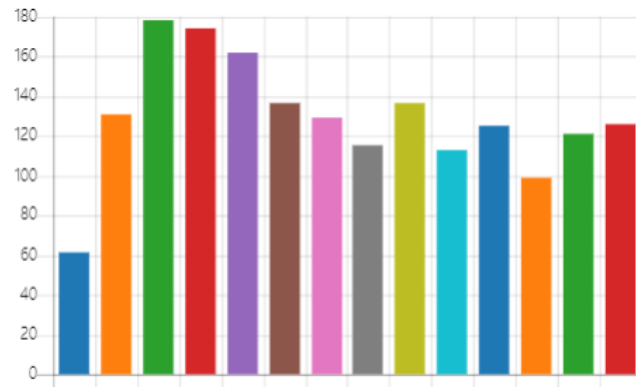


School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

1. Please select the grade your child will be entering in Fall 2020.

[More Details](#)

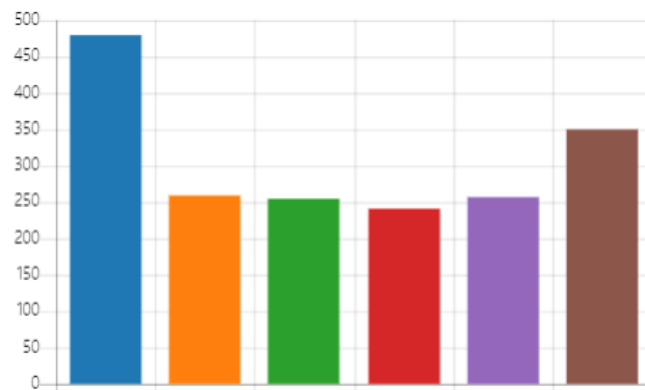
Pre-K	61
Kindergarten	131
Grade 1	178
Grade 2	174
Grade 3	162
Grade 4	137
Grade 5	129
Grade 6	115
Grade 7	137
Grade 8	113
Grade 9	125
Grade 10	99
Grade 11	121
Grade 12	126



2. What school will your child be attending in Fall 2020?

[More Details](#)

Merrimack High School	479
Merrimack Middle School	258
Mastricola Upper Elementary ...	255
Mastricola Elementary School	241
Reeds Ferry Elementary School	256
Thorntons Ferry Elementary S...	351

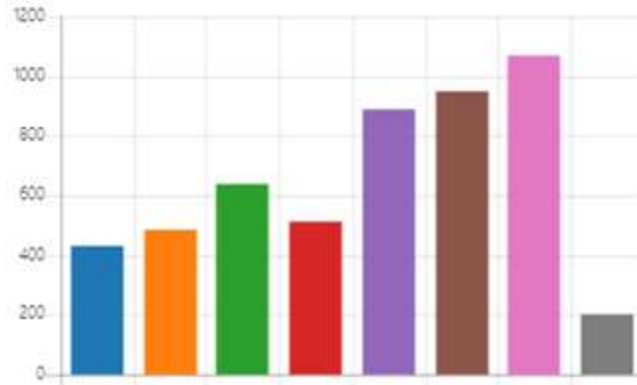


School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

3. Many factors are important to consider when we reopen schools. Please select your TOP THREE PRIORITIES regarding health safety practices for your child to attend traditional (full-time, 5 days per week) school in the fall.

[More Details](#)

COVID-19 vaccine availability	429
COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 antibody testing available	487
Availability of masks/face-cov... for everyone	637
Requirement for teachers/staff... to wear a mask	511
Regularly scheduled, adult sup... ervised handwashing	887
Train staff on CDC guidance to... reduce likelihood of transmission	947
Temperature screening for stu... dents and staff each day	1067
Other	202



Question #3 – Other Responses

Physical distancing in the building and classrooms
Temp check students as they get off the bus
I am not concerned, they need to learn
Sanitize upon entering classes, more lunch blocks to allow for less students in cafeteria
reduce large gatherings
Availability of masks for everyone IF THEY WANT TO WEAR ONE. No one should be forced to wear one 8-9 hours a day if they dont want to.
As much normalcy as can be provided to the children
We trust the district, our main priority is having our son have a GREAT senior year!
Full transparency
Mandatory stay at home if a Child or Employee is sick in any way shape or form.
Send them back to school full time. No face masks. None of the above are a concern to our family.
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
Outsource professional cleaning company to clean and sanitize school
None
Masks not to be mandatory. If you feel that kids should sit with a mask on for 7 hrs/d then it's not safe for kids to be in school.
Requirement for everyone to wear a mask
Require ALL students and staff to wear masks/face coverings
Lower infection rates
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
None of these
Herd immunity
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

Acquit access to handwashing and increased cleanings
Encouragement of immune boosting with vitamin C and D3
Not concerned
Requiring masks be worn by everyone...even the students.
honestly I don't want my child indoors all day. I'm not FOR a full time reopening
All of these should be priorities and masks should be required of both staff and students
hand washing available in halls and classrooms
Distancing and masks
Social distancing, general socialization is needed...
None- I'm ready for my kids to go back to school as normal
I do NOT want my child in a mask for the entire school day.
None
Groups of no more than 10 students in a class
Mandatory testing for those with symptoms
None
Transportation safety & safety accomodations for children with 504/IEP needing movement breaks
Continue remote learning
None
Professional development on teaching the children about safety practices.
Continuing education/professional development for staff to maintain best practices and educate the children on best safe practices
None
None, I am against having the kids have masks on all day. Let everyone just be normal. The CDC statistics show that our state is low enough that if people can go out to eat without a face mask or this craziness then the kids should have a normal education and ability to go to school..
Educate students on virus transmission
All available data indicates that the COVID-19 virus has very minimal effects on students of an elementary school age. To this age group (and this age group only) it is significantly less deadly than the seasonal flu. While it is important to consider safety measures are in place for staff during this pandemic I am comfortable sending my child into the school environment at this time.
History of travel outside of local area
Hand sanitizer
That kids won't wears masks or wash hands properly
I want them back now, regardless.
Students learning how to help and be apart of the precautions (examples: desk cleaning, not sharing school supplies etc.)
Require kids to wear masks too, not just staff
Masks for all available and required.
parental agreement not to send a sick child to school
We do not fear Covid 19, we just want normal communicable illness protocols in place
Is it safe to be in contact with others???
Social distancing when eating

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

Require students to wear a mask
Kids getting to be "normal" and interact normally
HVAC upgrades to prevent the spread of virus
Returning without masks.
Provide each classroom with fans for the windows to circulate fresh air through the classroom. At least 2...1 to pull fresh air in through 1 window and 1 to exhaust air out.
Student education and resources to support this very young population during stressful times
HVAC upgraded to ASHRAE guidance
Requirement of STUDENTS to wear a face mask why isn't this an option on here? THAT in itself scares me.
Face masks available for adults
Carona is a joke
Whether kids are required to wear masks all day.
REQUIRED MASKS FOR KIDS! THEY CAN SPREAD IT
I think it is extremely important for students to wear masks!
Kids have a normal schoolday that does not affec their mental well being
They all seem appropriate before I send my child back
Prior to school start have formal meeting with students and parents to let them know what will be expected.
EVERYONE should be required to wear masks students, teachers and staff.
Parents to not give their feverish kids ibuprofen and send them merrily on their way to school. How busing is handled is also a concern.
If a staff member wishes to wear a face mask that is their decision, with that said it is our choice as a parent and decide what is best for our child. Therefore the data shows children not being affected nor carriers should not be mandated to wear a mask. There is plenty of data to show the harmful affects of wearing a mask all day. I'd be more than happy to show you data, videos and articles relating to the harmful affects. In the end our choice and an individuals choice.
shortened or alternate schedules combined with remote learning (to reduce number of students in the school and classes at the same time
Get back to school!
No masks
As much normalcy as possible
If sick, stay home.
By the time you detect it - its too late they've all been exposed
None, send them to school and don't mandate masks
Requirement for ALL staff AND students to wear a mask.
Social distance of at least 6 feet at all times
Requirement of masks for all and effective covid treatment
I do not have a tip three other than training.
None
No masks for students
Requirement of students to wear masks

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

NO MASKS required and restrictions to be as limited as possible. If you feel that kids need to wear masks for 7 hrs/d then clearly it's not safe for them to be in school
Good clean ventilation
Consistent routine
Students to wear masks not just teachers/staff
No worries
Effective treatments for COVID-19
My children aren't required to wear masks for the entire 6 hours at school
No wearing a mask
Wearing of masks by all
None
No mask requirements for students
Requirement for students to wear face masks while in contact <3'
Optional in school learning, offer remote or in school. If a parent weighed to send their kid to school, they accept the risks involved
socialization with community
Mandatory mask-wearing for everyone in the school
Sanitizer used frequently and readily available
No additional requirements. Back to normal!
Requirement for all (including students) to wear face mask/covering
We're just going to have to do this. Schools aren't large enough for social distancing.
Cleaning protocols in line with CDC
Nothing. Open school
Accurate information for Students and staff, enforcement of guidelines and proper cleanliness
If an effective treatment for COVID is found
Compromised Families Immune Systems
A safe place for my son to take his mask off and caught his breathe at least once a day.. He has asthma.
I feel like at the Pre K level, with the day being so short and the kids being so young, a lot of social distancing measures that would be appropriate for older kids aren't possible. My daughter actually loves wearing her masks, and probably could for the whole two hours, but I suspect that she's an outlier among four year olds. I think my main concern when deciding to send her or not will come down to how the disease is spreading come August, and how seriously our residents seem to be taking it outside of the school setting.
I would like to see students and teachers wearing masks on the bus, and when traveling the halls. I think it's unrealistic to ask elementary kids to wear them all day long, and teaching in them would be challenging as well.
REGULAR CLEANING at high risk locations within schools
Requirement for students to wear masks/face coverings in buildings, and covid testing availability, but not necessarily antibody testing
Temp tracking not proving effective. Unnecessary for district to do. I am an RN in NH.
temp screen/covid questions screen adult staff, bus drivers
handwashing should not require adult supervision, rather there should be an emphasis on education

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

Masks required for everyone
None
Require students above gr 2 to wear masks with regular "mask breaks" (MA is requiring this)
Ability to social distance 6 feet
Practice social distancing as much as possible
Keep sick kids home. Face masks are unrealistic. Over hand washing is harmful to some people, causing severe skin reactions including bleeding.
Mandatory COVID-19 testing for teachers/staff on a regular basis
Mandatory COVID-19 testing for staff/teachers and students on a regular basis
Making sure our children get outside play. Boosts immunity and less exposure risk
I think wearing a mask all day it to much for staff and kids.
Mandatory face coverings for everyone, as much as possible
Requirements of staff & students to wear face coverings
Masks optional not required and more outdoor activities time
social distancing
A little more distance between students
Distance between students
Masks required for everyone
Requirement for anyone in the school to wear a mask. Students included.
I am more concerned about masks being required than not amd about what the young kids days look like being able to play hug go on the playground etc
Temperature screening and hand washing
Temperature screening and handwashing
Whatever the school determines will keep them reasonably safe.
We are proponents of herd immunity, as other countries have adopted, allowing us to develop immunities as we do with other viruses, as the recovery rate for COVID-19, particularly with young, healthy people, is extremely high. We simply must protect the most vulnerable.
Requirement for ALL to wear masks
Practices that will be embraced by "everyone" no exceptions
Remote classes
As a family with adults and children with health issues I would not feel safe sending my 7 year olds to school in the fall unless there is a vaccine available. I do not feel confident that my children or most 7 year olds would be able to keep a mask on for an extended period of time. We do well with special distancing for short periods of time but anything longer than 30 minutes turns into something that deems they ineffective.
NONE of the above are necessary
None of these are necessary
requirement for students to wear face coverings IF not separated by 6'
Social distancing
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
Protocol to isolate students with symptoms and disinfect areas associated.
Students wear masks
Mandatory masks wearing for all administrators, staff and students unless specified in a 504 or IEP
None - get them back to school
Clean and disinfect regularly
Staff and parents responsible for their own temp checks.
Other health safety concerns are their mental health. I suggest remote learning for math, reading assignments and art etc. In person should consist of socialization schooling, certainly not babysitting, but social activities, mind growth excercises etc.
Not forcing face masks and parent is responsible for temperature screenings not the school
I have no concerns to let him go back to a normal "pre covid" learning environment
Any cold/flu symptoms to have the child stay at home and anyone living at child's home sick then child cannot be at school
If these are the measures that have to be taken then school just shouldn't happen. Period. The emotional/ mental issues that arise from this is way worse than the virus itself.
have mask be optional not mandatory
These measure will be tough for kids in this age group
masks optional not required
Requirement for students to wear masks
Requirement for students to wear mask.
Mental health and development during this madness
I am not concerned
6 feet distancing
Don't feel comfortable with them returning at all until proven vaccine.
Requirement for students to wear a mask
Safety of my child with asthma
i think required handwashing/sanitizing is extremely important as well.
Plexiglass around each child's seat so they can take off masks while learning
Non of this is needed
All people in the building MUST wear masks. Requirement for teachers/staff AND STUDENTS to wear a mask/face-covering
Require Students wear face covering
Smaller class size
Make face masks optional
Make mask wearing optional
Number one priority is kids returning to normal classrooms with ordinary care for hygiene
Distance
Other
cleaning shared areas/items like desks before each class (maybe each student can wipe down their desk before class begins?)

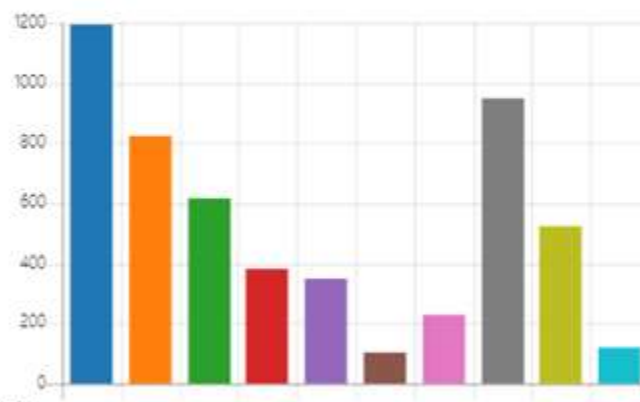
School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

Having low risk children able to socialize and learn together.
COVID-19 numbers minimal
None
Students wearing masks and social distancing
Limited class sizes
Frequent handwashing for everyone, plenty of hand sanitizer and constant sanitizing of every touched object.
Concerned kids won't wear masks
Eliminate cross class contact
Spacial alternatives
I'm not concerned
Requirement for all to wear face masks

4. Many factors are important to consider when we reopen schools. Please select your TOP THREE PRIORITIES for cleaning/distancing safety practices if your child were to attend traditional school in the fall.

[More Details](#)

Enhanced cleaning occurring i...	1194
Limiting classroom sizes to ma...	825
Staggering schedules to reduc...	615
Strict social distancing in hallw...	383
Cafeteria seating is spaced for...	349
Individually packaged food	106
Buses run at reduced capacity ...	227
Hand sanitizer is provided in e...	949
Limit student mobility throug...	523
hout the building by teachers traveling to classrooms	122
Other	122



Question #4 – Other Responses

Temperature Checks prior to entering school
Not concerned
All of these need to be considered
Cleaning and sanitizing of all door handles through out the day
Send them back to school. Remote learning was a joke. My kids didn't not learn anything.
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
ALL
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
actual sinks with water in the classrooms

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

None
No fighting
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
Hand sanitizers on all buses
more access to bathroom hand washing
Disinfecting buses daily
Not concerned
All of these should be implemented. To solve busing, have parents drive their students
just normal cleaning and have sinks avialble
None- I'm ready for my kids to go back to school as normal
None
No masks required for students
None
Continue remote learning
All of the above
None
None
This is insanity!!! Use basic hygiene, wash hands and tell your kid to take a shower each day.
Teach children how to clean properly
Normal schedule
More handwashing stations, times to wash hands
No staggered schedule PLEASE
Get them back to school. Tell them to wash their hands
regular cleaning of items in classroom during class before another child touches it.
Pods of students so if there is an infected student, it's a smaller group that has been exposed.
Perhaps have lunches delivered to each classroom and eaten there. Also I don't want my child riding a bus how would parent pickup be available
School is most likely going to more about safety, and less about academics. I feel that it's foolish to return too soon.
We do not fear Covid 19, we just want normal communicable illness protocols in place
Allowing kids to socialize as normal.
Remote learning until there is a vaccine
No shared supplies
HVAC upgraded to ASHRAE guidance
Just open it
Need more info before we decide something like this. States are closing back down bc of rising in numbers. We should wait and see how it goes with everyone else
Limiting classroom size is more for increasing individual attention and making sure that kids are adhering to guidelines and less about the actual social distancing in my opinion.
Some remote learning options to combine with physical schooling
Not sending my kids

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

I'm more concerned with putting the teachers in a situation they can no longer teach and are now responsible for disciplining the kids about hand washing and masks
REMOTE LEARNING!
None send them to school, they are strong enough
Everyone must wear a mask
No shared school supplies.
Other than the two items checked I do not have a third. Social distancing is not my main concern.
None
Kids will be fine. Limit teacher movement and interaction.
Utilize the gym & cafeteria to hold larger classes but allows for distancing. Ex. Algebra instead of one teacher with 4 periods...one period larger class.
None are a priority
Spaced out cubbies for kids belongings.
Use outdoors as teaching areas
Use outdoor spaces as much as possible
Get them outside to play. They still need interaction with each other.
Teaching the kids proper handwashing
people stay home from school if they are sick
No changes from original school
Let the kids go back to school
It comes down to education and consistent enforcement of expectations
Should NOT open until there is a vaccine
Kids and teachers wear masks in the hallway and at specials. High touch areas in specials rooms are cleaned between classes. Have some time between groups for specials to give airborne droplets time to disapeate.
Clearly educate each student on what is expected of them at school and why.
All of these things need to be done
A hybrid of in school/remote learning
Students need to go back. It is impossible to meet Dr. Fauche's recommendations.
Encourage students to be driven to school at specific times
Practice social distancing as much as possible
I realize this is difficult, but students need to learn to keep their hands and materials to themselves. Sharing items and even - from what I've heard and observed - being too close need to be avoided.
These are children, mask and distancing protocols will be difficult to maintain. Why would we put a child's self esteem at risk because of their inability, not unwillingness, to follow these rules.
Keep classroom kids together so their exposure is to the same group of kids no matter where they are in the building (cafe etc...)
Lunch eaten in classrooms instead of the cafeteria
Kids stay in one classroom as in elementary to avoid exposure-teachers with masks can rotate classrooms, more buses for social distancing and lunch by class limited to a certain number scrubbed between seatings
Extend time between class periods. You can stager the kids during the time frame

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

No mixing of students outside of classroom cohort (eat lunch at desk, etc)
Social tracking software on all teachers and staff since they are the most likely to spread the virus
A plan that addresses the needs of working parents and doesn't assume that everyone will be able to keep their mildly symptomatic child home. Without that addresses parents will continue to "sneak" their sick child to school because they'll feel that have no other option
All of the above are important, impossible to pick 3
Expand drop-off/pick-up to reduce bus capacity, eliminate cafeteria seating
These practices do nothing. Students and teachers in enclosed spaces with inadequate ventilation create a hazard. You would have to test everyone, students and staff, and wait, what, 24 days now the medical experts are saying. I'd like my student to stick with remote learning for the time being, thanks. .
None of these options sound like a healthy environment for young children.
NONE of the above are necessary
None of these are necessary.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
Keep schools closed all together, this is ridiculous
None - just get them back to school
None
I'm not worried
Keeping a full day but grouping kids in small groups in the classroom so they're only with a small group or split the classroom in half but keeping say 5 groups of 5, etc. and try to keep those kids as their classroom buddies and try to do a similar system for lunch and cafe
I prefer soap hand washing to sanitizer.
Hand washing preferred over sanitizer
Social distancing is impossible with this age group.
enhanced cleaning on the bus
Not over doing the anti-germ thing. Creating a generation of germaphobes is not ideal.
I dont think selecting only 3 is possible. All of these need to be done to protect students and staff.
I do not believe schools can re open safely for students and staff this fall.
I do not belueve the school can safely educate students in the building this fall.
I di not believe the schools are capable of opening safely. They can not maintain the level of cleanliness or social distancing while teaching effectively.
Availability of vaccines
I can't pick just 3 here because so many are important. Cafeteria spacing is very important which goes a long with social distancing in hallways and common areas. Recess is also a concern and should be limited to one class in designated areas at a time.

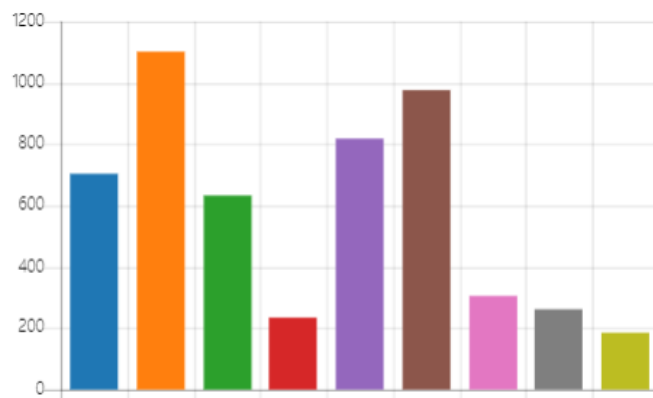
School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

There are more than 3 top priorities here. Limiting class size, social distancing in hallways and common areas should include the cafeteria. Recess also needs to be addressed. Hand sanitizer should be available in every class and throughout the school
All of these are crucial to reopening of schools.
Eat in classrooms instead of cafeteria.
Can eat in classrooms
the most important factor is normalcy. Ordinary standards of cleanliness are enough
All of the above
Adult supervised regular handwashing
Staying home until an effective vaccine is available
Cleaning Hands frequently/ instructing students not to touch face
None
Professional cleaning/sanitizing
Eat in classrooms, not cafeteria
Hand washing is supervised and scheduled frequently
Open the schools
I'm not concerned

5. Considering your experience with remote learning implemented during Spring 2020, please select your TOP THREE PRIORITIES for remote learning if it is implemented in some form in Fall 2020.

[More Details](#)

● Live meetings or lessons with ... teacher and whole class	702
● Live meetings or lessons with ... teachers with smaller groups of students	1102
● Virtual "office hours" for stude... nts/parents to meet with teachers	631
● Online discussions	237
● Frequent feedback on student... progress	820
● Assignments that can be acce... ssed and completed at student's own pace	977
● Increased student access to co... ounselors and support groups for academics	307
● Increased student access to co... ounselors & support groups for social/emotional	262
● Other	187



Question #5 – Other Responses

This is a joke, they need to be at school
access to teacher agenda, assignments, and topics
PreK is very difficult when it comes to online learning. Having the option to withdraw and being reimbursed if classroom setting does not occur.

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

My soon to be kindergartener, with an IEP, gets nothing out of remote learning. He needs to be in school.
Extremely limited remote learning
Never happening again
If there is remote learning we will consider enrolling both of our children in a real online program where they will actually learn and make progress.
having home service for children with IEPs
Use of school iPad again
Easier platform for completing work versus going to numerous different websites
All teachers using the same platform ie google classroom, teacher created sites, power school, zoom..
Video lessons instead of Zoom for direct instruction with schedule flexibility
Improved communication with Learning Support teams. Specifically, better communication.
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
Ms. Prinz did an excellent job with what she had to work with but remote learning is not adequate for my daughters leaning and socialization.
Remote "Learning" did not work.
video instruction assignments given for week on Monday to self-pace through week
Reduced use of tools requiring screen time
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
Interpreter available for parents with questions
Increased student access to teachers for help with academics
The Spring experience was horrible to support good education. Teachers were not equipped to support remote learning in a manner that promoted good education
Consistency for all teachers posting assignments in BOTH Powerschool Learning AND Powerschool at the same time.
Direct instruction via VIDEO that can be accessed at our convenience
The best was to have teachers post assignments at beginning of week letting student prioritize work, then have discussion or small groups for questions for high school
consistent and clear daily agenda/assignemnts
Accountability for work, my child worked very hard and nothing had to be turned in, kids were not required to do the work and will now be moving to the next grade and my kid and others who did work hard will have to sit and suffer while these kids are retaught what they should have already learned!
Our biggest struggle was change of platforms, passwords locking, links blocked
I don't believe I can have my child in public school if it is remote
Less Zoom instruction. More video instruction we can access without technical issues interfering
Daily meetings with teacher with a mix of whole class and small group
Teacher communication, Timely grading, realistic expectations - teachers should live up to the Same expectations as set for students, improved remote teaching strategies
I disliked online learning, not an adequate substitute for grade school learning
Consistency among teachers and platforms - some teachers expected nothing while others have lengthy and complicated assignments.
More online support for teachers who aren't good with technology

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

Ability to socialize the children
More challenging work for more advanced students
Virtual social forums for students to socialize with class mates
teachers actually teaching concepts, not just giving the students worksheets to complete
None
the remote learning was a joke. My child never on any given day had more than an hour of work and he is an excellent student. The kids need to be in a classroom for proper education and mental health. The kids need the aspect of having the ability to socialize. High school students need to interact with their peers and adults so they can grow to be functioning contributions to society one day. The internet already takes our children so far from social interaction, this has just compounded the ability for growth.
Increased support/modified curriculum for special education students. My child has OT, Speech, and SPED services. During remote learning in the Spring he had to complete the same amount of classwork as the rest of the students in addition to his SPED meetings, Speech and OT sessions. If remote learning continues I would love to see a more modified curriculum allowing SPED students to spend more time progressing on their own pace than with trying to complete the same classwork as the regular ed population and additional assignments.
No remote learning
Online learning does not work for all students.
Only use remote learning as a last resort
Remote learning was not a positive experience. So much curriculum not covered.
Remote learning was a disaster. Not your fault. It was not designed for this
My son didn't do well with this way of learning
Remote learning is useless.
Live classes in a standard schedule similar to actually being in school
I think it's a good idea to do remote learning with weekly packets of work to be picked up and completed and returned on a weekly basis. This allows for a more uniform learning experience for a whole class
None. Online learning will not work in the fall as my child is at daycare due to me having to work full time
Trying to do traditional school in an online setting does not work, teachers need to be more creative in their lesson planning
Realistic goals for what students can achieve at home with a working parent
Considerations for students with IEP and other learning disabilities who are unable to self direct learning and parents who work days and are unable to stay home and assist with teaching
teachers should be readily available by email during school hours and not issue homework at 6 pm due the next day!!!
Flexibility to complete assignments and access necessary pre-recorded online instruction for working parents
Ease of the platform being used on multiple formats
A larger variety of student tasks... not just read a book and write about it. Using the vast technological resources to create interactive materials
Face to face, in person instruction in small groups. NOT online
We found the schedule for additional academic support this past spring to be just right.

School Reopening- Parent Survey Final Results 07/08/20 (1814 Responses)

All schools use the same platform for example only use PSL
To never do online learning again it was not affective
Do not want virtual learning
Socializing in some fashion with classmates
Please, no more remote "learning"
Google classroom instead of Power School
Pre-recorded lessons with a later live discussion. Live learning is not good with various schedules in a household or to retain information/receive help from parent.
No live lessons
No live learning
No live learning
Younger students have the a ability to do full in school instruction. No remote learning.
Provided technology for each student because it is difficult to share between children
Child learning via online courses does not work.
No remote learning
A more consistent layout to remote learning. I found no consistency between teachers on where to find assignments, how to submit assignments and the amount of workload was very inconsistent.
One unified way to pass in assignments.Each teacher had a different way to pass assignments in.
Full day instruction. Set up hourly class schedules and do teams or voom meetings like a regular school day.
Assignments in advance for the week. Getting the day's assignment on the morning of is terrible.
Having learning schedule and supports and services well scheduled for each week
A structured online academic day would be beneficial. Having students log in by a certain time and holding class as normal, but via tele-teaching. A fully structured day, especially for middle school and above.
A more consistent platform. I have 3 children with multiple teachers each. Every teacher seemed to use a different method and it became very difficult to monitor and help guide the kids
Scheduling that can accommodate working parents
Not just virtual assignments...pen and paper too.
Contact via video conference on a daily basis which would include walking children through assignments and maintaining the kids attention for a minimum of 3 hours/day (broken up into intervals if needed)
Teachers & counselors reaching out to student not the other way around. Not every child will reach out so out of site out of mind..staff needs to check on our kids
Remote teaching by the teachers. Many schools had teachers teach the class in zoom from 7am-1pm. My highest wish/priority of all.
Schedule... with remote learning I think it needs to be done on a schedule with live lesson plans. Similar to the way BG did it.
Teachers need to have students sign in and be " in school" or logged in for the entire school day. No " busy work" for them to do as occurred in the spring with zero direction
A single portal/platform/email where all of the students' assignments are listed and explained for all of their classes.
Consolidated platform for learning

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More teching
None! Open school!
Much of the spring was student lead learning with little to no actual instruction. This was unacceptable and I hope you're finding a way to educate the staff and plan for true remote learning
Continued support for children with disabilities
If there is no in person component, I will likely not send my preschooler to school. She loved her Zoom snack with her class last year, but she had already built a relationship with her classmates and teachers. I don't think she'd get as much out of it with teachers and kids she doesn't know.
Give the students projects to promote real learning not just sending worksheets as busywork with no instruction.
Consolidated technology platform for easy to upload assignments, access learning programs, see a record of assignments completed.
No experience
Periodic live meetings--like, once a week.
Online meetings must be mandatorythere must be structure
Availability of extra help sessions for kids struggling with specific academic content / subjects
Recorded lessons that can be played back multiple times and at any time.
have the zoom session be a real class that is mandatory to attend. Then assign HW with a firm due date to assess student's comprehension of materials and make sure it gets done. Having things due at "student pace" means it doesn't get done. Stagger days at school with online days. Then do lessons at school and go over assignments done from zoom lesson. So have an hour zoom lesson on the days the child is not at school and a real lesson when at school.
more off-screen activity like 'read a book' instead of 'watch this person read a book'
guidance for parents to be more effective teachers at home/carrying out lesson and assistance to students
No reason for remote learning, in school learning should resume
Don't do it. Go back to school
Similar work regardless of which teacher you have (many discrepancies seen in the spring)
As close as you can get to actual school.
Parent Prep Conferences weekly or biweekly to brief parents on how to support learning/subject/content matter
Every child should be provided a laptop and headset. This includes for larger families of 3+ children.
He did not adapt well at all. Remote learning will not work for all children.
Professional development education provided to the teachers to improve their delivery of early childhood education in a virtual setting
Same curriculum across grade classrooms so that we can support neighborhood small group classrooms regardless of teacher
Teachers should be required to update PowerSchool daily with current assignments and status.
We didn't participate in remote learning in spring 2020
Virtual teaching for the same amount of hours that live teaching would be
Virtual full day classrooms
No remote
No remote

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No Remote
NO Remote
NO Remote
NO Remote
One on one with teacher for focused learning multiple times a week.
More rigorous academic instruction and measurement. Study-skills and testing are critical.
Classes be held online. Parents work and are unable to teach. Children should log into classes just the same if they attended class. Doing work while "in class"
Para one on one regularly or scheduled 3/4 times a week
Have real online teaching and not only assignment
Have real online teaching and not only assignment
Streamlined weekly syllabus of assignments
regular school day hours if virtual
Curriculum designed for remote learning by experts who have developed and implemented online courses in the past. We need not burden every teacher with online curriculum. Get one built by experts delivered on the best LMS on the planet, let the teachers focus on the students.
Real time Zoom classes
Students need interaction. They can't be stuck in front of the computer all day. Remote learning was a joke! Very ineffective.
More clear, concise daily assignment guidance, ie, a single page where the student can go to see all their upcoming assignments in a single page.
Less responsibility for the parents
Actual face to face instruction....not read and learn on your own
Everything available on one platform
require teachers to post all assignments online so they are accessible by students.
Having a more structured schedule out in place for the kids to work in group projects, individual lesson, and such would make more sense. Last year my kids each met with their main teacher and class twice a week max for 30 minutes...
The kids should be in school full time.
Para to work individually with my student as per IEP
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
On-line does not work, kids cheat, education is not real on-line, bring the kids back to school. Classes should be held live to a schedule.
Not an option

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Less emails, less chit chat from teachers in messages and more very concise, to the point schedule/assignments. It is crazy making logging out of zoom and logging into another program to do assignments and submitting things through this log in that log in and have an assignment to complete? Go here and log in then log out and log in here. Working parents as well as at home parents were swallowed up trying to keep up. We are not skilled teachers. We are Moms and Dads. The teachers should develop a capability of handling a class, assigning work without confusing logins and total dependability on the parents or students to self teach at home.
New student no experience yet
remote learning should only be offered for those households unwilling to resume to normal school days. My child can not learn via remote learning
it should not be offered. VLACS does remote learning. MHS should go back to normal schedule
Remote learning would be a horrible regression for my son who has ADHD and reading disability and starting this year as a new school in a new state as we just moved here From MA
Remote learning was not pleasant, stressful, and a full-time job for parents.
The younger kids were not engaged with remote learning at all. Out of sight out of mind. We used worksheets to try to continue learning, but I'm not a teacher and they learned more from Blipi and Steve and Maggie on YouTube than remote learning.
Remote learning was ineffective for my child. It was a detriment to his learning.
My son is just starting kindergarten... I have **no idea** how distance learning is going to be effective for a five year old. Good luck!
Remote learning was a waste of time
A learning medium other than online/computers (ie workbooks, hands on projects). Computer work has little benefit with preschool aged children, and the increased screen time is a concern.
I will pull my daughter from pre-k if there is remote learning. It was horrific doing it this year
Google classroom
Google classroom
All work to be completed. NO optional work as students have a tendency to ignore that work and learn less than they should be
All assignments to be passed in. NO optional work as students hav me tendency to ignore that work and in turn learn leas
It is crucial that students be taught live remotely. That way they are responsible for waking up and attending class at a specific time. Otherwise its just parents managing them and there is no requirement for students to actually log on and be present. No responsibility for the student. It is IMPERITIVE. Kids cant teach themselves by reading, they need LIVE INSTRUCTION even if remotely.
"Extra" work for students that want to be challenged
We were in Kindergarten in the fall and remote learning didn't go well. there weren't specific assignments to do and teaching was really left to the parents. The kids NEED to have guided teacher instruction, i believe its critical to their success.
Live lessons would have made a hige difference for my son in the spring. He had pre-recorded lessns which were great but then we because the teachers and had to watch the lessons and do the assignments wil him.
this didn't work. was horrible. most parents work
lesson the amount of Zooms or better schedule them. It was too overwhelming with all the Zoom. Teachers can record the lesson for kids to watch at a different time.
Live meetings with smaller groups of students in their classroom

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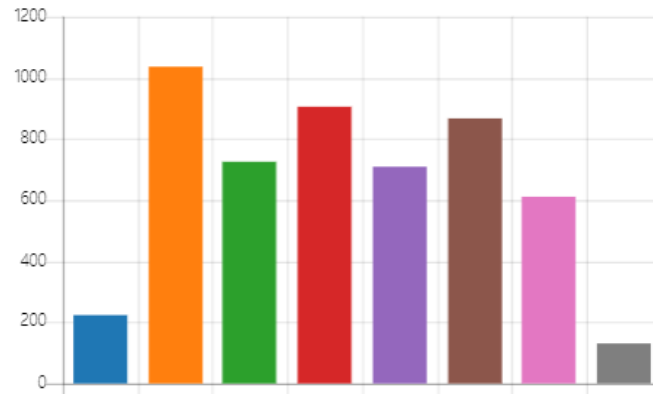
Having a more structured remote learning where the teacher is doing a virtual classroom just as she would a classroom where students can ask questions live about each topic, they can all see each other in a structured way. Also having all the assignments, websites, passwords, etc., in one place - vs the email going out on Monday saying there is a zoom call on Wednesday and here is your password - and then Wednesday getting an email saying don't forget to log into your zoom call - but no password is there so then the student must remember when that email had come in and hunt for it, etc. Also all the different websites and passwords - the teachers should send each child a list of the passwords, assigned to each website so the student can have it all in one place.
Having a more structured remote learning where the teacher is doing a virtual classroom just as she would a classroom where students can ask questions live about each topic, they can all see each other in a structured way. Also having all the assignments, websites, passwords, etc., in one place - vs the email going out on Monday saying there is a zoom call on Wednesday and here is your password - and then Wednesday getting an email saying don't forget to log into your zoom call - but no password is there so then the student must remember when that email had come in and hunt for it, etc. Also all the different websites and passwords - the teachers should send each child a list of the passwords, assigned to each website so the student can have it all in one place.
The virtual learning experiences were not effective and bored our kids. Have teachers give us the curriculum and we'll do it ourselves.
Additional options for children with IEPs.
No experience
Face to face meetings. No remote learning for low risk children.
Live meetings or lessons with teacher in any capacity
A way for special Ed and all kid's to receive some sort of hands on learning.
Using one platform to limit the amount of apps / usernames / passwords
No remote learning. Open the schools
It doesn't work. Open the schools
My kids will do miserably remote learning. Spring 2020 was a nightmare
Extra Curricular Activities, Clubs, Band, Sports
Did not remote learn
Online is not a viable option for my child.

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6. Considering your experience with remote learning implemented during Spring 2020, please select your TOP THREE PRIORITIES for use of time if remote learning is implemented in some form in Fall 2020.

[More Details](#)

Group projects	226
Learning new things	1035
Social and emotional learning	725
Building relationships with other students	905
Building relationships with teachers	711
Learning how to succeed in remote learning	869
Support for families on how to support learning at home	610
Other	129



Question #6 – Other Responses

Remote learning is a joke unless they are in a zoom classroom all day and actually learning.
?
My kindergartener does not learn with remote learning.
Guidance Support
Make additional curriculum for students who are bored and done the typical work too quickly. Make more challenging work
Teachers are not necessary for remote learning. I did everything for my kids and their teachers did nothing productive.
Physically in school, all of the above already happen
None
during remote learning was a nightmare. My kids did all the work while their peers did nothing/minimal and still got credit. Trying to connect with classmates that they don't know and connecting via zoom was awful
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
Ms. Prinz did an excellent job with what she had to work with but remote learning is not adequate for my daughters leaning and socialization.
Remote "Learning" will not work, it is hurting our future generations.
Challenges for students who would have been given additional opportunities at school (beyond required curriculum)
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
For my career field at home learning is impossible unless I place my child in someone else's care. That being said she'd be in the same situation at school.
Better support and educational learning for students
if remote learning must be used then it needs to be consistent and all teachers must use real time platforms to teach. My daughter did not have ANY real time teaching or zooms with any teachers

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Maintaining skills and focus on iep goals
My child was not in public school at this time, but overall did not work well with virtual communication
Interpreter available for parents that has a poor English comprehend
Send the kids back to school
Remote learning was awful
Reasonable expectations of teachers- some consistency x number of assignments per week.
DAILY learning of new things for Core Classes
None remote learning was awful
No remote learning
you have got to be kidding with the choices? Instruction is the only thing that time should be spent on. This is school not counseling or feel good time
No way a second grader can do it by themselves
I would like the district to invest into online subscriptions that are already designed for learning via the internet - Reading Eggs, Zearn, Moby Max..etc. These can easily track data for teachers, and will bridge between school and home in the event that we begin with an open and need to revert to remote learning during the school year.
No remote learning
Run a rigid schedule. This spring the schedule started pretty standard to a school day. Then kids figured out they didn't have to do things until they were do. School day turn into play day then OMG my assignment is due now I'm late. Unacceptable. Need accountability things are happening each day.
Remote learning sucked and I don't want to do it
Please don't make us do it again
Don't do it!
Remote learning is useless
Time Management
more "live" discussions
I was disappointed that some teachers felt it was ok to respond to and email question late in the day. All questions and homework should be done during school hours
Remote learning paired with some form of in person instruction and support
Children are not being properly taught with remote learning. They need schooling at school.
I don't want online learning period
I don't have top three priorities for remote learning. If this is the only option available through Merrimack school system please send out communication with alternative options for in person learning. There is more to schooling then just the education. You cannot replace the social aspect of schooling with a remote environment.
"remote learning" - not option anymore
Google Classroom
Introducing new skills not just pushing out assignments
Academic learning
Academic learning
Continued rigor in new math and reading lessons

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Actual live instruction, 1:1 and in small groups. Asynchronous lessons or live lessons taught to the whole class with little to no teacher-student interaction is just not a workable solution for elementary students. They aren't self-motivated or self-disciplined enough to manage their own learning yet, and parents can't manage that AND hold down their own jobs. It's just impossible, and hardly any actual learning takes place, or worse - the student "learns" incorrectly and never gets course-corrected by her teacher.
My child spent hours on end for honors classes only to be rewarded with a pass/fail grade.
1) remote time kept to bare minimum. 2 remote learning should be live instruction from teacher and activity completed with teacher.
No remote learning
PLEASE don't do remote learning!!!
I work full time and will not be able to support remote learning
My child is not an independent learner - she will be unable to complete any remote work
Live classes
Ugly
Good balance between zoom meetings and individual work time
The students day needs to feel like a regular school day. Zoom meetings for each class maintaining a schedule. 8-3 maybe?
In depth group discussion
NO ! It was a nightmare during remote learning. My kids ended up doing all the work and the other kids just got the credit. Trying to get in touch with students they don't know and coordinate work was extremely difficult. It did not work with remote learning
Live lessons for new topics
Zoom with academic instructions instead of just social purpose
Enrichment activities over curriculum goals
Enrichment activities over curriculum goals
Have the teachers teach remotely during the day. If I have to stay home again, I will probably homeschool and take my children out of public school.
Consideration that parents have to work
Extra support for any student who is struggling with a particular subject
Teachers having students online from 8a to 2p and being taught
If it's implemented my child will not attend school.
Keeping on track with content, so more is covered than in the spring.
Let the kids go back to school
If the decision is to do remote learning I request that it be longer and more learning. This past spring consisted of 30min meetings which were basically show and tell. I understand no one was ready for this and hope that with 3 months to prep it will be better. Assuming the decision is remote which I hope it's not
None! This can not be accomplished virtually. Open the schools!
Kids need to be busy learning more than just 45 minutes a day doing busywork. This is NOT school and it is NOT learning. They have missed out on so much, when are they going to catch up.
No experience
We are failing our students with remote learning. It should not continue. I never intended to home school my student.

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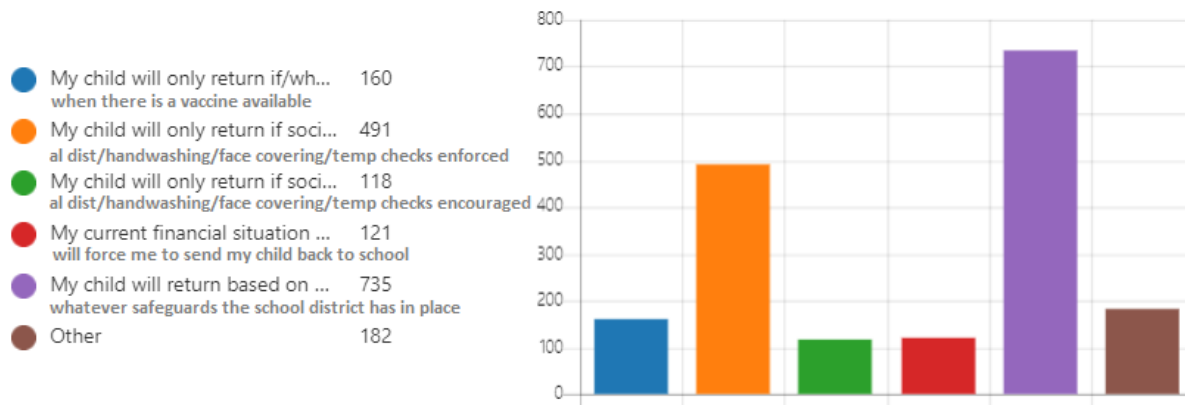
zoom learning was a waste of time, and towards the end of the year my child would not attend the zoom meeting b/c it was so chaotic. Run it like a class and mute children. If they have questions they can hit the raise your hand button and be called on like a regular classroom. Zoom meeting needs to be more structured and actually teach something.
Na
Need to be in school
More live instruction via Zoom, assessment of what they are learning and feedback to kids and parents
Progressing academics!
Academics!
More rigorous academic curriculum and frequent instruction, even if for small increments of time. Basic skills need to be cemented, especially math, and the curriculum during the spring failed to do that. Parents are forced to fill the gap and the skill level of the students have likely diverged significantly as a consequence.
Push the hardest topics the most, at the expense of others if necessary. Kids can learn to read by themselves now, but they won't learn arithmetic and algebra without significant coaching. No more "story-time" zoom meetings please.
Getting work completed and on task during online sessions. Parents that work cannot keep up. Child logging in for class should be credited.
If remote learning is a possibility we will not be paying for pre k zoom was a struggle for preschool and I'm not interested in paying to foght with my 4 year old to sit in front of a screen.
A more thought out lesson plan with clear completion objectives
A platform the minimizes online distractions. More hands on development. No lectures. Active learning and discussions only.
Live learning via Zoom
It seemed like more work could be assigned at the high school level
Make it real online learning, meaning all students have to attend and the teacher is teaching the class like he would in school. Virtual meeting with attendance required.
Limit daily zoom sessions to give time to do work. My son's 5th grade teacher had FOUR 45 minute zoom sessions every day during the spring. Ridiculous!
Building relationships with both students and teachers
working individually with para
Lose the and focus on academics.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
don't take free days off like Spring Tuesday fling which diluted the education
Not an option
New student no experience yet
I do not support remote learning as my student is in a Vocational track and is not learning anything remotely
Consistency and uniformed methods across all grades. Especially the younger grades.

