

Report of the Reopening Planning Team

Thursday, February 25, 2021



**RPT WAS ASKED TO
CONDUCT RESEARCH
AND PRODUCE FINDINGS.**

| Buildings and Grounds | Lunch | Distancing: 3Ft/6Ft | Medical Updates/ Trajectory of Virus/Vaccines | Scheduling | Survey | Transportation |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tim Persson | Susan Rothermich | Jen Parson | Carol Cavanaugh | Jen Parson | Carol Cavanaugh | Susan Rothermich |
| Susan Rothermich | Shaun McAuliffe | Anne Carver | Steve Perryman | Linda Henderson | Ashoke Ghosh | Julie Babson |
| Jen Parson | Julie Babson | Shaun McAuliffe | Kathy Bain | Anne Carver | Linda Henderson | Kathy Bain |
| Evan Bishop | Lauren Dubeau | Meg Tyler | Evan Bishop | Alan Keller | Adriane Pletcher | Shaun McAuliffe |
| Alan Keller | Jen Martell | Adrienne Pletcher | Shaun McAuliffe | Cathy Anusauskas | Becky Black | |
| | Steve Perryman | Becky Abate | Beth Newton | Lauren Dubeau | | |
| | Tim Persson | | Diana Umina | | | |

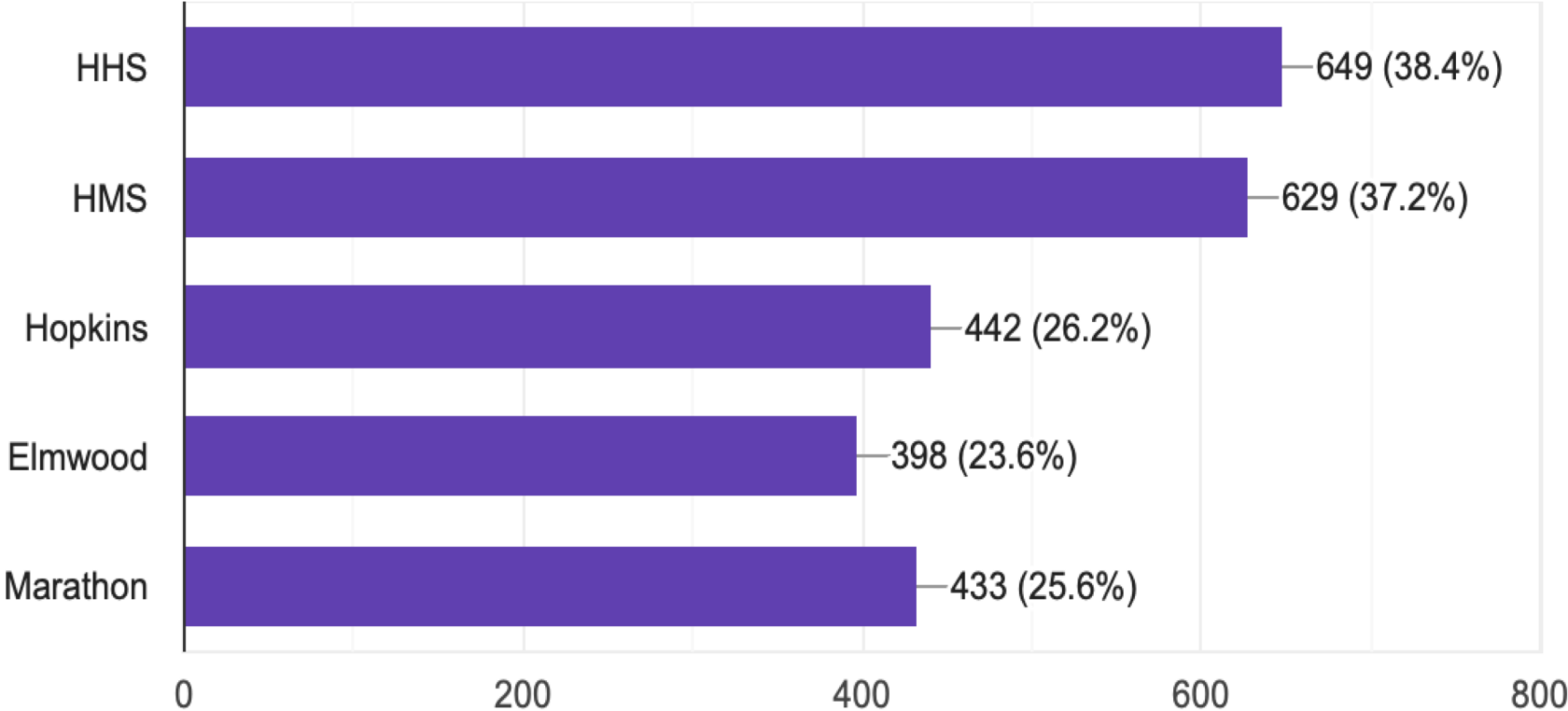
Kathy Engleman, PhD, Dr. David Tiber, and CEO Carolyn Jackson served as consultants to this group.

PARENT SURVEY

RESPONSES

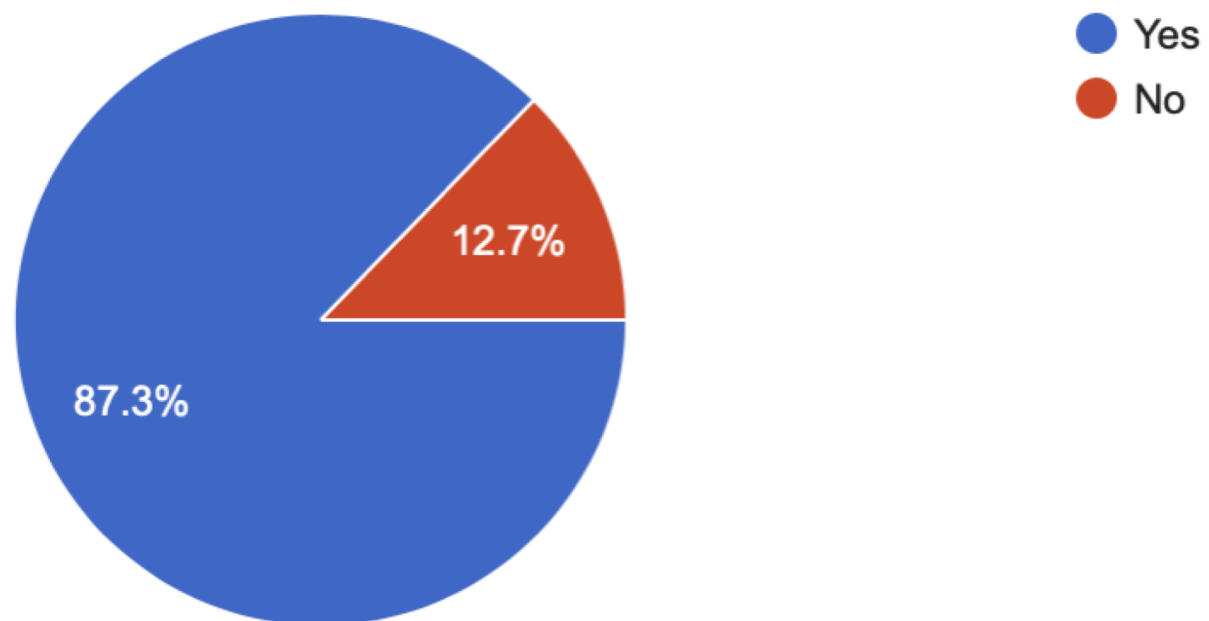
Which School(s) do your child(ren) attend--in either the Hybrid, Remote, or Full Time model?
Please check all that apply.

