



Our **vision** is to provide high-quality educational opportunities that inspire a community of learners

WELLNESS • EQUITY • ENGAGEMENT

Our **mission** is to develop engaged, well-balanced learners through collaborative, caring relationships

Transition to School Planning ~~2.0~~ **3.0**

Spring 2021 Return to School Considerations

Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee
February 11, 2021

Presentation Goals

1. Begin a conversation to better understand:
 - Current and future mitigation strategies
 - Stakeholder feedback and planning implications
 - Operational considerations for planning
2. Solicit *initial* committee feedback around goals and planning process

Current Mitigation Strategies

As a reminder, our *current* safety protocols include:

- daily at-home self-screening for students and staff
- masks and hand cleaning procedures
- physical distancing of 6'
- increased sanitizing/disinfecting of classroom and school spaces
- students in cohorts (when feasible)
- enforcement of travel restrictions
- special medical waiting room spaces in each building for suspected COVID-19 cases
- ventilation systems use recommended MERV-13 air filters / increased air exchanges
- HEPA air purifiers in every classroom and office across the district

Future Mitigation Strategy #1:

Vaccines

Current Vaccine Rollout Plan

- RJGJHS - **vaccine clinic site** for Town of Acton (Wed. and Sat.)
 - Clinics beginning this week for 75+
- Currently only **100 doses** available each week to local health departments
- Educators given priority in **Phase 2, Step 2** (later stage)
 - Timing involves speculation
 - Possible faster rollout beginning in March... April....May?
 - *Current thinking* - we are ready to run clinics, but....
- **Two-dose** Vaccine Schedule
 - 2nd dose 4 weeks after 1st dose
 - Peak immunity reached 6 weeks after 1st dose

Student Vaccines: No Timelines

- **Children 16+**
 - Vaccine currently approved
 - Possibly late summer or fall 2021...?
- **Children 12+**
 - Clinical trials underway
 - No timeline
- **Children Under 12**
 - No clinical trials underway
 - No timeline

Future Mitigation Strategy #1:

Pooled and Rapid Testing

Types of COVID-19 Tests

Molecular Tests

look for the virus' genetic material and are highly accurate.
These tests are mostly done in a central lab and can take 24-48 hours for results.
Includes both PCR and Next Generation Sequencing Tests



Pooled Tests

combine multiple samples and test them at once,
yielding one result for the group

Individual Tests

one sample
one result



Pooled Surveillance Testing



A Second Grader Shows Us How He Does a Nasal Swab



Collecting Pooled Samples in School

1. Individual samples combined with up to **24 others in a pool** for analysis (lowers cost!)
2. Lab analyzes and returns results within 48 hours
 - a. *Negative Pool* - no one in pool was positive
 - b. *Positive Pool* - one or more individuals in pool positive
3. Students/Staff in **Positive Pool**:
 - a. Each person in the pool tested individually
 - b. Quarantine until results are returned (usually 24-28 hours)
 - c. Anyone with a negative result returned to school immediately

Pooled Surveillance Testing Costs

- **No cost** to students and staff
- DESE covers cost for **first 6 weeks** of pilot program (*March-April*)
- \$___ weekly cost after pilot = \$___ (*May-June*)
 - ESSER 2 Grant = funding source

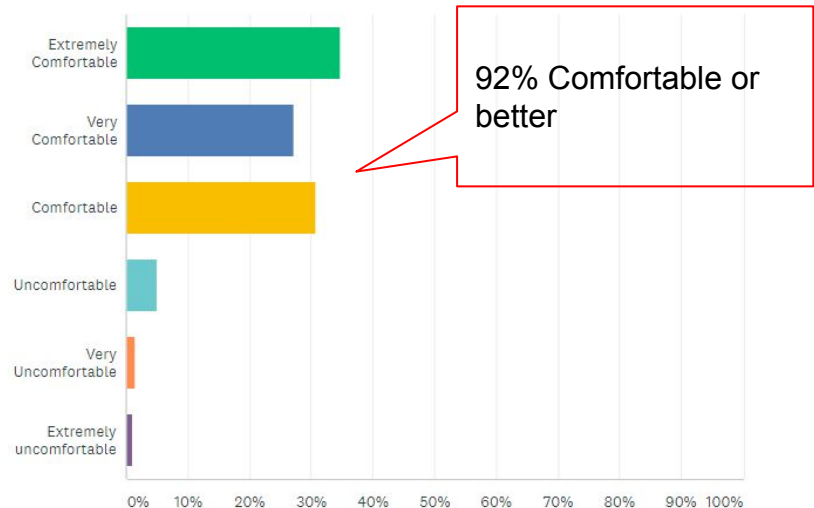
Stakeholder Perception Survey

February Survey: Return to School

Stakeholder Perceptions - Families

How comfortable are you sending your child to school with the above safety protocols your child's school currently has in place?

