







our community's voice
for our students' future




LET'S FOCUS TOGETHER:
JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE



Tuesday, Nov. 6
5 - 8 p.m.
Wydown Middle School



Thursday, Nov. 8
6 - 9 p.m.
Clayton High School Library



Saturday, Nov. 10
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Center of Clayton

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

The **FOCUS** Advisory Team needs your feedback regarding the possible options being considered as next steps for the future of the School District of Clayton.

We invite you to use one of the following methods to share your feedback on the **FOCUS** for our school district.

Please submit all feedback by Nov. 17. Feedback received will be summarized and presented to the Board of Education at their Dec. 12 meeting.

• **OPEN HOUSES** •
Visit the feedback station at one of the Open Houses to complete a feedback form.

• **ONLINE FORM** •
Complete the online feedback form at claytonschoools.net/focusfeedback. **The forms will be available by Nov. 2.**




our community's voice
for our students' future


In early November, the District will hold a series of **Open House style meetings** in order to gather input **about** upcoming **key decisions** that will be made, including the possibility of **asking voters for a tax increase in April 2019** and establishing community priorities for our students' future.




LEARN MORE:
ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT CLAYTONSCHOOLS.NET/FOCUS



Tuesday, Nov. 6
5 - 8 p.m.
Wydown Middle School



Thursday, Nov. 8
6 - 9 p.m.
Clayton High School Library



Saturday, Nov. 10
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Center of Clayton

WHO should participate in FOCUS?

All School District of Clayton community members, including parents, students, staff, alumni and District residents, are encouraged to participate. Let's **FOCUS** together as the success of this project relies heavily on participation from a broad-based representation of our community.

WHY should our community participate in FOCUS?

Your opinion matters. This is an opportunity for the District to hear your voice - our community's voice for our students' future. Attend an Open House to learn about the District's current financial reality and also take some time to help shape priorities for our students' future. Most importantly, attendees will have the **opportunity to ask questions, share ideas and provide feedback.**

FOCUS ON OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

The School District of Clayton Board of Education is studying the possibility of asking voters to approve a tax levy increase in April 2019. The District's last voter-approved tax increase was in April 2003. Prop E, the name of the 2003 ballot proposal, was projected to last for three years. Due to sound fiscal management, including budget reductions, cost control measures and steps to reduce utility costs, it has lasted for nearly 16 years. However, because of a state law that limits the growth of a school district's tax revenue, the District has seen expenses grow at a considerably faster rate than revenues over

time. This growth in expenses resulted in annual budget shortfalls beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. The District has been prudently using its reserves to close the gap between revenues and expenses for the past three years. While new construction creates some additional new revenue for the District, it only represents on average about two percent of the District's operating revenue and will not be enough to close the revenue/expenditure gap. Therefore, the District is exploring the possibility of asking voters to approve a tax increase in April 2019.

FOCUS ON OUR STUDENTS

FOCUS will also allow the Clayton community to provide input to help establish priorities for our students' future. These community priorities will not only be used to inform important decisions being made by the Board of Education but will also be used as building blocks to develop the District's next strategic plan. In addition to gathering input at the Open Houses, the District will be using a platform called ThoughtExchange, which will allow students, parents, staff, alumni and community members to provide their thoughts on priorities for our students and evaluate others' thoughts in a transparent, online conversation.

Learn more and participate at claytonschoools.net/thoughtexchange.



The 2018-2019 school year will be an integral year for the School District of Clayton as we partner with our stakeholders to make **strategic decisions that will further enhance our commitment to student learning.** This fall, we are seeking input from our parents, students, staff, alumni and community members about the possibility of asking voters for a tax increase in April 2019 and establishing community priorities for our students' future.

LET'S FOCUS TOGETHER: JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE

BE INVOLVED IN THE SOLUTION

Join us as we **FOCUS** together in order to hear our community's voice for our students' future. To ensure your voice is heard in this process, please consider attending one of three Open House style meetings in November. The format and content will be the same for all three meetings, giving you time to weigh in on the current state of our finances and priorities for our students' future.

You will have the opportunity to share your thoughts with District administrators and Board of Education members about the priorities for maintaining our financial health and priorities for student learning.

EXPLORE OPTIONS AT YOUR OWN PACE

The Open Houses are designed so attendees can come and go based on their schedules and move at their own pace. Upon arrival, you will receive a packet of information and a description of the format for the evening. Several informational stations will be set up to give you an opportunity to engage in dialogue with experts in each area.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

Once you have made your way through the stations, your final stop will be a "feedback" station where you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts on what you learned and the future direction you believe the District should consider. Please RSVP to join us at an Open House at claytonschoools.net/focus.

If you are unable to attend one of the three Open Houses, your voice can still be heard! Complete the online form available at claytonschoools.net/focusfeedback or contact the District at 314.854.6000 for a hard copy form. **The forms will be available by Nov. 2.**

Please submit all feedback by Nov. 17. Feedback received will be summarized and presented to the Board of Education at their Dec. 12 meeting.

For more information about **FOCUS**,

- Call 314.854.6000.
- Email focus@claytonschoools.net.
- Visit our website at claytonschoools.net/focus.
- Follow **FOCUS** on Facebook at facebook.com/claytonschoools.