



WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO BE A
DALER?

**THE PORTRAIT OF
A GRADUATE**

Portrait of A Graduate

The Art of Leadership...

Mobilize a group of people to create a shared vision of the future and then want to struggle for those shared aspirations.



Project Goals

- ★ Involve students, parents, community members, and staff in a large-scale conversation about what we want in our Farmingdale graduates.
- ★ Transparency about what is expected of students both inside and outside of school walls, and how everyone has a role in pursuing the vision.
- ★ Generate a district roadmap for a well-rounded Farmingdale graduate with the qualities, experiences, character, skills, and knowledge they should attain along the way.
- ★ Define measurable goals and outcomes for our work ahead.

Portrait of a Graduate Phases

The Portrait of a Graduate design process involves a sustained conversation leading to shared agreement about a unique community-owned picture of what graduates need for success.

PHASE 1

Design the
Engagement
Process

PHASE 2

Activate Multiple
Perspectives in
Conversation

PHASE 3

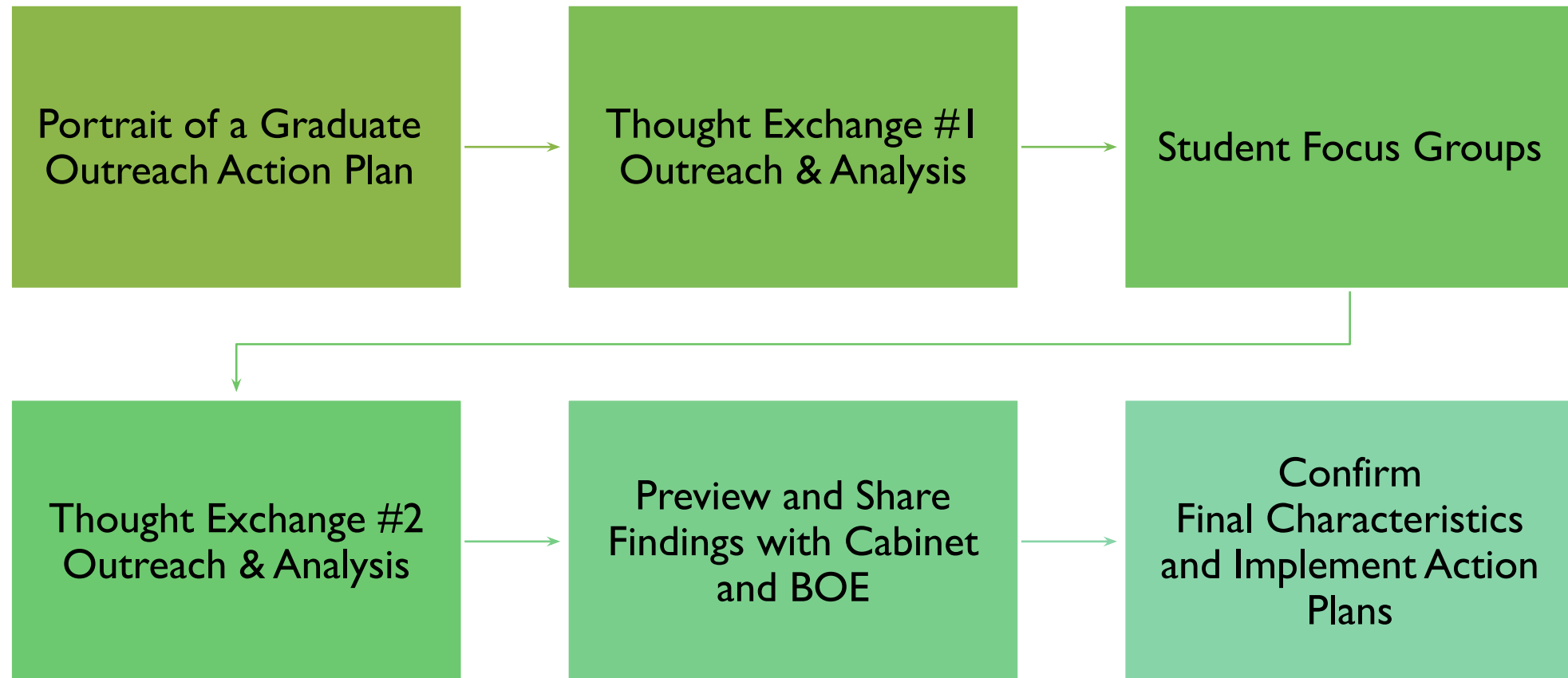
Synthesize
Collective Vision

PHASE 4

Create Visuals and
Adopt Portrait of
Graduate



THE PROCESS



ThoughtExchange

Parent, Staff & Community

As we look forward as a district, what are the hopes, aspirations, and dreams that our community has for our students and where might you see opportunities for growth at this moment?

Students (K- 12th grade)

What do you like most about your school experience, and how can we make it even better for you and other students?

ThoughtExchange

Parent, Staff, & Community Breakdown of Participation



787
Participants



319
Thoughts



10,351
Ratings

Please indicate which, if any, academic support services your student receives



724
Responses

%		Answer (Multi-select)
27%	(199)	Not applicable (I do not have a student in the school district)
40%	(295)	We do not receive extra academic support services
22%	(163)	We have an I.E.P or 504 plan
1%	(12)	We receive English Language Learner (ELL) services
9%	(71)	Other:

- Participation languages

%		Answer
97%	(763)	English
3%	(21)	Spanish
0%	(1)	Arabic
0%	(1)	Swahili
0%	(1)	French

