

GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Shepardson Watson-Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman-Vice Chairperson, Jane Giuliani, Liz Porter, Rosemary Robertson, Rita Volkmann, Jay Weitlauf, Lee White

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Graner, Susan Austin, Sam Kilpatrick, Ken Knight,

I. CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Kimberly Watson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. BOE REGULAR BUSINESS

MOTION: Porter, Robertson: To approve the COW meeting minutes of September 21, 2020.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. ENROLLMENT NUMBERS IN NEW SCHOOLS (Attachment #1)

Susan Austin gave an overview of the preliminary enrollment numbers for the new elementary schools at the Cutler and West Side sites. The majority of students at CC and SBB will be going to the Cutler site and the majority of students from MM will be going to West Side site. The school will be a 4 tier (4 classes per grade) Preschool/PK – grade 5.

IV. ZUBA PLATFORM AND FEEDBACK

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the neighborhood zoning platform that Mike Zuba developed. Dr. Graner noted that there will be a controlled lottery to maintain racial balance throughout the elementary schools. Ms. Austin noted that the Transition Kindergarten class will be relocated to CK or NEA.

V. CLASS SIZE FROM SEPTEMBER 28 (Attachment #2)

Dr. Graner gave an overview of the proposed maximum class size guidelines.

It was suggested that the middle and high school class sizes should be delineated in the Special Areas.

Dr. Graner and Ms. Austin will work out a glossary for this document that will be forwarded to the Board for vote at the regular meeting of October 26, 2020.

VI. REVIEW PRELIMINARY EDUCATOR AND PARENT SURVEY RESULTS (Attachments 3 & 4)

Ms. Austin gave an overview of the 2020 Preliminary Educator and Parent Survey results. The last submission date is Thursday. Ms. Austin will share all the results with the Board at that time.

VII. WEDNESDAY PROTOCOLS

Ms. Austin noted that updates can be found on the district website, and she encouraged parents to view them. Ms. Austin commended the teachers who volunteered for their hard work in addressing Hybrid learning for students in person and remotely. Ms. Austin stated that teachers are working from home remotely on Wednesdays during the extra cleaning in the school between cohorts.

VII. REVIEW OF THE REFERRAL LIST

The Board reviewed the Referral List.

Dr. Ackerman asked Dr. Graner about standardized testing, i.e. where does it stand; if students do not come up to par, what will happen. Dr. Graner stated he would research her concern and report back.

Mrs. Volkmann noted that LEARN is providing a teacher residency program for paraprofessionals.

Mrs. Volkmann made a referral to discuss a STEM Masters' Program for diversity recruitment purposes.

II. SUGGESTED FUTURE TOPICS

NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Ackerman, Robertson: To adjourn at 8:06 p.m.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Enrollment		2020-2021 Enrollment					Cutler elementary site		WS elementary site		Multi-disability program K-5		
GRADE	OCT 1 20-21	GRADE	Enrollment	FTE	Avg Class Size	GRADE	Enrollment	FTE	Avg Class Size	GRADE	Enrollment	FTE	Avg Class Size
Claude Chester													
Pre-School	35	Pre School	36	2.0	9.0	Pre School	90	3.0	2(15)x3	Pre School	90	3.0	2(15)x3
Trans K	0	Trans K	11	1.0	15.0	Pre K	80	1.0	2(15)	Pre K	80	1.0	2(15)
Full day K	57	Full day K	46	3.0	15.3	Full day K	80	4.0	20.0	Full day K	80	4.0	20.0
1	52	1	52	3.0	17.3	1	90	4.0	20.0	1	90	4.0	20.0
2	39	2	39	2.0	19.5	2	100	4.0	22.0	2	100	4.0	22.0
3	52	3	52	3.0	17.3	3	80	4.0	22.0	3	80	4.0	22.0
4	55	4	55	3.0	18.3	4	87	4.0	22.0	4	87	4.0	22.0
5	29	5	29	2.0	14.5	5	91	4.0	22.0	5	91	4.0	22.0
Total	319	Total	320	19.0	95C	Total	648	28.0	95C	Total	648	28.0	95C
S.B. Butler													
Pre School	41	Pre School	22	2.0	5.5	Pre School	30	To WS	Pre School	30	To WS	30	To WS
Speech	0	Speech	6	0.0	0.0	Speech	618	618	Speech	618	618	618	618
PreK	0	PreK	13	1.0	6.5	PreK	13	1.0	6.5	PreK	13	1.0	6.5
Full Day K	33	Full day K	32	2.0	16.0	Full day K	32	2.0	16.0	Full day K	32	2.0	16.0
1	41	1	40	2.0	20.0	1	40	2.0	20.0	1	40	2.0	20.0
2	34	2	32	2.0	16.0	2	32	2.0	16.0	2	32	2.0	16.0
3	30	3	30	2.0	15.0	3	30	2.0	15.0	3	30	2.0	15.0
4	33	4	33	2.0	16.5	4	33	2.0	16.5	4	33	2.0	16.5
5	39	5	39	2.0	19.5	5	39	2.0	19.5	5	39	2.0	19.5
Total	251	Total	247	15.0	145C	Total	247	15.0	145C	Total	247	15.0	145C
Mary Morrison													
Pre School	66	Pre School	67	3.0	11.2	Pre School	67	3.0	11.2	Pre School	67	3.0	11.2
Pre-K	0	Pre-K	55	3.0	18.3	Pre-K	55	3.0	18.3	Pre-K	55	3.0	18.3
Full day K	54	Full day K	63	4.0	15.8	Full day K	63	4.0	15.8	Full day K	63	4.0	15.8
1	46	1	46	3.0	15.3	1	46	3.0	15.3	1	46	3.0	15.3
2	54	2	53	3.0	17.7	2	53	3.0	17.7	2	53	3.0	17.7
3	35	3	35	2.0	17.5	3	35	2.0	17.5	3	35	2.0	17.5
4	33	4	32	2.0	16.0	4	32	2.0	16.0	4	32	2.0	16.0
5	33	5	32	2.0	16.0	5	32	2.0	16.0	5	32	2.0	16.0
Total	354	Total	351	20.0	45C	Total	351	20.0	45C	Total	351	20.0	45C
Charles Barnum													
Pre School	0	Pre School	0	0.0	0.0	Pre School	0	0.0	0.0	Pre School	0	0.0	0.0
Pre-K	0	Pre-K	0	0.0	0.0	Pre-K	0	0.0	0.0	Pre-K	0	0.0	0.0
Full day K	73	Full day K	71	3.0	23.7	Full day K	71	3.0	23.7	Full day K	71	3.0	23.7
1	62	1	63	3.0	21.0	1	63	3.0	21.0	1	63	3.0	21.0
2	45	2	47	3.0	15.7	2	47	3.0	15.7	2	47	3.0	15.7
3	54	3	53	3.0	17.7	3	53	3.0	17.7	3	53	3.0	17.7
4	64	4	60	3.0	20.0	4	60	3.0	20.0	4	60	3.0	20.0
5	53	5	50	3.0	16.7	5	50	3.0	16.7	5	50	3.0	16.7
Total	351	Total	344	18.0	75C	Total	344	18.0	75C	Total	344	18.0	75C
323													
Catherine Kolnaski													
Pre School	0	Pre School	0	0.0	0.0	Pre School	0	0.0	0.0	Pre School	0	0.0	0.0
8 SC Total													
323													
323													

