



# Return-to-School Planning Parent & Teacher Survey

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# Survey Design

Quantitative and Qualitative questions

Parents of students entering grades Preschool through 12th grade

All teachers

Surveys delivered via email to all households and teachers on Monday, May 12, 2020

All participants - parents and teachers - were reminded that any planning would be contingent on local, state, and/or federal guidance



# Respondents

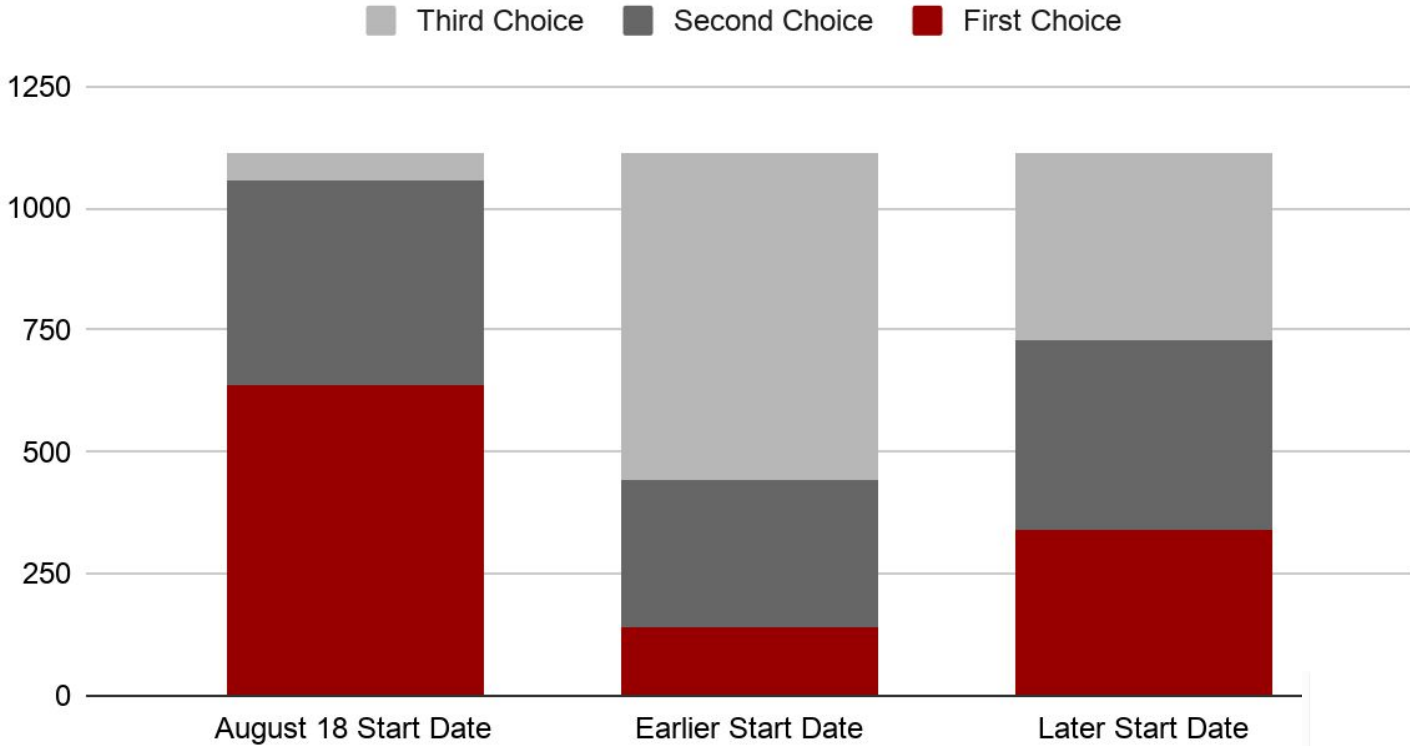
147 teachers responded to the survey (82%)

1,114 households responded

- representing 1,501 students (58.2%)
- Average response rate per grade level was 57.3%



# August 18 Start Date, Earlier Start Date and Later Start Date



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95% of Parents express interest in leaving the start date as August 18

# Possible Change to Start Date

Teacher response rate mirrors parent response

When asked for other logistical considerations, some parents provided follow-up:

- “Starting school earlier in the summer would be challenging, especially since there is **no air conditioning** in the building.”
- “Please start school after Labor Day. It’s ridiculous to start in the heat of middle August. “
- “With no air conditioning the high school is way too hot for an early start. If HS had central air starting earlier could work well.”



