BOARDROOM CHATTER

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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Presentation of 2020-2021 School Year Reopening Plan Overview

ACPS Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Kim Kalbaugh, gave the school board an instructional update after it was recommended by Interim Superintendent, Mr. Jeff Blank, that ACPS start the 2020-2021 school year virtually. Staff has reviewed recovery options for the three stages within Maryland's Recovery Plan in preparation for the opening of schools. Feedback was gathered from numerous stakeholder groups including community members, the local health department, and several ACPS departments in order to ensure the feasibility of all recovery options.

Each district in Maryland was charged with designing a plan that prioritizes educational equity in providing every student with access to the educational rigor, resources, and support that are designed to maximize a student's academic success and social/emotional well being and that engages students, families, and staff whether operating under traditional, hybrid, or a fully virtual or distance learning model.

ACPS used the K-12 Decision Matrix provided by the Governor's Office to develop a plan for a traditional, hybrid model, and fully virtual model. Each local school system was also charged with meeting the Requirements for Opening Schools as outlined in the Maryland Together: Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education. ACPS developed a hybrid model for both elementary and secondary schools, which were shared with a stakeholder group of parents, students, teachers, administrators, Teacher Roundtable representatives, and the local health department. The ACPS hybrid model was very similar to other Maryland district plans, and just as in every other district, ACPS faced operational, transportation, health and safety challenges for in-person models under the increased requirements for cleaning, disinfecting, sanitation, social distancing protocols, mask requirements, and the number of students that could safely be transported or in a classroom.

Due to these challenges, ACPS administration recommended a fully virtual learning model to start the school year. In the distance-learning environment, a combination of synchronous (real time/live) and asynchronous (independent) approaches will be utilized by teachers to deliver the ACPS curriculum aligned to the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards. All students will have access to high quality virtual instruction. Students with special learning needs will have access to appropriate supports, accommodations, and modifications in line with their documented learning needs. All students will have access to learning support through the classroom teacher or other resources.

Several things will be different from the way the closures were handled in March, most notably the more robust virtual learning for both students and teachers. ACPS purchased Schoology, a learning management system that provides what teachers and students need for effective and robust teaching and learning in one platform. Schoology is very user friendly for both students and adults. Through Schoology, there are tools to create engaging content, design lessons and assess student understanding. With Schoology, teachers can quickly and easily create media-rich

CONSENT AGENDA

The school board voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda:

- Approve minutes for Open Session on June 9, 2020.
- Approve routine personnel actions for the period of June 1, 2020-July 31, 2020.
- Receive school construction/maintenance report for the period of June 1, 2020-July 31, 2020.
- Receive monthly financial report for June and July 2020.
- Receive monthly information technology report for the period of June and July 2020.
- Consider approval of 2020-2021 Table Rates for bus contractors.

lessons, reuse past courses, and even embed content from Google Drive, Microsoft Office, YouTube, and more. Schoology also provides a tool to provide synchronous instruction so that students can engage in learning at the same time through virtual conferencing and essentially report to their classes in real time.

Schoology enables teachers to provide direct instruction to their students, allowing students to be active participants in a classroom community that encourages discussion, collaboration, and creativity. Teachers have the ability to pace and track students individually, connect them in collaborative groups, and differentiate and blend instruction. There will also be the completion of class assignments where students are able to work independently. Students will also have a modified schedule with shortened class periods that allows them to participate in distance learning instruction without conflict with other classes. Teachers will have office hours after lunch in the afternoon to provide student and parental support and answer questions and respond to concerns. Teachers can also use this time for collaborative planning and school-based meetings.

ACPS educators have been participating in virtual sessions with representatives from Schoology in order to learn about the platform's features, including how to create virtual live classrooms, how to create assignments and assessments, and how to provide offline opportunities.

ACPS will open schools virtually for students on September 8, 2020. The calendar modification is necessary to ensure the distribution of necessary technology (laptops or Chromebooks) to those students who need a device, as well as to facilitate Schoology training sessions for parents and students over the next several weeks. Information on the calendar modification will be included in a forthcoming media release as part of the ACPS communication plan. Teachers will return August 19-21, 2020, and September 2-3, 2020, in preparation for the start of the school year. Schoology training will be held the week of August 24th.

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) in consultation with the Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, the Maryland Department of Health, and the Public School Superintendent Association of Maryland (PSSAM) recently announced that they have decided to postpone the 2020 high school fall and winter competition season during the first semester in light of recent announcements of Maryland school systems to begin education virtually.

