Approach used to categorize the input

Identified initial list of categories.

Reviewed each row of input and checked appropriate categories. It was not always clear what individuals wrote, so categorization is a human interpretation.

As review progressed, categories were added and/or revised.

Original items are hidden in a column, showing stickies, original language,

Some stickies were not captured because the writing was not legible (not a lot, but some).

Some individuals put multiple thoughts on post its, in some cases, I separated the responses, for others, they are together.

Categories do not convey positive or negative input, and a review will show the mix.

There are a lot of comments identified under "other".

Responses

377 responses were completed on-line, some did not answer all 3 questions.

1.What do you want for Arlington Public Schools? N=365

2.What does success look like for children in the future? N=348

3.This is what's on my mind right now N=353

I'm not sure how to compare this to other efforts. It's different from a survey, totally open ended and not targeted to specific responses from families.

I calculated a 4.57 margin of error at the 95% confidence level based on a sample of 20,000, which means the results are reliable for the overall APS population. This is the same level we apply to our Community Satisfaction and Site Based Surveys. I wasn't sure of our actual target population, but the sample size does not change much for populations larger than 20,000.