

Hybrid Thought Exchange Summary

Dr. Cheryl Champ, Pelham Union Free School District
October 21, 2020

As a parent/care giver, what is working well with remote and hybrid learning, and what are the biggest challenges your child is seeing or experiencing?

As a student what is working well with remote and hybrid learning, and what are the biggest challenges you are seeing or experiencing?

As an educator, what what is working well with remote and hybrid learning and what are the biggest challenges you are seeing or experiencing?



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



188

Participants



378

Thoughts



6,307

Ratings



1,018

Participants



1,779

Thoughts



42,719

Ratings



249

Participants



299

Thoughts



5,201

Ratings



STUDENTS





THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts



Virtual students should be able to be included too! I think virtual students should still feel like a part of the class. It is unfair when teachers only let in person students participate 🙄

4.3 ★★★★★ (21 👤)
Ranked #1 of 272

Connecting virtually with teachers 😊 I think it is important to still connect virtually with teachers . You can use emails them or ask questions during the meets. 😊

4.2 ★★★★★ (21 👤)
Ranked #3 of 272

I think It would be beneficial if all of the teachers made sure to repeat instructions to us. I often find myself spacing out ot missing instructions. Due to my anxiety, I have difficulties speaking up and asking for them to repeat themselves.

4.1 ★★★★★ (25 👤)
Ranked #6 of 272

Screen Time Giving the virtual students tech breaks!! We look at screens during the day and for too long, my eyesight has gotten worse and I have many headaches

4.1 ★★★★★ (25 👤)
Ranked #7 of 272

Google Meet is better than livestream in that it allows remote students to participate and ask questions.

4.1 ★★★★★ (24 👤)
Ranked #8 of 272

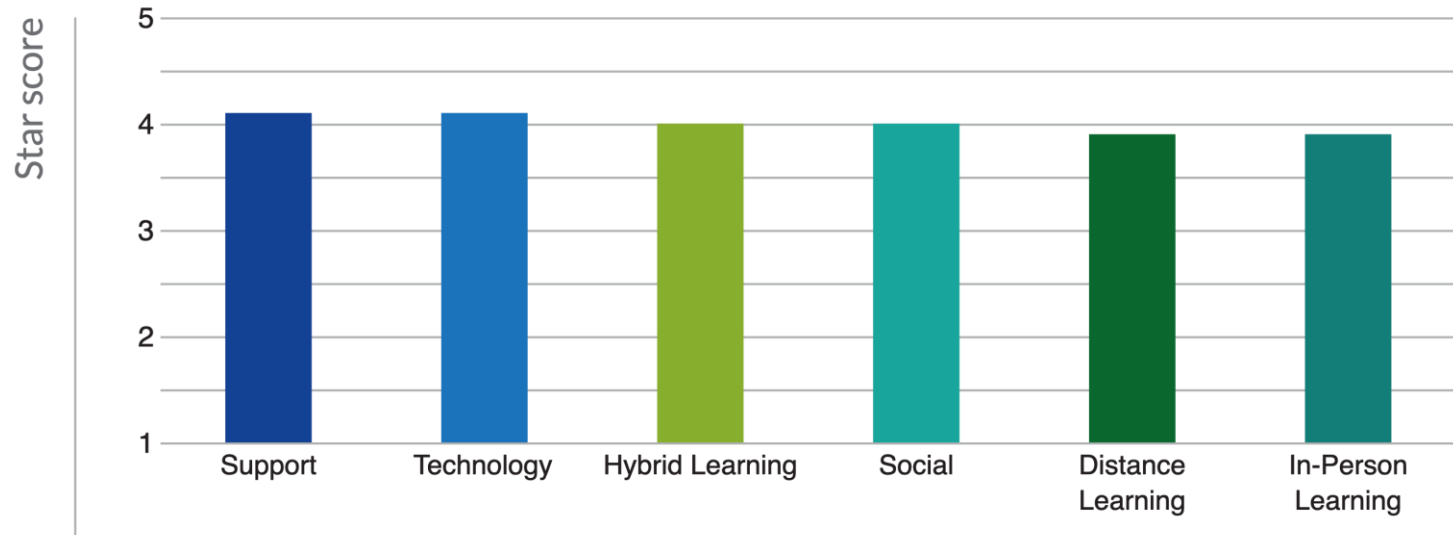
Tech issues have been very frustrating. When students/teachers aren't able to connect it makes it much more difficult to participate.