ThoughtExchange

Student Breakdown of Participation



3,690
Participants



4,043
Thoughts



89,185
Ratings

AAE

385
Participants

413
Thoughts

7,994
Ratings

NSE

278
Participants

278
Thoughts

6,380
Ratings

SEM

526
Participants

555
Thoughts

7,391
Ratings

WWP

674
Participants

760
Thoughts

11,145
Ratings

HMS

969
Participants

1,168
Thoughts

32,681
Ratings

FHS

858
Participants

869
Thoughts

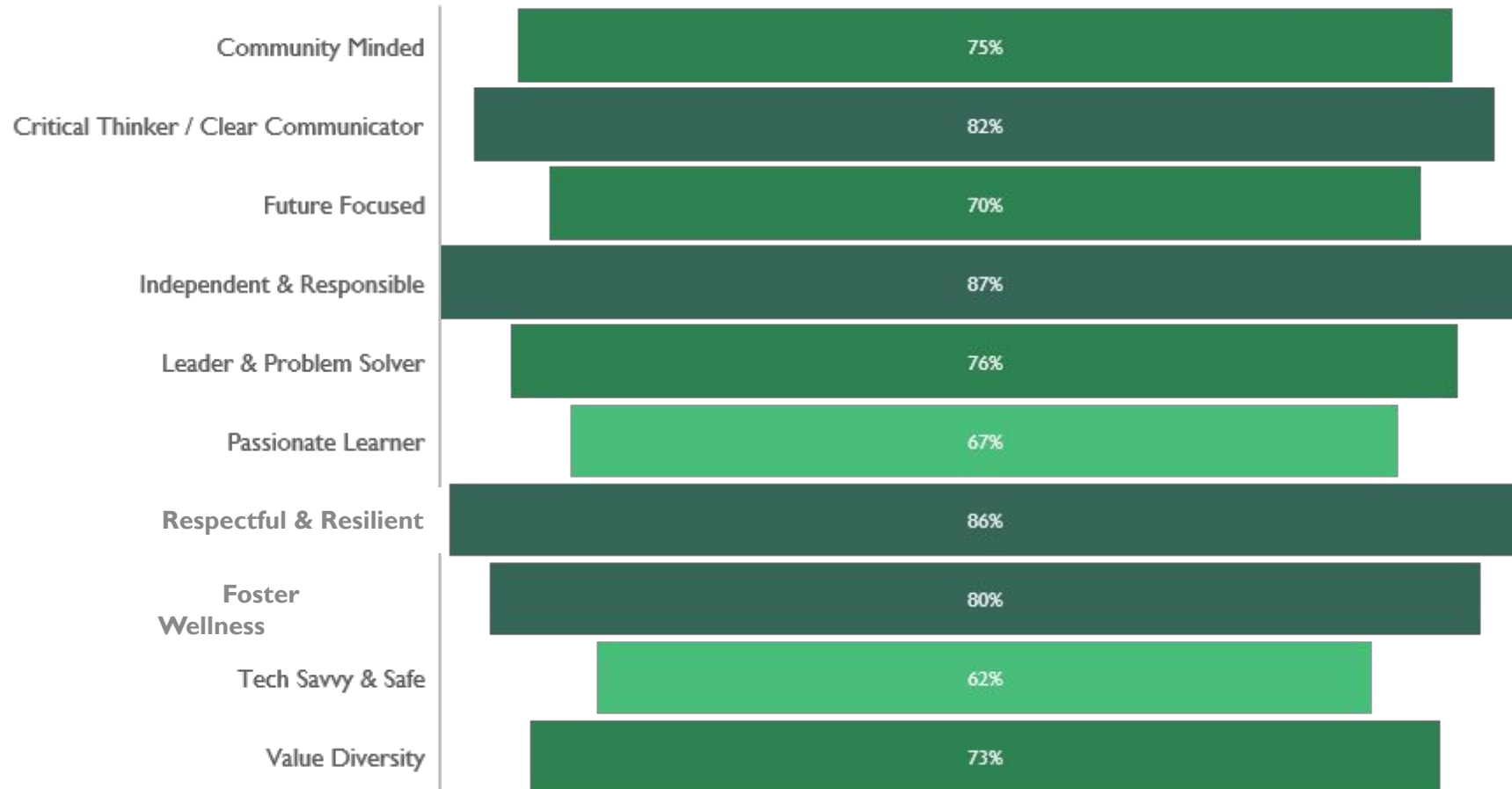
23,594
Ratings

ThoughtExchange
Student Top Rated



STAKEHOLDER FINDINGS

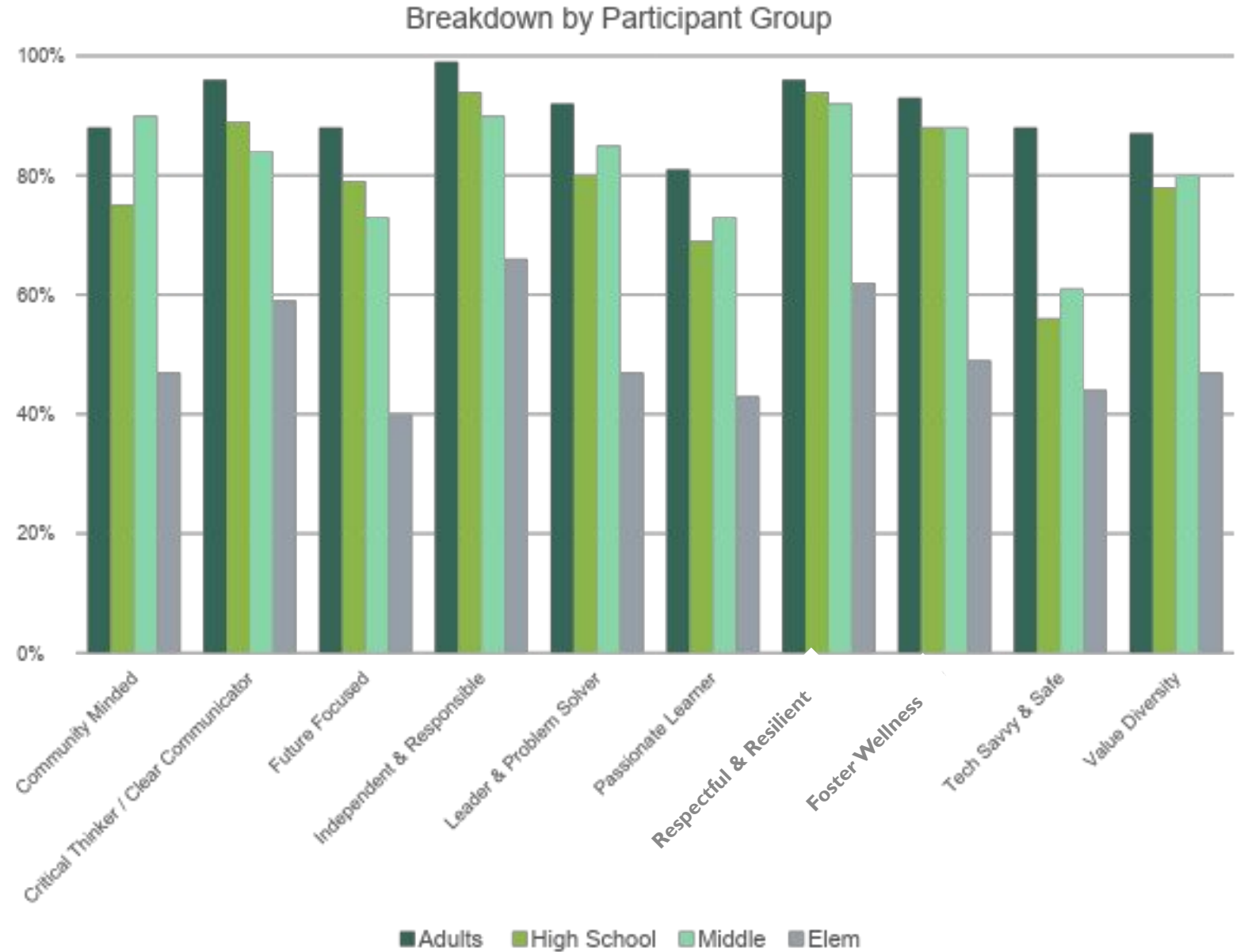
Total Percentage of "Important & Very Important" from ALL Stakeholders



Research into adults' perspective reveal the top **10 characteristics** identified through ranked comments received 88% or more votes as **important or very important.**

STAKEHOLDER FINDINGS

Findings reveal that while there's broad agreement regarding the top 10 characteristics, Adults, Middle & High School Students had more similar rating patterns. Elementary Students responded to the same topic but with a separate prompt.





THE CHARACTERISTICS

BREAKING DOWN THE DESCRIPTIONS & THE DATA

FARMINGDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

PORTRAIT OF A

Graduate



RESPECTFUL & RESILIENT

- Graduates demonstrate respect for themselves through self-confidence and kindness towards others with an emphasis on eliminating bullying, respect for people in different roles, and respect for those with special learning needs.



VALUE DIVERSITY

- Graduates recognize the value of diversity within the community with an emphasis on the diversity of learners with special needs, emerging multilingual students, as well as diversity in ethnicity, and economics.