Answered: 2,660 Skipped: 14

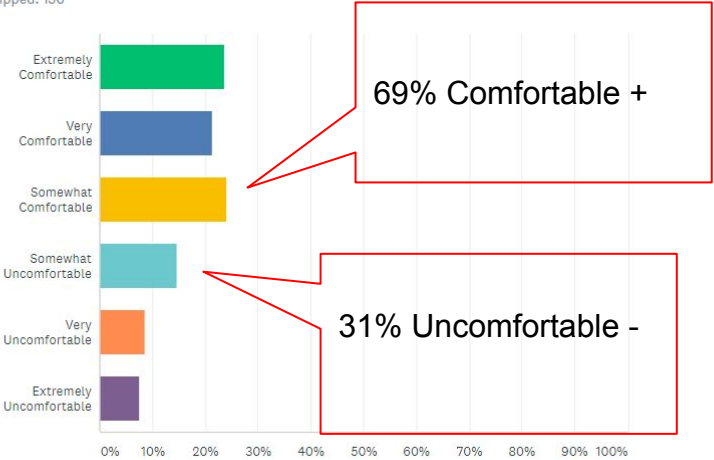


2,600 Responses

Stakeholder Perceptions - All Families

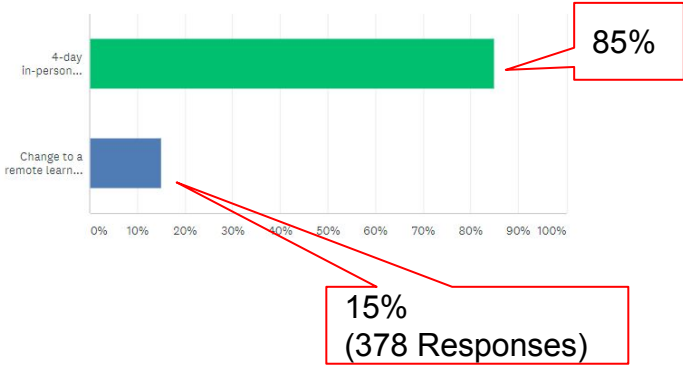
With our current safety measures in place, how comfortable would you be returning your child to school knowing that physical distance would be reduced to approximately 3'?

Answered: 2,518 Skipped: 156



If we return students to school with the current safety measures in place, and you were given a choice of either 4-day in person learning (at 3' distance mostly and 6' during mask breaks and lunch) or a remote learning option, which would you choose?

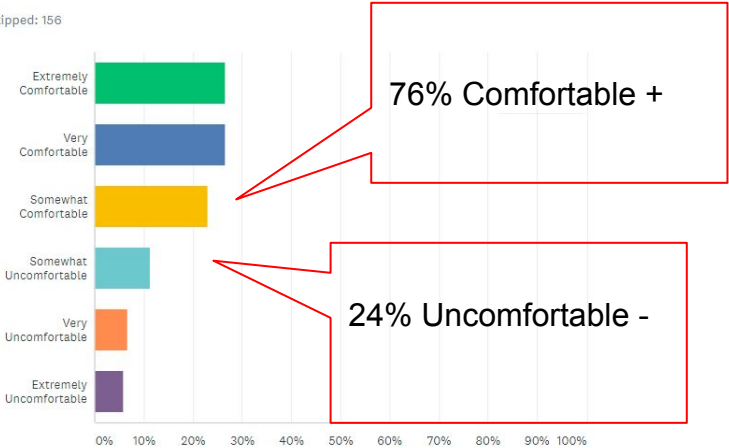
Answered: 2,506 Skipped: 168



Stakeholder Perceptions - All Families

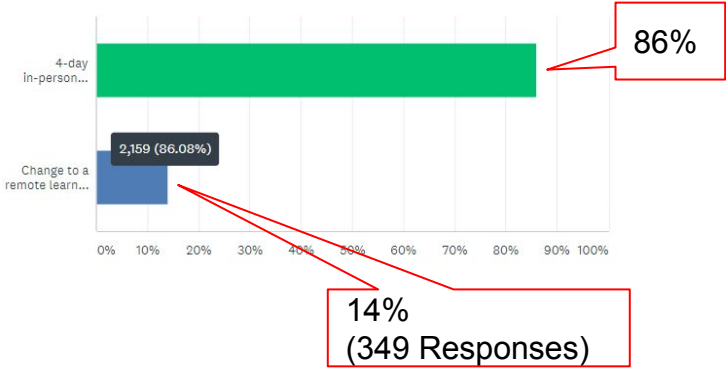
Once a pooled testing program is implemented, and with our other safety measures in place, how comfortable would you be returning your child to school knowing that physical distance would be reduced to approximately 3' in classrooms (with 6' during mask breaks and lunch).