	Pre-K	16	Pre-K	16	1.0	8.0
	Full day K	64	Full day K	63	4.0	15.8
	1	63	1	4.0	15.8	
	2	62	2	3.0	20.7	
	3	58	3	3.0	19.3	
	4	58	4	3.0	19.3	
	5	58	5	3.0	19.3	
	Total	379	Total	378	21.0	0 SC

Total 401

2020-2021 Enrollment to date

	GRADE	OCT 1 20-20	GRADE	Enrollment	FTE	Avg Class Size
Northeast Academy	Pre School	0	Pre School	0	0.0	0.0
	Pre-K	0	Pre-K	0	0.0	0.0
	Full day K	67	Full day K	67	4.0	16.8
	1	79	1	79	4.0	19.8
	2	64	2	63	3.0	21.0
	3	64	3	64	3.0	21.3
	4	70	4	70	3.0	23.3
	5	62	5	62	3.0	20.7
	Total	406	Total	405	20.0	

Total 414

PREFERRED MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE GUIDELINES
(Approved by Groton Board of Education at its Regular Meeting on October 28, 2019)

ACADEMIC

PREFERRED MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE

Kindergarten – 1	20
Grades 2-3	23
Grades 4-12	25
Remedial Self-Contained 6-12	14
Remedial Individual/Small Group	40 (total teacher load)

SPECIAL AREAS

Technology Education	18
Consumer Science	18
Music	25
Art 9-12	20
Physical Education 9-12	25

PUPIL – TEACHER RATIOS FOR SUPPORT PERSONNEL

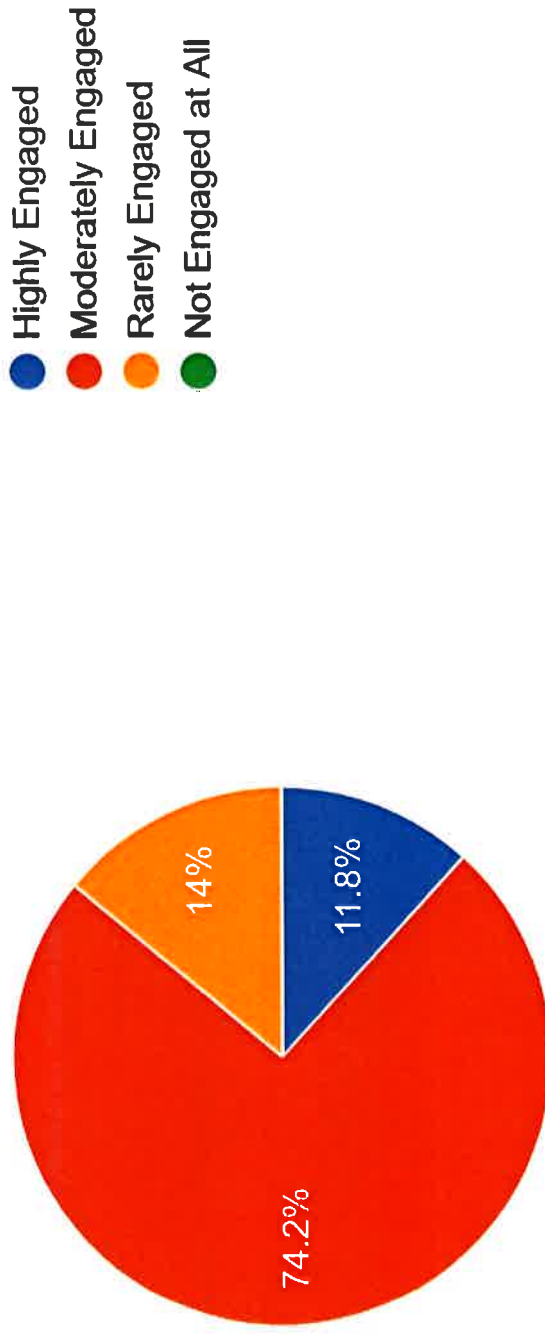
Guidance Counselors	200:1
Library/Media Specialist	500:1
Special Education:	
Self-contained	12:1
Resource Room	20:1