CRITICAL THINKERS WHO COMMUNICATE CLEARLY

- Graduates are academically successful, with support to cultivate critical thinking skills at every level of their learning to prepare them to face the challenges of the 'real world', academic challenges in college, engage in professional communication, understanding social norms, and resolving conflicts.



FUTURE FOCUSED (CAREER PATHWAYS)

- Graduates value multiple pathways to future success with a focus on vocational, community college, and university options with an emphasis on the opportunities that are best for their future.



LEADERS & PROBLEM SOLVERS

- Graduates become leaders and problem solvers in the future, with the understanding that we live in a complex world and being a life-long learner means making a commitment to make the world a better place.



INDEPENDENT & RESPONSIBLE

- Graduates are independent and responsible for their actions, behaviors, and post-secondary life choices, with an emphasis on financial literacy, personal accountability, and practical life skills.



FOSTER WELLNESS

- Graduates develop self-awareness, self-advocacy skills, and the knowledge to maintain healthy lifestyles that provide balance in life and improve physical and mental well-being.



PASSIONATE LEARNERS

- Graduates take opportunities to pursue their passions, gain real world experiences, and have exposure to a wide variety of motivating and inspiring learning experiences.



TECH SAVVY & SAFE

- Graduates are technologically literate, fluent in their skills as well as responsible, safe, and protected from negative influences.



COMMUNITY MINDED

- Graduates are community minded in their day to day interactions, as well as appreciating community building, extra-curricular activities, and a sense of belonging.



COMMUNITY MINDED

Description

Graduates are community minded in their day-to-day interactions, as well as appreciating **community building, extra-curricular activities**, and a **sense of belonging**.

Importance

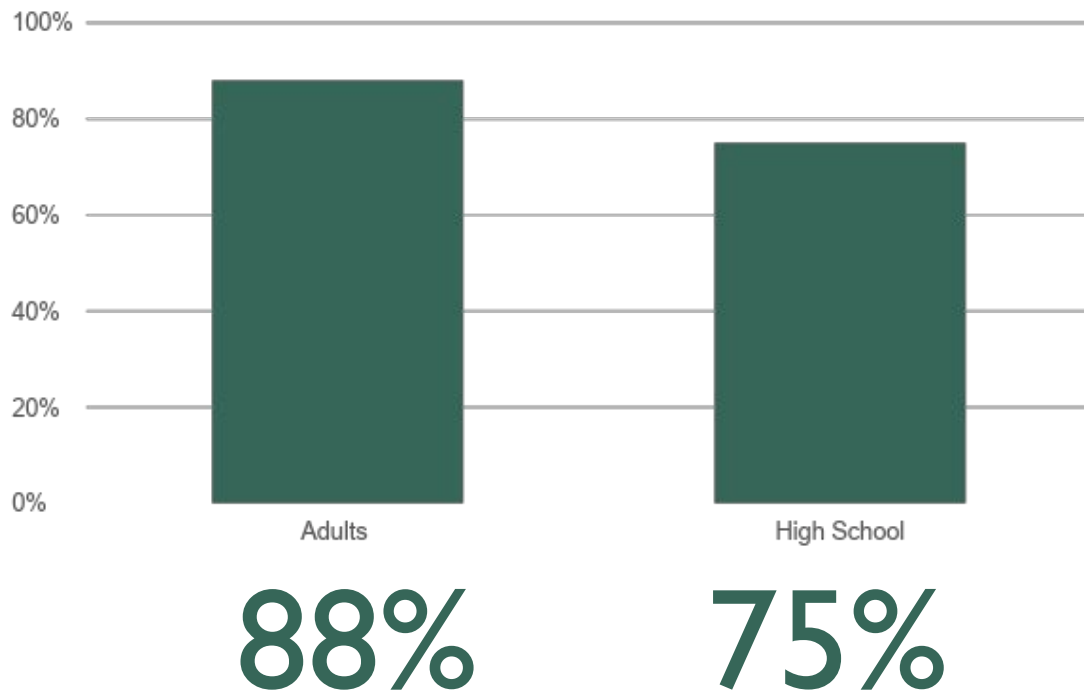
We want Farmingdale Graduates to be community minded so that they can contribute to their community in positive and productive ways. Whether it's their school, local businesses, teams or clubs, being community minded helps students develop critical skills for success in the future including team-work, collaboration, and a connection to their roots.

For Example:

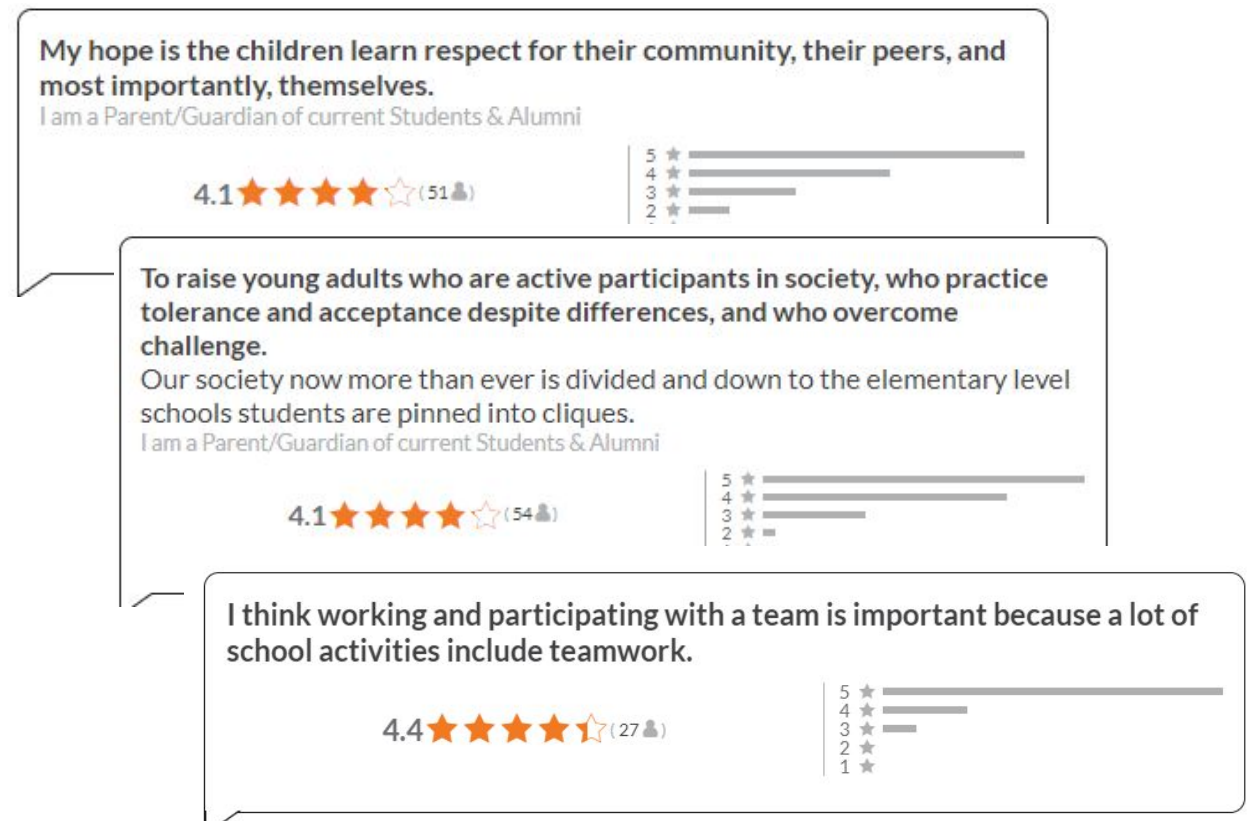
- Teamwork
- Service in the community
- Builds relationships with others
- Strong connections to local institutions
- Collaboration
- Community pride

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Community Feedback



CRITICAL THINKERS WHO COMMUNICATE CLEARLY

Description

Graduates are academically successful, with support to cultivate critical thinking skills at every level of their learning to prepare them to face the challenges of the 'real world', academic challenges in college, engage in professional communication, understanding social norms, and resolving conflicts.