Answered: 2,518 Skipped: 156



Once a pooled testing program is implemented, if you were given a choice of either 4-day in person learning (at 3' distance) or a remote learning option, which would you choose?

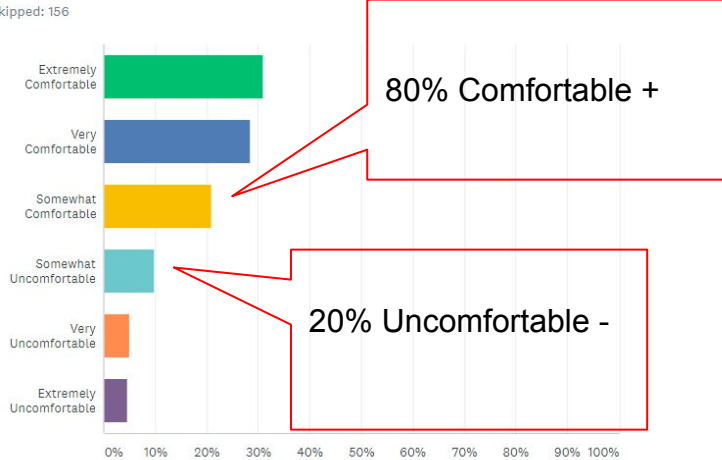
Answered: 2,508 Skipped: 166



Stakeholder Perceptions - All Families

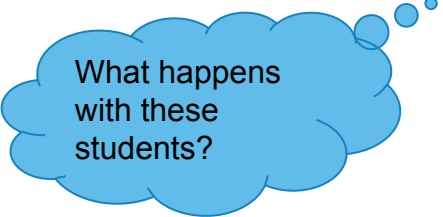
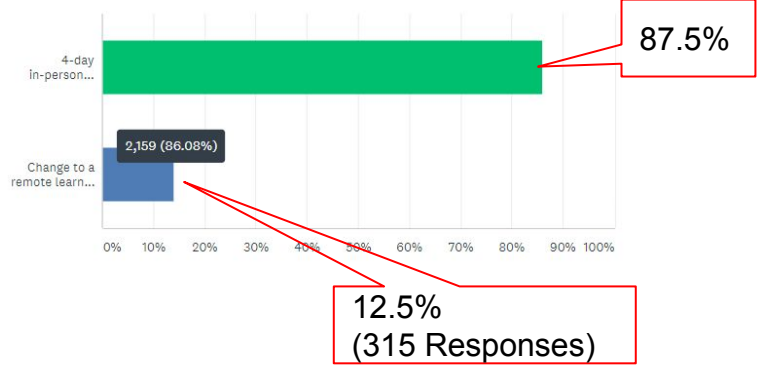
Once educators and staff are vaccinated and the district has implemented a pooled testing program, along with our other safety measures in place, how comfortable would you be returning your child to school knowing that physical distance would be reduced to approximately 3'

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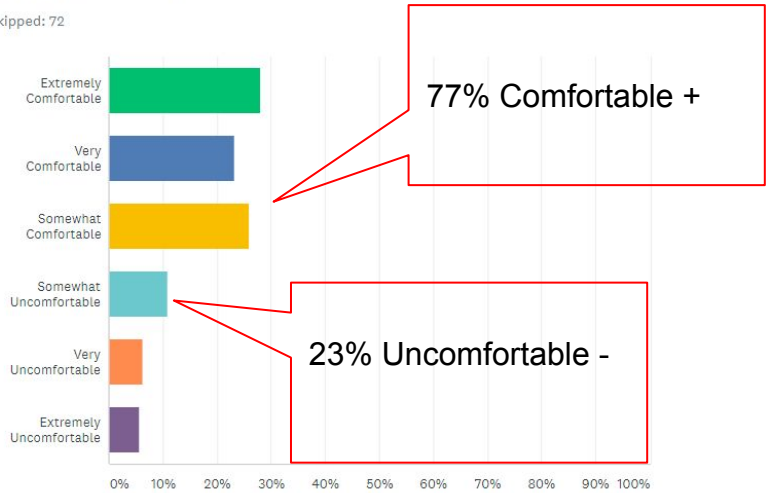
Answered: 2,508 Skipped: 166



Stakeholder Perceptions - K-6 Families ONLY

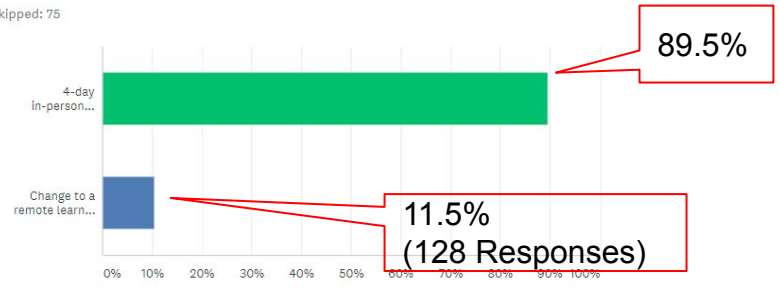
With our current safety measures in place, how comfortable would you be returning your child to school knowing that physical distance would be reduced to approximately 3'

Answered: 1,222 Skipped: 72



If we return students to school with the current safety measures in place, and you were given a choice of either 4-day in person learning (at 3' distance mostly and 6' during mask breaks and lunch) or a remote learning option, which would you choose?