4.1 ★★★★★ (24 👤)
Ranked #10 of 272



HYBRID/REMOTE LEARNING THEMES

Top Themes





THEMES

Support



- Connecting virtually with teachers** 😊 I think it is important to still connect virtually with teachers . You can use emails them or ask questions during the meets. 😊 4.2 ★★★★★ (21 👤)
- Emotional Health** Some students are being really overwhelmed with the amount of work and pressure put on them by teachers. 4.0 ★★★★★ (24 👤)
- I haven't had time to do a social distance hang out with my friends because all I have been doing is homework without learning any of the information.** It has been stressing me out so much and all I have wanted to do is see my friends and step away from the anxiety for an hour or two. 4.0 ★★★★★ (24 👤)
- Teachers are very understanding about the current situation and try their best during these hard times. It helps to lift our spirits, since were all** still getting used to this. 3.8 ★★★★★ (6 👤)



THEMES

Technology



- One challenge I am seeing and experiencing way too much is the constant issues with the internet connection.** This is important because without good internet connection, virtual learning of any type becomes much harder. 4.1 ★★★★★ (24 👤)
- Tech issues have been very frustrating.** When students/teachers aren't able to connect it makes it much more difficult to participate. 4.1 ★★★★★ (24 👤)
- Technology Problems** Teachers need to understand if kids are frozen or not replying or leave the meet, it's possibly a tech issue, and students shouldn't be faulted for it 4.1 ★★★★★ (23 👤)
- Slow wifi is a problem and shouldn't be ignored** My english teacher forces everyone to turn on their camera and go on a google doc, yet not everyone has the internet speed to do so. 4.0 ★★★★★ (24 👤)



THEMES

Hybrid Learning

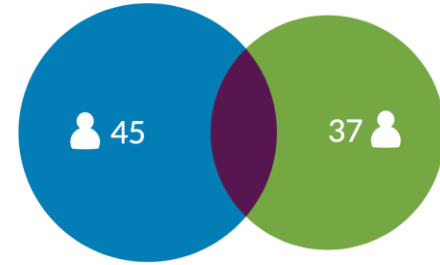


- Virtual students should be able to be included too!** I think virtual students should still feel like a part of the class. It is unfair when teachers only let in person students participate 🧑🏫 4.3 ★★★★★ (21 👤)
- Camera's should be looking at the teacher or class...** In one class, a teacher only shows their desk and desk belongings. It is extremely difficult to participate while you are looking at a desk... 4.2 ★★★★★ (21 👤)
- providing notes about the lesson for online students** we don't always catch everything and there are technical difficulties 4.2 ★★★★★ (20 👤)
- Virtual students should be able to hear the class** I am a virtual student and sometimes I cannot hear the class. My teachers will call on students that are in person, but I cannot hear their response. 4.2 ★★★★★ (18 👤)
- Sometimes i want to ask teacher to repeat what the said but im on vertral** it's important because what if we don't understand it we can ask a teacher 4.1 ★★★★★ (23 👤)
- Sometimes it's harder to follow along with all the work without your teacher in remote learning.** 4.0 ★★★★★ (24 👤)



DIFFERENCES

Virtual, Learning, Think [Side A: 45 | Side B: 37]



Side A

I like the mix of hybrid and remote because its fun to look forward to the days that you are in school but I like playing with my dog on breaks. It's good not to wear masks all day. Also, it's less stressful in the morning. And it's safer to not interact with as many people every day.

★ 4.6 ★ 1.4

I feel that the progression that we are able to complete while in this situation is stellar. It was difficult learning a lot last year only having school from 9-12. I feel this year I have learned so much more and the workload is just right.