Importance

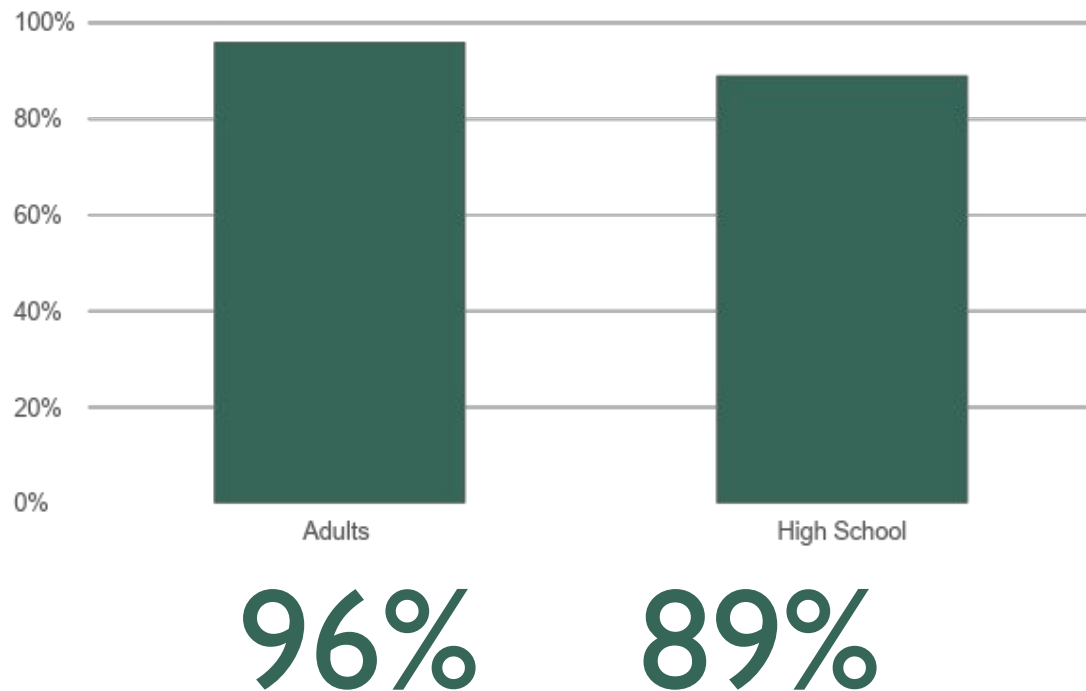
We want Farmingdale graduates to be Critical Thinkers who communicate clearly so that they can be prepared to engage in real world situations, use logic and reason to make decisions, read, write, and communicate with others to reach their personal and professional goals.

For Example:

- Identify the difference between facts and opinions
- Rely on logic and reasoning to draw conclusions
- Communicate appropriately in a wide variety of contexts
- Read and listen with high levels of comprehension

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Community Feedback

Good written and oral communication

Graduates need to be able to articulate their values in both spoken and written language

4.2 ★★★★★ (33 👤)



Communicates Effectively

having the ability to share thoughts, ideas, direction etc, all comes down to being able to communicate clearly and concisely

4.1 ★★★★★ (31 👤)



FUTURE FOCUSED (CAREER PATHWAYS)

Description

Graduates value multiple pathways to future success with a focus on vocational, community college, and university options with an emphasis on the opportunities that are best for their future.

Importance

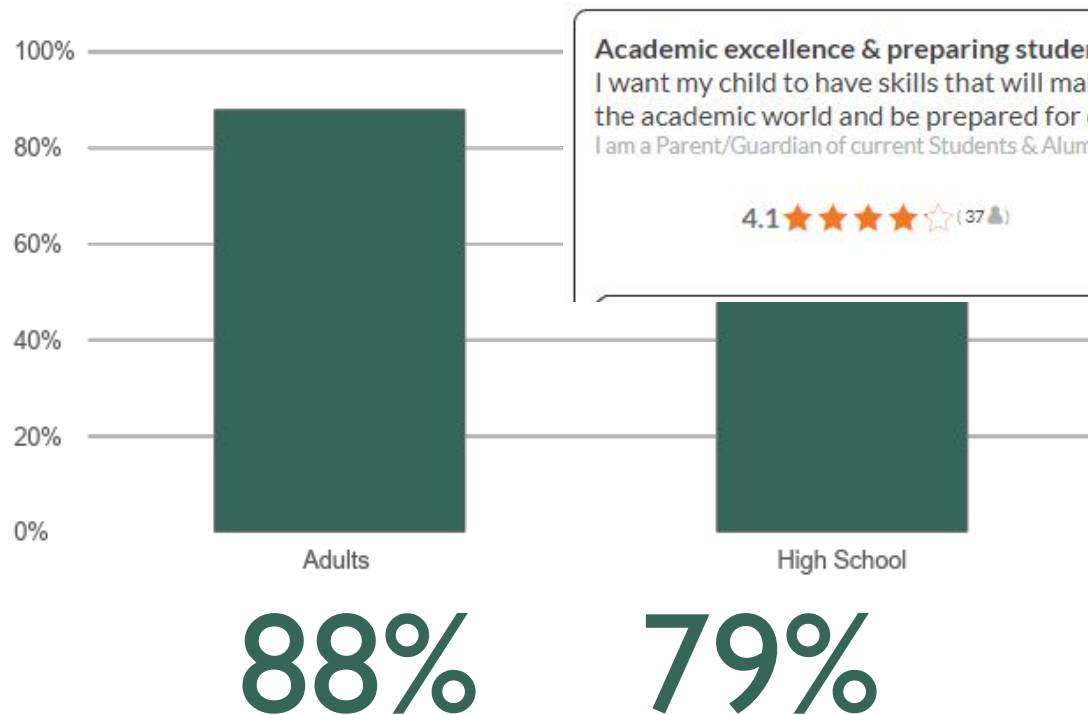
We want Farmingdale graduates to be Future Focused so that as they get older they have a clear understanding of their post-secondary and career options so they can set themselves up for success after high school, which may include extended learning in college, exploration in vital vocations, the pursuit of arts, or public service.

For Example:

- Make connections between academic subjects and related career opportunities
- Recognize the importance of skills that are vital across all future pathways (literacy, numeracy, critical thinking)
- Self-aware of their gifts, talents, and areas of interest

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Academic excellence & preparing students for job market.

I want my child to have skills that will make him have a competitive edge in the academic world and be prepared for college.

I am a Parent/Guardian of current Students & Alumni

4.1 ★★★★★ (37)



Financially aware/responsible.

To make children aware of debt and credit ratings, the benefits of long term savings, how interest rates affect them, and to be aware of scams

4.2 ★★★★★ (31)



I think thinking about your future and setting goals is helpful to you.

It's helpful because you get to choose what to do in life.