Answered: 1,219 Skipped: 75

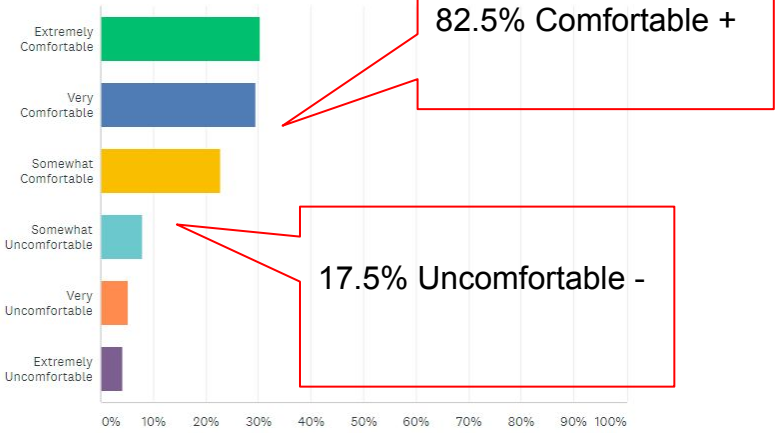


~ 20-25 Students/ Grade

Stakeholder Perceptions - K-6 Families ONLY

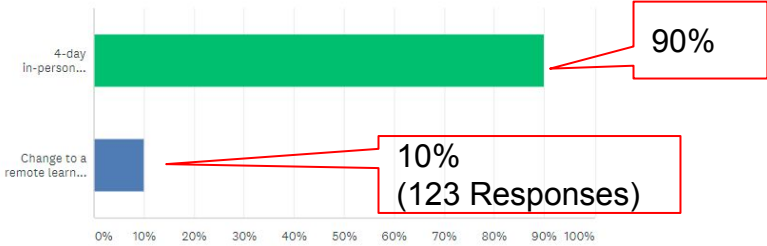
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Answered: 1,222 Skipped: 72



Once a pooled testing program is implemented, if you were given a choice of either 4-day in person learning (at 3' distance) or a remote learning option, which would you choose?

Answered: 1,221 Skipped: 73

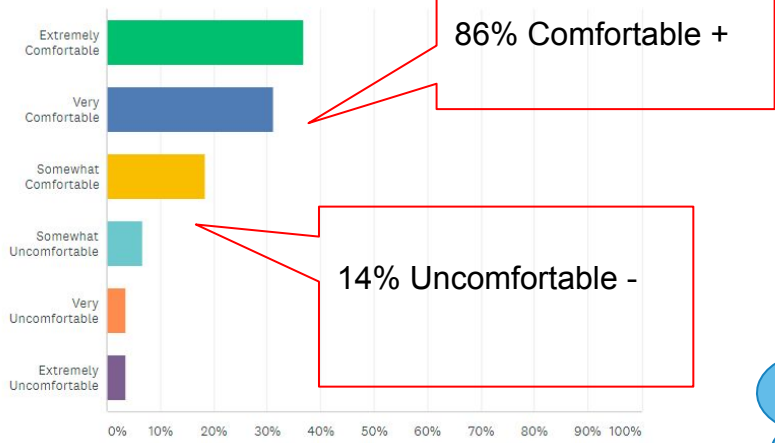


~ 20-25 Students/ Grade

Stakeholder Perceptions - K-6 Families ONLY

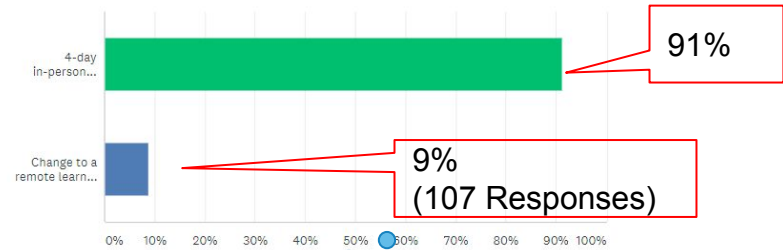
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Once educators are vaccinated and a pooled testing program is in place, if you were given a choice of either 4-day in person learning (at 3' distance) or a remote learning option, which would you choose?

