



The vision of the Lake Forest School District is to be the model of excellence in education.

April 1, 2021

Greetings Spartan Family!

Happy Spring Break! I know it is cliché to say this, but it really is hard to believe we have actually made it to this point in the school year. I want to thank you for all you have endured this past year and ask for your continued patience as we manage the effects of the pandemic. I promise you things are getting, and will continue to get better.

Please find a summary of our recent community survey from last week on page 3, 4, and 5. I want to thank the Parent Advisory Committee for providing input to the survey as well as Chipman Assistant Principal Susan Reitz and our Chief Academic Officer Mr. James Dick for putting the survey together and summarizing the results. Please take a look and call if you have any questions.

Next, I have another survey I have to ask you to complete. The important thing about this next survey is that it serves to collect input about where we want the District to be in the future. This is our first step of strategic planning for school years 2022 and beyond. While I know this will be difficult, please try to complete this next survey as if COVID did not happen and we will eventually recover and get back to school as we want it to be. A link to the survey is provided here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LFSDSPCommunitySurvey>. This survey is a bit more detailed so it will be open for the month of April.

As you know, testing has started and I have been asked why we are testing under such difficult conditions. The main answer is that federal law requires us to assess our students and provide the data to the government. Since Lake Forest gets a significant amount of funding from the federal government, we cannot risk losing funding by not complying with the testing and reporting law. We really do not have a choice unless the federal government waives the requirements, which it has not.

There is a good reason for us to do the testing though as we need to measure how the pandemic and lack of face to face instruction have affected our students' learning. We hope to quantify their levels of learning so we can plan and implement our recovery and prepare lessons for next year and beyond. The testing we are conducting is not "pass or fail" it is simply a data tool we can use to help shape and improve the product we are providing to the students and families of Lake Forest. We appreciate you encouraging your student to just do their best. There are no penalties associated with testing.

You may have heard we have received support from the state and federal funding called CARES. Page 6 of this document is designed to show you how much money we have received thus far and on what we are spending it. This document will be updated as needed and posted to our web site under the Superintendent's Corner and Covid-19. Our intent is to use this money to get as many students in school as fast and as safe as we can.



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Finally, I want to remind everyone we are now officially in the 4th marking period. Please ensure students are engaged and reach out to your school if you have concerns about your student passing his or her grade this year. Every educator in Lake Forest is committed to every student succeeding so please let us know if your student's needs are not being met.

As always, I want to personally thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve as your superintendent. I wish you a safe and healthy Spring Break and look forward to seeing you on a Lake Forest campus soon.

Sincerely,

Steven Lucas

Superintendent

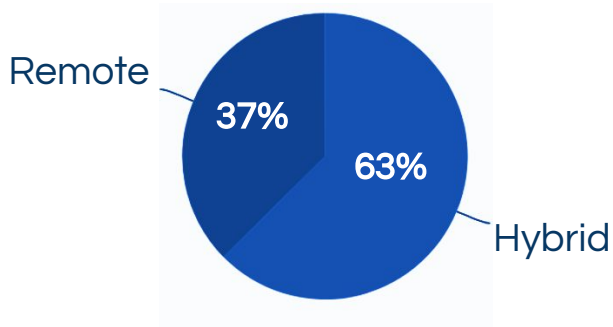
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Community Survey Results

Hybrid vs. Remote Student Enrollment



The Lake Forest School District collected over 850 responses in the survey that was sent out on March 26, 2021.

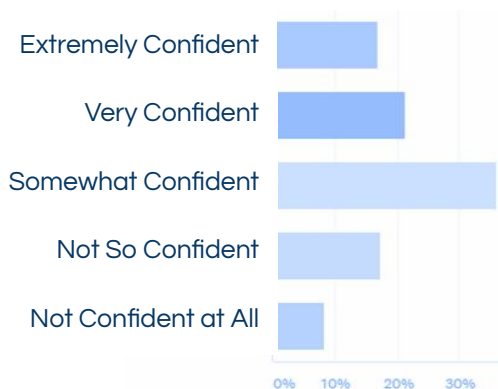
The goal of this survey was to obtain community feedback on how effectively the district has implemented hybrid and remote learning as well as inform our decision making as we plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

We are pleased to share the data that was collected to provide a clearer picture of the information we received and a response of the steps we plan to take based on your feedback.