Instructional information will be posted on the district's website and communicated through various social media outlets. Videos will be posted to help students and parents through the transition. The ACPS Recovery Plan will also be posted on the school system's website, and dates and times for Schoology training sessions will be communicated to parents and students. The Interim Superintendent and the HR office will communicate information to ACPS personnel as needed.

Dr. Kalbaugh concluded that ACPS shares a commitment to providing a hybrid or traditional schooling model when it is deemed a feasible and safe option for school communities. Staff will continue to monitor the system's ability to adjust this plan, taking into consideration guidance from the Maryland Department of Health, the local health department, and the Center for Disease Control.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Adopting 2020-2021 School Year Reopening Plan
The school board voted unanimously to adopt the 2020-2021 school year reopening plan, which will start the year virtually. Students will begin their virtual learning on September 8, 2020.
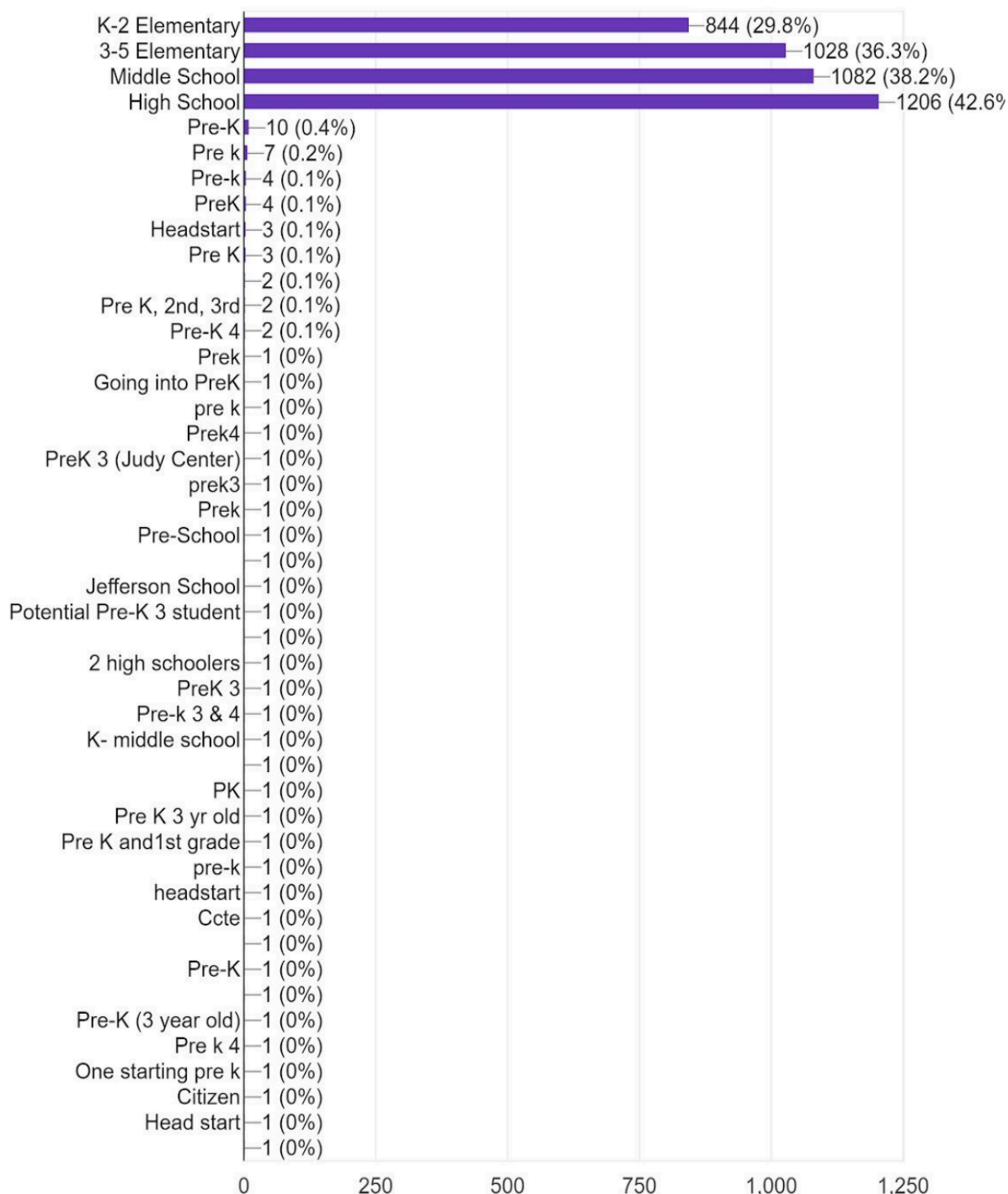
Parent/Guardian Survey Hybrid and Fully Virtual Instructional Models 2020-2021 School Year
Deadline: Friday, July 31st at Noon
Raw Results (noted duplicative responses found but not adjusted below)