3.9 ★★★★★ (26)



INDEPENDENT & RESPONSIBLE

Description

Graduates are independent and responsible for their actions, behaviors, and post-secondary life choices, with an emphasis on financial literacy, personal accountability, and practical life skills.

Importance

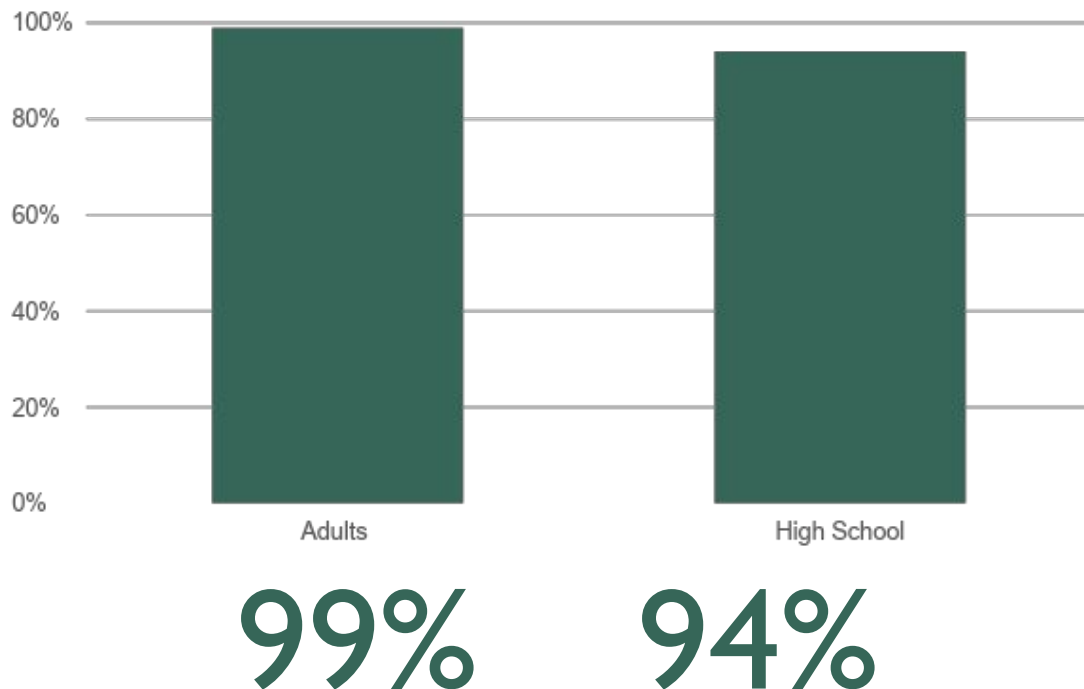
We want Farmingdale graduates to be independent and responsible as they transition from childhood to adulthood so they can reach their goals, utilize resources available to them, and make choices in their best long-term interests.

For Example:

- Develop executive functioning skills
- Take personal responsibility for life skills (punctuality, task completion).
- Recognize available resources and use them before relying on others for help
- Develop short and long term plans and work in stages to accomplish goals

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Community Feedback

Accountable. Students need to be accountable. Be in school, be on time, submit work within fair deadlines, accept responsibility for actions.

4.3 ★★★★★ (31)



Imperative for a graduate to be equipped with an ownership of learning and the ability to cultivate proficiencies

Future endeavors are dictated by an ownership of learning.

3.7 ★★★★★ (30)



If you are responsible it will make it easier for you to help people. Being responsible is a good the good personality trait.

4.4 ★★★★★ (25)



LEADERS & PROBLEM SOLVERS:

Description

Graduates become leaders and problem solvers in the future, with the understanding that we live in a complex world and being a life-long learner means making a commitment to make the world a better place.

Importance

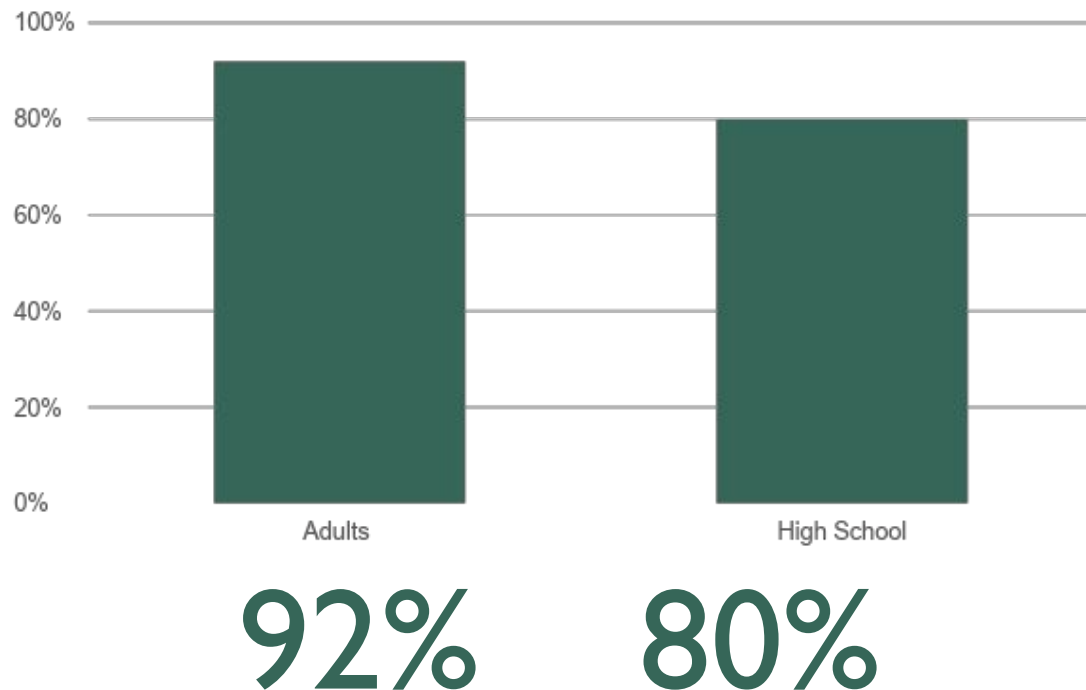
We want Farmingdale graduates to be leaders and problem solvers in the real world so that they are empowered and confident to tackle life's complex challenges, be an example to others, and take a stand in making the world a better place for future generations.

For Example:

- Identify and analyze real world problems to identify the root cause
- Use logic, reason, resources and creativity to solve problems
- Take initiative
- Stand up for their values and beliefs
- Help others

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Community Feedback

Be able to advocate for yourself.

Being independent is one thing but knowing when and how to advocate for yourself is important.

4.2 ★★★★★ (30 👤)



It's very important to be open minded and willing to problem solve and participate with others.

It's a sign of a well rounded person

3.8 ★★★★★ (20 👤)



Being a Leader is key

A leader is helpful to other students and is an amazing daler trait!!

4.5 ★★★★★ (27 👤)



PASSIONATE LEARNERS:

Description

Graduates take opportunities to pursue their passions, gain real world experiences, and have exposure to a wide variety of motivating and inspiring learning experiences.