Groton Public Schools Fall 2020 Educator Survey

Preliminary results: 322 Responses as of October 13, 2020

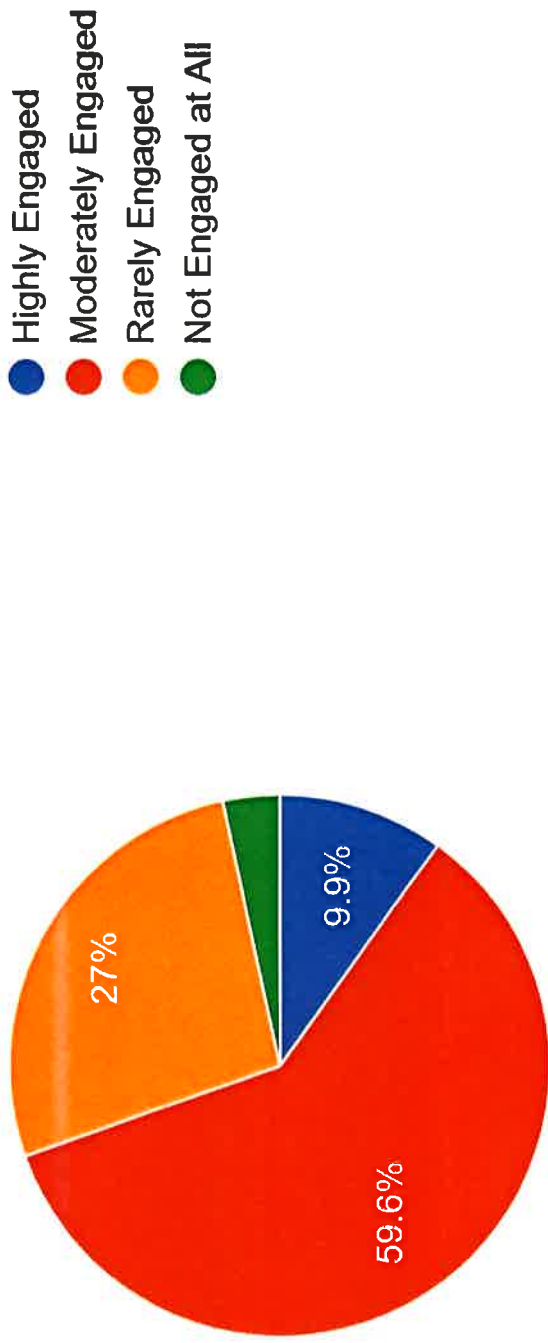
How would you best describe engagement of the majority of your students in the hybrid model?

322 responses



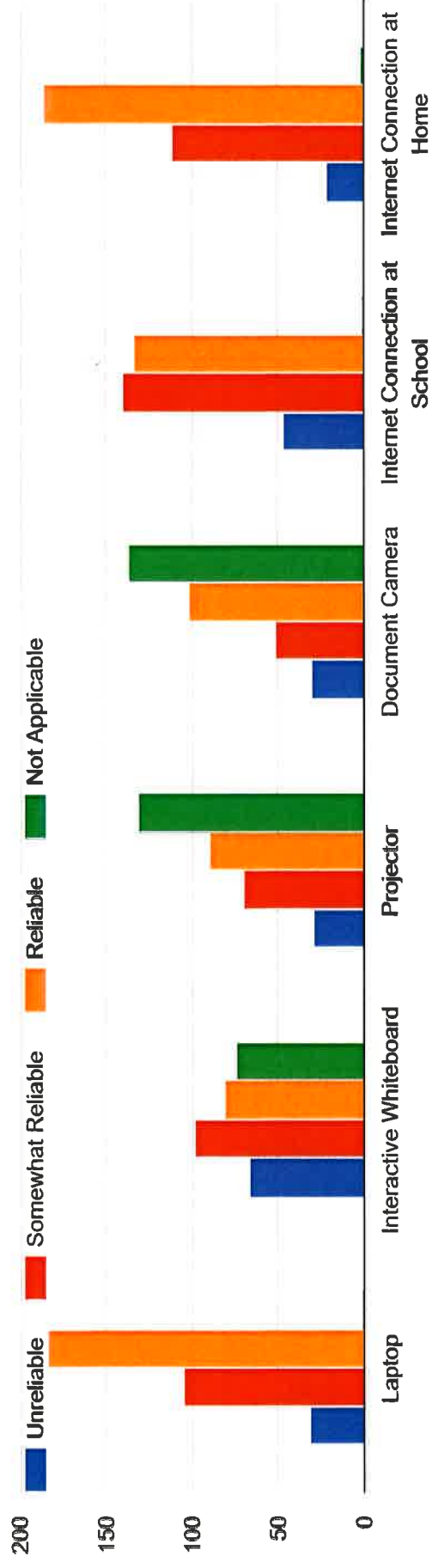
How would you best describe the engagement of the majority of your students in the full distance learning model?

