



# Dracut Public Schools

2020 Reopening Plan

August 10, 2020

Steven Stone, Superintendent of Schools

# I Believe...



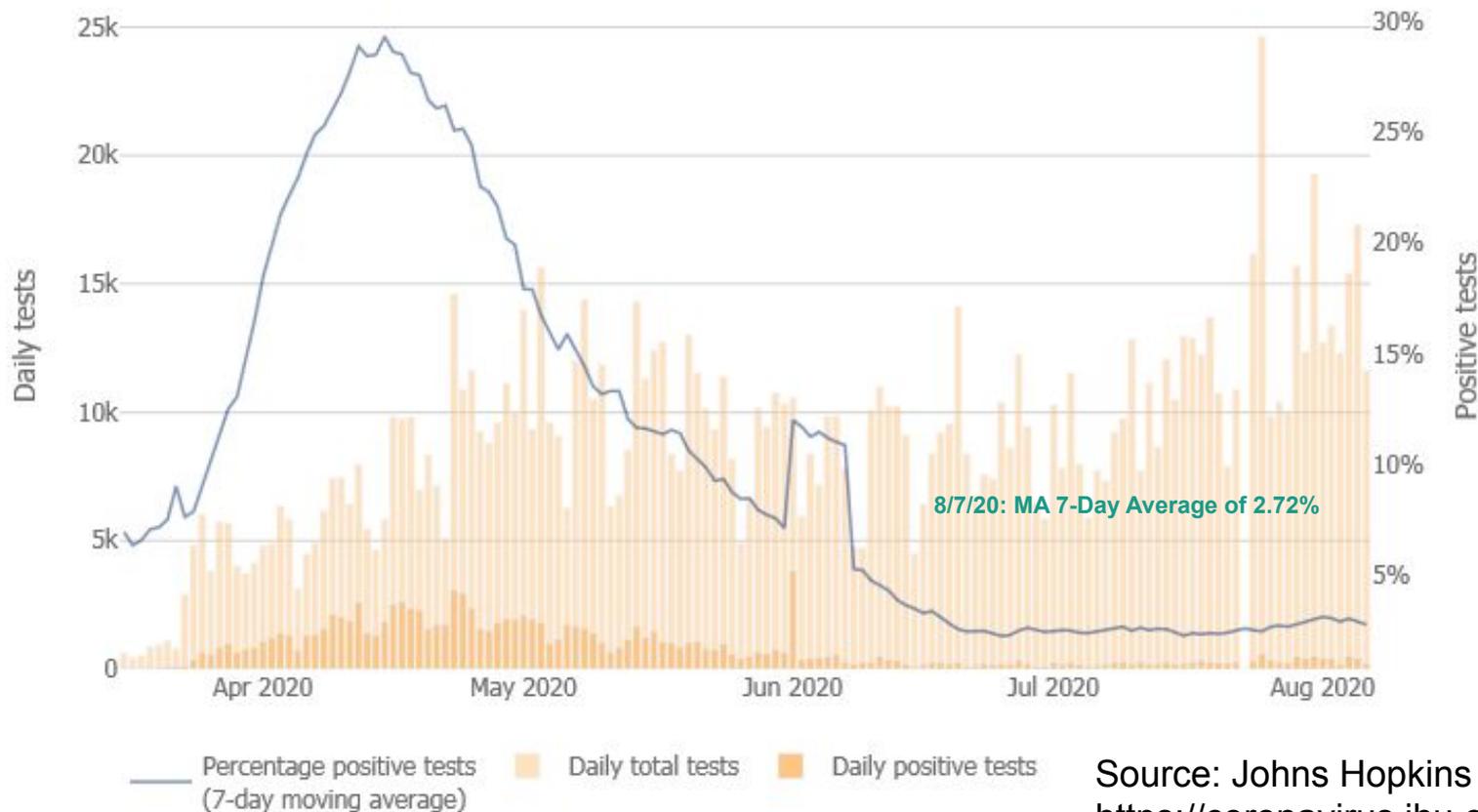
that the education of our children is an essential obligation of our community.

that the health and safety of our entire school community is essential.

that the current situation requires a balanced approach.



# Context: Massachusetts 7-Day Average of Positive Tests (as of 8/7/20)



Source: Johns Hopkins University  
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing>



## Context: Dracut

There are currently 6 cases of COVID-19 in Dracut.

The rolling positive rate in Dracut is 0.9%



“The American Academy of Pediatrics has affirmed that children, particularly younger children, are less likely than adults to be infected with COVID-19. Furthermore, if they become infected, it appears younger children may not have the same transmission potential as adults. The health and safety requirements for school reopening use a combination of strategies that, taken together, will substantially reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in schools. This combination approach includes masks/face coverings, physical distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, and staying home when sick.”