Importance

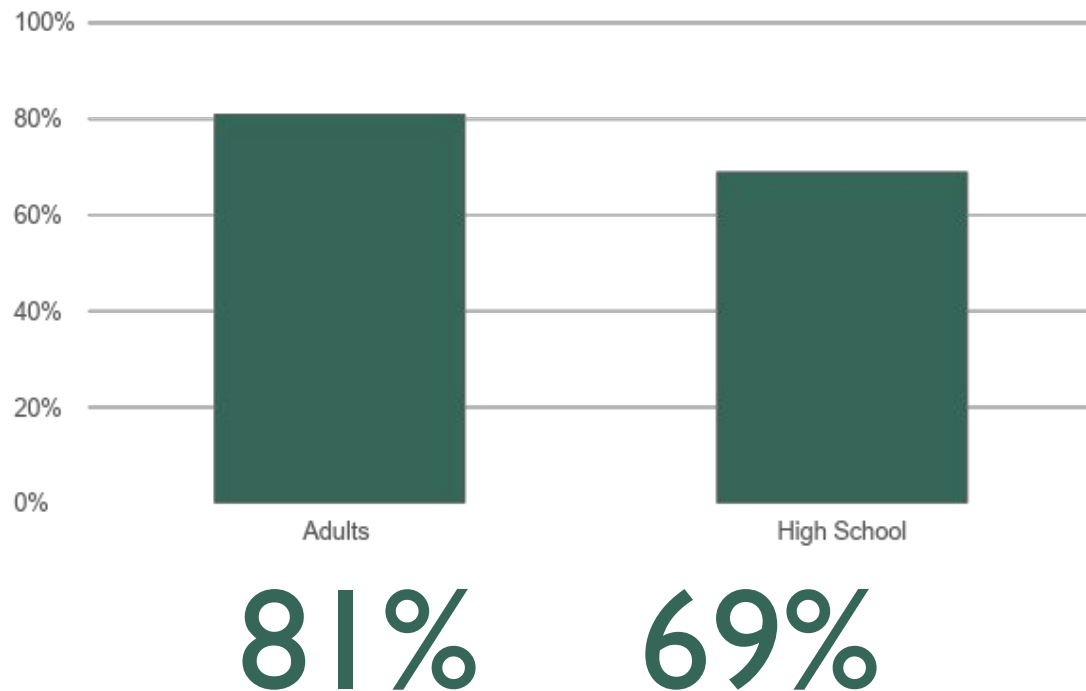
We want Farmingdale graduates to be Passionate Learners who have the opportunity to find and follow their interests, develop their skills, and make connections to their passions and the real world. By keeping personal interests accessible throughout school, students make deeper connections and become lifelong learners.

For Example:

- Real world projects
- Connections to the arts
- Connections to vital vocations
- Explore extra-curricular activities
- Multiple modes of expression
- Create interest groups

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Community Feedback

Willingness to learn

It's nice to be passionate about learning but being open and willing to learn about different things may open a new world to be passionate about

3.9 ★★★★★ (30 👤)



I think that there needs to be a recognition and active, continuous conversation about allowing students to find their own passion.

Culturally, we often set targets for others that may not result in the same level of passion that was expected from someone else.

3.6 ★★★★★ (11 👤)



Creative

I think being creative is important because you can express yourself freely in any way you want you can do what you want and like what you want!!!!!!

4.3 ★★★★★ (25 👤)



RESPECTFUL & RESILIENT

Description

Graduates demonstrate respect for themselves through self-confidence and kindness towards others with an emphasis on eliminating bullying, respect for people in different roles, and respect for those with special learning needs.

Importance

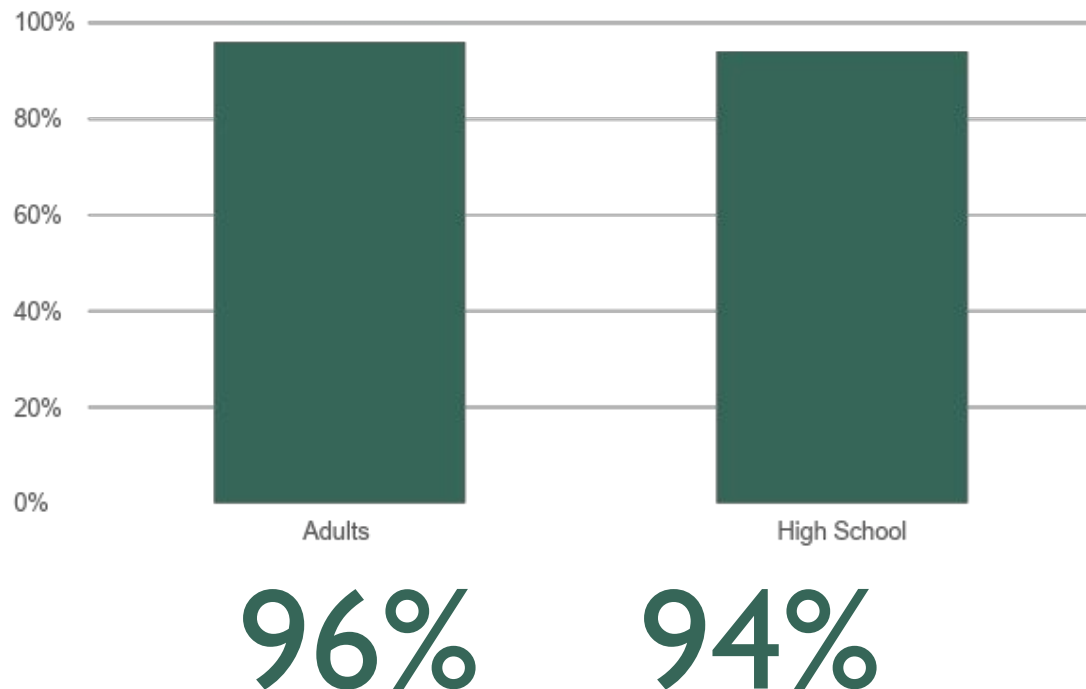
We want Farmingdale graduates to have Respect for themselves and others so that they can create safe and healthy boundaries, cultivate compassion for others, and embrace each person in their lives with dignity and respect.

For Example:

- Opportunities to develop their individual and personal identity
- Self-Aware and Socially-Aware
- Communicate respect for others in words and actions
- Look for the value in all people, similar and different
- Recognize that intelligence comes in many different forms

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Community Feedback

Respectful of others. Common courtesy. Don't be rude.
Being a good human being.

4.3 ★★★★★ (31 👤)



Kind, friendly, even if shy and introverted

Often the kindest students are ignored and not paid attention to. They have so much to offer.

3.8 ★★★★★ (23 👤)



I believe that the world should not have so much hate. I want the world to have love and care. Come on dalers who is with me !!!!!!!
This is important because the world won't be a good place if we don't act now

4.5 ★★★★★ (26 👤)



FOSTER WELLNESS

Description

Graduates are physically, socially and emotionally healthy, have a clear concept of their own identity, feel safe, grounded and feel a sense of belonging in the community.