1,690 responses



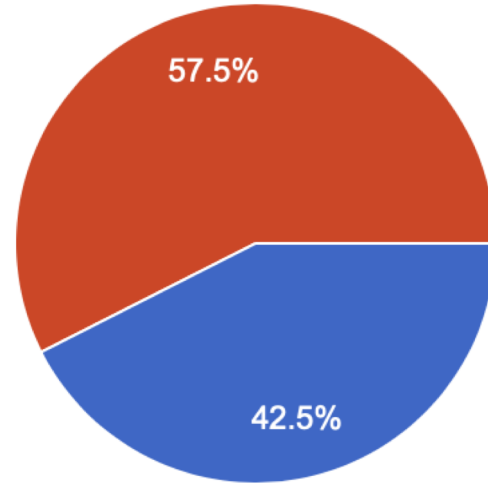
Is it your expectation that schools will be fully reopened in August of 2021?

1,682 responses



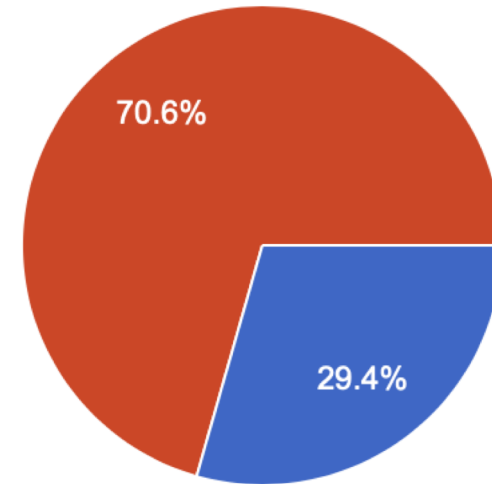
IMPACT ON FAMILIES QUESTIONS

Has your child's learning model impacted your ability to work from home or retain your job?



42.5% YES
57.5% NO

Have you had to hire tutors, baby-sitters, or other in-home helpers ensure your children's access to learning?



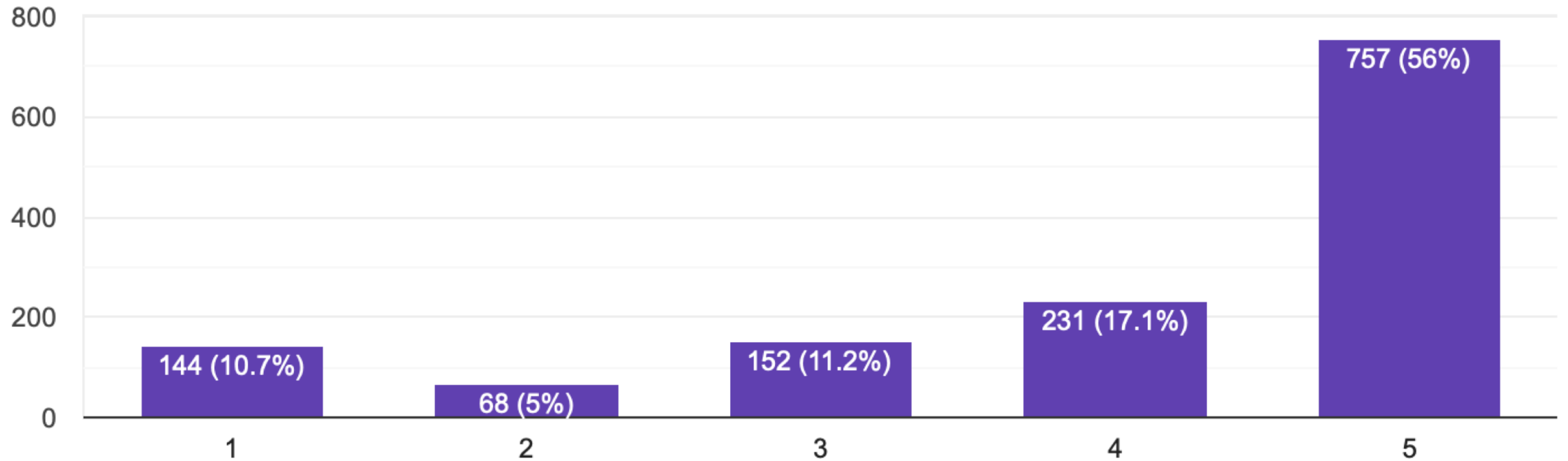
29.4% YES
70.6% NO

Hybrid only

On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is it for your HYBRID students to return full-time during this school year?