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A unified online platform for each class. Our experience was that each teacher's platform looked different, felt different, different ways to submit things. That's perfectly reflective of each teacher's style, but it made for a very difficult experience for my student who was struggling remotely.
has to be better than spring of 2020 - engagement from teachers is a must- not checking in once a week
Remote learning is not a viable option for learning for many students.
Grade appropriate work
Consistence online experience (use of tools, assignments, work submission, etc across) across staff
Remote learning was a waste of time
My son has an extensive iep which requires a personal para. His support team did an excellent job of helping navigate remote learning.
LIVE learning
I selected 4 because they're important. we could only do the minimum while at home becasue we were the "teachers" and SEL wasn't a priority for us.
we both work so our kids wont be able to participate this school year.
consistent scheduling of virtual meetings & recorded teaching sessions.
Other than safety, the only thing that matters is learning the curriculum.
An easier learning platform used by all teachers to avoid confusion and wasting time
Remote learning is terrible and not effective for my kids
zoom-style meetings must be severely limited. Our kids will not be attending 5 or 6 daily zoom meetings that accomplish nothing of note
IEP services potentially being an exception and have in person sessions.
No experience
Interacting face to face with students and teachers.
No remote learning.
No remote learning. Open the schools
Unless your staff will be here in my home so I can work, just open the schools
I very much oppose or lengthy projects. It is stressful for parents.
After lesson is given fully on line set up follow up zoom meetings for questions.
Did Not remote learn
My child along with others of his age group and development issues (IEP) severely lacked this support during remote learning. It wasn't from a lack of effort or ideas from the staff. Remote just isn't a viable option.

7. Which of the following statements best describes your overall feeling about returning to school?

[More Details](#)



Question #7 – Other Responses

Two full time working “essential worker” parents
My child will return to school
Both parents are full time “essential worker”
My child will return to school. Let's get back to normal
My child will be going back with whatever safeguards you choose. Remote learning did not work for her, and she needs to be in a class with friends and teachers.
My children will not be attending if face masks are required. It's EXCESSIVE and an unrealistic expectation
We work full time and cannot also teach remotely full time. While we can afford child care. But my son needs extra help that we cannot provide at home
I do not want to send my kids back to school but they are insisting on going back in the fall. I will allow them back as long as I feel comfortable. At any time I will pull them back to remote learning
My child will return to school ASAP!
My child will return no matter what. We work full time and it's impossible to homeschool 6 kids with IEP's and special needs.
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
No need for children to wear face coverings. Social distancing is physically impossible for kindergarten.
My children will only return if it is as close to “normal” as possible which means NO mandated masks/vaccines. Encouragement of proper social distancing, hand washing, and hygiene like everyone should do for everything anyway, allowing them to be kids and engage in their academic and social interactions as they should be able to. We need to provide as much normalcy for them as possible and stop instilling fear in them. If it is impossible to return to school without them having to behave like they are in prison and under attack by a “killer virus” then school should not open. My kids thrived with remote learning. If they are going to be expected to return to such a stringent environment, I prefer they stay home

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My child is insisting on going back in the fall. I will allow him to return with the Noone all that if I feel uncomfortable at any point he will be pulled to do remote learning
My child will attend if SHE likes going to school with the accommodations in place. If she isn't happy I will keep her home and do speech on zoom
my daughter is high risk with lower immunity. Bennifits from school services in person but is doing ok . I trust the school district, but want to make sure those who are designated to assist her are helping her maintain safe practices in school.
Hand washing, temperature checks, sanitizer and extra cleaning would make us comfortable. No need for elementary kids to wear masks.
My child will return when infection rates are down and safeguards are in place
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
I feel that all students must return at full capacity with no mask requirement
I refuse to send my child back if face masks are mandatory
Cleaning, hand washing, sanitizer, and temperature checks would make us comfortable. No need for elementary school kids to wear masks.
My child will return, will not be treated like an animal, I will decide if the school is overstepping its authority.
I will not have masks worn all day
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
Extra cleaning, extra sanitizing, less classroom shuffling
Children with high risk factors or parents of those children with high risk factors should allow for the student to do full-time remote learning.
My child will only return if temperature checks, social distancing, hand washing and face coverings are enforced IF we see that by fall the levels of Covid are starting to decrease and become minimal.
My child will need to return to school in order for my family to survive financially. My career field cannot be competed in an at home situation. Leaving our options to decrease to a non working home causing severe hardship on our current living
My child will return if school practices go back to normal
My high school student will return no matter what is in place and my elementary student will not return no matter what is in place. Completely different emotional needs.
It will depend on what the district implements for safety. Masks are a no for me. Meaning i dont want my kids to have to wear them and unfortunately that is not the case yet as its not safe to do so.
My work situation as a teacher will force me to send my child back to school this fall.
I have no issue with my students returning as long as handwashing is avialable in halls and classrooms. I prefer NO masks
My child needs to return to school form a social aspect. He developed anxiety and stress I have never seen in a child so young. He and I am sure many other children's mental health depend on socializing and being around others. My child's mental health should be just as important as other people's heath, and his mental health is at a much higher risk then the risk of a child contracting COVID-19 and becoming very ill.
Unsure. Remote learning wasn't successful for our family
I'd like my kid back in school as normal as possible
My child will return if he isn't required to wear a mask

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My child will most likely be home schooled
I may opt for remote learning in the event that the children will be required to wear a face mask all day. I do not think it is healthy to wear one for 8 hours a day. It is also not sanitary to wear the same face mask for 8 hours a day. In the end I will allow my child to make his own decision if he wants to return under those conditions however I am strongly against it.
My child will not return
If I feel comfortable with the procedures the school is implementing based on up to date info
my child will return because I trust my school officials will do what is necessary to keep them safe
Send them back to school. To do otherwise will be disastrous.
Only if items children will have will be cleaned before handing off to another child. or not shared at all.
Because if job I will be forced to send my child to school and to a childcare facility if school is hybrid. It will be a financial burden on my family.
My child will be forced to return to school and will need to attend a childcare facility if a hybrid model is implemented.
My child will only return with a hybrid class schedule. Maybe two days in school...two days remote... one day flex day.
I want my child to still have a normal school day with just the encouragement to make sure hands are washed and sanitized, and no Physical contact with student or teachers
I dont want the kids to go back until a vaccine is available but unfortunately we need to work out of home
As long as they remind kids to wash hands and no physical contact with student or teachers , then I'm good
Many of the above apply. I can't choose just one. I need to work as well, but the safety of my family comes first. I think it's very unlikely that students will get much out of going to school if these extreme measures are in place. I'd rather wait until it's safe to return to school as normal.
As a teacher myself, my child will not necessarily have a choice- BUT that does not minimize my anxiety
I would prefer a vaccine first but might consider otherwise so kids don't feel abandoned.
My child is ready to return. Remote learning is challenging and I trust the school district will institute appropriate safety precautions as recommended by the CDC.
would prefer vaccine first, but if others go back it will be hard to explain to my kids
Would prefer a vaccine first but would consider sending if everyone goes back, on staggered and limited schedule
My child will return if I am also forced back to work and because childcare for ages 6-12 is difficult to find and/or non-existent
My child will not return if masks/social distancing is in place. I believe the mental health/emotional damage is worse than the risk of covid 19
I will send my student because there is no reason base on the evidence right now that they should not be at home.
I do not want my child wear a mask all day.
My child will return at least at some capacity because socialization and accountability are critical along with closure for his education in Merrimack before he moves on to college next year

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My child will return if face-coverings are required and indoor air filtering and air changes/hour are improved. Distancing, handwashing, temp checks and disinfection are encouraged.
It is very unlikely that I will send my child back to school after watching the numbers rise in the south after opening things back up. I need more data before I would take that risk. If I feel that reopening hasn't impacted our number of cases, I would have chosen option 2.
Children need to return to school.
If my child has to wear a mask all day, he will not be returning
My child will return if their is a somewhat "normal" school day...no face masks, recess and all of the specials are incorporated into the day.
Students should be encouraged to wear masks
I do not want my child to be affected with crazy distancing. He deserves to have normal socialization
My child will only return when we get more information and see how everything goes with the state opening up. We have a high risk disabled child living in the house and it's not worth the risk
common sense
I am seriously considering homeschooling as our experience with remote learning wasn't the greatest and Im not aure the achool district will be able to come up with a suitable learning environment that i feel would be a positive experience for my child
My child will NOT be mandated to wear a face mask, but instead the school should implement social distancing and increased cleaning.
My child DESPERATELY needs to return to in-person school. Around others he opens up and is an engaged, curious student. At home stuck with only his parents and a whisper of an online educational experience he simply wilts and shrinks into an almost unrecognizable person. The virus could be rampant in our community and I would want him to suit up from head to toe in PPE and be there, in person, to learn and be social. I can't emphasize enough how worried I am for his psychological wellbeing if he is forced to stay at home for any significant length of time again. I know that the school district is being extra cautious and I am confident that whatever solutions are implemented to get kids back in the classroom will be sufficient. Ours is a cautious, mask-wearing family, and I'm confident the district can find the right balance of getting the kids physically back to learn while keeping everyone safe and healthy.
A lot of mixed feelings but my son misses the interactions with teachers and students that school in ANY form provides
Face coverings are great, but it's very doubtful children will leave them on all/every day, they'll be touching the mask/their face which increases risk any way. Child will return based on est. safeguards. Morning temp checks before entry of all staff/children, routine hand washing, smaller classes for distancing, and not sharing school supplies are a must.
As a teacher myself I dont even know what we will do.
As a teacher myself, I dont know what's going to happen.
My child is most likely to return if things are as NORMAL as possible
My child will return to school with appropriate safeguards that do not stress out the kids and teachers
My child will only return if social distancing, handwashing, face-covering guidelines for adults, and temperature checks are enforced
My child will return to school
My child will return
My child will return only if social distance and masks are STRICTLY enforced

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My child will not be safe to return unless there is a vaccine or effective treatment for Covid
I have a right to keep my children home! Please respect that!
My child will only return if there is a vaccine or other effective treatment
My child will return if there is a vaccine or an effective treatment
My child will return if they do NOT have to wear a mask
Social distancing, hand washing and face coverings (not temp checks)
My child will return. We are both essential workers and as such her social-emotional and academic progress will be adversely impacted by other childcare solutions.
It's a critical time in my child's life to socialize with other kids and teachers
This is a critical tint for social learning for my child
My child will only return if stringent measures are NOT enforced. NO MASKS- there should be a CHOICE. You also need to consider kids that are hearing impaired and depend on lip reading for understanding communication. Masks are a huge obstacle for this. Kids also need to be in as normal of an environment as possible. Not feeling like they are in prison, being yelled at for standing too close to a friend or feeling like the environment is stifled. If it needs to be so restrictive then kids should not be in school
My child will return unless masks are mandated
My kid NEEDS to return to school. Her emotional well being depends on it. Learning at home does not work.
My child will only return to school if face masks are not required
My child will go back to school and be happy to be at school as long as she is not forced to wear a face mask for entire time. Hand washing and not over the top social distancing where she cant be near friends or have no recess. She needs her school, friends and teachers
If the teachers can't teach remotely, then I will teach my children myself. I will not follow multiple teachers' and assignments and projects. That was ridiculous.
My child will return regardless if the current statistics with hospitalizations and deaths stay low in regards to kids
When there is not an alarming number of new cases being reported on a daily basis throughout our region of the country
It will depend on district and what is happening in the state relating to the virus
My child will return to school If school is in session, I have educated my children the importance of hand washing and feel comfortable
My child will more than likely return, unless the guidelines are too strict
I will wait to see where we are in this pandemic....
My child will only return to school if they do not have to wear a mask
My child will only return if things are back to normal- no vaccine, no face mask, no social distancing
Hand washing and social distancing are sufficient - if there are overly restrictive requirements such as masks, testing and temperature taking will result in my child not returning to school
We need to just go back. No face coverings. People who are sick should be sent home.
My child does not do well with remote learning. She needs to be in a school setting.
My main concern is the implementation of remote learning -Especially if a hybrid model takes place
As my child is only going into kindergarten and it is technically optional to send at this point. I will be keeping my child home unless a vaccine or other appropriate alternative is available.

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It depends on what measures are in place and if I feel they are age appropriate. I want to see the school strike a balance between draconian and nothing.
And a hybrid of remote/in class learning can be carried out
We work and can not access childcare even though we can afford it. There are not enough childcare spots available this summer let alone if school is closed in the fall and even more children need it.
There is no childcare. The daycares are full already with children 0-5 and have very limited capacity for school aged children. Also, most relatives that are available to help IE retired are over 65 and in a high risk category thus unable to help with childcare. Parents will have to stay home and lose their jobs if the schools stay closed.
The American Academy of Pediatrics is PRO in school education starting again this fall. This is a group of people who devote their life to the health and safety if children we should listen to them.
We only want antibody testing. Social distancing children is not realistic.
My child will return if recess is allowed and face coverings are NOT required
School should implement regular (weekly?) testing of class groups (pool testing) and stagger schedules to minimize unnecessary social contact before allowing kids to return.
My child will return depending on my teaching schedule (traditional vs remote) in a different district.
Aggressive, frequent in-school testing should be required before returning, along with staggered schedules.
My child will return depending on my teaching schedule (traditional vs remote) in a different district.
My child will only return if masks are optional and outdoor time is increased. Increase in sanitation school wide as well
My new kindergartener will only go back to school if the children are NOT distanced from each other during class, lunch, or recess. His daycare has not distanced. They've done great. I don't want him to learn to hate or fear school. The most important thing for a kindergartner is the social aspect.
Because my child has special needs I am not sure I will be sending my child. Seeing others facial expressions is important for learning and 8 know wearing a mask will be a problem for my child
It will depend heavily on the state of the virus at the end of the summer. I don't see prek kids wearing face covers and not being able to play and be close. If these things are required we will wait for kindergarten
My child will only return if this virus is gone. No district can Guarantee the health and safety of the student.
We need to return to school. We cannot perform virtual learning indefinitely. It could be 2 more years before a vaccine is available. This is a major cost of lost learning.
My children need to return for their own emotional well-being
There is no way I will vaccinate my child! THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC WAY TO CREATE A SAFE VACCINE! In America, vaccinations are monopolized by four companies: Pfizer, Merck, GlaxoSmithKline, and Sanofi. These companies are the biggest LOBBYISTS in Washington. It's not only the billions they POUR INTO lobbying that's disgusting – it's the media too!
My child NEEDS to go back. He has an IEP and desperately needs consistency and familiarity of his school.
I would like for children to be able to go to school like they did in the past. I don't think children should have to wear masks all day long and stay in their classroom all day long. If that's the case, I will not be sending my child back.
My child will only return if masks do not need to be worn

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Children need to be in school full time with normal activities. No new precautions are necessary.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
My child will only return if things are 100% normal and they can socialize with other kids and get teacher support when needed, even if that's as simple as a hug.
My child will return to school because I'm not worried
my child will return to school no restrictions are necessary from our point of view
I'd love some level of safety guidelines in place for school to open. I want my child safe, of course. In order to do remote learning, I'd need to quit my job... as working parents do not have other daycare options. Sending them to daycare would be the same health risk as school.
He will return as normal and should not be forced to do anything but keep up proper hygiene and respect others
My husband and I both work - childcare would be affordable to a degree however he needs to learn and be in a classroom. I'm confident that safe practices will be enforced for safety of all
My child has complex medical needs/iep and will only go if she is secluded from everyone and adults take precautions to teach her
I would like to see a policy enforced that if a child has any runny nose or cough or other symptoms that they cannot be at school a remote assignments be given to them and also if there is a family member sick with covid or like illness that the student stays home. In this scenario the student isn't punished for missed days and remote learning is available but the student goes to school, washes hands frequently and is able to play and learn . I will not put a face mask on my 5 year old for the day.
I am not in favor of face masks all day for my 8 year.old. I will not send to school of he is required to wear one.
My child will return because they have to. However, those I can keep out I will do so not because of COVID but because of the longterm emotional/mental affects of making them be distant from their friends. Not letting them be human.
I honestly don't know. I believe that the "safety" measure are going to be more detrimental to my child's psyche than the virus. I'm beginning to think he would be better off at home, than in a controlled environment that enforces practices of distancing from others. Especially at such a young age. They don't comprehend why they can't play with their friends and give hugs. Its teaching him to distance from humans and we shouldn't be teaching that mentality to the future.
My child will return to school in the fall because both parents work and remote learning was ineffective and detrimental to my son's academic outcomes.
I don't believe social distancing is taking away a big part of what it is to be a kid. I think that the emotional/ mental impact from these types of measure will do more harm. I'm considering not sending him. It is worse to go to a social atmosphere and be told you can't be social and hug your friends. This age group thrives off of human interaction and being close.
Social interaction is imperative for young children's development
My child will return to school if the school can provide reasonable safety measures- increased handwashing, thorough cleanings throughout the school, temperature checks for staff and students, and a structured plan for what will happen if a positive case is detected.

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I want my child to go back to school
I do not believe the school district can safely open up the schools in the fall. If they could not safely open up for summer school with 4 to 6 students per class in a mostly empty building, they can not open for several hundred.
Unsure at this time.
I do plan on sending my children back to school in the fall. I have faith the school will take proper precautions. Both parents work in our household and it was very very difficult for us to teach our kids during remote learning.
i think the school will do all they can to make things safe. I think face coverings/temp checks is important but children can't wear them for 8 hours learning.
Do not wish to go back yet, or at least part time in school
My child will return to school regardless of precautions. Increased handwashing is my only recommendation.
My child will not be able to tolerate required face covers all day, and a learning environment as close to normal with consistent routine is my hope
My child will only return to school if the environment is not fearful, over restrictive such as all day face coverings required or no change in setting. She needs movement and stimulation or she will burn out
My child will only return if handwashing and temperature checks are enforced. Social distancing within reason is encouraged and the kids, no matter age, are not required to wear face coverings.
My child will only return if handwashing and temperature checks are enforced. Social distancing within reason is encouraged and the kids, no matter age, are not required to wear face coverings.
my children will not return unless the school opens full-time and more or less normal procedures
My child will return if handwashing and temperature checks are implemented. I will NOT make them wear a mask and I know it is impossible to social distance properly with young children
My children will not return if masks are required.
Ideally having my child return to school would be more financially sound as well as beneficial for my child on a social, mental and educational level, we do work and don't currently have the extra to send her to daycare on a daily basis. However we are concerned and want her to return with as many safety precautions instilled as possible.
Our daughter has been in child care since school closed down, I am a front line worker and my husband has remain employed in the normal (in office setting,) and therefore we want and are comfortable with her returning to school. Our preference is that the children not wear masks because I fear it would encourage her to touch her face. The AAP and my husband and I firmly believe in in-classroom instruction.
I think the closely matches how we feel - we're aware with kids it will be a near impossibility to ensure they are 100% with these rules, but if face masks, handwashing and cleaning are a focus, we will want our kids to go back to school.
Our children need face to face interaction to not develop social problems greater than the threat of Covid 19.
Kids NEED to get back to school in some capacity
Parents who work full time are not able nor equip to be there for remote learning.. not to mention if a child has special ed services/ IEP.
Dependent on safeguards district puts in place and the levels of infection in general population. If September has a large number of active cases in the region I will not be comfortable regardless.

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My child will return if appropriate safeguards are in place that do not take away the students' ability to play and socialize with their peers
Enforced hand washing and face coverings and social distancing when mask is removed for example, when eating
My child will return if handwashing, face-covering for teachers and temperature checks are enforced.
My child will only return if social distancing, handwashing and face-covering guidelines are enforced
My child will only return if social distancing, handwashing, are face-covering guidelines are enforced
Face masks, social distancing and hand washing cannot be safely implemented in an elementary environment AND maintain a learning environment. I am CONFIDENT my preschooler would not be able to follow safe guidelines.
My child will only return if social distancing and hand-washing are enforced and a policy regarding stay-at-home orders for COVID-like symptoms(including temperature) is in place and consistently enforced for all.
I am comfortable with my child returning with common sense hand washing and cleaning

8. What are your minimum health and safety requirements for your child to return to school?
(Please check all that apply.)

[More Details](#)

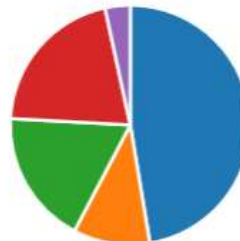
Smaller class sizes	961
Social distancing	897
Temperature checks	1091
Staggered schedule	607
Other	334



9. Given what we know about the COVID-19 pandemic, what is your preference for schooling in the fall?

[More Details](#)

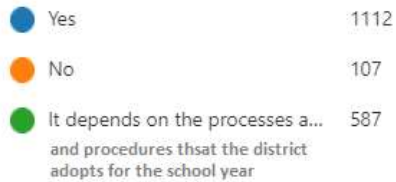
Making it safe for students and staff to return to the school building as conditions allow	854
Making remote learning the best it can be based on input received/lessons learned from March-May	186
Developing a hybrid model (partly in school/partly remote)	327
All of these	374
Do not have a preference	61



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10. At this time, are you planning to have your child(ren) return to your school for the 2020-21 school year?

[More Details](#)



11. If you are planning to have your child(ren) return to your school in some form for the 2020-21 school year, will your child(ren) rely on school district transportation (school bus)?

[More Details](#)



12. Please list any factors you have not seen on this survey that would influence your preference for returning to traditional school in the fall.

[More Details](#)

544

Responses

Question #12 Responses

THEY NEED TO RETURN!!!! I have 3 under 6, I can't homeschool them properly to learn they also need friend!!!
How they will enforce masks with the smaller children on the bus
You can't have scattered schedules when both parents work
The emotional needs of the kids. They need to be in school!!!! My son has developed mild depression because of no school or social interaction. Not opening is not ok for them.
Temperature checks and outdoor recess
For remote learning I wish there was one central place to go to access work for all classes.
NA
N/A
Please return to school in a normal capacity

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I do not feel like my child had a proper ninth grade education, already struggles in certain subjects and now pushed through to 10th grade.
My child needs face to face interaction. Our work schedules do not allow for remote hybrid option. My child will need to ride the bus. I would like my child to be able to ride the bus to and from school as well as stay at school a full day.
The mental disruption remote learning and isolation is causing.
If there is no bus transportation to and from school then I would prefer remote learning
Be sure to have an isolation room for the potential covid-19 students that might show symptoms and separate from those that are visiting the nurse for other reasons.
If a staggered school year it will be near impossible for my wife and I if we have kids on different days.
Children need other children to develop normally. The benefits of in person learning far outweigh the risks of the virus. Closing schools will just force kids into alternate situations and will not stop the spread. The virus doesn't know schools are closed.
Children eating in classrooms
My child will be returning to school no matter what. We are two parents that work outside the household and cannot work from home. We won't be able to be with her to get her schoolwork done or on zoom meetings. My fear is that we'll be relying on more Zoom meetings and she won't be able to attend them, or be penalized for not attending them because her parents are working. Also, remote learning just did not work for her. We were merely 'checking off the boxes' to get her schoolwork done, I don't feel like she really learned as much as she could have if she were in the school.
Grading. I want to see exactly how you plan to figure grading in this new learning environment. Holding the same expectations for a completely different learning environment is insane. Some kids may be able to 'teach' themselves, but surely nowhere near all. If there's just going to be handed out videos and assignments and no live teaching, then you need to factor that into the amount of assignments and completion expectation.
Having a kindergartner during remote learning last year was impossible when parents work essential jobs. Finding alternate daycare meant that said child could not get instruction/schooling remotely all or most days. So much of early education is about social skills and learning how to navigate those interactions, remote learning does not help this age group and hinders parents ability to provide for their family. My otherwise happy, resilient child became moody and anxious and although we have worked through a lot of that, remote learning in that age group is not possible. And those children cannot be left home alone. I think that remote learning is a huge disservice to our younger students and am in favor of allowing younger kids to have onsite education. Doing some flexible variation of remote/onsite does not help families with two working parents. I think the social and emotional health of students needs to be largely considered in addition to physical health.
None
My child is in the Special Education program. I feel like there needs to be special attention given to make certain this population can appropriately and safely access their curriculum and have their IEP implemented as closely as possible.
Children with learning disabilities and who struggled with remote learning need the option of going back to school full time.

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Plexiglass to protect the staff bit not the students
If the number of cases starts to go back up then I won't allow my kids to attend school even with precautions.
Face masks are a very unrealistic expectation for a child. And it's not healthy for them OR teachers to wear them all day.
Social distancing on busses. What about school visitors/ parents picking up kids? Need them to follow social distancing and mask usage.
There was nothing about IEP support.
Understand if we will continue to have regular scheduled vacations and how this might impact return to the school if families take a domestic or international vacation
It would be my preference to have the kids back in the classroom. The remote learning environment did not work for my child considering she is on an IEP. My child is one that is very sociable and enjoys learning in the classroom the remote learning environment did not work for her and it was difficult for us to keep her attention and complete her schoolwork that was required each day. With both my husband and I having jobs that are demanding we were unable to give her the attention she needed for her schoolwork and if it is decided to go back to the remote learning in the fall, I can tell you right now it will not work for my family or for my daughter to be successful. I know this is a difficult decision, but keep in mind most parents are not teachers and the quality of learning for my child will go down if we choose the path of remote learning.
It might also be good to require anyone traveling to hot spots or areas where cases and transmission are higher to stay home for 2 weeks upon returning to be safe.
I'm worried that some people cant afford time off and send kids in to school sick already. It will only be worse with COVID 19.
Both my students feel Strongly that they want to return to the school in as normal a capacity as possible. It is not good for their social/mental health to remain remote if not absolutely necessary
It would be great if the Administration would closely look at the data of other countries going back to school. There have been no spikes in cases in other countries.
I want my kids going back to school. As a parent I am not a teacher and do not get paid to do their teacher's job. Especially not for another year.
Offer in home para support for families with multiple children on the days that will be remote learning. Specially those with special needs children.
We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
Children and teachers should not be required to wear a mask all day! Keeping children who are sick home amd following clean and healthy measures they school should be successful to run without issue.. if bus is an issue we can provide transportation for our children.
Lunch in the classroom rather than lunch in the cafeteria. (Sorry teachers).
It needs to be as close to "normal" as possible so that kids are not in such stringent environments that more time is spent "policing" the health and safety guidelines vs actual learning. NO MASKS!!! If the state feels it's so unsafe for kids to be in school that they feel that they need to wear masks for 7 hrs/d, not interact with peers and behave in such an unrealistic manner, then perhaps, school should continue remotely.
I can be home so if he has to wear a mask for hours and hours I think it's better to do from home. I like the idea of hybrid so he can see friends but I do not mind working from home with him.
What will be done if things start up in person but then have to go remote again
I'm f the amount of new cases in the state creep up, I will pull my children from school.

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None
For speech therapy or classroom it won't work for my daughter if face coverings because she uses lip reading for speech.
how Learning Support services will be addressed.
I would insist on mask enforcement. As a high school student, I believe my child would be able to wear her mask while in the school building. However, I do not believe that a full school day would be helpful to either students or teachers with the current guidelines. I believe a hybrid of remote learning and 1/2 days in a school building would be the best option. This would keep our children safe as well as provide them the social support that many parents are insisting they need.
Children are not dying from coronavirus. The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommends returning to school for academic, emotion and social reasons that outweigh dangers of the coronavirus.
Many concerns about how public spaces (bathrooms, cafeteria, gym/locker room) will be maintained. Concerned about the safety of athletes and academic teams traveling to other schools. Want to know in advance the plans if faculty/ staff/ students get sick. Will they be required to quarantine? Will families of students be asked to quarantine?
Ms. Prinz did an excellent job with what she had to work with but remote learning is not adequate for my daughters learning and socialization.
We live with a high risk family member. My child will most likely need constant supervision as he is on the spectrum and has difficulty keeping his fingers out of his mouth, wearing a mask etc.
I would like to see a traditional school return. Treat the children like children, let them live. If you see them fighting, hugging, getting to close; stop them but do not let them live in a bubble. Kids will get sick, kids will get better, they need to build their immune system. They need to laugh, learn, cry, they need to live.
My son has autism and adhd and he needs to be in school to be able to focus and learn. There are too many distractions at home with siblings and others in the house (and not having the "feeling" of school and that it is a place for learning.) Also, his social skills are not good and being at home and not having to interact with other peers is definitely hurting him long term.
As long as the pandemic is still an issue, my preference is not for a full in-person return.
Many concerns about how public spaces (bathrooms, cafeteria, gym/locker room) will be maintained. Concerned about the safety of athletes and academic teams traveling to other schools. Want to know in advance the plans if faculty/ staff/ students get sick. Will they be required to quarantine? Will families of students be asked to quarantine?
I
It would be helpful if the school was very transparent and provided regular updates if and when students and/or staff are diagnosed with COVID-19
We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall.
High risk students and/or parents need the ability to opt into a full-time remote learning process regardless of how the school overall is operating - i.e. there needs to be a hybrid model available that fits the student.
Want to know in advance the plans if faculty/ staff/ students get sick. Will they be required to quarantine? Will families of students be asked to quarantine? How will classes move forward if a teacher is sick? What kind of support will be provided to students if teachers or their classmates get sick?
Covid spike

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The most difficult part of remote learning for my son was not having any other student interaction and being isolated. Just having the students IN the building for the sake of in-class learning is not enough. The students need to have social interaction, even if it does include social distancing. Academic growth is not enough without also having social and emotional growth.
I think a lot really depends how the reopening in the state goes and how the cases reflect this over the next 2 months
Working families will be highly impacted causing personal and economic destruction
I trust the state and school district to do what's best for the majority. I believe that if the kids go back to school and the number of virus cases increases drastically because of it, we know that we're now capable to go remote. We should have that Plan B ready to go, just like we now can do for Snow Days.
Socializing is important. If it is removed, she will not attend.
I am not in favor of temperature checks or forced vaccination. Hand washing, social distancing and masks,if necessary, along with increased immune boosting with healthy diet, vitamins C and D3 and as normal social interaction as possible, is what I prefer for my child to return to school.
Have you considered giving families the option to choose. For those willing to go back in the traditional sense with some risks can choose that and those not comfortable can select remote learning. That way students, families and educators can make the right decision for them based on their own individual circumstances.
The sanitizing and wearing of masks all day for children are of my biggest concern. I don't want my children to have to wear masks all day and currently its unsafe to not wear them.
N/A
Consideration for older staff with health concerns
I am afraid that only 1/2 of the population in Merrimack schools will comply with guidelines. Of course I don't want my son to catch Covid, *BUT* I also don't want/CAN'T have him bring it home to me. I am a single parent with very little support in the area, so if God forbid my son transmits something to me and I get deathly sick...I am unwilling to take that risk with the way people in this town have been behaving.
Concerns over public spaces, bathrooms, cafeterias, gyms/ locker rooms. safety of athletic teams/ academic teams, travel to other schools (busses)
If my child will have to stay in his classroom all day long, I would consider taking a year off and homeschooling.
What is the plan if students return to school in the fall and there is a rise in cases?
None. However, one factor not addressed of the school community is whether or not the child or immediate family members living at home with the child have underlying health conditions such as cancer (leukemia), seizure disorder, asthma, diabetes. At this moment, we are not planning on having our child return to the school building unless there is safe and effective vaccine available that is mandated for all students and staff to take to attend. My child as well as her father have severe underlying health conditions. We see education as a life long pursuit and if you don't have a life, you cannot pursue it.
Better structure for IEP students and students with anxiety where asking for help is difficult and ultimately negatively impacts their education
Please do not require masks, do not limit class size, and please offer full 5 day a week face to face sessions. Remote learning did not work for our family. The kids felt they did not learn anything and their grades suffered. there were no real time teaching sessions. High school students should not have to learn online all on their own without any teachers actually teaching them.

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My older daughter has an IEP and we struggled with online platform. Biggest factor for her would be better communication with teacher and support staff. For my younger daughter the challenge was use of time. Arts and crafts sent as assignments was discouraging and frankly insulting. Curriculum based and to the point activities clearly defined expectations with bonus material/activities. But to expect a cut and paste picture of a bear to cover world culture just didn't cut it for me.
Concerns over public spaces, bathrooms, cafeteria, gym/ locker rooms, safety for academic/ athletic teams, teams traveling to other schools (busses)
What has the outbreak percentage been in daycare centers? I don't seem to see any data that indicates there is a high risk there, and the precautions they're taking seem to be working. I think if opening is done with the precautions like those taken by these centers, it can be done successfully.
The flexibility to decide for my high risk child what is appropriate or not, and to be able to minimize his risk while allowing for possibly some in-person opportunities. FLEXIBILITY
We live in a multigenerational home also with a baby and I cannot risk the health of the household as a whole.
Teacher education - planning remote curriculum Access to devices
concerns over public spaces, bathrooms, cafeterias, gym/ locker rooms, safety of athletics / academic teams
I do parent pick up at Thornton's ferry and it seems to me that the parking is limited. If fewer children are allowed on the bus, how is that going to affect the Parking situation at Thornton ferry. Also I would like to hear guidance on what pickup and drop offs are going to look like. Right now, tfs crams you into the all purpose room with one door to go out. It's a cluster and you will never social distance in that environment. I propose parent pick up children be allowed to come to the Perking lot and walk to their parents car. Seems like common sense to me
The school needs to implement a way to track all student interactions, such that if a student (or teacher) is diagnosed with Covid, it is possible to trace those interactions and communicate to all students who came into contact with the diagnosed person.
Talk about special needs children, autistic With anxiety social and emotional issues and needs?
Kids are not the main transmitter of this virus, send them back
A spike in COVID-19 cases in countries that have returned their children to school, or evidence that children are becoming infected / transmitting the virus at higher rates than current data shows.
I really do not my child in a mask for the entire day. If that is enforced, I may consider keeping her home.
If classes are remote or hybrid, at the HS level, i feel the students need to follow their class schedule and have 'live' video lessons or zooms to learn new materials at least a few times a week. I did not feel the spring offered new learning and was very difficult for my honors student as it was presented.
Please make sure the school is open.
Will After-school care still be an option?
Having moved from Elementary to Upper Elementary school, student knows no staff. There needs to be some sort of get to know your school and staff before school even starts. Special Education was awful this past spring getting started, we finally got a good schedule. I fear that it will be a disaster, since IEPs and 1:1 aides don't seem to be held accountable during the transition. ESY is a mess already. SO we are not impressed. I can't imagine what the Fall will bring.
I think that Kindergartners and young grade schoolers should receive priority for a full classroom experience. Social interaction and physical interaction is considerably more important than older kids who can do more remote learning.

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If remote learning is implemented in anyway please make the assignments more easily accessible. It was really challenging to navigate the PowerSchool system and very hard to find the assignments and actually be able to get them done and turned in. We ended up just giving up by the middle of April because it was so difficult to navigate.
There doesn't seem to be any consideration for those working parents that need to have their children return to some kind of school at least part time. For working parents of young children we are struggling with balancing the school needs with the work we need to do to support our family.
Eliminate forced remote learning
Is there a way to enforce disclosure if a family member of any student Or staff is diagnosed with Covid, then require quarantine before that student/staff member returns to school? For example, everyone must sign a form daily to indicate no symptoms or contact with anyone with symptoms?
will the students really learn as much at home, as they would be in school? Remote learning seems to be challenging for adults with 2or 3 younger kids.
What will be the guidelines for families who fail to comply with procedures? Do families sign a contract agreeing to the terms to send their children?
use of a "consent to comply with best practices" contract of sorts, to maintain continuity for all families of students, and a willingness to accept best practice standards both for use in the school and at home.
The kids need to return under normal circumstances. As for school transportation my son would only need a bus ride some of the time however his bus barely has any kids on it anyway. I think it is greatly important for no face mask especially as with all the past school shootings. I think it is unsanitary, I also feel that prolonged use can make you feel dizzy, disoriented and give you a headache. I do not feel our numbers in our state warrant this. If you can go out to a restaurant without a facemask then you should be able to go to school without a facemask.
If school does not reopen I will have to look into private school options that are actually holding school classes in person.
Consideration for at home working parents with a child that has a 504 plan. Remote learning took too much time out of my workday. My son has ADD and I had to guide him thru everything.
If the school district decides on a staggered schedule model where students are in the classroom for a few days and home a few days a week, please consider accommodations for special education students that would allow them to attend school for their services (including OT, PT, Speech etc) on their "off" days/times. Allow them to fully participate in with their class and teacher on their scheduled days and build in these services which are completed in a small group setting anyway on alternate days when typical children would be learning from home.
Students need to go back. Parents need to go back to work.
Support for students who need Special education services
None
I have to issues with kids going back today as-is. More kids died from drugs last year then covid overall in 2020. This isn't NYC or Boston. Lets be real and live our lives
Mentally health... my child has no siblings and he NEEDS socialization, interaction. This is the most important factor for me and why he will return to school if its open
face SHIELDS instead of masks for teachers, tissues made readily available for sneezes and coughs, NO MASK requirement for kids under 12.
Keep school the same and let the kids enjoy life

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If there is an online component in the upcoming school year I would really like to see online CLASSES, not just check ins. My kids need instruction and influence from other authorities to be successful. Kids who are introverted or shy about participating are even MORE so on a zoom call, and two of mine all but disappeared by the end of the year. They had no motivation whatsoever because there was little interaction or instruction - just a 'how's it going, got any questions?' We cannot teach three different kids all of their lessons while we're trying to keep our jobs and be parents too. I know everyone did the best they could, but by May we felt like everything was just unraveling.
I feel remote learning was greatly unsatisfactory for my youngest child. I could see it working better for middle school or high school.
My child is currently in daycare, if he can go to daycare and be safe I feel that he can go to school and be safe. as much as I would like him to take the bus I understand that will probably not be able to happen. I would say keep them in their classrooms as much as they can and outside as much as they can. I think the teachers should decide for themselves if they want to wear a mask or not. They need to feel comfortable too. my sons daycare does not wear masks around the kids, only the adults.
Im not concerned at all with the virus it has very little to no affect on children
Special Education Impact, Need for social interaction w/ peers.
I know the teachers were working very hard, but the curriculum was too easy for average to advanced students. I worry that my kids are falling behind where they could be. Please don't dumb down the curriculum for on-line learning. Please allow for leveled learning. Thank you.
Just send them back to school. I would volunteer to help with normalcy but not all the paranoia.
I see value in smaller class sizes or a staggered schedule if needed. However, I would send my children back regardless as I feel the social interaction, in person learning and stability of routine is so important for kids. They learn through interaction with others. I do hope kids/staff aren't forced to wear masks all day or reprimanded for interacting with others. Kids need to be kids.
N/A
None
I see value in smaller class sizes or a staggered schedule if needed. However, I would send my children back regardless as I feel the social interaction, in person learning and stability of routine is so important for kids. They learn through interaction with others. I do hope kids/staff aren't forced to wear masks all day or reprimanded for interacting with others. Kids need to be kids.
Huge concern about the hybrid model and how that will impact families especially those that include educators.
The remote learning was absolutely useless. One of my children went from all A's and B's to a C's. Get nothing from it and you can't make it better no matter what you try to implement.
I do not want my son to do another semester (or two) of remote learning, and his grades not counting for his gpa. Whether the district decides on remote, in school or hybrid, they must find a way to help the kids who do not excel in whichever way they pick but, not punish the kids who do excel.
Overall outlook in the country - is it better/worse than now
If we have to be remote, I believe it is critical that there is classroom instruction by the teacher, feedback from the teacher, and an opportunity for each child to build a relationship with their teacher
None
I want school in the fall no matter what so anything done will be great.
I did not see any questions in regards to sports and band, I'm remaining hopeful it will not get cancelled

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I see value in smaller class sizes or a staggered schedule if needed. However, I would send my children back regardless as I feel the social interaction, in person learning and stability of routine is so important for kids of all ages. They learn through interaction with others. I do hope kids/staff aren't forced to wear masks all day or reprimanded for interacting with others.
There is such an importance for my kids returning, social emotional, educational, structure/routine, financial, and the list goes on. I need my children safe and there may be an expense to the community to achieve that and there will be a "new way" to achieve this, but before anything else they need schooling by trained professionals and structure and socialization. I want pull back during periods of a surge, which I think we will have, but getting them back is critical
None
Process if someone is sick (COVID diagnosis or not) - does the class or school close for 2 weeks? All it takes is one positive case to change the plan so I'm just curious as a working parent what to expect. I can work remotely if necessary but am curious how immediate plans might change.
I dont want them to need masks for the whole time they are in school. We do not want our kids in school with the pandemic going on but know remote learning is not for us and may not have an option of not sending them as we both work out of home.
What rate of active infection we have in the community (if we get an increase or spike in cases) would have school closed.
I dont want them to need masks for the whole time they are in school. We do not want our kids in school with the pandemic going on but know remote learning is not for us and may not have an option of not sending them as we both work out of home.
Until children's health can be guaranteed I'm not comfortable returning to school. We are seeing record cases around the country where things are opening up and children would be nearly impossible to social distance let alone trying to keep masks on them.
None
No large group activities such as performances or lunch in APR
My husband and I both work and daycare centers have lowered the amount of kids they will take one of us will have to quit our jobs if school is not in person putting us in financial distress.
If only online, my preschool daughter likely will not be going to school. It doesn't make sense that preschoolers do online learning, in my opinion.
Please give more thought regarding remote learning and parents working full time. Not all companies are flexible therefore the responsibility to help/teach our child may fall on the other parent, who is still working full time but has some flexibility. And, for those with multiple kids, that could be virtually impossible.
see comments above
My child would go to school but I can't expect them to have social peers taken away or wear a mask all day.
I am in support for my child to return to school.
I feel it more important for the children to be allowed to be children if they return to school than it is for them not to return to school. If you are going to set 1,000 guidelines that keep them from their friends, moving around, remove all social aspects of a day, they shouldn't be going back.
Please do not do remote learning. Children need to be in classrooms learning.
All factors met

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I feel that kids need to be together in school to support their social and emotional growth. I want the students and teachers to be safe, but I also ether students to be able to interact and play together. If they cannot socialize together, then to me, it isn't worth the risk of going. I'm not sure kids would be able to do that if they were always kept 6 feet apart.
I want my student to receive instruction in all content at her grade level. I fear if we do not have full time school my child will only recieve a partial education on select content standards.
If staggered schedule, students in same family on the same schedule
I think for the mental health of a lot of students, schools should be put back in full schedule in the fall at the high school.
I have no options if school doesn't open and I don't go to work I no longer have a job.
In regards to transportation, we can provide transportation if necessary. Please resume on-site learning in the fall. Camps are operating and the social interaction has been amazing for my child.
bus would be tbd depending on safety protocols, might drive them instead
My own job (teacher in neighboring district) will affect my decisions quite a bit. Question #11 I left unanswered; if before/aftercare is unavailable, then he will be bussed in the am, picked up in pm. We haven't heard anything about ALC's program availability yet.
HVAC
I'm truly concerned about the mental health and emotional well being of my children. I believe that they will be negatively impacted by anything less than traditional return to school.
I do not want remote learning at all. This did not work for my child.
I want my child to receive a full and complete education. I fear with remote learning she may not be exposed to all content standards at her grade level. My child is enrolled in primarily honors classes, and during remote learning, she would say she felt like she was teaching herself (like she had experienced with her honors summer work). I would like to see more robust video conferencing that engages students with teachers and other students.
If a vaccine is required I will not send him back
I would rely on schools buses if they are an option, however, we would find a way to make it work if it wasn't. I also believe periodic cleanings throughout the day on key touch points, and a strict screening process for students/faculty is necessary.
For some kids (like my son) with autism, textures can be a problem. I am very concerned about his ability to wear one for an hour, let alone an entire school day and bus ride, every day.
Community wide buy-in on the needs for following strict rules on travel and sanitation until vaccines AND treatments are available
I am also a teacher and worry about being able to manage the logistics of balancing my own schedule/needs and my child's if there are different standards set for k-8 schools and the high school. I worry that if either of us is exposed to the virus, the implications of quarantining those we have come in contact with could ripple out of control. I worry that I am a single parent who cannot afford, emotionally, physically and financially, to get sick and miss work... I just worry.
No large events, no leaving campus without parent notification, somehow better monitoring of bathrooms. A monitor with 1 at a time? I am not sure...
Given how difficult it is to enforce mask use, personal sanitation, and physical distancing with children https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid-19/ashrae-reopening-schools.pdf
We need more time to see what happens in other states.