-DESE

# A Balanced View of Risk

## Loss of learning

Students could return in the fall already behind due to lack of in-person education, with up to 30% less reading learning and up to 50% less math learning compared to gains during a typical school year.<sup>1</sup>

## Social & emotional impact

In a US survey, 29% of parents said their children's emotional and mental health were suffering due to social distancing and closures.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, 13% of adolescents in the US receive mental health care from their schools, with school being the only source of support for 35% of those children.<sup>3</sup>

## Reduced detection of child abuse

Teachers serve as mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. Hospitals across the country saw increases in child abuse injuries and deaths that coincided with lockdown orders.<sup>4</sup>



## COVID-19 Risk

Children under 10 tend to have milder cases of COVID-19 and current research suggests they spread the virus less than adults.<sup>9</sup> Emerging research indicates that children 10 to 19 may transmit the virus similarly to adults.<sup>10</sup>



## Nutritional insecurity

Some students depend on free/reduced-price meals provided in schools. Estimates suggest there will be an additional 1.2 to 6.8 million food insecure children in 2020 than there were in 2018.<sup>5</sup>

## Loss of parental employment

Parents may be unable to work if they can't find childcare options to replace school. Recent research suggests that if schools and daycares remain closed, 17.5 million workers, or 11% of the US workforce, may face major barriers to work.<sup>6</sup>

## Lack of access to essential services

Across the US, about 1.5 million children have a diagnosed speech impairment<sup>7</sup> and approximately 1 in 54 children have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.<sup>8</sup> These children, and others that require specialized supports, may have missed speech therapy and critical development services they previously received at school.



# Feasibility Review



- Physical Distancing Assessment
- Food Service Capacity
- Transportation

# Physical Distancing Assessment



Dracut High School: Only 217 of 318 scheduled classes allow for the minimum 3' physical distancing between desk seats. Approximately 173 students would be required to be scheduled into classes they have not selected, nor fit their anticipated course of studies.

In the vast majority of DHS classrooms, physical distancing requirements allow only six feet between the front wall and the first row of student desks for teacher use. Student entry and egress would intrude on spacing needs.

At Brookside Elementary School, grades 2, 3, and 5 could not fit in classrooms and maintain the minimum 3' physical distancing requirements.

Greenmont Avenue Elementary School: In order to meet minimum physical distancing requirements, an additional 5th-grade teacher would need to be hired. The school itself, however, does not have sufficient classroom space to accommodate this need.

Campbell and Englesby Elementary Schools: Current student enrollment could support the minimum physical distancing requirements



# Food Service

- None of the district's schools could support Food Service operations with physical distancing requirements in place.
- The Food Service Department is not staffed sufficiently to support full in-person service.
- No district schools have sufficient staff to supervise students eating in classrooms.

# Transportation



The district operates a two-tiered bell schedule in order to maintain cost controls over transportation and ensure appropriate common professional learning capacity exists with all elementary schools.

Only the smallest elementary school (Greenmont Avenue Elementary School) has a walk zone. The remaining three schools rely on bus or parent transportation.

Two schools (Campbell and Englesby) regularly struggle with traffic congestion. One school (Brookside Elementary) exists entirely outside of its attendance zone.

Given physical distancing requirements on school buses, the district would need twenty-one additional buses to resume full in-person learning. This cost (assuming buses and drivers were available) would be approximately \$1.5 Million per year.



## Team Approach: Working Groups

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Facilities
- Logistics
- Academics
- Technology

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# Parent Survey Results

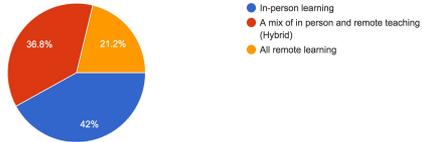
# QUESTION #1

With DESE and expert medically advised health and safety measures are in place, what is your preference for how your child is educated in the fall?

## Brookside ES

With DESE and expert medically advised health and safety measures are in place, what is your preference for how your child is educated in the fall?

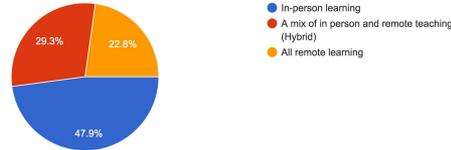
269 responses



## Greenmont ES

With DESE and expert medically advised health and safety measures are in place, what is your preference for how your child is educated in the fall?

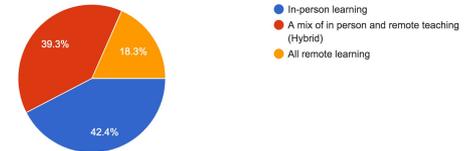
167 responses



## Englesby ES

With DESE and expert medically advised health and safety measures are in place, what is your preference for how your child is educated in the fall?

