



ADA CITY SCHOOLS



*2025 SUPERINTENDENT
SEARCH SURVEY RESULTS*



Ada City Schools, in partnership with the Oklahoma State School Boards Association, hosted a three-week long survey to garner input from stakeholders regarding the current superintendent search. Participants were asked to provide insight into the characteristics and experience they see being valuable and needed in the district's next leader. More than 500 participants provided important insight to the Ada City Board of Education as they begin the search for their next superintendent.



Ada City Schools
Superintendent Search 2025
Community ThoughtExchange Survey Summary

Summary of Survey Results

Q1: Which best describes you? (Please check all that apply.)

I am a parent/guardian of a current student at Ada Public Schools: 230 (57%)

I am a community member in the district: 124 (31%)

I am a member of the certified staff for Ada Public Schools: 101 (25%)

I am a member of the support staff for Ada Public Schools: 35 (9%)

I am an administrator for Ada Public Schools: 20 (5%)

I am a student at Ada Public Schools: 17 (4%)

Q2: For school employees: Which level of students do you teach or serve? (Please check all that apply.)

Elementary: 68 (47%)

High School: 41 (28%)

Junior High/Middle School: 38 (26%)

District Level: 28 (19%)

Q3: For students: Which school level do you attend?

High School: 8 (47%)

Junior High/Middle School: 7 (41%)

Elementary: 2 (12%)

Q4: For parents/guardians: Which school level does your child (or children) attend? (Please check all that apply.)

Elementary: 149 (65%)

High School: 96 (42%)

Junior High/Middle School: 88 (38%)

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In your opinion, what are the strengths of Ada City Public Schools?

The most important topic highlighted by participants is the dedication and quality of teachers, which is seen as a cornerstone of Ada City Public Schools' success. Overall, the sentiment is positive, with strong appreciation for the diverse programs, leadership, and community support.

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Dedicated Teachers: Participants frequently praised the dedication and quality of teachers, noting their commitment to student success and their caring nature. Teachers are seen as going above and beyond to ensure students receive a high-quality education. This dedication is a significant strength and a key factor in the positive educational experiences of students.

Diverse Programs: The variety of programs offered, including arts, athletics, aviation, and STEM, was a common theme. Participants appreciated the wide range of extracurricular activities and elective courses available to students. These programs are perceived as providing valuable opportunities for student growth and engagement.

Strong Leadership: Leadership within the school district, including the superintendent and school administrators, was frequently praised. Participants noted the leaders' commitment to improvement, effective communication, and support for teachers and staff. Strong leadership is seen as a driving force behind the district's success and positive environment.

Community Support: The support from the community, including parents, local businesses, and organizations, was highlighted as a strength. Participants mentioned the involvement of the community in school activities and the pride they take in their schools. This support is viewed as essential for creating a positive and collaborative educational environment.

Academic Excellence: The focus on academic achievement and the availability of advanced coursework, such as AP classes, were commonly mentioned. Participants noted the district's commitment to high academic standards and the success of students in achieving honors and scholarships. Academic excellence is seen as a core value of the school district.

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In your opinion, what are the challenges for Ada City Public Schools?

The most significant challenge for Ada City Public Schools is the lack of adequate funding, which impacts teacher retention, facilities, and overall educational quality. Participants generally expressed concerns about the prioritization of resources and the need for better communication and support within the district.

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Funding and Resources: Participants frequently mentioned the lack of adequate funding as a major challenge. This includes insufficient salaries for teachers and support staff, outdated facilities, and stretched resources for both academic and extracurricular programs. The perception is that the district struggles to balance the limited funds it receives, leading to a reliance on fundraising and external support.

Teacher Retention and Support: Given the financial challenges facing education in Oklahoma, teacher retention and support is a big concern. Many teachers leave the teaching career due to a lack of competitive pay and the challenges that come with working in education.

Student Behavior and Discipline: Many responses pointed to issues with student behavior and the lack of consistent discipline across the district. Participants feel that there is a need for better enforcement of rules and more support for teachers in managing classroom behavior. This includes addressing the root causes of behavioral issues, such as socioeconomic challenges and lack of parental involvement.

Communication and Leadership: Communication within the district, between schools, and with parents is seen as lacking. Participants expressed the need for clearer, more consistent communication from the administration and better coordination between different schools and grade levels. Increased transparency and accountability in the district were cited as an opportunity to improve.

Academic Prioritization and Standards: There is a perception that extracurricular activities, particularly sports, are sometimes prioritized over academics. Participants believe that higher academic standards and expectations need to be set for students, and that more focus should be placed on academic excellence and preparing students for college and careers.

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In your opinion, what are the qualities and characteristics that the Board of Education should seek in the next superintendent?

Participants emphasized the need for a superintendent who is student focused, supportive of teachers, and possesses strong leadership and communication skills.

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Student and Teacher Support: Participants highlighted the importance of a superintendent who is deeply invested in the wellbeing and development of both students and teachers. They expect the new leader to be empathetic, supportive, and actively involved in the school community. The general sentiment is that a superintendent who prioritizes the needs of students and teachers will foster a positive and productive educational environment.

Leadership and Integrity: Strong leadership and integrity were frequently mentioned as essential qualities. Participants want a superintendent who can make tough decisions, stand up for what is right, and lead by example. The perception is that a leader with high moral standards and a clear vision will inspire trust and respect within the school community.

Community Engagement: The need for a superintendent who is actively engaged with the community was a recurring theme. Participants believe that building strong relationships with parents, local organizations, and the broader community is crucial for the success of the school district. They expect the superintendent to be visible, approachable, and committed to fostering a sense of community.

Financial and Resource Management: Effective management of financial resources and school budgets was another key concern. Participants want a superintendent who is knowledgeable about school finances, can secure funding, and allocate resources wisely. The perception is that sound financial management is essential for maintaining and improving school operations.

Innovation and Vision: Participants expressed a desire for a superintendent who is innovative and forward-thinking. They want someone who can bring fresh ideas, embrace new educational trends, and adapt to changing circumstances. The general sentiment is that a visionary leader will help the school district stay ahead and continuously improve.