# 100% On-line Option

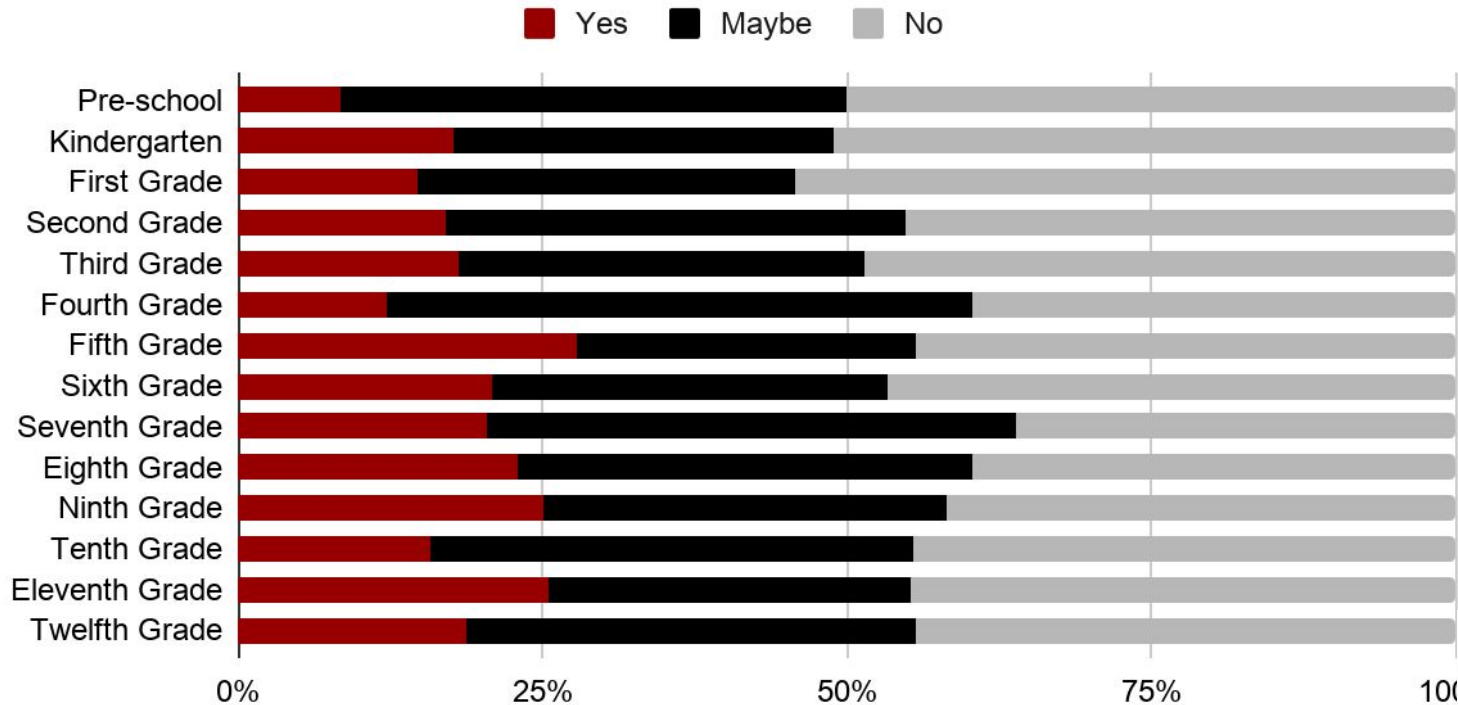
Respondents were asked to consider interest in a 100% remote, on-line option

- Does not assume local, state, or federal closure of school buildings
- Assumes personal health and/or safety concerns
- Assumes an “Either/Or” **individual** choice for families



