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Students Voice Concern About Teacher Quality & Mental Health Support

Baton Rouge Alliance for Students releases fourth annual Youth Voice Report highlighting middle and high school students' perceptions of their education experiences

Baton Rouge, LA - Today, the Baton Rouge Alliance for Students released the annual Baton Rouge Youth Voice Report. The report aims to amplify the voices of those most directly affected by the successes and failures of our education system — students. Through several months of interviews and surveys, the Alliance gathered insight into how our city's students experience education and ways in which their needs may be better met.

Some key highlights from the report include:

- 72% of students named having “great teachers” as the most important factor in their school community.
- Nearly half of the students identified a need for mental health resources.
- 69% of students have a plan for what they will do after high school graduation.
- While 91% of students attending South BR schools consider their communities safe, that number drops to 67% for students attending schools in North BR.

“At the Baton Rouge Alliance for Students, we believe that students have a vital role in helping to create an educational experience that prepares them for a life of opportunity. The wisdom of young people is often overlooked, but as the direct consumers of education services, students' voices must be heard in the education discussion,” said Adonica Pelichet Duggan, CEO. “This survey and report give us a chance to hear directly from students and elevate the opinions of our city's young people. I am hopeful that policymakers will allow their input to guide them in better addressing student needs.”

Students shared concerns about experiencing various barriers to quality education, including access to quality staff, access to a quality and equitable education, community support, and local elected officials. The students surveyed attend a variety of school types, including traditional neighborhood, magnet, public charter, and private schools.

To read the report, hear the students' voices, and learn more about the Baton Rouge Youth Voice Initiative, visit batonrougestudents.org.

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About the Baton Rouge Alliance for Students

The Baton Rouge Alliance for Students works in partnership with a coalition of parents, community, civic leaders, and policymakers to achieve the shared goal of an excellent education for every Baton Rouge student. The Alliance's work focuses on empowering families, elevating community, and engaging leaders. The Alliance cultivates and supports diverse, student-centered leaders who believe that high-quality schools serving all of Baton Rouge's children are vital to ensuring the city's growth and success.