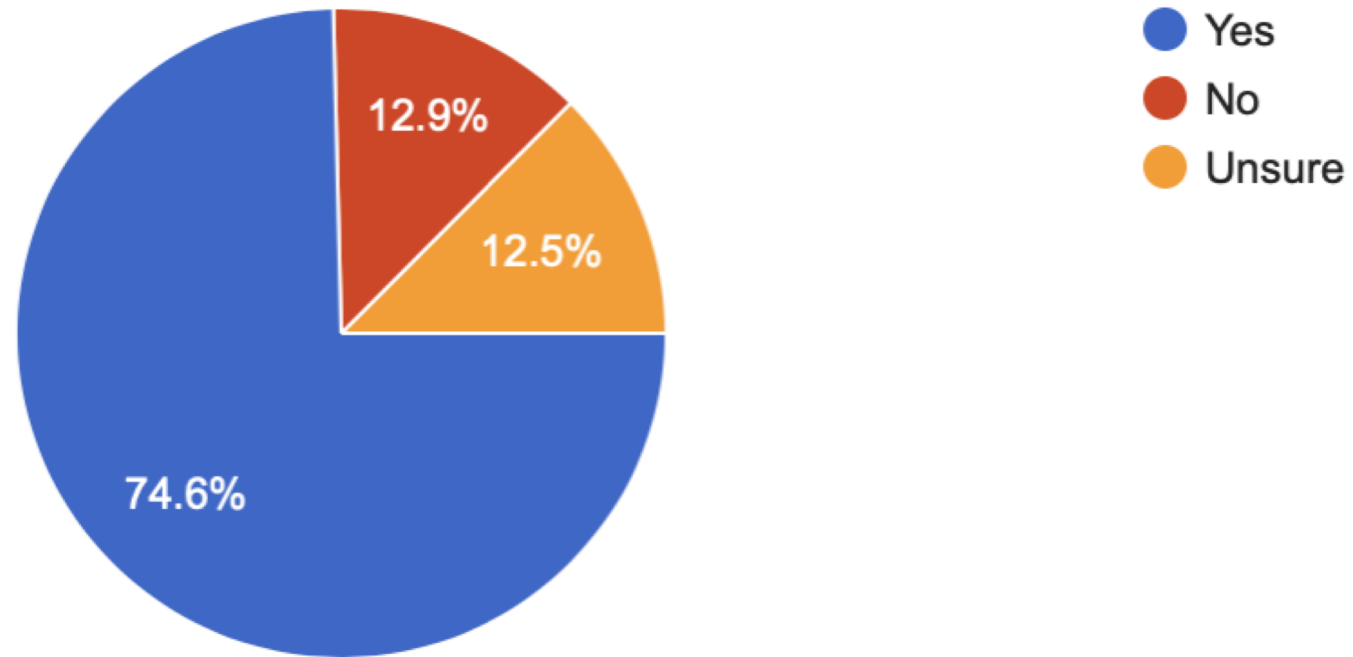


1,352 responses



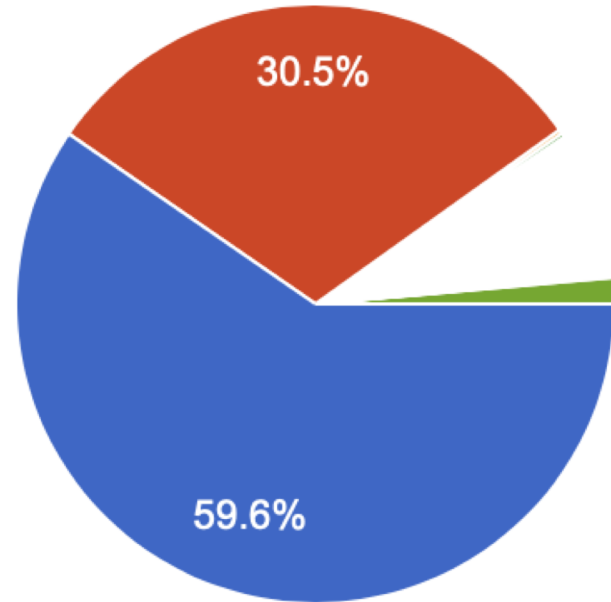
Would you say that your hybrid children would like to return to school full time during this school year?

1,351 responses



Given the choice, would you prefer that your hybrid students return to school this year or next year?

1,349 responses

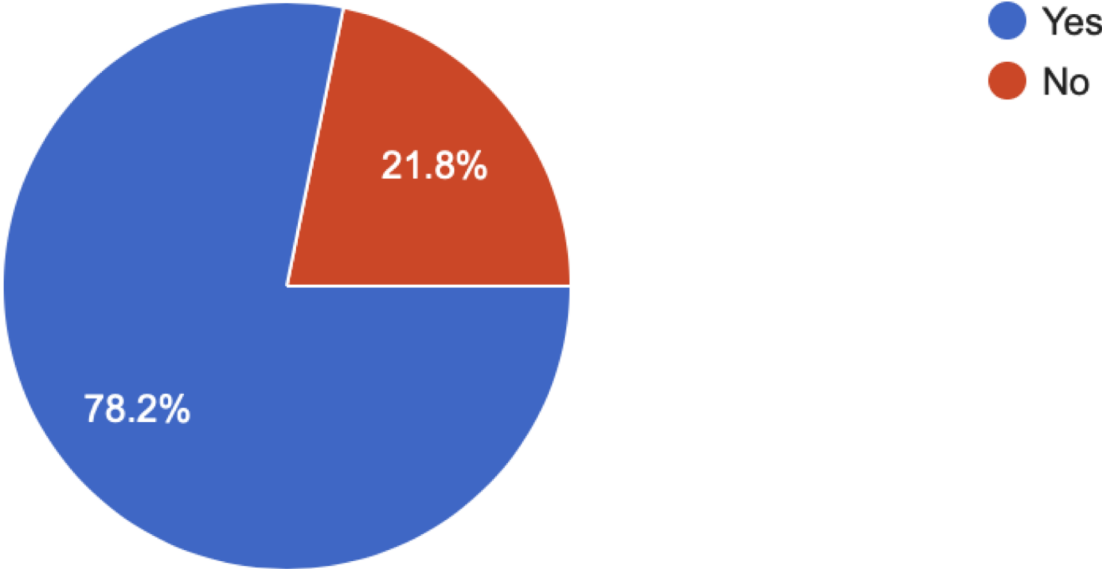


- The spring of 2021
- The fall of 2021
- My son is a senior and has somewhat...
- Right now they need to go back
- Depending on COVID cases
- Depends on science
- I just don't see how you are going to d...
- Now

If guaranteed only 3 feet of social distance as opposed to 6, would you be in favor of a full time return for your HYRBID elementary-aged children?