Importance

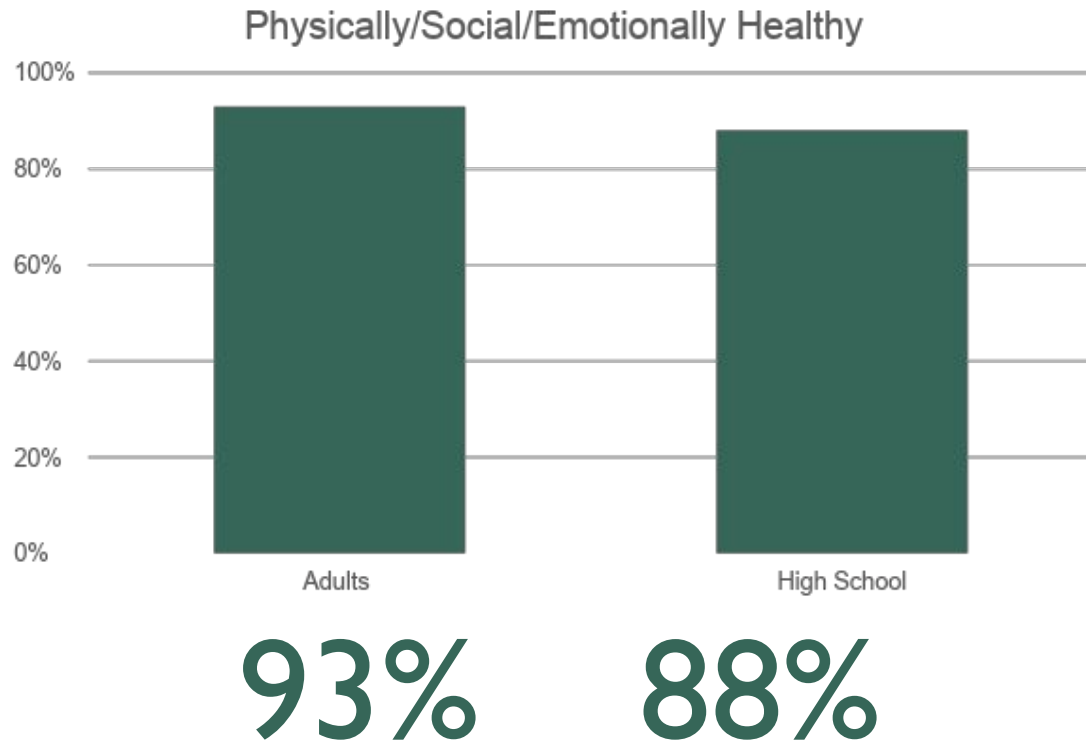
We want Farmingdale graduates to be healthy: physically, socially and emotionally so that they can mature into adults who are able to engage in the world with physical, social and emotional habits that support the trajectory of a long and happy life.

For Example:

- Healthy eating
- Value of exercise
- Healthy relationships
- Clear communication and self confidence
- Develop emotional awareness
- Ability to articulate physical, social and emotional needs

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Community Feedback

Healthy in mind and body

Eating well, sleeping well, caring for yourself all leads to students who can think clearer and do more

4.0 ★★★★★ (20 👤)



All begins with social and emotional learning. Once that is established we can help the other pieces fall into place. Community, academic rigor etc. One cannot engage well with learning or be civic minded when they don't feel safe, supported and calm.

3.9 ★★★★★ (30 👤)



Caring, integrity, and honesty

Cause I want to have a lot of friends in life and I think its important to have these kinds of traits

4.0 ★★★★★ (27 👤)



TECH SAVVY & SAFE

Description

Graduates are technologically literate, fluent in their skills as well as responsible, safe, and protected from negative influences.

Importance

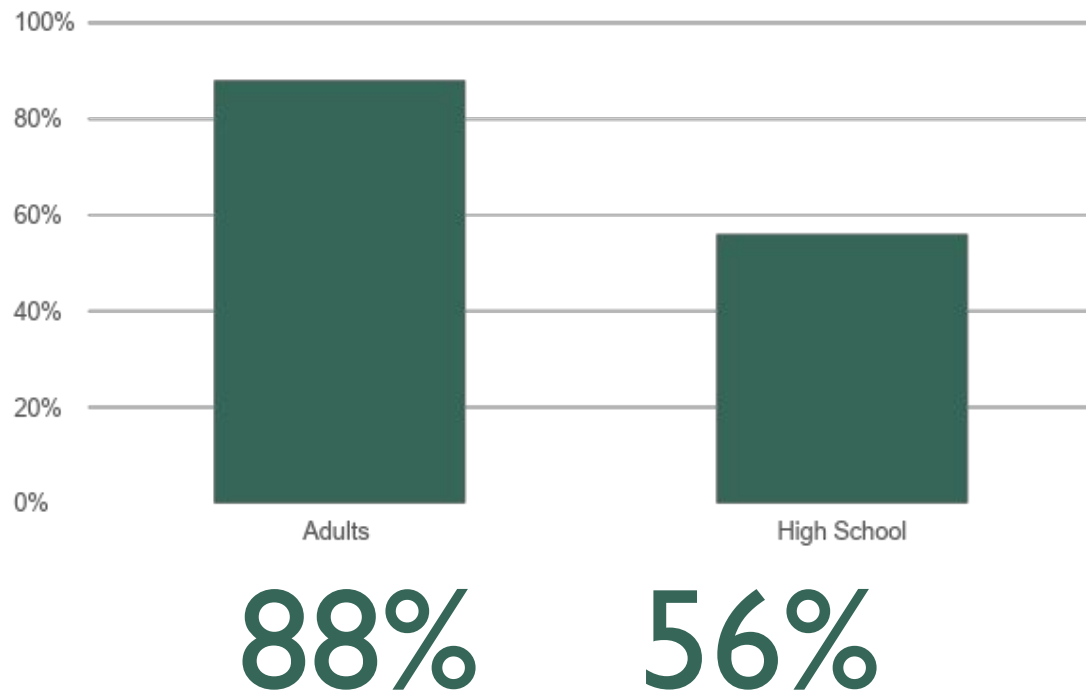
We want Farmingdale graduates to be Savvy and Safe when it comes to interacting with technology. As our culture evolves and becomes more and more dependent on technology for daily living, students need to grow up understanding internet safety, fluent in working across programs and platforms, and develop self-regulation.

For Example:

- Practice Internet safety across school and personal tech time
- Fluent in the steps for securing log in information on a device, password protection, and privacy settings to prevent inappropriate data mining and virus sharing
- Skilled in using technology information and resources to reach academic and personal goals

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Community Feedback

Information/Technological Literacy

In an age where all of human knowledge is at their fingertips, students should know where and how to look for credible and accurate information

4.1 ★★★★★ (32 👤)



Tech Savvy & Safe is imperative for respect, SEL, etc. There needs to be computer literacy and safety classes that allows students to learn implications of their social media presence. They cannot achieve half of the listed points without learning this first.

4.1 ★★★★★ (29 👤)



the most important one is making safe choices.

This is important because if you don't make safe choices, you can get hurt.

4.2 ★★★★★ (26 👤)



VALUE DIVERSITY

Description

Graduates recognize the value of diversity within the community with an emphasis on the diversity of learners with special needs, emerging multilingual students, as well as diversity in ethnicity, and economics.