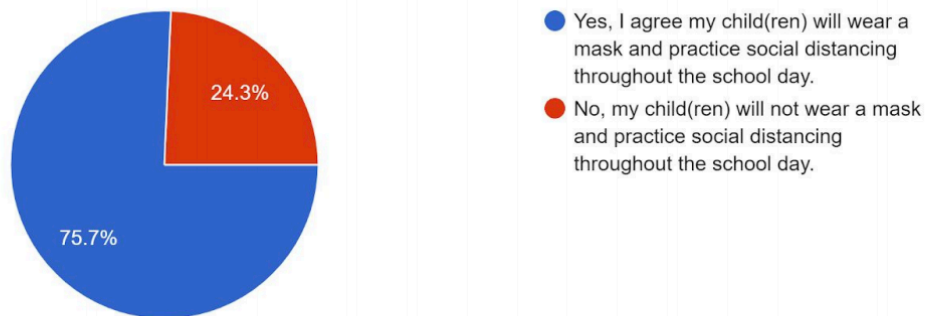Select the grade level(s) of your child(ren).
2,829 responses

Grade Level	Count
K-2 Elementary	844 (29.8%)
3-5 Elementary	1028 (36.3%)
Middle School	1082 (38.2%)
High School	1206 (42.6%)
Pre-K	10 (0.4%)
Pre k	7 (0.2%)
Pre-k	4 (0.1%)
PreK	4 (0.1%)
Headstart	3 (0.1%)
Pre K	3 (0.1%)
	2 (0.1%)
Pre K, 2nd, 3rd	2 (0.1%)
Pre-K 4	2 (0.1%)
Prek	1 (0%)
Going into PreK	1 (0%)
pre k	1 (0%)
Prek4	1 (0%)
PreK 3 (Judy Center)	1 (0%)
prek3	1 (0%)
Prek	1 (0%)
Pre-School	1 (0%)
	1 (0%)
Jefferson School	1 (0%)
Potential Pre-K 3 student	1 (0%)
	1 (0%)
2 high schoolers	1 (0%)
PreK 3	1 (0%)
Pre-k 3 & 4	1 (0%)
K- middle school	1 (0%)
	1 (0%)
PK	1 (0%)
Pre K 3 yr old	1 (0%)
Pre K and1st grade	1 (0%)
pre-k	1 (0%)
headstart	1 (0%)
Ccte	1 (0%)
	1 (0%)
Pre-K	1 (0%)
	1 (0%)
Pre-K (3 year old)	1 (0%)
Pre k 4	1 (0%)
One starting pre k	1 (0%)
Citizen	1 (0%)
Head start	1 (0%)
	1 (0%)

Parent/Guardian Survey Hybrid and Fully Virtual Instructional Models 2020-2021 School Year
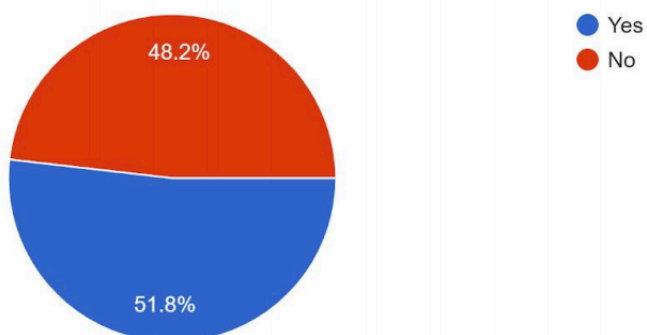Deadline: Friday, July 31st at Noon
Raw Results (noted duplicative responses found but not adjusted below)

One component of the Hybrid Instructional Model is to provide instruction in a brick-and-mortar school setting. In such a setting, I agree my child(...actice social distancing throughout the school day.
2,829 responses

- Yes, I agree my child(ren) will wear a mask and practice social distancing throughout the school day.
- No, my child(ren) will not wear a mask and practice social distancing throughout the school day.