Answered: 1,219 Skipped: 75



Gr. 1: 10 S's
Gr. 2: 18 S's
Gr. 3: 15 S's

Gr. 4: 23 S's
Gr. 5: 23 S's
Gr. 6: 18 S's

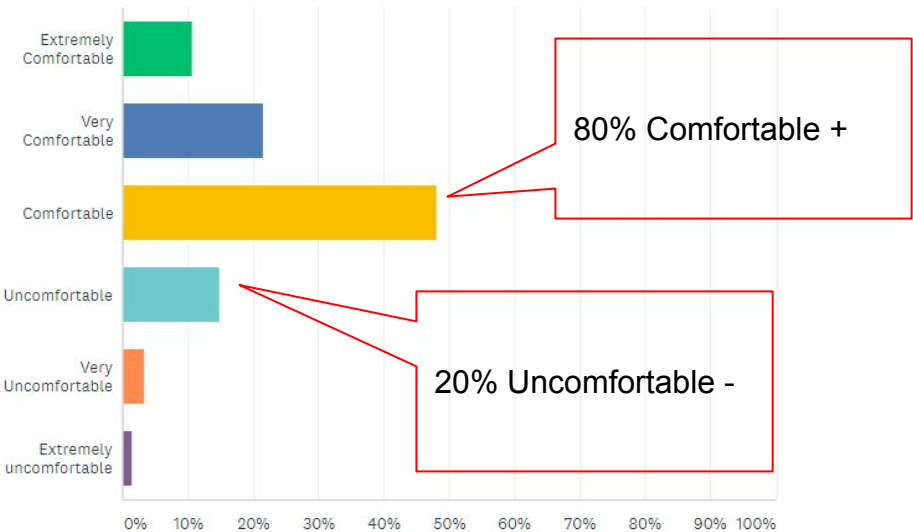
~1200 Responses
~ 2,300 Students
~ 50% Response Rate

Stakeholder Perceptions - Staff & Educators

~ 700 Responses

How comfortable are you at work with the above safety protocols in place?

Answered: 673 Skipped: 64

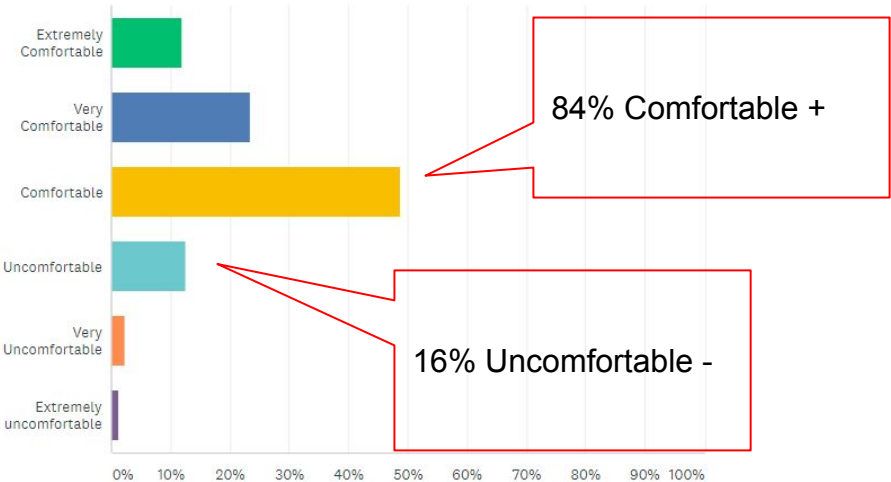


**Current Comfort
with Safety
Protocols**

Stakeholder Perceptions - Staff & Educators

Once the District implements a pooled testing program, how comfortable will you be with the safety protocols your school/department has in place?

Answered: 674 Skipped: 63



Current Comfort
with
Pooled Testing

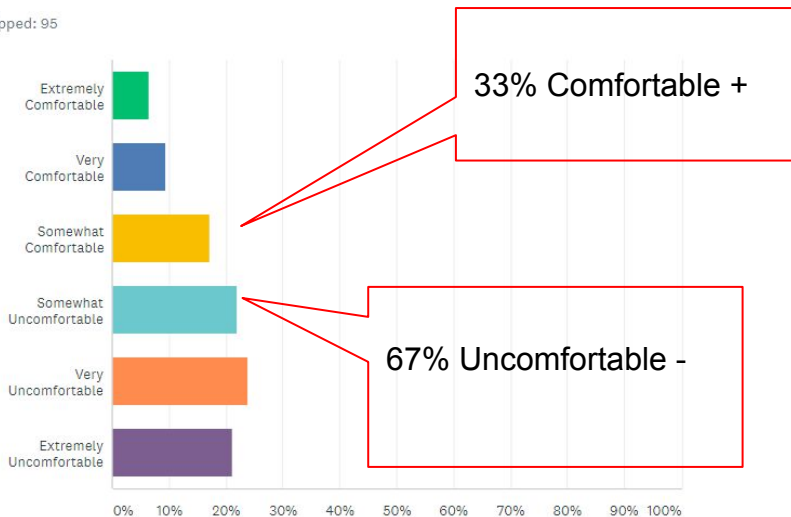
Stakeholder Perceptions - Staff & Educators