322 responses



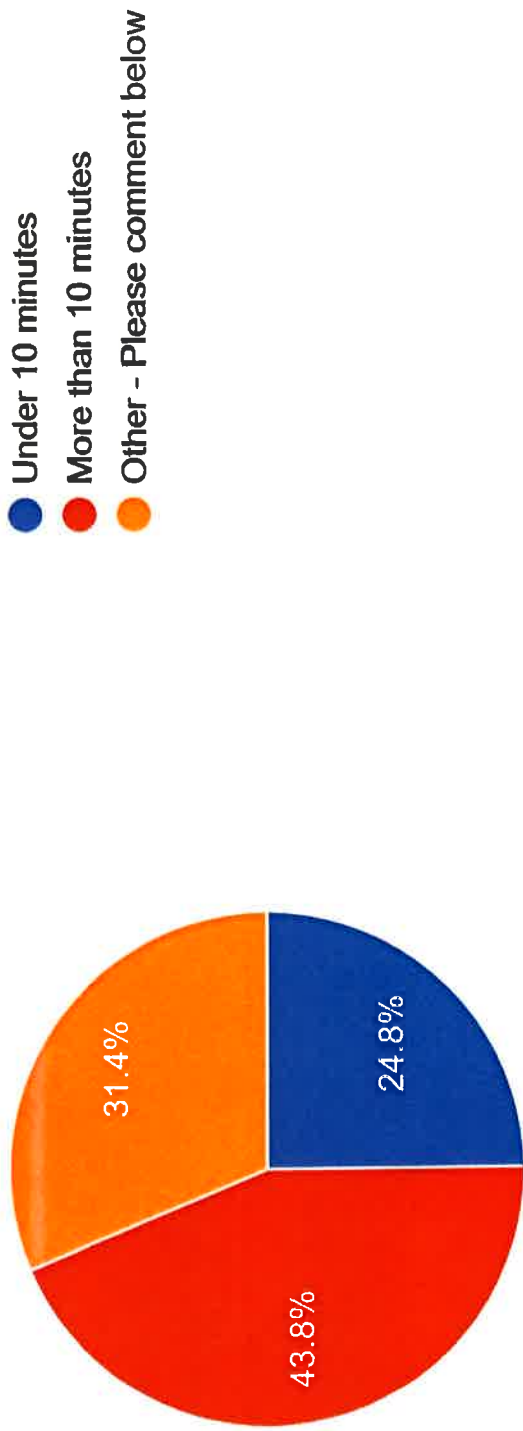
How reliable is your current technology?

322 responses



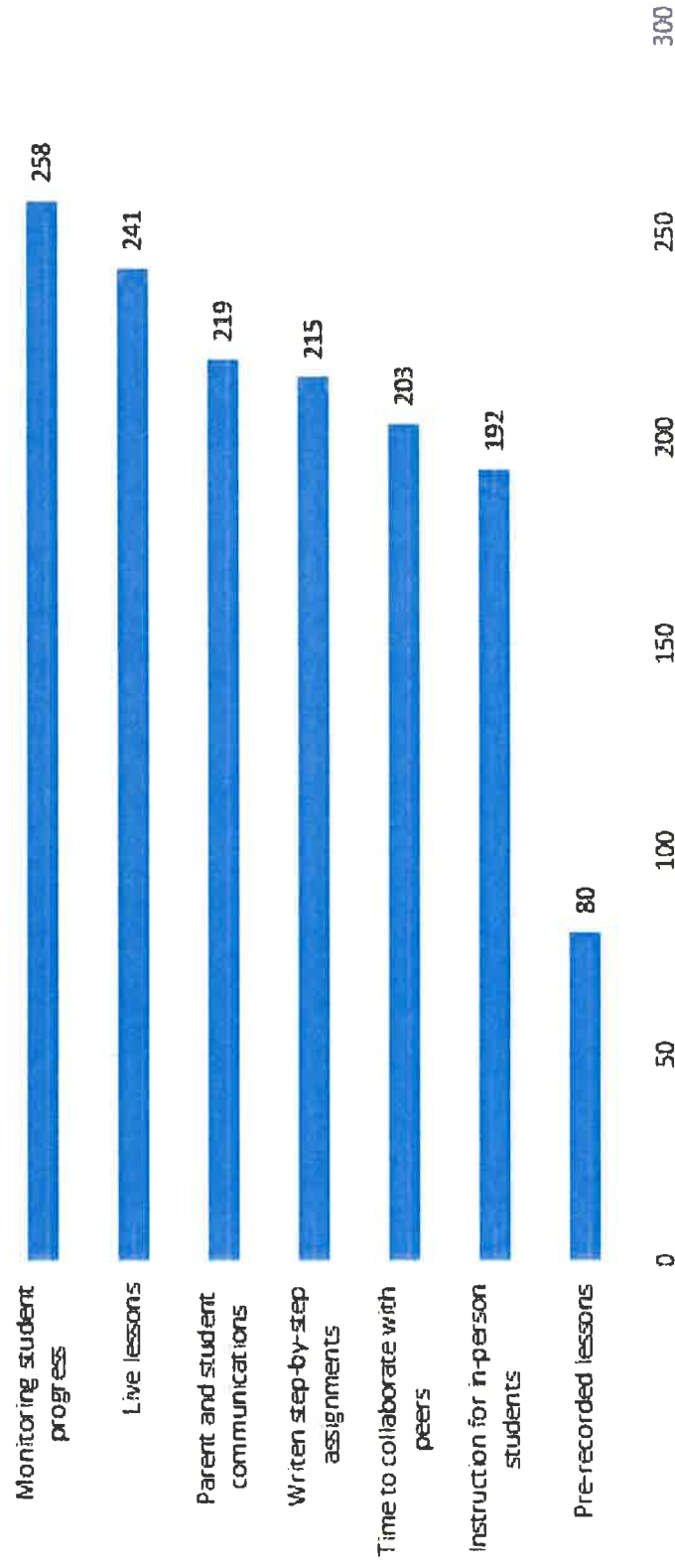
On average how long does it take you to take attendance?

