."

(Responses from older vs. newer Junior High School's differed considerably with Clarke (50%) and Diamond (58%) voting Yes and with Muzzey voting 81%.

- The physical facilities of a school (your school was specified)

hinder the educational process	31%
foster that process	37%
have little effect on that process	24%

- Renovations in (your) school

would allow greater program variety	31%
would make little difference to the educational process	25%
would provide better education for students	16%
would better accommodate teaching styles	14%

"Leadership is most important: it can make a success of an old school, or a disaster of a new one."

- Classroom space was judged

excellent	18%
satisfactory	45%
in need of improvement	32%

- Auxiliary space was rated

excellent	6%
satisfactory	28%
in need of improvement	59%
(library space needs improvement, 46%)	

(Quiet areas for tutoring, remedial and special needs work and conference areas are "sorely needed" in some schools.)

- The educational program of the Lexington Public Schools would best be served by:

renovating schools as specified by teachers and parents in the Ad Hoc School Survey	37%
closing older schools when students can readily be accommodated in other ones	17%
renovating older schools	17%
following suggestions of the School Facilities Survey	16%
keeping schools as they are	6%

Students reactions to school size and facilities were as follows:

- The majority of elementary students felt the size of a school matters "not much" or "not at all," (62%).

(- 50% felt the age of a school mattered not much or not at all, and 46% felt it mattered a lot or some.

Teaching Staff felt the optimum size of a school to be between 200-350.

Educational Programs Survey

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF VIEWS

ON

PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND SCHOOL SIZE (separating teachers by the size of their school)

Of 118 elementary teachers, 2 did not mark the size of their school. The remainder broke down by school size as follows:

(L) Large = 500 or more students	21 teachers
(M) Medium = 350-500	65 "
(S) Small = 200-350	16 "
(P) Peewee = less than 200	14 "

Physical facilities affect the educational program

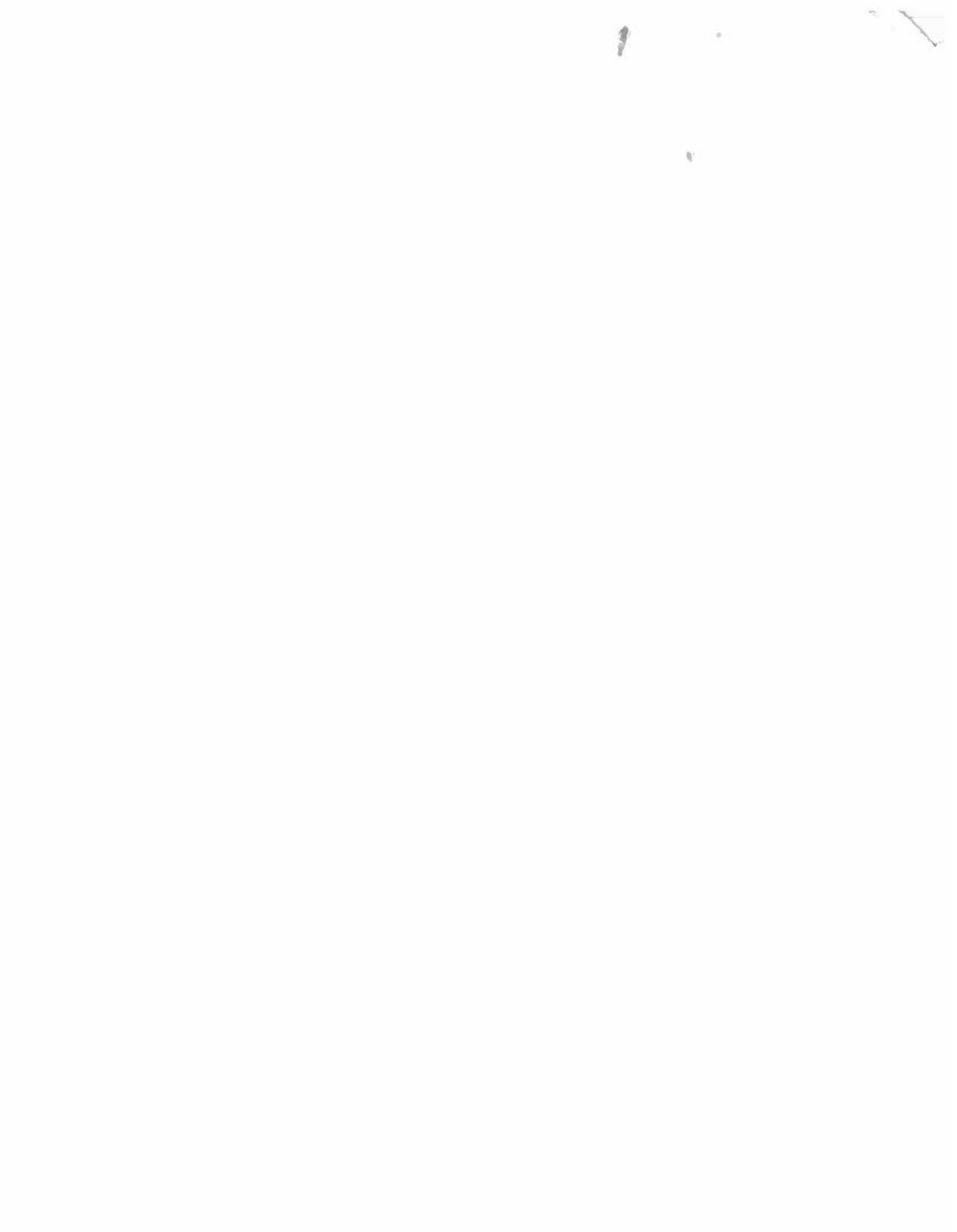
	P	S	M	L
a great deal	14%	25%	40%	71%
moderately	57%	44%	54%	24%
not necessarily at all	29%	31%	6%	-