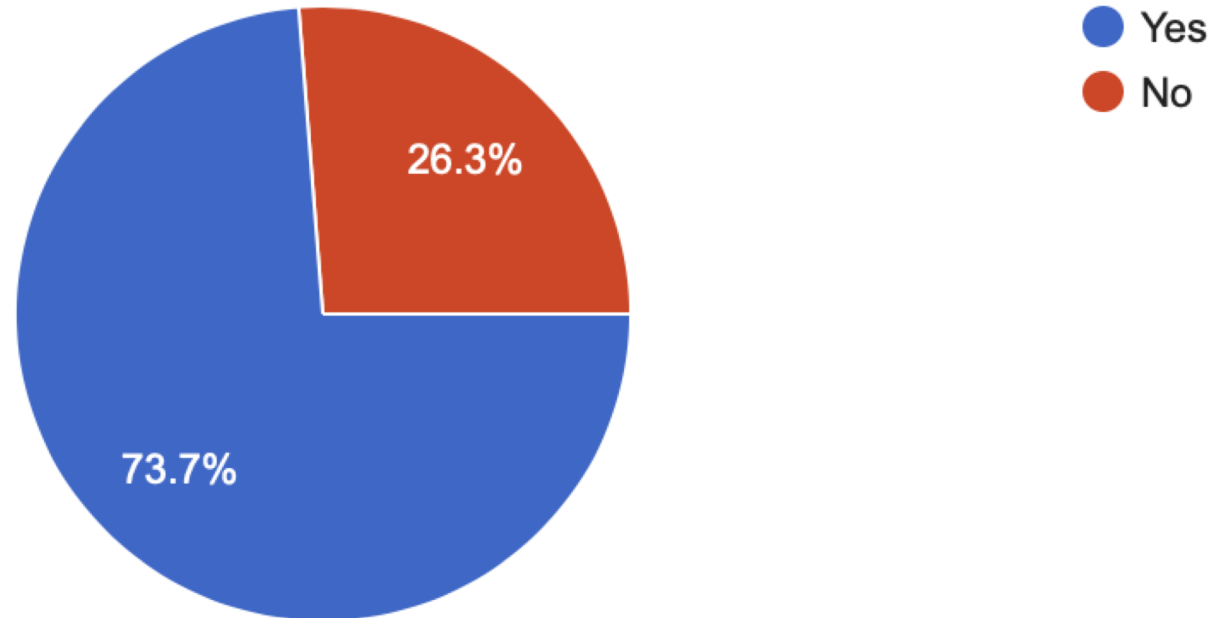


711 responses



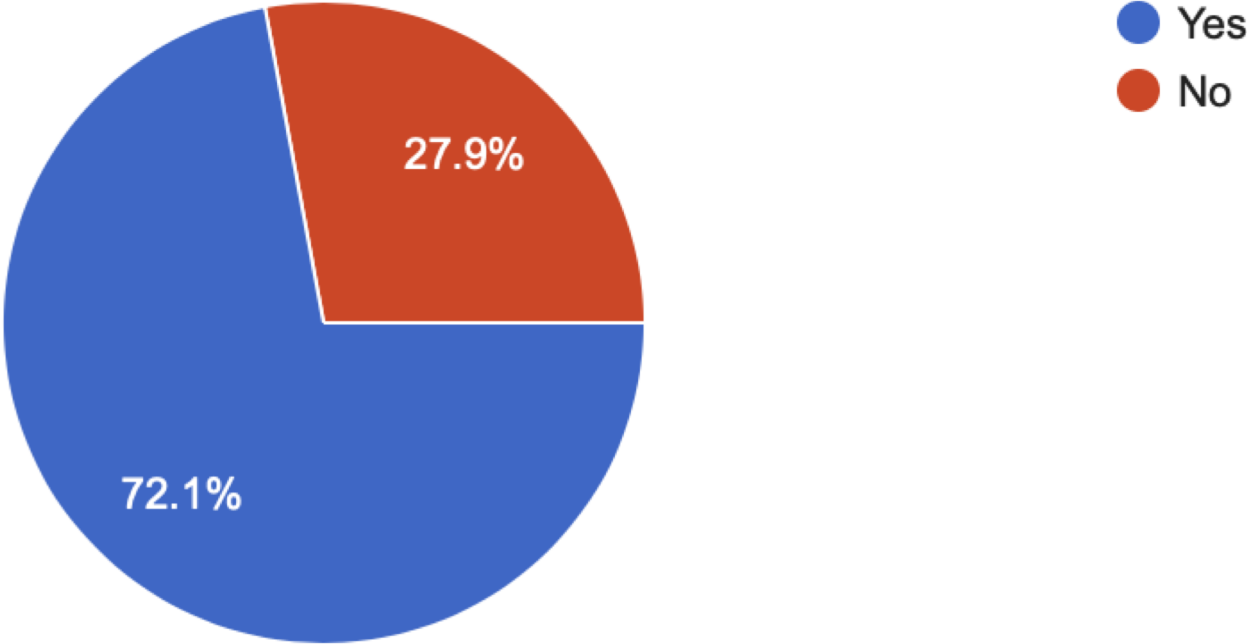
If guaranteed only 3 feet of social distance as opposed to 6, would you be in favor of a full time return for your HYBRID middle school-aged children?

518 responses



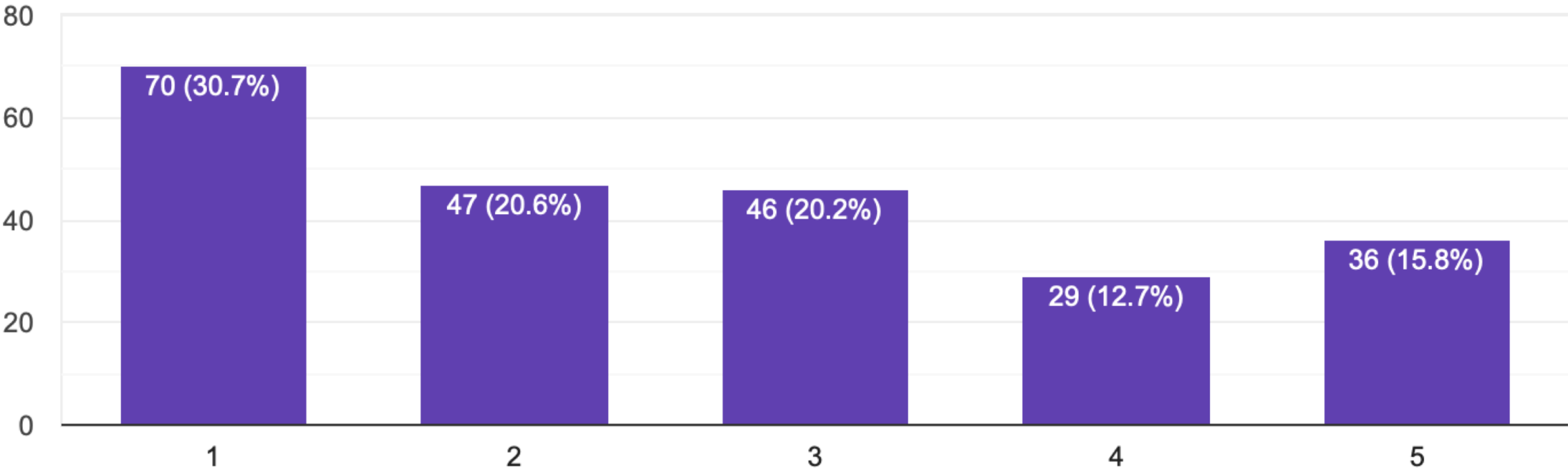
If guaranteed only 3 feet of social distance as opposed to 6, would you be in favor of a full time return for your HYBRID high school-aged children?

580 responses



On a scale of 1-5 how concerned would you be for your child's health and safety in the schools if all hybrid students returned to in-person learning in the spring of 2021?

