

Durham County Resident Survey 2021

Question 21 Responses

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Question

What can the City and County do to make sure all children and youth in Durham reach their full potential and thrive?

Summary

Themes	Total Mentions
1. Increase funding and improve quality of schools.	247
2. Subsidizing, fully-funding, or increasing access to pre-kindergarten, childcare, and early education.	32
3. Increasing public school teacher salaries and attracting/retaining higher quality instructors.	78
4. Increasing safety and addressing violence, gangs, and relationships with police.	56
5. Increasing and improving after school programs and recreational spaces for youth.	174
6. Increasing opportunities for youth employment, internships, mentorship, and job training.	59
7. Increasing funding for services that address food insecurity, poverty, and other social inequalities.	103
Miscellaneous	37
Total *	481

* Themed responses do not add up to 481 since responses may satisfy multiple topics.

Explanations

1. Increase funding and improve quality of schools.

Total: 247

- Increasing budget of public education: 83
- Increasing quality of public education: 77
- Alternatives to public schools: 23
- Funding public schools more equally/equitably: 17
 - Increase City/County support for magnet, private, and charter schools: 9
 - Decrease funding for charter schools and increase public school: 9
- Increasing the number of teachers per student/reducing class sizes: 7
- Elevate school curriculum: 6
- Safety in schools: 6 (also see third theme)
- Connections between churches and schools, school prayer: 3

2. Subsidizing, fully-funding, or increasing access to pre-kindergarten, childcare, and early education.

Total: 32

- Public/subsidized/universal pre-k: 19
- More public childcare and support for early development: 17

3. Increasing public school teacher salaries and attracting/retaining higher quality instructors.

Total: 78

- Improve teacher pay: 45
- Improve teacher quality: 32
- Incentives to retain teachers: 8

4. Improving safety and addressing violence, gangs, and relationships with police.

Total: 56

- General safety of youth: 56
 - Creating safe spaces for youth: 11
- Addressing gang violence: 5
- Reducing violent crime: 5
- Reducing drug abuse: 1
- Safety in schools: 6
 - COVID-19 in schools: 1
 - Remove police from schools: 2
 - Increase police presence in schools: 1
 - Safety in schools: 2
- Police: 7

- Source police in their own neighborhoods: 1
- Fund alternatives to policing like social workers: 4
- Improve quality of police: 2

5. Increasing and improving after school programs and recreational spaces for youth.

Total: 49

- Parks and playgrounds: 18
 - Improving the quality and safety of parks and playgrounds: 7
 - Improving access and number of parks and greenspaces: 7
- More recreational opportunities for youth: 46
- After school activities: 49

6. Increasing opportunities for youth employment, internships, mentorship, and job training.

Total: 39

- More paid employment opportunities: 24
- Internships, apprenticeships, and job training: 11
- Increase number of mentor relationships: 20

7. Increasing funding for services that address food insecurity, poverty, and other social inequalities.

Total: 103

- Increasing funding for general social services or increasing the number of social workers: 28
- Addressing financial insecurity and poverty: 9
 - Reducing poverty: 8
 - Less policing in lower income communities: 1
- Addressing food insecurity: 14
 - Increasing access to low cost and healthy foods: 8
 - Providing free breakfasts or lunches to youth in schools: 6
- Addressing housing insecurity: 13
 - Increasing affordable housing: 9
 - Improving housing conditions: 2
 - Less development in downtown Durham: 1
- Creating higher quality and safer public transportation for youth, particularly to school and to after school activities: 13
- Increasing access to mental health services for youth and their parents: 9
- Providing technology to families and youth: 7

Miscellaneous

- [1] "Equal opportunity."
- [2] "Freedom to choose."
- [3] "Get rid of gangs, they are a cancer on society."
- [4] "Gun control."
- [5] "Make universities affordable."
- [6] "More positive interactions between youth and police so youth can trust police more."
- [7] "Provide resources for at risk children and youth."
- [8] "Remove the gangs and gang violence and drugs the gangs bring to durham."
- [9] "Stop teaching them to be communists and perpetual victims."
- [10] "Understand that there is major difference between equality vs equity; additionally stop acting like racism does not exist and approach it heads on."
- [11] "Very little - it should be done in the home."
- [12] "All ages - drop the mandates and the vaccines and get back to empowering the young. they are your future too, you know."
- [13] "Anything that will keep children on a path toward success commensurate with their abilities and level of effort. remove obstacles that lead to their turning to gangs and crime and drugs and violent lifestyles."
- [14] "As far as I know, no one has come up with a solution to that problem. good luck trying."
- [15] "Be sure that all children regardless of ethnicity, income, etc. get the same opportunities."
- [16] "Build more community centers. have well trained police officers assigned to their own neighborhoods."
- [17] "Continue to teach them that durham can be a beacon of a place that terry sanford & john hope franklin called home (I knew both later in life). the city that was the childhood of pauli murray."
- [18] "Do better."
- [19] "Durham needs to use more of its resources to deal with gun violence."
- [20] "Early intervention to deter youth violence."
- [21] "Enforce existing codes and regulations!!"
- [22] "Fund public health, abolish police, read the youth voices report published by the youth office and do those things. involve youth from the start. consider a youth bill of rights, created, and maintained by the youth of durham."
- [23] "Get crime under control, especially shootings."
- [24] "Get rid of the gangs."
- [25] "Give everyone the same opportunity & treat all children the same, not catering to one race or another! All, the same."
- [26] "Give more incentives."
- [27] "Go back to teaching the basics of life values."
- [28] "Gun control so they may live beyond 16 -18 years old!!! Gang dissolution!"
- [29] "Improve crime rate, more control of gangs."
- [30] "My children are all adults and grew up elsewhere, so I am not qualified to answer."
- [31] "Conduct support groups for ages 10 to 15 years old and find out their concerns, what they think, what they feel for them and for themselves in order to help them be more focused on their decisions and not make mistakes at an early age so that learn to take care of themselves and their community and respect the people around them who are cautious. in reality, youth need a lot of help for a better tomorrow. helping youth is the best thing that can be done do for a better life in the future to care for and grow" [32] "Stop calling durham city police unless they don't carry guns."
- [33] "Stop enforcing laws that prohibit marijuana use."
- [34] "Support the neighborhood groups that are working on these goals and follow their lead and wisdom."
- [35] "Teach them dave ramsey financial literacy."
- [36] "Treat all the same."
- [37] "Very important to improve this plan."