



Idaho KIDS COUNT: Small Faces in a BIG Recession Project Qualitative Report (2009)

Focus Group Research Question: *How is the recession affecting children’s education, health, safety and employment opportunities and what is most needed from civic leaders to protect children and build better support systems?”*

Education Related Quotes:

“We need to review the overall costs for students. From text books to parking, a lot is getting pushed onto students.” (College student)

“Invest in minds, kids, and we’ll help figure it out with you. We are so low on resources, we have to rely on each other more than ever.” (College student)

“Make either internships or some sort of work experience available. Because you can go through four years of school and still not be able to get a job.” (College student)

“Provide graduating college kids better job resources, creative ideas on how to live healthier, and delay student loans until you can provide proof of a job.” (College student)

“I have books for classes where the professor never references them at all. Students just spend a bunch of money on books that will literally never be opened. Other times, you have to buy the software but it’s for one time use only.” (College student)

“Education has been so underfunded all around. Teachers are complaining about it constantly. (College student)

“We can’t afford paper here, at the school. We ran out of paper supply. We had to write all the whole worksheets down. The school couldn’t buy anymore—no money.” (Secondary student)

“I feel like I only have one class that does anything (gets work done).” (Secondary student)

“In high school or even Jr. High, we should have the supplies we need, better teachers, and democracy. Also, electronic stuff and more of the things that help you for your career.” (Secondary student)

“Have more individual help for kids in school. A lot of people feel stupid so they just give up and don’t try.” (Secondary student)

“I think that the teachers don’t have respect. If the teachers aren’t nice to you I don’t see why we have to be nice to them just because they are older. Make how we treat each other consistent, not a double standard for parents and students.” (Secondary student)

“What we are looking for is to take some time and look at education to make sure that it matches with what you need, That’s what makes you learn.” (Secondary student)

“It would be cool to make it how like when the administration comes in and sits in the back of the room, we would switch, so the kids go in and evaluate teachers secretly or have secret cameras installed.” (Secondary student)

“Some teachers are annoyed and angry inside, and some take bribes. Students feel that they would not be believed, but they are telling the truth about teachers.” (Secondary student)

“Everybody should have a certain amount of activity, physical, everyday. People are getting obese. If I were in charge, I would work on that. Get everybody up and moving.” (Secondary student)

“We need more computer programs in school. They don’t have a good variety – they have basic typing but no real computer classes.” (Secondary student)

“We need more school options to eat if we get let out early to help with kids who are hungry.”(Secondary student)

“We will be running the businesses soon, and we aren’t being taught how.” (Secondary student)

“Please lower college tuition. (Secondary student)

“I think there should be a school for the homeless. Those kids should be able to come to school with us. Then you wouldn’t have to spend more money taking care of homeless kids.” (Primary student)

“Even if the teachers don’t like it, they should fire some of the teachers that are being really bad and they should arrest them for child abuse.” (Primary student)

“My school could use more books because our books are falling apart.” (Primary student)

“My school had to cut down on paper. We ran out of money.” (Primary student)

“We have sports balls, but we can’t play with them. They are all really flat.”(Primary student)

“I want more sports activities. Sports help me clear my head before a test, makes me calm.” (Primary student)

“If we are educated you can help the world because you get more money and the more money you get, you can donate more to the Food Bank! (Primary student)

“Teachers should treat the kids the same way you have to treat them.” (Primary student)

“Our school books are terrible.” (Primary student)

“We want to really learn more about other countries. I think its’ important to know about others because it makes us look stupid if we don’t (Primary student)

“I think school should be more about learning. Make it harder and so we can make a difference in the economy and really know what to do.” (Primary student)

“Homework doesn’t really work. We have so much of it because nobody pays attention in school.” (Primary student)

“We need more art and field trips. Poor people need field trips and real life experiences. It cost a lot to go on a field trip now. I don’t think we should leave the poor people out of field trips.” (Primary student)

“We need more hands on activities because that’s how people really learn so why isn’t education like that?” (Primary student)

“We need better schools, seriously. Why are we letting our schools go, even if it is a hard time in the economy? Don’t people care about their kids or even their own future?”(Primary student)

“School lunch hot dogs can bounce and are green. Kids are playing with them, but nobody eats them. It would be too unhealthy and I don’t want to eat bad food.” (Primary student)

“My parents have to pay more and ore every year (for public school) and they are tired of that.” (Primary student)

“We have to buy more of our supplies. They keep shifting the cost to the parents and students.” (Primary student)

“There’s not enough food and not healthy food at school lunches.” (Primary student)

“We need nicer teachers that are not mad and not punishing.” (Primary student)

“There are some kids who are acting bad now because things are hard at home with the economy but that shouldn’t stop teachers from taking care of it so other kids can still learn.” (Primary student)