# Respondents Interested in 100% Remote Option

Assuming general concerns regarding continuation of COVID-19



20.8% of Parents express interest in a 100% on-line option



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# 100% On-line Option

When asked for other logistical considerations, some parents provided follow-up:

- “Total on-line learning **needs to be considered** since the pandemic will most likely last until there is a vaccine or reliable antibody testing is made available to the masses.”
- “Consider setting online courses up like college online courses”
- “**Online learning has been so much better** for my daughter that it makes me seriously consider homeschooling her in the future.”
- “If the students return to 100% traditional in person schooling right away, **there is a high likelihood that my children would not attend.**”
- Options for high school students who may only a few credits to graduate
- “analyze class by class **which are most favorable for online** instruction.”





# Instructional Delivery Options

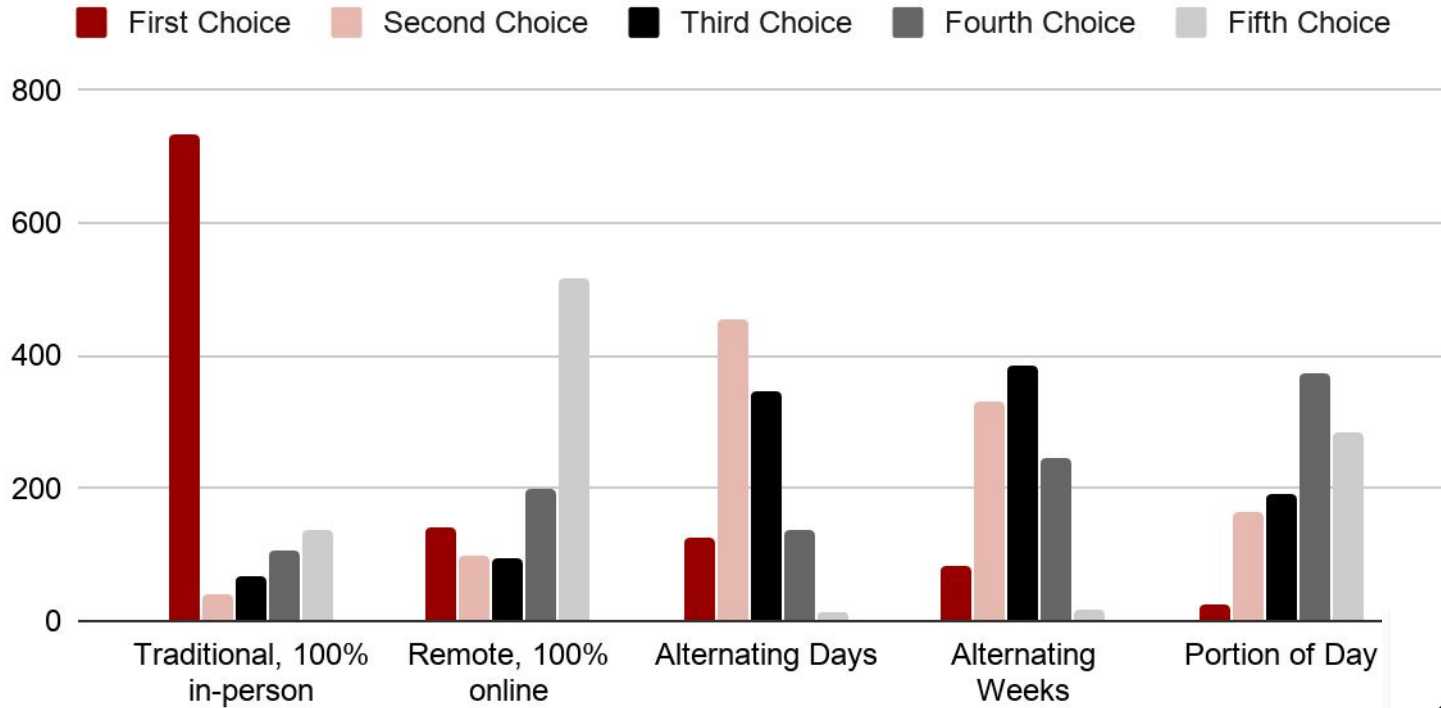
Respondents were asked to consider interest in a five (5) structures for instructional delivery.