228 responses

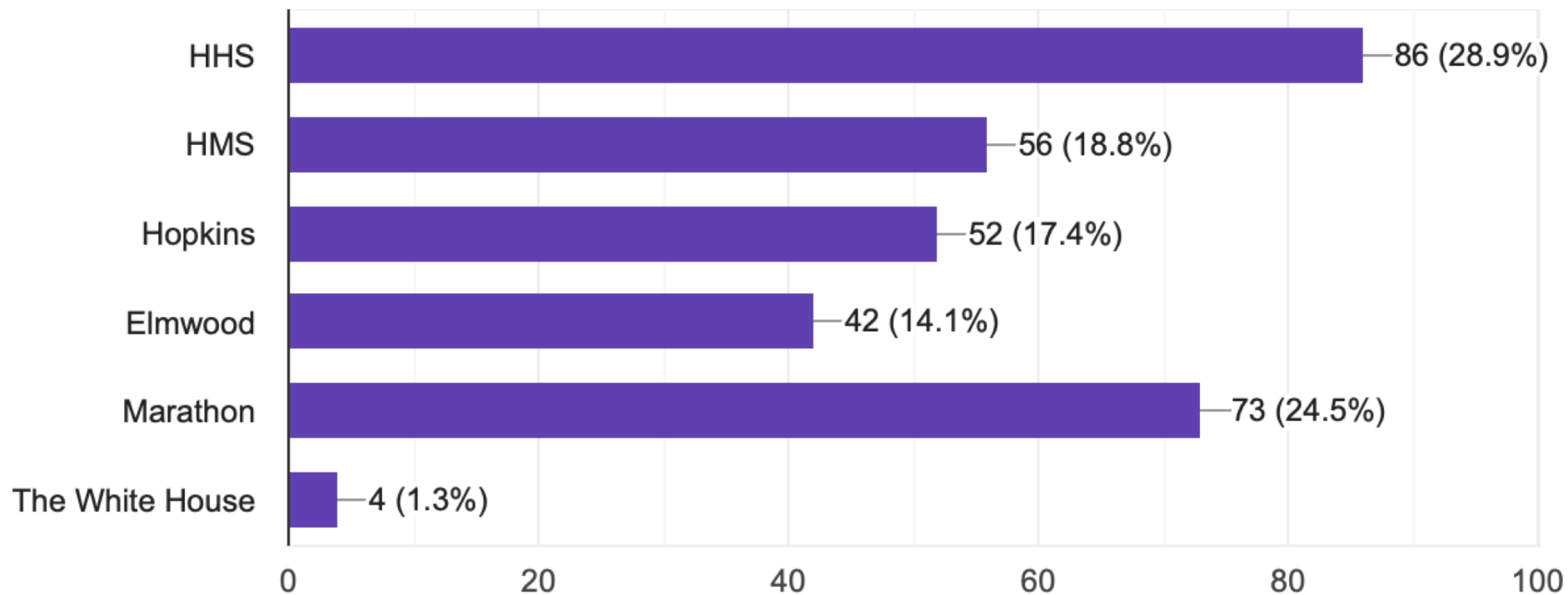


FACULTY SURVEY

RESPONSES

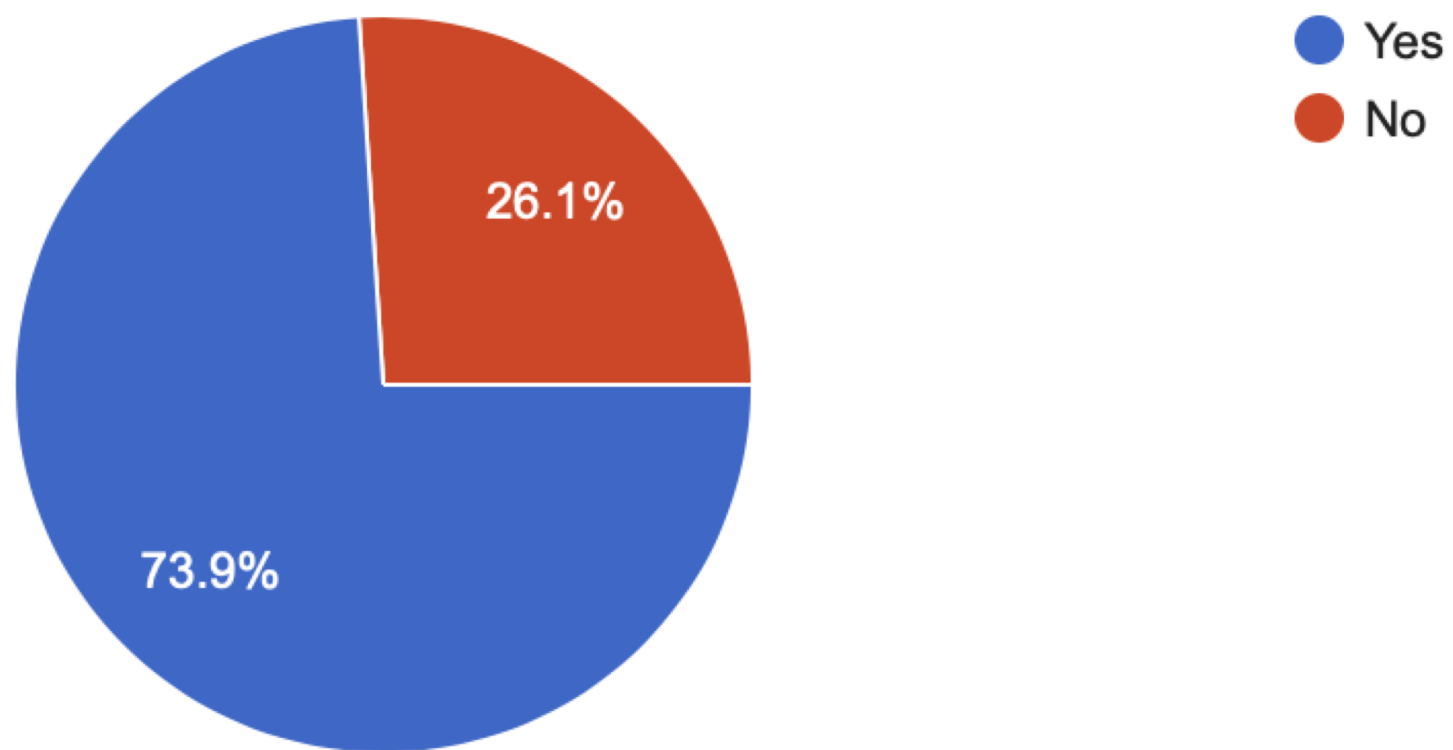
In which building(s) do you work? Check all that apply

298 responses



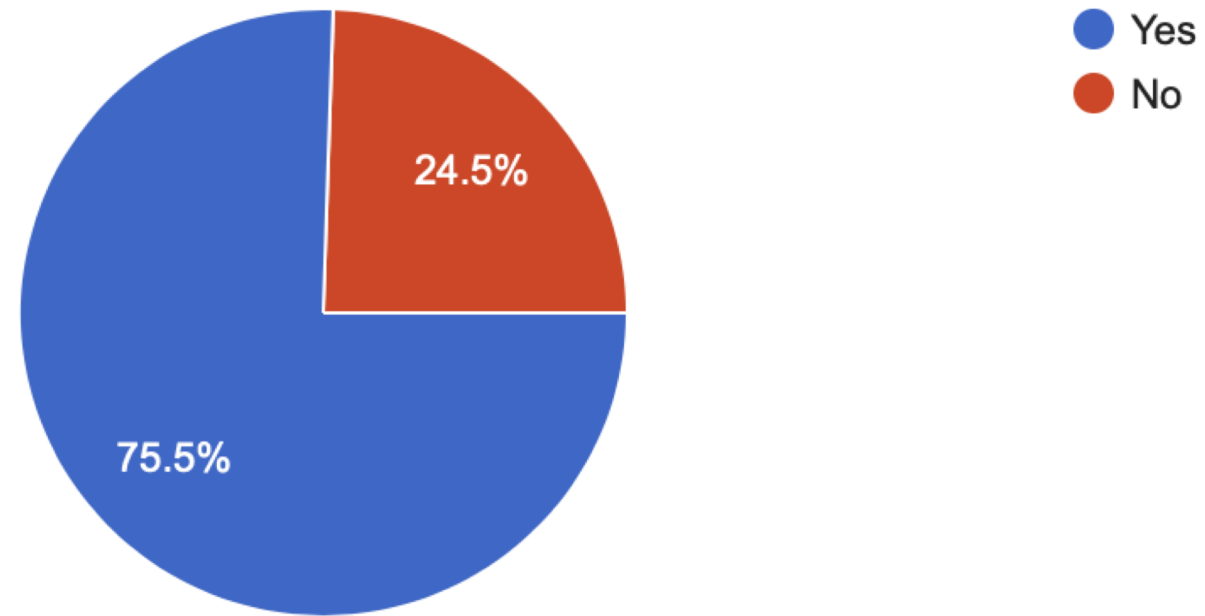
Is it your expectation that schools will be fully reopened in August of 2021?

284 responses



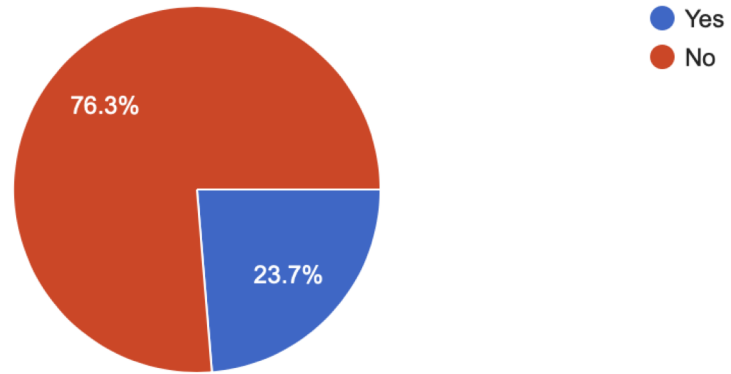
If the educators/adults were vaccinated, would you be willing to make a full time return to in-person learning?

286 responses



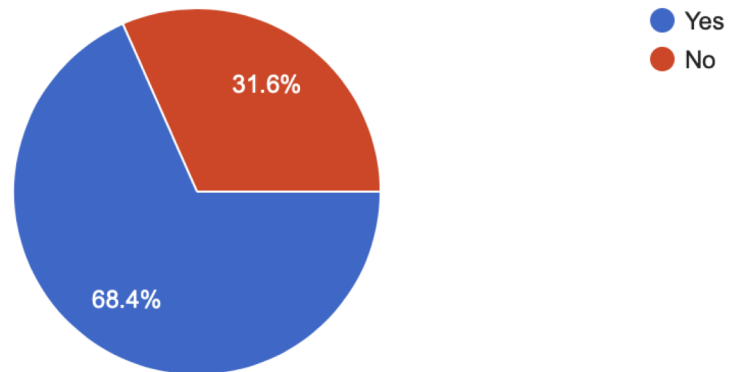
If guaranteed only 3 feet of social distance as opposed to 6, would you be willing to make a return to full time in-person learning during this spring (2021)?