Instructional Practices

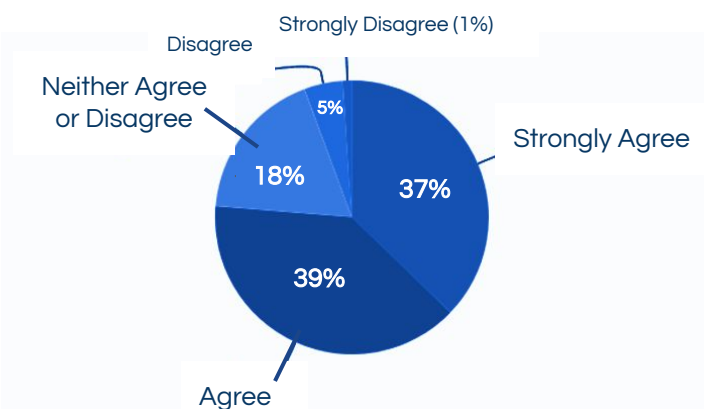
Academic Progress

74% of survey respondents have confidence that their child is making adequate academic progress this school year.

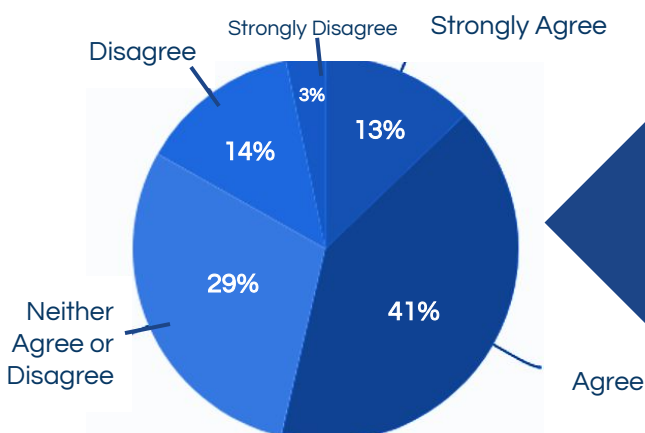


Building Relationships

76% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child's teacher created positive relationships with their child.



Student Engagement



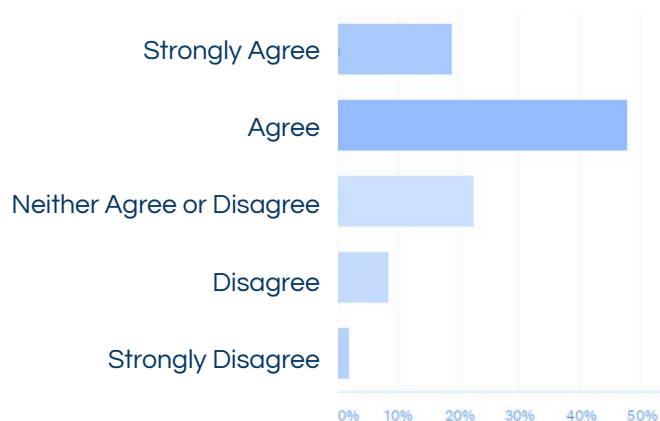
54% of Survey Respondents agreed or strongly agreed that lessons and assignments have provided opportunities for engagement for their child.