- Assumes **guidance** (local, state, and federal) continues to change
- Assumes need to prepare for **revised** guidance
  - Ex. Masks, Sanitation, Social-distancing, Building Capacity, Training for staff and students, Temperature Taking, etc.
- Does not assume an **individual** choice for families or the district



# Parent Interest in Instructional Delivery Options

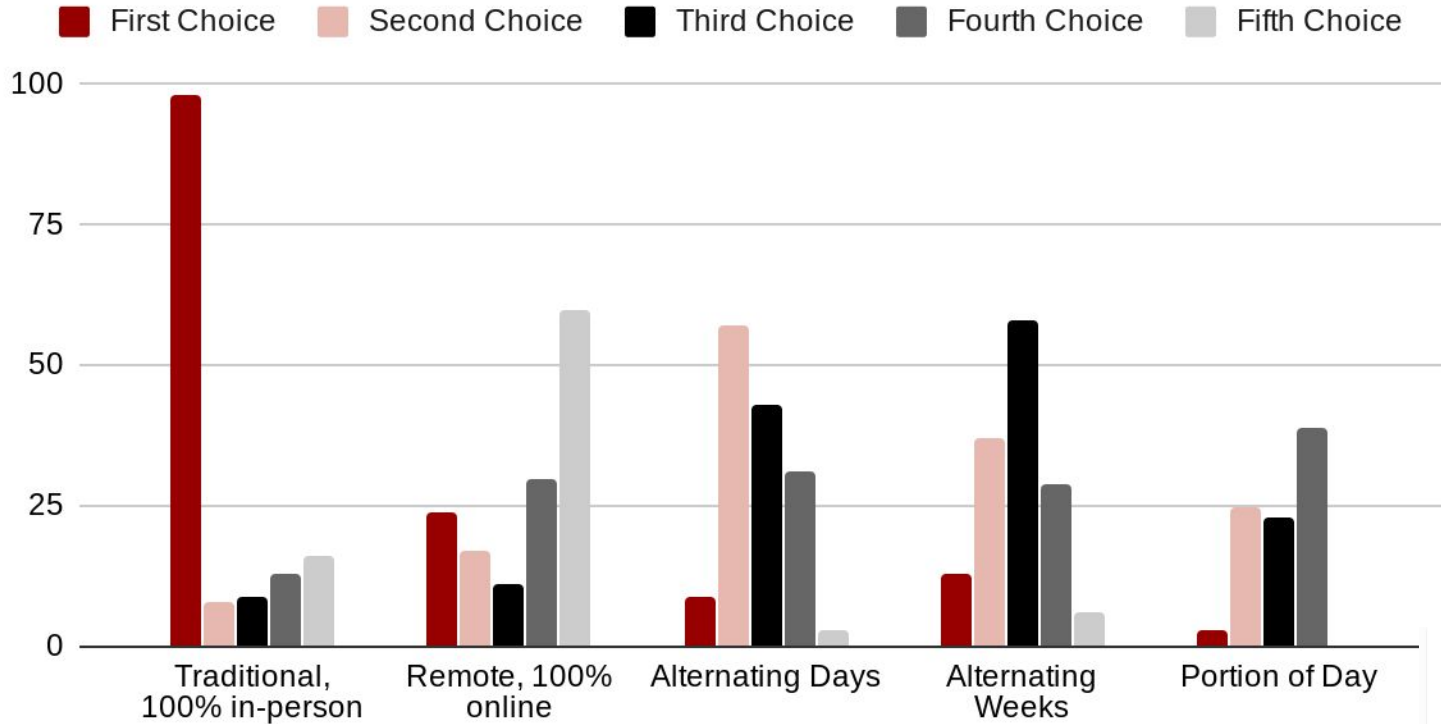
Assuming local, state, and/or federal guidance



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# Teacher Interest in Instructional Delivery Models

Assuming local, state, and/or federal guidance



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# Instructional Delivery Options

When asked for other logistical considerations, some parents provided follow-up:

- “Safety and health of our children is number one but **social interaction is important** too.”
- “Education should be performed in school, **with the** degrees [of] **educators**. “
- “Please use all your resources to spread kids out. Open shut down schools, Maple, Hambden, etc.. Build temporary schools if need be. Maybe have 2 shifts of learning. **Let’s be creative here.**“
- “Please make smart and cautious choices about our children. **Don’t give in to pressure from those who just want childcare.**”
- “You must consider the **availability of latchkey or out of school child care options** for households with two working parents”



# Length of Instructional Delivery Option

Respondents were asked to consider the length of time that an alternative delivery option should be put into effect

- Assumes **guidance** (local, state, and federal) continues to change
- Assume need to prepare for **revised** guidance
  - Ex. Masks, Sanitation, Social-distancing, Building Capacity, Training for staff and students, Temperature Taking, etc.
- Does not assume an **individual** choice for families or the district



75% of Parents expressed “only for the duration of school closure”

# Expansion of Childcare (Latchkey)

Respondents were asked if they would be looking to the District to expand childcare services

- Assumes local, state, and/or federal guidance
- Assumes **alternative schedule**
- Does not assume an **individual** choice for families or the district

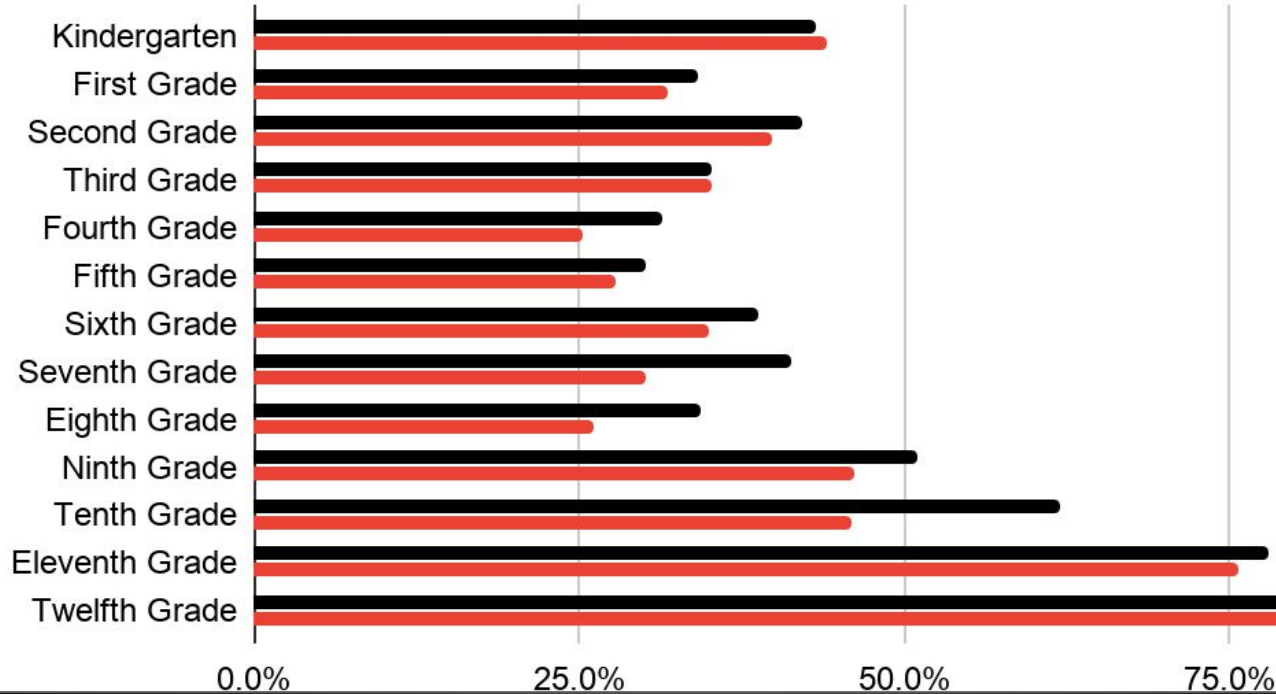


79% of Parents expressed they did not need/want childcare

# Transportation - Parent or District

■ Parent/Student Responsible for Arriving at School

■ Parent/Student Responsible for Leaving School



64% of parents (HS) stated they did NOT need District transportation



# Other Logistical Considerations

## Scheduling

- Keep families with multiple children (at different grade-levels) on the **same schedule**
- Start school earlier “perhaps a break after four weeks”
- “We are working parents, but **we are prepared to make arrangements for whatever plan** you feel is safest for our kids. Thank you for your hard work as you prepare for whatever the 2020-21 school year may bring! “
- “consider ... two working parents with **employers that will not be flexible** enough to accommodate part time in school learning and part time distance learning. “





