

F.O.I. Compliance

JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subject to approval

Date: August 12, 2020

Special Meeting – REMOTE MEETING held

(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website www.reg4.k12.ct.us and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)

CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Tom Englert, Rob Bibbiani,
Charlene Fearon, Kris Pollock, Dale
Bernardoni, Rebecca Greenberg-
Ellis

DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Paula Weglarz, Missy Campbell,
Miriam Morrissey, Marc Lewis,
Lenore Grunko

ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Lon Seidman, DG Fitton, Mark Watson,
Nancy Johnston

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Kate Sandmann, Paula Weglarz, Jane
Cavanaugh, Lori Ann Clymas, Trisha
Brookhart, Rick Daniels; DG Fitton

Administration:

Superintendent Brian J. White, Assistant
Superintendent Kristina Martineau, Director
of Pupil Services Sarah Smalley, Valley
Regional High School Principal Mike Barile,
Essex Elementary Principal Jennifer
Tousignant

CALL TO ORDER

Supervision District Committee Chair Kate Sandmann called the meeting to order at approx. 6:00 p.m.

The Chairs of the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards of Education called their respective Boards to order at approx. 6:00 p.m.

This meeting was a continuation of the August 4th Joint BOE Special Meeting which was affected by power outages and technical difficulties caused by Tropical Storm Isaias. Superintendent White shared an abridged review of his August 4th presentation (see attached and also video recording of remote meeting on website), and noted that since the initial August 4th meeting, a lot of details have been communicated to parents through a letter from him and letters to parents from each building’s principal.

Superintendent White stated that the goal is for an eventual return to full in person learning. To best achieve that goal the districts will be opening up under a hybrid model with a commitment to move to full reopening after Columbus Day. In order to be well prepared to meet the needs of our students and staff upon a return to full reopening, it was determined that this would be the safest way possible to fully implement and acclimate to all of the safety measures that have been presented.

Superintendent White answered questions from board members.

Public Comment

Chair Sandmann announced that instead of the normal public comment format, Superintendent White has instead been asked to try to directly answer as many questions as possible this evening.

Superintendent White answered questions from the audience of citizens.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion duly made and seconded, the Boards unanimously VOTED to adjourn at approximately 9:07 p.m.



REOPENING PLAN for 2020-2021

Joint Board of Education Meeting

August 12, 2020

CSDE Reopening Guidance and Scenarios

- State of Connecticut directed school districts to plan for a full reopening of school and to develop three plans that could be utilized at any point in the school year based on the most current health data for the state (low, moderate, and high transmission categories).

Three reopening scenarios:

-Full, Reopening (5 days per week for all students (opt out option for full e-learning)

-Hybrid, Partial Reopening (cohort scheduling) (opt out option for full e-learning)

-Remote, E-Learning for All

- Cohort model (where possible PreK-12)(K-6, 7-8 and 9-10 with schedule changes)
- Social distancing (where possible)(reopening and hybrid)
- Health and safety measures in place for all in-person options

Reopening Plan Development Process / Timeline

- Stakeholder surveys (parents) administered (**April 20th**)
- Stakeholder surveys (parents, staff students grades 5-12) administered (**May 27th**)
- CSDE and State of Connecticut issued guidance on reopening: Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan for Reopening (**June 29th**)
- Parent/Family Survey regarding school attendance and transportation (**July 13th**)
- Reopening Stakeholder Advisory Groups: Operations, Logistics and Safety, Social and Emotional Wellness, and a Teaching and Learning (**July 15 and July 16**)
- Staff Survey (**July 21st**)
- Reopening Plan submission to CSDE (**July 24th**)
- Reopening Plan presentation to Communities (**August 4th**)
- Follow Up Parent Survey (**August 5th**)

COVID-19 in School: Decision Making Process

In the event of a confirmed case in one of our schools the following steps will be taken:

- **Assess** the risk with local health officials.
- **Communicate** with parents/guardians, school community, local/state officials
- **Plan** for a short-term closure to allow for deep cleaning of facility and contact tracing per CDC guidelines
- **Consult** with local health officials regarding appropriate action steps (including decision making about a longer duration closure at the site or district-wide)