24.3%
75.7%

I want my child(ren) to participate in the Hybrid Model of Instruction while the state of Maryland is in Stage 2.
2,829 responses

- Yes
- No

48.2%
51.8%
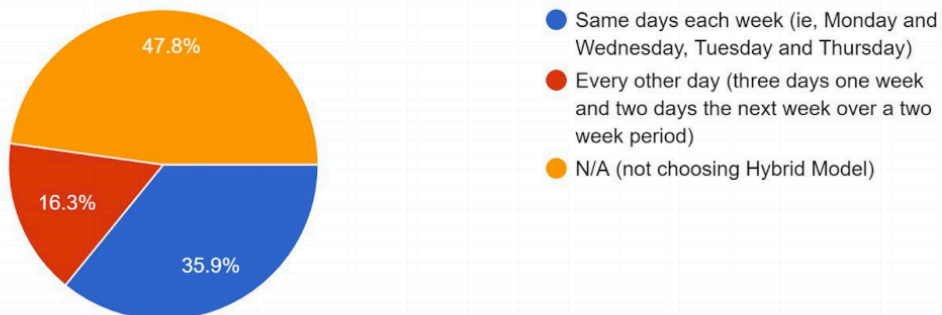
Parent/Guardian Survey Hybrid and Fully Virtual Instructional Models 2020-2021 School Year
Deadline: Friday, July 31st at Noon
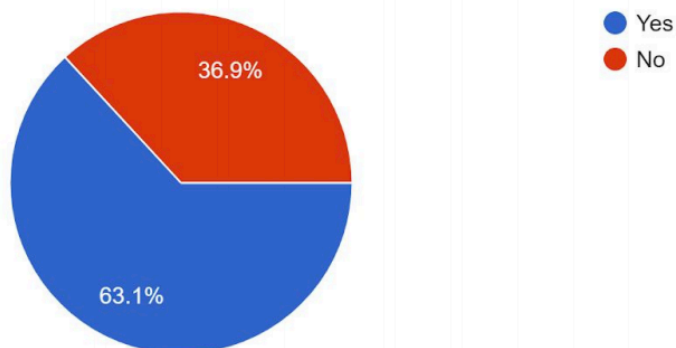*Raw Results* (noted duplicative responses found but not adjusted below)

If you said yes to the Hybrid Instructional Model, which of the following do you prefer?
2,829 responses

- Same days each week (ie, Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday)
- Every other day (three days one week and two days the next week over a two week period)
- N/A (not choosing Hybrid Model)

47.8%
16.3%
35.9%

Are you aware the ACPS will provide each student with an electronic learning device, as requested, in order to provide access to real-time interaction with teachers through Schoology?
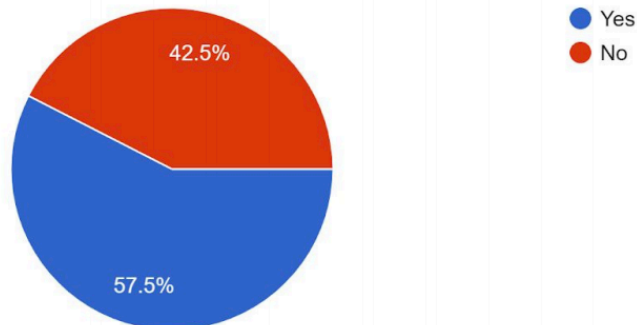2,829 responses

- Yes
- No

36.9%
63.1%

PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Parent/Guardian Survey Hybrid and Fully Virtual Instructional Models 2020-2021 School Year
Deadline: Friday, July 31st at Noon
Raw Results (noted duplicative responses found but not adjusted below)

I want my child(ren) to receive Fully Virtual Instruction with real-time instruction and real-time feedback possibilities through Schoology, while the state of Maryland is in Stage 2.

2,829 responses

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REPORTS & COMMENTS

School board members expressed their gratitude to the ACPS staff that worked, and continue to work, hard to develop both a hybrid and fully virtual plan for the reopening of schools. They indicated that they didn't reach their decision to vote for fully virtual instruction to open the year lightly. Each member wants to ultimately get students back into the classroom; however, they realize that in order to keep students and staff safe, fully virtual instruction was the best option. Plans will continue to be reevaluated as COVID-19 is monitored as the year progresses.

The school board's decision to open the school year virtually has also postponed all athletic and extracurricular activities effectively immediately.