**Returning
Students @ 3'
with Current
Safety
Protocols**

**We are NOT
recommending this**

We are not planning on returning additional students to in person learning without additional safety precautions and mitigation strategies in place. To establish a baseline around your feelings of safety, with our current safety measures in place, how comfortable would you be returning students to school knowing that physical distance would be reduced to approximately 3' (note: teachers can still maintain 6' distance from students)

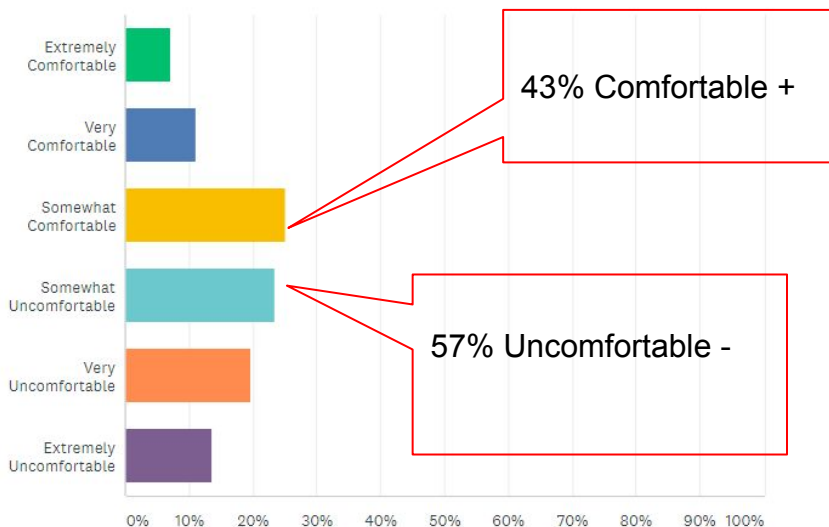
Answered: 642 Skipped: 95



Stakeholder Perceptions - Staff & Educators

Once a pooled testing program is implemented, and with our other safety measures in place, how comfortable would you be returning students to school knowing that physical distance would be reduced to approximately 3' in classrooms (with 6' during mask breaks and lunch).

Answered: 639 Skipped: 98



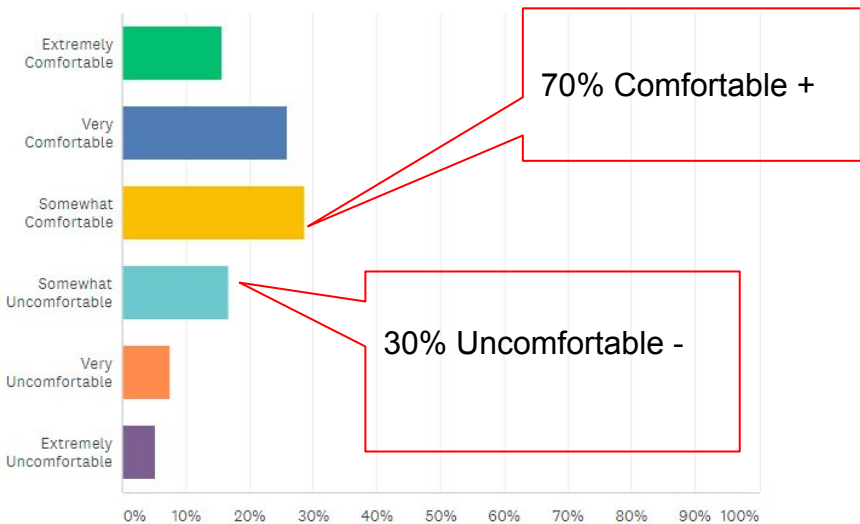
**Returning
Students @ 3'
with
Pooled Testing**

Stakeholder Perceptions - Staff & Educators

Once educators and staff are vaccinated and the district has implemented a pooled testing program, along with our other safety measures in place, how comfortable would you be returning students to school knowing that physical distance would be reduced to approximately 3'?