Hybrid/Partial Reopening in Schools

Schools in session 5 full days per week via hybrid schedule (in-person and remote model)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
In-Person: Cohort A E-Learning: Cohort B	In-Person: Cohort A E-Learning: Cohort B	E-Learning For All (Deep Cleaning Between Cohorts)	In-Person: Cohort B E-Learning: Cohort A	In-Person: Cohort B E-Learning: Cohort A

- Deep cleaning on Wednesday while all students and staff are remote teaching and learning
- allows for greater social distancing and reduced in-person class sizes
- benefits of in-person teaching and learning to support remote, e-learning practices
(more beneficial and effective balance of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning)
- While in building, all health and safety protocols in place (masks, social distancing, cleaning, etc.)

When and why do we consider a transition from full, in-person attendance to a hybrid/partial model?

- Based on change in health data information and in consultation with state and local health departments, district medical advisor, and CSDE.
- Flexibility in scheduling and attendance cohorts to support recommended social distancing measures.

Teaching and Learning

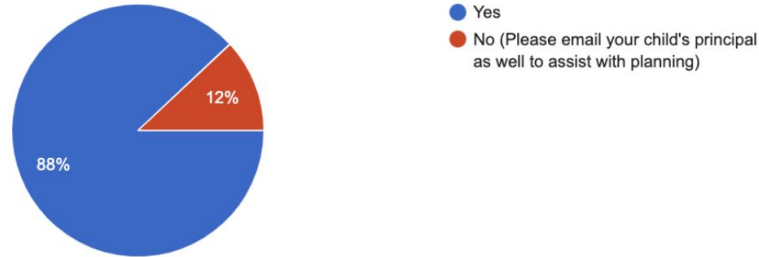
For 2020-2021, all components below will be in place for in-person, hybrid and remote, e-learning modes:

- Technology Integration (daily use of Google Classroom and Chromebooks)
- High Quality Instruction: Instructional strategies and differentiation
- Focus on Instructional Support (Review and New Learning)
- Quality, timely instructional feedback to individual learners
- Equity and Access for All Students (individualized support, technology,
- Standards-Based curriculum in place
- Target, strategic mini-assessments (balance)

Survey Results: Valley Regional High School

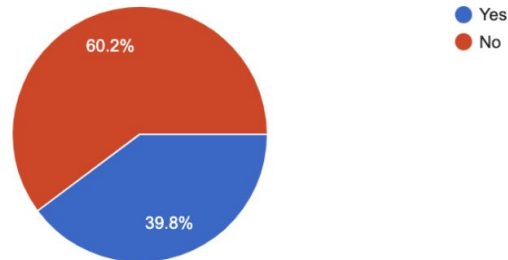
Do you anticipate returning your child to in-person school in the fall?

284 responses



Do you anticipate your child will ride the bus?

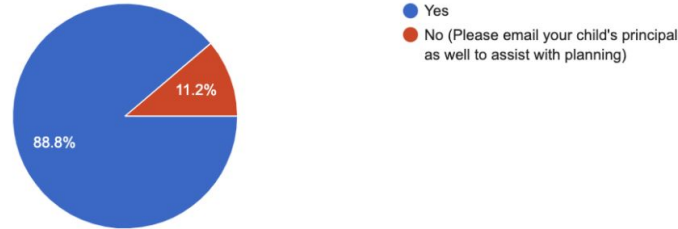
284 responses



Survey Results: John Winthrop School

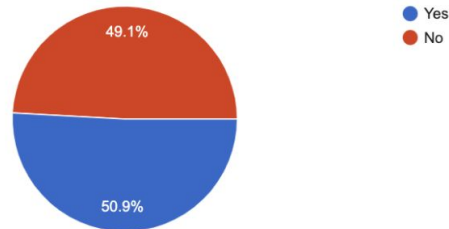
Do you anticipate returning your child to in-person school in the fall?