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<p>I wish I was not limited to only choosing 3 items on questions 3 and 4. My daughter is an only child. I feel being able to socialize with her peers is important, but am concerned about returning to a normal school schedule too soon. While I understand the development of a Covid-19 vaccine is out of the school's control, if a vaccine was created and approved by the government, that the vaccine should be mandatory for children who attend school. While there is no vaccine, I want the school districts plan to exceed CDC guidelines. I feel the universal use of masks, frequent hand washing and sanitization of shared spaces while social distancing is currently our best way of combating this disease. For social development of our children, I think being able to be in class with kids they are already friends with will help with their emotional wellbeing after being separated from their peers since March. With our daughter going into 5th grade, she already knows some children from all 3 elementary schools, and if she is going to be attending school in person in the fall, I would like her to be surrounded by friends, especially if classroom size is reduced for social distancing purposes. I would be happy to furnish a list of children she is friends with to help with the creation of who is in what class. My husband and I work full time, so are not available to volunteer during normal school hours.</p>
<p>Be smart with decisions, do not make decisions based on fear. The military uses the term "Mission accomplishment before troop welfare." This is not to say disregard the health of the children but look at the big picture, make decisions knowing the decision will ripple for many years to come.</p>
<p>I don't see anything that truly reduces the likelihood that bringing large groups of young children together in an enclosed space with the current virus spread will not result in bringing the virus home to our family. We have high risk individuals in the house and I see no chance that you can keep the kids our larger family safe by bringing the kids and teachers back into a physical space together.</p>
<p>I teach at another district and my children's schedule needs to match mine</p>
<p>I am VERY nervous about all of this. I am a teacher in Manchester and if a Hybrid model differs from what Manchester chooses my kids might be home while I might be forced to teach in the classroom. In that scenerio my husband might get approval to work from home, but he wouldn't be much help with their remote learning as he will be on conference calls all day. Then it will be my second job to help them with their remote learning when I get home from school. I hope the superintendents in Hillsborough County talk and come up with a unified plan or many teachers with kids might be forced to quit or take leave of absences (probably unpaid). I think we should just go full Remote until a vaccine. Or has the discripts decided yet how many student or teacher's deaths will be enough?</p> <p>Also, If all schools go back my kids will have no choice to go back. How will it be handled when the BULLIES get in my sons personal space and taunt or infect him? We have had problems with bullying where my son came home bruised (I send pictures) and was choked in gym class. The bullies won't care about social distancing rules and I guarentee these kids come from families who don't believe in science or social distancing. My kids have been social distancing all summer. I can see from Facebook that MANY families arent. Therefore many kids in Merrimack have been trained to think this Pandemic and disease is not a big deal. HOW will you handle the bullies? Will you force parents to sign waivers saying if our child contracts COvid (most liketly from one of these bullies) then we won't sue? I hope not. I will not sign. THis is on behalf of my first child.</p>
<p>Two working parents and we could afford childcare, but see that as being more dangerous and less educational than going back to school. Our kids need to be in a classroom with a teacher and other children. Their social emotional well being is a larger concern than COVID at this time.</p>

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At this point, if we return to the school building, I'm planning to provide transportation for my children to and from school to limit exposure. It is important for me to know that the parent pickup procedures in place this year support social distancing and limit the exposure of students to other adults and children that they may otherwise not interact with during the day.
An effective vaccine and treatments. Anything short of that is frankly recklessly endangering both the kids and their families health in the middle of the active pandemic.
If there was a spike in covid-19 cases in NH/our town, I would be nervous to send my child back.
Whether there is a vaccine and effective treatments available.
COVID 19 is a joke and we need to get back to the old normal not the "new normal"
N/A
My child did not respond well to remote learning and is definitely not where we would expect her to be academically. also, her social emotional needs are much more of a concern than her chances of getting COVID 19 at this time. she needs the structure and interaction with other children. Also, we are two full time working parents. Returning to school seems safer than sending to daycare.
Really really want to send our son in-person five days a week. Remote learning is not effective.
Required face masks
I am VERY nervous about all of this. I am a teacher in Manchester and if a Hybrid model differs from what Manchester chooses my kids might be home while I might be forced to teach in the classroom. In that scenerio my husband might get approval to work from home, but he wouldn't be much help with their remote learning as he will be on conference calls all day. Then it will be my second job to help them with their remote learning when I get home from school. I hope the superintendents in Hillsborough County talk and come up with a unified plan or many teachers with kids might be forced to quit or take leave of absences (probably unpaid). I think we should just go full Remote until a vaccine. Or has the districts decided yet how many student or teacher's deaths will be enough? You will use our kids and teachers as guinea pigs if you open schools in the Fall if Covid is still in the community especially since you closed school with no cases in Merrimack, you shouldn't open schools with ANY cases in town or in surrounding towns.
Also, If all schools go back my kids will have no choice to go back. How will it be handled when the BULLIES get in my sons personal space and taunt or infect him? We have had problems with bullying where my son came home bruised (I sent pictures) and was choked in gym class. The bullies won't care about social distancing rules and I guarantee these kids come from families who don't believe in science or social distancing. My kids have been social distancing all summer. I can see from Facebook that MANY families aren't. Therefore many kids in Merrimack have been trained to think this Pandemic and disease is not a big deal. HOW will you handle the bullies? Will you force parents to sign waivers saying if our child contracts Covid (most likely from one of these families) then we won't sue? I hope not. I will not sign. If you open schools you are agreeing to liability issues. This is on behalf of my Second child.
If remote learning, my son will be a senior and I fear he will not thrive. He suffered a lot grade wise with remote learning.
Nothing that would influence the decision regarding returning to school.
Kids emotional and social well-being was hit hard when the pandemic started. It doesn't seem like that factor is being considered with sending the kids back to school. Remote learning sessions with counselors etc so kids can talk about it will not work for most teens in the HS. They need human interaction with their peers
Access to services for IEP

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no more "remote schooling" please
For me the smaller the group and in-person would be ideal. Could the district lease additional office space nearby? Lobby for more funds from the state/fed to set up small group classrooms in near vacant office buildings. I.e. Fidelity's site on Contra/Industrial Drive, NCC, or other local vacant sites.
the ability to work with the schoil district and allow for some sort of distance learning, whether it be outdoor lessons or small group meetings in order to maintain a community and social relationships between students, but also allow for a homeschooling model that does not focus on qll technology
I have 4 children in 3 schools this fall (I only mentioned my oldest in the survey). I honestly would prefer my children to NOT return to school in the fall (you can always regain education but cannot always regain health). But, a homeschooling curriculum is not for my family. My oldest in MMS will be switching classes a lot. This concerns me. My youngest is 3 receiving services. Very young. This concerns me. If a child has a headcold will thy have to stay home? Will they have to get a negative Covid test to return to school? If a member of my household (for example) becomes Covid positive (say it's me, their mother), would all 4 of my children then also have to quarantine as contacts as well as their whole schools? Every district across the nation is getting ready to jump out of a plane with the unknown of if their parachute will work or not. Will unified arts be temporarily cut to focus more on core learning in school?
Will tardiness be lenient if my kids are lay from me driving 4 of them to three schools?
I want our children to have the best education possible. Simply put they need in person education.
My children, especially my younger two, didn't get much out of remote learning.
NA
Working family and inability to have staggered or alternative schedules.
None -the schools need to reopen
I would like to send my child back when there is some sort of socialization. I do not think he will do well or others will do so well with a mask on all day.
I won't sugarcoat it - remote learning for elementary students shouldn't even be on the table. I saw firsthand what a failure it was, from an educational and social-emotional perspective, and I dread exposing him to that again on a daily basis come September. My son hated it, we hated it as parents, and it was pretty clear his teacher hated it as well. I would honestly rather see school closed and have to be made up then pretending that remote learning for kids his age is at all productive or a worthwhile use of anyone's time. It's appalling that throughout this pandemic we've been permitted to go to liquor stores in person to purchase alcohol (essential service, according to state government), but our children can not go to school in person to learn? Our kids' education might just be the most essential service of all for society at large. Older students, perhaps 13 or 14 and up, might have the capacity to wing it for a term or two online, but we can't pretend our youngest kids are being served well with an online model. My child at most had two Zoom meetings a week, and almost all of those were large groups with almost no 1:1 interaction, never mind 1:1 instruction. He would routinely finish all the work he had assigned to him for the day by 9 AM. You read that correctly - he would rarely need more than 90 to 120 minutes to complete all his assignments, which was really just checking off boxes for him as quickly as he could because - again - this whole experience of remote learning as an elementary school student is PAINFUL. It was something to get through as quickly as possible because he found no joy in it, nothing that made him want to do anything more than the bare minimum, which turned out to be extraordinarily bare given the hour or two of work per day. PLEASE find a way to have kids return to school in person this fall. Please.

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Children must be screened before entering the school
The fact is the study I saw on the news is that remote learning did not work as a whole. Parents like us can not afford to pay for daycares (which all have less availability due to class sizes - last year ours told us to keep paying but we could not send our kids because they only allowed 10 kids per room) and we can not leave work because we are both essential government and medical professionals. The fact is we don't have an option to just keep finding a way to homeschool. This spring was a disaster and we just need the school to open. Financial compensation by the school or some other form of daycare needs to be made if school is to remain closed and remote learning continues.
Whether my child will have access to PT, OT, and speech services remotely.
Supervised frequent hand washing hand sanitizers enforced
Just want to thank everyone working for the school district for all their hard work and continuing to help students get lunches. My sons don't need that service but it makes us all feel really good that so many people have worked so hard to make that happen for the kids in the community in need. No children should go hungry. THANK YOU for all you do and are trying to do to help meet the kids' learning/social, etc. needs.
Na
I would prefer my child return to traditional school safely in the fall. If remote learning is the only option, I would like to see a drastic change in the remote learning process, to meet a standard school curriculum as best as possible. My child learned almost nothing March-June 2020.
Let's get Back to School
Na
Why are you not worried about the mental health of your students? Kids have lost so much and I am worried about kids who are not interacting with classmates.
Why is there protective plexiglass only for the staff? If this is important to limit person to person contact there should also be dividers for each student to limit contact as it's implied importance was in the description for school staff, still students have a significant potential for community spread and there isn't much that seems to be limiting this possibility.
Nothing
It is not enough to avoid kids get sick .
Why take the chances of spreading when online schooling was the best think to prevent the spread. Safety do not take a vacation. So if it means schooling at home so that needs to be done. Because you can't bring a life back if the end result is death in worse scenario.
Nothing
My biggest concern is that forcing kids into school with strict social distancing and so many restrictions on their movement may be even more harmful emotionally than being at home. They're already used to being home. How many drastic changes do we force on them in such a short time frame? But at the same time, my children did not thrive academically with remote learning. Schedules were too cumbersome. Assignments were spread out over so many systems that even I couldn't keep up with it. Processes MUST be simplified. In order for my children to succeed with remote learning like it was in the spring, I would have to quit my job and I absolutely cannot do that.
Almost no actual learning occurred while participating in remote learning. The additional stress caused by the isolation was unhealthy.

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My child is more likely to return to School if you do NOT require face masks. There is no proof that kids are at risk or that they actually spread without symptoms. Let them be kids and don't terrify them with arbitrary rules.
I'm a Registered Nurse. Willing to help in any way possible. I want the kids to go back to normalcy.
None
In the event pandemic numbers rise in NH, will the district be immediately prepared to change the plan?
As a teacher in another district , I am concerned that with a staggered or hybrid model aligning both our schedules so I can help my child as well as work.
I will volunteer in any way possible. I am a Registered Nurse and would be happy to work with the school nurse as a double duty helper.
My daughter is autoimmune, I don't think the school can keep her safe and by no fault of theirs my fear is no Programs to financially support us
We have autoimmune issues in our home I don't believe it could be safe for us.
I don't want to send him back if he will HAVE to wear a mask for so long each day and can't play outside during recess or have lunch with his friends.
If the school can figure out how to get the classroom teacher to engage with/ teach the students every day or at least every other other day, remote learning will work for our family. By Zoom or Google Classroom , maybe? Even recorded lessons on a daily basis would help to refer to.
Given the trajectory we see in the country now especially among the college age students and the lack of concern I feel it won't be much different with high school students. It will be difficult to keep our children protected in a school environment with the notion that "it won't happen to me" seems to be the thought process.
The teachers need support - they are working so hard there is no way they can be responsible for all this in the fall
Not having their attendance recorded counted against them if the parents feel more comfortable keeping their child home during cold/flu season.
Positive COVID-19 case action plan
I have all the faith Merrimack schools will succeed in returning to school! Merrimack schools are the best!
Not having their attendance record counted against them if their parents prefer to keep their child home during cold/flu season.
What the response to a suspected or positive COVID case within the school would be (Or increase in COVID cases/spread in NH occurs following school opening)?
How will we provide services to kids with IEPs? In the spring it was just do the work, no classes. That doesn't work for kids with learning challenges.
Covid transmission rates remain relatively steady, or decrease, as they are now, and hopefully there isn't another spike as seen in Texas and Florida
I feel that a hybrid model is not the ideal format that it is presented to be, whether it is for academic or social-emotional learning. On a personal level, it means that my 3 children (ages 9, 10, 12) are home for extended periods of time while I am at work every day day teaching in a school building. I'd rather see a normal return to school with somewhat reduced class sizes if at all possible. As a long-time teacher, I absolutely do not think "school" is synonymous with "free childcare," but I also do not see how families with elementary school aged children can find ANY kind of childcare, let alone affordable childcare while parents are at work.

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My child has special needs and her behavior is extremely immature for her age. I cannot see a way that she can reliably adhere to masking or social distancing rules, never mind staying sanitary enough not to be a hazard to herself, her para-educator, classmates, teachers or staff while covid is in our communities. She relies heavily on consistency, too, so going in and out of a school due to outbreaks would not only be dangerous, but it would be significantly more disruptive to her learning than setting a reliable remote system would be.
How often will bathrooms be cleaned and student use managed. Will all students have a certified teacher as their educator (not a teachers aid or teacher with one year certification).
Please do the best you can to have students return to school as normally as possible.
Returning to interior spaces in groups is inherently risky, especially considering how distractable and impulsive kids are. I am concerned that not only will this result in contagion, posing a danger to kind, staff, and families, but that it will also force us to disrupt learning again to switch back to remote learning once infections have occurred.
The configuration of the classrooms is in issue. Theree needs to be less open air. Dividers between socially distanced students are needed.
Has the HVAC been updated in very school to prevent spread through the vents?
Better ventilation in schools, school bus sanitation practices
Mask policy for students, increased bus sanitation
the mental and we emotional state of the high school students during isolation was not in their best interests. They should definitely go back to school in the fall.
If there is a safe & effective treatment available
Mandatory 2 week quarantine at home for students or staff who live with someone who tests positive for COVID.
An increase or outbreak in covid cases would force remote learning only as an option.
The prevalence of cases in this area of the country in the fall.
None
the only reason I won't volunteer for #13 is because I have a 2 year old at homeland do not have daycare, otherwise I would.
I hope that there is a remote option. I have two young children, one who is high risk, the other who recieves services. While it's hard not to have face to face services for my youngest, I can't risk sending her to school while the other is high risk.
I want less restrictions anxiety provoking measures
With the hybrid model, how does one handle off days when working outside of he home? How does the hyrbrid model Minimize risk? I don't think I or the medical community feel that is a good option?

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<p>As noted in the American Academy of Pediatrics interim guidance on school reentry (https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/06/26/schoolreopening062620), children suffer when deprived of the social-emotional and education resources provided by school. Unfortunately many children are at increased risk of physical, psychological, or sexual abuses during these difficult times, and many also depend on school for nutritional support.</p> <p>Additionally, our society is ill-structured to support extended sheltering of children at home. In our society the vast majority of households have both parents working outside the home ore are supported by a single working parent. The basic social unit is the nuclear family and few have access to friends or family who can assist with childcare. To keep children at home would require a fundamental social overhaul that is unlikely in the modern political climate.</p> <p>Finally, the best epidemiological information we have suggests that it may not be a worthwhile endeavor to keep children at home; they do not appear to be important vectors of transmission of SARS-CoV-2.</p> <p>As a postscript, my wife and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible work that all of the Merrimack School District has done to ensure some degree of stability and continuity during this unprecedented time.</p>
<p>My children need traditional school. Remote learning is not going well. I am not a teacher, even if I was they don't listen. They need the social stimulation, peer interactions and adult interactions. It was ok for 3 months, but I feel extended time out of school will have a detrimental effect on their education.</p>
<p>My children need traditional school. Remote learning is not going well. I am not a teacher, even if I was they don't listen. They need the social stimulation, peer interactions and adult interactions. It was ok for 3 months, but I feel extended time out of school will have a detrimental effect on their education.</p>
<p>I don't see any possibility of returning full time in-person this fall. I desperately want my kids to have some some face to face time with their teacher to augment remote learning - 1 or 2 days a week would work.</p>
<p>Please return to regular school in the fall with provided hand sanitizer and face coverings if needed.</p>
<p>More structure for assignments: teacher involvement, loose deadlines. And most importantly, all teachers accepting work in the same manner ie PowerSchool, email, pdf...</p>
<p>We will not be ok with a full week schedule - there is no way to keep kids reasonably segregated with a full school.</p>
<p>Increased nursing staff to assist in the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and the increased demand this may cause on students/staff being seen by healthcare staff</p>
<p>I'm worried that I might not agree with the procedures decided on in the fall or that it might be intimidating for young kids. If I feel uncomfortable about the new processes that make it possible to attend school again, I might explore other options (which would disappoint me because I love the Merrimack school district).</p>
<p>Na</p>
<p>Some colleges are requiring students to agree to guidelines that the school has set. Could you get high school students to "buy in" to the philosophy & guidelines of wearing masks, social distancing, etc,.? How would you hold students accountable if they don't abide by the guidelines?</p>
<p>An outbreak = bad</p>

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How do we keep the staff as well as the children safe. Yes kids are lower risk, but adults are not and with the a asymptomatic what about kids getting teachers sick, or other kids family members. There's so many variables and unknowns.it had to be safe and smart for everyone.
Remote Learning options. My child suffered from considerably less anxiety not having to deal with traditional school schedules and school politics. We do not want his learning to suffer having to deal with the negative aspects that arise in a large school with other students and staff who do not always recognize individual student educational needs and plans.
I am wondering how recess and lunch will look like. I am just sharing some information that I got from different country. In Singapore, students are back to school full time with wearing masks. During lunch and recess, the students are required to use face shields. I think it's a good idea that face covering is used the whole time.
The recess and lunch set up
If school is such an environment of strictness and health fear and limits traditional benefits of in person Learning, social interaction and stimulation then I am concerned that would be negative for my children and others. Home would be best if the school setting is like that, reasonable measures for sanitation, hygiene and less crowding is what I am hoping for.
The grade of students should be taken into consideration for how things move forward; they are not all one size fits all. While I understand everyone is important and all the challenges of doing for one and not another....but our entering Seniors need to be assured they get significantly more support than say elementary students...there's got to be a way to prioritize our students
Wear masks in halls in between classes, masks off with social distancing in class. Social interaction amongst students is crucial, while following accepted safety recommendations.
N/a
Would prefer masks in halls while students move from class to class. Masks off in class with social distancing enforced. Social interaction is crucial while maintaining social distance.
I will not send them if masks are mandated
Remote learning if cases increase rapidly
I want my child to feel safe yet have interaction. If it's too sterile where emotional active time is not allowed that concerns me.
Depending how strict the school is with vaccines, masks etc. If a Covid vaccine becomes available and it's required, my child will not return.
Space out cubbies so kids dont have to be so close with their belongings
No face coverings. My child will not return if that is in place as it causes him great anxiety. Plenty of social distancing, washing of hands and non sharing of school items including food.
If things get worse instead of better
No face coverings
A vaccine needs to be available for my children to return to school.
My son needs to physically attend school in some form and we are in favor of a hybrid model.
I am STRONGLY in favor of a hybrid model. My son struggled with the social isolation that remote learning created.
Will the students be expected to stay in one room all day? I am pro for going back to school in a safe manner, however I do not think it will be the best environment on a social emotional level if children are expected to stay in one room all day, sitting in desks 6ft apart with minimal interaction with peers.
Peridoic covid testing for all staff

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Not sure
Will the students be required to stay in one room all day on desks 6ft apart? This will hinder social emotional development.
I support whatever the district chooses, but remote learning needs to be revamped to consider the needs of working parents of that is part of the plan. We cannot be asked to teach and play tech support for our kids when we're trying to earn a living simultaneously. Paper assignments, or live virtual teaching are two suggestions I have to make it easier on working parents.
We are very in favor for our three children to return to school but very concerned about wearing a mask for such a long period of time. My children would not do well with that any and all safety measures besides that they are already doing.
For social emotional development will students be able to change classrooms or will they be quarantined to meet room?
NA
If the teachers will only be handing out assignments without holding classes (Aka "teaching", whether in the building or remotely as a class, i will remove my kids from school and implement a true homeschool curriculum.
Being forced to wear a mask
I feel very strongly that schools should open in the fall, and that remote learning is far more detrimental to young children than COVID. Any families who prefer to have their children learn remotely should be empowered to do so, but I believe that schools should be open to accommodate those families who want/need their children to attend. Thank you.
I would love the kids to return to school full time
My child will return based on whatever safeguards the school district has in place
I'm very concerned about the increased number of positive cases being reported throughout our country on a daily basis do to reopening too soon
As long as NH can keep the COVID numbers down, we would be comfortable sending our child to school
Although my son needs interaction with peers and teachers I'm scared quite frankly. I would want him to get some form of social interaction and in person lessons but with MUCH smaller class sizes, hand washing, temp checks and masks. And any remote learning should include video lessons by the teacher of new concepts followed by a lesson for the student to complete at his pace and open office time in case my son needs help from the teacher one on one like they do when they're in school. I worry about the bus - I would want half capacity on the bus so the kids can space out.
Children need social and Emotional experiences and connections. Face coverings prevent that connection.
Stations in one classroom for each student. Essentially making their desks the safe spot. No sharing of any supplies or sanitizer all supplies must be their own. No changing classes and essentially art supplies, music supplies and computers. Holding parent's accountable for sending sick children in to school, it can't happen with the current situation. Pre Covid my son was constantly sick for the past three years we have struggled to keep him healthy. I don't believe the system in place was working. No hand washing before eating lunch is unacceptable but it's what was happening. No hand washing supervision was happening during bathroom times for the younger children. Sharing tables with kids that are obviously sick.
I would like to see more about what the protocol would be if someone in the school tests positive for COVID-19. Would it be a full shutdown of the entire school for a certain amount of time? Would it be that the specific classroom would be out of school for a period of time? I would like to know what the

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procedure would be in that situation. Knowing that there is a plan and what it is would be a factor in deciding if my daughter should return to in-person classes.
There is nothing preventing me from sending them back to school in the fall.
Question 9 has no option for returning to school without restrictions. Teachers can't be expected to teach with masks on. Kids shouldn't have to wear them. Children and teens are at very little risk.
Teachers actually teaching lessons for more than 2 hours per week. Packets to hand in so not everything has to be done electronically.
My child struggled with remote learning in math where he has an IEP. Also, the amount of homework was staggering
Children need to be with peers for social emotional learning. They need to be able to interact with adults and children for proper social development. I have a straight A student who found remote learning meaningless and was not engaged in learning. My child also was very depressed and lonely as she is a three season athlete Who was not able to participate in her usual extra curricular activities. I am also a teacher and educator who struggled to teach online all day to my students while trying to motivate my A student to complete work. I 100% promote returning to school full time in the fall.
Reiterating concern for any remote learning. Teachers need education on how to create successful online curriculums AND need to hold themselves to the same strict standards they hold students
Statewide increase in positive cases would make me less likely to want my child to return to school.
We are raising a grandson in elementary school and a typical March thru May consists of our grandson sharing colds etc. during the remote schooling we all remained healthy leading us to believe in that age range the schools tend to be more like a Petrie dish. The concepts of hand washing at home is constantly a challenge and unfortunately most children are most likely to think a return to school means back to normal kids that have not been around friends are going to need constant reminding about contact etc. unlike remote schooling where they are very much aware that there is something going on. I would like to see kids return to school when there is less pressure on teachers,staff and students. Lastly it is easier for kids doing the remote learning to accept that they aren't able to play with their friends. Once they return to school it is going to be harder on the kids because they are physically near their friends who they already miss a lot. The ages of students is a factor too maybe older kids 7th grade and up might have an easier time transitioning.
PLEXIGLASS ON DESKS IS A GOOD IDEA USED IN OTHER COUNTRIES
Strong consideration for dual working families In regards to full remote learning or even a hybrid. Many families have both parents who are working outside the home and that number will continue to grow.
of cases on the rise in the months of Sept., Oct., Nov. # of cases of the flu also monitored
Safe places for kids with asthma to take a breather without a mask. Maybe the one stale bathroom in the nurse's office.
If there isn't a way for all students to return to school, I would love to see a way for the Seniors to return. This is their last year and they really need the grades to count. Many students, including my own are taking honors and AP classes which tend to be smaller class sizes and benefit from in person learning. That said, the teachers did a fantastic job in the spring with remote learning
Re: bus question above - I will ONLY allow him to ride the bus if masks are required and enforced. Otherwise we will probably find some families to carpool with.
n/a

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Temp checks at the bus stop, and at drop off. A parent must accompany child to either. If fever, they are sent home. That reduces the risk to a point we are comfortable with. Parents can make their own family decisions. Remote learning should be optional, in school should be the base line.
Parents should be required to stay with child until released to school. Temp checks before getting on bus or before entering school. That reduces the risk significantly.
Educating kids on personal responsibility How to build healthy relationships Educating teachers on more technology related apps/learning tools, to help with remote learning plans.
If there is remote learning the children need to have a structured schedule. All virtual calls should be mandatory. They should take virtual attendance and have a structured day.
NH's overall COVID numbers/trends. Parent work responsibilities/expectations.
A hybrid remote/in class model and what that model would look like.
The children need to go back to traditional school. It is very important for their social and mental development and well being.
I ask that the children not be yelled at while learning these new rules especially in the cafeteria. My son and many others have been screamed at first week of 5th grade because he didn't know what "Tray Up" meant. I had spoken to school, but I know there have been many other instances of being shouted at in front of their peers for just not knowing a process and that is a big concern during these new rules that ALL staff speak to the kids with respect as they navigate this new way of life.
I felt that the varied use, and approaches to online/remote teaching where a major issue this past spring. Recognizing that a lot changed in a very short period of time I do not fault the teachers as a whole. however, there were varied uses of technology depending on the teacher/class and different requirements of the students using the various platforms. Furthermore, in my opinion, once the students and teachers were finally getting use to the system as a whole, the school district opted for ending the school year a month earlier than in past years. This was a major limitation in my opinion, as our children were finally getting used to how to engage, complete work, and performing actually learning, and then the school year was shut down a few weeks later.
Furthermore, there seemed to be an expectation that young children would grasp online education more adeptly than I observed in our home. Online education is a primary delivery method for adult/young adult education, however, until this year, there was never an expectation that adolescents would receive education online, in this district on in the country as a whole. The available literature that exists surrounding online education primarily focuses on adult education, or at a minimum post-K-12 education. This is mainly because the primary grade students have not yet fully learned how to learn, what is important, how to study, etc. To foist an entirely new learning method on a student population who is wholly unprepared to independently learn in the midst of a complete change in their lives to the extent that we saw beginning in March was an untenable situation.
In addition to the information above, which I strongly believe must include mandatory face coverings, temperature checks, and handwashing, there must be a consistent approach to education, online and in-class. There is a way to balance this but the varied ways in which teachers used the online system and the inconsistencies from the spring created vast inequities, and that combined with the shortened school year, created a huge disadvantage to our students and children. There must also be a period of re-teaching or transition back to the end of year curriculum, as I can state our

students/children learned only a small portion of the information presented during the end of the school year online.

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NO masks worn by students please.
My family has no other option besides in person school. We work full time, our kids are too young to stay home alone and there aren't enough openings at local daycares available for them to get to go there.
Pediatricians recommend students returning. I would like my student to return. We are involved parents and have made the best of the situation. Our student knows of friends that have failed 7th grade due to Covid 19. We cannot fail out students by continuing remote learning. The emotional well being of the districts students are in jeopardy if we continue to do remote learning. The same families that want to wait for a vaccine don't even vaccinate their kids annually with the influenza vaccine. It is unrealistic to think a survey is going to make anyone happy. We appreciate what you are trying to do but please send our students back.
Ensure bus drivers and adult school staff in schools are properly educated as to hand washing, face mask use and sick policy if/when an adult becomes sick.
Would it be possible for older students to wipe desks with a Clorox or similar wipe when entering a new classroom or for teachers to do a quick wipe of the desks between classes?
Data from WHO and CDC have not seen any increase in transmission or cases in those countries where children returned to school. This decision should be data driven not fear driven. Hire a consultant / medical professional to educate yourselves and your staff about risks which are generally low based on other countries experience. Also, place camera's in each classroom and Livestream classes for those students who are immunocompromised or who do not plan to return to class. I suspect based on current situation that you will see 20% fewer students in school which will help with social distancing
Resume in school as business as usual with common sense practices in place!
The risk/benefit of a hybrid model does not work for my family and it is not just because I can't afford child care as was suggested in this survey. The implication that I have to send my child to school because I work and can't afford it is insulting. I do work and my children do not have a day care that they go to as they are normally in school. The day care system will be overwhelmed and not able to support the magnitude of children they would have to absorb. Will these day cares be able to continue with the remote learning on the "remote learning days"? The transitions that children would have to go through in this type of model would be more detrimental and not allow for productive learning and social emotional support. A hybrid model will also increase children "mixing" in the community and then have the potential to bring more infections back to school.
None
Flu shots should also be mandatory, please see MA school guidelines that give some additional information.
I would really like to find a way for a return to in person learning. Remote learning is not a replacement long term.
N/A
N/A
Masks mandatory for students
We would like antibody testing with enforced quarantine of 2 weeks for anyone with covid. We think social distancing and face masks are unrealistic for students. We think hybrid remote learning with some in school learning is most realistic.
As I've indicated on a previous string of emails, course quality assurance and checkpoints, as well as bare minimum guidelines for developing online components should be in place to ensure a consistent, meaningful and experiential learning experience.

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It's my understanding that the school should be able to support some form of remote learning option for families unable to risk current health conditions for any student wishing to return to their next year of school within the district. Ours would be interested in that option and feel we would not be able to send our three children (youngest going into first) into school buildings at this time until the country has things more under control and a vaccine has been approved and is in circulation.
Our child with social/emotional issues did not do well with remote learning. The District made every reasonable effort to support his needs remotely however he did not respond well to the lack of human contact.
I think that mandatory and regular COVID testing for any live learning staff/teachers and students would significantly increase my comfort with traditional schooling, as well as help reduce community spread. Testing is free and widely available in this area at this time, and would assist with tracking and prevention until a vaccine can be developed.
I do not want my child to feel like she is in prison. I want her to build social skills as well as learn so I don't feel comfortable putting her in an environment that she can't be a child.
Mandatory COVID-19 testing on a regular basis for any persons re-entering the live learning environment. I believe this will help with community transmission, tracking, and limiting exposure. Testing is widely available and free. I think we should consider implementing this until a vaccine can be developed. As a future consideration, I think we should also consider that when/if a vaccine is developed and available, what will the school's response be to those families/students who refuse vaccination against the virus.
Experience in local youth groups and organizations shows that masks and social distancing are not practical or consistently enforceable for students. Testing and keeping those who are sick out of the school is the only practical mitigation that can or should be applied to the students. Keeping the school extra clean will help limit spread if an infected person does make it into the school.
n/a
The remote learning process was not conducive for educational purposes as instruction was not provided as well as it needed to be and students were left to their own devices. Students need more direct instruction and supervision to make sure their work gets done and turned in. Mandatory virtual teaching needs to happen.
It's understandable to me that some parents need their kids to wear masks, I however STRONGLY feel it unsafe and unhealthy for mine to do so. Playing outside (recess) is a positive for boosting our children's immune systems and will be detrimental if taken away. So, if parents want their kids in masks fine, if not ok too.
I do not feel the kids should wear a mask all day.
enhanced cleaning of busses
Aggressive, frequent testing of students is going to be necessary to maintain the low prevalence rate - schools can implement pool testing while the incidence rate is low and doing mandatory testing in-school assures good compliance. This will help the school and the community track any increase in prevalence and would dictate when/how we need to change our approach. Also, going to a staggered schedule (i.e. 1/2 the population is in the building on a 2-week stagger, Mo-Tu-We-Th-Fr...Mo-Tu-We-Th...home 2 weeks...repeat) will help reduce the congestion in school, allow for 1/2-time in-person attendance, and if done on a per-class basis, doesn't increase the workload for teachers. This could effectively isolate half the school from the other half (teachers and students would stagger). Any illness that can't be contained would be dealt with by skipping the in-school session and going fully remote for two weeks before resuming. Some weekend options should also be considered to reduce crowding (i.e. Saturday school, maybe just for special classes).

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Aggressive, frequent testing of students is going to be necessary to maintain the low prevalence rate - schools can implement pool testing while the incidence rate is low.
Also, many parents might forego the school bus, especially if they live close to the school - that question wasn't on this form, but should be asked. We could do neighborhood car-pools to avoid the bus if necessary, particularly for drop off, but probably also at dismissal.
Cafeteria & gym alternatives. Eating at desk opposed to cafeteria. More time outside when weather permits.
Masks must be mandatory for all who enter the school
If social distancing to the point that the kids can not play on the playground with their friends or have specials then I suppose remote learning will have to continue. I fear the effect of being with your friends but not being able to play with them is far worse than just remote learning.
Not forcing students to wear masks and increasing time outside instead of cooped up indoors to reduce exposure and increase immune system
Unfortunately my family has to return to work. If there is no public school in the fall my child will still have to go to a childcare, therefore still exposing my child to covid 19. I feel this is the case with many other families. I'm not sure what the best solution is. Families are having to choose between working or taking care of their children. There seems to be no middle ground.
The administration seemed to be smart about everything when remote learning was implemented. I was surprised when they caved to pressure to hold graduation and we saw how that ended up. I think I'd have to see a longer track record of making decisions focused on health and education, not experiences. Maybe if there were online experiences that were more rewarding, there wouldn't be such an uproar to hold in-person events.
Full online classes where children finish assignments during the online session
Do not socially distance elementary school children.
The overall mental well being of these students is what is most important. This age group of people are barely impacted by this outbreak, but have been severely impacted by the emotional and mental strain (as have families). We need to look beyond what is only in front of us and look at the long term effects of going to remote learning.
I feel an important factor for returning students is having specific staff/paraprofessionals who are solely responsible for temping students at least 3 times a day in every classroom. And then there needs to be an efficient and swift way to report the findings; so that the students who are temping high may be removed as soon as possible to quarantine area/specific for only those students waiting to be returned home.
Regular meetings to discuss how students and staff and teachers can best support one another. Like support groups because each student and student families have been affected in different ways; some more serious than others and it's very important for everyone to gain insight into this virus and its' effects on everyone.
Remote learning was not easy on parents or students, especially math. Not all teachers taught well, they were not helpful, and really just math was not done well to benefit the students.
I do not want my children wearing masks all day.
None at this time
None at this time
None at this time
None

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I think the school should test and temp check all staff and students and not let anyone in the building unless absolutely necessary (including parents).
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social tracking software on faculty and staff 2. No distancing or face masks for younger school children
There can be no plan until the needs of working parents are addressed. It is not sustainable to expect our businesses to continue to shoulder the burden of accommodations of their employees of school aged children. Even parents with the fortune to work from home are doing their employer and child a disservice to try to work/teach in a distracted environment. Consider every single plan from the point of view of a teacher with school aged children. If a plan does not work for them then it will not work for most of us.
Re: Q13. My husband and I both work full time and it will be difficult to volunteer
None
I do not want the kids to wear masks all day long and I do not want them to be restricted from specials and recess.
N/A
<p>Morning and After School Program is very important for many parents returning to school.</p> <p>Training for teachers to teach remotely.</p> <p>Specials and lunch are extremely important for students well being.</p>
Temperature checks should be done by the school. NOT on the honor system with parents. I am a teacher in another district. Parents don't sign field trip forms or report cards and/or they already send their children into school sick pumped up with Advil to get them through some of the day. Many aren't reliable for an important responsibility like this.
2nd wave of increased COVID cases in NH.
I'd hope if instruction is fully or partially remote again, that there will be more of a focus on deadlines and covering as much of the curriculum as possible. I don't need a light touch anymore; I need for my child to not miss out on a year of instruction .
We should be requiring masks/face covers for everyone until there is a vaccine at which point the vaccine should be mandatory.
Contract tracing, increased covid-19 testing, ability to move to a hybrid model for a couple of weeks if a risk is present.
My concern is based on enforcement of whatever policies the school district decides to put in place. Knowing that there are those who believe their civil liberties are being violated by being required to wear a mask, etc, I am concerned that some families will choose not to follow the policies and therefore expose the rest of the school community to the potential of disease transmission. Have families sign a statement that they will follow policies or they are invited to not participate in the return to school.
<p>To ensure there is an immediate notification put in place and backup plan if an outbreak of COVID-19 were to occur in the school to which it happened.</p> <p>Another factor would be to sanitize and clean the interior of the bus either before or after transportation is to take place, along with hand sanitizer available and mandated to be used before entering the bus by students</p>

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Social/emotional well being of the child is very important, as is finding a schedule that will work for the majority of the parents. If we go to a hybrid model, what will that look like for the working parent? What will it look like for the student on the days that he or she is not in the classroom? What will it look like for teachers?
The fact that airborne transmission of the virus is the most likely cause is not addressed. The more people in an enclosed space and the longer the duration of that enclosure, the higher the risk of transmission. Masks help for casual encounters, not prolonged ones!!
.
It looks like you have all options that I think are available at this time .
Remote learning can never provide the same learning and social experiences that students receive with face to face classroom instruction. I feel my child needs to return to the classroom in some capacity, while taking necessary safety measures and precautions.
What options would be available if children return to the school campus in some capacity in the fall and cases rise in our community, and there is community spread. Would remote learning be implemented under those circumstances?
My son cannot focus at home doing work. It would be better and more effective for him to continue coursework in class with a teacher or teacher aid.
State infection rate numbers need to be consistently dropping for weeks prior to reopening school buildings since younger people can be asymptomatic and can spread it to each other and older adults. THIS needs to be a major consideration as far as whether or not to reopen schools.
Testing for covid prior to returning
Consistency throughout the district on the procedures put in place.
Consistency throughout the district with procedures.
Pulse surveys on teachers for remote learning. Some need feedback and to improve, others were exceptional.
Already answered
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
If there are too many rules and guidelines Im considering having them not return
If there are too many rules and guidelines I am considering not having my children return in the fall
The spring remote learning was not successful. Kids cheated, you know it because you did not count their grades into the GPA. There was a complete lack of schedule. Other towns held classes on a live schedule. Merrimack emailed assignments to be done whenever. Giving Tuesday off and then counting hrs attended to meet days in school was ridiculous. Bring the kids back to school so they can receive a better education with social development with their friends.
Right now we (NH) seem to be in a decline of infection rates. If this changes and increases occur toward the school year this would change my thought on sending my child back to the physical school and perhaps lean more toward home based learning
Per day cases will need to be voing down not up. If up no matter what precautions are made I wouldnt want my child inside the school building.
I do not think that the children should have to wear face coverings. Camps and sports have opened fine.
It also depends on how things are in NH in regards to whether Covid infections are rising. Also having the option of returning to remote learning if needed.

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keeping in accordance of cdc GUIDELINES but make adjustments per school to what fits the needs of staff and students
I feel cafeteria should be closed. Wating in classroom brown bagged from home. If home cannot... lunch from cafeteria made sandwiches etc..
None - we just want our kids to get a real education by being in school; remote learning was a useless waste of time for both of my children during the winter/spring and both us parents work
I would like to see students return to traditional school In building, while other options be made available to students who cannot return due to being at high risk. Webcams set up in classrooms and life streamed to any remote learning students would help make sure the in person instruction and the remote instruction are performed in tandem in a manner that works for all students to participate.
none - we just want them to return to school
Remote learning should use a few standard platforms/websites for lesson information and submission. As teachers tried different platforms/websites for work it became confusing tracking where the work came from and where to submit the assignment to the teacher.
In response to question #11- we would limit our children's time On bus as much as were able. My husband and I both work full time and also don't know what in person work will look like for us in fall.
No restrictions
We have to pay for MEEP and if we have to rely on remote learning then I would not be interested in continuing. I can't see how any preschooler can benefit from remote learning
Directing those who want remote learning to VLACS....why is remote learning even on the table for a brick and mortar school? Our concern should be getting back to an environment where the children can stop being afraid and focus on their education and social skills.
directing the families who want remote or still fear normal interaction to schools like VLACS who are already equipped to manage this educational style.
Not going to 100% remote learning as it won't work for working families.
Testing monthly for kids and staff Same classroom sizes but broken into groups of 6 per table, reconfigure and reduce unneeded items inside the classroom or accommodate this. Have kids use sanitizer / wash hands and wipe desks a few times per day.
If distancing and sanitizing are not a priority, we would reconsider.
Distancing and sanitizing are important to us
Special Education Children. My daughter is immunocompromised and honestly many special needs kids including my special needs child cannot control their secretions or hand touching. Most likely they will not tolerate masks. They are also ones that need to be in a structured school setting.
N/a
My concern is not with covid safety measures, it's what those measures will do to the mental well being and future of my child's psyche. Teaching children to distance themselves from others and be germaphobes is going to create a bigger issue in the future than these efforts are worth. Isolation and lack of human interaction both physical and socially for long periods goes against human nature and can't be good. Separation does only that it divides. The things we are taught when young are what shape our future. If the state is that concerned about the virus then should we really be going back? Let's face it...There is no avoiding germs, unless you live in a bubble. So to tell a child who takes everything literal and trust everything said that you can't be close to your friend because of a virus/ germ that can make you sick... is it really worth it? Is this really the fear we want to teach the future?

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And I know there are people the kids can talk to but without the human connection... it's just words. In one ear and out the other.
I am concerned that the restrictions that are being considered are not the right environment for my child.
I don't think keeping class sizes at 20+ students is realistically safe for what is going on. I surely will not send my kids if the plan is to go back full time with the same amount of kids in class. Class sizes need to be cut as well as the time spent in class. As much as it would be difficult, I think school should look more like an am and pm group mtThf with cleaning in between classes and a deep cleaning on Wednesday. Am group does school in the morning and online work in the afternoon and vice versa.
School needs to reopen.
N/A
Expulsion for violations of safety procedures by students, teachers, administration, and rest of staff. If you are not taking this serious, you shouldn't be allowed the privilege of attending school.
Younger kids are not going to understand this and unlike when they are home, they won't be able to hug friends or be close to people. They will be forced to over wash their hands and stay distant from people. I don't believe this is a good environment for children. It will feel more like a punishment and an isolative experience. It's truly unhealthy. And talking about it doesn't really make it better.
NA
Do not want children to wear masks
I go into more detail in my "other" comment at the end, but we really feel strongly that adults modeling responsible behavior will be super critical for it to stick with a group of five year olds. We've worked hard at normalizing mask-wearing, lots of hand washing, talking about how germs work, etc. so our son understands why we're doing all of this.
Full day in school learning.
Cleaning of school & buses
We will make our decision to send our child to school based on the daily active cases and hospitalization numbers in Southern NH
Our decision will be influenced by the number of the active cases and hospitalizations in Southern NH.
NA
NA
I do support a hybrid model ONLY if there is much more teacher interaction. My husband and I have remote jobs and we found it extremely difficult to give our daughter attention with schoolwork and juggle both. We felt that we were the primary educators during COVID remote learning. If this continues into the Fall, we just don't have the bandwidth to work and teach, both full time jobs in themselves.
Thank you for doing your best for our kids under these circumstances. We know it's a challenging time for everyone!
My daughter is 4. Home schooling was horrible. My son is scheduled to start in Fall as well. I will pull him if there is any home learning and maybe my daughter as well. The virus is bullshit and we need to move on.

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I do not believe the school keep students and staff safe in an effective manner. Going by my sons graduation as an example it was over 40 min of n prep and waiting to watch a 7min ceremony. If that had been a classroom, no time would have been available for instruction. Even with all the safety procedures in place someone was tested positive for COVID19 and potentially passed it along to others.
I think that all water fountains should be closed. Only the kind that allow children to fill a bottle should be open. I have heard rumors that parents might be asked to complete temperature checks at home before sending children to school. I can see this being both beneficial and harmful. I think people who take this pandemic seriously will keep their child home if a fever is detected. I think people who are not taking it seriously will medicate their child and send them off to school.
Vaccines
Vaccines
I think it would be worth it to consider holding some classes outside as weather permits. Our family has not done any indoor activities since the pandemic began and I feel very uncomfortable with being in enclosed spaces with any number of people. We have done many outdoor activities and from what I understand it is much safer to be out in the open air than indoors. I hope you will consider having classes outside.
Bus safety/ temperature checks that parents do keeping them accountable with a way to log it into the school system for the nurse to see
Parents being held Accountable for taking students' temperatures and logging them in online for the nurse to see
Making sure to speak about the students who have more at risk factors associated with this pandemic (asthma, cancer treatment, etc).
If remote learning is how we proceed for Fall 2021, I as well as many other parents NEED more online classes and learning for the kids. I work full time in a leadership role in the Defense Industry and it is extremely difficult to spend hours a day being a teacher as well, My children (I have 2) do not respond to me the way they would to their teachers in a more structured environment. so it would be appreciated if there were more online Zoom calls that counted toward their leaning requirements versus a ton of home work that is literally like pulling teeth to have the children complete.
I want to emphasize that a backup plan for remote learning in case we cant go back into the classrooms include LIVE LEARNING online.
Our family hopes that our children will return to the school building this fall, but we are not comfortable with children being required to wear masks.
I want my child to return to school, but I am not comfortable with it if she is required to wear a mask all day.
Consider impacted numbers locally
Updates on local impacted numbers
Communication will be important, and I believe the district has done a good job with it so far.
Communication will be important, and I believe the district has done a good job with it so far.
I want to ensure social distancing will be enforced at school, also mandatory hand washing/hand sanitizer throughout the day. I think recess needs to be addresses as well, there were too many behavior problems on the playground last year and now the kids should have designated areas for recess so they aren't playing with other classrooms. Kids should also eat in their classrooms and then have tables wiped down after eating.

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There is not anything in particular as I fully trust the school will do whatever they feel they need to do to keep my child and other safe. I hope more than anything that the school returns in person in the fall as it will be my daughter's first experience at a larger school and she would very much struggle with remote learning, especially on top of such a large life milestone/transition.
My children return to daily school life also depends on the contagion rate within the state as well as quarantine guidelines put in place by the state at that time
I think the cafeteria and recess are an issue. I'm unhappy with the behavior on the playgrounds to begin with so now there needs to be social distancing and kids staying with their own classroom. Supervision is key to ensure this happens and previously there isn't enough supervision outside. The cafeteria is also a concern with kids being spaced enough with their own class. Kids may have to eat in their classrooms.
.
What are the plans for recess and gym class where kids are more apt to not abide by rules and teachers have a harder time re-enforcing?
Safety for all students are imp. But there are kids which needs more support than being in online, some kids can do good in online but some cannot . A hybrid model is very much helpful in my opinion.
none
much needed support for IEP students
I would like times when the kids may take off masks to learn (install plexiglass around desks). I only want them to wear masks in the hallway/bathrooms or if they need to come together on the carpet.
I'd like the kids to return to school with as much normalcy as possible. She currently goes to daycare with very little restrictions (only temp checks), so if they can do it I believe the schools can also. They need to interact!!
I would like plexiglass our around student's desks to allow them time to learn and work without a mask on. Also, plexiglass at the teacher's table for when she needs to work with individual students or small groups
If remote learning is going to happen, then we need a teacher online all day teaching a class like it would be in school with smaller group sizes and room for one on one sessions. There needs to be a schedule just like in the classroom. Flex day was not helpful as child argued that they didn't have to do anything no matter how many times i said it was a catch up day, i felt like this was more for the teachers than the students. Teachers can not tell the kids they don't have to do work on the weekends, if the child is getting work done during the week then it is up to the parent to decide, not the teacher. For remote learning, teachers need to have their children in daycare away from them, it was very disturbing.
would like to see more recess/outside time for students, many schools do this already and have seen improvements overall.
When children will go back to school, I think it would be enough if there would be: 1. temperature checked upon arrival to the school 2. Smaller class sizes 3. Hand sanitizer available in the school/classroom I think all this three things would be sufficient for kids to go back to school. There is no need for online/virtual classrooms!!!
Support for extra educational assistance because parents are not trained special education teachers
If the state is in the midst of a Trump rally induced covid-19 spike my child will not return.