322 responses



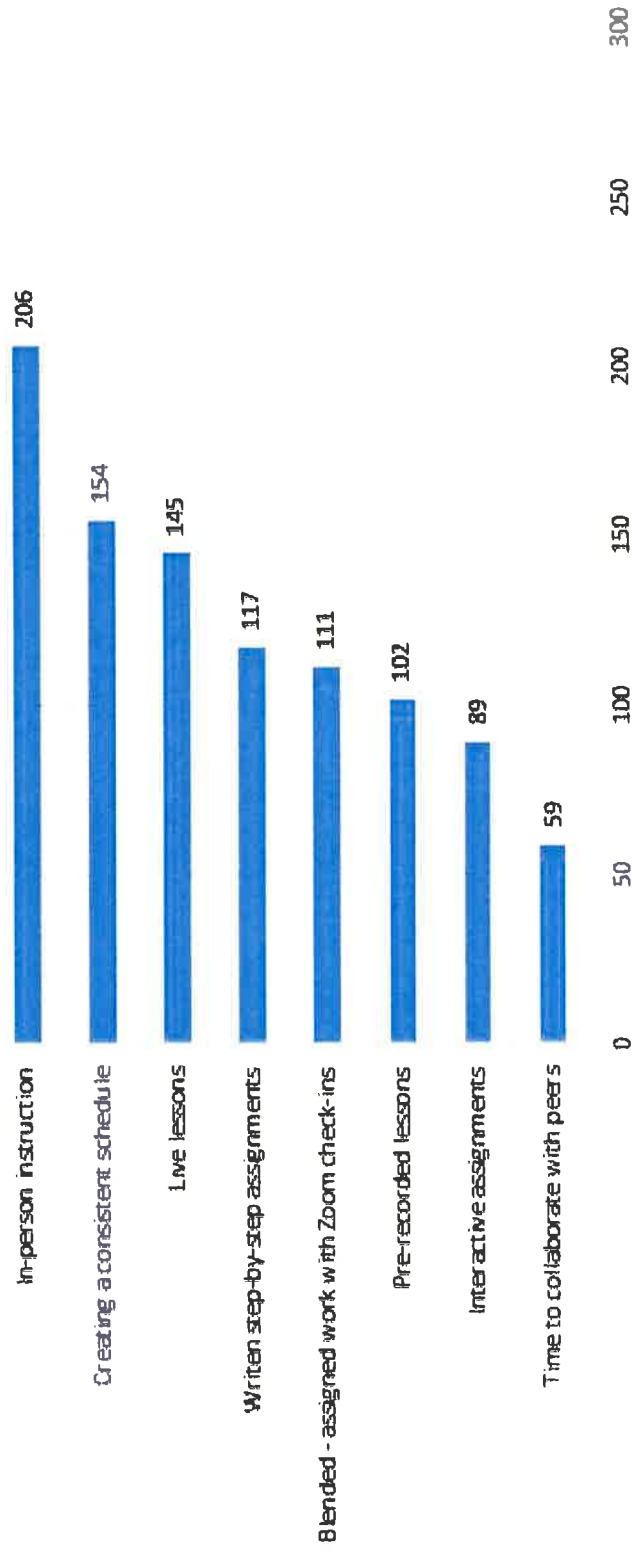
Which areas require more support and / or time for your planning?

322 responses



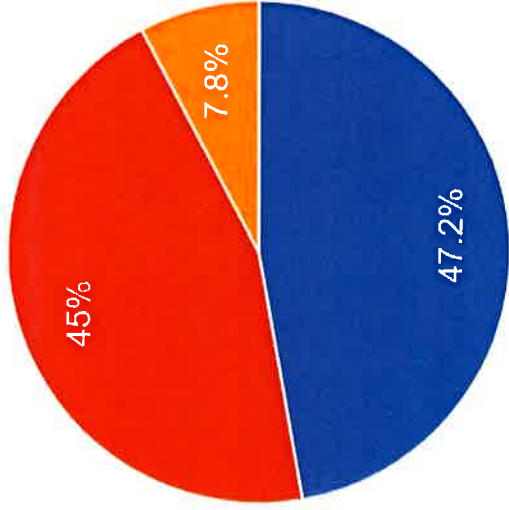
In terms of instruction, what approaches seem to best engage your students?