The educational program of the Lexington Public Schools would best be served by:

renovating older schools	29%	31%	17%	24%
School Facilities Survey	14%	-	17%	19%
keeping schools as are	14%	6%	3%	5%
closing older schools	-	13%	15%	29%
Ad Hoc School Survey	43%	50%	45%	24%

Physical facilities affect the educational process this way:

hinder	7%	50%	25%	24%
foster	21%	25%	43%	19%
have little effect	64%	19%	22%	10%



	P	S	M	L
Renovations in their school would				
accommodate teaching styles	-	13%	12%	10%
allow program variety	57%	81%	40%	19%
provide better education	7%	6%	15%	14%
make little difference	36%	-	20%	43%
other	-	-	3%	-

Newer schools provide this many educational advantages not found in older:

many advantages	7%	-	8%	5%
some advantages	64%	94%	72%	81%
no advantages	21%	6%	12%	10%

Older schools provide this many educational advantages not found in newer:

many advantages	36%	31%	2%	5%
some advantages	57%	56%	54%	48%
no advantages	7%	6%	23%	19%

(Note: At large schools 20% did not answer)

Classroom space was rated this way:

excellent	20%	14%	14%	23%
satisfactory	60%	21%	45%	45%
needs improvement	13%	64%	36%	32%

and auxiliary space this way:

excellent	-	14%	2%	5%
satisfactory	20%	7%	34%	23%
needs improvement	73%	79%	59%	73%

Physical education facilities were rated this way:

excellent	-	-	31%	45%
satisfactory	33%	36%	43%	45%
need improvement	67%	64%	17%	9%



P S M L

Library/learning resources space was rated this way:

excellent	-	-	12%	36%
satisfactory	33%	43%	34%	50%
needs improvement	47%	57%	50%	14%

The optimum size for an elementary school is:

500 or more	-	-	-	5%
350-500	7%	6%	43%	48%
200-350	64%	75%	31%	38%
less than 200	21%	-	6%	-
makes no difference	7%	19%	18%	10%

