

## Educated Community

The second question posed by the panel was “**What is an educated community?**” With this question the panel was attempting to measure the linkage between perceptions of an educated person and perceptions of community. Having taken a very broad view of “public education” the panel wanted to engage people in a discussion about their community and the importance of education in that community. There was a great deal of interest in this topic and a great range of views, often influenced by the size and geographic location of the community.

It became clear to the panel that public education and community are intimately linked. Whether we regard schools as micro-communities in themselves, or as part of the larger community at the local or global level, people’s ideals of an educated community can be applied.

The **Charter** reflects the notions of community, which were expressed at the hearings in formal presentations and informal discussions. The following summarizes the notions people shared of an educated community in order of frequency of responses:

1. **Working together:** sharing, inclusive, consensus building, reaching out, democratic;
2. **Common good:** sense of community, public good, vision and aims ;
3. **School:** the school as central to the community and the neighborhood, education is valued, citizens are literate, youth are valued;
4. **Caring:** compassionate, cares for its weakest members;
5. **Accepts differences:** recognizes individuals, their differences, tolerant, free of prejudice;
6. **Wealth of knowledge:** educated, progressive, welcomes new ideas;
7. **Respect:** for individuals regardless of age or education;
8. **Recognizes problems:** understands and attempts to correct problems, responsible;
9. **Knowledge of the world.**