287 responses



If guaranteed only 3 feet of social distance as opposed to 6, would you be willing to make a return to full time in-person learning in the fall of 2021?

272 responses

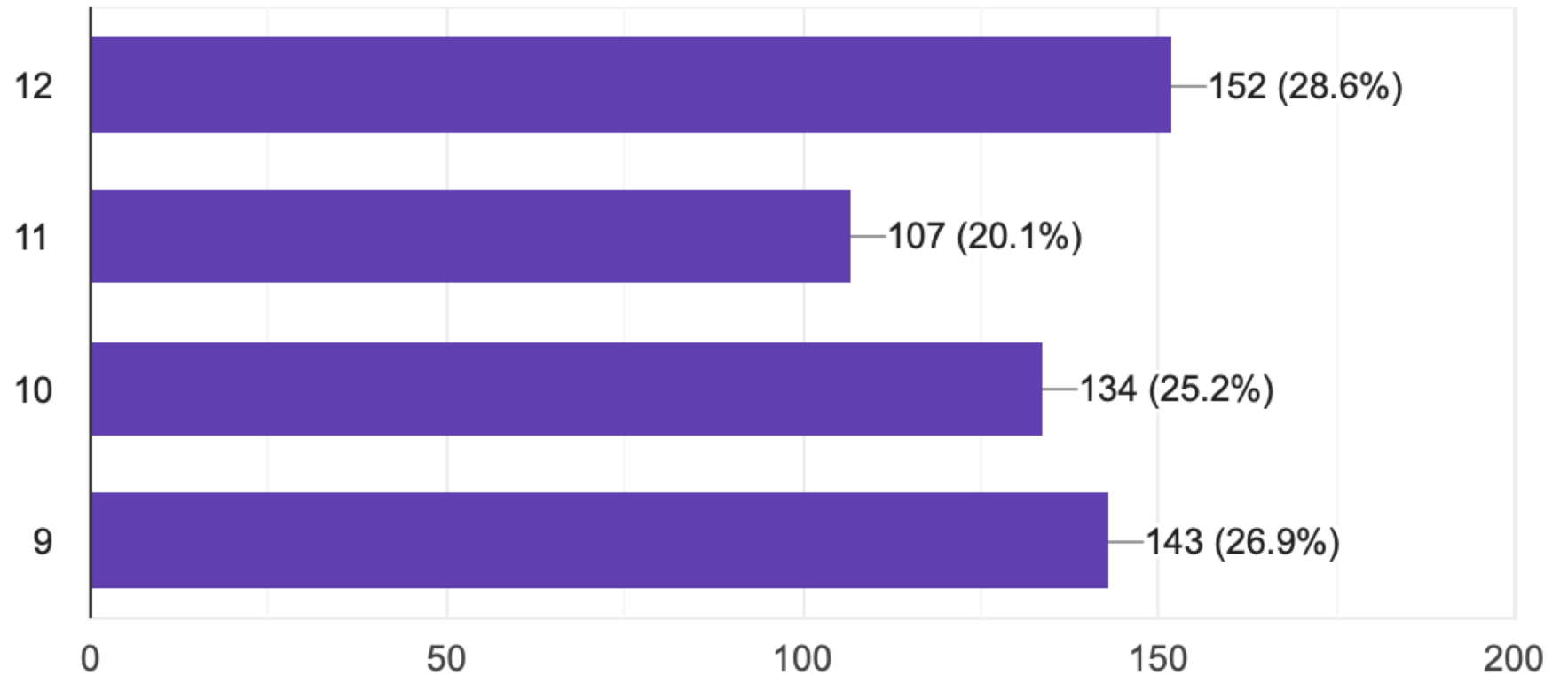


HHS STUDENT SURVEY

RESPONSES

What grade are you in?

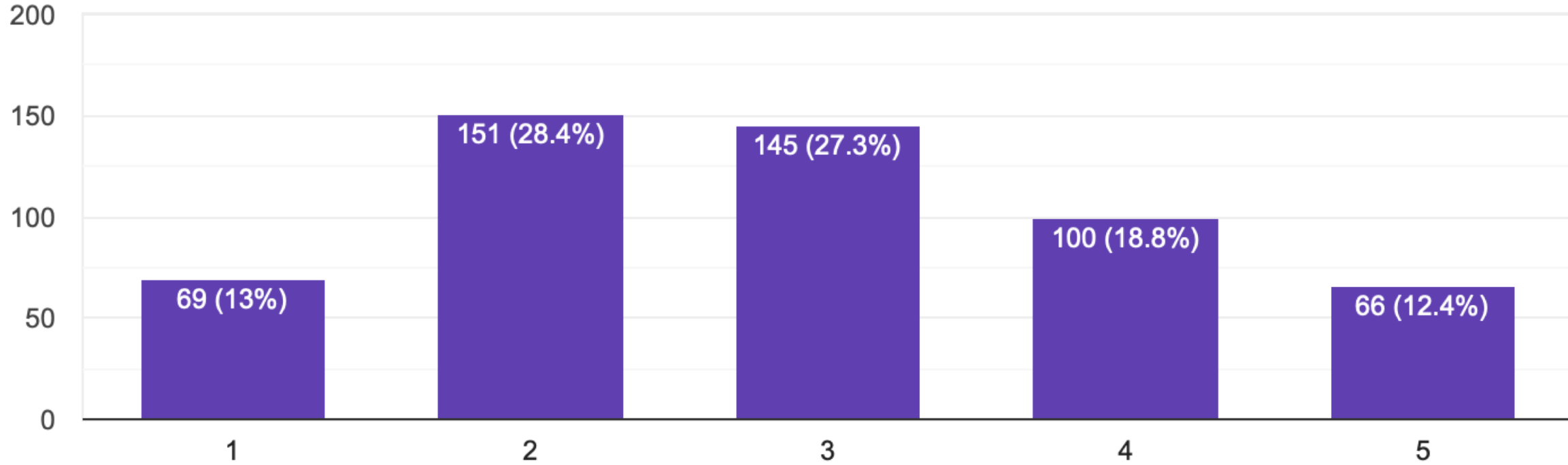
532 responses



On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your own social/emotional and/or mental health during this school year?

