

Introduction

March 5, 2021

On September 9, 2020 all of the Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle High School opened for in-person learning with strict safety protocols and highly developed routines and structures through in-person half-day and hybrid models. The success of these protocols and procedures allowed us to remain open throughout the winter surge maintaining continuity and consistency of relationships, programming, and instruction. As the spring approached, discussions began about increasing in-person learning time.

On February 23, 2021 Governor Baker announced the Commonwealth's plan to mandate the return of students to in-person learning on a full-time basis during the first week of April. The Commissioner of Education proposed modifications to the legal definitions of instructional time which are being brought to the Board of Education at the time this document was compiled with expected support from the Board. Further guidance and documentation from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is expected during the week of March 8, 2021.

This document is meant to provide an overview of the timelines and aspects for students to return, to provide data to inform the proposed plans and to serve as a working document as those plans are expanded and created in more detail over the coming weeks.

Current Models and Enrollments

| | Remote | In-Person |
|---------|--------|-----------|
| Alcott | 60 | 373 |
| Thoreau | 64 | 367 |
| Willard | 37 | 379 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|------|
| Concord Middle School | 92 | 588 |
| Concord Carlisle High School | 150 | 1165 |

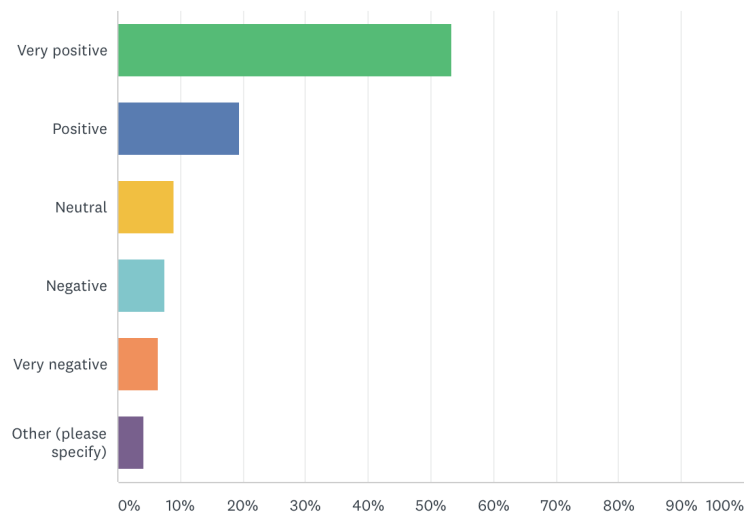
Parent Survey Results

March 5, 2021

Elementary

How do you feel about your child being in-person more than the current models provide? (i.e. expanding the elementary to full day, increasing the number of days per week for CMS and CCHS)

Answered: 1,050 Skipped: 1

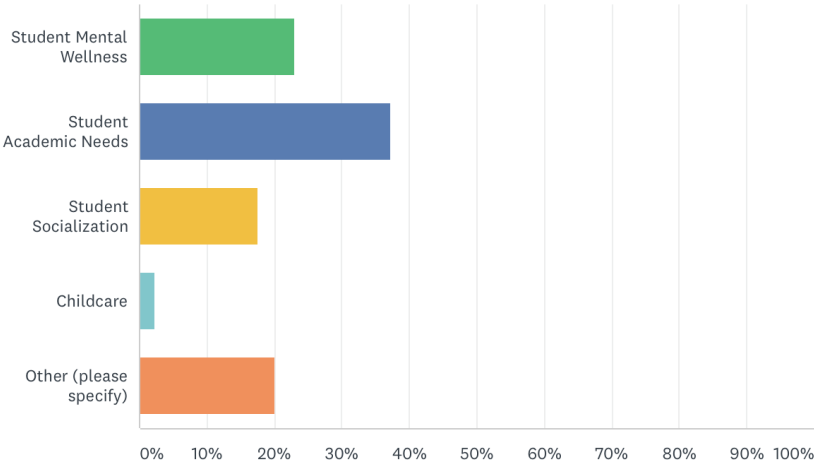


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ▼ Very positive | 53.43% | 561 |
| ▼ Positive | 19.43% | 204 |
| ▼ Neutral | 8.95% | 94 |
| ▼ Negative | 7.52% | 79 |
| ▼ Very negative | 6.38% | 67 |
| ▼ Other (please specify) | Responses 4.29% | 45 |
| TOTAL | | 1,050 |



What is the most important factor behind your reasoning in the question above?