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If the state is in the midst of a Trump Rally induced covid 19 spike I don't want my kids exposed to other peoples bullshit anti-science stupidity.
If the state is in the midst of a Trump Rally induced covid 19 spike I don't want my kids exposed to other peoples bullshit anti-science stupidity.
For number three, I found it very concerning that the option given would only require staff to wear masks. This should be enforced on all staff and students without exceptions.
For us, it's really dependent on whether the district continues full time kindergarten, and if they decide to do remote learning in any capacity. I think it would be difficult for my son to start his first year of public school learning from home. If this were the case, I would most likely keep him in his current daycare, where they have a kindergarten program as well.
I will not send my pre k child to MEEP if it is remote.
Given the virus, reasonable measures for sanitation and social distance, smaller class sizes, ect are expected. But if the measures are so extreme that my child if stressed or overtaxed with constraints she will not thrive or learn well.
How will recess be handled?
How will recess be handled?
In addition to temperature checks, symptom monitoring for all. Cough, sneeze, sore throat, etc
Having a more structured remote learning where the teacher is doing a virtual classroom just as she would a classroom where students can ask questions live about each topic, they can all see each other in a structured way. Also having all the assignments, websites, passwords, etc., in one place - vs the email going out on Monday saying there is a zoom call on Wednesday and here is your password - and then Wednesday getting an email saying don't forget to log into your zoom call - but no password is there so then the student must remember when that email had come in and hunt for it, etc. Also all the different websites and passwords - the teachers should send each child a list of the passwords, assigned to each website so the student can have it all in one place.
Having a more structured remote learning where the teacher is doing a virtual classroom just as she would a classroom where students can ask questions live about each topic, they can all see each other in a structured way. Also having all the assignments, websites, passwords, etc., in one place - vs the email going out on Monday saying there is a zoom call on Wednesday and here is your password - and then Wednesday getting an email saying don't forget to log into your zoom call - but no password is there so then the student must remember when that email had come in and hunt for it, etc. Also all the different websites and passwords - the teachers should send each child a list of the passwords, assigned to each website so the student can have it all in one place.
N/A
This survey is very biased against returning to a regular school year. It's almost like you've already made up your mind. Parents need to work. Anything less than a normal 5-day school week will not work and could open the school district up to lawsuits for failing to deliver a basic education. Based on the poor effort seen by the teachers this Spring, our kids would be better served in a home-schooling network.
I am immune compromised so I'm not comfortable with returning to school and risking my health everyday I would like remote learning to continue until there is a real solution and less cases reported
No factors. My daughter going into PreK has an IEP and I'm really nervous for her to fall more behind.
If the number of active COVID cases were to be very high in Merrimack, especially concerning the younger age groups, that would be a determining factor for us.

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I really hope that students can return to school in a normal fashion I really hope to see less use of masks I do not feel that it is safe for kids to have to wear a mask all day and I really would like normalcy put back into our children's lives
A strict illness policy - no kids allowed back if they show signs of illness until after the appropriate time has passed. If COVID, then 14 days. Remote learning should be available to those students if home sick. My children will not be going if they need to wear masks, and we need to understand that getting kids to social distance is near impossible. We want it to be a fun, learning environment and if these systems are in place (i.e. masks and keeping them separated) I believe it is going to do more harm than good.
Strict illness policy for sick kids returning to school. 14 day quarantine if COVID - with remote learning for those kids.
My children will not be going if they need to wear masks, and we need to understand that getting kids to social distance is near impossible. We want it to be a fun, learning environment and if these systems are in place (i.e. masks and keeping them separated) I believe it is going to do more harm than good.
This is no cookie cutter solution to this complex issue. Parents, students, faculty and administration need to work together to make the best safest possible solution for all involved in classroom learning.
My hope is that you consider some families need dual income and have utilized child care during this time and see no point in continuing distance learning. This is especially true, given that my profession as a front line healthcare worker does not allow me to work from home and we truly believe our daughters education has been greatly impacted by remote learning. Furthermore, new evidence suggests children continue to be at reduced risk and our not superbug carriers as originally suggested. Please consider the emotional/social toll this takes on only children who seek social experiences she would not otherwise gain by remote instruction.
If busing the kids into school is the only thing preventing them from returning to school in a full capacity, my family would figure out a way to transport them to and from school
How the school will ensure that kids will maintain the social distancing, hand sanitising at school premises including playing area?
Remote learning for a developing child, especially kindergarten, will be damaging and ineffective.
I would like to know how at-risk individuals are being prioritized, whether faculty, staff, or student. If at-risk individuals are being forced to choose between health and work, or health and needed education, this would impact my decisions.
My child will be entering into public school for the first time, in kindergarten. I would like to hear more about how kindergartners are being considered, as they transition into school.
Students should be required to wash hands with soap and water before handling food at snack and lunch. Hand washing is more effective than hand sanitizer.
The school district's COVID-19 policy; Instruction on that given to students. That they must adhere to the policies of the school district and not any other off the cuff remark someone may make about how to slow the spread of the virus.
If transportation is an issue we can provide Children and teachers should not be required. A zero tolerance for sick children in school
Teacher and staff safety has not been a priority. What if my child's teacher gets sick? What then? Can you realistically ask preschoolers to socially distance themselves? We should not open schools until at least January!!

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Teacher and staff safety has not been a priority. What if my child's teacher gets sick? What then? Can you realistically ask preschoolers to socially distance themselves? We should not open schools until at least January!!
One online platform to house remote learning (ie Brightspace)
I feel the main focus is mitigating the spread of COVID-19, which is obviously important to everyone's safety. However, if children no longer have recess and similar time to play or socialize because of the new guidelines, I would rather keep my child at home and do remote learning.
Please just open the schools. We cannot homeschool. I will lose my job and eventually my home. Open the schools!
If school can be made safe, my preference is that the kids go back. considering my child is headed to 9th grade and taking honors classes I feel the social aspect is important and it's difficult to learn at a higher level without daily teacher-student instruction/interaction (not pre-recorded). It seems masks have been effective when social distancing is not possible.
While I understand the difficulties in planning something like this I worry that social emotional experience of school will be lost. Relationships with teachers, students and arts classes need to be a priority. I don't want to talk about what is safe. I want to talk about what's important and how do we make that safe.
Frequent testing efforts. Consider macro level testing like waste water evaluation for early indicators Effective Contact Tracing Identifying high risk families and providing additional support. e.g. families on frontline should be allowed to stay home Re-entry should be optional based on many circumstantial factors. Consider outside classes early in the season and transition to remote learning I am a part of re-entry efforts for 60K company and have insights into planning and technology that can help
Adjust typical school/state requirements on learning by focusing on basic home life work instead of math/science that parents can't explain properly. Example: instead of teaching chemistry, teach how to do laundry. Stuff parents can confidently teach and be graded on that. DROP common core math. Adjust to parents not being teachers and realizing parents are working full time while remote teaching.
Open the schools
Frequent education and reinforcement (and strict enforcement) of CDC and State infection control measures for staff and students
Before school programs and what the plan is to implement them
Any student who has contact with a person with Covid, or any travel outside of NE should require quarantine
If they are in school full time, every child becomes high risk.
How do you get age 5&6 to adhere to distancing requirements?
We should all give online learning another try until this pandemic has lessened its grip. It is not forever and Kids can learn, function and thrive with support and encouragement. I have a special needs child and she did very well in the spring even with the lack of socialization. We have followed the guidelines and isolated ourselves and stayed inside. Even in a small 800+ foot apartment we were successful. So can others. They need to try to support their children and teachers. Working at home in the fall can work. We need to keep our teachers, children and community safe and healthy.

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Children have to be reminded to cover their cough or sneeze, they are not going to safely maintain a social distance and wear a face mask for an entire school day. There will be too many tiny fingers to keep sanitized.
Children are not going to follow the guidelines because all parents do not believe in them. Teachers are not going to be able to maintain the safety guidelines and promote a positive learning environment.
Kids are not going to socially distance and they are not going to wear a mask ALL school day. Teachers/staff cannot be everywhere... it is an unrealistic situation to expect teenagers to socially distance.
I have 2 children and this makes it hard to answer for both... My daughter would be riding the bus to the Jr High and that is a huge concern for me.
N/A
<p>Enforce all guidelines. Enforce all rules. If internet time is required teachers need to "teach the students the material." They should upload the lectures and then maintain zoom hours for help with material. What lacked last time was this in a major way. Without doing this the students are just teaching themselves the material.</p> <p>If students come into school for labs then be sure to follow all guidelines.</p> <p>I was SHOCKED when we dropped off the computers in May. Teachers and students without masks on, proximity was in some cases touching...this should be stopped if students go back to school.</p> <p>If we do go back to home schooling teachers MUST follow rules for where the material is placed on their page. It was VERY DIFFICULT to find what was due and what material they were to complete. Some teachers didn't use the calendar provided for them. Why? This is a clear way of material to complete and when it is to be completed. I understand it was all chaos; but if we are returning to home school in the fall guidelines MUST be followed by teachers. I have spoken about this before COVID and now with COVID it really needs to be worked out and clearly communicated to the parents and students. (*This could be a loaded "how to" on the homepage.</p>
I feel families/students that thrive and can manage remote learning should be given the option to do so, allowing for smaller classes and fewer people in the building. And if a hybrid is developed, those with IEP/learning plan/disability students have the ability to come to school even on an "off" day. If the student needs the structure of routine and schedules, to thrive, as opposed to being left participate from home and digressing, favoring the former is very worth implementing.
Keep a close tab on affected population in community, town and county and state overall
None, we want school to reopen.
Trend of numbers for COVID in New England come fall.
Open the schools
I am aware of the staggered schedule and bus options being staggered. Has it been considered to do am and pm versus mom and tues/ thurs Friday? This would allow the bus to run at reduced capacity while staggering the amount of children in school at one time. The afternoons or morning could be used for remote work. May make transitioning
If there is another spike in the Fall in NH my children will not be attending. Any new and validated discoveries about the virus morphing and impacting the range of children I have (10 to 14 years) will be monitored.

Due to my child's age and emotional/behavior issues (IEP) we've noticed that remote learning is just not a viable option. He required the physical interaction of the staff and other students.

13. Would you consider volunteering in some capacity in support of a community approach to school reopening in some form in the fall?

[More Details](#)



14. Would having an updated check list of all the safety measures introduced in the district throughout next year, based on evolving circumstances/needs make you more comfortable having your child/children return to traditional school in the fall?

[More Details](#)



15. How would/might you use the services of the school nurse and/or various social/emotional support programs available in the district to support your child during the next school year?

[More Details](#)

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Responses

Question #15 Responses

I think my child has been affected emotionally by the circumstances and I want to be sure she is getting whatever help she needs to feel safe and as normal as possible.

Only go if NEEDED

n/a

NA

My kids just miss their friends and teachers.

Nurse, only if necessary

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Doubtful I'll use
Probably would not
Only as needed based on current virus status
If we are doing any form of remote learning next year, I might have to rely on a support program for social and emotional support for our child. She struggled so much with not being in a classroom setting and seeing her friends. She's a social butterfly who loves her friends and teachers and really excels when in a class with them.
Depends on what you make available.
Open office hours for discussion with my child if needed.
If my child needs support I would utilize these services.
Having a nonverbal child on the autism spectrum makes the nurse an invaluable member of his team. He or she would need to get to know my son so they can recognize when he isn't himself because often changes in changes in his behavior are the first signal that's something may be wrong and an illness may be brewing.
Support groups, relationship development and one on one discussions
Wouldn't
My son is a rising Senior and it's imperative that he have access to a counselor to guide him in the college preparation process. This has been significantly delayed because of the crisis.
The school nurse is imperative for our child to have access to as she has medication for both of them should an injury occur at school.
Aside from temperature checks we'd rely on the paras and special ed team for emotional/social support
Yes, my son is lactose intolerant and has to see the nurse to be able to receive his lactose pills
Availability to schedule office hours if needed to answer questions as needed and allow nurses to get a read on how student is doing. Open safe environment for transparent dialogue
Unclear
We probably wouldn't. We'd use our family doctors and personal resources.
little
Not sure
I would take advantage of any tips or programs that keep kids socially involved with other kids in a remote fashion.
N/A
No social emotional or nurse services needed
Would not use.
I would utilize on a weekly basis because my daughter is experiencing social and emotional battles since this has occurred. I work as a registered nurse with covid 19 patients so she doesn't stay with me very often either to keep her safe.
do not plan on using
I don't know
Telecommunications
It would help a lot. My son loved Mrs Early's "lunch bunch" and his OT time. We've really struggled without it.
If you send them back to school my kids wouldn't need the support of a social/emotional employee.
We have no concerns about our child physically or mentally returning to school in the fall.

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Nurse needs a larger office space for children to keep distance and parents to be able to talk with nurse privately
This question depends on whether or not my child returns to regular school.
I don't feel I would need these services.
None
I wouldn't
However needed
General emotional support during this quarantine/social distancing time. Support for learning in what ever new environment we land with.
If he's anxious about going back or Covid, sad for not seeing friends and family
I would have the nurses available to COVID-19 testing so if any student or teacher believes they have it they have access to that testing
Telecommunications
I like the social story the preschool team sent home when they went remote in the spring. That was very helpful.
As needed.
My children both have IEP and home learning simply did not work for them. I am very concerned about how far behind they are in academics.
None of the above. We have no concerns about our child physically or mentally returning to school in the fall.
My child has asthma and anxiety so the nurse and support services will continue to be key for him!
Thankfully my child is older and adapted well, I don't see the need, unless he gets sick and needs to see nurse while at school.
Should not need to.
Would like counseling/support for my child. He became somewhat obsessed with "Covid rules" and may need help reacclimating to a group setting.
I would not. The best most effective emotional support program is a loving family. I need the school to teach as a priority, we'll take care of the emotional support; but it's nice to have this resource at the school as a reinforcement.
I probably would not
As they have been previously used in past school years
Both my children require the school nurse to provide medication in case of injury at school.
My child usually doesn't require much assistance from these support programs
I'm not sure yet
Particularly considering how the 2019-2020 school year concluded, I anticipate great need for socio-emotional supports as the children begin the next school year, regardless of where the learning will occur.
We have no concerns about our child physically or mentally returning to school in the fall.
I would like to see clinical psychologist and or motivational speakers/life coaches give weekly seminars/in-services (30min sessions) on a weekly basis. Various topics like practicing good self care, the pros and cons of social media during Covid, how to maintain self confidence, pros and cons of vaccinations, why it's important to maintain a schedule etc.
I like social stories and the TFS guidance counselor Fern's videos my preschooler and now second grader really resonated with that puppet show

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My daughter has an IEP and will need to meet with counselors
same as previous years
My child uses both services regularly!
At this time I don't believe we would need to utilize these services.
As needed
My child is a special needs student, on the autism spectrum and could definitely use social and emotional supports throughout the school year.
N/A
same as previous years
We have been using the school counselor as some support during remote learning it would be helpful to see that continue for emotional struggles due to quarantine.
My daughter has a medical condition that causes her to visit the nurse.
same as previous years
Only as needed if an issue were to arise!
This is situational - it all depends on how my child adapts to the new "norm" in a new school this fall.
Yes
Use of school nurse if my child is sick at school
The nurse should be available for sick students. I would however encourage my student to have contact with staff providing social emotional support as my child is an extrovert and social distancing has been very hard on him.
Ensuring only healthy kids come to school
I have a Special Ed child with anxiety. This virus has sent her over the edge. We would probably need extra support if she returned
It would be an additional resource to help with all these changes.
Availability of guidance counselors as before
It is unlikely that we would, but perhaps guidance counselors due to us needing to think about continuing education/college. My son LOVED remote learning. His grades were SO much better without all the distractions in a classroom. For *us* remote learning is a GOOD thing.
I don't think I would use these services.
N/A
As needed
We utilized the guidance team at RFS for lunch bunches they offered. If remote learning continues, I'd like to see Second Step lessons taught remotely whether from classroom teachers or guidance.
I'd try to use them as little as possible bc so many will need it.
Education on Covid, making sure children understand what's going on, answering their questions and addressing their fears.
I would not use the services.
Only if sick
My child already has an IEP and I am thinking he might require some more services for the social aspect, due largely to his life being turned completely upside down in a matter of days. I am however thankful to the YMCA for keeping their summer camps open and I am incredibly hopeful that him going will be a good start to help him.
My children don't typically require school nurse or emotional support services.

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Only as needed.
I likely would not
None unless teachers indicate intervention is needed
Should have group counseling sessions for classes.
Social emotional connections with Staff and other students
What programs? Nothing has been discussed
I think using the school nurse could be tricky. I think most kids will stay home if they are even the slightest bit sick. I think if you don't open in a somewhat normal capacity you're definitely going to need the social emotional support programs because this is not good for kids.
I would use either program as necessary for the physical and emotional health of my children.
Not sure
School nurse for questions regarding my students health. Social emotional support if it results in my student or family members become ill/quarantined.
N/A
As needed
I wouldn't use the services. I want the school staff to feel supported and to do my part in helping my child.
My highly medically complex child would need to see the nurse and visit to be able to remain calm at school.
I don't know.
None would be needed.
It depends what happens. If my kindergartner is on a remote program, I may need a lot more support.
As needed.
N/A
My child has an IEP in place and would benefit greatly from smaller class sizes and more one on one time with teachers as he gets over emotional and has a hard time learning in larger groups.
N/A
My son has autism and might need supports to make learning easier and less stressful.
N/A
If needed
Don't anticipate using them anymore than we did in the past.
Only as needed
I think it would be health for my son to be able to talk to someone about what is going on. He has become very emotional during this time and it would benefit him to have someone other than us to talk to.
I don't know
In the same capacity as when in school (building based) as prior and as a resource.
as an information resource to use when guidance is needed. No more than previously used.
education on how germs spread, teaching them hand washing and how to reduce the spread of germs. making sure kids feel safe at school and can express their feeling on what's going on.
I would not. If children need counseling it should be provided by the parents and the parents expense. Schools are so overboard with emotional support. Just teach.
N/A

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We wouldn't, only time my child would be to the nurse is if he has a headache or not feeling well.
My child needs counseling due to stress of the current situation of the community.
Nurse as usual. Nothing new required
Na
Emotional support for my child, she has had increased anxiety and panic attacks since the beginning of the year
Education about how virus spreads
not sure
rarely
That my job as a parent
I don't think this would change from previous years.
Mental health assist thru guidance counselor
weekly check ins to classrooms to ask in any kids need any support in dealing with feelings etc
The school nurse would be helpful if something happens with my child at school
Yes
Lessons on how it's spread
he has an iep currently and I feel they will be helpful to him personally.
None
I think if remote or even a return to normal, there needs to be a social/emotional lesson plan created for such.
I don't know
I would likely encourage my kids to seek social/emotional support programs more. This pandemic has them anxious/nervous.
Yes
We probably wouldn't need these services.
My child has generalized anxiety disorder and would benefit from having check ins with teachers, role playing, books and activities to help support him. A connection with a staff member that can help guide him and give him the sense of security he needs.
Building relationships/friendships with peers
I don't plan on using those services but realize the importance.
I would likely encourage my kids to use social/emotional support programs.
Organized social emotional activities to do through Zoom instead of academics if school is remote.
I wouldn't use the school. Don't need the Merrimack School District to raise my children just need them to teach them.
Not sure it would change
We won't use
Same as I would prior to COVID
I would encourage the use of the nursing and social support as he felt he needed
Social emotional support through Zoom in addition to academics.
Normally
Same as prior to COVID
A lot
?

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No different than normal
No different than normal usage
The nurse has grown to know my children almost as well as I do. There will be an increase in stomach aches and not feeling well due to anxiety and stress nobody may be able to identify. Our children need these Supports now more than ever. I cannot imagine what these kids are going through.
I would encourage Chris to use them as he felt he needed.
I would honestly avoid the nurse as I feel like that might be the "hot zone". :) We've stayed away from all medical facilities thus far. I might be interested in learning about safe and productive ways for kids to receive social and emotional support and outlets.
Would be open to check ins to check on student social/emotional health.
We may need it as our children are social and the social aspect has greatly affected them.
We wouldn't use the nurse services but would be interested in the social/emotional support programs as that has been the biggest struggle, keeping those social connections active while at a distance.
We will need it the social aspect is greatly suffering and my daughters are very social
No different than in the past.
If not in school I don't know how that would be applicable
The nurse could educate children about proper mask usage and social distancing. Some kids still don't understand how to give others personal space
They would be used weekly if not daily with checking and monitoring my children for physical and mental well being especially with all the changes and I am sure continued changes.
Online social groups for remote learning children to build relationships.
With proper distancing and sanitizing, I'd have no problem with my child visiting the nurse as needed, as well as the support team/counselor.
Temp checks and emotional checks
N/A
More nurses and counselors should be available and booked for scheduled zoom sessions.
Unsure.
I don't think my child will need these services, unless he became ill or injured while at school.
I just think the kids need to be educated as to why everyone is making such a big deal of this. I think teaching children to fear human interaction, shy away from human touch, hide behind masks, limit face to face eye contact is a very dangerous path to go down
Social groups for remote learning students
Having reliable and current information about the virus, and how to help manage anxieties among children
I'd utilize them as I would have pre Covid
My daughter struggled being away from her teachers, friends and normal routine. Having a resource on how to best support her through those feelings and resulting behaviors would be terrific. It would be great to have someone I could email or call to get advice or to answer questions.
I don't feel like those support programs would be essential for my children, but critical to other students.
I would have my child use these as needed
My son needs his counselor to access social/emotional supports
Wouldn't use

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My child seems to be adjusting as well as possible during this time so I don't anticipate us needing to rely on the school nurse or social/emotional support programs, but it's hard to say considering the evolving situation of the pandemic.
We would only use the nurse if necessary. We do not require emotional support programs for our child
unsure
Increased anxiety from extended length from in school learning will need to be addressed with increased support from schools.
Wouldn't need if home
On-site learning is what my child needs!
don't know
I think my child would definitely benefit from the services of the school nurse or social/emotional support programs.
on call as needed
For my sons meds
As needed. My son has missed his friends and needs engagement beyond video games and zoom meetings.
Unsure
My son needs interaction with other kids,
Probably not needed for my daughter
MES does a great job with SEL. Keep it up!
I would like him to check in with a counselor once a week
probably would use nurse on site for usual minor issues
I'm not sure.
I honestly do not know what is currently available for social/emotional support programs? Also, I'm not sure how we would utilize the nurse unless it is for temperature checks at school. I would not contact the nurse for anything nor would my child unless they were ill at school. Are there any new services being developed to assist kids w/ discussing COVID and how they have been affected?
My child needs those support services at normal times but especially now
I would access any SEL curriculum presented online to my son's class, otherwise, he does not require additional supports.
Unknown at this point
My child did fine with remote learning and would not need this type of support.
I would hope the school nurse would be able to take temperature checks for the children. I think it is important for the schools to provide social/emotional support programs for the kids. I also feel it is important for the school to look to provide support for existing friendships of students and take that into consideration while creating classrooms.
I would not. Family is the best source of emotional support.
The kids themselves are rightly aware and concerned about having to go back into a school when we are telling them they cannot see family and friends over the summer for friendly play dates. They will need some help from the school resources to help manage that anxiety, and I will reiterate they absolutely know that being back in school is much more dangerous even with your cleaning measures and they worry about that possibility.

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I think my children will needs lots of positive encouragement to wear masks all day long and frequent reminders to wash hands and social distance. They may have some anxieties about going back and may ask to see a counselor.
Students have been through a lot and the beginning of the year needs to be full of team building and relationship building. Emphasis on SEL needs to be prioritized with guidance needs to work with every child to determine what mental health issues have arisen in six months of home learning.
What social emotional support programs?
I'm unsure at this point. It was comforting to know that those services were offered last spring, but we were a bit overwhelmed with remote learning and never accessed the social/emotional zoom meetings offered.
My child does rely a lot of meeting with the guidance counselor and/or small emotional/social group meetings. It has been very beneficial to him. So we would like to continue those options going into JMUES next year.
I would definitely encourage my daughters to participate in emotional support programs.
Same as always with extra social emotional supports set in place to help children acclimate back In to the school year
COVID 19 is a joke
school nurse to be used only as necessary of kids return to school.
Social/emotional support i would ask for regularly scheduled zoom appointments for remote learning.
I dont know.
Helping student to understand covid precautions
What social emotional programs?
Not sure
I don't feel any additional measures are needed.
Just want to make sure that we haven't gone off the deep end with liberal craziness. We need to get back to as normal as we can
Guidance counselors should do some type of social/emotional activity monthly with classrooms
N/a
The same as always.
Hopefully not needed.
This piece is essential and they're missing out now in school. I'd like a developed model by a psych doctor.
I am not planning to use above services/programs
No change, but I would like to be aware of offerings so I can prepare my child.
My child may need some check-ins with the school counselor for some emotional issues we have noticed during this time.
If we are remote learning- from a budget perspective they should be cut. Our experience was awful with the guidance at JMUES- I am not even sure they actually do anything when we are in session! (This is a shared thought by many and includes the thoughts of teachers in the building).
help educate children about the pandemic, support their emotional growth and help learn coping skills, foster relationships with peers and staff
N/A
N/A

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If my child were ill I would be ok with her seeing the nurse.
Use them if needed
I don't foresee any need at this time.
NA
None
Na
I don't know
My children need emotional and social support with remote learning, They are very social and are only suffering due to lack of an in school environment.
I think Zoom is fine to allow them all to socialize
My child thrived in remote learning and the second grade team did an Amazing job!!! Health for students and staff is top priority and returning to school in the fall jeopardizes that.
N/A
If my child is in school in person, then I doubt very much any of the above will be needed because BEING THERE SURROUNDED BY HIS PEERS AND TEACHERS is the medicine, it is the remedy, it is the social/emotional support program. That said, of course we would look at what was made available and utilize it as needed. If my child is doomed to stay at home again, I suppose we'd be looking into those support programs sooner than later.
My kids (like all kids) are very resilient. They do not care about the virus and are not worried about it. They do not grasp the concept of social distancing. They are kids and like all kids they really only understand their own needs. Their only form of emotional support they want right now is to be allowed to go back to normal so they can see their friends.
Same as we have on the past...as needed. If my child was to not feel well during the day.
Same as we always have. As needed if someone doesn't feel well or gets hurt during the school day.
I would want help making sure my children are coping ok emotionally with the impact this pandemic has had on them.
I'm not sure; depends on what is available.
If school is remote social/emotional support groups or online skype meetings are a Must
My child is medium risk (long time asthma sufferer) so would utilize school nurse for temp checks
Get back to school
I would encourage my student to ask for support as remote learning was extremely emotional and made my student feel lonely and sad.
None guidance only
She can take temperatures of kids feeling ill
I'm not sending my kids without a vaccine for the virus . I think , even when The Schools District is doing its best , would be irresponsible to come back to school .
Same as I always have, when it is needed.
As needed and recommended.
No
As needed and recommended.
N/A

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I feel that even with the reduced amount of interaction students will have it will be enough to be helpful for most.
I have used them and they help out alot.
I'd love emotional support programs because these kids are going to have PTSD from all this scary change and craziness.
I don't know
N/a
If my child is not feeling well while at school.
My son sees the school guidance councilor and would continue even if remote.
I'd help with temperature checks as an RN.
Na
Educate kids on cleanliness/covid, handwashing, no touch face, mouth eyes, nose. No hugging, handholding with other students. No shared school crayons, pencils, etc
My child has an anxiety issue and I would need reassurance for weekly Zoom worry group as well as individual check in (even over email) with school counseling services.
Having someone qualified to talk to the kids about what is going on is so important
My son was very lonely during the remote learning part of the year.
Understanding the importance of the virus and procedures that need to be in place. Also the importance of remote learning. My child telling me, he didn't learn anything from remote learning. Sad 😞
She would just need to know who to look to if she has questions, concerns or is not feeling well or nervous/overwhelmed.
NA
School nurses will have to be trained to deal with parental concerns over all and exercise some patience
Don't use The nurse or need emotional support.
Not really sure
Only if our son needed it.
I think it's very helpful for the kids! It's hard for them to not have school for school. They fought every step of remote learning (kindergarten and first grade, for remote learning)
I wouldn't use it
Would seek support from counselor on how to alleviate student anxiety about COVID or shyness/stress associated with participating in class zoom calls.
Hopefully if the kids return to school in the fall there won't be as much of a need for social and emotional support programs. I think they're mainly needed when kids are quarantined at home and unable to see their friends and learn in the traditional School environment.
I would be very careful not to burden the school nurses with anything other than emergencies during this time.
The nurse can go to the classrooms if needed.
Other than remote social skills, I don't know what services we might need.
On a regular basis a small group check in with the counselors at school will be helpful for the kids.
I don't know

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Unclear
I don't know at this time. It is possible that he might benefit from a remote social skills group and/or a remote social club.
Unsure
Unlikely
Social support programs to encourage interactions and less withdrawal and isolation. Emotional to help handle fear about group settings
I don't know
To process anxiety regarding returning to social situations and fear of getting sick.
We wouldn't use the services often.
Only if necessary, i.e. truly falling ill or injured
It would be an as needed situation.
Only if needed
Not applicable
I think having the nurse or programs for social emotional support is important for kids who are anxious.
Focus and enforcement on practicing cdc recommended hygiene practices
Kids don't use any of them. Call from cell when they are sick and I have them dismissed.
Don't use them.
I think all children would benefit from robust social-emotional support integrated into the school day
If they are not in school I will need help with proper social development in an isolated environment
None - but Specials have to be required if they matter in the curriculum. No parent has time to figure out social/emotional activities to make their kids do.
PT OT and speech
Not needed
I would not. SEL activities have to be conducted by the teacher to keep that learning going.
Have tests available onsite
Daughter enjoyed lunch bunch virtual meetings- they need someone to facilitate social emotional learning.
Many high school students stopped all social interactions once COVID hit. I've seen/heard about some depression as a result in students. Facilitated online social activities might encourage more engagement & reduce the significant loneliness & helplessness many students feel.
My 11-year-old has the hardest time being away from peers and a traditional classroom environment. We would most likely want him to speak to a counselor on an ongoing basis and/or take advantage of emotional support programs to help him with his feelings of sadness if school was all remote this coming year.
I wouldn't
It would depend in how my child adapts with the given circumstances at that time
I'm not aware of them so I don't know how I could use them.
My daughter has anxiety and on line learning was hard but I worry about the anxiety of getting sick as well if she returns to school
We would like our children to have access to counselors to help support them form a social/emotional aspect.

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I think the support programs can help my child to think that she is not the only one that has to be aware of social distancing.
We would like out children to have access to counselors that would help them from a social/emotional standpoint.
To help my child realize that this issue is worldwide and he is not the only one that has to do social distancing.
Reassuring them often
I think the school needs to reel in the kids...make any emotional programs a requirement. Kids will not volunteer for this support they probably all truly need. The staff needs to do more in this regard. Offering for the kids to reach out to them isn't enough in my opinion. Some Kids avoid help
I wouldnt
N/a
Social interaction is very important to the well being of all school aged children. I would utilize social programs if the district is required to proceed with online learning.
I don't see a circumstance where I would need those services
Probably not necessary
I don't know
I would use them as needed.
I believe that my child might need some help understanding why she can't play with ALL of her friends.
Same as before
As needed
My dad died of covid! My son could really use some counseling about that and what else is going on in the world
If my child is not feeling physically well, she would see the nurse for temp check & discussion and advice for symptoms. If my child needs social/emotional support from a group she would first talk to a counselor and get advice as to what group would be best for her to connect with.
We would use all of them in a traditional sense.
Both of my children have seen a surge in anxiety through this pandemic. I really think all students would benefit from integrated behavioral support services
as needed
Teaching my student WHAT a support program is would help...If they don't know what it is, they won't even think about it.
If he is back in school for even a partial day I feel he will not need and support programs.
Same as before
Assemblies/small group talks with kids about how this whole pandemic has made them feel. A place where they can talk and hear other kids with similar experience so they don't feel alone.
The social emotional piece will be huge. My child struggled greatly with this aspect during remote learning. With all the new changes in school this will be needed in all the classrooms at the elementary level.
Small group discussions for kids to discuss how they feel experiencing this pandemic. They can share their hopes, fears, concerns, and learn how to interpret what the news says in healthy and proactive ways (not all "gloom and doom").
my children have IEP and have received very limited services during this.
Not sure

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During remote learning social emotional aspect was lacking. A lot of damage control in regards to social emotional skills will be necessary for all students. This pandemic has caused a lot of a anxiety for both students and staff along with families.
Kid-friendly "lessons" on importance of washing hands & making it part of the routine.
Probably would not need them unless the restrictions were so much it may cause her anxiety but typically my daughter has social anxiety so I don't think we would need them
Social emotional aspect is important for all students especially incoming 9th graders. Lots of anxieties have developed due to the pandemic.
NA
Social/emotional support is our job as parents. I also don't need the school staff concerning themselves with my child having a "schedule" at home. My child, my home=my schedule, my business.
Not sure. It will be her first year in a big school. She's used to a small preschool. I assume she will not need them but can't say 100% because it's a new school and and new way of life for her being there 5 days and all day. So if needed would be minimal
Should not be needed
Probably wouldn't use
I do not anticipate needing access to these services.
My child has an IEP
not sure
I'm not sure I fully understand this question. My child has counseling from an outside source so she won't be requiring further social or emotional support from the school. If my child is home with remote learning and becomes ill , she will be taking care of at home
Not sure
I am concerned for my 7th grader going to a new school. If it is remote learning we won't get that natural transition and things may be more difficult. We may need to seek social and emotional support then.
My son is very anxious about coronavirus and would need much moral support and help from guidance.
Not sure
Not sure
My child has asthma/allergies, so we would be in contact with the school nurse for those reasons. Also, if she were to get ill while at school we would use the services of the school nurse.
If available we would use it
My child has a chronic condition. She went to the nurse daily for meds. I don't want her to have to do this as students with COVID will be going to the nurse. She should be able to have meds with her to take as needed.
Not sure
The school nurse would be used only in the case of illness at school. We would have no need for social/emotional support programs.
Probably wouldn't beyond the capacity they were previously used.
Honestly not sure, but my children have been struggling with the isolation
I think it is more important than ever to make these programs available le to kids, even in place of PE.
I would not utilize them if the students returned to school.

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Students (mine) did not feel supported in the spring. As a rising (college bound) senior, he has NEVER met with his guidance counselor. Only two teachers engaged in personal communication, all others were "mass emails". Remote learning can't continue in that fashion
I'm not sure.
Our grandson has special needs and seems to find comfort talking to those teachers but I would not object him speaking to a counselor if his teachers thought he could benefit.
N/A
Screenings by the nurses.
It should be a weekly zoom meeting per class maybe even once every 2 weeks to check in. Go over new coping skills.
Would expect the school nurse to keep track of number of cases/outbreaks in the school. Social/emotional: What language do I use with my child about the virus to not instill fear. When someone gets the virus, how do I let my child know that their peer won't be in school for 2 weeks or more.
Not sure
We probably wouldn't
Probably not in the event of remote learning.
not sure
Would not use
It is my son's first year so it is new to us. However I would hope he would only need the nurse if sick
We would like our children to have as much access to regular school as possible.
Encourage my child to take part in any extra programs/talks and educate myself on empowering my child to adapt in changing times
We would like to be able to continue to see guidance counselors for anxiety/social emotional support Like my student did last year in the next year, especially after being out of school for so long. I am concerned the Guidance staff will not have enough time to support all needs as their availability was already limited.
My son suffered from anxiety last fall and missed a lot of school. So far, through this pandemic and remote learning his anxiety has been under control. I do have concerns of him going back to school during this pandemic. I am not sure if it will trigger his anxiety. I would like these services available to him should he need them.
If they needed to be used, I would use them in a social distancing setting or remote for social/emotional support program.
Only if needed, as it has been in the past
Maybe keep kids grouped together in small "pods" a majority of the time to keep the spread under control. Especially during recess and lunch.
For tracking purposes and convenience, it would be good to have on-site COVID tests available through the nurses office.
Would love to see the school nurse doing temperature checks on students and staff. Social/emotional support will need to be provided to ALL students, as they have been out of school for half a year and are likely to have separation anxiety and just anxiety in general.
Our son would likely most benefit from psychosocial support due to isolationism issues.
Psychosocial support for coping techniques and mechanisms to support isolationism and a lack of interactions with friends.
As needed

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n/a
It is unlikely I would use them at all. My child seemed to far well, and other than being bored, did not experience any type of emotional distress during the online learning.
Nurse- to reinforce what we have discussed with our children about hand washing, hygiene, etc. Counselor- help the students thrive in their "new normal" school environment.
School nurse in case of illness We would not utilize social/emotional support
Regarding social / emotional support depends on how my children react to new normal. I do not expect to utilize the school nurse in any different capacity
Better understanding of social/emotional aspect my child would/had/has missed out on being a young child.
I think it's going to be difficult for some students to return to the schools, anxiety will be much higher for some students. I hope that there would be support programs available for those students who are affected so that they are comfortable returning to school.
None
Unsure
My daughter does not use either service as they are not helpful.
Minimal use
I would use both services if my child needed them. If my child said they weren't feeling well I would tell them to go to the nurse and if I felt my child was in of services for social/emotional support I would find out who I could speak to.
I would use both services if my child needed them. If my child said they weren't feeling well I would tell them to go to the nurse and if I felt my child was in of services for social/emotional support I would find out who I could speak to.
Keeping my student on track with work- guidance
I wouldn't.
I've heard from my neighbor, who is a middle schooler, that the kids "don't yet know how to interact" in this new normal. This was in response to a question I asked about how soccer was going now that it had been resumed. Thus, teaching the kids how to interact and re-establish social skills. Further, I am considering homeschooling, at least partially, depending on what the plans are for reopening. At the college I work for, only essential faculty and some residential students are returning in Fall, and this is a VERY small college. With that said, if they are planning less than a few hundred bodies on campus per day at any given time, and these are all adults, I can't possibly see how we can be safe with hundreds of kids ages 3-10 in an elementary setting. Teachers will become tired by the end of the day, reinforcing the rules, and I can see how become lax on the mask wearing, social distancing, handwashing, etc. by the end of the day. Teachers already have so many components each day to consider, monitoring 10-25 kids at a time and their social distancing measures is impossible to request in addition to all they do. Thus, perhaps an aid in each room or something to assist the teachers in ensuring health is just as important as learning.
None
My daughter, (an incoming freshman), is in the high risk category and this has taken an emotional toll her, I would love to see her have access to a counselor or someone to speak with in case she needs it.
I think the teachers need the support and funding directed there.
N/a

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I would like to use support programs for my three children. They each require special learning programs and I think it would be good for them to talk to someone as well about social/emotional issues.
To their fullest extent.
My child will start SEL support remotely starting next week. I cannot comment on the quality of this service at this time as we have no experience yet, but thus far Mrs. Etchells has been very responsive via email. I do not plan to use the services of the school nurse if we are remote next school year.
Should be the same as usual
I do not plan on using these services unless we are live next school year. If we are remote (as we were Mar - May) I do not plan to use these services. We do plan to use gifted and talented services from Ms. Cronin if that continues to be available. She was a wonderful support for our child during remote learning!!
Not at all.
This is my child's first year in the school system - it's all new to me
Not sure
I would be open to any additional programs that the school may see fit to help my child with any adjustments/support that may be needed due to the pandemic.
Temperature checks for all staff and students
I would utilize this so my child has a better understanding of why strangers are hiding their faces, scary for kids, especially those who are shy. And to support those who need school for socializing purposes as this will be sadly different.
as supplied and as needed.
Only if absolutely necessary
To help with the emotional effects of remote learning and isolation.
as offered, and as needed.
I'm not sure - I've not yet had to use these services, so don't know what they offer. Nurse could conduct COVID tests. Soc/Em support is just now starting for us, so we'll see.
Same as before the virus.
Not sure.
I imagine I would use them in the same capacity that I have in "normal" circumstances...as needed.
N/A
As I would during normal circumstances- as needed.
If we are remote we would not
To help them understand and learn empathy on why some wear masks and some don't (example: compromised immune systems)
My child has a 594 plan. We use the counseling services when they provide social supportable behavior support. Which is very limited to begin with.
My child has been home since the beginning of March, this pandemic I feel has taken a toll on her mental well being. I would love to have more social/emotional support.
It would be good to gauge how my daughter is progressing emotionally and socially.
It could be a good balance to the teacher's assessment of my child's academic progress.
Hopefully I would not need to
?
I probably wouldn't.

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Having meetings with the students 1:1 to see how they are dealing with remote learning and with the effects of the pandemic would be helpful.
If sick, he would report to the nurse.
Avoid contact unless there is symptoms then making sure there are proto calls in place
I would like my son to have some brief check ins with guidance, even if it is just 10 minutes a week. He's transitioning to a new school this year and having a relationship with Guidance will help.
My son has a terrible emotional reaction to remote learning. One so difficult that we as his parents are unable to reach. So I'd implore school counselors to help him deal with & cope with these very frustrating feelings he has strictly brought on by remote learning.
I'd like the school nurses to become like the teachers and teach students everything there is to know about the virus and how to achieve overall greater immunity. and how we can help others to achieve this as well. I think the students would benefit from frequent question & answer sessions with the school nurses.
I'm not really sure
I'm not sure.
No need at this time
No need at this time
No need at this time
As normal
Not needed, my job is to raise my kids taking into account their emotional needs. Your job is to provide educational resources as needed.
It will depend on how my son reacts to returning to school. I am concerned with his attachment to my husband and I after his time at home. He may need support with returning to school and being away from us.
By providing a safe and comfortable environment where they can share what they are feeling and how they are coping with the new day to day.
I don't know.
My daughter missed her friends and struggled to be motivated with virtual school. We'd need help with helping her adjust
Freely with the space restrictions, masks and more
Continuation of current setup from March to May
Maybe help making friends.
Social emotional groups may help with daily anxiety.
Weekly individual counseling was so important for my child during the remote learning of spring 2020. I would like to see that continued.
Not sure
Not sure
As needed.
My child would not need enhanced services or programs from the school nurses/etc. at this time These programs sound like an excellent resource for those who do need them on a voluntary basis rather than mandatory programming.
The same as I would have before the pandemic.
Explaining to students about the virus and helping them understand what has happened throughout the last 6 months and that they shouldn't be afraid, but yet need to be serious about being safe.

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I have no plan to use the services
Hire extra CNAs or LNAs To assist with temperature checks and contact tracing of students and classrooms should someone test positive.
As needed.
If my child needs support, I would support him/her to use the available school resources.
Anxiety Counseling
Teach them facts about the virus. Not the conspiracy nonsense that seems to be spreading through the town. Teach kids that if they follow the CDC Guidelines they are in exponentially less danger.
Education on viruses, their spread, their consequences. Temperature checks.
School nurse only as needed if there is a return to school Emotional support programs only as needed
Monitoring for mask use, enforcing that. Students have said they will not keep their masks on- if we already know this, then they are at risk. Some students have parents working in healthcare, and are a direct risk to others should CV19 enter their home prior to discovery/ symptoms becoming obvious, or in cases of asymptomatic individuals. I have witnessed parents of children in my student's class out in public/ grocery shopping, NOT wearing masks. This is unacceptable in the school setting, where parents can not monitor their own child at any given point to ensure their safety.
I would use them just as stated in the question, as supports. Supports on an as needed basis, not to be pushed or not to be mandatory.
No plans.
I am unsure of how we would use the school nurse but have a few ideas; bi-weekly class check in's to talk about health and wellness could be arranged for student, we could use the school nurses as a sort of "ask-a-nurse" hotline during regular school hours for minor health concerns that may be pre-screened before making an appropriate suggestion of care.
My children used many various social/emotional support services during the regular school year as well as through remote learning. The social/emotional team at Mastricola Elementary has done an amazing job keeping the children engaged with each other while still working on their skills. I hope more one on one classes and group classes will be offered with all teachers through zoom.
No different than before this virus was here.
The same as before this virus was here.
No different than last year.
Check-in with adults would be important
We have a child with asthma and an IEP so we will need those services to be available especially if we return to in person schooling.
One of our children (3rd grade) has asthma and an IEP. We would definitely need those services. Our other son (1st grade) would also benefit from social/emotional support programs integrated into the classroom/remote learning setting.
I would want him to treat the nurse's office as he normally would.
I will gladly offer my professional experience with Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT/Tapping) to help support students and staff with emotional distress. This holistic approach to stress reduction is very effective and once learned can be implemented by one's self to help balance stress. (RebeccaStevensCoaching.com)
One on one meetings
Temperature checks from the school nurse. Social/emotional support groups-none.

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Daily temperature checks by nurses. Social/emotional support groups-none.
Need to know the services available, but tell us what we need to know, not a 3 page novel of an email.
Already answered
I realize that many families need these supports but I feel that actual learning, as in progressing through material, needs to be happening. That learning shouldn't be sacrificed to extraneous supports.
Not necessary. Remote learning may cause a social support need, not if the kids return to school.
My kids are bored and more bored. Because of covid and the limited activities available (at the time I answer this) and because my wife and I work there are only so many ways to help socially boost the moral of pre-teen kids and I hope that social activities when school starts can help with their boredom. i'm not a therapist but this lack of socialization could lead to low level depression.
A support group might be helpful as kids are working through all the changes, social isolation & losses they endured at the end of this school year.
have those individuals meet with each class on a weekly/biweekly (based on schedule) to check in to see how kids are coping
In case my child comes down sick. The nurse is important
Emotional support would be great to have for everyone
reducing anxiety and missing friends
Would not
My children are taking coronavirus in stride and are not particularly anxious about it. I do not foresee them needing additional socio emotional support beyond the normal child development for their age groups.
I don't think we would need either service
I don't know yet as our child will be entering kindergarten and this school will be new for us.
N/A
The school nurse for temp check etc, emotional supports for a child just entering school in this capacity.
As needed. My children/family are fortunate to have strong immediate family & extended family support, as well as support of close friends & neighbors
In the capacity in which they were previously being used
My K student doesn't understand why his social circle and places to go has shrunk. With all these changes having access to emotional support would provide comfort and give him strength to move on.
None
My child has special education needs. I will be using them and other resources to make his school life normal.
I know my child suffered by not being able to see friends as well as having a hard time trying to learn new things from me... non-teacher. I'm not sure what kind of support we'd need, but it IS needed. Teachers tried to offer their best support, but it's tough. With my child moving up to a new school with new students and teachers, I fear this will be a huge challenge to motivate him remotely.
Unknown
As needed basis.