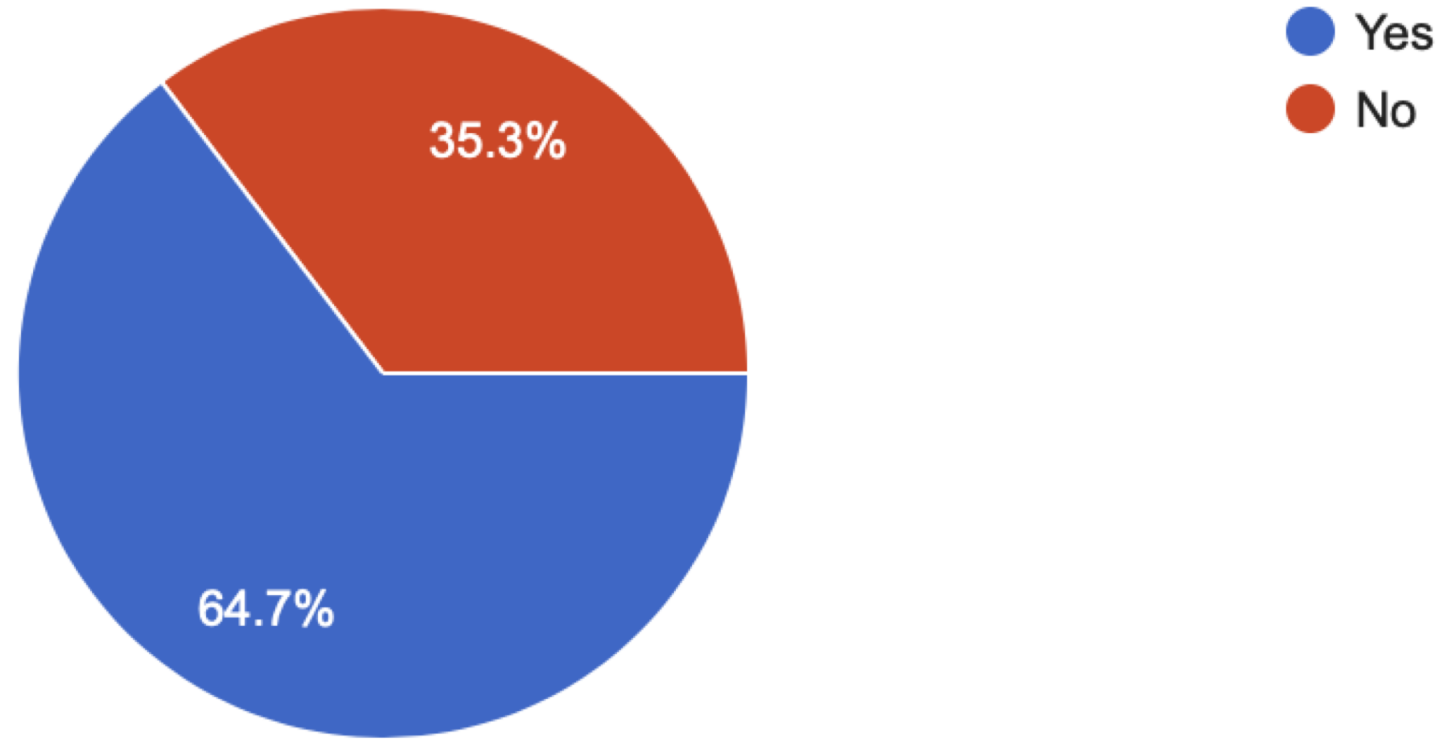


531 responses



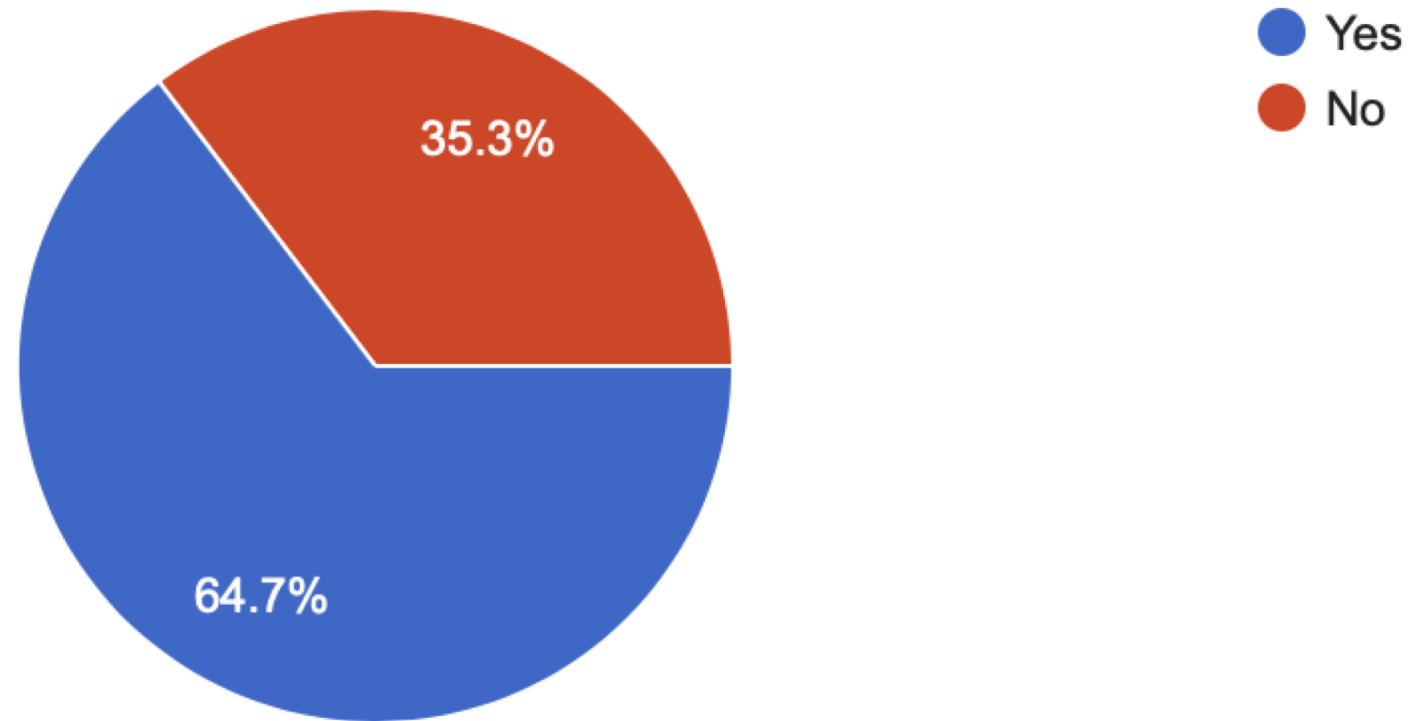
Is it your expectation that schools will be fully reopened in August of 2021?

529 responses



Is it your expectation that schools will be fully reopened in August of 2021?

529 responses



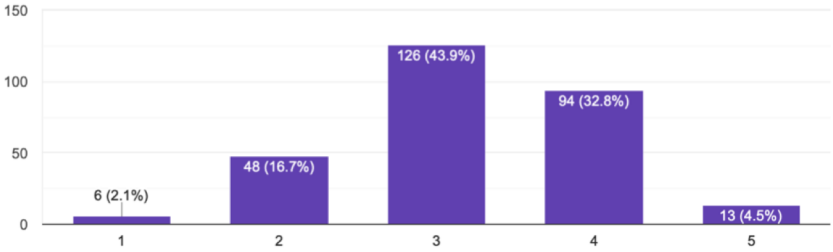
COMPARATIVE DATA ON STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH

As reported by
Teachers (TOP),
Students (MIDDLE)
Parents/Guardians (BOTTOM)

On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your students' social/emotional and/or mental health during this school year?



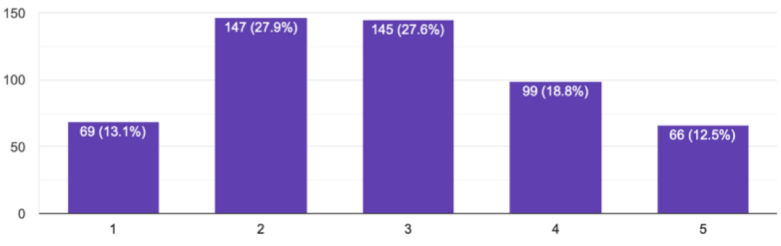
287 responses



TEACHER REPORTING ON STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH (ABOVE)

On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your own social/emotional and/or mental health during this school year?

