



August 2026 Library Feedback Drive

What We Heard

This summer, the Skaneateles Library invited residents across the school district to share what they value about the library today, what makes it difficult to use, and what they would like to see in the future. We received 147 responses from residents across the district.

Five Themes Stood Out

1. Books, literacy, and learning remain at the heart of what people value.

Respondents consistently identified print books, digital resources, children's programming and adult programming as important priorities. The message was clear: as the library evolves, its core role as a place for reading, learning, and access to information should remain central.

2. People want more—and better—space.

Respondents frequently asked for more seating, quiet study and work areas, meeting rooms, larger children's spaces, dedicated teen areas and room for programs and community activities. Many described the library as both a place to access resources and a welcoming place to learn, work, and connect with others.

3. Access to the current library can be difficult.

Parking was by far the most frequently cited barrier, mentioned by roughly 70% of respondents who answered that question. Limited space, hours, and availability of seating or meeting areas were also recurring concerns.

4. People want expanded programming and opportunities to gather.

Suggestions ranged from arts, music, and author programs to classes, maker activities, children's programs and opportunities for community groups to meet. At the same time, some respondents emphasized that these activities should complement—not replace—the library's traditional mission.

5. Clear communication matters.

Respondents want continued information about library programs, resources, and the new building project. Email was the overwhelmingly preferred communication method, and several respondents noted that the survey itself introduced them to services they did not know the library already offered.

An Update on the New Library

The feedback also included questions about the new library at 75 Fennell Street, particularly around cost, funding, timing and the approval process.

The Library Board and Building Committee have continued refining the project, adding local professional expertise, completing additional technical studies and carefully reviewing the site plan and Village requirements in preparation for resubmission.

The survey feedback reinforces many of the needs the new library is intended to address: improved access, more room for collections and programming, dedicated spaces for children and teens, places to study and meet, and a library that can better serve the entire community.

What Happens Next

The feedback collected through this process will help inform the Library's upcoming strategic planning process.

Not every suggestion can be implemented, and respondents did not agree on every issue. But the overall message was clear: residents care deeply about the library, value its core mission and want it to be accessible, useful and welcoming for generations to come.

Thank you to everyone who participated. We heard you, and your feedback will help shape what comes next.