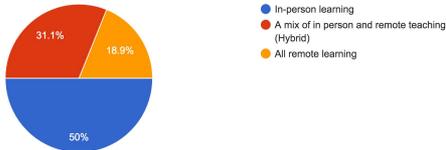
349 responses



## Campbell ES

With DESE and expert medically advised health and safety measures are in place, what is your preference for how your child is educated in the fall?

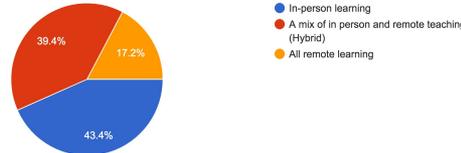
408 responses



## Richardson MS

With DESE and expert medically advised health and safety measures are in place, what is your preference for how your child is educated in the fall?

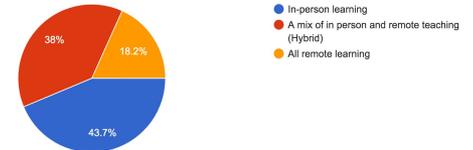
574 responses



## Dracut HS

With DESE and expert medically advised health and safety measures are in place, what is your preference for how your child is educated in the fall?

510 responses



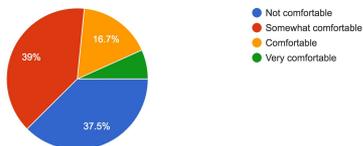
## QUESTION #2

*If in-person learning resumes in September, how comfortable are you having your child return to a school building?*

### Brookside ES

If in-person learning resumes in September, how comfortable are you having your child return to a school building?

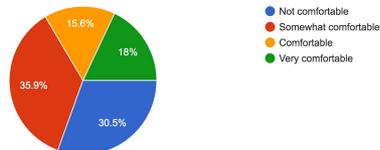
269 responses



### Greenmont ES

If in-person learning resumes in September, how comfortable are you having your child return to a school building?

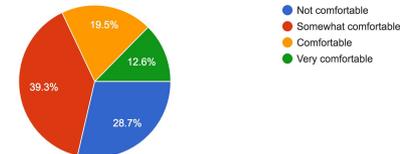
167 responses



### Englesby ES

If in-person learning resumes in September, how comfortable are you having your child return to a school building?

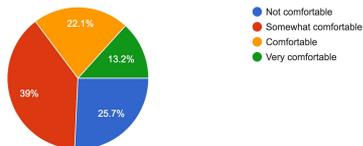
349 responses



### Campbell ES

If in-person learning resumes in September, how comfortable are you having your child return to a school building?

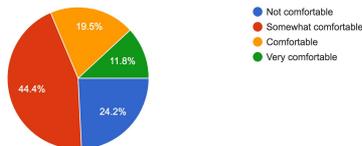
408 responses



### Richardson MS

#2. If in-person learning resumes in September, how comfortable are you having your child return to a school building?

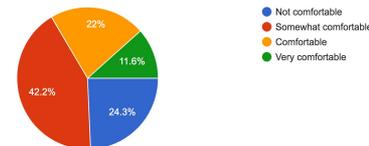
574 responses



### Dracut HS

If in-person learning resumes in September, how comfortable are you having your child return to a school building?

510 responses

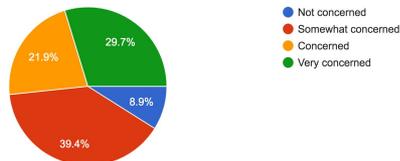


# QUESTION #3

*If in-person learning resumes in September, how concerned are you about your child's health?*

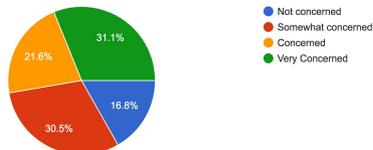
## Brookside ES

If in-person learning resumes in September, how concerned are you about your child's health?  
269 responses



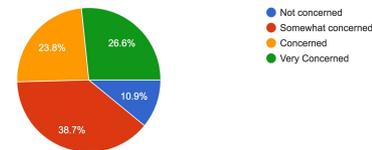
## Greenmont ES

If in-person learning resumes in September, how concerned are you about your child's health?  
167 responses



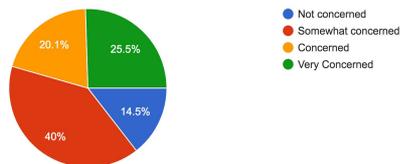
## Englesby ES

If in-person learning resumes in September, how concerned are you about your child's health?  
349 responses