Answered: 1,050 Skipped: 1



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|
| ▼ Student Mental Wellness | 22.95% | 241 |
| ▼ Student Academic Needs | 37.14% | 390 |
| ▼ Student Socialization | 17.52% | 184 |
| ▼ Childcare | 2.29% | 24 |
| ▼ Other (please specify) | 20.10% | 211 |
| TOTAL | | 1,050 |

Middle School

Q2

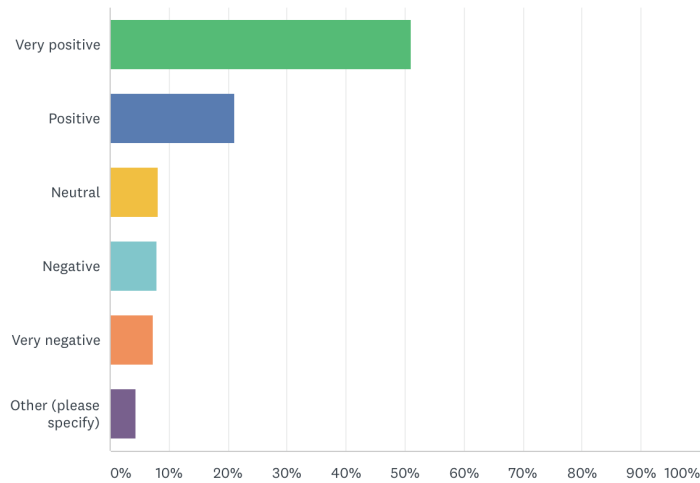


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How do you feel about your child being in-person more than the current models provide? (i.e. expanding the elementary to full day, increasing the number of days per week for CMS and CCHS)

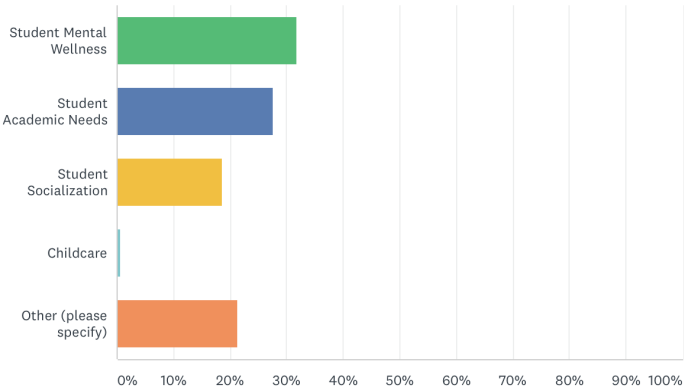
Answered: 544 Skipped: 1



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| ▼ Very positive | 51.10% | 278 |
| ▼ Positive | 21.14% | 115 |
| ▼ Neutral | 8.09% | 44 |
| ▼ Negative | 7.90% | 43 |
| ▼ Very negative | 7.35% | 40 |
| ▼ Other (please specify) | Responses 4.41% | 24 |
| TOTAL | | 544 |

What is the most important factor behind your reasoning in the question above?

Answered: 545 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|
| ▼ Student Mental Wellness | 31.74% | 173 |
| ▼ Student Academic Needs | 27.71% | 151 |
| ▼ Student Socialization | 18.72% | 102 |
| ▼ Childcare | 0.55% | 3 |
| ▼ Other (please specify) | Responses 21.28% | 116 |
| TOTAL | | 545 |

Q4

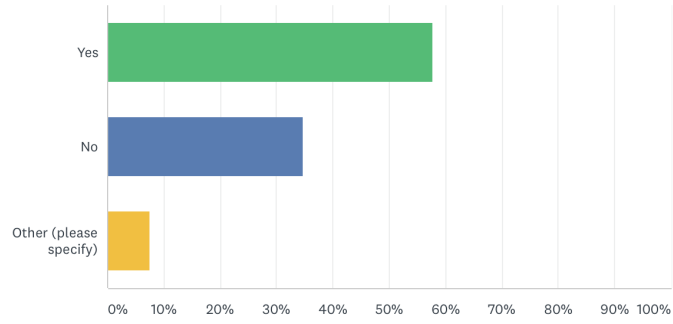


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Would you support reducing the distance between students to less than 6 feet?