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Having a child with ADHD and adjusting to change my son will need adjustment counselor and nurse daily/often to help get rolling
Learning how to navigate social distance (especially with a social, only child).
A separate nurse to tend to my daughters medical needs (gtube feeds, meds, blood sugar checks) then the general one where she could be in with kids who don't feel well.
Not sure.
unknown at this time.
Not sure.
I would like to see social and emotional support more utilized. The kids need to know everything is going to be okay and know that their concerns are validated. They are just as nervy to return to school as the parents are to send them.
School nurse is important if students get sick at school. Social & Emotional support is good to help ensure the students have an outlet to discuss impact of remote learning.
I would like to see social and emotional support more utilized. The kids need to know everything is going to be okay and know that their concerns are validated. They are just as nervous to return to school as the parents are to send them.
N/A
If my child felt the need to see the nurse, then that should be encouraged as it was Pre COVID-19
Yes, I would be interested in an emotional and social support program if we have to continue remote learning. My son was very depressed, and cried almost everyday. It was not normal.
????
Potentially a temperature check and/or COVID-19 checking
School nurse services would be used as needed but I think that kids, especially younger ones, are going to need a lot of additional social/emotional support. We noticed that our son has had a big uptick in outbursts and anger management issues (my husband and I are both able to work from home but are often on conference calls). We're reading up and trying our best to help him manage his feelings but having someone else to talk to would likely be very beneficial.
Remotely, group session opportunities and small community gatherings.
To help navigate feelings of missing school. Would love to see lessons done about these thing
It depends on situation.
We fully intend to utilize the social/emotional support programs available to second graders in the fall. He has not had the opportunities to learn the social skills required of his age over the past 6 months. He will need extra help to overcome the anxiety brought on by all of the change and new procedures.
May be in some capacity if required
if needed
I'm not sure.
Not any differently unless the nurse will be taking temps and extra training for her on COVID symptoms
Social groups to talk about how this is affecting them.

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I think the school nurse could play a very important role in teaching and encouraging students proper hygiene techniques. It is not only increased handwashing, but thorough handwashing, covering your mouth when coughing/sneezing, and explaining to the students why it is so important that we are doing these things. I feel strongly that it is important that the students have a good understanding of why we are having them do all of these increased requirements, and a feeling that they are doing this to help their community. The nurse would not have to actually do all of the teaching, but could provide the information/materials to each class and be available for questions. The social/emotional support programs will be very important this year, especially for children with higher anxiety, to ensure each child feels safe and supported. Most children will be fairly isolated this summer, and that will continue into this school year to some degree. There will also be a fair number of student who are afraid of returning to school in any capacity, and their families may not have the knowledge or coping strategies to ease these fears for them. These programs will be an important outlet for children to express their feelings of fear, insecurity, uncertainty, or loneliness and to learn techniques/strategies to cope.
Temperature checks
I have not found the school nurse to be effective for any of my 5 children in the past. I do not anticipate them to be effective in the future
The school nurse in the MMS building has not been effective for any if my 5 children who have attended. I do not think she would be effective now.
My children have not found the nurse to be helpful other than handing out a bandaid. I do not think they would be effective enough and potentially a large risk for transmission of COVID19.
My children have not found the nurse to be helpful other than handing out a bandaid. I do not think they would be effective enough and potentially a large risk for transmission of COVID19.
My child visited the school counselor on a daily basis. I don't know how the middle school operates but if it is beneficial to my child I would like this to continue. I am concerned about having him moving around the school and in another classroom though.
Checking on his lungs due to Asthma.
Keep doing what they've always done.
I would consider using the social/emotional support programs in order to help my kids understand and comprehend the current situation better.
using social/emotional support programs to help answer questions and hopefully ease anxiety surrounding COVID19 and showing my child that she is not the only one out there who feels sad and confused about why things are different
My child uses the social/emotional services available currently, I would continue to have my child participate in the programs so they can express their concerns and talk about how they are feeling with everything that is taking place.
Use it/as needed
Use as needed
Not sure
Not sure
I don't know what support programs are available to comment. I know my kids didn't do any SEL in the spring because Math and Reading were the priorities.
School nurses can only help when an issue is brought to them. It's the parents knowingly sending sick children to school that will hide it with meds that will be an issue.

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At this time, I don't think we would use these services.
n/a
I don't know what support programs are available. Both parents in our house work and therefore adding in additional programs is just more work we have to do in addition to our full time jobs
NA
Not at all
N/a
My daughter has an IEP and would utilize the nurse and her team as needed.
Yes for emotional and social support.
Not applicable
my son would need OT and behavioral support from the school that he has in his 504
Would not use.
Would not use.
medication management and counseling services
If my child experiences anxiety due to the changes school conditions as a result of Covid, I would like her to speak with someone at school about how to deal with that.
The same I would before the virus.
I would like the teachers to be watching for elevated anxiety levels showing up in my child due to all of the changes due to Covid in schools this year
Not sure that I would.
if remote learning, there is no need for school nurse. my child is on iep and needs more social/emotional support during in school and remote learning. If remote learning, i would like to see a in person group for social skills, it could even be held outside 6 feet apart if that is necessary.
If remote learning, would not need school nurse. If remote learning, would like to see social/emotional classes part of child day and once weekly outside with small group.
There is no need for this Kids need peer interactions to develop social skills!!!! Children don't need psychologists they need social interaction!!!
Yes
unknown
unknown
unknown
It would most likely been dependent on his needs. I don't foresee him needing the school nurse, except for any typical needs of a 5/6 year old. If I felt he needed any emotional support due to the current circumstances, I may perhaps utilize that.
School nurse as usual Social emotional would be better if schools offered talk therapy options. Reed's ferry never offered this as far as I know
Both are important. We would benefit from nurse services, as needed. If the social/emotional programs were available online, they would make it easier for us to attend.
Both are important. We would benefit from nurse services as needed. If the social/emotional programs were available online, they would make it easier for us to attend.

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I doubt we would use the services of the school nurse over that of out primary care physician unless there was an emergency or medical incident at school. It would be helpful if the school would provide us with a comprehensive overview of the social/emotional support programs available as we are not very familiar with them.
I doubt we would use the services of the school nurse over that of out primary care physician unless there was an emergency or medical incident at school. It would be helpful if the school would provide us with a comprehensive overview of the social/emotional support programs available as we are not very familiar with them.
Having a third party talk to my child about what's going on and having them open up about their feelings.
Unsure at this time
Unsure at this time
I think my daughter needs help with dyslexia and I would need help with getting it documented and supported
Don't know. My child will be in kindergarten so I'm not familiar with what is available.
College preparation
only use services if necessary.
College planning
if you go to remote learning, you might has well fire them and a third of the teachers, too
No
It is very important that each child knows where to locate the school nurse and can be dismissed to go to the nurse if they are not feeling well. It might also be a good idea to take temperatures twice a day, perhaps before and after lunch, so as to catch any spikes during the day, and reduce any transmission that might occur.
It might also benefit the children to have some sort of extra time implemented (perhaps an extra class, in small groups?) to allow for socialization that was missed last year. Perhaps this could even be done through guidance, a short period of time during the day, for kids to reconnect.
My children will not be going if they need to wear masks, and we need to understand that getting kids to social distance is near impossible. We want it to be a fun, learning environment and if these systems are in place (i.e. masks and keeping them separated) I believe it is going to do more harm than good.
My children will not be going if they need to wear masks, and we need to understand that getting kids to social distance is near impossible. We want it to be a fun, learning environment and if these systems are in place (i.e. masks and keeping them separated) I believe it is going to do more harm than good.
Not sure. I hope to continue having my son meet with the school social worker, regardless of if the school is remote, in person or hybrid.
As needed
Not necessary... I am a healthcare worker myself
As per CDC guideline, nurse (May be more than one) should be available through out the school hours daily with all available instruments and COVID-19 vaccine and medicine for kids
It would be nice to have someone speak to the kids at some interval to make sure they are aware of what's going on with the virus, why it's important to wear a mask, wash their hands more than usual, etc. That way it can keep them focused on those habits to create an environment as low-risk as possible, and to alleviate fears or concerns the kids may have.

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Not sure.
Try to return to normal, but be very careful with those who are high risk or are showing symptoms.
This is my child's first year at MES; we have all we need in terms of nurse, healthcare, etc., but if I participate at MES rather than homeschool, I want the social relationships and learning relationships to be a high priority, which seems like a social/emotional support.
Unsure, as this is our first child entering into Elementary school
Na
don't know
Social/emotional programs will help allow my child to develop into a happy and accepting human.
Would not
She needs a larger office to communicate with parents and keep sick children separated
I am not interested in sending my kids to school during this pandemic. It's not safe.
I won't use services if my child isn't in school, which he won't be because Covid-19 is killing people.
Help support fear and anxiety of children being exposed to news, media, death, etc
The school nurse can be a fantastic educator and source of comfort and safety for students who are concerned about their well being. The nurse could be front-and-center, reminding students of best safety practices and also reminding them that good habits help everyone.
It would be great to have a person I could reach out to for advice on how to beat support my child emotionally through distance learning and the new guidelines. Even via email or phone.
I would if the school is open
the nurse and all social/emotional support Programs seem critical during high school, especially the first year even without COVID. ramping up this support seems like a good idea.
We would not need the school nurse, but would consider social/emotional support programs.
Additional 1-1 and group conversations via zoom
Like always IF YOU OPEN THE SCHOOLS
Counselors should have frequent checks on their students to ensure that social/emotional needs are being addressed
We are transitioning to a new school and there is a lot of anxiety regarding that change so we may need support to help get through that. Especially if she has no close friends in her PLT.
Yes
I'm not sure. Not having a classroom/peer support or any extra curricular activities has been challenging for my children.
I wouldn't use them.
My child is on the autism spectrum so we would benefit form social/emotional support during the next year. Preferably form home via zoom meetings until the virus has come to a screeching halt.
I will stay in contact via email as much as it is needed.
The nurse needs to be aware of all cdc policies, be ready to send children home and enforce quarantine, have knowledge of local testing facilities.
Not sure
Unsure
Unknown
N/A

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Have the nurse demonstrate how easy it is to contaminate material and individuals. Teens in my case seem to think COVID isn't dangerous to them. They are invincible and it will not hurt them...well my biggest fear if the students go back to school is them returning home and contaminating my home and person. My husband and I are at high risk for Covid. If the Nurse and teachers checked their temperatures consistently and students are reminded consistently that the preventative items we are asking them to do is for the safety of everyone...not just themselves.
meetings to help students who are having a hard time with home schooling and communication with parents to let us know how the students are doing each week before they fall behind and get bad grades.
I don't know if I would "use" them outside of their usual duties. If my child is hurt or unwell I would Hope he can go to the nurse and seek attention, remedy and solution, wether while In school if needing to be removed.
Social/emotional support programs would be a huge benefit.
n/a
I think social/emotional support programs are EXTREMELY important during the next school year. Especially for the younger population who not only need opportunities to develop their social/emotional skills but also require more support in providing these opportunities. I think small groups would be most beneficial, as large whole class instruction with preschoolers was very challenging. The older students are independent and have access to resources that provide opportunities to socialize and build social/emotional skills (e.g. social media platforms, telephones, cars that they can drive to a socially distanced get together). The younger students have been more isolated by nature of their skill and cognitive/maturity levels. Parents (who are already stretched thin) have had to try and provide some sort of social emotional learning opportunities for their little ones, which does not come close to the 3/4x week frequency and duration the (physically in) school week provides.
She can see use the support programs while attending school. Please open the schools
My son had a hard time the longer he was home. Having a group to discuss his frustration would have been helpful
To keep us up to date on exposure in the schools.
N/A
In their original capacity

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16. What frequency of communication would you like to receive from your child's school(s) during the next school year?

[More Details](#)

Daily	224
Weekly	1019
As needed only	561



17. What frequency of communication would you like to receive from the school district during the next school year?

[More Details](#)

Daily	100
Weekly	860
As needed only	843



18. Open ended comments can provide us very valuable information. Is there anything else you would like to tell us that would help us support you and your family during this pandemic?

[More Details](#)

694

Responses

Question #18 Responses

Too much communication can be a bad thing because it waters down the messages. I would urge the school district to be more succinct in its communications with the public and not to feel forced to update weekly when an update is not necessary.
Kids need to school to grow in every aspect!!!
all set thanks.
Send them back!!!!!! There is an urgent need for these kids to be around peers. They are at a developmentally critical point. We are hurting their mental well being by continuing to isolate them.
If we do go to remote learning, the teachers need to be more involved and teach the lessons as a group, not just give them a paper and ask questions. Each kid learns differently and there were no avenues for support if a kid got behind.

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I would expect that whatever remote learning takes place would also apply to the teachers working remote as they are in a much higher risk with Covid than the younger student body. So whatever applies to one group should apply to all.
My daughter has fallen behind in her academics and social development because my wife and I were left to do it all on our own. She met with her teacher once a week for 10 minutes via Zoom which is unacceptable. Teachers need to be more engaged and still have a routine/schedule to be with their students, even if done remotely.
I feel strongly that we need to get students back to school, full time, next year
You are all doing awesome! Thank you for all your hard work!
A return to regular school schedule etc
Kids need to go back to school
I think it's very important that students return to school full time in the fall
Send them back!!!! There is an urgent need for these kids to be around peers. They are at a developmentally critical point. We are hurting their mental well being by continuing to isolate them.
Please keep email communications short and to the point.
Let the kids return to their normal life
If students are going to be doing remote learning it would be beneficial if they was some way to use looping(students have the same teacher as the previous year). It would also be helpful for clear guidelines on what children need to be health wise before being able to attend in school learning (can they attend with a regular cold? Do they need a Dr note or covid testing etc?), What length of time will children have to be out and how will absences be held against students. Will they be expected to stay home for 14 days/until a cold passes to ensure its not covid-19? How will they get their school work? Etc
Preschool online learning was a challenge for us in the spring. My daughter misses school and misses the socializing. She's asks frequently when she can return. My hope is that our kids can return with small classes, temp checks, and constant practice of hand washing and sanitation. Keeping a mask on during the school day will be a great challenge. If masks are required I can not imagine we will continue with the program. We will also not continue with the program if it is online learning and I would request a refund. Thank you for all that are assisting with these decisions!
Being in school is so important. I'm confident the district will come up with something that balances the needs of the students, families, and the staff.
Please let the parents and teachers choose what they want to do. I will 100% be sending my child back to school next school year, and preference is her normal weekly schedule. No remote learning half the time, in class learning the other half. That will confuse and hurt these children, who need to be in a classroom with their friends and teacher. Also, no mandatory masks for kids or staff either. My child cannot even wear a mask in a store for longer than 10 minutes; she will not be able to keep one on for a whole day, nor do i want her to keep one on for that long. It's not safe for a young child to wear a masks for that long. I feel like having a more strict sick policy might help more than social distancing, temperature checks, and split schedules. Also, taking away specials, lunch time, and more importantly recess is absolutely not right. These kids need a chance to be KIDS. They've been kept home, kept away from their friends for so long. Taking away the right to be a child and play with their friends will only hurt them.

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Please don't send emails unless necessary and when doing so, please be clear and concise. We don't need journal entries on a daily basis.
Let up on the police presence. There were 5+ armed officers at graduation. Is this what it's going to look like when the kids come back to school? If so, please make us parents aware because having armed officers at the school at that level does not in any way relieve tension and I will not send my kid to a school that endorses such a presence.
I understand the possible need (?) for a police presence at the high school, but not anywhere near the display at graduation. We should know what your plans is for this as well. Immediately.
Remote learning in younger children is not possible the way the working/family structure is set up in the United States at this time. As a country, we lack solid and affordable childcare support and keeping our children at home hinders their social and emotional development. Please take into account recent recommendations related to this from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and their recommendations for children to return to the classroom.
None
While I want my son to return to school in the fall because I believe that is where he learns best, I need to be certain he will be safe, and that every staff member he will come in to contact with has been following guidelines for safety and social distancing and lack of exposure to COVID-19. It is a huge amount of trust to place in staff, But our children deserve nothing less than their best efforts to keep every student and staff member in the district safe. I am very willing to continue with remote learning if it is done well to make sure of his safety.
Sports are a very needed, positive outlet for these kids. For some, it's the center of their social lives/development. Please allow them to fully participate (but with safety precautions like temp checks). It's important for them, and our community, to have that outlet as we get back to school. Thanks for all your hard work.
School should resume to normal hours and attendance. Limit student movement within school. Temp checks, sanitizer available and used frequently.
We are terrified. We have a child who is already compromised due to genetics and a respiratory condition. Schools should follow the daycare models that stayed open during the pandemic-mask usage, social distancing, very restricted access,
If we have to do remote learning again, then the children should have a structured day, with ongoing live/zoom sessions throughout the day. Structure is the key.
As stated above, we just want our son to have as normal and great of a senior year as possible. Our ultimate preference is to have "in school" learning only. Remote learning isn't the best scenario for our student and also takes away from the experience of being a senior. With that being said safety for all is obviously the most important thing.
Well covered in this survey, assuming I can answer these questions for another child in a different school
Allowing students to participate in athletics would be great.
Parents with multiple children in school cannot feasibly leave their job to homeschool multiple children, parents need schools to be open so they can work to support their families.
you are doing a great job. Keep it up.
I just feel school is extremely important for children. Sports, friends etc. I don't believe social distancing for children is good for their mental health.

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<p>I feel that it would be irresponsible to resume traditional schooling before an effective vaccination is widely available.</p> <p>Ignoring the facts based on the needs of people that are inconvenienced by remote learning is not an excuse to put lives in danger.</p> <p>You've already had at least one Covid positive employee.</p> <p>How can you expect kids to be responsible when some adults won't even be.</p>
<p>I feel it is critical for the education of our children to return to school to be instructed by their teachers. Since this virus has less of a health impact on children than many other common communicable diseases the risk of illness is heavily outweighed by the risk to their long-term development.</p>
<p>I don't think online learning went well last year. My child did not learn anything new and had very few 'lectures'. I don't see why the normal school schedule was not continued and why there weren't the normal daily lectures.</p> <p>I also would like the Administration to be more data based and not political. The data in NH clearly shows younger (<19 yo) are not in danger from the virus. The normal flu is more dangerous to them. There is also data from other countries that have gone back to school, please use it.</p> <p>If you would like to say the elders are in danger from the kids, that's who should be quarantined, the elderly and susceptible. The kids need the education before they get further behind.</p>
<p>My child struggled with her speech and has fallen further behind peers even with remote speech. In person and in classroom really is what is needed for success.</p>
<p>I have little concern about my child returning to school , unless we force children to wear masks . It's an unrealistic expectation. My child will not wear a mask mandatory or not .</p>
<p>Although the Covid 19 is a serious pandemic problem, panicking and exaggerating will cause more stress for students and parents. It does not mean that the guidelines should be ignored, but both parents and school should try to maintain peaceful atmosphere that would help everyone to adjust to the new situation.</p>
<p>Honestly my child is suffering with the lack of social interaction with his peers. He is an only child in the elementary school and his peers play an important role in his social and emotional growth. He learns social cues from them that we simply cannot recreate. We had a very hard time with remote learning and we are praying they can go back to in class teaching.</p>
<p>We were very disappointed in the quality of remote learning through the district. Most of the teachers (especially the para who did nothing) getting paid were a waste of our tax dollars. They signed on for a couple hours a week at best. I was my children's primary educator and I didn't earn a dime doing it. Teachers are only worth the pay if they and the kids are physically all at school. Kids need to be at school with teachers interacting with their friends, etc. The mental health of all of our students is at a high risk. A large portion of kids are back playing sports and they are on top of each other. Why would they be allowed to have 2 hour practices with each other and not be fine to go back to school? My kids play sports with lots of other kids 6 days a week. They also have sleepovers and hang out with their friends. They live a normal life, not a "new normal" and that is our choice. If any parents are nervous about sending their kids back then they should be given the choice to remote learn but for other people (like us and many many others I know) who want their kids back in the classroom (like in the past) that should be a choice for them.</p>
<p>We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall. Providing true/real statistics on how many children in NH that have been affected by this virus to support your decision in the fall would be great.</p>

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The kids need to be back in school it's not healthy Or appropriate for them to be home on a computer learning
Unfortunately, even with our best efforts I do not feel that my daughter learned anything during remote learning. She did every assignment, attended every single zoom meeting and I still do not feel she benefited from it at all. She is a more hand on learner, the electronic version of learning did not benefit her in anyway.
Whatever is decided you have our support! We are thankful for allllll the work going into this!
I am recovering from Cancer and Chemo so i have my concerns there. I want my child to have a real senior year and a junior prom of just her class but not at the risk of her safety.
I said this above, but I want to restate it clearly here. We are a well-resourced family (device-wise) with one non-working parent and multiple children at schools in the district. The MOST important things for remote learning at the high school level are: ability to have direct instruction (my kid cannot be trying to teach herself- it was SO frustrating last spring), but NOT live via Zoom (we simply do not have the devices or internet bandwidth with multiple kids and one parent working from home.) A move to video instruction (which we experienced at younger grades AND with certain teachers at the HS level) was TRULY a gift. For our family, it was the sweet spot of success without the frustration. Combined with opportunities for my kids to Zoom to get questions answered and extra help, it made THOSE classes a pleasure while others were a study in complete frustration. Plus, it allowed our family schedule flexibility so if emotions were rough on one day, they could do it the next day or on a flex day. It was a HUGE help where it was offered in the emotional health of my kids.
We need to return to our new normal within the school buildings. As many companies have, precautions, hand washing and staggered schedules have proven to be successful. School, although thought be different, is a business that needs to run.
I am very fortunate that I can be flexible with whatever the 2020-2021 school year looks like. I would rather remote learn with my child so children that need more services could attend at school and get the support. I will augment my child's learning experience at home With online learning resources as needed.
please think about staff as well as students
Nothing I can think of
I am interested if speech therapists will be required to wear masks because a majority of kids with speech needs read lips. If her speech therapist has to wear a mask I might opt to do speech on zoom.
At this time in my life, I am lucky enough to be a stay-at-home mom. Which means, my opinion is very different from a lot of the working parents filling out this survey. However, up until recently, I was also a health care worker. I whole heartedly believe that sending our children back to school full time in the fall is a terrible idea. Just because they are not dying from this virus does not mean they cannot contract it. Putting the students and teachers at risk unnecessarily is obscene to me. I understand that not all families are able to have their children at home all day. However, I do not feel safe with the idea of sending my children back to school full time.
The only reason I can not volunteer is that I have a 3 year old at home still.
It was very difficult to keep up with the level of communication from the school and staff and district. There were weeks that I received more than 50 emails. It was overwhelming and very difficult to sort through. It would help to limit some of the communication or prioritize it to academic information.
We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall. Providing true/real statistics on how many children in NH that have been affected by this virus to support your decision in the fall would be great.

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Remote learning was not a good solution for my child. He struggled trying to navigate on his own and grades definitely suffered. It was a major source of tension in the household to hound him to do his work and submit. If remote learning is to be used again it need to be consistent and have clear class plans, assignments, and submission portals posted daily. He had to hunt for where to find things and how to submit. It should not be MORE work and more time consuming for students and parents than actually going to school.
I support a hybrid schedule and possibly a longer school year to make up hours cut short during shorter weeks if needed. Everyone should feel safe and changing their schedules around for some days in/remote in order to do so seems like a good compromise for all. My child is in the top of his class and he too found some classes much harder once home that we're never a challenge before. Teaching needs to be consistent, and teachers need to be held accountable. Some of his did a wonderful job and didn't miss a thing, others were so bad. In speaking to other parents, it was the same teachers people had issues with. There needs to be a way they are held responsible too for doing a bad job besides a parent emailing them.
Ms. Prinz did an excellent job with what she had to work with but remote learning is not adequate for my daughters learning and socialization.
I think a hybrid model would be great. Special Ed services worked
I'll state again: "I would like to see a traditional school return. Treat the children like children, let them live. If you see them fighting, hugging, getting to close; stop them but do not let them live in a bubble. Kids will get sick, kids will get better, they need to build their immune system. They need to laugh, learn, cry, they need to live."
I'm hoping if masks are required that kids with ADHD, autism, sensory issues etc might be exempt. I don't think my kid will get any work done if he has to wear a mask.
I was hoping that there would be the possibility for the kids with IEPs to at least be able to attend school if there is a need to limit the amount of kids in the building, since these kids are less likely to succeed without the extra supports that being in school can provide them. Thank you!
The way the TFS first grade team handled remote learning (lessons given on Mondays for the week, direct teaching for key subject on video, all organized by subject on a website) was LITERALLY IDEAL. PLEASE use this model again for 2nd grade. It was SO helpful for me as a parent to have it all laid out on Monday giving us the flexibility to do it in the chunks of time we had available.
We have four children in the merrimack school district, a hybrid approach would be extremely difficult for us to manage as parents we both have full time jobs.
If our return plan includes some sort of remote learning, please consider the significant demands it places on working parents. I found the first two weeks of remote learning this past spring to be the best, as there was a mix of "traditional" work (packets from school) with some work requiring screens. The rest of the school year shifted to screens. There are so many developmental skills that cannot be addressed via a tablet or computer. We ended up purchasing a printer to allow the children to work on tasks on paper, then I scanned and submitted them through the appropriate portals. Additionally, my children are not old enough to independently manage their work, so much of it was addressed after my work days concluded. That placed considerable demands on all of our family, and the children lost interest in the often rote tasks that had to be completed. It was helpful having the teachers note what was mandatory in the last few weeks of the school year. I should also mention that the teachers offered to engage in remote sessions to support our children; however, this type of intervention would still require our supervision, which is difficult to provide during traditional work hours. As noted above, I feel it important to reiterate the needs of the children from a socio-emotional standpoint. I hope the taskforce is able to identify supports for the children in this area, regardless of where learning will occur in the fall.

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We have no concerns about our child physically returning to school in the fall. Providing true/real statistics on how many children in NH that have been affected by this virus to support your decision in the fall would be great.
I think you should know that Mark's emails are so reassuring. I know people have their own pressing personal reasons for wanting remote or in person but know that whatever you do will be Enough. It will be constantly changing and we can only do our best with the current information. Thank you for all your hard work!
My older daughter can get by with some remote learning but my younger daughter needs to be in school for better learning and social and emotional needs.
We have four children in the merrimack school district, a hybrid approach would be extremely difficult for us to manage as parents we both have full time jobs.
At this point I am not comfortable with my kindergartener returning to school. While she does wear a mask on the rare occasion that she leaves the house, I do not believe it would be easily enforced on an entire classroom of 5 year olds. I believe elementary school age children are too young to comply with the enforced guidelines, and remote learning would be a much better option.
If you can keep the children home until numbers provide more safety. Online learning isn't the end of the world. I just want to keep everyone safe. If we limit exposure like in the spring with the kids being home it saved many lives. It could do so again in the Fall. Zoom meetings are so helpful and make children feel less alone but in a safe place at the same time. Our children need to learn but also need to feel safe in these uncertain times. Thank you for all you do. We do appreciate it!
God bless you all for all of your hard work in trying to take care of the students and yourselves!
We have four children in the merrimack school district, a hybrid approach would be extremely difficult for us to manage as parents we both have full time jobs.
I think having more parent teacher contact and a big picture of the monthly goals for curriculum so we can pace ourselves and know what the priorities and goals are.
As far as the communication questions at the end, this is difficult to answer exactly as I would want more frequent contact if we are at home schooling. I do hope that this will not be the outcome as this will cause severe hardship on my family and financial stability
We have four children in the merrimack school district, a hybrid approach would be extremely difficult for us to manage as parents we both have full time jobs.
Normality is important to us
I feel that there needs to be at the very minimum a hybrid model for students due to social/emotional needs of students. I would support going back full time or a staggered schedule if the school can develop a plan for student/staff safety. Full remote learning should be an absolute last resort, in my opinion
District level communication has been lengthy and overwhelming. The same information could be provided in a much less anxiety provoking method. Perhaps more bullets and less wordy.
Please consider the impact to education and child wellness before deciding to move to remote learning. Since school age children are a low risk group for complications should they go back and higher risk groups including educators can be remote if needed, but kids need interaction. If remote learning is the only option, have you considered training instructors on how to be as effective remotely or maybe even outsourcing instruction to educators that have the ability to be effective in that space.
I hope to see drastic improvements to teacher involvement with remote learning (if needed) as far as the high school goes. Teachers were very hands off with limited zoom calls and opportunities to ask questions which made learning very difficult.
N/A

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The children are suffering emotionally and socially, far more than academically. I would encourage the school district to try and get the students back to school
Sadly, I feel that the educators and administration of MSD can put hundreds of processes into place for the good of our kids, but it all comes down to each kid and their family/parents/home situation. The pandemic is dangerous and health and safety guidelines need to be enforced. Plans for ENFORCING things also need to be put into place with clearly articulated consequences for offenders. If, due to politics, these guidelines can't be ENFORCED, then it's going to be a free for all.
My child will need a LOT of help adjusting to the increased expectations and workload of high school as he transitions into high school. That is my biggest concern. I feel that significant time will need to be spent teaching kids how to study and learn independently with the added rigor of high school. Basic study skills. Specifically outlined ways to prepare for evaluations, clear expectations and timelines for completion, etc..... I also feel that after experiencing HS with my older child last year, the classes that were the most successful for him were classes where instruction was provided by video and then there were optional Zoom opportunities for him to get extra help or ask questions. This allowed us flexibility with devices, sleep schedules, etc.....during the day that was really helpful for our stress levels. Also, timely logging of assignments into Power School would be helpful. Lastly, assigning grades but NOT then crediting it towards their GPA seemed very counter productive. It gave me- as a parent- all the stress of yes, having to nag him about his grades (because they will be on his transcript), but none of the benefit. AS a method of alleviating stress, it wasn't helpful.
I would like to see a focus of returning in some capacity for the Freshman and Senior class. I have concerns with my senior not receiving the guidance he needs for the college application process. For the Freshman class I have concerns with them not knowing any teachers or staff and how that will impact their ability to be successful in remote learning.
My daughter has a iep and I cannot successfully teach her at home, she needs the help of her teachers and she is not getting a proper education at home. She has not retained anything since school was closed, some kids are not receptive to learning on a computer and need in person help and instruction.
I have two children that will be in Thorton's Ferry next year, and two younger children at home. I'm very worried about school starting back up. Especially since we've seen such a rise in cases recently as the country opens back up. I'm having a hard time wearing a mask for a couple hours while running errands. I don't see my 5 and 7 year old wearing a mask all day, or at least safely wearing one. We haven't decided what we will do, but have been looking into home school as an option.
One factor not addressed of the school community is whether or not the child or immediate family members living at home with the child has an underlying health condition such as cancer (leukemia), seizure disorder, asthma, diabetes. At this moment, we are not planning on having our child return to the school building unless there is safe and effective vaccine available that is mandated for all students and staff to take to attend. My child as well as her father have severe underlying health conditions. We see education as a life long pursuit and if you don't have a life, you cannot pursue it. If the district truly wants to support the school community, then those students and families with underlying health conditions should have the option to go completely remote for the 2020-2021 school year especially when remote learning for our child was such a huge success compared to being in the school building. Brick walls are not necessarily the best learning environment for all students. All students are unique in how they learn best and that includes the environment in which they are taught. We have stumbled upon the best for our child and we hope the district recognizes that. One size (or textbook) does not fit all.
Full time remote learning should be a very last resort, in my opinion, based on the fact that it greatly impacts the social/emotional health of students at large

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Our children, all children need to have a normalcy to their lives, social isolation is very damaging to their health. I want the school to look at all factors and numbers when moving forward. I do feel children with extremely compromised immune systems should have access to a remote learning platform but the numbers speak for themselves and COVID19 is not very deadly to children, I don't think we have had one death related to it in a child. The school needs to focus on the children not the fears of their parents. The school needs to focus on the mental health and in some cases physical health of children who must stay at home.
Transportation is important and helpful but I have great hesitation. Aside from safety, IEP goals are main priority. I like the hybrid model of MW kids and TR kids, Friday for special needs/extra support, office hours, etc. While teaching MW kids in person lessons are streamed to TR kids. While teaching TR kids, MW kids can log in remotely. Material presented in classroom to half the students "traditionally" while other half follow along remotely. While remote they can interact and ask questions live but if schedules conflict they have the opportunity to watch the days lessons at another time. This allows for social distancing, reduced class size, and should children of MW get sick it doesn't interrupt TR kids, easier to quarantine if needed. This also allows for students with other at risk health concerns to attend remotely as needed.
Remote learning did not go well for us. My son will most likely drop out if forced to do remote learning again
My daughter will be in kindergarten, and very unlikely to learn anything from a screen. I've watched as other parents wither away in despair over the piles of work given to their young children, and I know we won't be able to handle the stress of that. I'm very hopeful with what I've seen in our daycare centers that schools can open safely with precautions, and I deeply hope that they do. Thank you for the work and diligence you've put into this process. I don't envy your decision.
More video instruction that we can access on our timetable. Zoom ONLY for optional meetings with teachers to ask questions, get help. Instruction by teachers on remote learning work habits and time-management. More accountability in regards to assignments not turned in on time.
I feel as if there should be a compromise. There are children who have compromised immune systems and cannot attend as well as children like mine who live with a family Member who has a compromised immune system and cannot attend. There is also families who cannot afford to have their children home and may need the meals provided by the school. I feel like it should be possible to take any grade and determine how many students at each school will not be attending in person and allocate 1-2 teachers per grade to remote and 2-3 for in person. Also for remote learning I think there needs to be weekly packets. On Friday pickup for next week and drop off this week. There needs to be more accountability.
Thank you for all your hard work. It is very much appreciated.
See #12
I am greatly appreciative of the efforts put in to making online learning work this spring. It was a daunting task, and one I suspect no-one was ready for. Please do not take my subsequent commentary the wrong way, I believe the district and its teachers made a great effort to make the best of a terrible situation. However, online learning was a failure this spring. Students were not given proper support. Teachers did not provide appropriate feedback or learning opportunities, particularly for those who learn differently. My children passed the final quarter, but I do not believe they actually learned, nor were they engaged the way they ought to have been. It felt like teachers and students alike took an approach of just trying to get past this rather, than making the most of it. If Online learning is going to continue in the fall (and I suspect it will), it needs to be better.... Better structured, with more interaction with teachers, with ways to reach students with more learning styles, with better feedback mechanisms, and with more frequent assessments of whether or not

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students are truly following along. I suggest the district take time now, to look at what makes on-line learning successful at the college level, to identify best practices and to institute them.
Just please let these kids return to semi-normalcy.
Not at this time
I would like my student to have a more rigorous learning experience, with consequences for not completing work on time, gpa will count etc. If those things are not counted, school doesn't 'count' or mean much, according to my student. And I saw that as an issue for him to be motivated to complete work, doing it well and without taking short cuts.
The superintendent emails are far too verbose and narrative. Bottom line up front, let people read a blog if they want 5,000 words on school lunch delivery.
Rather than rely on volunteers, consider using the many paraeducators who are not being utilized in the remote setting. Or furlough them to allow for increase in actual teachers to accommodate smaller class sizes.
As much as I would like for my children to return to school, there is so much unknown. I have 3 children, my two youngest and myself are high risk. I will not make them wear masks as I feel this makes it harder to breathe. I do not trust that all people are practicing good social distancing and I fear their exposure. This presents a huge issue to my family and I'm at a loss.
My child needs to be challenged in online schooling. I am hoping the teachers can provide additional curriculum to challenge my child especially in the science portion. Having him look at videos and writing a required report on what he has learned will help. This must come from the school/teacher, not parent enforced, please.
Again, I ask you consider the age of children and not treat kindergartners the same as high schoolers who may function generally better in a remote environment than young children.
Daily district emails were too long and contained too much filler information. Critics facts only please.
Our family believes strongly that kids should physically be in school this fall. We following our governors orders, stayed at home, didn't see friends or family for months, but it's vitally important that our children return to some sense of normalcy.
Too many extraneous district emails with nonsense facts about school lunch.
If staff need to wear masks vs face shields, I highly encourage you to look into the clear masks. My son relies a lot on facial expression (as I'm sure most kids do).
Thank you!
I am hopeful that the kids will be able to return to school with some basic safety measures in place.
Covid is scary and as much as I'm sad at the thought of the kids not returning to school in the fall, I'm hoping the safety of the students, staff and teachers is the number one priority. Masks and hand washing sound good in theory. I have 4 kids under 7, I understand how on top of them you have to be at all times to enforce this. My biggest concern is how will the teachers enforce masks and socially distancing to make parents feel safe. I have a 5 year old, who will begin Kindergarten in the fall. My goodness do I need to keep on top of him to wash hands and keep the mask on the very few times we've had to venture out. So wondering how this will pan out in a classroom environment?

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<p>It is not the school systems responsibility to support people in the pandemic. It should not be the taxpayers problem. The lunch program you have had since the start of this is ridiculous. The taxpayers never voted for giving "the takers" in this town lunch every day. You have done that which means not only do I have to pay for my own food, but for others in addition to all the taxes that I have to pay to the town and federal government. A reminder, we are not considered a socialist country yet. However, the school systems are doing their best to change our government to that. If you want to have a lunch program, base that program on donations only, not school system, budget, or town funds. Our children and their children will be paying through taxes for these programs for decades. Socialism does not work. There are not enough people working and paying taxes to support all of those who do not want to help themselves.</p>
<p>I understand people concern for the virus, however, the death rate is near none and extremely limited. Children get sick and the human body needs a fair amount of exposure to bacteria to remain healthy. Making everything so clean and sanitized is doing an injustice to our immune systems. In the end I will let my son make the decision whether to return or remote based on the options available. However, I do know he missed being in school for the social interactions. I also know he was looking forward to sports and sporting events. I think for the over well being of our children and their mental state kids should be able return as normal.</p>
<p>I am really worried about my daughter entering Kindergarten. She had been in the process of RTI for several speech delays and I have noticed a general withdrawal from school.</p>
<p>Thank you, I know this is no easy task. I appreciate all efforts to make school reopening possible for the fall. Remote learning was difficult on my family. I have concerns about how a full remote learning model will effect my child in the fall, especially with an unfamiliar relationship between him and his classroom teacher.</p>
<p>As long as numbers are the same. Kids need to go back to regular schedule so parents can work. Masks and frequent hand washing are necessary.</p>
<p>None</p>
<p>Who outside of the school staff and board are making these decisions? There is talk about "groups" but I don't see any listing of what these groups are made of. Seems to be quite secretive.</p>
<p>I am really torn about that is best next year. I am really looking for input from health professionals and the school district.</p>
<p>I feel that, should we require remote learning, that there be mandatory zoom meetings that replace class times instead of once/twice a day voluntary check ins to keep some form of schedule.</p>
<p>get those schools open! elementary school age should not be required to wear a mask. theyre too young to keep them on all day. clear shields for teachers and staff so kids can see their teachers face. encourage them to clean their own desks. last few mins of recess, tap kids on shoulder in few second intervals to line-up and wash hands. 6ft rule will be impossible for the youngsters, there has to be some exception to that rule in reagrds to age, but can be encouraged throughout the year so by the end, IF this chaos is not gone, they will be better prepared for the next year. add proper hygiene procedure to daily lessons and routine.</p>
<p>Send them to school as normal.</p>
<p>No daily emails from superintendent, principal, teachers, special ed teachers. It too much and email fatigue is real!!</p>
<p>Remote learning in any capacity should only be implemented out of desperation. It was not successful, useful and too demanding on parents who are working. Students need to go back. Follow the CDC and Massachusetts' lead.</p>

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Good luck, you have a difficult job ahead of you.
Going back to school is of utmost importance for our children. We certainly understand that this is not the case for all. In our opinion, we feel that the decision should be made by the parents and that there be an option to go back to school with appropriate safety measures and an option for remote learning for those who cannot be at school. This would most likely create smaller class sizes and less people would be in the buildings and would also provide an option for those teachers who cannot physically be at school to teach remotely. A hybrid model would just be too unstructured for kids and would create logistical challenges for parents that are working out of the house, especially for those families that have children in multiple schools.
Go back to normal It doesn't affect children
A lot of attention has been directed towards meeting the needs of the lowest achieving students. I think the higher performing students are being short-changed because of this. On-line learning should allow for the more advanced students to move forward at a faster rate.
For my preschooler I'm just happy when he can socialize somehow. I don't need serious remote learning for him, maybe some small meet ups with his classmates online if school time will be reduced, but he only has two school days anyway in a week.
Please make sure that the students taking AP classes get the instruction that they need to be successful on the tests
Just please try to find balance between implemented safety measures and our kids happiness. Kids still need to be kids and allow to learn/grow through play/freedom to interact.
No
While we understand the need to caution and space we also need to have these kids get back to some normalcy. I appreciate the efforts that are being made to make school safe but mask wearing for teachers and children should not be required if temp checks and regular cleaning is happening. Childcare centers that remained open for front line staff had hardly if any outbreaks out COVID. I understand the fear of the unknown I respect and wear masks when in public places I am not against precautions but we need to start moving on there will be spikes and this will not go away completely it is a virus that will mutate and change as it goes much like the flu and a vaccine is not a cure and a rush to vaccinate to open things is a huge mistake considering the information on this virus changes daily how can you create a vaccine when it is constantly changing we need to be smart safe but also move forward. Thank you for the time you are taking to make the schools safe.
My children want to return to school but I am scared to let them. I know that social distancing will not go well and young kids are not going to understand.
My child was being evaluated for speech and other things, but it was canceled during the spring. We still need to have her evaluated but our concern is that she lives with three people who are in a very high risk group of adults. (Grandparents and Father). Our biggest concern is keeping them safe during this illness while providing my child with necessary help she needs.
Though I mentioned Weekly communications from the school, I also have a child on an IEP and more information on how those needs will be met next year would be extremely helpful.
Just balance implemented safety measures with the kids happiness and ability to be kids.
Stop babying our children. Not everyone needs to get a trophy in this world. Teach them, not asking for a lot.
Thanks for figuring this out. I trust you will make the best decisions you can based on what is known at the time. Some will be correct and some may not work out, but we have to move forward. Don't let fear of not having the perfect solution prevent the district from making decisions and continuing to educate the students - there will be no perfect plan. Thanks again

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I think remote learning was very difficult for students, teachers and parents.
It is so important our kids have a chance to grow academically, socially, and personally as a part of the school year. Getting by and checking the box on meeting the requirements isn't enough. They need their school's support and interaction with their teachers to simulate as much of an in person 'normal' experience as possible. A whole year is much different than a few months at the end of a year .
I think the masks should be realistically worn when social distancing can not be done. Such as when they move through the hallways. In class, only when they cannot sufficiently distance
Remote learning was a disaster for me and my son so I am willing to do almost anything to have him go back to school.
My son needs to be in school to learn. He did not do well with home school.
No
It is critical the school offers as much interaction, support, feedback, engagement, and teaching as before —even if remote. Getting by isn't enough and a full year is very different than a few months at the end of the year
I think despite what everyone is saying that the school district did an amazing job navigating the ever changing landscape this spring. Both my girls ages 13 and 11 were able to successfully perform their remote learning via our own iPads and laptops. It definitely helped them being able to have zoom sessions with their teachers. It would be unfortunate if we had to do remote learning again this fall (oldest lost out on her 8th grade Washington DC trip but is looking forward to her first year in marching band at the high school and both miss the day to day live interactions with their friends) but our family would manage. Of course it definitely helps that I (a single parent) am a technologist and work from home and that my girls are old enough to sit on the couch with their iPads or laptops and get their assignments done for the day without having to be micromanaged. I do realize that our household situation described above is probably not the norm though.
I found there was much less accountability for the older kids in terms of turning in assignments. I can say it has taught our older kids to procrastinate as they were given options at the end of the year to drop lowest grades, make up assignments month or more overdue.... If there is remote learning I would ask that accountability be taught as well.
I found there was much less accountability for the older kids in terms of turning in assignments. I can say it has taught our older kids to procrastinate as they were given options at the end of the year to drop lowest grades, make up assignments month or more overdue.... If there is remote learning I would ask that accountability be taught as well.
I am a single mother with 3 children in the Merrimack School District. I am also a pediatric nurse. Health and safety are a priority for me in regards to my family, my career and my community. Mental health is a part of that and I feel we need to look at the big picture. Many changes need to be made but if it is exclusively remote learning, I have major concerns. I do not want my children to even entertain the idea of a trampoline park at this time, but they NEED socialization, and education by a professional. All 3 of my kids need support services as well and they cannot get what they need being home indefinitely. Their confidence will continue to decrease if their reading and math levels continue to decrease. The staff in Merrimack is phenomenal and absolutely needed for my children and many others. We need to find a SAFE balance. I am willing to transport my kids, have them take a break from sports, eat in their classrooms but they need educational services AT SCHOOL More than anything else in this crazy time.
I think it is realistic to enforce the mask wearing of students only when social distancing cannot be done such as in the hallways and in bathrooms. In class, I don't think it's reasonable. If someone is sick with any cough, sneezing, they should be sent home preferably at the screening entrance

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Remote learning is an option for a pandemic situation but it will never be better than learning at school. Students learn in different ways some can learn by reading others by writing or hearing others by hands on. For some students it is good for others this method is a failure. We need to make this process (back to school) as normal as we can. Everyone has to know that some changes like social distancing and wearing masks will be very important for our students and staff safety, but we are going to do this for a long time because we have to adjust to our new style of life. Dear school wait for my kids in fall.!
Like most families and the school district, I think we're all making decisions day-to-day as information changes so frequently. I personally understand that things planned as carefully as possible might change so as a parent I appreciate all you are doing and understand we have to adapt. :)
I would like my daughter to return to school in the fall; however, need to be confident that our teachers can provide AND enforce regular cleaning, disinfecting, and hand washing. And that if a child has a fever, is sick, or displays illness symptoms, they are not permitted to class.
Thank you for all you are doing in this CRAZY time that none of us saw coming. We appreciate it!
I have two children, both going into "new" schools in the fall (JMUES and the middle school), and I hope for them both to feel safe and supported. And want the same safety protocols to be in place at both schools.
Certainly remote learning is not ideal but we are in unprecedented times. There's time to set up a system with remote learning combined with weekly school packets of required work to make assessments of each child easier. In the spring there was no real way to do that. Also each child needs to be provided a proper device so all students have availability to the same platform. Unless there's a vaccine or at minimum a reliable treatment my child will be staying home. We lost our mother and grandmother to covid on June 29th. I will keep my family safe as humanly possible.
I also have a high school aged child, and it would help if teachers used the same platform (such as Google classroom) to submit assignments if remote learning continues
I am a single mother with 3 children in the Merrimack School District. I am also a pediatric nurse. Health and safety are a priority for me in regards to my family, my career and my community. Mental health is a part of that and I feel we mood to look at the big picture. Many changes need to be made but if it is exclusively remote learning, I have major concerns. I do not want my children to even entertain the idea of a trampoline park at this time, but they NEED socialization, and education by a professional. All 3 of my kids need support services as well and they cannot get what they need being home indefinitely. Their confidence will continue to decrease if their reading and math levels continue to decrease. The staff in Merrimack is phenomenal and absolutely needed for my children and many others. We need to find a SAFE balance. I am willing to transport my kids, have them take a break from sports, eat in their classrooms but they need educational services AT SCHOOL More than anything else in this crazy time.
My children are extremely unhappy during remote learning and I am extremely concerned about remote learnings effects or their mental health.
I understand there may be a need for some families to return to school and for others (like our family) to continue with remote learning. I believe there should be designated classroom teachers and designated remote learning teachers to help keep consistency.
While we understand there is no right or wrong answer, please be aware many families with multiple kids are struggling to keep their kids on task. Teachers have done a great job, but it doesn't change the fact the kids are in their own home and most likely distracted from the tasks at hand. Not everyone can afford to leave their job or adjust their schedules, but are willing to follow the guidelines and do all we can to get our children the best education.