Answered: 642 Skipped: 95

**Returning
Students @ 3'
with
Pooled Testing
And
Vaccines for
Staff**



Stakeholder Perceptions - Staff & Educators

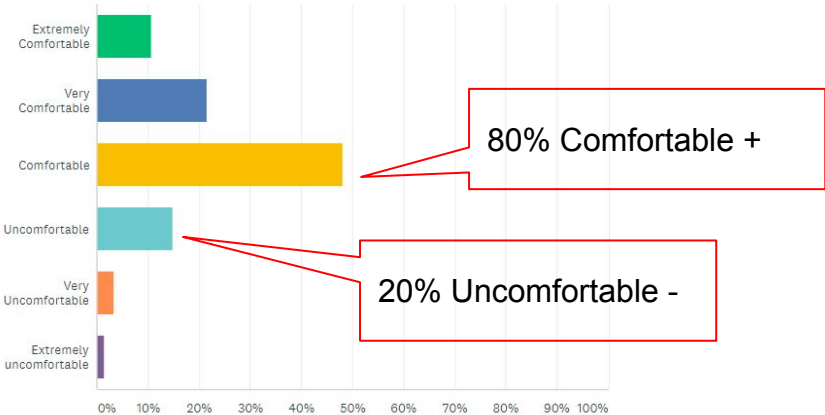
Current Safety Protocols (@ 6')



Post Vaccination/ Pool Testing (@ 3')

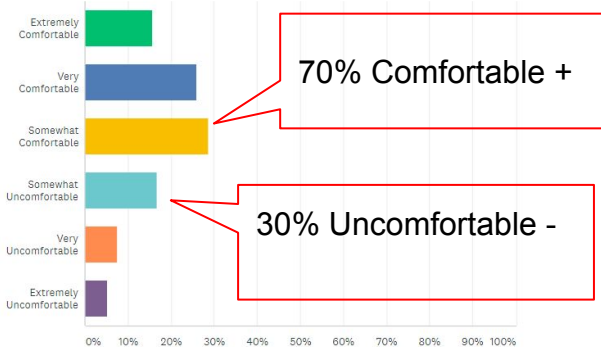
How comfortable are you at work with the above safety protocols in place?

Answered: 673 Skipped: 64



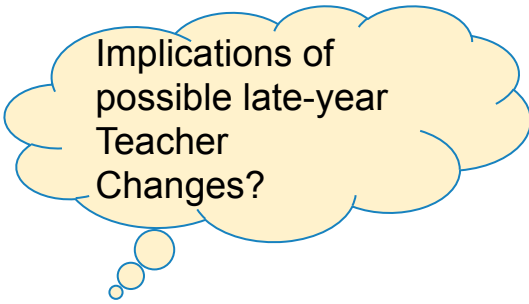
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Answered: 642 Skipped: 95



Planning Considerations - Educational

- Determine grade levels for change
 - ◆ Rec. Priority for Elementary or subset (i.e. Gr. 1-3)
- Determine who will return/ who will not
 - ◆ For students who do not return, what will education look like?
- Implications for current RLP students
 - ◆ Possible return of some RLP students?
 - ◆ Possible switch to RLP for current hybrid students?
- Special Education service delivery schedule changes



Implications of possible late-year Teacher Changes?

Planning Considerations - Operational

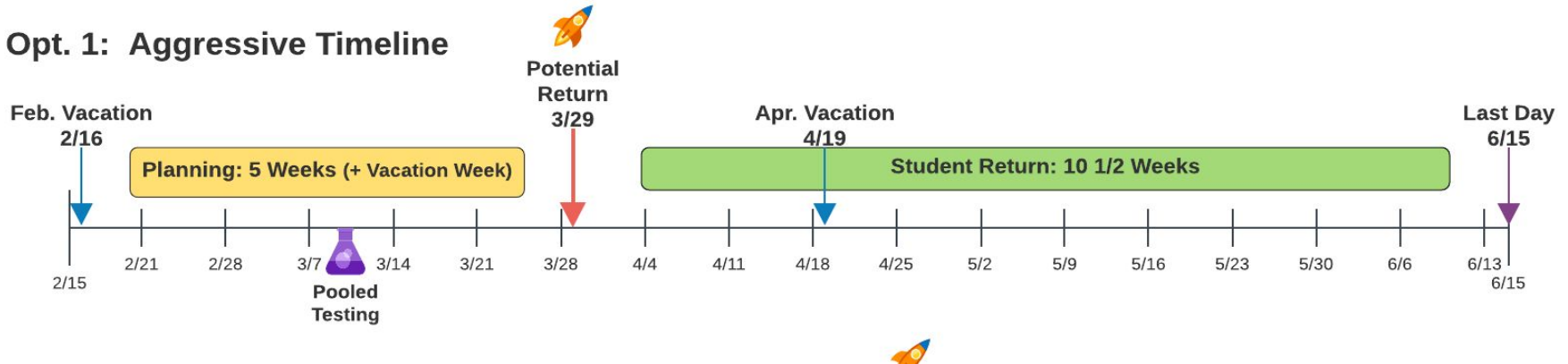
- MCAS Timing/ Implications (only for consideration)
- Transportation routes rebuilt (DESE Transportation Guidance Revised 2/11/21)
- Assess classroom capacity @ 3':
 - ◆ identify sections over capacity
 - ◆ determine/ configure alt. learning spaces (as available)
- Furniture - need to return from storage
 - ◆ desks vs. tables (possible guidance needed for use of tables)
- Identify Possible Bargaining Implications