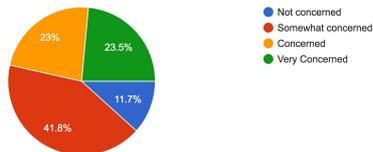
## Campbell ES

If in-person learning resumes in September, how concerned are you about your child's health?  
408 responses



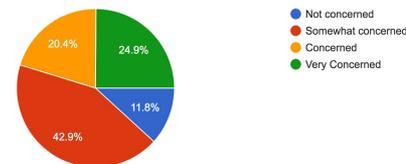
## Richardson MS

#3. If in-person learning resumes in September, how concerned are you about your child's health?  
574 responses



## Dracut HS

If in-person learning resumes in September, how concerned are you about your child's health?  
510 responses

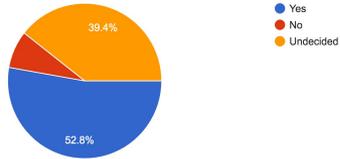


# QUESTION #4

*Do you plan on sending your child to school in the fall if in-person learning resumes?*

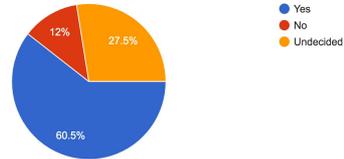
## Brookside ES

Do you plan on sending your child to school in the fall if in-person learning resumes?  
269 responses



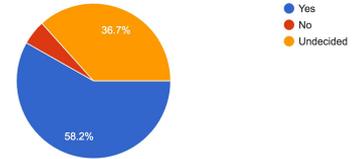
## Greenmont ES

Do you plan on sending your child to school in the fall if in-person learning resumes?  
167 responses



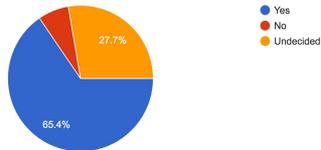
## Englesby ES

Do you plan on sending your child to school in the fall if in-person learning resumes?  
49 responses



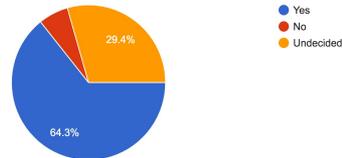
## Campbell ES

Do you plan on sending your child to school in the fall if in-person learning resumes?  
408 responses



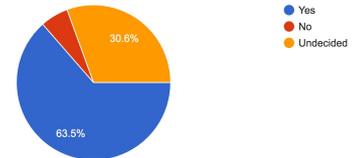
## Richardson MS

#4. Do you plan on sending your child to school in the fall if in-person learning resumes?  
574 responses



## Dracut HS

Do you plan on sending your child to school in the fall if in-person learning resumes?  
510 responses



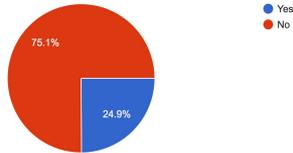
## QUESTION #5

*Does your child or someone in your household have documented health concerns that would prevent you from having your child return to in-person learning?*

### Brookside ES

Does your child or someone in your household have documented health concerns that would prevent you from having your child return to in-person learning?

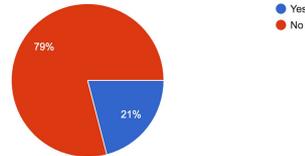
269 responses



### Greenmont ES

Does your child or someone in your household have documented health concerns that would prevent you from having your child/children return to in-person learning?

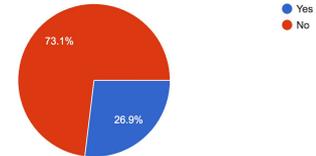
167 responses



### Englesby ES

Does your child or someone in your household have documented health concerns that would prevent you from having your child/children return to in-person learning?

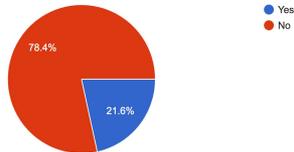
349 responses



### Campbell ES

Does your child or someone in your household have documented health concerns that would prevent you from having your child return to in-person learning?

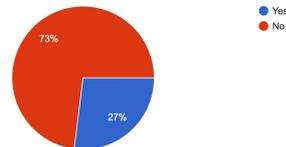
408 responses



### Richardson MS

#5. Does your child or someone in your household have documented health concerns that would prevent you from having your child return to in-person learning?

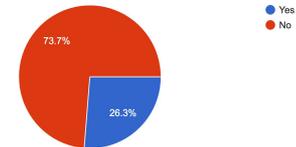
574 responses



### Dracut HS

Does your child or someone in your household have documented health concerns that would prevent you from having your child/children return to in-person learning?