Answered: 545 Skipped: 0

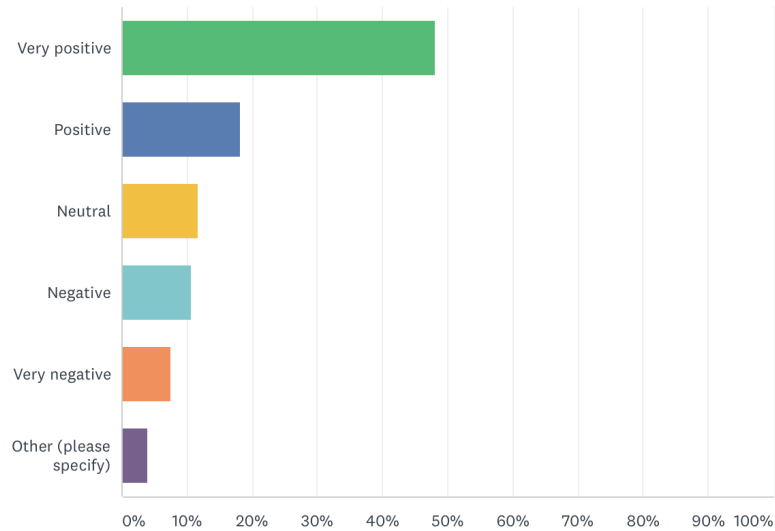


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| ▼ Yes | 57.80% | 315 |
| ▼ No | 34.68% | 189 |
| ▼ Other (please specify) | Responses 7.52% | 41 |
| TOTAL | | 545 |

High School

How do you feel about your child being in-person more than the current models provide? (i.e. expanding the elementary to full day, increasing the number of days per week for CMS and CCHS)

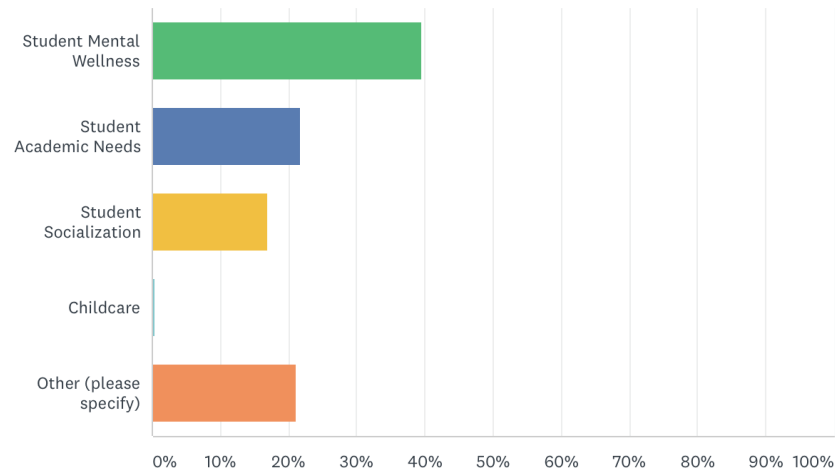
Answered: 917 Skipped: 2



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Very positive | 48.09% | 441 |
| Positive | 18.10% | 166 |
| Neutral | 11.67% | 107 |
| Negative | 10.58% | 97 |
| Very negative | 7.63% | 70 |
| Other (please specify) | 3.93% | 36 |
| TOTAL | | 917 |

What is the most important factor behind your reasoning in the question above?

