



2023 Selected Empowering Parents Quotes from Focus Groups

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I'm usually not one who does surveys for anything, because I mean, you've always got reviews for Google, or reviews for this, or reviews for that, and it's like, "So many people are opinionated. What does my opinion even matter?" But, to see how hard you guys are trying to make sure that kids succeed, and seeing the effort that you guys put out, and the grade at communication that you guys have, this is the first time I've actually even tried to do a survey or anything, so ... Y'all motivated me. **Mt Home**

First thing that came to my mind is the financial help with the education stuff. Basically, I was considering tutors for my daughter who's in 10th grade, for a couple of subjects, just so that she can kind of get ahead of it and play a little catch-up. I was wanting to get some extra help, and I was really hoping to use this for tutoring.

Meridian

I had looked into tutoring and stuff, and it's very expensive. Specifically, Mathnasium was one of the places where you could go, but to be able to do that on a regular ... it really adds up, so, knowing that I can go and take them there and use that money is what's going to make it happen. she struggles in math, because she's in college math, and so if we could get the extra help during class, and more ... It'll almost be more of like a review in the classroom, because sometimes she feels like the teachers don't teach thoroughly enough if they're in a classroom, and she requires a lot of extra help. So, it'd be more of a refresher in the classroom, and then she'll feel more confident and more success-like, and less stressed out during class or during tests. So, that's my goal, is to alleviate some anxieties that she has there. **Meridian**

This is the little extra something that the kids get that's beyond the basics, and so much of learning, I think, in regular public school is, they have to do it, they have to get through it, and this really allows them to get the little extra stuff that makes it more enjoyable and more interesting to learn. So, I see it being a really positive thing for the kids, and I think that will help them retain what they're learning, or what they're interested in. **Boise**

Because of this grant, I feel like we're going to be able to explore more of their curiosities. And at these ages, curiosity is an education. It's how kids learn. And when you can explore those curiosities and kind of branch out more, they learn more, but also for experience and for future careers, and so I feel like it definitely helps with that. And it also allows to access more curriculum that can supplement. Instead of just using kind of a bare-bones type curriculum, we'll be able to supplement and get more curriculum instead of just kind of limping along. **Fruitland**

She's really into art, and I've spent years buying art supplies, and I usually buy the cheap stuff. But she's an advanced artist and painter, and she wants good quality art materials now, which are a lot more expensive than the cheapie things. So this allows me to get her those materials that are more appropriate for where she is now. **Boise**

With us doing homeschool, I have a bit more freedom of controlling what they're learning, and their curriculum, but it's still taxing financially, and with the grant I'm able to kind of tailor their education to their interests, and so there are things that I probably wouldn't have purchased otherwise. But because I have that funding, I'm able to find things ... Like my oldest is starting to get interested in vehicles and motors, and so I got really excited when I saw a model engine that he can build and watch all the pieces work together, and so he'll be able to visualize that. And it could potentially help him in the future if it's a career he chooses. We could've learned about motors and all that, but having the actual visual and something tactile that he can touch, that's something that we may not have been able to do otherwise. So, definitely being able to pick things that suit my children. **Fruitland**

I was able to contact my internet provider, and they have become a vendor, and starting this next month, I will be able to pay for my internet through the grant, which is nice. My kids go through books so fast, so I'm excited to buy a bunch of books for them. I haven't quite picked them yet; there are so many options. And My daughter's dance studio just suddenly popped up. I had no idea that they were becoming a vendor, so that would be kind of nice to be able to do. **Fruitland**

We're definitely in need of certain things, like a laptop, but then I also ... I was hoping for internet right away, and my internet company wasn't on there. That's a new addition for me. But then, I also knew that I had a certain amount, and so I was like, "Okay, I'm going to get exactly what I need for sure that's on my list, and then I'm going to reserve the rest of it and just kind of see what pops up, and see what would work best for my kids." **Fruitland**

I applied for the grant after stumbling upon it. I think I saw it online. I applied, and then I didn't know what the status was for quite a while. It seemed like the period of time that had gone by was kind of long, and I should've kind of known. I eventually, I think I logged in and saw that my status was approved, but I hadn't received communication yet, so it just left me with a lot of wondering what ... Kind of, "How does this work and unfold?" **Boise**

I'm a great online shopper, and I'm confused on how...It's not just click-click and it's in my cart and I'm done. And I've read different vendors, and I've noticed now some have instructions on what to do, which vary by vendor. **Boise**

I live in a really small town, and the closest thing that's offered to us right now is 45 miles away, and I can't drive to something like that once a week to do it for my daughter. So, not having things more localized for being available here. That's been the worst part. **Mt Home**

My daughter would've definitely had to go without a lot of things that's being offered, because I am a low-income family, and so things like dance or things like karate, there's no way I could pay for her to be able to do that. And there's so much more that she's going to gain out of that, like self-control and being

able to calm herself, and being able to defend herself. She definitely wouldn't be able to do things like that without this grant. **Mt Home**

That was probably the easiest application I've ever filled out. **Mt Home**

I had talked to a couple of my friends, and they have more children than I do, and they hadn't heard about it. And I was really surprised. And one of my friends, she has a couple of special-needs kids, and she didn't hear about it. She has four in-school children, and she almost cried when she got approved, because just all the help that she can get, and I think ... I don't know, advertising it a little bit better, especially to larger families or special-needs families and stuff like that would be helpful. **Nampa**

I think people who are drawn, or even notice the grant, have their children on their mind. All in all, I think most parents have good intentions and want the best for their kids, and this is really a nice support and help that I think most of us need to give our kids that little extra something; and not just the basics, but something to help them really enjoy and love their learning. **Boise**

There's a whole lot more roundabout things going on with our vendors now, and going back and forth between Odyssey, and nobody's getting tracking numbers or order numbers, and people are losing packages, and it's just ... There's a lot of things going on. **Fruitland**

It doesn't matter what type of school it is; if it's the school that's going to work for their child, then that's where they should be able to use it [for private school tuition]. **Mt Home**

It is technically state money, which would go towards public schooling, but it is taxpayers' money, and so if people think that a private education would be better for their children, whether it be academically or socially. I would think that they should be able to have that prerogative to decide what would be best for their children. **Fruitland**