510 responses

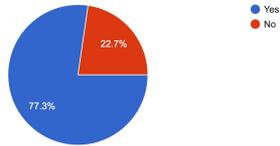


# QUESTION #6

*Does your child usually ride the school bus?*

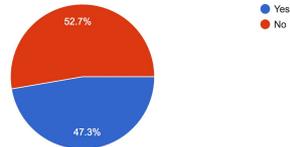
## Brookside ES

Does your child usually ride the school bus?  
269 responses



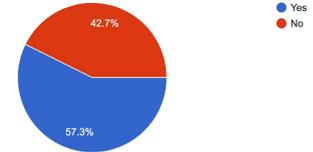
## Greenmont ES

Does your child usually ride the school bus?  
167 responses



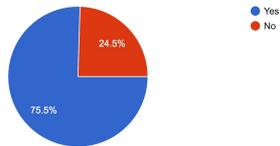
## Englesby ES

Does your child usually ride the school bus?  
349 responses



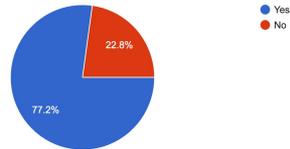
## Campbell ES

Does your child usually ride the school bus?  
408 responses



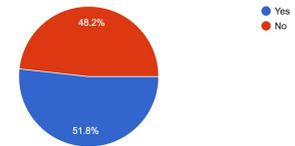
## Richardson MS

#6. Does your child usually ride the school bus?  
574 responses



## Dracut HS

Does your child usually ride the school bus?  
510 responses

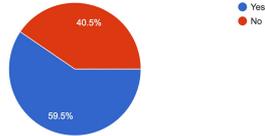


# QUESTION #7

*If your child usually rides the school bus, do you plan to utilize the school bus? (skip the next question if you answer YES)*

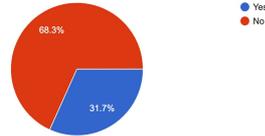
## Brookside ES

If your child usually rides the school bus, do you plan to utilize the school bus? (skip the next question if you answer YES)  
269 responses



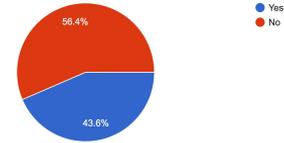
## Greenmont ES

If your child usually rides the school bus, do you plan to utilize the school bus? (skip the next question if you answer YES)  
167 responses



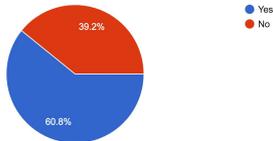
## Englesby ES

If your child usually rides the school bus, do you plan to utilize the school bus? (skip the next question if you answer YES)  
349 responses



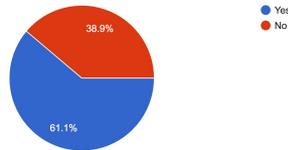
## Campbell ES

If your child usually rides the school bus, do you plan to utilize the school bus? (skip the next question if you answer YES)  
408 responses



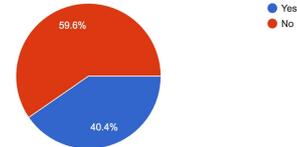
## Richardson MS

#7. If your child usually rides the school bus, do you plan to utilize the school bus? (skip the next question if you answer YES)  
574 responses



## Dracut HS

If your child usually rides the school bus, do you plan to utilize the school bus? (skip the next question if you answer YES)  
510 responses



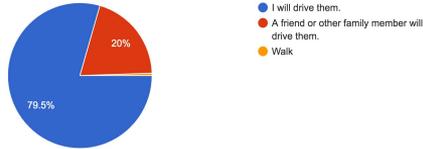
# QUESTION #8

*If your child usually rides the school bus, but you are not going to let them ride the bus, how will you be getting them to school in the fall?*

## Brookside ES

If your child usually rides the school bus, but you are not going to let them ride the bus, how will you be getting them to school in the fall?

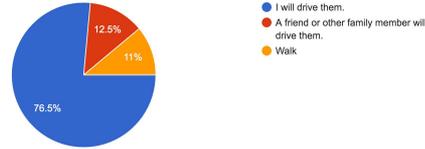
190 responses



## Greenmont ES

If your child usually rides the school bus, but you are not going to let them ride the bus, how will you be getting them to school in the fall?

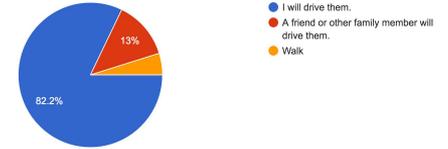
136 responses



## Englesby ES

If your child usually rides the school bus, but you are not going to let them ride the bus, how will you be getting them to school in the fall?

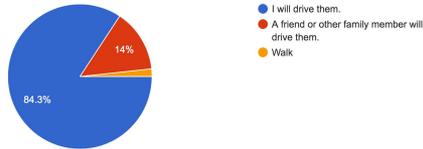
269 responses



## Campbell ES

If your child usually rides the school bus, but you are not going to let them ride the bus, how will you be getting them to school in the fall?