# Other Logistical Considerations

Options for families and children with pre-existing (or underlying) health conditions

- Hand-sanitizer, Masks, and Sanitation
- “I **do not** want my child to be forced to wear a mask at all during the school day.”
- “When students are in the buildings, **can wearing masks be mandatory** for all students, faculty, and staff?”
- “Please do not cover the classrooms in cleaning chemicals every night. Our kids will have cancer in 10 years which is far worse than a virus.”
- “**Clear expectations** that parents should not send their children into school with any signs or symptoms of a cold/flu”
- “Please remember there are **parents and students who fall into the high risk groups** including myself.”



# Other Logistical Considerations

## Social Distancing Expectations

- “We need to look at how we can keep **k-3rd** social distancing. I feel like this would be very **hard and probably not possible.**”
- “Can effective social distancing be achieved in a **cost effective manner** on school buses?”
- “For middle school consider having the **teachers move** to various classrooms instead of students (at least for 4th/5th) and have them **eat lunch in their classrooms.**”
- “I **don’t see how middle school children can** safely social distance. No 10yr to 13 yr olds are going to remember to stay away from their friends, it simply can’t be avoided.’
- “Worried how crowded the **hallways** in the high school and middle school would be to make sure social distancing would be enforced “

# Other Logistical Considerations

## District Finances

- “Fix the high school Roof if we aren’t in the building, there should be ZERO EXCUSE for not doing building upkeep and maintenance and not let them fall down on themselves to further the “whoops we need a new school” trend! “
- “Keep costs down, please.”
- “Will there be additional staff for better teacher student ratio to ensure student distancing?”
- “Find a better prediction model, keep a balanced budget and stick to it. Once you have done that responsibly and there are still issues that is when you should ask for more funding, which is why the bill did not pass last fall.”



# Other Logistical Considerations

## Miscellaneous

- “Please work on **eliminating common core** and **reduction in standardized testing.**”
- “It took a pandemic but we finally, finally made **starting times later**, at a time that is appropriate for teenagers. Embrace the science.”
- “If there is anything I’d wish to change, it would be to **bring back regular math.**”



# Other Logistical Considerations

## Communications & Planning

- “Consider **the conservative view in everything that is done.**”
- “I hope the school is **open to ideas from parents** and the parent committee of this group isn’t the usual suspects— friends of the school who agree with leadership on everything.”
- “**You should reach out to me** for a better answer to this. Highly disappointed.”



# Other Logistical Considerations

## Staffing & Buildings

- “Will there be **additional staff** for better teacher student ratio to ensure student distancing?”
- “analysis should also include **which teachers are best able to teach online** vs. which do best in person.”
- “If online instruction is part of 20-21 school year, **eliminating specials or making them optional**”
- “Is it even practical for classes like band / choir, etc. to continue?”
- “Open **shut down schools**, Maple, Hambden, etc.. Build **temporary** schools if need be.”



# Other Logistical Considerations

## Support & Understanding

- “I just want to know that I am **very proud and thankful** of the decisions made thus far. I am so thankful that **the district didn't just give up** on learning. I am thankful that my kids were able to keep on a pretty consistent schedule.”
- “I don't envy you the position you're in. There are no good choices here. Thank you for everything you're doing to keep these kids safe. “
- “It is evident through your emails and this survey that **you are exploring every option.**“
- “I hope the district **continues to base decisions on expert advice** and recommendations rather than modify behavior to please parents that do not agree with those in the appropriate advisory positions. “
- “I understand that the district will need to **follow government guidelines** and regulations.”