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My children do not have anyone available to watch them or help them with school during the day. We work and the childcare centers are full or too expensive.
You've done an outstanding job communicating throughout this entire process since this began in March. Thank you very much.
I want to thank the merrimack school district for the amazing effort put into the end of the school year, your amazing ability to quickly transition to remote learning when the state needed to shut down was above and beyond!. Whatever the decision is in the fall, I personally know it will be a well thought out decision made by individuals that have the students and their families in their best interest!! I really do hope we can return to school in the fall!!
There must be some type of updated rules regarding not sending your child to school when ill. If a child has a cough but no fever, they should stay home. If a child has a runny nose or nasal congestion, they should stay home. ETC. Sure this could be the common cold, but it will be difficult to determine if those symptoms are Covid-19. The current NH stats show that 95% of people being tested are negative. This is reassuring.
<p>We would've been comfortable to have our kids in school this past year, and are comfortable for them to return this upcoming year. With that said however, we rather start online, or a hybrid of both if you think there is any chance of having to close the schools again and go back to online only. It is too overwhelming for everyone involved to jump back and forth without warning.</p> <p>We are also most concerned about the emotional well-being of the kids. We don't think our children should be taught to fear human interaction with their peers. It's like 'cooties' when I was kid, but on steroids, it is not healthy for anyone. If you are going to eliminate all social interaction, there is no need for them to return. They need their friends, their sports, and they need to build relationships with adults and peers.</p> <p>As I said, we don't fear Covid, but we're also not foolish. We hyper wash-hands, don't touch faces, etc. when the flu or stomach bug is going around too. People who knowingly send their children to school with fevers hidden by tylenol, etc. should face some kind of consequence, maybe a fine. And the kids (who will be honest) should be asked if they have not felt well in the last 24 hours, etc., not their parents.</p> <p>What I saw this past year with online learning was kids who were far more advanced technologically speaking than most of their teachers, and Powerschool is a horrible online learning platform. Google classroom is far better. If we were to be online the teachers need to be more creative with their teaching.</p> <p>I think the number of hours of work should be addressed if we go to online. It is not easy for kids to learn at home as is, and every teacher, every grade, every school district did something different last year. I had one kid in high school who on a tough day literally had about 45 minutes of work a day from all classes, and a 6th grader who had about 5 hours. Not to mention the constant Zoom calls, they're exhausting for an adult never mind a child.</p> <p>Perhaps a scheduling idea could be 10 days in, 10 days out, so if anyone does get sick it will show in their time away, and make the teaching and learning more project-based so they could do it while away.</p> <p>In the end, I wouldn't want to be in any of your shoes, I know this is very difficult. We know that we sit in a pretty blessed place with kids who are old enough to be home alone if needed, we are parents who are available and willing and able to support our children academically, the resources to feed them, etc., and we know this is not the case for all. We will be praying for you as you walk through this difficult season, and we will respect and make the best of whatever decisions are made.</p>
Creating rules (not guidelines) and ensuring that they are being followed by all school employees and students will be 100% essential

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I believe there shouldn't be one mandated approach to school in the fall. Not everyone will be comfortable with one decision. There should be dedicated classroom teachers and dedicated remote learning teachers.
I would like to reiterate the fact that my children will have to return to school because I am a teacher however that does not mean I am completely comfortable with returning. At some point teachers need to be asked how comfortable they are and returning to the classroom environment as well. It cannot just be assumed that everyone feels safe. Sometimes we just have to do what needs to be done. It would be nice to be asked.
I would really like my daughter and all the students to be able to return to school in the fall as normal, but the current state of the pandemic and transmission of the virus does not support that being a safe or responsible decision. This will be my daughter's first year at Thornton's Ferry and I am hoping she will be able to make some new friends. I feel like if reasonable precautions are taken, it would be beneficial for kids to return to school especially from a social and emotional aspect. One of my main concerns is about the bus situation. I am able to transport my daughter to and from school and will probably do that to help open up space on buses. However, all the kids on buses will still be in the classroom, so they would most likely carry anything caught on the bus into school.
I am also concerned that if too many protocols are put into place, kids will not be able to play and socialize together and that to me defeats the purpose of facing the risk possible exposure.
You all have a difficult task in front of you and I appreciate the time, effort and thoughtful approach to determining the learning plan for next school year. Thank you!
If students are learning remotely, I want all live video conferencing with the teacher to be encouraged. I know teachers were not able to make it mandatory for students, but emphasizing that they were completely "optional" sessions meant that my daughter missed out on direct teacher interaction. She felt like zooming was socially damaging (not cool). We need to make video conferencing more desirable and encouraged even if we can't make it mandatory. We lose some of our conscientious but shy students when we don't encourage them to participate fully in every learning opportunity. I want teachers to tell my child it is important for her to come and be part of all scheduled video conferencing. She will dial in if her teachers say this.
I am a single parent who does not have family in the area and I can't work from home. It will be a disaster for my child and I if school does not start in person on the fall.
Bring back the regular schedule, social distancing some activities and hand washing. No masks on kids and let them enjoy school again.
I would love to help volunteer but we work full time.
2 out of 3 of my children are immune compromised so I would prefer to keep all of them home to remote learn but want to be sure they aren't forgotten about if the school district decides to bring classes back in person. If there is a hybrid, will the same teachers lead the in classroom and remote work? Or will it be separate teachers?
Minimal remote learning. It has been proven young students do better in the classroom
Ideally I would love to see a reduced class size to allow for social distancing, temperature checks and masks at least for the staff, even if it means a hybrid model. If this can be accommodated with a full time schedule I am in support of that as well. My husband and I both work full time, remotely at this juncture, but that dynamic makes it extremely challenging to give our daughter what she needs in terms of learning support throughout the day.
My children are immune compromised so I would prefer to keep them home to remote learn but want to be sure they aren't forgotten about if the school district decides to bring classes back in

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person. If there is a hybrid, will the same teachers lead the in classroom and remote work? Or will it be separate teachers?
My children are immune compromised so I would prefer to keep them home to remote learn but want to be sure they aren't forgotten about if the school district decides to bring classes back in person. If there is a hybrid, will the same teachers lead the in classroom and remote work? Or will it be separate teachers?
Teachers and administrators should include the school they are associated with and their position in the email subject line. This will help parents sort through the multiple emails they receive when they have children in different schools in the district.
I am a para professional in another local town and if my school opens and Merrimack is closed I have no one to watch my children and may lose my job. Also, my daughter hates online learning and was completely disengaged barely participating by the end of the year.
Now that we have become the teachers, it would be great to get links for learning so we can help our kids with some of the more difficult classes. We have 2 kids we need to help on a daily bases and would like all work assignments issued first thing in morning and have the teacher available by phone and email during the school hours.
I want my son to return to school. I want him to be able to interact with his friends, run around, play around, be a kid. I also understand that it may not be possible, and that kills me. A lot of my personal anxiety about next year is dependent on school districts working together so that if hybrid schedules are used, I don't have to quit my job. I think last years' teachers did a really great job working with students to do the best possible job in really difficult situations. If the school does go to hybrid learning, having an alternative care situation available would make a big difference for us.
Many other parents that I have spoken with feel very against mask wearing, but I feel this survey lacks the opportunity to express that. I strongly believe that children should return to their regular routine.
If we are remote, I would like to see a greater focus on getting students engaged in working together under teacher direction.
I am more concerned with allowing children to be children, than the spread of COVID at the school level. The statistics in the countries that allowed schools to resume after a brief period, show less than 1% of transmissions occurred between a child transmitting it to an adult. I think it's also necessary for households take their own precautions and maybe a recommended guide from the school.
I am worried.
Yes if you return to a back to school model for fall, what will happen when students/staff are diagnosed with Covid? Will the schools shut down? Will it go back to 100% remote learning, etc?
I am a single mother with 3 children in the Merrimack School District. I am also a pediatric nurse. Health and safety are are a priority for me in regards to my family, my career and my community. Mental health is a part of that and I feel we mood to look at the big picture. Many changes need to be made but if it is exclusively remote learning, I have major concerns. I do not want my children to even entertain the idea of a trampoline park at this time, but they NEED socialization, and education by a professional. All 3 of my kids need support services as well and they cannot get what they need being home indefinitely. Their confidence will continue to decrease if their reading and math levels continue to decrease. The staff in Merrimack is phenomenal and absolutely needed for my children and many others. We need to find a SAFE balance. I am willing to transport my kids, have them take a break from sports, eat in their classrooms but they need educational services AT SCHOOL More than anything else in this crazy time.

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Just knowing expectations for the upcoming week, taking it a week at a time. My son's teachers refused to post his assignments for the week by 9pm on Sunday...therefore the first chunk of my workday Monday (I'm a school administrator - his desk is next to mine in my office - this isn't easy for any of us) was spent deciphering what assignment were presented, etc. By 9pm was my hopeful suggestion... A more concrete plan at the school level, in terms of timelines...when assignments are posted, more than 1 online session a week (I can tell you what every child in that class did the previous weekend from the Monday ZOOMs). We are all figuring it out as we go, but more structure so parents/families/students understand expectations would be helpful. Thank you for keeping the families of this district updated with frequent district wide emails.

Mass spreader events have been tied to indoor events with poor air quality and low compliance with mask and distancing guidelines. Improving indoor air quality through filtration and more frequent air changes with outside air will go a long way to allowing schools to reopen safely. Unfortunately many of our schools do not have modern HVAC systems that will allow MERV14 level filtration and air changes that capture heat while still exchanging indoor air for fresh outdoor air. The schools (or portions of) that have suitable HVAC systems to upgrade to MERV14 level filtering and significantly increased air changes per hour should do so.

Fortunately until real winter conditions set in the buildings without suitable HVAC can open windows and use fans. Other solutions that don't rely on children following guidelines (even though the guidelines should be enforced as much as possible) should be explored such as frequent deep cleaning, germicidal UVC (overhead as well as HVAC based), etc in order to allow in person instruction to take place in some form for the upcoming school year.

My child and myself are both chronically ill and it is not worth it to my family to take unnecessary risks. I would be more open to sending my child back with lots of safety measures in place after the State has been open longer so that we have more data to look at.

I want the schools to do their best in keeping the kids up to date with learning. I know one of the things that make it hard for families is childcare since the current school day is shorter than most parent's work days. I would prefer an extension of remote learning rather than too soon of a return to regular school. I know with my daughter as an only child, who is in the gifted program, she was able to pick up remote learning quickly, but missed out on things like the 4th grade science fair that was canceled, did not get much support from her gifted teacher, and really missed her friends. I know I have said this before in the above answers, but if she must go back to school in person before there is a vaccine, I would want her to be in class with kids she is already friends with, that way she has the social support as well as the educational support.

Do not make decisions based off of fear. Children need to live, let them. I heard during one of the online meetings an administrator state "It's our job to protect these kids." That is incorrect. the school systems job is to educate first, protecting would fall into a secondary role. It's the parents role to protect their children, that includes protecting them from bullies, sickness, overreach, etc.

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We are being extremely careful to limit our families exposure to the virus and plan on maintaining that as long as there is a real danger of any of us contracting the virus by being in dense, public, group situations.

I simply do not see how the schools can realistically keep kids and families safe from the active pandemic in a small enclosed building. We have had trouble preventing our 6 year old from running and hugging cousins and grandparents when we are doing quick grocery exchanges. I don't see how a teacher will keep 20-30 6 year olds from handing their germs and viruses around when they haven't seen much of other people for months at that point.

I really think the state reopenings are hugely premature, and when we have had infections of the cleaning staff and at the graduation, which was supposedly socially distanced and careful, how can you possibly handle a full school reopening without just creating an explosion of cases?

September will be just like March unless a miracle happens and I don't see that changing until there is an effective vaccine and better treatments. I would ask you to answer the question of how many infections you are prepared to accept? They will happen once the school reopens physically. And from those infections how many deaths are you ok with from the school community? I would guess most of us would answer none because they are all preventable by being careful and conservative. Trading short term education goals for long term health or even life is not an acceptable trade.

Schools need to focus on supporting remote learning until the pandemic has started to truly die down. Talk of fully reopening schools and bringing all these kids back together, and the knock on effects on the families they go back to, are premature and I believe reckless at this point.

My children really miss social interactions with peers and teachers. Whole class zoom meetings were really a struggle. If remote learning continues, small group meetings with specific lessons are valuable but huge class checkins don't engage my children.

PLEASE choose the same option as Manchester (surrounding districts).

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We understand that reopening school and trying to get back to a new normal is a very big task. We understand that there is a need to be fluid and flexible as this situation is one that is constantly revolving and changing. Guidelines set today may not be in place tomorrow or vice versa. My concerns are that I don't know any child or adult that can consistently wear a mask or face covering for a full 8 hr. day. Realistically I don't think the children can do that, nor would I expect them to. I think everything is going to fall down to the adults (teachers and staff) being as consistent as possible and enforcing good behaviors- social distance, hand washing, using hand sanitizer etc. I would feel comfortable sending my child to school if there was a guarantee of routine regarding the above listed behaviors where it would become basically second nature to the kids to do these things. No different that a regular daily schedule, only adding in those precautions. I do think it's vital to our children's social/emotional needs that they get back to school to not only learn but to have a sense of normalcy. Emotional health and well-being is just as important as academics.

We are being extremely careful to limit our families exposure to the virus and plan on maintaining that as long as there is a real danger of any of us contracting the virus by being in dense, public, group situations.

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This survey does not allow for entry if multiple students in the same family.

We are ready to go back to school in the fall, we need to be more careful about hand washing etc, but I think the social emotional Needs of my children are just as important. During quarantine I watched my 8 year old child fall into a deep depression he actually told me that he felt like he fell in a hole and couldn't get out of it. The following days my 5 year old was super depressed also. I feel that is just as dangerous as the covid crisis. The children more than anyone need some normalcy and consistency back.

COVID 19 is a joke just open school back up so I can work
not at this time.

REMOTE LEARNING and choice, and take care of the teachers and students please! ONE death will be too many.

Elementary aged children can not be expected to sit in front of a screen for hours and learn. There is no engagement and many distractions. My kids personally didn't learn anything new, and lost traction on the things they had learned. We are a two parent working family, and are not able to provide the support and constant redirection remote learning needed in our home. Home is where they can decompress, and remote learning caused it to be a very stressful environment for all involved and created a chaotic home. This was not a good experience for our kids, or us as parents. Our kids miss their friends and teachers terribly. They lost their sense of community. The school environment is not just where they go to learn academics, but learn independence from their parents, which fosters confidence as they find their way into adulthood.

I would just like to take a moment to say thank you for your dedicated and thorough consideration of reopening the schools. I fully trust the Merrimack School District to make the right decision for my child. The incredible support of the school board, faculty, administration, and community is something we should all be proud of. I am confident that 2020/2021 school year will be a wonderful experience for my ninth grader. Even during the challenges of remote learning, I do not believe that my child missed any educational opportunities and her teachers showed unwavering dedication.

Our students need to learn from trained professional teachers not their parents. Schools need to reopen. Students need interaction from peers.

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<p>Elementary aged children can not be expected to sit in front of a screen for hours and learn. There is no engagement and many distractions. My kids personally didn't learn anything new, and lost traction on the things they had learned. We are a two parent working family, and are not able to provide the support and constant redirection remote learning needed in our home. Home is where they can decompress, and remote learning caused it to be a very stressful environment for all involved and created a chaotic home. This was not a good experience for our kids, or us as parents. Our kids miss their friends and teachers terribly. They lost their sense of community. The school environment is not just where they go to learn academics, but learn independence from their parents, which fosters confidence as they find their way into adulthood.</p>
<p>Obviously this is a big decision and there are a lot of people who have various opinions on how best to move forward. Given the consistent change in data and what we're learning about the virus and the death rates, putting policy changes in places that could have lasting negative affects on these kids really need to be taken into consideration.</p> <p>I understand the logistical nightmare that a hybrid approach would cause in order to try to accommodate everyone. Why not split the school up or provide full time offerings that would allow for both remote and in person learning. For instance, take the teachers who are most vulnerable and are uncomfortable returning to class and have them run full-time online classes for students whose parents aren't comfortable sending their kids to school. Take the other teachers and have them run in person classes as normal for the remainder of families.</p> <p>There are so many things that kids learn at school in addition to their course work that I don't believe you can replicate in an online environment (friendship, manners, social interaction, attraction, love, etc). Kids today already spend so much time online communicating with friends, chat rooms, social, etc...by taking away that in person engagement you will affect these kids in ways that we can't possibly understand yet. Put safety measures in place, return to school, get all the data you can and then start putting together policies that will help minimize impact for future pandemics.</p> <p>One final note, there are already a number of online options (like Vlacs) available for kids grade six and up for students who want to go remote. If parents don't feel safe sending their kids back to school then encourage them to take advantage of those programs.</p>
<p>Remote learning went horribly for my children and my husband and I. I don't even know how my family can mentally, financially or emotionally make it through more remote schooling it's not an option for us period.</p>
<p>Kids MUST go back to normal school. If "remote learning" is extended - I'll start thinking about home-schooling.</p> <p>There are affordable services for helping parents with home-schooling.</p>
<p>Please consider kids who are high risk and / or family members they live with that are high risk. Without a vaccine I don't feel safe sending the kids to school.</p>
<p>What happens to our teachers if a hybrid plan is set? If they too have children to parent at home will they have the flexibility to access assistance from the district where they are employees (or) by the district that their child attends school.</p>
<p>It is also a priority to me that we keep the teachers and staff safe. It is very important to keep the students safe, but I also want to make sure that we prioritize the health of the staff (as well as their families who may be immune-compromised).</p>
<p>I think that if it is remote then teachers need to up their game- this Spring I can honestly say my daughter did not learn any new concepts. This can't continue.</p>

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Please consider kids who are high risk and / or family members they live with that are high risk. Without a vaccine I don't feel safe sending the kids to school.
I think sending kids back to school is a disaster waiting to happen and we'll all be distance learning by October/November with flu season coming on.
Though the district did a good job implementing remote learning on such short notice, I believe that the children did not get nearly enough out of it due to many varying reasons. I believe it is extremely important for them to get back to the classroom/ sports/extracurriculars safely. For their academic learning and especially for their social emotional and mental health.
What will happen if there is a positive test in the school?
While I do not believe this is a true "Pandemic" but more a political rally to divide this nation and we are all caught in the middle of it. I appreciate all the teachers hard work. I am all in favor of our children returning to traditional school. With extra hygiene practice and cleaning. Smaller classroom's to provide a bit of social distance. But NO face mask mandation. "Live free or die" our bodies our choice.
My children struggled with the amount of assignments many that were more busy work than anything else. I am very concerned that no new instruction seemed to take place. There certainly were chapters assigned to read and questions to be answered but almost no direct instruction and certainly no conversations or live check-ins that I witnessed in my two high school aged kids. My youngest met daily with his teacher but it was only to check in and it was not organized to meet his needs. He completed the assignments easily but it was mostly review work or internet searches for Science & Social Studies not actual curriculum. This is not sustainable.
Bus drivers are going to need monitors on the bus at all times. There's no way they can drive and make sure the children are safely in their seats.
Kids with IEP need Face to face interaction. At least mine do. I will do my part on keeping them healthy and not send them for however long is necessary if they become sick. But they NEED to be IN school
I am very concerned about the lapse in learning from the spring remote learning, and also very concerned about the long term effects and decrease in learning if remote learning is continued. Remote learning would have to be handled 100% differently with actual class periods and lessons being taught to the children if we are to avoid any of these negative effects from remote learning.
My kids with IEP need in person instruction. They will not benefit from virtual learning
NA
Please reopen the schools! Our kids need some level of normalcy and the ability to interact with other children and teachers. They are not getting the support or level of learning needed to succeed with remote learning.
I think you are all doing an amazing job. I would be happy to volunteer and I am certified to do so. My son is an only child an he really needs to socialize.I'd like to see the play outside sports with friends if possible. Thank you for all you do. My email is: nancyross1973@yahoo.com
The lunch program has been fantastic and mastricola has done an amazing job with remote learning. The support and communication from the Sau and school board has also been impressive!
Hoping special ed services will be provided thru remote learning if we elect to keep our child home for the first and possibly second quarter.
We appreciate all you are doing in these strange times.
Kids with IEP need face to face interaction, at least mine does. She did not succeed with virtual learning. She needs school

First off, I don't want my earlier comments to suggest that I'm some sort of malcontent or I think the district has done a poor job - quite the contrary. I've been VERY impressed and proud with the job the Merrimack School District has done with our kids, and I've even had parents from other nearby towns comment that "we're so lucky to have a kid in Merrimack schools, because they've really got their act together." I agree. When everything hit the fan in later winter/early spring, Merrimack barely missed a beat, having a plan ready before most everyone else and then having that plan implemented just as quickly. It was amazing, frankly, and I mean that sincerely. Everyone from the Superintendent on down really stepped up and delivered. The problem is that for younger kids, most of the joy and learning with going to school comes from spending time with peers and working closely with teachers on brand new topics they've never seen before, topics that form the foundation for all instruction to come for the duration of those kids' educational careers. Multiplication tables. Expository writing structure. Physical science. This stuff can't be glossed over without doing a great disservice to those students and every educational professional that works with them for the rest of their lives. You can't cheap out on the basics, and at the elementary level it's all basics. Furthermore, kids learn how to be people in elementary school. My kid is an only child - maybe that matters here - maybe it doesn't, but I do know that he finds incredible energy in working with others, in modeling peer behavior and in figuring out what kind of person he wants to be, what kind of a caring, empathetic and patient human being he could be. He doesn't learn that stuff from teacher's Zoom meetings or math worksheets. He can only learn it by living and working alongside his peers, by figuring out what makes people tick, what works and what doesn't, and trying that stuff out on his own. NONE of that happens when he's working at the dining room table with Mom and Dad. Melodramatic, to be sure, but I'm genuinely concerned that not just my child, but all children especially elementary kids will be irreparably harmed by another round of remote learning. For those kids, it's not too unlike a convict who's been locked up - and not just any lock up, either, but solitary confinement, the punitive flavor of lock up designed for those who refuse to try to do the right thing. Remote instruction for my child is like putting him into solitary, turning off the lights, and passing him a meal through the slot once a day. Of course I'm concerned about his health and wellbeing and I'm concerned for myself and my family and for all of yours, too, all the staff and administrators and food service and sanitation professionals. In a weird way I'm more concerned for them than I am for the kids, because I'm weighing what the kids are losing with remote learning versus the risk of going in to school, and that risk is ABSOLUTELY worth it for the younger age group - just take sensible precautions and be careful. But for the employees, the same calculation isn't being made, although perhaps they might not be financially as healthy without being able to come to work, so there is that. In the end, there's no guarantee that they'll ever develop an effective vaccine for this virus, or they might and it could mutate and they'd be back at square one. I think we have to find ways to live our lives with the virus swirling around us for the time being, so we're going to have to do those things we know help but don't get in the way of the real-world stuff we all need, like face-to-face instruction and peer interaction in our schools. Social distancing, masks, hand sanitizer - all that stuff. Bring it on. Take temperatures if you like or take more drastic measures if that's what's necessary to put rears in seats come Fall, but please make it work. If any district can find a way, Merrimack can.

Reopen the school. The financial and emotional distress to us parents this spring was difficult to endure with next to no options to resolve it. The sudden closure of the school with no heads up and no system in place was an absolute failure on the school districts part, especially given that other nearby towns had already made the changes and laid the groundwork for how to accomplish the goal of closing.

At the high school level, I envision splitting the school into 2 groups. Group 1 goes to school two days a week (monday and Tuesday) and group 2 goes Wednesday and Thursday. The other three days are

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remote learning. This cuts the number of kids in the building in half, but still give the kids time in an actual classroom 2/5 of the days.
I am not worried about the staff doing what they need to do to make it safe. I worry about the other families in town that are NOT taking this seriously. So far in NH we are fortunate. Just look at what is happening as states are opening during summer months. Imagine if millions of kids were going to school as well. If schools were open from May-June the numbers would be far if they were packed with students.
Although we have elderly grandparents living with us and do not plan on physically returning to a brick and mortar style of schooling until there is a vaccine, having access to remote special services (OT, PT, speech) would be very important to my child. I hope this will be an option for parents whose children receive services, but cannot return to school physically.
Great job communicating during this difficult time
Thanks for all you do.
I understand the difficulty of some families not having the means to have their children online all day, but I feel that if remote learning is implemented, there needs to be actual teacher taught virtual lessons LIVE daily, as if in the classroom, following the traditional school schedule. Possible suggestion would be to have teachers record all LIVE lessons and post them to PowerSchool for those children with limited access to access when they can. I'd prefer my child be in the classroom for focused learning if it's an option in the fall.
The virus isn't going to disappear, and kids can't go to school remotely forever as it's a huge part of their foundation, so we basically need to figure out how to work around it.
Let's get back to scht
School is an important part of a child's development not only academically but also emotionally. Children need social interaction. Life must go on for our society to get back to some kind of normalcy. School is a necessity.
Kids need normalcy. I think as hot as the schools are that mask wearing concerns me. Kids will keep wearing their dirty mask everyday. Some kids won't change or clean them...that's like wearing the same clothes each day but far worse for spreading illness. I think this could make things even worse.
I'm not sending my kids without a vaccine for the virus . I think , even when The Schools District is doing its best , would be irresponsible to come back to school .
School is a necessity. My senior should be able to experience all the things she has worked her whole school career for. Senior year should be influential to set her up to be a successful adult and experience the big world she is stepping into after high school.
Dr. McLaughlin, you did an OUTSTANDING job this Spring. We feel confident in the decisions you make with the task forces and school board.
I'm not sending my kids without a vaccine for the virus . I think , even when The Schools District is doing its best , would be irresponsible to come back to school .
Thank you for taking this serious.
Thank you for everything you're doing!
Make athletics happen under guidelines
I would like to see remote learning continued.
I'd love to volunteer in any capacity to make things more normal for our kids. Being back IN school is incredibly important for their emotional wellbeing.
None
Although I would like to use bus transportation, I would also be happy to drive my child. Perhaps that could also be included in a survey when trying to plan for that aspect.

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This pandemic has proven time and time again that we LOVE raising our children in this town. Thank you for all you do!
I would like a daily report on number of students and staff either tested positive or has symptoms. This would be used to make decisions on if I feel it is safe for my child or for my family for them to continue. We live with high risk conditions.
If you need help from a Registered Nurse please let me know.
My husband and I both work full time, I don't see how we would be able to do remote learning
Thank you for all you did this spring semester, I think over all it was handled well.
I'm sure many parents planning on using bus services would be happy to drive their student if asked. Perhaps that could also be included in a survey when trying to plan for that aspect. This pandemic has proven time and time again that we LOVE raising our children in this town. Thank you for all you do!
It was really tough for us to get him to sit and do school work. We both work full time. It was just really hard on all of us as a family.
I feel that given the current situation, the school did an alright job managing remote learning. However, it seemed that my daughter did not seem overly stimulated by the course work, and seemed to only spend an hour or two a day doing any actual work. I would like to see changes in how remote learning is run. Maybe the students could have their classes and times set up like a normal schedule, and switch online calls to be with the appropriate class, at the appropriate time. You could run it like a regular school day, but virtually.
I hope you consider having remote learning continue for the first part of the Fall if there is not a vaccine. If you choose a good platform and your teachers interact with the family or student in some way every day, it could be a great thing. I think the teachers worked very hard last year, but some engaged with the children and planned ahead way more than others did. My son received his weekly plans on Sunday. That was great. My daughter did not receive plans until the night before or the morning of. In order for any type of remote learning to work, you need to give parents the assignments ahead of time so they can plan their child's Schedule and work ahead of time. Last year, we received daily assignments for my child as late as 7:30 am. There is no way to have a productive day with last minute planning.
We hope to be back in fall. Would volunteer if I could. Working full time
Swift action if someone is suspected of having covid
The level of communication from the Middle School is lacking significantly - I understand at this age they expect the kids to be the primary contact but that is not appropriate especially under these circumstances. The teachers need to be engaged and actively teaching the kids not just pushing out work and the teachers need to communicate with the parents as well and often not just after the semester is done.
I am concerned that if a teacher is sick and they stay in the school, which happened last year my son's teacher was sick for a week before she got checked out. Big concern that administration didn't notice this.
I'd really like to see the action plan for when a staff member or student tests positive for COVID if regular school is going to proceed. Will the school shut down? Will it be treated like a snow day? Switch to remote learning for 14 days? Thanks for all your hard work!
There is no option here to support students returning to school as usual. Students need to be in school full time.

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Given the different situations families are in I recommend that the schools be flexible with parents and students, realizing that different children thrive in different environments/ situations. While certain situations work great for some children, they are stressful and cause anxiety for others. I hope that whichever way school goes back in session teachers and principals will be sensitive/open to working with parents to find a method that works for their child/children so they can move forward with their academic and emotional growth, even through this pandemic.
I would need the school district to be FAR more transparent about what goes on in the school to feel comfortable. In March a teacher went to Italy and came back and went right back to teaching! When someone found out it was a big deal and coverup. Merrimack needs to do FAR less of that.
I hope there's a safe transition back to the traditional in-school learning environment. This quarantine and school closure was very tough on a lot of kids (and thier parents who work), and i dont think it can safely and effectively be maintained going forward, at least not with the previous remote learning environment. It was especially hard when the kids weren't allowed to see their friends, which isn't the schools fault, but it was nonetheless very traumatic for the teenage age group.
We take this situation very seriously and we wear masks in public and practice social distancing. However, I think that schools here should do everything they can to re-open in the fall as normally as possible. My children's' 3 teachers did a wonderful job, but remote learning was not particularly pleasant much of the time and it is not good for children's' social-emotional development. I hope that you read and really consider parents' opinions.
Merrimack teachers and staff, therapists, and aids have been tremendously supportive and hard working, and made our remote spring experience, hard though it was, a success. While I am greatly concerned for the safety of my children and my family, I am also worried for their safety and stress levels as well. I hope that they will be afforded the opportunity to work safely from home in the fall, too.
As long as masks are enforced I am comfortable sending my 17 year old back to school. Masks and social distancing work. I feel like as long as it's safe, the kids need to get back to the classroom. My daughter needs the interaction with teachers, especially in classes that she struggles in like math. I completely understand if there is a point that remote learning has to happen, but the kids will struggle if they can't interact with their teachers. My older daughter just graduated and during remote learning, she didn't have one single zoom meeting. I know that some older teachers may not be as confident with it but the kids need the interaction to be able to learn and to be held accountable for completing tasks.
Any student that exhibits any symptoms of illness should not come to school until well. Even the youngest students should have to wear masks all day. Students that refuse to comply should not be allowed in school.
Remote learning and hybrid models are not our preference - smaller class sizes and a "normal" return to school are ideal
Safe environment for all us needed.
The district tends to over communicate which diluted the message.
if you decide to open schools. Give parents the option to keep students home and Zoom. Not every household is comfortable moving forward yet! Everyone has a right to make there own decision when it comes to their children. I want to protect and keep my kids safe and healthy and home. Please appreciate that!
Remote learning was hard, and with 2 IEPs in the house it was especially challenging, but the schools worked with us to make it work for each kid. As much as I wish, like everyone, that things could be "normal" again, the medical and developmental challenges in our family make group gatherings more of a risk than we're willing to take. I have to see the health and safety of our family and community as

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my top concern right now, and hope that the schools will work with us to help keep everyone safe this year, too.
Nothing further
Folks, we are not ready. Remote learning MUST continue until this is under control. What is happening around the country makes it extremely obvious we are not ready.
I need to understand the impact on morning care programs run in the school building-will they still be offered?
I do not want my child to be required to have an untested vaccine to return to school.
MSD has done a great job so far. We are very pleased with communication and decisions so far regarding this pandemic. Thank you for all that you do!
I think the best plan is to go back in Fall 2020 with the knowledge that there will possibly need to be a period of remote learning during the winter. I believe giving the children time to build relationships with their teacher in person while possible is important.
as I have stated, mentally and emotionally children need to go back to the socialization. The risk for mental health issues greatly outweighs the risk of Corona virus for this age group. And if families are not capable of going back to work financially the problems and stress both at home and for the child are going to just escalate beyond the point they are already at. Especially in high school we don't want students to get to the point where they have to go to work instead of going to school, sports, etc to help with the family's financial situation.
I feel that it is pretty unrealistic to believe that every person would adhere to every safety measure that would be put into place. It only takes one person to have COVID 19 to potentially pass it on to many others, especially in such a confined & crowded setting such as a school. I hope there will be the option to participate in remote home learning this fall. I do have to say that overall it was a good experience for my daughters, there is room for improvement. It would be great if the teachers are more available to the students to answer questions or explain things. (We did have a bit of frustration with one teacher who would take days to reply to emails, and who would post the daily assignment late in the afternoon).
Having the teachers be more available to the students & parents. It's difficult to connect with teachers if they only have one hour of "office hours". They should be available more during normal school hours.
Teachers need to reach out to parents via power school when homework is not submitted and they must stop entering ANY grade into power school until the actual homework is headed so that we as parents know where our child's grade stands in real time. Placing a "zero" as a place holder makes the calculated grade look much worse causing parents to think their child is in some cases failing.
It seems very unlikely that social distancing could be realistically enforced in the school setting.
The kids need to go back to in school instruction in some capacity. I feel my child's social skills have suffered since March.
I believe that my children will benefit from being in a classroom, but I believe that some children will need to be strictly enforced to take precautions. I see people ignoring rules regularly and I believe it needs to be required so the schools can be safe
Zoom is not an ideal tool. I have seen other students have more success with google classroom etc.
3 kids in high school this year. My freshman would prefer staying with remote learning. Misses sports but worried about traveling and how bus situation would be handled.

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My child is chronically ill and has extreme anxiety regarding masks and temperature taking. We will not have her return if those are required. She has an IEP and we will utilize homeschool using our own curriculum not a school based program. I am NOT interested in remote learning.
Very concerned about getting into winter and having the flu running rampant then add Covid to it. Still a vast majority of people unwilling to wear masks and fear that will be a nightmare to reinforce within the school. Also know many people that have kids with fevers and load them up with Tylenol and send them in. That is another huge concern.
How will the working families be addressed? What long term plan is being considered for the students if remote learning is instituted in the fall given families can educate the same way our trained professional staff do?
Thank you all for your tremendous work.
For elementary remote learning, small group zooms are the only way to attempt learning. No learning occurs with whole class calls - those are social at best.
Handwashing with soap and water is superior to hand sanitizer for MANY reasons including that hand sanitizer VASTLY increases BPA absorption and that soap and water is just plain more effective. Many chemicals commonly used in hand sanitizers haven't even been approved by the FDA yet. I don't believe in frequent use of hand sanitizer; it should only be used in cases where regular hand washing is not possible. Regardless of the facts, society seems to be leaning toward hand sanitizers as a substitute for hand washing, and I feel like with this pandemic I'm losing my autonomy as a parent to help my children avoid absorbing potentially toxic substances into their skin day after day. I would be upset to see the frequent use of hand sanitizer encouraged in our Merrimack schools. I do not want my children (or any children really) to be forced to use hand sanitizer.
Let's get back to normal school as soon as possible. With regular schedules and classrooms. With wearing a mask in the hallway if needed. If needed have the Freshman and Seniors attending school and the sophomore and Juniors remote learning. This would make the high school at half capacity. Students could wipe down the desk at the end of class.
If remote learning is part of this plan, and I presume it must be, DOING THE GRADE LEVEL WORK CANNOT BE OPTIONAL. This spring was a crisis. But this fall will be planned. It's not fair to conduct planned remote learning without expecting top notch instruction, zooms, guidance and expectations that students complete the work. We often felt we were on our own driving our kids to do more because the expectations for the class were so very low.
A teacher MUST be engaged with my child daily for multiple hours. The teacher needs to teach as I am not a teacher and do not have the tricks they do. My child DID NOT receive any individual or small group setting approaches. I do not want the public school system to fail her not only academically but in a social/emotional aspect as well
<p>Recess and specials (art, gym etc) are still important especially at the grade school level. But that involves one teachers seeing many classes a day. This done virtually was near impossible this last year. As a two working parent household and another younger sibling, remote was hard to keep them engaged and even more so for these specials.</p> <p>Also, addressing and balancing the need for some kids who need help but also for the other side, addressing kids who need to be more challenged. It's hard enough to do that in a classroom but even harder virtually.</p> <p>Thank you for all you are trying to do. You won't make everyone happy but I appreciate you asking for parent input. Good luck!</p>

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It doesn't seem like it would actually be possible to enforce social distancing with children even if class sizes are halved. It seems like families should at least have the OPTION of continuing with remote learning through the district.
Thank you!!!! We so appreciate you involving parents and working so so hard on an approach for the fall.
Thank you for all you're doing in soliciting feedback from families. The district has done a fabulous job of communicating (even in the midst of changing circumstances).
We are 100% for going back to physical school in the fall (one child at MES, the other at JMUES.) We feel the positives (social connections, learning new things from a classroom teacher, etc.) outweigh any potential risks.
What's best for the community is what needs to be accomplished. Some won't like remote, some won't like in person and others won't have a choice. At the end of the day we all need to stay safe and ensure our children stay safe.. i do not want children used as Guinea pigs to see what happens if.. not that the district has done that in any way.. you have all been great and the right decision is likely the one most won't want to hear which is some form of remote.. it's likely going to be necessary. From there i have concerns with people traveling to the south mainly FL before school starts.. because i see it happening and some don't take this seriously. Thank you for taking it seriously.
Unfortunately, it is often things outside of the classroom that cause the most anxiety for students and impact their ability to learn. Some students thrive with the traditional model and others thrived during the independence of remote learning. A hybrid model possibly allowing high schoolers to work on independent projects remotely with some traditional coursework would be a benefit.
My child absolutely wants to go back to his school in the fall and we do as well. Remote learning was a struggle for him, and a big juggling act for us as two working parents (and another younger child to help teach as well.) He needs the in-person interactions with his peers and teachers. We are confident any safety measures put in place by the school/district will be satisfactory.
If remote learning is necessary there should not be any timed tests. Our Internet is not always reliable and it caused immense stress in an already stressful situation
We thought Reeds Ferry did a great job transitioning from in-class learning to at home learning overnight. We're grateful for their hard work and the continued hard work going into next school year.
None
We thought Reeds Ferry did a great job transitioning from in-class learning to at home learning overnight. We're grateful for their hard work and the continued hard work going into next school year.
None
I run a home day care which was closed for months due to coronavirus and my need to teach my children at home. The remote learning schedules, zooms, and different teachers approaches made it challenging. If there is remote learning this year I would probably prefer to order home schooling curriculum and teach my children on my own. That said I have many families waiting for my fall plans for my family to know if I can provide care for their children. This is a very fluid and challenging time.
Email with updates from district...please shorten them up...too many and often too long I stopped reading
Staggered schedules would be difficult for us as we have 5 kids in 4 schools. It would be incredibly helpful to have the 9th and 12th graders on the same schedule for transportation.
N/a

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As a parent of a senior, I am very concerned about the college application process and testing. We want to make sure that my son has what he needs to apply to and attend the college of his choice.
I plan on keeping my children home until a vaccine is available. We shouldn't make elementary aged children wear masks, they won't wear them properly and they shouldn't be expected to wear them. We should continue with remote learning until a vaccine is made. Thank you.
We appreciate you. I know this is tough and new.
To have a choice on whether we can send our child or be allowed to do remote learning especially if you have a family member at home who is high risk.
If the school district goes back to remote learning. I believe that zoom is a very useful tool. In the spring we had little to no interaction with our first grade teacher. We tried to turn in homework and were told that it was not needed. Our specific child NEEDS to see/interact with other children and teachers. On the few Zoom meeting we had I felt that the teacher needed to have a greater understanding on how the chosen platform works and how the controls work. Many students were unmuted and it was chaos. There are many organizations in the immediate area that would be more than happy to help you solve this problem for little to no cost. I don't envy your position. However, you're not alone.
The kids just need to go to school. If face masks are required I wont be sending my kids.
We had an amazing experience with remote learning. We had just moved and our son had only 2 weeks in his new classroom before the schools closed. He was able to maintain and continue to build strong connections with teachers and his classmates. He is a typical student, so I know our experience is not that of everyone's, but his teacher (Mrs. Chiapetta and her team) made learning meaningful and engaging. He learned so much and we were so grateful. He was also able to build connections with the specialists and the guidance counselor through Zoom meetings. They just all went above and beyond and we hope to have the same (or better) experience next year.
To have the option of either sending your child or do remote learning especially if there is a person at home who is high risk and or a new baby. To not be forced to send your child if you do not feel comfortable.
I don't feel comfortable sending my children to school in the fall wearing masks, social distancing from their peers/ teachers, constant hand washing, it is not mentally healthy for them. I would like to continue remote learning or have the option to have them learn from home until a vaccine is made available. Thank you.
I think it would be great for school counselors and teachers to have discussions with the kids about their experiences during this pandemic and even the racism issues that arose. Many students of the MSD that I know faced depression and some had anxiety/panic attacks. Some kids don't have good relationships with parents at home and need understanding counselors and teachers to simply listen to them, positively counsel them and support them. These kids need a light midst their dark times. As tough as this year has been on EVERYONE, the blessing of care, connection and unity can really take place... and we can see what good comes out of this. I think getting back to school and reconnecting could be a time of healing for not only students but staff.
I wanted to thank the District for a job well done closing out the 19/20 school year. Considering the circumstances we were impressed with the response. Job well done across all facets of school operations. Albeit, we prefer schooling in a more traditional sense and do not have many concerns surrounding returning to school In the Fall for our children we understand the current environment many not allow that and would follow any guidelines and requirements put forth.
Enjoy your summer- Mike Johnson

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We very much appreciate updates on important school related news however I would suggest future correspondence be shorter, concise, and more to-the-point! I personally found some emails from the school in the past to be frustrating to read as they were far too verbose.

Thank you very much for doing such a great job educating our children in such difficult times!

Take care!

Communications from the superintendent uses WAY TOO MANY WORDS!! Emails need to be MUCH SHORTER and focused quick reads. Seriously, not a joke...too long and too "wordy".

I am very impressed at the creativity by the people involved in the high school graduation this year, I am hoping that this creativity can also be used in the opening of school this fall. I also hope that a hybrid model may be an answer at least for the initial opening. I appreciate the Merrimack School District and understand that you have tough decisions to make.

The kids need to go to school but dont require facemasks

I truly feel that we can re-open schools in the fall using the safety precautions discussed above. Schools in other countries that are back in session with positive outcomes have enhanced cleaning, face masks, temp checks and hand sanitizer at the door. I would be happy to share which schools I'm talking about if you would like. (cnzbug@gmail.com)

I had a thought regarding upper elementary through high school... if school reopens, could there be an option for those who are unable to come back due to health reasons or don't feel fully comfortable returning to school? Could they participate in class from home via a live stream (cameras in every classroom and students at home are on the same schedule they would have been in school). This way, when the student is able to come back to school, it is a smooth transition for them as they are already familiar with their teachers, classmates, and curriculum at the time.

The hybrid model will be very difficult and most likely impossible, for working parents, especially teachers, with children, expected to work put of the home 4 to 5 days a week. It would add extra cost to those already in financial distress and expose families to more germs if childcare is needed. Some may have to quit their jobs.

I filled this survey out again as it applies to our second child in the district.

I truly feel that we can re-open schools in the fall using the safety precautions discussed above. Schools in other countries that are back in session with positive outcomes have enhanced cleaning, face masks, temp checks and hand sanitizer at the door. I would be happy to share which schools I'm talking about if you would like. (cnzbug@gmail.com)

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Really not sure. But if there is to be remote learning we need to find a way for our children to interact socially with other kids. My daughter truly missed that.