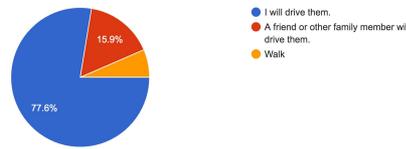
293 responses



## Richardson MS

#8. If your child usually rides the school bus, but you are not going to let them ride the bus, how will you be getting them to school in the fall?

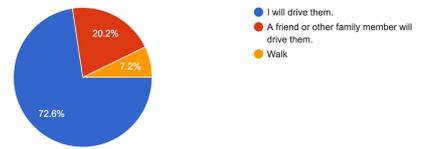
402 responses



## Dracut HS

If your child usually rides the school bus, but you are not going to let them ride the bus, how will you be getting them to school in the fall?

376 responses



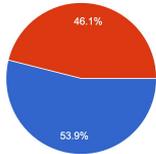
# QUESTION #9

*If school reopens with a Hybrid model (mix of in-person and remote learning), which of the following options would you prefer?*

## Brookside ES

If school reopens with a Hybrid model (mix of in-person and remote learning), which of the following options would you prefer:

269 responses

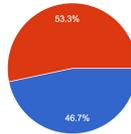


- Alternating days between in-person and remote learning
- Alternating weeks between in-person and remote learning

## Greenmont ES

If school reopens with a Hybrid model (mix of in-person and remote learning), which of the following options would you prefer:

167 responses

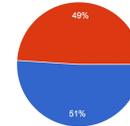


- Alternating days between in-person and remote learning
- Alternating weeks between in-person and remote learning

## Englesby ES

If school reopens with a Hybrid model (mix of in-person and remote learning), which of the following options would you prefer:

349 responses

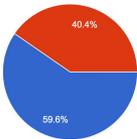


- Alternating days between in-person and remote learning
- Alternating weeks between in-person and remote learning

## Campbell ES

If school reopens with a Hybrid model (mix of in-person and remote learning), which of the following options would you prefer:

408 responses

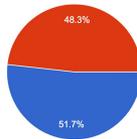


- Alternating days between in-person and remote learning
- Alternating weeks between in-person and remote learning

## Richardson MS

#9. If school reopens with a Hybrid model (mix of in-person and remote learning), which of the following options would you prefer:

574 responses

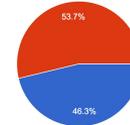


- Alternating days between in-person and remote learning
- Alternating weeks between in-person and remote learning

## Dracut HS

If school reopens with a Hybrid model (mix of in-person and remote learning), which of the following options would you prefer:

510 responses



- Alternating days between in-person and remote learning
- Alternating weeks between in-person and remote learning

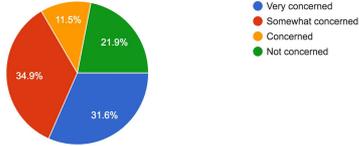
# QUESTION #10

*How concerned have you been about your child's social and emotional well being during the school closure period?*

## Brookside ES

How concerned have you been about your child's social and emotional well being during the school closure period?

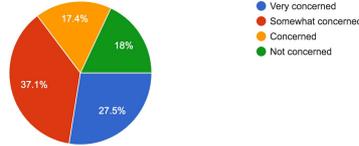
269 responses



## Greenmont ES

How concerned have you been about your child's social and emotional well being during the school closure period?

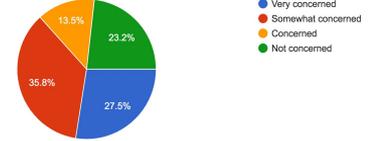
167 responses



## Englesby ES

How concerned have you been about your child's social and emotional well being during the school closure period?

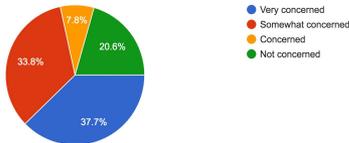
349 responses



## Campbell ES

How concerned have you been about your child's social and emotional well being during the school closure period?

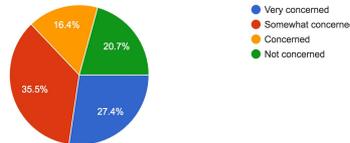
408 responses



## Richardson MS

#10. How concerned have you been about your child's social and emotional well being during the school closure period?

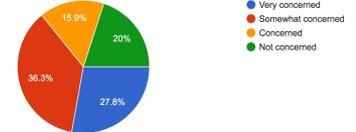
574 responses



## Dracut HS

How concerned have you been about your child's social and emotional well being during the school closure period?