322 responses



How many students are completing their assignments?

322 responses



- Most of my students are completing their assignments.
- About half of my students are completing their assignments.
- Only a few of my students are completing their assignments.
- None of my students are completing their assignments.

Successes

Students are finally getting used to this model our routines, schedule, and expectations.

My steadily increasing knowledge of the available resources and how to use them.

Collaborating with grade level partners in my school to share effective teaching/planning ideas for hybrid or full distance learners.

Kids are happy to be back in the classroom, even with masks and personal office spaces.

Having a small group, I can really get to everyone each day for every subject.

When I take time to listen to parent concerns before making plans to improve engagement, I tend to get better results.

More Successes

For the students in the classroom, the smaller numbers allow for so much more attention and engagement. I feel like I know these groups of students very well - and they are only here with me two days a week so that is notable. They are getting much more individual attention than is usually possible.

Working with a student who when offered a break said " NO I Got this" and then went on to complete the task. This young boy would have melted down prior to learning strategies to get him through non-preferred activities. Priceless! This is why I do what I do!

Challenges

Providing the support families need to be successful with home learning.

The biggest challenge is getting them to complete all of their class work and making sure directions are clear enough to where they can do the work without too much confusion.

It has all been a challenge. I feel the internet connections at school and home are inconsistent which makes the teaching and learning difficult.

Finding hands on things for distance learners to do.

Prepping for both hybrid and distance learners at the same time - keep in mind that it is really 3 preps: hybrid students, distance plans for when they are home AND lessons for full distance learners.

More Challenges

Communication with the students has been the biggest challenge. If a student has a question at home, my responses are usually delayed because I'm in class. And it's hard to instruct over email. Sometimes I've had to record a quick video on the fly to show them how to do something.

Some of the kids who need the most help struggle with reading so virtual learning is even harder for them since there's so much reading involved with just navigating through the LMS.

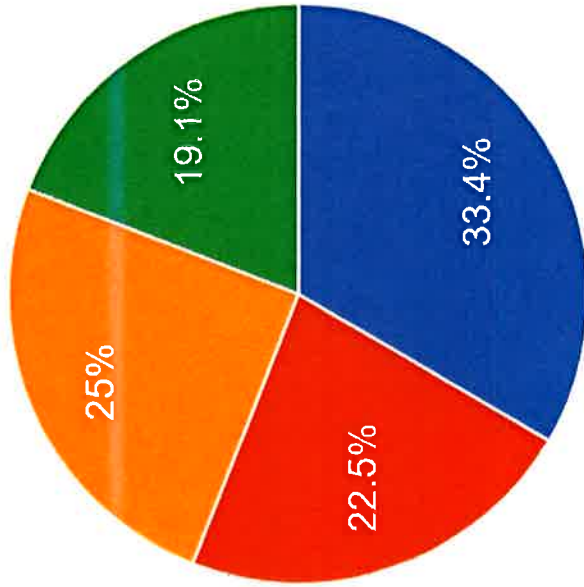
The amount of time I am working to plan, create, record, correct/provide feedback for assignments, answer emails, etc. I am working 10 hour days during the week and another several hours on the weekend.

My students are excited to participate in Zoom lessons, but the technology issues have caused great frustration and stress for myself and my students.

Groton Public Schools Fall 2020 Parent Survey

**Preliminary results: 581 Unique Parent Responses Representing 847 Students
as of October 13, 2020**

What grade is your child?



● Preschool / Pre-K - Grade 2

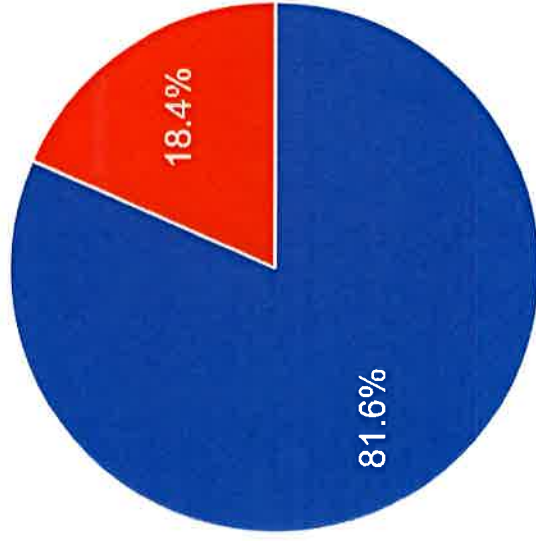
● Grades 3-5

● Grades 6-8

● Grades 9-12

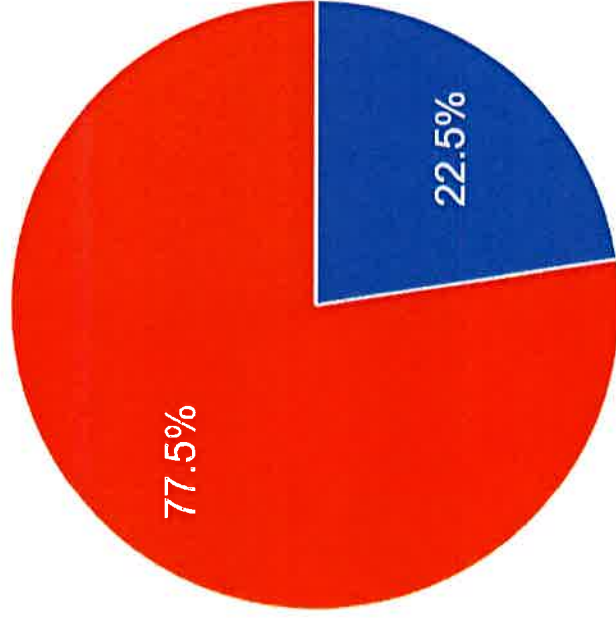
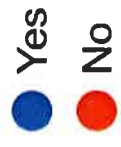
● Other

Please identify your child's current learning model?