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The hybrid model would not work for a family with parents who have to work outside the home. I would not feel comfortable leaving my 3 children home alone to fend for themselves and be responsible for getting school work completed and assisting siblings with their work while playing the parent role. Childcare is expensive and defeats the purpose of less germ exposure.
I want to know that all of your staff (especially teachers) are having their needs considered as they will be wrestling with new work schedules and potential childcare conflicts as a result. I also want to know that your entire staff takes this seriously and that each staff member consistently follows CDC guidelines.
School board emails need to be shorter. Any message is lost with how long they are.
I think it's important that they get to go to school to some capacity to see their teachers in person. I can't give my child the education that teachers can or motivate her the way teachers can but by maybe having a hybrid model she could at least see her teacher and her teacher can help guide her better, answer any questions she may have, motivate her and to give her some structure that she needs to keep her mental health going strong. Bottom line I support a hybrid model but am very concerned about her wearing a mask for several hours. She wears it in stores and does ok but has expressed that she does not want to go to school if required to wear a mask the entire time.
I am fearful that with the hybrid model many families will be forced to make a decision to quit their current job. For me I would not feel comfortable or expect my 13 year old 9th grader to be responsible to care for, play the parent role, and "teach" my younger children, while doing her own schoolwork with the hybrid model. It was hard enough to play all these roles as a grown adult. I also do not think any child of any age should be left unattended all day as this is not appropriate on a social emotional level. Also putting my children into a childcare center defeats the purpose of the hybrid model.
Our family is homeschooling due to health concerns.
Please have the teachers actually teach the material, either in the classroom or online. Please limit the emails, or at least highlight the main points; very frustrating to spend 5-10 minutes reading an email that includes 2 pertinent sentences. Make expectations for grading and assignments clear at the beginning. I don't need busy work.
I think families should decide whether they want their child remote learning or take the risk of being in school. These are children, at least at the elementary levels. No amount of safeguards can reduce the potential spread completely. This disease doesn't seem to effect kids badly, the bigger risk is them being carriers and infecting family at home. Let each family decide what a social and academic learning experience is worth to them, and if it out weighs the health risk of Covid-19. If it does, let those children attend class as they use to. If it does not, offer a remote option that can keep those kids at home.
Please reopen schools in the fall. Remote learning is very difficult and in my opinion, not sustainable. Many families rely on schools for daytime supervision while parents work. My daughter suffered in quarantine both socially and academically, which I feel was not warranted. I have confidence that the school district can come up with reasonable processes and procedures (as indicated over email and in this survey) that will make it safe for both teachers and children to return to their classrooms. I feel that any families who have the need and/or means to keep their children home should be supported in doing so.
Finding a way for the kids to go back full time
My child will return based on whatever safeguards the school district has in place

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I have concerns about how the heating and cooling system in the school will affect the transmission of illness. I'm also concerned about how remote learning will change this year for my child with an IEP. I know my child along with many of her friends are concerned about lack of social gatherings and school activities and would really love to resume school in the fall however, I feel that it's too big of a risk that I'm not willing to take
This is a very difficult time and everyone is doing the best that they can. The most important thing for me is proper hand hygiene. I want to make sure the kids are allowed and encouraged to go to the bathroom to wash with soap and water. Also having access to hand sanitizer. Have you considered a Fogger? There is one that is actually safe to be in the room. If parents are considered you can use the fogger in between classes. It is safe to spray on your self. Additionally my answers are the same for my 7th grader and 12th grader
If there is remote learning In any capacity I would need my son to be home on the same days/times as my high schooler was home because I work and can not afford child care.
Smaller class sizes & hybrid model-students in "class a" go in Monday& Tuesday. Wednesday catch up days for all at home. Students in "class b" go in thurs & fridays.
Please allow things to go back to normal
Have you considered asking kids/students to participate in the planning groups? They have some great ideas and understanding with what is happening. It would be wise to see what they think. This will be affecting them the most.
I'm not sure how to answer #13 as it is quite vague. I would be willing to volunteer, depending upon what that would mean. Due to work, I would only be available on certain days and it would also have to depend upon the level of exposure/risk of the virus as well.
Thank you for all of the time and energy that everyone is putting into planning for the next school year under these circumstances!
Remote learning was an absolute disaster for my 3rd and 1st graders. They are too young and learned nothing. I was unable to provide support as I was working remotely, and my wife was on the front lines. They both took massive steps backward academically, socially, and emotionally during the spring school closure. They missed their teachers and friends, and missed the learning environment their teachers created. I cannot support remote learning of any sort this school year. If parents don't feel comfortable sending their kids back, they should do the state's at-home program, rather than the district forcing our children who want to be back in the classroom into another disastrous remote learning experience that they don't want. I know this is a tough decision for the district, and I hope you make the right call for everyone.
Allow the students to eat outside as much as possible. Outdoor classes would be good too.
One of the big factors that is making me seriously consider not sending my kids to school in the fall is the possibility that they wouldn't have recess. My kids are very active and have already struggled with the small amount of recess they have had in past school year(s). I completely understand the reasoning...but I feel like there could be a way of scheduling time (throughout the day) on the playground for individual classes to get outside by themselves. They can focus on social distancing. The students are going to be in the same room all day and sharing the same air, why not let them go outside and get their energy out?
I do not believe it is reasonable to expect that staying home will make a virus go away. Unless we are prepared to avoid traditional school for the foreseeable future (which I am absolutely not in favor of), we need to figure out how to deal with life with a new virus. Teaching kids about how to be healthy - hand washing, keeping their environment clean - would be useful.

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I would like the following weeks agenda before end of days Friday. Emails coming in at 7am on a Monday morning setting forward requirements for that day is unrealistic band unprofessional. Allow parents ample time to prepare. If it normally takes a week give parents 2 weeks. Homeschooling and working full time is not feasible, especially with last minute wrenches being thrown in to the mix.
Please let the kids go back to school.
If school reopens which I hope it does, I would just recommend that faculty have the ability to send students home if they seem to be sick. meaning make it known to parents they have to be avail during the day to pick up their child for any reason. Temp checks at the beginning of the day are great but that is not necessarily the only sign of illness. I found with daycare often times parents drop their kids and never answer the phone all day if their kid ends up being sick or seems to be under the weather.
please take into consideration the potential staggered schedules, if implemented, keep children of the same families on the same schedule. My concern is staggered schedules also involving my older child in a different school
I hope we can base our plan on NH's numbers. Out of 1.5 million people in the state, less than 950 have this virus and only a handful of people under 20 have this virus.
my children struggle with the isolation from their peers. I really hope they can return
I see this pandemic as another flu that we need to navigate. If nothing else it has given us awareness of being more aware of good hygiene. Other than that return school. My child's education is being affected at a crucial time as she is preparing for college and her future. I am completely comfortable with returning to school in the fall.
There were too many different applications to keep track of. For example the "Specials" were on Powerschool while the teacher was using Seesaw. A more centralized approach would have worked better for us.
Using a more centralized format for remote learning. We had all the specials on PowerSchool but the teacher was using Seesaw. We felt a little overwhelmed trying to keep track of all the links and logins and such.
Immediate feedback early in the school year to ensure students are fully engaged and let parents know if additional support is needed at home before the student gets too far behind and has to deal with overload, stress, and depression
As a teacher in another district this is stressing me out. As a parent with a child on an IEP this is stressing me out. Please think about teachers and how we will make this work when we have to be potentially working full time in our own schools. A hybrid method will not work.
I don't understand how safety measures can be enforced for the k-6 kids. They are not good about recognizing the early stages of illness, and will come to school sick. They will also have a super hard time staying masked all day. It's better to wait until a vaccine is available, and have in school classes resume after that. School is very important, but so is keeping the student's families alive.
Returning to school in the fall is crucial for my daughter's mental health.
I have already mentioned quite a few factors that concern us another would be if the schools decided to reopen and were forced to abruptly close again do to other illnesses such as flu or any other childhood illness that can weaken the immune system. Our grandson has dad strep and the flu at the same time even a cold can sometimes set things back.
Basic routine is as important as keeping them physically healthy. Also the kids need sports, lunch and personal connections to grow. Lastly on any given day you can make a case to not send the kids to school because it is not safe. I remember hearing Dr McLaughlin being baffled about parents being angry about him, making kids safety his top priority. Every day I could give you a reason to keep my kid home. So, if you are going to close, you should have markers, as to when you will go back. We

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will go back when Merrimack has less than 5 cases, or the infection rate is .25, some sort of actual target, otherwise it could be misconstrued as political.
I would want a very detailed and medically backed reason for a hybrid model.
Medically backed rationale for the hybrid model. What services are being considered for families of dual working parents who are now or going to be working outside the home?
I'd like to thank everyone for making it a little easier. Your family like motives are greatly appreciated.
It is very hard on kids to not have the social part from going to school. As well as It is hard to be a great teacher to my child all while also working and doing college homework myself. My husband works and we have three small school age children. It time to adapt and overcome. Find a safe way for kids to go back to school.
Our 90 year old mother lives with us. We do not feel a school environment would be safe. Based on the current trends and science based information our family doesn't think that opening the schools would be in anyone's best interest. It is certain that infection rates will go up if NH schools open. Remote learning is a great option, less distractions and keeps children and teachers safe. We believe it's the best option based on the current situation.
I really think we need to look at the age appropriateness of different measures. For elementary school kids especially, the social component of school is so huge, and I really feel like some social distancing measures are so draconian as to be bad for the kids. I don't want to see teachers having to police kids for being kids. I don't want to see kids unable to chat at lunch or unable to play together outside. But at the same time I am not a COVID denier - I do want it taken seriously. How's that for a catch-22?? I think frequent hand washing and sanitizing, masks on buses and when moving through hallways (but not in the classroom), possibly morning temperature checks, encouraging kids to sit a bit farther apart than usual at lunch (but not so far that they can't interact easily!), and the biggest one for me - trying to change the culture of coming to school when sick. I'd like to see kids staying home for the tiniest sniffles, even if it means lots of time out of school - maybe have remote learning options as a backup for that.
I really think we need to look at the age appropriateness of different measures. For elementary school kids especially, the social component of school is so huge, and I really feel like some social distancing measures are so draconian as to be bad for the kids. I don't want to see teachers having to police kids for being kids. I don't want to see kids unable to chat at lunch or unable to play together outside. But at the same time I am not a COVID denier - I do want it taken seriously. How's that for a catch-22?? I think frequent hand washing and sanitizing, masks on buses and when moving through hallways (but not in the classroom), possibly morning temperature checks, encouraging kids to sit a bit farther apart than usual at lunch (but not so far that they can't interact easily!), and the biggest one for me - trying to change the culture of coming to school when sick. I'd like to see kids staying home for the tiniest sniffles, even if it means lots of time out of school - maybe have remote learning options as a backup for that.
Right now kids are getting together all of the time with their friends. If they can go hang out at the beach all day, then they can go to school and be productive too! There should be NO reason why they cannot go back to school in the fall. The data has shown that kids are not impacted by COVID and if additionally, safeguards are in place, they should be fine. They NEED to learn and they NEED to go to school. It is not right that we have cheated our children of these opportunities to learn and grow. Remote learning frankly didn't cut it. Why were live classes unable to be carried out with the teacher speaking to the class the SAME way as when they were in school? It made no sense why our high school student just repeatedly was being thrown worksheets to keep busy. Why couldn't the teachers think of a challenging project for the kids to do whereby they could at least learn more that

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<p>way? There was little learning going on and the kids just had too much idle time on their hands and THAT will get them in trouble. We 100% support kids going back to school otherwise we are simply just cheating them of their learning and social growth. If some families are nervous, that's their choice and perhaps they can leave their kid at home to do worksheets, but I want more structure and a regular routine for my kid. Otherwise, these kids are just going to keep getting farther and farther behind academically. I have no idea when my kid will "catch up" on missed learning and this is especially important for kids (like mine) who are not deeply self-motivated. They need to be held accountable and if they think it's a free-for-all right now because of "no school", they will never establish a strong work ethic and truly understand the accountability concept outside the home. These are impressionable years and we can't miss out on this opportunity.</p>
<p>Really hope we can find a safe way to reopen, I sense my kids learning was suffering toward the end of year with 100% remote.</p>
<p>Not having schools open is more dangerous to the well being of our children than the virus. Face masks, physical distancing are not reasonable for children. Temp checks are reasonable to effective.</p>
<p>Temp checks are key. Masks, distancing are not feasible for children. Their mental health is at stake.</p>
<p>I appreciate all you are doing to communicate and make it safe based on the changing information. I understand how difficult it is to implementing as guidance changes quickly as we learn more on COVID19 and everyone has varying levels of availability, desires and concerns. I appreciate your time and precautions for the safety of my child. Thank you.</p>
<p>I think seeing how NH has progressed well with common sense approaches (as opposed to Florida, Texas, etc. that went full out) matched with what we know in terms of affected demographics and manner of spread, that we should return to school full-time with common sense approaches and those likely to be affected having flexibility to choose their safest path (flexible attendance, recorded lessons, etc.)</p>
<p>Continued communication is important. The school district has been great about sharing information.</p>
<p>Whatever the plan is whether remote, in school or a hybrid model. The kids need some sort of structure in their environment. Getting up when they want and doing schoolwork did not work out well. While not admitted by my student this lack of structure created some anxiety and depression.</p>
<p>I trust that the school district will make the right decisions based on CDC guidelines and Governor's orders to ensure the safety of the students and staff.</p>
<p>More "live" class sessions/learning opportunities for remote learning. Technology training for all (parents, students & staff) to support remote learning.</p>
<p>Thank you!! The hard work and communication from the district is appreciated!</p>
<p>The children need to go back to traditional school. It is very important for their social and mental development and well being. It needs to go back to exactly the way it was. There's no need for masks and social distancing. There's no evidence that indicates this virus has a substantial death impact on children - they get sick and they recover, just like the flu or a cold. There's no evidence that this virus has a substantial death impact on younger adults either. The high death rate is with the over 70 yrs old group and those with pre-existing conditions. Solution: keep the over 70 group and those with pre-existing conditions out of the schools, and everybody wash/sanitize their hands. The impact on the students' mental health will be dire if you do not go back to traditional school the way it was.</p>
<p>I like the idea of small groups being grouped together to minimize the spread. A tribe if you will. These families can support each other too knowing they are staying with the same group of kids. Maybe bussed together, school together, lunch together, part time online together if needed, hang out together, after school activities together in these small groups.</p>

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I would appreciate knowing how PE class will be run if in person school is in session. Will additional precautions be made for the classes/activities offered through gym? I believe gym is a very important class but would like to understand how exposure would be limited during gym time.
Some in-class instruction is important for learning and emotional/social support.
While I appreciated the daily updates that we received, I do not see how that was the most effective method of communication, either for Mr. McLaughlin or the parents/faculty. Many of the messages, while informative, were commenting on unknown or future-casting information, which created a significant volume of information being sent out that may not have been fully known or decided upon at that time. Additionally, the multiple paragraph form of each message led to fatigue in reading over the course of the weeks they were sent out. A more focused and concise messaging plan would be most ideal in my opinion. There are certainly times when further details need to be communicated but daily, multiple paragraph emails were difficult to process each day.
Children have no comprehension of the spread of the virus. Kids frequently pick nose ext.ext. I believe children in a traditional classroom will spread the virus faster
NO MASKS worn by students please and let the teachers also take them off in the classrooms while teaching.
Please open the schools to in person learning this is an emotional, educational and financial nightmare not only for our family but for most local families.
Recently my student had 3 friends over to our pool and we ate lunch "social distanced" on our deck. These 3 boys described the hardships of remote learning. They each had a different story. My heart aches for these youth. They are craving for social interaction. They are "Zoomed" out and want to go back to school. Our student cried when he got his middle school yearbook. He misses school and friendships. Thank you, concerned parent, Kristen Laroche BSN, RN, CRNO
My children are suffering being home all the time and I am at the end of my rope trying to work and support my family while also trying to monitor and help teach my kids. I CAN NOT do this again in fall the schools need to open.
Please take the seriousness of children's mental and emotional health into consideration and listen to the American Academy of Pediatrics endorsement of opening school in person this fall. https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/
A staggered school schedule was briefly stated as a candidate response. Please consider a 2-hour in-class for 1/3 the student body 20 min per class - 4 classes day 1 and perhaps 4 classes day 2. A block of students goes in say 730 to 930, clean and a block of students go in say 10 to noon, and then 1230 to 230. No lunch for class sessions. give each student 20 min to learn in a class room environment on the new lesson or topic with remote assignment. This is more like college prep and gives students more structure safely.
Other countries have been successful in a modified return to school approach. Remote learning was temporary during the crisis but not an effective long term strategy. Ideally, having the students return in the beginning of the year knowing that in the winter we may need to be home again due to a seconds wave/flu season. Thank you for reading and considering parent input!
I think it is unrealistic to expect teachers and students to wear masks for the entire day. My concern with that is for students with anxiety or social emotional needs. Being able to see facial expressions is vital especially to those kids. I am also concerned that it will just give teachers 1 more thing to police. Viruses don't just go away. Unless we intend to hide from it for years, we need to learn to more intentionally use and teach healthy habits to reduce the spread of all illnesses in a school setting.
This survey is set up to answer for 1 child but does not account for those of us with multiple children

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Resume in school learning as business as usual with common sense practices in place!
It is more important to get these children back to a sense of normalcy as best as we can while recognizing that there will be cases that come up that we can't prevent. Give parents the option to do 100% remote if they are not comfortable but bring everyone else back with enhanced cleaning and handwashing with an emphasis on staying home if sick.
Thank you for all you have done. I am really impressed with all the work Merrimack School District has done during the spring and moving forward! Keep up the good work!!
Part of school is social interaction. Kids need to get back to school and have it as normal as possible.
We hope that school opens this fall. Kids are currently in camps and sports and everyone is working together to make it work.
Nothing in this surely addresses IEPs or special needs services or Out of district placement which has been appalling.
Just get the kids back to school and the teachers working again
Frequency of communication should be regular, maybe 2-3 times a week, and as needed. Didn't have this option to choose from. Teachers and staff need to be unified in their approach to the requirements and should take a kid-friendly approach to enforcement. Training is essential. Clear, concise information for students and families is also essential—similar messaging should be going out at the teacher, school, and district level. JMUES leadership will need help with this (from last year's experience). It will be important to have 3 plans in place (in-school, hybrid, remote) so that each school and classroom can transition as needed. Hoping that a new remote learning approach will be more instructionally worthy. Thank you for all that you are doing!
My daughter will be a senior this year, and while she appreciates the severity of the situation, she is really hoping for a real senior year. Chorus and theatre are important to her as well, especially in her last year, and while she knows this is a general survey for the school district, she would appreciate more communication on the possibility of those activities resuming this year.
Please commit to enforcing rules put in place and make the rules very clear to parents and students. Thanks.
N/A
N\A
If remote learning is required, ensure that it maintains the full rigor and accountability of in-person school. The students need to learn. We can't let the pandemic keep our children from receiving a quality education simply because there are logistical challenges for some families.
Please get our kids back into the schools. They need to have in person learning for their academic and social educational needs!
Re:communications, during the school year It was difficult to have three kids in the district have multiple teachers each send daily emails sometimes more than one each day, then get emails from the principal and then the district. Having the emails consolidated at least on the teacher's side would be helpful, or if not consolidated, easily marked with a standard format: teacher/subject/action/date or something similar would be helpful. Not just a generic email subject line "zoom call". I know it's a little extra work but when getting so many calls for zoom calls from multiple teachers for multiple kids, that would have been helpful for doing searches to find logins, zoom info, project information etc.
Thank you to all of you doing the hard work making these decisions!
Over these past months the Administration of the Merrimack School District has demonstrated the utmost courtesy, concern and respect for the parents and students of the District. The first priority has been safety with an eye toward what is best for the students' educational needs. I have every

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confidence that this will continue. Our family will trust the Administration going forward. Make the decisions based upon information currently available and we'll adapt as necessary.
Although my children are very good students, remote learning was difficult for my kids. They need to return to school for their academic and social/emotional well-being
My expectations from the school is to provide a well informed, organized approach to education during this unusual time. I think we need to be prepared for the virus both increase or decrease in our community by fall and have a plan in place for each circumstance. This is why I feel that a hybrid model is the "safest" choice at this time so that we are prepared for either circumstance. I think that a staggered schedule with students live in a reduced capacity/part-time schedule with social distancing guidelines in place would allow students to thrive academically and with their peers and be able to interact with their teachers and staff to also support social/emotional learning. It would be helpful to coordinate this with neighborhoods (2 of our neighbors are in the same class so if their schedules were the same we could coordinate together) so that during remote times, students could have the potential to "group up" at home with neighbors/friends and allow parents to coordinate schedules to teach/support these small groups. If the schedules of these staggered schedules were released soon (ASAP), we would be able to coordinate this with our work schedules and figure out how it will all work best.
I think preparation and organization is key. Our family is waiting to find out what school will look like in the fall in order to be able to move forward with our work schedules. We do prioritize our children's education and have some flexibility with this. We believe that remote learning (in some capacity) is inevitable. We would like to see a hybrid model if the status of the virus come fall is the same as it is currently in NH. To get the most out of remote learning, we would like to plan to host small neighborhood groups of students (3-4 students from the same grade level/classroom) to help make it feel like a more natural learning environment. In order to do this we need to know that the curriculum across classrooms is the same/similar but that individual students can move at their own pace to help allow them not to get bored/overwhelmed.
We need to ensure that the students are all provided with a quality education experience. To that end, they should be required to attend class in whatever form it takes, and complete assignments just as if they were in regular in-person school. Overcoming challenges is a huge part of the learning experience. We have the opportunity to teach this generation of students to rise to the challenge and overcome as no students in this country have had for generations. Or we can teach them to just give up when it gets too hard. I know some families last year chose the latter. I sincerely hope the Merrimack school district chooses the former for our students, as this experience may help shape some of the best citizens and leaders we have seen in many years. The easy way out is no longer an option.
Please let the children go back to school. If they don't my kids will be on their X-Box all day long and not learn a thing. Plus they will miss out on friends, learning, and sports!

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If remote learning HAS to continue -- it would be extremely helpful/beneficial for the students to have live lessons for the same amount of time as they would in school. It shouldn't be on the parents to come up with art projects or PE activities. I was told that "some students aren't home at this time" -- im not sure if they're at some type of daycare... but perhaps these students could still participate from the daycare (school issued laptops, etc) OR have the lessons recorded so the students can do them when they are able to. This would alleviate a ton of stress/pressure on us parents that work 40-60 hour weeks from home, which is hard enough in itself. It would prevent constant questions and interruptions. I did not become a teacher for a reason. I am not qualified to teach my child everything that she needs to know while working full time.

I am not sure if the school nurse does head lice checks still.. when I was in elementary school, the school nurse would check our heads for lice as a precaution every "x" amount of weeks/months. This helped to catch the problem before it became widespread. If we implemented some sort of "checks" that included temperature checks, questions regarding sickness for student/immediate family, etc. This may help. Perhaps even making Covid screenings/testing available for the school nurse. This is obviously not ideal and requires more than just a swab.. but if the parents consent to it, it will take the pressure off of them having to leave work and drag their sick child to urgent care. It would expedite the process. Also, if students are suspected of being ill perhaps they can be sent to a classroom designated for ANY students with cold-like symptoms. With mandatory masks, social distancing, etc to take place in this classroom. This would continue the learning process and whichever teacher was willing to work in this classroom could help with questions on work? Again, its not ideal... but this is the new normal.. we might as well implement a process that least disrupts the student.

Also, I don't think that a mix of remote learning/in class learning is beneficial (together). I'm not sure that this was a consideration but it crossed my mind. Perhaps we can have designated teachers that would prefer to do remote learning, work with the remote learning students? Even if multiple school districts are taught by one, common teacher. Assuming there weren't enough students for remote learning. I think live teaching in the classroom should focus on live teaching, and not be interrupted by potential technical difficulties or interruptions from other people at the students home (siblings, dogs, etc).

Maybe teachers could be included in hazard pay?

The biggest fear that I have is that the students that have developed "bad habits" over the course of remote learning/summer ("wild" behaviors) -- will be dealt with promptly, and accordingly. I don't want my daughter to suffer any more than she already has because a teacher fails to pick up on bullying or any other disruptive/inappropriate behavior. It is going to be emotionally taxing for ALL of these kids and they all will cope in their own ways..but things need to be watched extra closely.

I hope the district will see how well our state has done to keep numbers down. I hope the district will not force the wearing of face covers and I hope the will take away outdoor/recess time.

it is too easy to fall behind in the remote learning. Especially for students (like mine) who are special needs.

Our family would like to see a sense of normalcy as soon as possible as I am sure everyone would.

Children need to be at school. They need to make friends and have the ability to learn at school. I find that learning at home, while parents are trying to work or teach other children, is to distracting and then makes learning frustrating. You find that you just do the minimum to get by.

it's easy for children to fall behind with remote learning. Especially with special needs students. I have 2 and they struggled with remote learning. A half an hour, or if you are lucky an hour, "meeting" is not sufficient.

Online schooling during the spring was a quick-pivot and probably went as well as could be expected. However, it is inescapable that the quality of the education was not equivalent to our standard and that many kids will have fallen behind in reading, writing and math skills by the Fall. For the resumption of remote learning, the rigor of instruction needs to be picked up, the instructional hours provided to kids need to match (or exceed) what they would receive in a classroom setting and simple methods to measure progress need to be established and conveyed to the kids and their parents (using the same online tools for all students if possible). Some parents will have surrendered to the situation while others have tried to pick up the slack and educate their kids where the school is falling short. Neither group of kids is well served by a "one-size-fits-all" approach which is likely to cater to the lowest common denominator. The pace and level of instruction will need to be more personalized, as will the progress metrics - this will require more work from the teaching staff (note: breaking kids into smaller online groups will help). As many of us effectively transitioned to home-schooling the kids, we need the teachers to resume their usual contribution levels and not foist eternal tech-support tasks on parents which robs them of needed work-from-home hours. If the teachers cannot provide the teaching hours they're paid to supply, they aren't doing enough, and I am faced with the uncomfortable conclusion that if we are effectively home-schooling anyway, we don't need the school anymore and probably shouldn't be paying so much for it. Teachers with their own kids stuck at home with them are especially hard-hit, but we have to insist they put in the face-time with the students regardless, or else we need to find teachers who can - with remote learning, they don't even have to be in the same time-zone and we can recruit them from anywhere.

I already provided this response for my other child, but here it is again:

Online schooling during the spring was a quick-pivot and probably went as well as could be expected. However, it is inescapable that the quality of the education was not equivalent to our standard and that many kids will have fallen behind in reading, writing and math skills by the Fall. For the resumption of remote learning, the rigor of instruction needs to be picked up, the instructional hours provided to kids need to match (or exceed) what they would receive in a classroom setting and simple methods to measure progress need to be established and conveyed to the kids and their parents (using the same online tools for all students if possible). Some parents will have surrendered to the situation while others have tried to pick up the slack and educate their kids where the school is falling short. Neither group of kids is well served by a "one-size-fits-all" approach which is likely to cater to the lowest common denominator. The pace and level of instruction will need to be more personalized, as will the progress metrics - this will require more work from the teaching staff (note: breaking kids into smaller online groups will help). As many of us effectively transitioned to home-schooling the kids, we need the teachers to resume their usual contribution levels and not foist eternal tech-support tasks on parents which robs them of needed work-from-home hours. If the teachers cannot provide the teaching hours they're paid to supply, they aren't doing enough, and I am faced with the uncomfortable conclusion that if we are effectively home-schooling anyway, we don't need the school anymore and probably shouldn't be paying so much for it. Teachers with their own kids stuck at home with them are especially hard-hit, but we have to insist they put in the face-time with the students regardless, or else we need to find teachers who can - with remote learning, they don't even have to be in the same time-zone and we can recruit them from anywhere.

Please limit the emails to only important updates & make them as short as possible. The daily emails thanking everyone from janitors to bus drivers were a bit excessive & took away from the purpose of informing parents of new developments.

I'd also like to recommend having students eat at their desks to reduce hallway traffic, lunch lines & lunch table cross contamination. Lunches could be individually packaged & delivered outside of the classroom to the students who need them.

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For the District to take in account our success in New Hampshire combating COVID, and use that knowledge to not force the children that don't want to, wear masks. To consider what allows our immune systems to stay strong to combat illnesses, like feelings of happiness, proper diet, outside exposure and how necessary it is to not just prevent disease but to build, strengthen and support immune systems
Do not support having children wear masks all day long.
It would be great if there was an option for families that don't feel safe returning to the classroom in September. I understand this isn't an option for most families, but I would prefer to keep my child as safe as possible.
My son is young and it's hard enough for two of us to make sure he keeps clean and safe. I can't imagine how a single teacher can manage this with a handful of students. That's why we'd prefer to continue remote learning.
All children and staff have temp checks or have bus driver give temp check before child enters bus. Kids driven in get them upon arriving to main door before entering
Remote schooling did not work for my family at all and I can in no way support it being used again in the fall.
Students need to attend school in person but if things change significantly making this impossible we absolutely need live instruction. Please see what BG in Nashua did. That is the model we need or it will be another lost year.
My student struggled in honors classes outside the classroom. Next year he is enrolled in AP classes and we feel he needs to be in school regardless
Will there be remote learning options if the child feels that they need to stay at home due to either symptoms or with someone in close contact
I feel the students need to return to school with as many safety precautions as feasible. The social/emotional toll of continued isolation will be far more devastating than the toll of the virus.
My son will be starting at the Merrimack Middle School next year. Anything you can do to prepare/welcome the new kids coming in would be appreciated. He's nervous about the transition. We do appreciate all of the efforts you and all the teachers/employees of the district are making. Thank you
I believe that in addition to academic expectations, there needs to be regular teaching of coping strategies for emotional and psychological stress directly related to COVID19 and all its' related problematic situations. Also, upperclassmen should be given the chance to counsel freshmen & sophomores weekly about how to deal with the particular social pressures of high school. I'd like to see continued commraderie during this time despite the need for social distancing.
I am so worried for both my sons regarding the social void that's been created in their lives. They are both kids who kind of don't attract a lot of friends by nature so not having had the opportunity these past several months to see ANYBODY within the school setting has been very difficult. A gradual introduction to the social aspect of school I think is necessary and something I know I am looking forward to for my boys.
I would volunteer to help but I work full time. These kids have missed out on so much, I would hate for that to continue by having remote learning. Remote learning was tough on most, affected their GPA in a negative way, and was also very hard to keep up with math. Not all the teachers were as helpful and math was a huge struggle.
Remote learning was very difficult in my home but sending my child back to school with too many changes will not work either. I'm kind of stuck somewhere in the middle and not sure which way to turn.

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I am concerned about the student/teacher relationship (or lack of) with remote or hybrid learning. Please allow the students to attend school full time in the fall. If the rates of infection pick up as we head into cold/flu season then perhaps move to remote/hybrid for the winter but please, please allow the students back FULL TIME in the fall. They need to have the peer to peer relationships and establish routines and expectations with their teachers, especially all of the students moving to new buildings.
No
There's no safety measures or guidelines that can be put in place to guarantee safety. In the absence of total safety, occams razor tells us to go with our first instinct. My children won't be returning to school if it involves distancing, facial covers or Orwellian surveillance. Guidance staff and faculty don't possess the resources or knowledge to address the damage that this fear and stress can do to a developing child.
If it's safe, I would like my son to return to in school learning. I think his time away from school including other children, his teachers, and a routine has been very difficult for him. However, I understand the difficult decisions being made by the district and will support whatever decisions are made.
There are so many advantages to students being in school. During remote learning IEP goals were not being met. They did their best but students that need the support are falling so far behind.
We thought remote learning in the Spring 2020 was successful. I know a lot of parents complained but for our family it worked well and we were very satisfied with how the remainder of the year continued!
This needs to be a project approached with the same intensity as the moon landing. Think bigger, demand national resources, don't settle for bandaids that may look good on paper but we know aren't practical. It's great to say "we're going to require masks, teachers to teach on line and in class in the same week, keep kids six feet apart, but if you know those as impractical as saying "we're going to grow a vaccine out by the playground" then don't bother. It's nice to ask for input but parents want a plan. Move forward with confidence and parents will follow what you recommend.
This is a tough situation and I know you have our kids' and their teachers' health and safety at the forefront. Thank you.
The kids need to be back IN the schools if at all possible. Acknowledging that the COVID crisis created an unprecedented situation the fact of the matter is that very little learning took place once the kids were home. They were very much left on their own with very little real time instruction and true learning virtually stopped. Get the pupils back in school.
Remote learning was a failure in our household regardless of what the report cards say. We were lucky to have technology in place, room for each of them to study, food on the table, and no financial hardships. And still...It was a stressful, difficult learning experience, and our kids did not obtain needed skills. The kids fear if next year is remote they will fail Junior year which is causing anxiety in anticipation of knowing what the school year structure will be.
As a parent of twins, I would ask that if the school decides to make classrooms smaller, would the school please consider putting twins together in the same class, in order to decrease the number of kids our family will be exposed to?
If classrooms are smaller in the fall, we would like our twins to be in the same class in order to decrease the amount of people our family is exposed to.

THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC WAY TO CREATE A SAFE VACCINE!

In America, vaccinations are monopolized by four companies: Pfizer, Merck, GlaxoSmithKline, and Sanofi. These companies are the biggest LOBBYISTS in Washington.

It's not only the billions they POUR INTO lobbying that's disgusting – it's the media too!

Anderson Cooper is sponsored by Pfizer and NBC nightly news is backed by Merck, for example. The United States is one of only TWO COUNTRIES that allow TV ads about drugs!

There are 72 mandatory vaccinations, so these companies have ZERO COSTS when it comes to advertising vaccines since it's forced upon parents. You cannot sue them, so there are no LEGAL COSTS, and since that's the case, they don't do SAFETY TESTING.

It's the perfect business for them, so it's no wonder Bill and Melinda Gates UNDERSTAND THE SINISTER POTENTIAL!

This is madness and it has led to a massive rise in autism cases, as well as asthma, food allergies, and chronic diseases.

Vaccines are the most controversial topic in the world right now since these companies are attempting to BRAINWASH THE SHEEP to form a herd and to get their shots, even though it has been proven TIME AND AGAIN that vaccines are BULLSHIT!

The World Health Organization, the CDC, the NIH, and other institutions are FOR-PROFIT when it comes to patenting. They have a vested interest in these vaccines, including that sneaky devil Dr. Anthony Fauci.

It is a mistake to believe the majority of what family doctors tell you about vaccines; they're the MESSENGERS of doom and have done no personal research on what they administer in most cases!

After doing my own research, these are facts that I uncovered. You may draw different conclusions, but know that there are hundreds of thousands of victims from these vaccines both alive and dead.

The psychological effects of this pandemic are far worse than the physical in my opinion. I've watched both my children dive into deep depression and become very detached from remote platforms. Learning, therapy, doctor appointments...all done through a computer screen. And none of it was effective. Children this young are not equipped to self-teach. Parents have to work...we can't teach them. Nor are we trained teachers. They are only seeing US all day. It's causing so much damage to the family unit as we parents try to wear all these hats. They NEED to be back IN school.

I feel like remote learning is going to have its long term effects on the children if it goes on too long. We as parents aren't able to teach the kids as effectively as teachers.

Teacher involvement and getting to know my child. There was no personalization with instruction, just recordings and Zoom calls with the entire 7th grade team.

I'd like to know when my child doesn't do work or is close to failing before it's too late. PowerSchool is awful and useless.

I would like for the children to return to school as normal as possible...no mask wearing and not restricted from the lunch room.

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The biggest challenge for our son in the remote learning environment was with the platform itself - it was quite challenging to keep track of what was due and when for all of his classes, because there wasn't a single place he could go to see all of that info in one place. Each class had it's own separate page that he had to go to, and even within each class, assignments were communicated via several different channels. So having a consolidated page where he can see everything that's due across all classes would be extremely helpful.

Aside from that, I think that a hybrid model of some in-school time and some remote learning time makes the most sense. The students would benefit greatly from having some regular face to face time with both teachers and students, and that would accomplish that need while still reducing total # of students in the building at one time. Thanks for all your work on this!

The Merrimack School District's administrators and teachers did a great job with the transition to on line learning and communication in the spring. I trust that you will continue to enhance the existing programs and keep our children safe.

We appreciate all that the Merrimack school district has done to keep us informed and stay in adherence with the necessary guidelines in this uncharted territory. We are comfortable with sending our children back to school to learn and socialize with other students and feel that staying home and masked is now doing us more harm than good.

Thank you for keeping our children safe.

My child wants to go back to school. Social interaction is important in addition to learning.

There is so much that we don't know about this virus. Hoping that we will have more info in the next cpl of months that way it would be easier for us to make an informed decision. Thanks for all your hard work. Sincerely appreciated 👍

Remote learning was not effective, my child was not challenged enough and was completed assignments before 11 every day. Many times zoom number were wrong or not provided, taking time away from job. We need to work and you need to manage educating our children more efficiently and effectively.

The middle school zoom sessions were not productive. My son stopped attending after a few weeks. They were mostly unstructured social gatherings and not conducive for actual learning, which was what he needed. Have separate team social zooms for that purpose and have separate structured zoom sessions for instruction. Both sides are important, the social times can be facilitated by counselors to take some of the burden off of the teachers. My son craved intellectual stimulation and discussion of academic content and he didn't receive that at all. Most of the instruction was read this or watch the video then answer questions. That comes from teachers not having training in effective on-line pedagogy, so I can't blame them. We all started off thinking this was going to be a couple of weeks only. They did the best they could with the situation they were presented, but mostly, we were dealing with the bottom two levels of Blooms Taxonomy and nothing higher. Should we return to online learning in the fall, I would hope that the level of instruction and expectations would be higher.

I was also very displeased with how the tools of PowerSchool were not being used effectively. The calendar/to do list was worthless for students because of how the teachers assigned work. Some just put it in their announcements and you had to email it to them, some put it in a weekly syllabus, some put the due date a month out to give students the opportunity for late submissions...it was impossible for my son to stay organized because of the inconsistency of how assignments were being posted in PowerSchool. I spent an hour every Monday morning organizing his week with him so that he didn't miss assignments. Consistency with PowerSchool would be super helpful.

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No one-size-fits-all model. Make it different based age.
I recommend teachers keep their 2019-2020 class of students for the New 2020-2021 school year, which would require teachers to teach a different grade level, but I think would it would benefit the kids... especially if remote learning continues again this Fall/Winter/Spring.
Educational standards must be as good as standard practice. Do not let pandemic cause any delay in educational progress.
Though difficult to do, I suggest giving families a choice: attend regular school with whatever practices the district puts in place or choose to do remote learning. Leave it up to each family based on their unique situations to choose their option for the year. Have teachers willing to do remote learning and also have teachers who are able to be regular classroom teachers. By doing this, families who have children or other family members who are compromised, can remain home but participate through remote learning. the same goes for teachers who might find themselves compromised in some format - they can be the ones conducting remote learning.
I am not in support of remote learning this fall whatsoever
Prompt notification if there is an outbreak and what the plan of action is if there is one.
We have four children in the MSD, 9th, 7th, 4th, and 2nd grades. Please just be considerate/mindful of the different families that have multiple children in multiple schools and what that would look like if you were to go to a hybrid model with staggered schedules. We are hoping that you would offer them to be in and out of school on the same days to accommodate the families. Also, would remote learning be an OPTION for those families who cannot make the hybrid model work? I anticipate many families will be in the situation where a staggered schedule will be difficult to make work with their schedules.
Thank you for sending out a survey and ask him for the input of the community:)
Provide equitable access for all students for remote learning. You don't have the wherewithal to ensure the complete safety of every student gathered together in enclosed spaces. Even adequate testing, is not without its fault. It's playing an optimistic Russian roulette at this point.

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<p>The lunch program has been a great service that we will need to utilize more during the next school year.</p> <p>All teachers need a raise.</p> <p>For elementary age students their weekly specials are so important to their education. A weekly class zoom session with the specials teachers would do wonders! Librarians can read books to the class, gym teachers can do an aerobics or movement zoom class, music teachers can teach song and instrument craft, art could be an art assignment that we share with each over zoom... the possibilities are endless!</p>
<p>This virus has very little effect on children. We need to be concerned about their emotional and social health as a top priority. They need a normal school experience.</p>
<p>Children are the least likely to suffer negative effects of this virus. Their emotional and social health must be a top priority. They need a normal school experience.</p>
<p>We had a great experience with remote learning and would like to continue with the same till we have vaccination for the virus.</p>
<p>Really appreciate the Districts efforts to plan for a safe return to school. It will be a challenge as no matter what option you choose some people will not be happy. This survey is a great idea to try to plan for the best way forward given that we have no control over the virus or it's impact. Keep up the great work.</p>
<p>The idea of a hybrid year is interesting but not sure if I could make it mesh with my work schedule. My son had some rough days staying focused during remote learning.</p>
<p>There is no way my family can keep our jobs and our sanity if there is remote schooling in the fall. This has been one of the worst things that has ever happened to us.</p>
<p>I believe remote learning or hybrid model would be more successful for older students. Some in person instruction is preferred with safety protocols.</p>
<p>My son has an IEP, and he is having a very difficult time adapting to remote learning. We feel that he will fall further behind the rest of his class if it continues. If the decision for remote learning continues in September, we hope that special circumstances can be made to allow children with IEP's to return in some capacity so they can get the help they really need.</p>
<p>More one on one time for students and teachers and group calls for students to socialize if we cannot return to in person schooling.</p>
<p>Initially there were no schedules provided from our kids teachers when we started working remotely and I understand the circumstances. But this left a lot of uncertainties, it was unstructured and was more stressful for us as parents. We greatly benefited from a suggested weekly schedule from our children's teachers when working remotely. Moving forward if there is any form of remote learning implemented I definitely would recommend sending home weekly schedules of what is planned to be covered from teachers to help parents organize and prepare their student(s) for what is coming in the week ahead and to know what is expected of them.</p>
<p>My son is very social. He thrives with other kids. I think regardless of any potential risk, it would be worth it for his mental health for things to return to a relatively "normal" experience.</p>
<p>The communication from the district was perfect during the March - May time frame. It was honest and complete, providing the right level of answers and understanding when there were more questions than answers. I feel very uncertain about the Fall opening, the list of requirements to make it safe is overwhelming (although I want all of those requirements and more). I am concerned that my 2nd grader (who is generally a good student and socially conscious) would find it difficult to stay focused on educational and social learning surrounded by such strict guidelines to keep them healthy.</p>

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Kids want to interact and be close to their peers. That is why I feel safer with remote learning during this time.
There was too much communication in the form of eMails from the school/superintendent. A simple message board with current status/positions and a date of update would have been preferred. I understand it was an evolving situation and people wanted to be informed, but a LOT of the information was static (unchanged). A simple weekly message to state what 'positions' had changed or if something truly important would have been fine. However, as it was, a lot went into the 'bit bucket' due to information overload/repetition of the same message.
Nothing at this time. Thank you
As a parent, I feel that hybrid teaching is a great way to introduce students back to a school environment in a safe manner. If there is a change in our community with COVID cases, we will have prepared families to go back either full-time or remote again. There should also be a reduction/staggered class times/sizes, with at home assignments, to be done in the evening for the next day, so as to minimize the amount of face covering use while in school (especially for the younger grades). I feel all families should be given a tutorial for whatever platform is adopted for any remote learning for all grade levels. I also feel there should be consistent parent/teacher communication at least once a week.
As a parent, I feel that hybrid teaching is a great way to introduce students back to a school environment in a safe manner. If there is a change in our community with COVID cases, we will have prepared families to either go back either full-time or remote again. There should also be a reduction/staggered class times/sizes, with at home assignments, to be done in the evening for the next day so as to minimize the amount of face covering use while in school (especially on the younger grades). I feel all families should be given a tutorial for whatever platform is adopted for any remote learning for all grade levels. I also feel there should be consistent parent/teacher communication at least once a week.
Flexibility in the hours of remote learning. Parents are working during the day as well, it's difficult to keep track of schedules
Already answered
If possible a better platform for posting assignments and turning in work. My experience is with Canvas through the University of Texas.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
No concerns, would like back to school as normal as possible Have staff be proactive on seeing signs of illness, encourage hand washing. But otherwise, go back to normal.
Please have the kids return to school with no remote learning and make school as safe as possible.
Thanks for all you have done so far. I think let's just keep our eye on the infection trend (down is good, up is bad) with hygiene a focus in school and home. if children display signs of any infectious virus let's try to isolate them for their own health and that of the students and faculty as well. Have a

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protocol in place for a student to return once they show signs of something contagious so they are quickly cared for and brought back to the social mix.
Hoping the schools open. The kids need this and get a much better education in the classroom. It is a tough place for parents to give the level of teaching needed. In classroom is best. Thank you.
I think the upcoming year CAN be successful with additions to daily curriculum about hygiene especially for the younger kids, increased hand wash stations, increased volunteers, outside services to maintain the cleanliness or teach the kids to clean up after themselves better.
I am most concerned about students eating in confined areas with face coverings removed. Students attending school half days to be able to eat lunch at home and the other half of the students eating lunch then attending school.
To encourage social distancing parents should be given the option of having their children join class via zoom thus reducing the amount of students in the class.
I really want all of the teachers and staff to be safe and have their health concerns heard and met as if we don't take care of them they may leave.
I prefer a 3 day in school and a 2 day remote learning.. Or a 2 day in school and 3 day remote learning. Please no cafeteria. Lunches from home. Or sandwiches made in cafeteria and delivered to class wher the students will eat in class.
Hire more cleaning people to clean through out the day. No water bubblers allowed. I am very nervous. I feel come winter, COVID will spike again :(How do we keep our children safe in winter? Is it a cold? Is it the flu? Is it strep throat? Or more importantly is it covid?? Children should NOT ATTEND school with even just cold symptoms... How can we ensure it's not covid?
Hard decisions... I do feel school is very important for these children to attend...but maybe have both. Zooming at home thou you must in force all teachers to have more learning class time via online. One hour a day is not enough to ensure they get it.
While teachers put a huge effort in to remote learning (with varying success teacher by teacher), my kids greatly missed out on the social development aspects of the traditional school environment. I believe it is very important for kids (especially the younger ones) to socially interact on a regular basis (in person preferred). Technology has become an addiction for the kids and would like to see them back to a more traditional environment (even if on a limited basis).
Please get them back to school. Many teachers struggle managing their own lives and children from home and put minimal effort into remote learning. If remote learning is the norm to start the year, I plan to take my daughter out of Merrimack schools completely and hire a tutor so she doesn't fall too far behind. No need for overly long emails from the superintendent every couple days (they are a running joke amongst many parents in town - how long they are without really saying much that is tangible). Please get the kids back in the classroom and give these kids an education.