510 responses



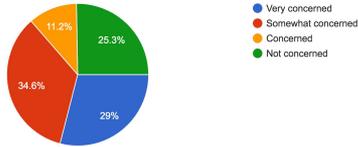
# QUESTION #11

*How concerned are you about childcare if a Hybrid learning model (alternating days or weeks of in-person and remote learning) is implemented in the fall?*

## Brookside ES

How concerned are you about childcare if a Hybrid learning model (alternating days or weeks of in-person and remote learning) is implemented in the fall?

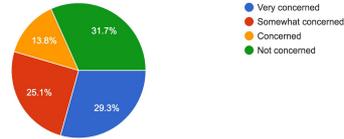
269 responses



## Greenmont ES

How concerned are you about childcare if a Hybrid learning model (alternating days or weeks of in-person and remote learning) is implemented in the fall?

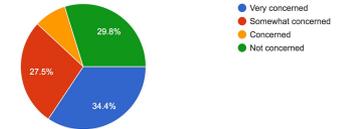
167 responses



## Englesby ES

How concerned are you about childcare if a Hybrid learning model (alternating days or weeks of in-person and remote learning) is implemented in the fall?

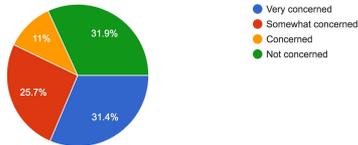
349 responses



## Campbell ES

How concerned are you about childcare if a Hybrid learning model (alternating days or weeks of in-person and remote learning) is implemented in the fall?

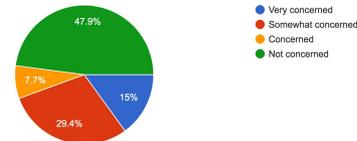
408 responses



## Richardson MS

#11. How concerned are you about childcare if a Hybrid learning model (alternating days or weeks of in-person and remote learning) is implemented in the fall?

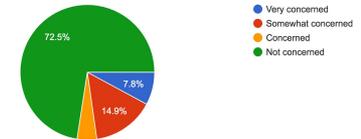
574 responses



## Dracut HS

How concerned are you about childcare if a Hybrid learning model (alternating days or weeks of in-person and remote learning) is implemented in the fall?

510 responses

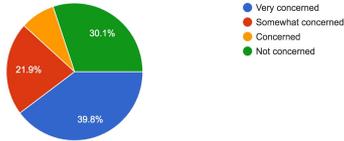


# QUESTION #12

*How concerned are you about childcare if a full remote learning model is implemented in the fall?*

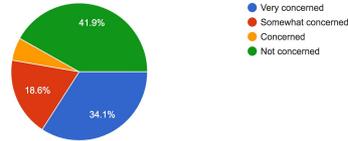
## Brookside ES

How concerned are you about childcare if a full remote learning model is implemented in the fall?  
269 responses



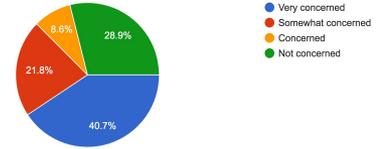
## Greenmont ES

How concerned are you about childcare if a full remote learning model is implemented in the fall?  
167 responses



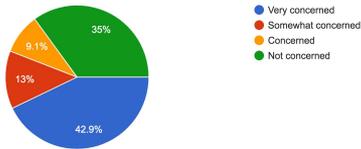
## Englesby ES

How concerned are you about childcare if a full remote learning model is implemented in the fall?  
349 responses



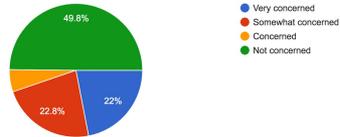
## Campbell ES

How concerned are you about childcare if a full remote learning model is implemented in the fall?  
408 responses



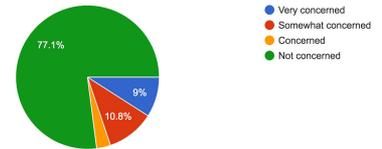
## Richardson MS

#13. How concerned are you about childcare if a full remote learning model is implemented in the fall?  
574 responses



## Dracut HS

How concerned are you about childcare if a full remote learning model is implemented in the fall?  
510 responses

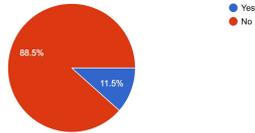


# QUESTION #13

*If either a fully remote or hybrid model is implemented in the fall, is access to school breakfast and lunch on days when students are not in school a concern?*

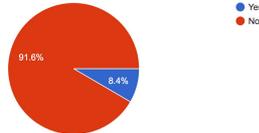
## Brookside ES

If either a fully remote or a hybrid model is implemented in the fall, is access to school breakfast and/or lunch on days when students are not in school a concern?  
269 responses



