

Key Themes from *A Different Conversation* 11.6.15

Theme	Priority Ratings			
	1-High	2	3	4-Low
Ability to collaborate and work well with others	14	1	0	0
Critical thinking skills (problem-solving, creativity)	14	1	0	0
Effective communication skills (especially face-to-face)	14	1	0	0
Significance and importance of soft skills—let's use "professional skills" instead and we need to define for use with the public—(including attitude and emotional intelligence)	13	2	0	0
Importance of creating experiences outside of school while in school; more real-work experiences	10	5	0	0
Value the business/education conversation—needs to be ongoing	9	6	0	0
Need to cultivate the school/business connection	8	7	0	0
Expose students and families to career opportunities and needs	7	8	0	0
Authentic learning opportunities in connection with businesses (problem solving real issues)	7	6	2	0
Prepare school staff for this shift (i.e., guidance, administrators, parents)	5	8	1	1
Not everyone needs a 4-year degree—changing this mindset	4	10	1	0
Need for technology skills	3	9	3	0
Increase awareness regarding skill/trade-oriented opportunities and reduce stigma associated with some of these	3	9	3	0
Business externships for teachers	3	3	8	1
Ability to make sense of large amounts of information and data	2	9	4	0
The importance of attendance	2	7	4	2
Need to develop well-rounded, productive citizens	1	12	0	2
Basic skills still important	1	8	3	2
Challenges created by generational differences & ability to navigate differences	1	5	7	2
Earlier exposure of students to a wide variety of careers and job opportunities	0	14	0	0
Different approaches/opportunities for different locales	0	9	2	4