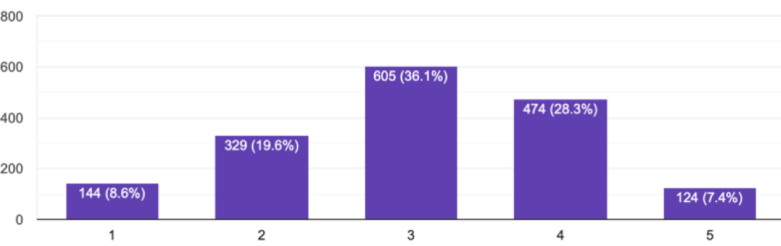
526 responses



HHS STUDENT SELF-REPORTING ON THEIR MENTAL HEALTH (ABOVE)

On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your child's/children's social/emotional and/or mental health during this school year?

1,676 responses



PARENTS/GUARDIANS REPORTING ON THEIR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH (ABOVE)

THE FULL REPORT

STARTING WITH THE SCIENCE

THE VIRUS

AND ITS MANAGEMENT

- Hopkinton's case count is among the lowest in the state.
- The CDC's metric indicates that Hopkinton could "open for full in-person instruction at physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible.
- Three feet of social distance is recommended by the Mayo Clinic, American Academy of Pediatrics, Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University.
- A study of SARS-CoV-2 indicates that 3' and 6' are not dichotomous but rather *constructs*. According to several credible studies, the risk difference between 3' and 6', when masked, is negligible.
- 3' is the range for droplets. 6' does not protect from aerosols, but there is very little evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is spreading through aerosolization.

THE VIRUS

AND ITS MANAGEMENT

- Hopkinton has seen no student-to-student, student-to-teacher, or teacher-to-student transfer of the virus in school.
- Hopkinton has had about 80 students—both hybrid and remote—test positive for COVID-19. That's 2% of all students over a more than five month period.
- Hopkinton has efficient HVAC and air replenishment.
- Hopkinton has maintained robust contact tracing protocols.
- Hopkinton is suggesting a social distance of 4 feet in our classrooms and 6 feet in our lunchrooms.

THE VACCINE

WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SAY?

- Vaccinating teachers isn't a prerequisite for the safe reopening of US schools, [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Rochelle Walensky said Wednesday](#). "There is increasing data to suggest that schools can safely reopen," she said, adding that "safe reopening does not suggest that teachers need to be vaccinated in order to reopen safely."
- Likewise, [Dr. Anthony Fauci stated](#) that "vaccinating teachers is part of it, but it's not a sine qua non. It's not something that you can't open a school unless all the teachers are vaccinated. That would be optimal, if you could do that," he added.

THE VACCINE

WHAT'S BEEN DONE?

- In January we believed that vaccines would come into Hopkinton through the local Department of Public Health.
- The District contacted CVS to see if they could run a COVID-19 clinic for Hopkinton's Educators
- The District advocated for vaccines through local HEMG, and sought a partnership with other districts. Again, vaccines were not available.
- In February we still believed a vaccine would soon be made available to teachers. The District sent a vaccine update to all personnel. The slow roll-out at the state level, coupled with K-12 educators' placement in Phase II, tier 3, has impeded those hopes.
- The District contacted state legislators, Senate President Karen Spilka and State Representative Carolyn Dykema, who composed with all the Metrowest legislators a demand to Governor Baker to get educators vaccinated.
- The School Committee tonight is adopting a resolution to expedite the vaccine for educators.
- The superintendent has spoken repeatedly of the need to vaccinate HPS employees.
- We know the teachers will be next in line and they will start getting appointments.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

THE HPS REOPENING
SUPERHEROES

- Inventory of Furniture - Met with administration team of each building taking stock in furniture including desks, chairs, teacher workstations and cafeteria desks/tables. Developing specs for additional furniture needs.
- Classroom Layout - Met with Building admin teams to develop space and desk needs for each classroom.
- Cleaning protocols- We will need to approve either hiring of additional cleaning support staff or approved overtime for current staff to clean/disinfect cafeteria desks between lunch breaks.
- Mask Break areas- Mask break areas were identified during the fall hybrid reopening. We are identifying additional areas which may include added tents.
- Classroom sizes- We have measured each classroom space to optimize layout of desks to adhere to the new four foot distance guidance.

LUNCH

THE 6 FOOT DILEMMA

- According to Drummey, Rosane, and Anderson's architectural drawings, every lunchroom in ALL FIVE buildings is too small for our current student populations.
- If they are too small generally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been impossible to serve lunches to all students in those spaces.
- The revised plan is to use gymnasium, auditorium and other larger spaces in our buildings to sat students during lunch, which comes with the purchase of about \$100,000 furniture.
- We will need to hire lunch monitors to provide coverage in these spaces at lunch
- In our elementary schools, PE classes may need to be held exclusively out doors. On inclement days, PE classes will transition to indoor wellness lessons.

TRANSPORTATION

THE RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN
LIFTED

- Joseph Allen Chan School of Public Health: If the windows on the bus are open to the two inch mark and if the bus is moving, fresh air is replenished 40 times per hour.
- We are now allowed to put two masked students in every seat of our 77 passenger buses, raising our capacity to 44 students per bus.
- We need parents to put their children on buses. Traffic is bad now. If all students return, traffic is going to be a nightmare.
- To put the high school and middle school on two different bus runs, we will incur the cost of an additional bus tier.

THREE RECOMMENDED PROPOSALS

Hopkinton High School

The Hopkinton High School will maintain its current schedule of a 7-drop-2 or 5 periods per day rotating schedule.

The In-Person day runs 7:25 to 11:45.

Students are transported home. They may take a grab-and-go lunch with them, if they desire.

Students will log back in at 12:45 and the final period of the day will be taught via Zoom. Final period changes each day with rotation.

THREE RECOMMENDED PROPOSALS

Hopkinton Middle School

Middle School students will remain in school for the full school day: 7:25 to 1:52.

The current Middle School schedule will—for the most part—remain intact. There may be a few classes that grow larger. There are two classes where students will be transitioned to a new teacher.

Lunch will be served in the cafeteria, the gymnasium, and the auditorium.

The Middle School students will have their own after-school bus run, which will incur a cost to the schools.

THREE RECOMMENDED PROPOSALS

Hopkins, Elmwood, and Marathon

All three buildings will attend full-time and keep with their regular full school day.

The current elementary schedules will—for the most part—remain intact. There may be some small group instruction that needs to be rescheduled; however, all IEP, 504, and ESOL services will be met.

Lunch will be served in cafeterias and gymnasiums.

PE classes will need to be taught outdoors; on days with inclement weather, PE classes will become indoor wellness lessons.

TIMELINE?

The tentative date in the document is March 29, 2021

- Governor Baker and Commissioner Riley have stated that, through regulatory mechanisms, they will required all K-5 students to make a full-time return in the State of Massachusetts.
- This transition is dependent on a vote of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).
- The Governor and Commissioner have stated that 6-8 schools will follow on the heels of the K-5 statewide reopening on the 5th of April.
- Transportation Department will need to revise secondary afternoon bus routes.
- Grab-and-Go lunch kiosk at HHS will be purchased.
- Schedules will need to be revised, especially for specially designed instruction.
- Literally thousands of pieces of furniture will need to be purchased, assembled and moved. School needs analysis in currently underway.
- Get kids back on the buses.