Side A/B Common (high)

One challenge I am seeing and experiencing way too much is the constant issues with the internet connection. This is important because without good internet connection, virtual learning of any type becomes much harder.

★ 4.5 ★ 4.7

Virtual students should be able to be included too! I think virtual students should still feel like a part of the class. It is unfair when teachers only let in person students participate 🙄

★ 4.8 ★ 4.3

Side B

I think we should be able to bring our own computers to school Because the school computers are sometimes really slow and we should have the option to bring our own computers

★ 2.3 ★ 4.9

Taking a 100 pound pack pack because

★ 2.0 ★ 5.0



challenge class
child remote virtual social
home elementary questions hard instruction
focus ask engaged kids help
half meet interaction stream
time lack livestream difficult
person live google
like full feel wednesday learning
children parents days better
important work hybrid



THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts



Need for interaction during virtual days There needs to be the ability for children at home to ask their teachers questions and participate in lessons in real time.

4.3  (33 )
Ranked #1 of 1697

Possibly have the teachers wear a microphone so when they are not near camera we can still hear instruction

4.2  (34 )
Ranked #2 of 1697

Biggest challenge is keeping kids focused and engaged when remote especially when they are not being engaged by the teacher but watching them teach other students.

4.2  (26 )
Ranked #3 of 1697

The in person days are excellent. Reminds us all why and how much school is so important.

4.2  (16 )
Ranked #4 of 1697

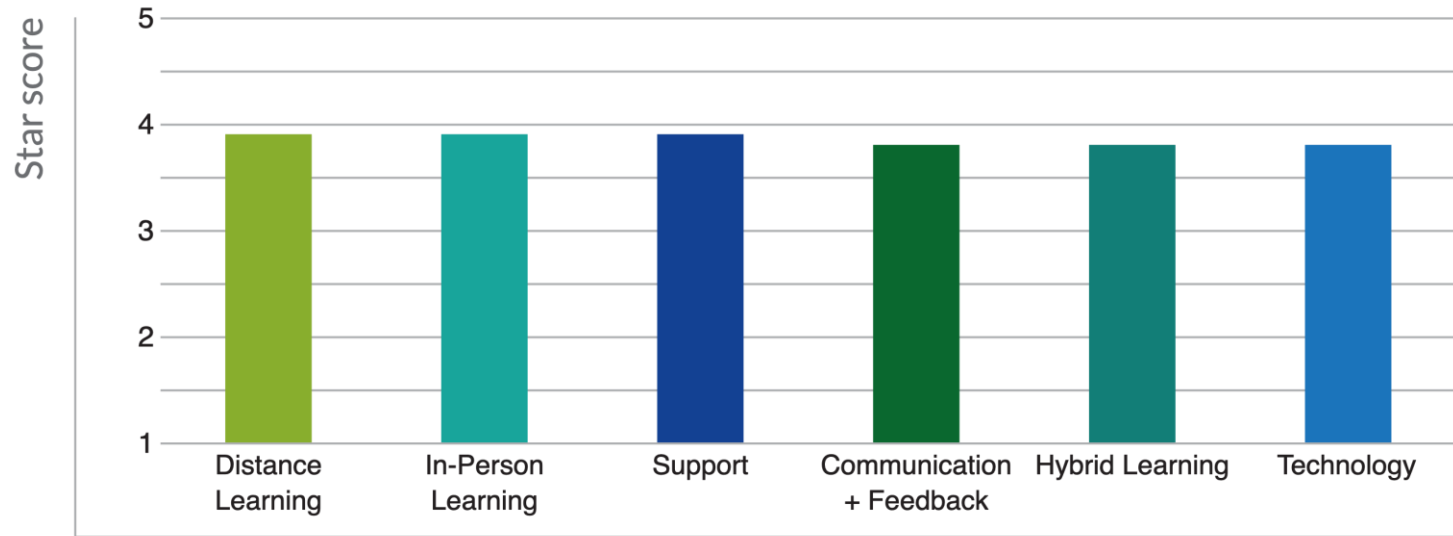
The in-school in-person learning is great They love being in-person and seeing their friends and teachers in person