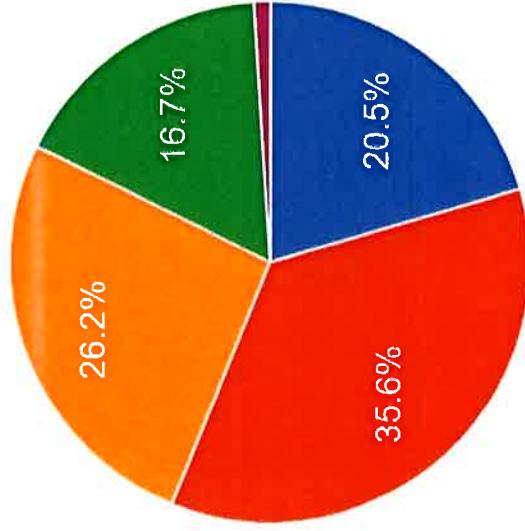


- Hybrid (blended in-school and distance learning days by cohort)
- Full Distance Learning

Have you considered switching your child's learning model?

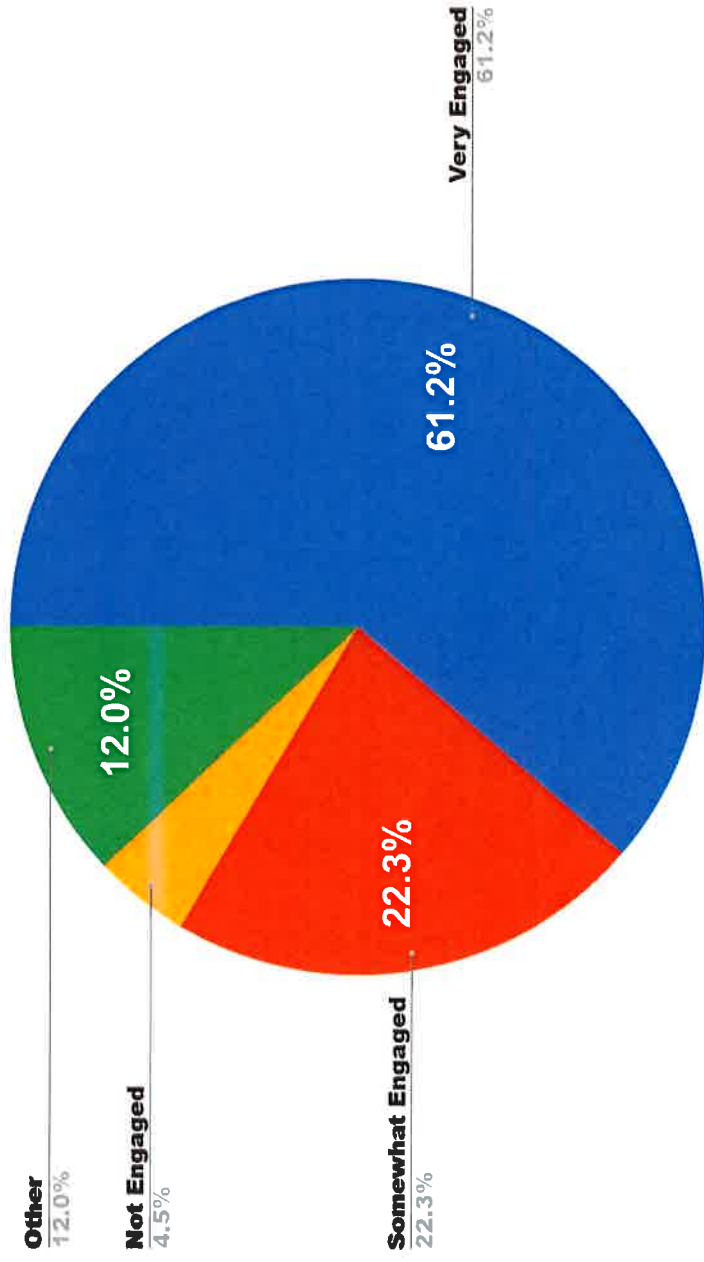


Is your child able to understand the instruction they are receiving during remote learning and complete assignments independently at home?