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<p>I am 100 percent in favor of sending the kids back with enhanced cleaning protocols in place at the school (this needed to happen regardless of COVID). Remote learning, as we all know, with two working parents is not feasible. I'm confident that while my kids did ok with it, and the teachers did an excellent job with what they had, I can't imagine starting a new year off remote. If protests shopping, camps, and businesses can open, schools should too. NH has low numbers of COVID and I truly believe many kids has it already in Jan/Feb. There is data that reflects that children are not asymptomatic carriers/spreading the virus and are minimally affected.</p> <p>I also like the idea of flexibility. Families who want/need to continue to isolate due to fear or chronic health issues, can do remote learning while those who are in school are learning there. Set up webcams and let the remote students watch and listen while teacher conducts class. Provide the the corresponding worksheets/writing/reading at home, that way teachers aren't over burdened with having to develop two lesson plans. And parents who choose remote can facilitate their child's education as needed.</p> <p>Looking forward being back normal this fall!</p>
<p>We desperately would like our kids to return to a live classroom in the fall whatever that looks like. Remote learning was not a positive experience. I am concerned my 10 year old will go from being a slightly above average student to a struggling one if he has more time trying to teach himself with minimal teacher interaction while both parents work. He gets some assistance from his 14 year old sister who watches him and helps him with his work when not doing her own</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>As was stated earlier, so difficult to answer surveys right now- situation is fluid. We feel like a shortened school day to limit prolonged contact but still live interaction is one possibility for the fall or a model of 3 days in school & 2 home/online might work..but know that the logistics of that are difficult for child care/Families with younger students.</p>
<p>My children's pediatrician is very against schools being closed she explained all the mental health issues it's causes some of which we have experienced with our own children. The American Academy of Pediatrics publish a strong position for children returning to school in person THESE are the experts you should be listening to! Open the schools!</p>
<p>The social interaction, the professional learning experience and other programs at the school my child gets from attending school out way any concerns I have of the dangers of the virus.</p>
<p>In Merrimack 75% of our tax money goes to the school system. I can not afford to pay that much in taxes for a closed school AND be forced to pay for full time childcare because my husband and I work outside the home. Everything else is open now how is it even legal to only keep the schools closed and nothing else.</p>
<p>The teachers did amazing with what they were surprised into.</p> <p>It didn't work though. With adult panic, social and emotional health for our family, we struggled and the expectations to "learn" in a time when a pandemic has us stuck in-house, more importance should have been spent on how to connect with one another rather than abiding by state regulations. We very much felt like we had no control. No grounding, no safety net as the world for everyone flipped upside down. And when the virtual school bell rang, I found myself saying, why are they doing this?</p>
<p>Kindergarten is a valuable stepping stone to a school career. We hope the decision to open the building to students goes through as distance learning at this age is not effective. Our son is very excited for this next chapter and as parents, we're confident the teachers/school officials will do their best to keep him safe in a "traditional" school setting.</p>

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<p>Social interaction, the professional learning experience and other programs at the school my child gets from attending school out way any concerns I have of the dangers of the virus. Fear mongering and forcing children to learn in a militant and uncomfortable way should not be allowed.</p> <p>If there are parents that want their children to learn remotely the can do that through VLACS. The brick and mortar schools should be open with focus on hygiene and normal curriculums.</p>
<p>We all understand how difficult these decisions are on everyone involved. These kids lives have been impacted greatly. Mine is at day camp this summer with new restrictions in place. Although it's different than past years, it's greatly helped his outlook/spirit/sense of well-being. A little normalcy amidst the world that's been turned upside down.</p>
<p>I think learning is done best in the classroom. As a teacher myself, I know the schools district will do what it can to keep our children safe. Attending school in person is also best for social emotional growth. I am ok if the school year is part in school and remote but the remote needs to be at the students pace and meeting a due date. Both my husband and I work so it would be difficult to have things done at a certain time of the day. We truly believe that the district will do what is safest for the students. Thank you. I look forward to your decision.</p>
<p>Social interaction, the professional/technical learning experience and other programs at the school my child gets from attending school out way any concerns I have of the dangers of the virus. Fear mongering and forcing children to learn in a militant and uncomfortable way should not be allowed. If the child and parent are comfortable resuming school in a normal way the school district should comply as we pay taxes to have these services. The CDC does not dictate how a school should run.</p> <p>If there are parents that want their children to learn remotely the can do that through VLACS. The brick and mortar schools should be open with focus on hygiene and normal curriculums.</p>
<p>If online, needs to be more instructional and learning vs. just assigning work.</p>
<p>We would only need bus transportation a couple afternoons a week.</p> <p>We do have concerns of our child doing online schooling at this age with the level of learning they can or can't have & enjoying it. Kindergarten is such a fun hands on age.</p> <p>We also have concerns of our child being held back if they do not do well with online learning. Their WILL BE no pressure or negative pressure if our child cannot deal with whatever hybrid learning that's coming.</p> <p>Our families sanity and well being is paramount to putting an iPad in there face and expecting them to do it on there own. In our home both parents have hands on job & do not work from home.</p> <p>We feel at this age it's so important to have the socializing & hands on interaction with other children & teachers. We also feel kindergarten especially need to see people's faces to connect with whatever emotions are being conveyed.</p>
<p>Please take into consideration working families that cannot do 100% remote learning. Also having the teachers and school staff wearing masks doesn't allow children to decipher any predator.</p>
<p>I'd love to help organize ideas to make classrooms safe</p>
<p>This is really tough... thank you for all you do!</p>

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<p>We will need a device if remote.</p> <p>#11 maybe, depends on masks and ability to social distance in the bus and cleaning procedures.</p> <p>There were too many emails in the spring. Be succinct, limit how many people are communicating and keep it to necessary information.</p> <p>Thanks for allowing input.</p>
<p>Having an autistic child this has been excruciating for her. She needs her routine and time away from home. Being immunocompromised (Cardiac disease, Lung Disease and Hypoimmunoglobulinemia) this virus can be serious for her. I need people to be honest when working with her and she needs to go in for her therapies and pretty much be secluded until more get the virus. She does not hold vaccines in her system. We are scared of regular flu season. hand washing is a must. The special needs classrooms worry me a lot. many of these kids cannot control their secretions and have poor hygiene, my daughter included.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>As a parent that works full time with multiple (more than 4) children in the school system and a limited budget remote learning is unrealistic. But sending my kids to an atmosphere where the can't be kids and they will be more worried about if they are passing the virus along or if they may have touched something that someone else touched before it was sanitized... it's not worth it. I can't afford to home school but I can't afford the mental and emotional long term effects of the "social distancing" method of public school will cause. A rock and a hard place.</p>
<p>You did the best you could in Spring 2020 (quite admirably, in my estimation), but I had a child who really struggled with the remote learning. So...that platform (since I'm convinced we'll be with it for some time) HAS to be unified and the teaching/learning experience bolstered somehow.</p>
<p>Allow the parents to decide if their child goes to school with newly introduced safety measures, or stays home and completes remote learning on their own.</p>
<p>I really hope that the task force that was put in place is up to this challenge because alot of people are depending on them for our child's sake. Our children need to be able to go back to something that seems familiar maybe not the same, but familiar</p>
<p>I believe that a better look at how this will affect a child's mental and emotional development should be more highly considered. The health and safety of our children needs to take into consideration what this type of environment will do to them in the long run. The emotional and metal effects is sure to be a greater long term threat than COVID. If we are scared enough of the virus to not live and have non germaphobic behavior then should we really be returning to school? Should we really consider putting the younger kids through these measures? Especially the younger ones who will be effected the most by the systems being put in place.</p>
<p>I would like to see more communication between teachers and parents. Updates on how they are doing would be great. Teaching a lesson live rather than having the kids watch a video would be so much better. More zoom meetings, less kids in each meeting (limit class size even online, small groups work better).</p>
<p>Is the district going to move to "hours" instead of days? Getting out earlier this year was fantastic.</p>
<p>Now that the district has proven remote learning is possible, can this be considered as an option to reduce the number of snow days impacting the school calendar.</p>
<p>Remote learning was ineffective for my son and was detrimental to his education. It is imperative that he returns to school in the fall. My son is on an IEP and the Spec Ed department did a tremendous job trying to aid him during remote learning; however, when a student has a comorbidity of deficits, only hands on teaching and learning is effective. Without person to person interactions, little academic success was achieved.</p>

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<p>My daughter's strong preference and ours is for school to return to the school building in the Fall. We believe it is crucial to have a structured and consistent learning environment for the school year. If the remote learning is offered in the Fall, it should be in a virtual classroom where the teacher is teaching the material and not just giving out work for students to do. It will be greatly appreciated if the school district asks students and parents for feedback frequently, so the appropriate adjustments are made in a timely manner.</p> <p>Thank you for requesting our feedback and taking it into consideration.</p>
<p>Seniors should be given parking pass priority, followed by juniors. No sophomore or freshman should be allowed parking permits.</p>
<p>My son receives special education. Although the teachers did the best job they could through Zoom, teaching a child with a disability over an online platform is not beneficial. My son severely struggled with remote learning. He needs support in person. I am worried that he has fallen way behind now since he barely used hand writing. Everything was done over the computer. I am hoping that we can get back to a new normal and have school, in school. Thank you.</p>
<p>if virtual learning is going to take place again it needs to be as if they were in school. Set times to sign in and join their classmates to learn about the particular subject and then have time to sign off and complete the assignment and have some access to teachers when that subject is over. Maybe create Cisco spark groups or something similar to have the ability for the classes to communicate.</p>
<p>As someone who works full time and cannot afford someone to come help "teach" my children this situation is frustrating and quite honestly not worth it. We are suppose to have multiple children in the school system this year, most who need a big amount of assistance when it comes to learning. Remote learning becomes unrealistic and homeschooling would require either hiring someone or one of us not working, neither which is feasible at this time. Should the schools really open if COVID is still that much of a concern? Should it be delayed?</p>
<p>Would prefer a synchronous broadcast of in-class instruction (with in-school students) for students electing to stay at home in order to maintain the pace of a regular schedule</p>
<p>Remote learning is too difficult for working parents and children with social and/or cognitive challenges. Hoping to get them back into the classroom with proper precautions. (No masks for children please).</p>
<p>Remote learning is too difficult for working parents and children with social and/or cognitive challenges. Hoping to get them back into the classroom with proper precautions. (No masks for children please).</p>
<p>Obviously strict six-feet social distancing is really hard for five year olds, but we feel it's really important for teachers and staff to be modeling good behavior (mask wearing, frequent hand-washing, doing our best to stay 6' away). We were pretty horrified with our Pre-K situation this spring where they claimed to have protocols in place but the one time we did a visit no one was wearing masks, social distancing out the window, etc. and it was NOT OK. If we start school and find out the staff is not following good protocols we will pull our son out and find a private school that *will* follow protocols (please don't take that as a threat! We genuinely hope everyone follows protocols and acts as fantastic role models for all the kids!).</p> <p>As for volunteering in some way to support a community approach to reopening I will help in whatever way I can but my work day time is limited. I work in K-12 eLearning so, as you can imagine, my work schedule only got *more* intense during the closures. My time should free up some as we get over the back-to-school onboarding/enrollment hump (whatever that looks like this fall). If there are things that I can support after hours that's a possibility as well.</p>

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As a former teacher I have a deep amount of respect for the extra effort and hardship this situation puts on everyone on the front lines of this but we really feel that if the kids see "grown-ups doing it" (modeling appropriate behavior) it will make it easier for the kiddos. Thank you thank you THANK YOU for trying your best to do the right thing in these crazy times.
Remote learning was extremely difficult with our 10-year old son. He required constant supervision for every task. Generally, he tolerates school for the social benefits. We really hope he can return in the fall, in the most normal circumstances possible.
My eight year old is part of a larger family with one-year old and five-year old brothers, and a ten-year old brother who required constant supervision during remote learning. Initially she performed well and said she loved remote learning, but one day she had a melt-down and I realized she was very overwhelmed, since much of my time was being spent helping her brothers. I have found it very difficult to shepherd the remote learning of two children while dealing with an infant and a preschooler. I'm especially concerned with the fall, since there will now be 3 school aged children potentially doing remote learning.
I would strongly advocate that half-day kindergarten be reinstituted, as this will address many of the concerns regarding smaller groups for health and safety. At his age, he does not do well with video conference calls. I do not see how the experience of kindergarten can be replicated at home.
We would like to see an option that would allow our second grader to attend school in person in the Fall and when the time comes that the active cases in Southern NH are rising, we have the ability to pull our son from attending school in person each day and start remote learning.
We would like to see an option that would allow our second grader to attend school in person in the Fall and when the time comes that the active cases in Southern NH are rising, we have the ability to pull our son from attending school in person each day and start remote learning.
My biggest worry is kids won't be able to remember not to touch their faces or not to follow social distancing while playing or communicating. Staff / Teachers may require to be more vigilant to make sure kids avoid this. In that case, hybrid model is more suitable (2 or 3 days remote learning) since teachers /Staff will also get some relief from this extra stress of being always alert in school.
Remote learning is not a viable option for elementary school students. There is no reason why it should be considered. The emotional and psychological damage done to these children far outweighs the minuscule risk of becoming seriously ill.
We are very concerned about student athletes - locker rooms, bus rides and playing against other teams etc.
My biggest worry is kids won't be able to remember to follow social distancing or not to touch their faces while playing. How can this be handled?
I very much appreciate the district and the superintendent's constant and open communication throughout the past few months. It's comforting to always know where you/we stand as we all go through this together.
This is the biggest risk to send my kids to school!

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A policy that states if a student or teacher does test positive than the classroom will do remote learning for 10 days (2 school weeks) while wait ing for symptoms.

Teachers and staff need to be masked.

this is a bad idea because other country's are open and because of that the numbers of coved-19 cases are going higher and faster everyday. Please let's keep our kids safe!

Not right now, thank you!

I work as a nurse in a hospital and worked on the "COVID unit" when this pandemic began, so I understand the immense degree of planning you are all undertaking and I appreciate all of the hard work the entire district has been putting in.

Ensuring good hygiene for each child is another concern. As I mentioned above, I think teaching the proper techniques and the impact/reasoning of why we are doing this is essential to its success. A person, no matter what age, is far more likely to comply with a rule if the reasoning behind it makes sense to them, and if it makes them feel as if they are contributing. I would be happy to come in as a volunteer to help demonstrate proper handwashing techniques or other health/hygiene lessons. I understand social distancing and enforcing masks on children will be extremely difficult if not impossible, especially with young children, so basic hygiene will be essential. In the hospital every staff member wears a mask throughout their shift, but the patients do not. This prevents one staff member from spreading any germs to multiple patients, and also protects the staff member from germs as well. Having school staff wear masks throughout the day may help to keep your staff healthy and prevent them from spreading germs as well. Also, when we transport a patient through common areas (for testing for example), we have the patient wear a mask to keep the common areas as uncontaminated as possible, and to prevent the spread of germs from people passing in the halls. Children could wear masks while traveling between classrooms to prevent germs in the hallways and between passing classes, while allowing them more movement through the school building.

My biggest concern by far though is that the teaching/lessons are effective, and that the students continue to receive a quality education. In the spring I found the remote learning very difficult with a preschool student, not because of the material or platform used, but because it was too much computer time and not enough hands on. For a preschool aged child to retain knowledge they need to do more than watch a video on the computer, they need to experience it first hand. They have very little experience to draw from when trying to incorporate new information they learn, so it is very important that they are able to have these experiences in the classroom. Also, I believe there has yet to be one study that shows screen time for young kids to be anything but detrimental to their brain development. Neuronal development all but halts when they sit on a computer or ipad. Personally, since we pay for preschool, I feel it is a waste of time, money, and development to have my child being taught from a computer for any part. (As a sidenote, I do recognize the immense price difference between public preschool and private preschool, and last year we could not have been happier with our experience. The school adapted quickly and effectively to an unprecedented circumstance and did wonderfully.) This is perhaps a selfish suggestion, as it really only pertains to preschool classes, but as class size in preschool averages around 10 kids per class I feel that each class could safely ensure adequate distancing and supervised hygiene. If there is no real need to alter the structure of a classroom (ie make it remote or hybrid) I don't see the reasoning to do it at all. Just because some things need to change does not mean everything needs to change. Also, as I mentioned prior, this particular age is among the age range that remote learning is really not an effective technique for, and is not an effective use of your resources.

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I appreciate you allowing parents to add their input, and I do not envy the tough decisions you are all having to make daily. I feel confident in the competence and intentions of the decisions you make, and I look forward to another great school year with your incredible staff!

Get back to school. Kids do not get or spread the virus. Forget the fake news. Get going

I am very concerned about having my child switch between classrooms for 7 different classes because I don't know how it's possible to properly clean and sterilize between class changes. I am concerned about a clean and sterilized cafeteria. I am concerned about even the hallways being cleaned and sterilized because my child (along with many other children I see) drags his hand across walls and surfaces as he walks, no matter how many times I tell him not to. I am concerned about the fact that my child often needs one on one attention and therefore is in close contact with a teacher or para.

If some form of remote learning continues I think there needs to be a better way to keep track of what's going on. It was very difficult to keep up with so many emails from so many different teachers and to remember and keep track of what had to be completed and when. Some sort of online calendar system with links to assignments each day would be easier to follow. Although I'm sure teachers were trying to be helpful when sending emails it just became very overwhelming. Some sort of continuity should be developed so that all teachers are using the same or similar formats to communicate assignments to students.

As an essential worker of 3 children in 3 different schools, I depend on my oldest to be home before the younger children. My oldest cares for the younger children until my husband and I get home for the day. Having a staggered schedule or hybrid schedule would make it impossible for my oldest to care for my younger children and I would have to not work, not really a good option for my family.

Easier way for students to actually work from their assignments online to make it easier to pass in if remote. I.e. could not fill in answers on paperwork without it changing the format of the paper which made it harder to pass in.

I would like an option as a parent not to send my child back to school, even if the district decides due to health conditions.

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Although I would love to send my child to her first year of kindergarten we have chosen to homeschool this year. Due to all of the unforeseen circumstances I want to give my child the most routine and normal school year for the first year. I am hoping that we will be able to send her for first grade as we think that the Merrimack school district is wonderful, and is doing a fantastic job!
Having an option to do remote learning even if school decides to open due to health reasons
The kids NEED hands on learning if possible! I applaud the effort of remote learning however it's just not the same!
in regards to remote learning, it was very challenging for myself, as a stay at home mom of 3 young children, to develop a plan to have my 2 school aged children complete all of the school work with very little guidance from teachers. I would like to see teachers engaged with the class in smaller sizes using a virtual platform to provide a similar feeling as if they were in the school.
in regards to remote learning, it was very challenging for myself, as a stay at home mom of 3 young children, to develop a plan to have my 2 school aged children complete all of the school work with very little guidance from teachers. I would like to see teachers engaged with the class in smaller sizes using a virtual platform to provide a similar feeling as if they were in the school.
Our family highly supports the school reopening. We understand the school will have safety precautions in place, but please do not require children to wear masks all day.
I fully support opening the buildings and allowing children to have a traditional academic school year. I think it's very important to their mental and physical health.
Remote learning was a failure at our house my kids never want to do it again. This was ZERO fault of their teachers who were absolutely incredible my kids are extremely social hands on learners and remote learning did not and will never be adequate for their personalities and learning style preferences.
Thank you for your effort to keep every one safe and also relate learning environment for kids
You've been amazing through all of this and your efforts and hardwork are very much appreciated.
While I understand at times there is a large amount of information to provide to the community, I am concerned that some of the superintendent's emails were not read due to the length of same.
While I understand at times there is a large amount of information to provide to the community, I am concerned that some of the superintendent's emails were not read due to the length of same.
During remote learning in the Spring, our child did not have enough school work. Many days she finished what was required of her in less than an hour. I worry about this happening again if remote learning takes place in the 2020-2021 school year. Please keep this in mind for kids who need to be challenged and who were performing at a high level in school prior to the pandemic.
I would like to see school reopen in the fall in some capacity. I've accepted that at some point the kids will be home again in the winter months perhaps. We really need guided lessons over zoom or whatever platform they use, last spring zoom didn't go well and we ended up being our childs teachers while working full time and was very very difficult for our family. I think its important to go back and have our child meet the teacher in person and build that relationship and trust before that teacher starts teaching them over a computer screen. Our kids ride the bus in the morning but stay for after school program. Given the choice we would drive our kids to school and not use transportation to help limit exposure. Morning arrivals would also have to change, kids can't just congregate on a playground anymore, they need to be separated and supervised. Supervision is a HUGE problem for me on the playground, I don't think there has ever been enough and now more than ever we need supervision for the children.
Good luck to us all in trying to figure this out.

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Remote learning for the younger students, especially those in Kindergarten would be incredibly difficult. I hope more than anything that although it may not be the same in the fall, but that there will be classes in person. Kids in kindergarten crave learning new things, meeting and playing with children and developing trusting relationships with their teachers. Although not in a school setting, my daughter did remote learning for a dance class she attends and it was very hard to get her engaged and emotionally connected. I very much fear the same thing happening with school which could certainly have longer term/negative effects.
This is a survey that SHOULD BE PUT TO THE STUDENTS AS WELL. If they are NOT COMFORTABLE returning to school, that should be considered as well.
I think recess needs to be addressed. Our kids used the bus in the mornings to get to school and the afterschool program. Given the choice we could drive them to school in the morning. Having live zoom lessons is really key to success for us. Last spring neither child had live lessons and therefore we became the teachers on top of our full time jobs. It was extremely difficult and stressful for our home. I am hopeful the kids go back in the fall and I'm assuming at some point they'll come home again at some point during the year.
Open the schools
Right now my work is work from home but may change. this may impact the result of survey.
I think being with friends, learning how to work in small groups, and experiencing opportunities for social emotional development is a huge part of learning for my son which can only happen in person. My son would be scared of school if he went and was not allowed to be near or talk with friends. He would not be able to concentrate wearing a mask. We are also a family where both parents work and it would be impossible for us to home school our children again. Financially we need the children to attend school in person and we trust that the school will do the best they can to keep them safe. We also need to keep it realistic for the teachers because they need to still be able to do their jobs.
My daughter did not succeed in online learning from GSAA in Salem NH last year. She has ADHD and anxiety and had a very difficult time. The school did not provide any support. She does much better with in person learning and also can not concentrate while wearing a mask. If masks are implemented they should be allowed to have them off during lectures. And only worn in hallways.
the kids need to go back to school. my kids are very behind because of this remote learning and not going back to school we can all agree is going to be a lot worst for our children than the risk of getting the virus. parents that are not comfortable with sending their children back is OK and the district should set aside a program for remote learning for them but have the parents understand this will have limited support and the parents will need to be involved.
Nothing more
I would consider drop off instead of bus if an efficient drop off procedure in place. Kids should stay in the classroom, including lunch. Go outside with their class only for recess/break.
While it is imperative that the well-being and safety of the children and staff is number one, it is also imperative that the children return to school, personally, in the fall. In my opinion, remote learning should not be used long-term as full-time working parents, such as myself and my husband, are not capable of providing the sufficient time that is needed for our child to complete assignments and get the education that is needed. While we certainly do our best, we feel it is in our child's best interest to attend school in the fall so that she can achieve the learning that she needs.
I would consider drop off instead of bus if an efficient drop off procedure in place. Kids should stay in the classroom, including lunch. Go outside with their class only for recess/break. Also, remote learning if necessary absolutely should not be at scheduled times.
because my child has special needs there were no additional services available during remote learning.

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I would like the teachers to be in more regular contact than normal about how my child is doing academically and social/emotionally as a result of the many changes that will need to occur b/c of Covid-19.
I believe Emme is missing out on a lot of what school brings to the children. The statistics show the children are safer than adults with underlying issues. They are missing out on building there immune system to other germs as well, which is apart of growing. They are missing out on the social aspect, and in class learning is so important. Please send our kids back to school! They need it!
I would like communication more frequently this school year from my child's classroom teacher about his academic and social/emotional well-being due to all of the changes he will be going through (a new school environment and so many changes due to Covid)
school district emails were sent to children's email address, this created more concern and worry for my child. Teacher sent emails directly to students about zoom info, etc but parents need to be aware as the child would ignore these messages and then i had to read all his emails as well everyday.
Our family trusts the decisions made by the district.
If remote learning is going to happen, then we need a teacher online all day teaching a class like it would be in school with smaller group sizes and room for one on one sessions. There needs to be a schedule just like in the classroom. My child has a IEP and needs all directions read before she can even do assignment, i had to be a one on one teacher and still work full time at home and help my older child with a iep as well.
I'd like my child go back to school so she can develop social skills so she can have fun and play with her friends. There is no need for overdose of social distancing and making barriers between children No need for policing children so they can't play together It is enough to check their temperature and give them hand sanitizer so it is available for them in every classroom and on the hallways. Please do not cripple our children!!! During this summer my child was participating in summer camps and having fun, socializing with children, with a minimum of the social distancing and hand sanitizer provided. Please let the kids be kids!!!
I really want the kids to return to school but I do not want them wearing face masks all day. I feel that is too much to ask of them.
There needs to be much better communication between the parents and educators. I know last spring was thrust upon us with little warning, but I just wanted to share input that as parents we were left trying to educate with no real understanding of the material nor how to best help our child with ADD learn it. We were in the process of getting an IEP in place and the virus forced the process to stop. How are we going to get an IEP in place an implemented for this year? Our child needs a lot of one on one help and we as parents don't have the right tools to help her focus and understand the material with it it taking several hours and many frustrated tears daily (for her and us).
When a vaccine becomes available, I would like it to be required for all in the building.
As mentioned before, we just want to ensure our son has a smooth transition into his first year of public school. The academic and social needs are high at this age, and we want him to continue his growth in both aspects. We believe our choice will be made based on the safety precautions being put in place, as well as the remote learning decision/schedule.
Remote learning is not an option. Kids should be in school.
My home child care business is hanging in limbo this fall until I know if and how my kids will be schooled. That said, I will not send my kids Back to school and will haunt My business to homeschool my children if they are required to wear

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face coverings all day and if the environment is inconsistent and full of health fear that sending them to school wouldn't benefit them.
Thank you for allowing parents the chance to voice their thoughts and concerns, for the upcoming school year.
<p>Please only send emails when there is something new and important to say. If kids can get together to play sports in small groups this summer, then most definitely, they need to be in school too. If kids can go walk around the mall now, they NEED to be in school. It's time that the schools figure out a way to reopen like the rest of society. The school district's job is to teach academic subjects and that is what needs to happen. I think why remote learning was so "difficult" for some people is because the teachers were not holding regular live sessions to engage with their students. They really were not teaching but posting worksheets to be completed. For the really young kids, the parents had to hold their hand and make sure they clicked the right button and go to where they needed to be, but from there, the teachers should have all been teaching and engaging with the students. It still makes no sense why teachers could not hold regular classroom discussions online, like as if they were in-person. Say the same exact words you would say in-person and teach the kids. The kids may not have engaged as easily online but that's ok, just teach the lesson to get the information to them and if they don't listen they do not get a good grade like in real school. Other school districts had regular scheduled classes (BG, ASD, Bedford), so Merrimack can do it too. And I'm sorry but these kids should have been kept working hard more than 40 minutes a day. That is unacceptable. My daughter was to read a book for English class and then the teacher just said, "forget it". Why? That is not right. These kids should have read books and done book reports or something to show their learning and engagement if the regular lesson plan got thrown out the window. Instead my daughter did relatively nothing for 3 months and says she learned nothing. We believe in accountability and we need to stop making it too easy for the kids. They need projects, they need work to do and they need GRADES to reflect their effort. We need to help them develop a work ethic at school too, not just at home. As soon as you said pass/fail grades are in, so many kids just gave up. Kids said "why bother, it doesn't really count". These kids were bored out of their minds and yet we didn't want to give them real work to do because we were in the midst of a pandemic trapped in our homes with nothing else to do. It is very disappointing and I know these are "unprecedented times" we are in. Yes, maybe true, but it is possible to hold regular classrooms online and teach the very same lesson plan. We want the kids to go back to school because that's where they will learn best, but if remote learning has to continue, Merrimack needs to do more than before.</p>
<p>Having a more structured remote learning where the teacher is doing a virtual classroom just as she would a classroom where students can ask questions live about each topic, they can all see each other in a structured way. Also having all the assignments, websites, passwords, etc., in one place - vs the email going out on Monday saying there is a zoom call on Wednesday and here is your password - and then Wednesday getting an email saying don't forget to log into your zoom call - but no password is there so then the student must remember when that email had come in and hunt for it, etc. Also all the different websites and passwords - the teachers should send each child a list of the passwords, assigned to each website so the student can have it all in one place.</p>
<p>If there is no traditional school in the fall, the "specials" should have at a minimum a weekly interaction with the classes. How Art, Music, Computer and Gym were set up in the spring was just lazy and unsuccessful and a waste of resources. The kids need these integrated into their curriculum the same way it is during the traditional school year.</p>
<p>Thank you for offering the survey. I have indicated my preferences, but I haven't had time the various proposed measures in detail. I would like to see the recommendations of your task force(s).</p>

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There is no risk to children from COVID-19. They are at greater risk of being struck by lightning. Stop worrying about the Karens of the world and open the schools as normal or be prepared to face the legal and political consequences.
Remote learning as a option even if school reopens for stay at home parents who are compromised health wise
If the kids have to do remote learning, please have the middle school teachers teach live classes and interact with the student in a live setting.
My daughter who will be starting PreK with an IEP would not benefit from remote learning. If school is remote she would need to attend her child care all day due to my husband and I working full time.
<p>We are new to Merrimack and were very pleased with the school and the way everything was handled during the pandemic, especially the communication that was sent out.</p> <p>However, my biggest fear is the social emotional impacts that the last 5 months (and counting) may have caused. Perhaps we feel it more since we had just moved here, and our child had only just begun making new friends. There is, however, a very real concern for us, about what happens if there is no traditional school in the fall. We feel that the benefits of being at school, even if just for a hybrid or altered/shortened schedule are crucial for the well-being of our child. Although, there were also many advantages we also saw with remote learning, such as it being less distracting than the classroom, flexibility to complete projects, and not being afraid to ask questions, since it was usually done through email. The teachers were very compassionate and the communication was good with most.</p> <p>If there is a hybrid model in the fall, it might be helpful to have at least one day of teaching at the school, (to explain expectations/lessons) and then open hours for questions or a zoom meeting if needed. I also feel that it would probably benefit students who are taking elective classes to come to the school (for supplies and lessons), whereas traditional classes might be better through remote learning, if the school is trying to stagger classes or alternate things.</p>
My children will not be going if they need to wear masks, and we need to understand that getting kids to social distance is near impossible. We want it to be a fun, learning environment and if these systems are in place (i.e. masks and keeping them separated) I believe it is going to do more harm than good.
My children will not be going if they need to wear masks, and we need to understand that getting kids to social distance is near impossible. We want it to be a fun, learning environment and if these systems are in place (i.e. masks and keeping them separated) I believe it is going to do more harm than good.
I am really struggling with what I want for the fall. I would never put my son in a position that I thought he would be exposed unnecessarily but he struggled with remote learning. I know that if the decision is made for 100% remote learning it will be tough and he will need supports from the school (he has an IEP and he did have a paraeducator who helped him finish up last year). The special ed department at the high school was wonderful last year and I feel comfortable with the services they can offer. In the past I would take my son to school in the morning and he would ride the bus home at night. If needed I can rearrange my schedule and both take him to school and pick him up.
I would love to have an interpreter in Portuguese ,was very hard to understand and help my kids .
All assignment for remote learning online from start to finish with no printing, scanning and emailing.
<p>School budgets need to be increased to accommodate the school, teachers and students needs.</p> <p>Parents will also help but for those who are not fortunate enough to dish out hand sanitizer, soap and</p>

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other personal hygiene products necessary to keep these schools safe. These kids need there teachers and need there classmates.
My student had a rough year at MHS last year due to personal issues, making remote learning a Godsend. That said, remote learning was still difficult for him and I'm not certain he would be as successful at it on his own as he was when I was home to go through it with him. He was definitely better with the classes that provided videos to go with lessons than the ones where he had to read and digest information on his own. That said, my 2020 graduate had most of his teachers post all of his work for the week on Monday; he was able to finish it as he wanted and that worked for him. The one thing my student commented on was that some teachers had difficulty gauging the amount of work they were giving and the students ended up doing an overwhelming amount of work, more than they would have done in school.
I understand the risks associated with the kids returning this fall, but developmentally, I am more concerned with a hybrid model or remote learning and how this will impact them than the actual virus. If our society is not truly safe until herd immunity, then we need to take precautions but continue to move forward collectively and stop worrying about the what if's.
COVID-19 vaccine and medicine, all other related instruments availability MUST to reopen the school by considering the child's/teachers/staff Health and Safety.
It would be helpful to know what the cleaning routine will be in the fall, and to make sure they don't negatively affect the environment or kids health. We would also like to know what to expect with hand-washing and other process changes the kids will be expected to do, so we can start doing the same at home in the weeks before school starts (that way it will hopefully be easier for them to follow along at school). As a stay at home Mom, I can also help by volunteering in any way needed, as I'm sure the load for teachers and staff will be MUCH higher than normal. I think sending a poll out to the parents asking who has the ability to volunteer may give the school more information on how to successfully reopen in the fall.
I know we all hope for this, but I want the kids to have as "normal" of an experience as possible (while being safe). The thought of masked children sort of depresses me.
Pediatricians have expressed concern of the risks associated with remote learning. Our children need to learn with teachers and other students. Face masks will also reduce their learning capabilities due to missing facial expressions of students and teachers. Let's not create problems that will cause more harm than Covid 19 for a low risk population.
My child has missed the daily structure and routine that school provided as well as the social aspect of being with other children. I feel that she thrives more with her peers then at home and participating virtually. I strongly support students going back to the physical classroom this fall.
To me, if community transmission rates are low due to careful measures in Merrimack and NH, school is an acceptable risk as long as faculty/staff are careful, and ideally masked in the classrooms. If community transmission increases, school becomes a big disease vector and I would not want to contribute to that. I appreciate your hard work, as I'm transitioning college courses online right now, and cannot begin to fathom how that works for Kindergarten. I'm less concerned about other students, if safety precautions like temperature checks and social distance in cafe and bus are maintained, but they interact with many adults in a day and I do worry a bit about that.
Frequent hand washing and practicing manners by respecting each individuals space will help contain germs
the kids need to go back to school in a normal environment
Teachers get grades in PowerSchool in a timely manner so we as parents know what has been completed and what is pending. An example if received but not yet graded would be very helpful

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<p>If we go back to the classroom setting and one child falls ill, I assume that then the classroom gets quarantined and then their siblings (whatever grade they may be) also become quarantined. As more likely than not a child is not going to fall acutely ill only during school hours.. likely they would have infected other students before we know that they are ill. I think there are WAY TOO many variable to safely institute any plans that will allow reopening of school. And coming up with schedules to accommodate parents to return to work with variable schedules of multiple kids in a potential of multiple different grades/schools is far too big a task. As much as I want to see schools reopen I honestly cannot fathom a plan that will allow that to happen.</p>
<p>There are many families who work full time in order to make ends meet. Not everyone has the option to quit their job to teach their children. Children need to be in school. Secondly, children need human interaction with their peers. It not only helps with social/emotional skills, but it helps with academics as well because they learn from each other.</p>
<p>Do not open schools in the fall. Continue with remote learning, and reassess the situation in January.</p>
<p>Don't start school in September. Continue with remote learning and reassess in January.</p>
<p>The amount of apps, sites, passwords and usernames was completely scattered and overwhelming. There has to be a better system for remote learning to be successful.</p>
<p>Remote learning in Spring 2020 was a good effort but could be improved upon. If remote learning takes place during the 2020-2021 school year, I strongly prefer a setup in which students attend virtual classes, led by teachers. The Merrimack School District teachers' most valuable assets - their abilities to and their passions for teaching the town's children - were stripped away from them in the spring. Students suffered as a result, and I'm sure many teachers would have preferred a different setup. Hearing a teacher's voice and listening to a teacher's message directly is invaluable to a student. Let's make that part of remote learning if and when it returns.</p>
<p>Normalcy is hard to achieve during this time. Please open the schools/use what safety measures are available.</p>
<p>Thank you for the thoughtfulness in your spot and for all the hard work you are doing to ensure the safety of our children and the staff. I understand the necessity of new guidelines and appropriate precautions, but am concerned about the social and emotional impact this will have on our children. I feel it is important that they are still allowed to interact and socialize with their peers. If they aren't able to have some 'play' time and time to socialize, I would strongly consider keeping my child home. I feel that one of the major benefits of school is social and emotional development and without those opportunities, distance learning may be a preferable option.</p>
<p>Please, I beg you, open the schools. Our lives will be destroyed if you don't.</p>
<p>You are the experts and I trust you'll make excellent decisions. These are just my thoughts. I am so impressed with the way our superintendent and the middle school handled all communications this past winter/spring. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do to keep our kids safe.</p>
<p>It is a delicate balance weighing the safety and health of my child against her social and educational needs. In my family, there are 2 parents who work full time during the day. We do not have the flexibility in our work schedules to be available for remote learning. Our daughter's remote learning would have to be done in the evenings, when we are home from work.</p>
<p>I am also factoring in that this will be my child's very first experience with a true classroom/school environment as she is entering kindergarten. If she had a year or two of school behind her I feel she could potentially learn well in a remote environment. However without that prior structure, I worry that she will struggle to learn remotely.</p>
<p>On top of that, kids need to be kids. They develop their social and emotional skills at school, and from</p>

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<p>being with their friends. I feel that having kids wear masks is a simple, yet effective means to accomplish in-school learning. I frankly do not understand why anyone would object to this. My child will b 5 years old next month. She is generally great about wearing her mask - and every time she leaves the house, she is better about it!</p> <p>Thank you for including us in your survey! It is reassuring to hear from the school district. And I do hope to receive any and all future communications about the upcoming school year.</p>
<p>I am a part of re-entry efforts for 60K company and have insights into planning and technology that can help</p>
<p>When explaining what's going on with the school get to the point. The long winded, 8 paragraph emails and daily updates are too much to read and important notes can be missed. Remove feelings, praising and "fluff" and just stick to what we need to know.</p> <p>Example: "Monday July 15th, schools operating at capacity, no positive COVID reports, no new recommendations." Short and too the point.</p>
<p>No split schedule, no remote learning, open the schools!</p> <p>If you don't, my young children will be forced to stay home alone while I work and it's unlikely they'll participate in online class. It was a battle this year. I'm all for doing what I can to reduce the spread but right now the biggest threat to my family's health and safety is not from the virus, it's from your potential decision to close the schools or run a staggered schedule.</p> <p>OPEN THE SCHOOLS PLEASE</p>
<p>I'm concerned that whatever changes are implemented it will be the teachers that carry this responsibility. That's a heavy load and we need to also make this manageable for them or provide them real and meaningful support so they can teach.</p>
<p>Remote learning for my student was 100% self study. Only 1 class met for 30 mins once a week. Asking teens to complete all their classes self study was ridiculous. We asked too much from them. My student became depressed and unengaged with learning. Guidance on the college process stopped altogether. When I asked some of her teachers about holding class meetings I was told the classes were too large for virtual teaching. I understand everyone did their best in the Spring but we need to help the teachers learn to teach virtually. The Fall cannot be a repeat of this past Spring.</p>
<p>All teachers need to agree on the same online platform and load assignments in the same places. Students should not have to have several programs and then several places within each of those programs to "hunt" for assignment. Teachers should also be actively monitoring for assignments being turned in and not make students email them once something is completed.</p>
<p>Learning opportunities must be consistent between the classes and there needs to be more virtual opportunities for the students to connect with one another and their teachers.</p>
<p>Dont open kids lives are at stake</p>
<p>I have 2 autoimmune compromised people who live in our home. My son (who is an incoming senior) and husband are both type 1 diabetic and considered high risk. My worry is that kids go to school sick, or have siblings going to school sick. I do not have an answer but I do know that thinking about sending any of my 3 children to school causes me worry. I would like for them to have some sort of</p>

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physical schooling, because remote was not the best way to learn some subjects (lab sciences and higher level math in particular)
I applaud you all for your hard work, tireless effort and strength to keep our children, teachers and community safe and healthy. We parents appreciate all you do everyday. I know it is hard to see that when parents are complaining and speaking from fear you I am proud to live in a community that reacts so well to so much unknown. I know my child's health is taken into consideration and we are not another number or statistic and I appreciate that. Well done town of Merrimack!
It is my opinion that a hybrid schedule or staggering and limited bus capacity will be chaotic and stressful to families. As a working parent, it would be difficult to manage transportation. Focusing on sanitation, hand washing and social distance wherever possible makes the most sense.
In 3rd grade during remote learning my son had an average of about 1 hour a week with the teacher as a class. The rest was up to us as a family to guide him... This was very stressful to put nearly all of the teaching on the parents. I understand the time to put together a curriculum was very short when schools were initially shut down. I do hope that there will be a better plan put in place for educating in a way that puts less of the burden on busy parents to play teacher all day, especially for the younger ages. A more in depth lesson plan should be established, I felt like my children learned a small fraction of what they would have in the school. The Math and Reading websites were great! I think websites like those should be used for all subjects.
<p>If remote learning happens, I would like to see more instructional time with the teacher. I think full class calls and smaller group calls for a more individualized learning is important. I liked that Wednesdays were a flex day for students to catch up or get ahead. Over the spring, they used a lot of time during the Zoom calls to talk to each student individually. While I think this is a good idea, I think it would be better to just do this once a week instead of every day. It uses up a lot of time during the calls. My children and I really liked using Envisions for math and any of the reading websites including Epic and Read Works. Lalilo was another great website for learning phonics. I would love for their to be an easy website for my children to log into for every subject of learning that the teacher has access to for review.</p> <p>While the children are learning in the school building, I think it is really important for everyone, students and faculty, to have face coverings. I think that if group activities happen, hand washing before hand is a must. It is vital for the children to play and interact with each other. I don't know the best way for that to happen, perhaps while playing outside, or longer/more frequent outside play times.</p>
The safest option for all is to keep our children home. Understanding this is not what everyone wants, a hybrid school needs to be adopted. Those who wish or need to attend can go to the school, while the classroom runs a live feed for those opting or needing to stay home. This allows all the same access and opportunity. It also provides those at home active engagement and the ability to maintain a schedule. Teachers can have all materials linked to their homepage and course work can be turned in at the same times.
The safest measure is to provide families the opportunity to make the best decision for their family, whether returning to the school or learning remotely. However, classes should be run as close to a regular school day as possible, The ability to live stream the classroom would provide all students the same opportunity and lesson.
Provide families the opportunity for either a traditional or remote school year, Stagger the school day and rotate the teachers rather than the students. Live stream the classrooms to provide the same instruction to all students. Maintain a scheduled school day where the expectation is for all students

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to arrive to class at a certain time, even if some students attend from 8-1130 and others from 12-330. Teachers should be allowed the same respect to either teach from home or come into the building.
If we do have to go to remote learning the biggest suggestion I would have is that it would be great for the teachers (jr high and HS) to actually have class times as they would have in school. They can do some group instruction and then allow time for those that need to stay to ask questions to do so and those that don't could go. This would ensure attendance and make sure the kids were getting instruction in the class. Maybe run it just as the day would go in school by times? That would be my biggest concern and request so that the kids could continue to learn and have daily access to their teachers as well as accountability that would allow student performance to be continuously assessed.
N/A
Overall the school did a WONDERFUL job last year. It was something we never thought would happen and I'm sad that it is continuing. Our kids DO want to attend school. Home school wasn't what they thought it would be. If we do attend school I just am worried that RULES WON'T BE followed and someone will get sick. Maybe just hold off until numbers go down????? Really I don't know what the answer is but if my kids attend (Jack 10th and Cole 12th.) I need assurance that rules will be followed so that Covid is not spread more.
If we do homeschool for some time, I just plead CONSISTENCY of where material is placed and when it is due. In my opinion using the calendar is the best way. Regardless, making sure the teachers do upload a lecture and then allow for questions..... that will be a large improvement from the spring.
Thank you for the survey and best of luck to you all. I have MS and my husband a brain injury that makes us limited with what help we could give you, but, if you have something you think we could do.... please ask. We would certainly try to help. Thanks so much. Mary & Don Robinson
I support whatever decision is made.
Since this was on FaceBook and anyone can reply and it's anonymous.....how can this survey be reliable? There are a lot of people in town without children who want nothing more than for the schools to reopen! They can do it as many times as they like, have their friends do it and your numbers will be all off! Why not do this through their power school accounts? This cannot be reliable. Proven by the fact that you are reading this and I have no children in the Merrimack schools!! And I did not fill it out so I wouldn't mess up your numbers!! Please rethink this!
My biggest concern is to keep children safe, but also allow the needed bonding and friendships be allowed. My oldest son has an IEP and finally thrives on school before this. He was distraught and disconnected and uninspired in every way. My second son starts there this year. He was lost in the quagmire of crap trying to deal with his brother and I lacked the tools and knowledge to help him. I know some students are amazing and meet and exceed expectations in some instances, while others fall behind. Maybe separate programs can be developed so both can succeed? Just my thoughts and ideas. There are also the children whose homes are incomplete and empty, needing the brick and mortar school over online to have human interaction and contact and someone to make sure they are well
Please do not open the schools in fall unless a vaccine is available. We need to keep our children and staff safe. The news today says that the virus is airborne and spreads easily indoors.
Thanks for enabling this survey. A Big Thank You to the school teachers and the school district for working hard and thinking hard in the current global situation we are in.

Remote learning is not for every child and most certainly not for mine. My child lives in a home with two working parents. Parents that must work in order to keep food on the table and a roof over her head. Her grandparent had to be with her during the day and was not able to manage her schooling properly. This coming school year we won't have her grandparent to help. We are not sure what we will do if there is remote learning as we don't have any family support moving forward. It was difficult for us to keep track of assignments. The days I was home with her (which was few) I was able to observe that only half the class was present for learning, my child was constantly distracted, other children were disruptive and the teacher was not able to keep control of the class as she would be able to in the direct setting. No fault of the teacher d/t COVID. The teacher would give assignments at the beginning of the week and expect an 11 year to have proper time management to complete several assignments by the end of the week. Emotionally, this setting took a toll on us as parents and most definitely on my child. Everyday she would beg to return to school. She would complain that she felt isolated and alone. Being with other children is important. They need this to learn how to deal with social situations and friends. I am worried that going in to a new class with a different teacher it would be worse. I am afraid that learning new material would become more difficult. I already have a hard time helping her with school assignments on a regular day and I am not sure that I will be able help her learn something taught remotely such as math. She desperately wants to return to school.

We appreciate all of the hard work you are putting in on your end. These are crazy times with uncharted waters with a constantly changing map trying to guide us in the right direction. It is all about a risk/benefit analysis and for each household the risk/benefit is different. Our household has two students who will attend preschool next year. One student receives services through an IEP and NEEDS to be given real-time interactions within the context of the classroom with both adults and peers in order to build the skills he is lacking, in addition to his therapies. We see the development of these social/emotional skills being significant when considering the benefit of going to school; however, given the uncertainty of the risk it is unclear for us how comfortable we feel sending him and our daughter. Knowing that the skills students in preschool are working on weigh heavily in the domain of social and emotional learning, it is hard for me to say they are really progressing (academically, socially and emotionally) when they are isolated within their home. IF my child was older (reading to learn, not learning to read) and more independent with the tools needed to learn, I would be more likely to say that I would keep him/her home. Remote learning for some of these students has likely afforded them the opportunity to work on skills that will be necessary for career and college readiness (e.g. initiation, time management, etc.). In addition, these students can try and maintain some social interaction more independently.

That is probably more than you asked for, and somewhat tangential. My apologies if it is. Once again we'd like to thank you for your time and efforts. We know that every decision you make has a reason behind it, with the overarching goal of doing what is best for the students.

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

I think we need to be careful as this is a once every 100 year event. Rushing the children back and putting the school staff and their families at risk needs to be considered as well. The district did a great job in virtual learning and I would be open to this improving slightly for the 2020-21 school year.

The benefits of the professional staff, learning services and social interaction at the school out way any fears or concerns I have of the virus, especially as to how it has effected NH. For older students or parents concerned VLACs is an option for remote learning and it's not up to the local district to accommodate that.

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When considering scheduling for remote days, consider the time of online classroom meetings. Having students in the upper grades on early sessions (7:30 AM) does not seem to match their age group needs. While having some consistency, also allow for some flexibility when or if students are learning remotely.