116 responses



Do you anticipate your child will ride the bus?

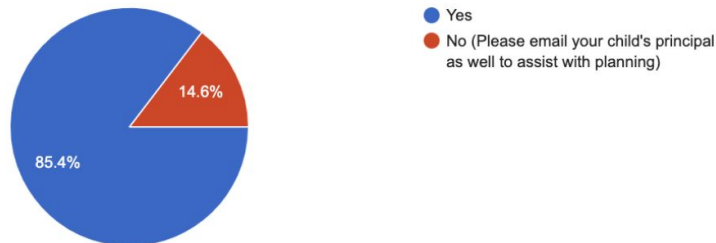
116 responses



Survey Results: Chester Elementary School

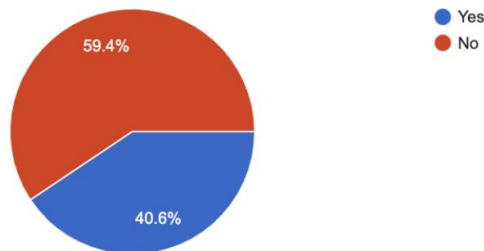
Do you anticipate returning your child to in-person school in the fall?

96 responses



Do you anticipate your child will ride the bus?

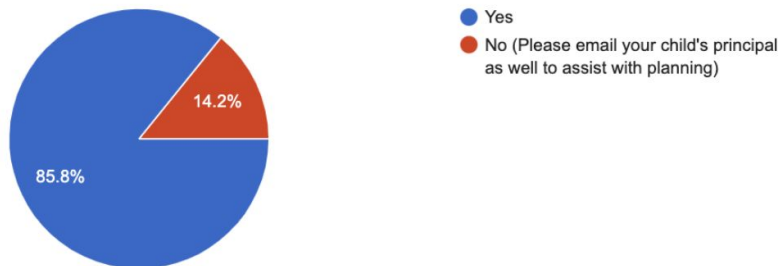
96 responses



Survey Results: Deep River Elementary School

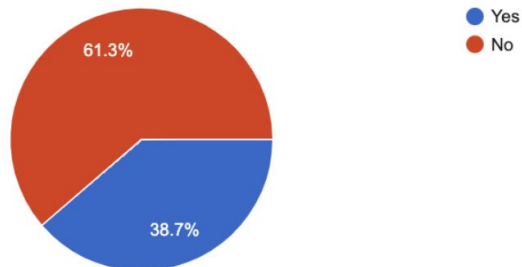
Do you anticipate returning your child to in-person school in the fall?

106 responses



Do you anticipate your child will ride the bus?

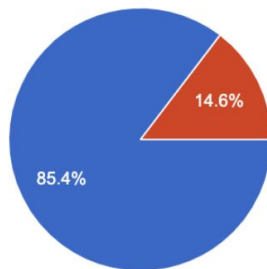
106 responses



Survey Results: Essex Elementary School

Do you anticipate returning your child to in-person school in the fall?

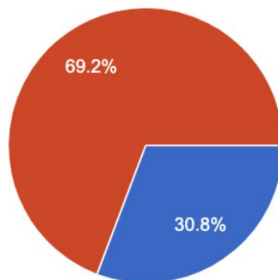
130 responses



● Yes
● No (Please email your child's principal as well to assist with planning)

Do you anticipate your child will ride the bus?

130 responses



● Yes
● No

Opening of School Calendar and Transition Planning

- Adjust number of student days (177) to allow for additional staff training at start of year.
- Monday - August 24, 2020 - Monday, August 31, 2020 Full Day Professional Development for Staff
 - Health and Safety Protocols
 - Social and Emotional Health
 - Teaching and Learning
 - Technology Training
- First day of school for students, Tuesday, September 1, 2020 (early dismissal)
- September 1st - September 4th Student Orientation (early dismissal each day)
 - In person and distance learning activities
 - Review health and safety protocols and new routines
 - Technology training
 - Acclimating to masks and other social distancing expectations
- Tuesday, September 8th Full Days Begin

Questions?