Hours Spent Completing School Assignments



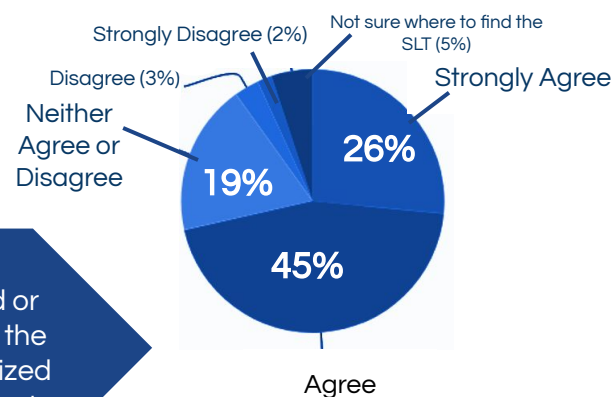
Communication of Assignments

67% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their child's assignments were clearly explained.



71% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the SLT effectively organized lessons and assignments.

Student Learning Template (SLT)



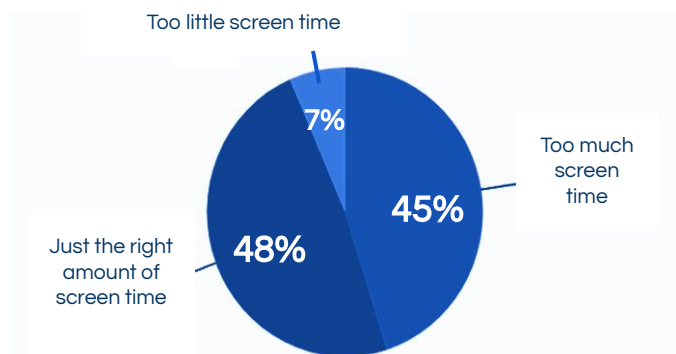
Technology

Technology Advancements

The Lake Forest School District has improved tech access and connectivity to the district by:

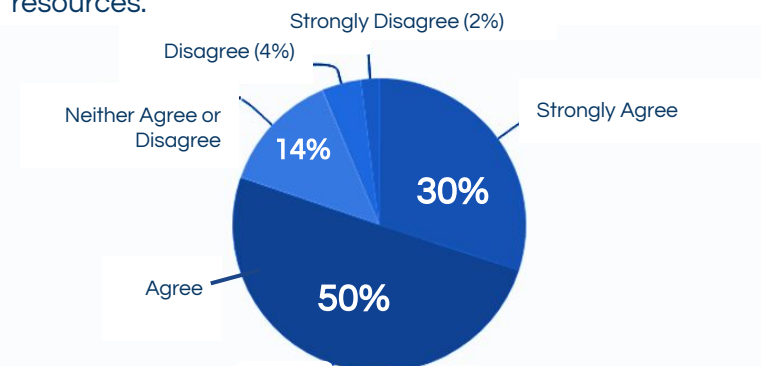
- Purchasing 1,800 Chromebooks and 50 Windows laptops
- All students K-12 have been offered or currently have a LFSD issued device
- Improved connectivity by providing 210 hotspots for students
- Improved wireless connectivity by over 50%
- Upgraded network switches within the district to allowed for wireless access points in every classroom

Amount of Screen Time

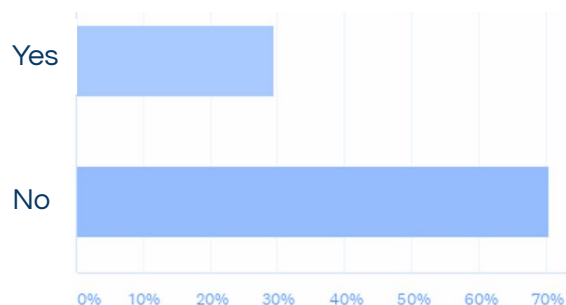


Successful Access to Technology

80% of Lake Forest School District Students have been successful using technology to access their instructional resources.

