Introduction

A group of high school educators across five Berkshire County high schools are partnering with the Barr Foundation to conduct deep 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.

Currently, we are seeking input from parents of students who are currently attending a Berkshire County public high school, as well as public school faculty and staff. The 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).

If you are currently a parent/guardian of a Grade 9-12 Berkshire County public high school student, or school administrator, faculty or staff member, we encourage you to click on the link below. Please complete the survey no later than July 2. We greatly appreciate your participation.

1. Please choose ONE category that best describes you. (NOTE: If you work for a school system and are also a parent of a high school age student, choose your staff affiliation.)

- grade K-12 teacher, counselor or nurse
- district or school administrator
- paraprofessional
- other school staff (secretaries, cafeteria, custodial, coaches, advisors)
- parent of student(s) in grades 9-12 of a public Berkshire County high school

School system

2. For which public school system do you work or are you affiliated with?

Pittsfield Public Schools

3. Which high school do you work for/are you affiliated with in Pittsfield?

- Taconic High
- Pittsfield High
- both

Remote learning engagement - schools

4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I am able to meaningfully engage my students in learning activities while school buildings are closed."

- agree
- somewhat agree
- somewhat disagree
- strongly disagree
- unsure
- not applicable to my work
Remote learning activities - schools

5. The following are a few examples of ways teachers can provide instruction while schools are closed. Please check all activities that teachers are providing for students while school buildings are closed. (check all that apply)

- Students are engaged in remote learning through online academic programs/assignments.
- Students are engaged in remote learning through teacher led instruction.
- Students have been given packets or paper-based lessons and activities.
- Students have been directed to online resources for support.
- Students have been engaged in online activities to engage with one another one-to-one or as a classroom community.
- Not sure/not applicable to my work.

Remote learning challenges - schools

6. What challenges or barriers to learning are students experiencing now while schools are closed? (check all that apply)

- Lack of access to reliable high speed Internet.
- Lack of access to appropriate technology devices, such as tablets or computers.
- Shortage of food and hunger.
- Lack of shelter or being displaced from shelter.
- Parent/guardian working in a first responder or other frontline role.
- Parent/guardian recently laid off.
- Lack of parental supervision.
- Family member who has died or become ill.
- Depression.
- Unsure/not applicable to my work.
- Student has a special learning need that is difficult to address in a remote learning environment (please explain): 

Remote learning - assistance and communication

7. How helpful would your school find the following types of assistance with remote learning?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance</th>
<th>Very helpful</th>
<th>Somewhat helpful</th>
<th>Just a little helpful</th>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Platform to exchange content and ideas among teachers at my school.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platform to exchange content and ideas among teachers across districts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to expertise at regional colleges in remote learning.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional development and training opportunities in effective practices for delivering remote learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistance with technology issues that arise.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
8. In the past week, how many students have you communicated with?
- ☐ almost all students
- ☐ most students
- ☐ half of students
- ☐ a few students
- ☐ none
- ☐ not applicable to my work

9. What public school system do your children in grades 9-12 attend (if you have children in more than one school system, answer for your oldest child)

10. Which public high school in Pittsfield does your child attend? (if you have children at both schools, answer for your oldest child)
- ☐ Pittsfield High School
- ☐ Taconic High School

11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding your child’s remote learning experience?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am able to provide the supervision my child needs.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The environment at home is conducive to learning.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote learning is working well for my child.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. What challenges or barriers is your child experiencing now while schools are closed? (check all that apply)

- Lack of access to reliable high speed Internet.
- Lack of access to appropriate technology devices, such as tablets or computers.
- Shortage of food and hunger.
- Lack of shelter or being displaced from shelter.
- Parent/guardian working in a first responder or other frontline role.
- Parent/guardian recently laid off.
- Family member who has died or become ill.
- Depression.
- Lack of a suitable place to work at home.
- none of the above

Student has a special learning need that is difficult to address in a remote learning environment (please explain):

Remote learning satisfaction - parents

13. How satisfied are you with the quality of the remote/online learning since school buildings closed?

- very satisfied
- somewhat satisfied
- just a little satisfied
- not satisfied

Parent involvement and recommendations

14. What types of parent involvement do you feel are MOST helpful to your child’s education? (check up to three boxes)

- providing help with homework
- attending school activities when possible
- volunteering at the school
- discussing future plans after high school with my child
- attending parent-teacher conferences
- providing emotional support to my child
- setting a good example with my own behavior
- other (please describe):
15. How likely would you be to recommend the public high school your child attends to another parent/guardian?

- very likely
- somewhat likely
- neither likely nor unlikely
- somewhat unlikely
- very unlikely

Hopes and dreams

16. In one or two sentences, describe you hopes and dreams for your child’s future.

Strengths of high school

17. What do you feel are the THREE greatest strengths of the district’s high school(s)? (check up to three boxes)

- challenging classes
- courses that inspire students
- engaging instruction
- career focused programs
- dual enrollment
- staff who care about students
- Other (please specify)

Model programs

18. Name one feature or program of the high school that you feel is a good model for other schools to consider replicating/offering.

Learning environment
19. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the high school's LEARNING ENVIRONMENT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers set high expectations for students' work.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The things students learn in high school are relevant to them in the future.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers provide students with the opportunity to work with peers to solve critical problems.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>School rules are fair for all students.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Safety and belonging

20. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding SAFETY AND BELONGING at the high school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers, students, and the principal work together at the school to prevent bullying.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students feel comfortable reaching out to teachers/counselors for emotional support if they need it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers and adults are interested in students' well-being beyond just their class work.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Student engagement

21. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding STUDENT ENGAGEMENT at the high school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers care about students' academic success.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults at the school are respectful to student ideas even if the ideas expressed are different from their own.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults at the school treat all students respectfully regardless of their race, color, national origin, ancestry, religious creed, sex, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students are encouraged to take upper level courses (honors, Advanced Placement)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Readiness skills
22. 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)

23. 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
- media literacy
- practical life skills
- global knowledge
- content knowledge
- learning strategies
- Other (please specify): 

24. What do you feel are the MOST EFFECTIVE strategies the high school(s) should be implementing to address achievement gaps among 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)
- Intensive mentoring and connections with adults
- Other (please specify)
Changes

25. **What THREE THINGS would you like to change about the high school? (check up to three boxes)**

- [ ] More Advanced Placement classes
- [ ] More course variety
- [ ] More challenging classes
- [ ] More life skills classes for ALL students
- [ ] Smaller class sizes
- [ ] More career-related activities
- [ ] Greater opportunity for career and voc/tech pathways
- [ ] More diversity among teachers and staff
- [ ] More project-based learning
- [ ] Larger class sizes
- [ ] More welcoming school environment
- [ ] Fewer students per guidance counselor
- [ ] Wouldn't want to change anything

Grading the schools

26. **How would you grade each of the following?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A - excellent</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F - failing</th>
<th>not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The high school(s) in your district.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkshire County public high schools on average.</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public high schools nationally.</td>
<td>○</td>
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<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
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