Importance

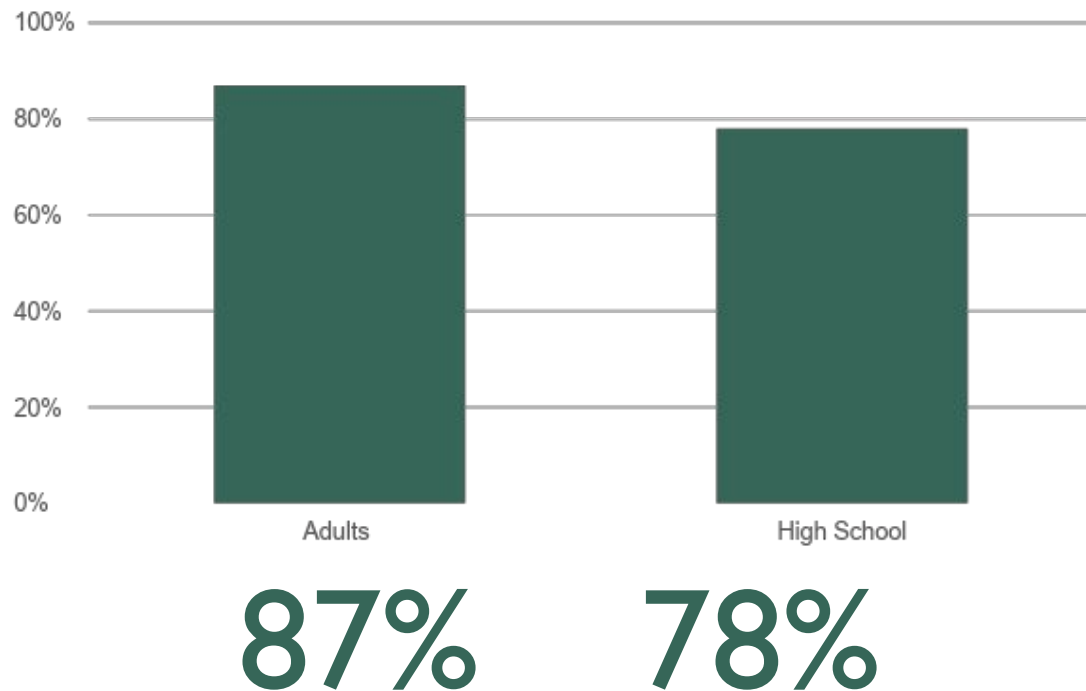
We want Farmingdale graduates to Value Diversity so that they can experience the benefits of diverse cultures, perspectives, and languages. Students who value diversity see the benefits of multiple perspectives, gain insights from those who think differently, and reduce judgmental stereotypes that can cause personal or community harm.

For Example:

- Establish diverse relationships
- Listen to different points of view
- Recognize the importance of language, culture and traditions
- See the humanity in all people
- Embrace new ideas or mindsets with curiosity

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK & SUPPORT

Community Support



Community Feedback

Successfully Navigating Through Different Ideals

Learning to embrace and adapt to individual differences of opinion - especially as seen in the pandemic world

4.2 ★★★★★ (31 👤)



It is important that graduates feel comfortable in our ever changing world.

3.6 ★★★★★ (24 👤)



Out of all the traits, I believe that valuing diversity is the most important trait for a farmingdale student.

Valuing diversity is important because by understanding and appreciating that everyone is different, you create a safe space where there is peace.

4.3 ★★★★★ (25 👤)





FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION

WHAT COMES NEXT?



IMPLEMENTATION

Validate the findings



Identify Implementation Team



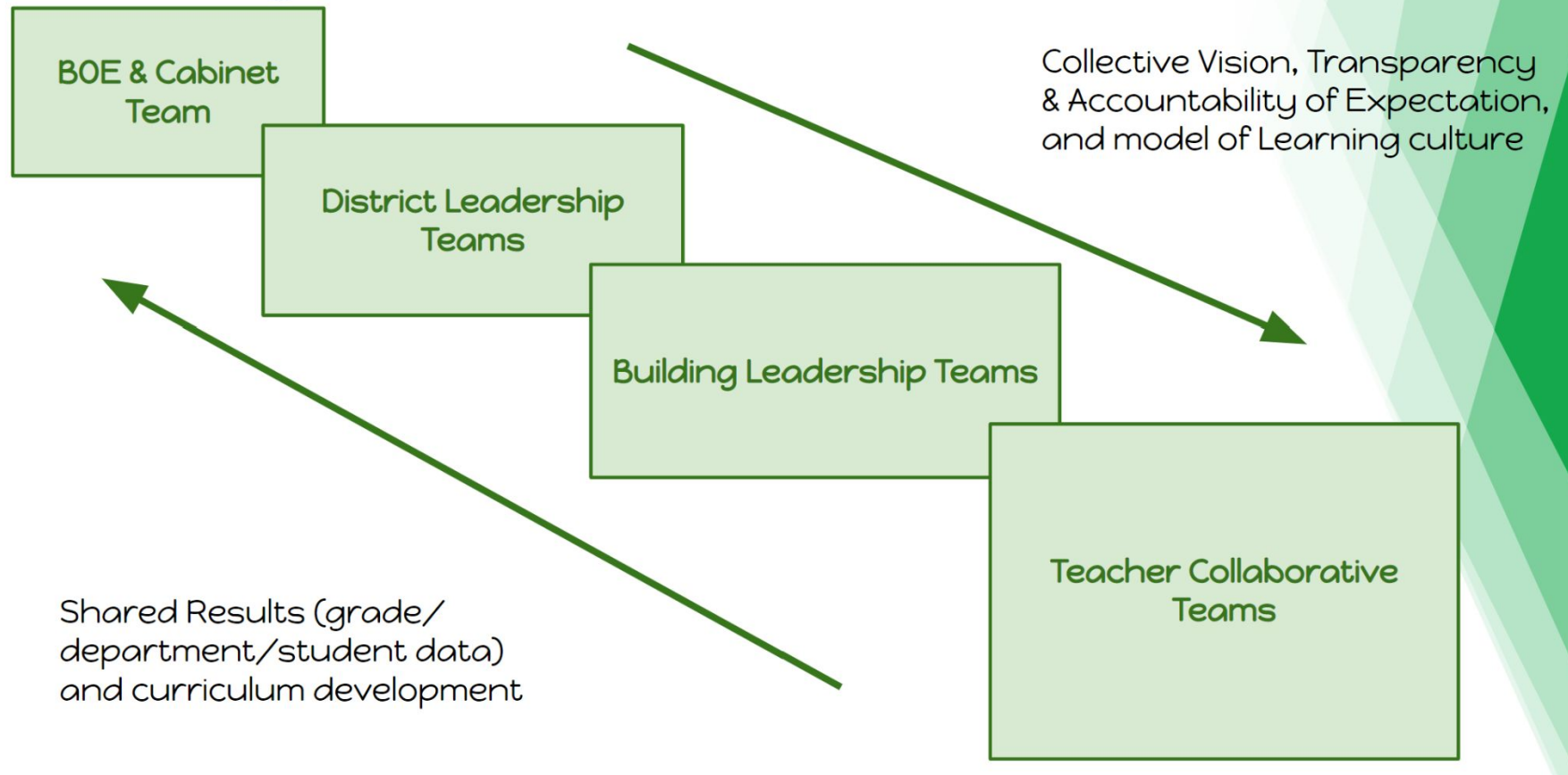
Develop Action Plan for Implementation



Monitor & Support

Building our System of Purpose & Feedback

Building PLC Teams Across the District



Our Mission Statement

*The mission of the Farmingdale School District is to educate our students to become **independent thinkers** and **problem solvers**. It is our goal to empower each student to meet the challenges of tomorrow's emerging world. The district will provide a **safe, nurturing environment** in which **individual and civic responsibility** is fostered, **diversity is respected**, and all students are enabled to realize their full potential.*

DISTRICT WIDE “3 COMMITMENTS”

Commitment #1:

**Aligning Professional Learning
Communities (PLCs), Systems
& Data Protocols**

Commitment #2:

**Strengthening Community &
Parent Communication**

Commitment #3:

Supporting Student Safety & Wellness

*“Always remember,
your focus determines
your reality.”*

GEORGE LUCAS