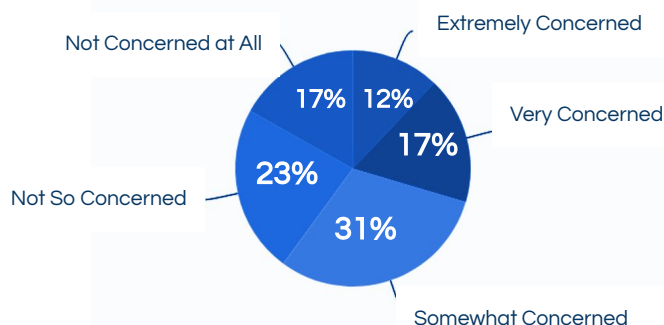


30% of Respondents have visited the LFSD Technology Website



Social Emotional Well-Being

29% of survey respondents are extremely or very concerned about their child's social emotional well-being.



Survey Summary

In the Survey, You Said:

Teachers have been doing an amazing job!

We agree! Teachers have had to literally learn how to teach in a new format. This has required educators to work countless hours in preparation every day to effectively deliver instruction.

Technology has greatly improved over the year.

This has been a total team effort between our finance, technology, and curriculum teams.

You understand the difficulties the school district is navigating and think the district is doing well under the circumstances.

We appreciate your understanding and assure you we are working diligently to deliver the best possible product while prioritizing the safety of our students and staff.

Many assignments and tasks are engaging.

Thanks to our teachers! Our teachers have learned many powerful and innovative instructional tools and strategies to create effective learning environments.

Many students are doing even better in the remote learning environment.

This is interesting and we will keep this in mind as we plan for the future.

You said we can improve by...

To do this we will...

Students need more face to face instruction!

We totally agree and are working on plans to maximize face to face learning next school year.

Screen time is a concern.

We have learned a lot about remote/hybrid instruction this year and understand students cannot be on a screen 7 hours a day. There will be changes to our approach next year and excessive screen time will have to be reduced.

Some grades are not recorded in a timely manner making it difficult to support learning at home.

We hear your concern and will continue to revise our current grading practices to best meet the needs of our learners.

Students are not receiving enough feedback on their assignments.

We agree, continuous feedback is one of the most important instructional strategies. We will continue to find creative ways to motivate and engage students.

We are very concerned about our student's mental health and well-being.

This is of great concern to us as well. Our school counselors, nurses, and wellness staff are available to help. We are also hiring additional staff to help support social emotional health next school year.

March 16, 2021

The below information is provided to share with all members of the Spartan team how funding which has been provided by the Federal and State Governments under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Acts have been expended or are planned to be expended.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>AMOUNT RECEIVED</u>
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COVID-19 Education Funds	\$ 88,000
GEERS 1-	\$ 322,524
ESSER 1-	\$ 1,300,608
ESSER 2-	\$ 5,620,765

The graphic which follows shows the category of the items or services which have been procured and percentages of the fund from which it was charged.

Fund Category	Purchase Category	Percentage of fund
COVID-19 Ed	Technology (Lap Tops)	100%
GEERS 1	Mental Health/Well Being (SEL)	100%
ESSER 1	Technology (Lap Tops)	63%
	Sanitizing and PPE	12%
	Indirect Costs	6%
	Resources for Principals	6%
	Provisions of Meals for Students	4%
	Response Efforts	3%
	Students with Disabilities	2%
	Maintain Operations (Custodial Support)	2%
	Mental Health Supports	1%
	After School Activities (Drivers Ed)	1%
ESSER 2	School Facility Repairs/Improvements (Ventilation)	30%
	Technology (Classroom)	23%
	Address Learning Loss/Equity (Personnel)	17%
	Resources for Principals (Curriculum/Equity/PL)	7%
	Indirect Costs	6%
	Mental Health Services (Personnel)	6%
	Sanitizing and PPE	3.5%
	Response Efforts (Communications)	3.5%
	Summer Learning (Personnel/Materials)	3.5%
	Maintain Operations (Custodial Support)	.5%

This information will be updated when and if more funds are received and expended. Please contact Mr. Kurt Kelemen at the Central Business Office with any questions.