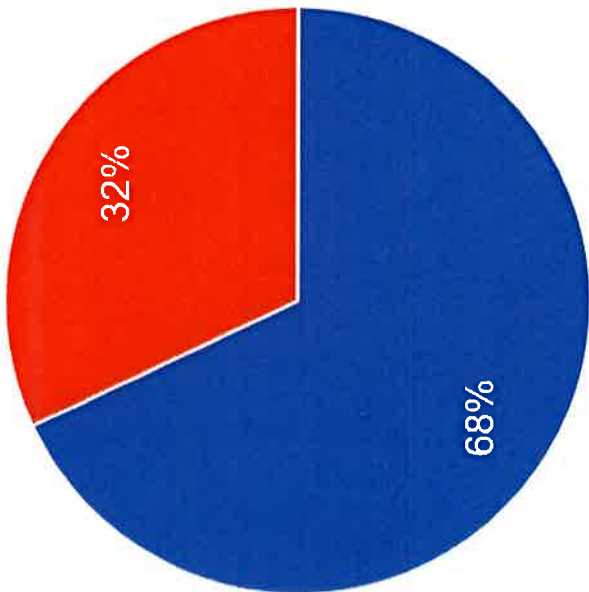
- My child can complete most of his / her work with little to no help from me.
- My child only needs help sometimes.
- My child needs help a lot.
- My child always requires my help.
- My child doesn't require my help, but gets extra help from his / her teacher.

Is your child engaged on the days they are learning at home (either Hybrid or Full Distance Learning)?

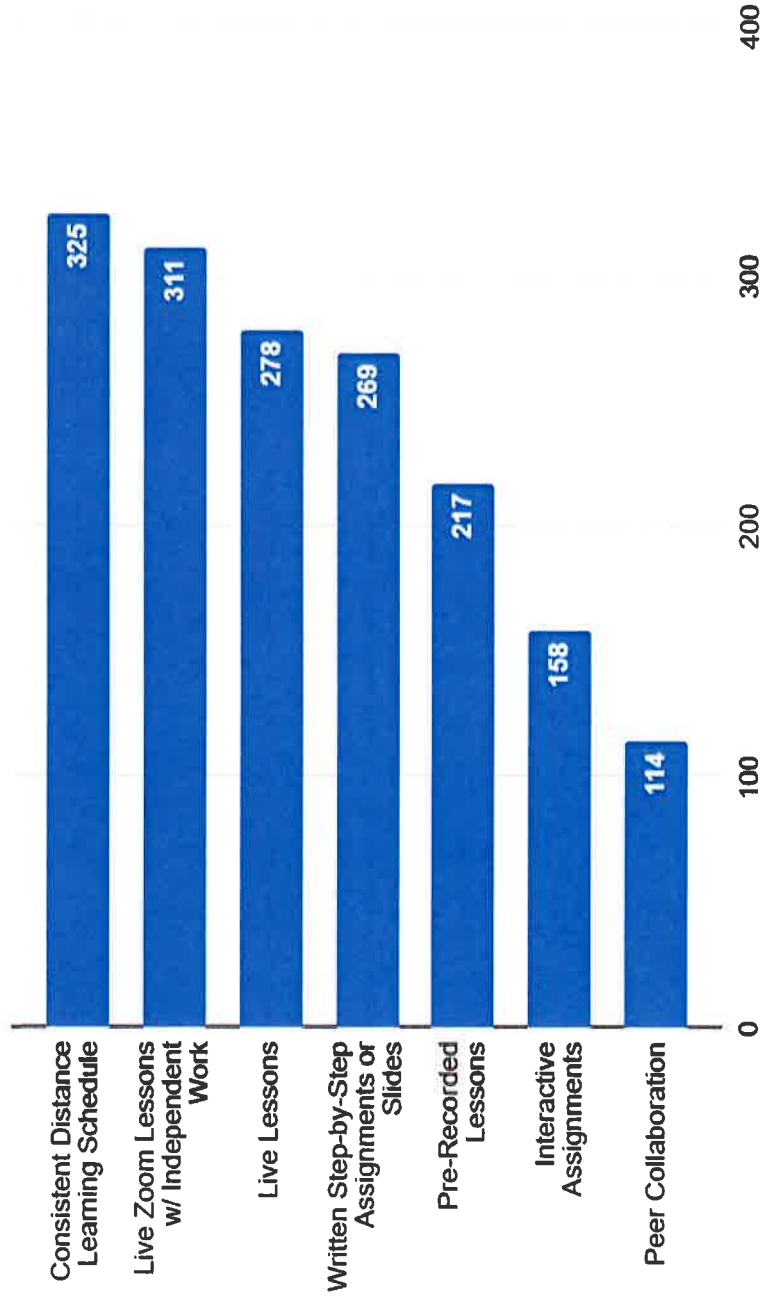


Has your child used Wednesdays as a day for extra help, teacher communication or to do independent work?

● Yes
● No



In terms of instruction, what seems to work best for your child on the days they are learning at home?



Parent Feedback

My child loves school and seesaw is very user friendly. He thrives in the classroom setting and loves being with his peers.

Teachers are great but some students are struggling at home with keeping up.

We have enjoyed the hybrid method. It has worked very well for us. Too many zoom meetings.

My student is in the 12th grade. She has expressed concern about not having enough time to do everything to her counselor. I do know it was suggested she use her off blocks, CTL, and Wednesday's to get her work done.

We are just doing our best to make a good flow for the days we work from home as I am still working so not always home during the day to help.

Parent Feedback

Again, teachers are doing their best but there is a lot of issues with submitting work, getting attendance straight, and grading on work.

If she didn't have my help it would probably be a lot more difficult for her to do the work completely alone. Logging into seesaw, making sure she completes everything properly.

Differentiated instruction or scaffolded assignments for students with reading issues.

Thank you and your team for doing the best you can during this pandemic I think working on social and emotional curriculum is much more important. I say this knowing my daughter is six so this may not apply as heavily to the older kids. Please continue to be flexible with parents turning in assignments while distance learning. My family appreciates all your support.