

4.0 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

2b. Overall, how would you rate Marion Public Schools as compared to other districts?

- I'd rather not say
- I can't compare; I have never had a child in the Marion school district, so I don't know much about it
- I can't compare; our old school was a big city school, this is a small rural school

Please consider the following characteristics, first indicating how important the characteristic is to you with regard to a school district and then rating Marion Public Schools on that characteristic.

4. Quality Staff

- There are good teachers, doing their jobs – administration is the problem, mainly the principal and superintendant
- Many teachers are not qualified to teach their classes. I am currently looking at different schools for my kids.
- I am very unhappy with the high school principal and superintendent, but the teachers are great

5. Safety

- There are safety issues with the walking route to school, not safety problems within the school

6. Quality of Academic Programs

- Quality at the elementary level is good, but the high school is below average: I would have liked to rate them separately (4)
- The high school is much better than the elementary school: they should be rated separately
- The education students are receiving is appalling; some can't even read when they graduate

7. Quality of Extra Curricular Programs

- There is too much emphasis on sports and winning (2)
- The schools are geared more to sports, not education
- Education should not suffer from extracurricular programs
- All emphasis is on sports; they really slack on academic preparation for college

8. Friendly Staff

- Upper echelon is overpaid - it takes money away from the schools; teachers are underpaid
- Staff is very accommodating

9. Welcoming Atmosphere

- Teachers talk with you if you can get to them; management tells you whatever you want to hear
- When I first moved here, I visited the Middle School during School Board elections; not one person said hello or encouraged me to vote

11. Opportunity for parents to be involved with Marion Public Schools

- The school does not give low income people the opportunity to help; I know of several instances where people were turned down due to low income
- Only if the parent is a self-starter; they're not encouraged by the school

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements:

13b. The district's small size is an advantage

- Small size allows for more individual attention; the disadvantage is larger schools can offer a wider variety of programs and activities
- Small size is an advantage for students, but a disadvantage for funding

13c. Discipline is a problem at Marion Public Schools

- The teachers and principals need to get control of their classes
- Teachers can't discipline the students, the laws won't let them; I blame lawmakers, not teachers
- Teachers say discipline interferes with their teaching and students' learning; Principal's Office merely sends problem kids back to the classroom with no repercussions
- Many parents are switching schools as a result of the lack of discipline in Marion Schools
- The schools endorse bad behavior if the students are in sports

13d. Marion Public Schools is a source of pride to the community

- It used to be, but no longer

13f. The information received from Marion Public Schools is credible

- One school board member asked for forms to review two years ago; she still hasn't received them
- The use of funds is questionable in Marion Public Schools

13g. Graduates of Marion Public Schools are well prepared for college

- My babysitter was a straight "A" student at Marion, especially in Trig/Calculus/Chemistry - when she got to college, she struggled so much in the freshman "Intro" classes she had to get a tutor
- It depends on what level of college the student aspires

General Comments:

- We have a liaison officer that our school really doesn't need - it's a waste of funds
- Two new board members were voted in during a recall election. They were treated poorly by the other board members, all of whom are part of the "Good Old Boy" network
- I don't like that Marion Schools got rid of their foreign language programs, and I do not think "computerized classes" are good enough
- I want to get rid of the high school principal - after that happens, I will donate my money and time to the school district (respondent refused to complete survey)
- We just moved outside the district and I am keeping my oldest child in Marion Public Schools for his final semester; I will be looking at different high schools for my youngest
- I am dissatisfied with the kindergarten program - it goes all day, every day; this is more for parents than kids. It's too much for that age. I will Home School my kindergarten age child next year.
- There is a lot of competition between Marion and McBain; Marion test scores need to improve
- I was not notified of a head lice problem until a week after the fact; I'm very upset it took so long to notify us about something so serious
- I have a Special Needs child - the school is not fulfilling my child's needs

- When we first moved in, the superintendant walked up to us and said “You’re sending your children to McBain, aren’t you?” He implied that McBain is superior and Marion is not worthy of our children.
- I think you should add the question, “How many school board meetings do you attend?”