Introduction

A group of high school educators across five Berkshire County high schools are partnering with the Barr Foundation to conduct research, stakeholder engagement, and discussion leading to a collective vision of what all high school students will know and be able to do by and beyond graduation.

We are seeking input from Berkshire County community members. Your perspectives in completing this short survey will help us to ensure that Berkshire graduates are prepared with the skills, knowledge, and dispositions needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world (college, career, and community).

We greatly appreciate your participation.

1. Please choose ONE category that best describes you.
   - Employee of a Berkshire County business or organization
   - CEO, President, Executive Director, or Owner of a Berkshire County business or organization
   - Looking for work in Berkshire County
   - Stay at home parent
   - Retired
   - Other interested community member

Employer questions

2. What industry or sector do you work in?
   - Banking and finance
   - Manufacturing
   - Arts/cultural
   - Human Services
   - Health care/mental health/dental
   - Professional and business services
   - Construction
   - Educational services
   - Federal, state, or local government
   - Retail trade
   - Wholesale trade
   - Food and agriculture
   - Recreation and hospitality
   - Utilities
   - Transportation
   - Other (please specify)
3. What are the top three skills/attributes that your workplace looks for when hiring employees? (CHECK UP TO THREE BOXES)

☐ Subject matter expertise
☐ Specific technical skills
☐ Able to work well in teams
☐ Able to solve problems
☐ Related work experience
☐ Able to manage time
☐ Able to actively learn
☐ Strong written communication skills
☐ Strong oral communication skills
☐ Strong post-secondary educational background

Other (please specify) 

Skills/attributes lacking

4. What skills/attributes do you find are most lacking in colleagues you work with or hire?

Elected positions

5. Do you serve in any of the following capacities? (check all that apply)

☐ School committee member
☐ Select board or city council member
☐ Other elected official
☐ None of the above

Readiness skills
6. What THREE READINESS SKILLS do you feel high school graduates need most to succeed in the future? (check up to three boxes)

- problem solving
- critical thinking
- service orientation
- collaboration/coordination
- judgment/decision making
- Other (please specify)

7. What THREE ACADEMIC COMPETENCIES do you feel high school graduates need most to succeed in the future? (check up to three boxes)

- literacy (reading)
- writing
- mathematics
- science
- technology
- Other (please specify)

8. Indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Berkshire County students are exposed to career exploration and immersion activities as part of their high school experience."

- strongly agree
- agree
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- not sure
9. How important do you think the following career exploration and immersion activities are in guiding high school students about future career options?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>career exploration classes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>vocational/technical classes</td>
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<td>visits to local employers</td>
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<td>job shadowing (spending a day at a workplace)</td>
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<td>career fairs</td>
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<td>youth leadership programs</td>
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<td>internships</td>
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<td>mock/practice interviews</td>
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<td>career interest inventories/surveys</td>
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<td>career speakers at school</td>
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</table>

**Balance between jobs and academics**

10. How much emphasis should Berkshire County high schools place on job/career preparation versus academics? Drag the slider to any point on the continuum to indicate the appropriate balance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>job/career preparation is most important</th>
<th>equal balance</th>
<th>academics are most important</th>
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**Achievement gaps**
11. What do you feel are the MOST EFFECTIVE strategies that local high schools should be implementing to address achievement gaps/disparities in academic performance among different groups of students? (check up to three boxes)

☐ Increase family involvement in students’ education

☐ Connect families in need with community resources

☐ Ensure that students are encouraged to take advanced level classes

☐ Increase student attendance rates

☐ Enhance cultural relevance of curriculum

☐ Ensure that staff’s racial/cultural background reflect those of students

☐ Provide more remedial programs for students

☐ Expand learning opportunities for students in Out of School Time Programming (after-school, vacation, summer)

☐ Provide intensive mentoring and connections with adults

☐ Other (please specify)

12. How would you grade each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A - excellent</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F - failing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The high school(s) in the district where you live.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berkshire County public high schools on average.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>Public high schools nationally.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<td>☐</td>
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13. What more could high schools do to connect students with opportunities in the Berkshires?
14. What more could high schools do to ensure that students are prepared for their future beyond high school?