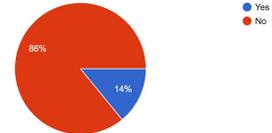
## Greenmont ES

If either a fully remote or a hybrid model is implemented in the fall, is access to school breakfast and/or lunch on days when students are not in school a concern?  
167 responses



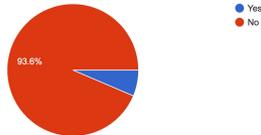
## Englesby ES

If either a fully remote or a hybrid model is implemented in the fall, is access to school breakfast and/or lunch on days when students are not in school a concern?  
349 responses



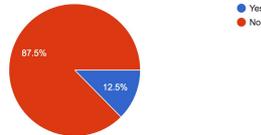
## Campbell ES

If either a fully remote or a hybrid model is implemented in the fall, is access to school breakfast and/or lunch on days when students are not in school a concern?  
408 responses



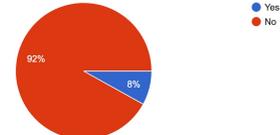
## Richardson MS

#14. If either a fully remote or a hybrid model is implemented in the fall, is access to school breakfast and/or lunch on days when students are not in school a concern?  
574 responses



## Dracut HS

If either a fully remote or a hybrid model is implemented in the fall, is access to school breakfast and/or lunch on days when students are not in school a concern?  
510 responses



# Hybrid Approach: Week-In, Week-Remote



- Develop class lists, then split into cohorts
- High Needs students part of both cohorts
- Supports capacity to align siblings
- Limits mixing cohorts during week and minimizes need for remote days mid-week for cleaning
- Allowance to monitor student health more consistently
- Supports opportunities for full array of classes
- Consistency in student-teacher relationships
- Maximizes number of days in school

# Revised Calendar



Professional learning and training for 10 days between September 1 and 15

Students begin on September 16th. Each cohort attends for one day to meet teachers and establish in-school norms. All students participate remotely on September 18th to establish remote norms.

Subsequently, Cohorts A & B alternate weeks. Cohort A in-school 83 days. Cohort B in-school for 84 days.

Front loaded schedule with early release (4 days) and full-day professional development (2 days) to support educator need for reflection/refinement/revisions/review

Further alterations would be necessary if the district shifts to full remote learning

# Hybrid or Full Remote: Robustness of Experience Expected



- Student attendance
- Issuance of grades
- More Synchronous Learning
- Regular schedule
- Increase in technology demands

# Remote Learning Academy: Students in Full Remote Model



- Still under development: Until March 12, 2020 public schools provided educational services in a familiar manner.
- The spring of 2020 was devoted to turning on a dime.
- From June forward public schools forced to develop completely new systems and patterns of service with moving goalposts and emerging guidance and requirements.
- Higher education can be methodical about creating virtual learning. Public schools have weeks.
- Higher education creates parallel systems to support virtual learning
- Desire for as local a solution as possible
- Complex process requiring hard data
- A range of options are being considered
- Teachers are learning completely new ways of teaching and will need to balance traditional instruction with virtual instruction.
- To the greatest extent possible, we will protect teachers as they learn to scale-up

# Full Remote Learning Academy: Demand



School	Enrollment	Total Responses	Requesting Full Remote
BES	415	293	29
CES	576	330	28
EES	474	360	29
GES	272	177	27
RMS	926	530	63
DHS	889	798	62

# Students Identified as “High Needs” or with Significant & Complex Disabilities



Students already identified as “high needs” through the Individualized Education Planning (IEP) process on the IEP form entitled “Primary Disability/Level of Need-PL3.”

- Services provided outside of the general education classroom;
- Service providers are special education teachers and related service providers;
- Special education services constitute more than 75% of the student’s school day
- Preschool age students with disabilities
- Post Graduate students with disabilities
- Students who cannot engage in remote learning due to their disability-related needs;
- Students who primarily use aided and augmentative communication;
- Students who are homeless;
- Students in foster care or congregate care;
- Students who are dually identified as English Learners, SEI Level I;

# Service Delivery for Students with Disabilities



Regardless of learning model, maximizing “in-person” learning should be a priority.

- Agreed upon service in an IEP *must* be delivered, but *will* look differently;
- Students will receive instruction from qualified professionals;
- Flexible groupings will allow for students to receive services in the LRE, in like cohorts and with peer models, where feasible;
- When considering alternative spaces, careful consideration will be made to students individual disability related needs;
- In a hybrid or remote environment, services in the IEP will be provided through “Instruction and Services” model which includes synchronous (telephone and video) and asynchronous(recorded and posted) learning.



# **Adoption of a plan is a snapshot in time.**

Much work remains.

Changing circumstances at local, state, and national level will inform how schools open in the fall.