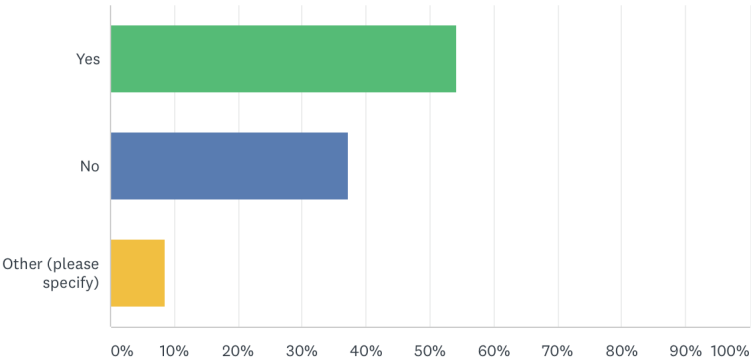
Answered: 916 Skipped: 3



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|
| ▼ Student Mental Wellness | 39.63% | 363 |
| ▼ Student Academic Needs | 21.83% | 200 |
| ▼ Student Socialization | 17.03% | 156 |
| ▼ Childcare | 0.33% | 3 |
| ▼ Other (please specify) | Responses 21.18% | 194 |
| TOTAL | | 916 |

Would you support reducing the distance between students to less than 6 feet?

Answered: 917 Skipped: 2



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|
| ▼ Yes | 54.09% | 496 |
| ▼ No | 37.30% | 342 |
| ▼ Other (please specify) | Responses 8.62% | 79 |
| TOTAL | | 917 |

Elementary Schools

In-Person Full-Day Return: April 5, 2021

The elementary schools currently provide the core content curriculum during the in-person morning session with the virtual afternoon to conduct special subjects and small group instruction synchronously and asynchronously.

As of Monday, April 5, 2021 all students will return in-person for full-day instruction four days per week. Wednesday will be an in-person half-day with no special subjects in the afternoon.

Physical Distancing

The elementary classrooms are currently arranged with individual desks allowing students to be 6' apart. This arrangement will continue as we expand to full days. Students will remain in their individual classrooms throughout the day with the exception of an outdoor lunch and recess time unless the weather does not permit.

Remote Learning Academy

Any student currently learning remotely may continue in the Remote Learning Academy. Families may enroll in the Remote Learning Academy via a survey to be distributed during the week of March 8. Enrollment in the Remote Learning Academy in March will require the remainder of the school year as a fully remote student.

Lunch

Lunch will be conducted outdoors except in extreme weather when it will be held in the classroom. The food service program will continue to offer its modified menu options and free lunch for all in accordance with the USDA provision during the pandemic.

Outdoor Space

The entire school campus will be utilized for outdoor space. Multiple tents will provide table and chair arrangements as an option for classrooms. Recess and mask breaks will

remain separated by classroom so that children must play in sections assigned to their class. Playground structures will open with space provisions, strict supervision, and careful cleaning.

Transportation

We will shift all current transportation modes to the later dismissal time. The transportation department is currently reviewing the bus routes to consolidate routes now covered by buses that will not be available at the 3:30 p.m. dismissal time. Parents will be asked to indicate any needed change to the school office over the coming week. Dismissal will still require additional time with a proposed start at 3:15 p.m.

Technology

The district provided 1:1 technology to all students this past fall. With the return to in-person learning, devices will be collected and kept in the classroom without traveling home on a nightly basis. Device storage and charging will be purchased before April 5.

Staffing

Since students will eat as a class, additional supervision is required during lunch and recess. We continue to outline the options and resources needed to fully staff this new model. Supervision will be required during teacher preparation periods since all special subject classes will continue to be conducted remotely into the primary classroom. During this time, the classroom teacher has a contractual preparatory period. We continue to define options and coverage plans.

Staff Survey

A staff survey will be conducted during the week of March 8 to identify the needs of teachers to support the full time model.

Concord Middle School

In-Person Full-Day Return: April 26, 2021

Concord Middle School students currently learn in a hybrid model with a week split between days in-person and remote via live streaming. Wednesdays are fully remote for all students.