Planning Considerations - Other

- DESE Position - currently undetermined
- Establish Timeline
- Information/ Communication
 - ◆ Medical Advisory Information
 - Research/ Data around 3' spacing
- Commitment from families to in-person model

Potential Timeline: Aggressive

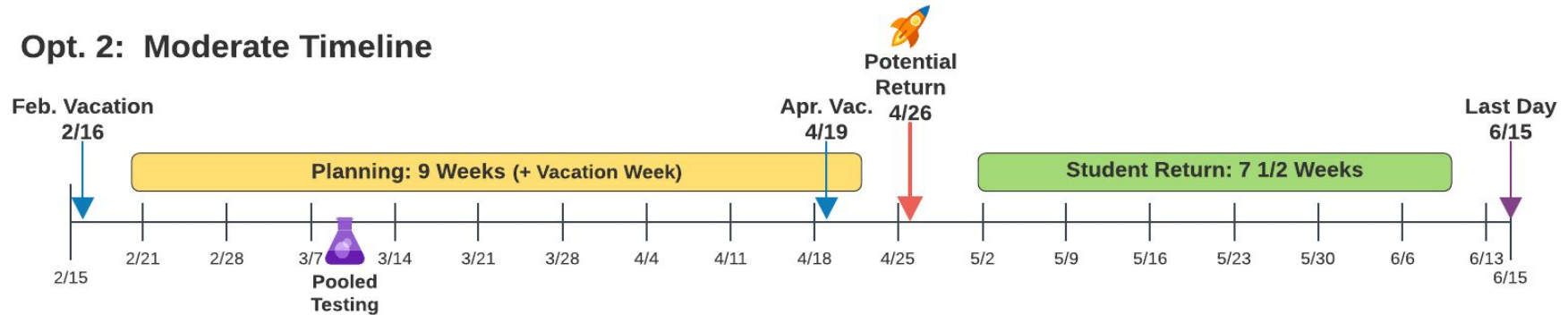
Opt. 1: Aggressive Timeline



- Longest In-person Time - slightly over $\frac{1}{4}$ of school year
- Pooled Testing Implemented - multiple cycles before return
- Educator Vaccines: 1st dose *possible but uncertain*; 2nd dose *not possible*

Potential Timeline: Moderate

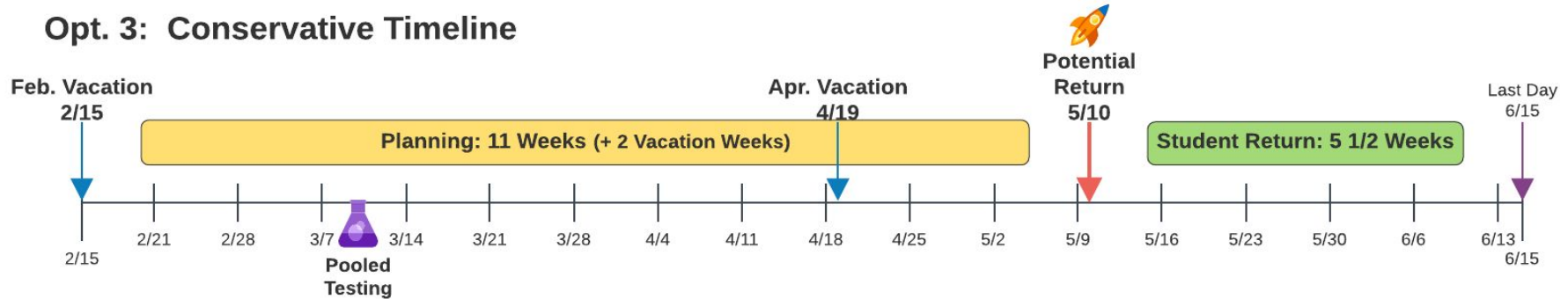
Opt. 2: Moderate Timeline



- Modest In-person Time - slightly under ¼ of school year
- Pooled Testing Implemented - multiple cycles before return
- Educator Vaccines: 1st dose *likely*; 2nd dose *possible but not certain*

Potential Timeline: Conservative

Opt. 3: Conservative Timeline



- Least In-person Time - slightly over 1 month; little value to seniors
- Pooled Testing Implemented - multiple cycles before return
- Educator Vaccines: 1st Dose *likely*; 2nd Dose *probable*

Potential Timeline: Staggered

Consideration of mixed timeline

Example:

- Earlier return for youngest students
- Delayed return for older students?
 - JHS & HS have unique challenges:
 - Lunch
 - Total number students in building
 - Mixed cohorts
 - Out of school adherence to safety guidelines
 - HS: some larger classes

Questions & Discussion