As of Monday, April 26, 2021 all Concord Middle School students will attend full-day in-person learning five days per week.

Physical Distancing

The middle school allows for 3' of distance in classrooms.

Full Time Remote Learning Option

Fully remote learning will remain available to students for the remainder of the school year. A parent survey during the week of March 8 will allow families to shift to remote learning if they are no longer comfortable with the in-person environment. **Once enrolled in remote learning in March, there is no option to return to in-person learning given space constraints. Students can no longer learn in a hybrid mode.**

Lunch

Students will eat outside when possible and maintain 6' of distance. During inclement weather, students will eat inside maintaining 6' at all times. The food service program will continue to offer its modified menu options and free lunch for all in accordance with the USDA provision during the pandemic.

Outdoor Space

Tents will provide outdoor learning space. Connection to wifi is a goal in order to allow for continued live stream learning for fully remote students.

Transportation

The transportation department is reviewing the current bus capacity to determine the ability to consolidate the two cohorts. Parents will be asked to continue driving as they have in order to maintain the current routine. Dismissal and arrival will require extensive reworking and choreography given the volume of traffic.

Furniture and Reassignment of Space

Large amounts of furniture are not currently in the classroom given the hybrid model. Returning furniture to the rooms will take place over the April vacation. An evaluation of every learning space for 3' distancing is underway. Certain spaces will not accommodate this and will need to be relocated to other parts of the school. Travel through hallways and other logistical aspects of space will need to also be reviewed.

Staffing

The middle school is currently reviewing staff and supervision needs. It is possible that the current staffing will allow for no increase to personnel needs. This review will be complete over the coming few weeks.

Programming Limitations

Particular programs will remain in remote or modified modes given space and safety restrictions. This brings new challenges since programs such as music where students could freely sing and play instruments at home are not possible given the safety risk and minimum required space of 10'. We expect other settings will face similar limitations.

Staff and Student Survey

A staff and student survey will be conducted during the week of March 8 to identify the needs of teachers to support the full time model.

Update March 16, 2021

Concord Carlisle High School

Expansion of In-Person Learning : April 26, 2021

Concord Carlisle High School students currently learn in a hybrid model with the week split between days in-person and remotely via live streaming. Wednesdays rotate the two cohorts between in-person and remote learning.

As of Monday, April 26, 2021, all CCHS students will return for in-person full time learning. Students will attend classes in the regular classroom setting.

Remote Learning Option

Fully remote learning will remain available to students for the remainder of the school year. A parent survey will allow families to indicate their preference to be remote or fully in-person. Once a decision is made in March, that plan must be adhered to. Students will no longer be able to switch between modes based on personal preference for individual days or portions of a day.

Physical Distancing

Given the number of students at CCHS, 3' will be required in some spaces.

Lunch

6' distancing will be required when students are eating unmasked. Students will eat outside with other settings available during inclement weather. The food service program will continue to offer its modified menu options and free lunch for all in accordance with the USDA provision during the pandemic.

Outdoor Space

Tents will provide an option for learning or eating while in the outdoor setting. A live stream is required for students learning remotely so wifi connectivity outdoors is a priority.

Transportation and Parking

The combination of bus, parent, and student drivers will continue to allow all students to get to school. Parking spots will be assigned without change from the previous assignments made in September at least until the seniors leave in late May. The transportation department is looking to provide seats for students who already ride buses regularly. Parent assistance will still very much be needed given the district's 3' distancing on school buses.

Furniture and Use of Indoor Space

Desks currently in common places on the lower floors will be returned to classrooms. Additional furniture that supports distancing will be provided in the common spaces such as the Learning Commons and cafeteria. Additional common spaces such as the maroon gymnasium, multipurpose room, and auditorium will likely be required for distanced seating and student asymptomatic testing.

Surveys

A staff survey is currently underway. A student survey will be conducted during the week of March 15 to allow students to contribute to the planning process. A parent survey will be conducted immediately to solidify the number of students learning in-person.

MCAS and AP Testing

As shared already, the MCAS will disrupt this return and require virtual learning for certain grades during the test administration during the weeks of May 5 and 19.