4.1  (33 )
Ranked #7 of 1697



HYBRID/REMOTE LEARNING THEMES

Top Themes





THEMES

Distance Learning



- Need for interaction during virtual days** There needs to be the ability for children at home to ask their teachers questions and participate in lessons in real time. 4.3 ★★★★★ (33 👤)
- Virtual learning requires constant monitoring by parents of young learners and is not manageable for working parents or those with younger kids.** This model is setting parents and kids up to fail if it requires more from parents than they are able to do. 4.1 ★★★★★ (35 👤)
- Virtual days still require more parental supervision than they should** Because of the emphasis of on-your-own work as opposed to actual instruction, parents are still required to spend time helping their child learn. 4.1 ★★★★★ (14 👤)
- Exceptionally hard for my child to stay engaged all day** Hard for my child to pay attention all day just staring at a computer 4.1 ★★★★★ (12 👤)
- Teachers are amazing, but younger kids have a difficult time sitting still & in front of the computer most of the day.** I am nervous my kindergartener will not learn as much as in person schooling. 4.1 ★★★★★ (7 👤)



THEMES

In-Person Learning



- The in person days are excellent.** Reminds us all why and how much school is so important. 4.2 ★★★★★ (16 👤)
- The in-school in-person learning is great** They love being in-person and seeing their friends and teachers in person 4.1 ★★★★★ (33 👤)
- The days that my child is in school, he seems engaged with the work. He's really learning on these days.** 4.1 ★★★★★ (26 👤)
- Being in school in person** Being able to attend school in person Even for a couple of days has been critical in restoring a sense of social, educational and emotional normalcy. 4.1 ★★★★★ (16 👤)
- I'm grateful for the days we have in school, my kids are so glad to be there - even if only part time.** Seeing friends and teachers in person, even with restrictions, is keeping my kids much happier and more interested than being isolated at home. 4.0 ★★★★★ (34 👤)
- The in person days seem to be going well; the kids appear to be doing a good job with the masks and they are happy to be with other kids** 4.0 ★★★★★ (27 👤)



THEMES

Support



Teacher is doing a great job This is tough for all of us and the teachers. We support the teacher's efforts.

4.0  (35 )

More support for teachers inline with earlier comments, teachers are going above and beyond and many could use extra help

4.0  (34 )

The teachers are trying their best, props to them.

4.0  (30 )

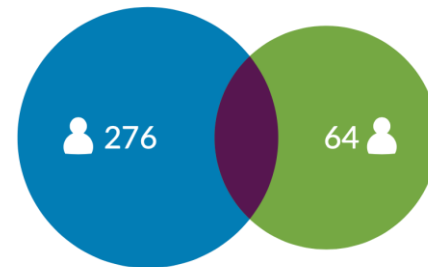
The teacher cares about the students and their class. This is clear in their interactions with the students, and could be even more meaningful with some additional support from the district.

3.6  (34 )



DIFFERENCES

Learning, Remote, Person [Side A: 276 | Side B: 64]



Side A

Being in school is crucial Both kids desperately need to be in school. I am heartbroken that it's not more than 2.5 days a week.

★ 4.8 ★ 1.0

It is stressful and inadequate I don't feel as though my kids (especially the younger ones) are learning

★ 4.6 ★ 1.1

Side A/B Common (high)

Need for interaction during virtual days There needs to be the ability for children at home to ask their teachers questions and participate in lessons in real time.

★ 4.7 ★ 4.1

It's difficult for my virtual learners to ask questions if using Livestream. For my Livestream child, even if she has a question about what page they're working on in class she is told to wait until office hours at 2:45.

★ 4.7 ★ 3.9

Side B

Remote learning is working well overall I like that he is part of the class even if he is home learning virtually which is a great help compared to the end of the last school year.

★ 1.7 ★ 4.8

My child is doing all remote learning. It is going great! He's happy and feels safe learning from home.

★ 1.5 ★ 4.5













THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts



We are doing the job of three teachers in one. We are doing beyond what other districts are being asked to do. 4.6  (27 )
Ranked #1 of 342

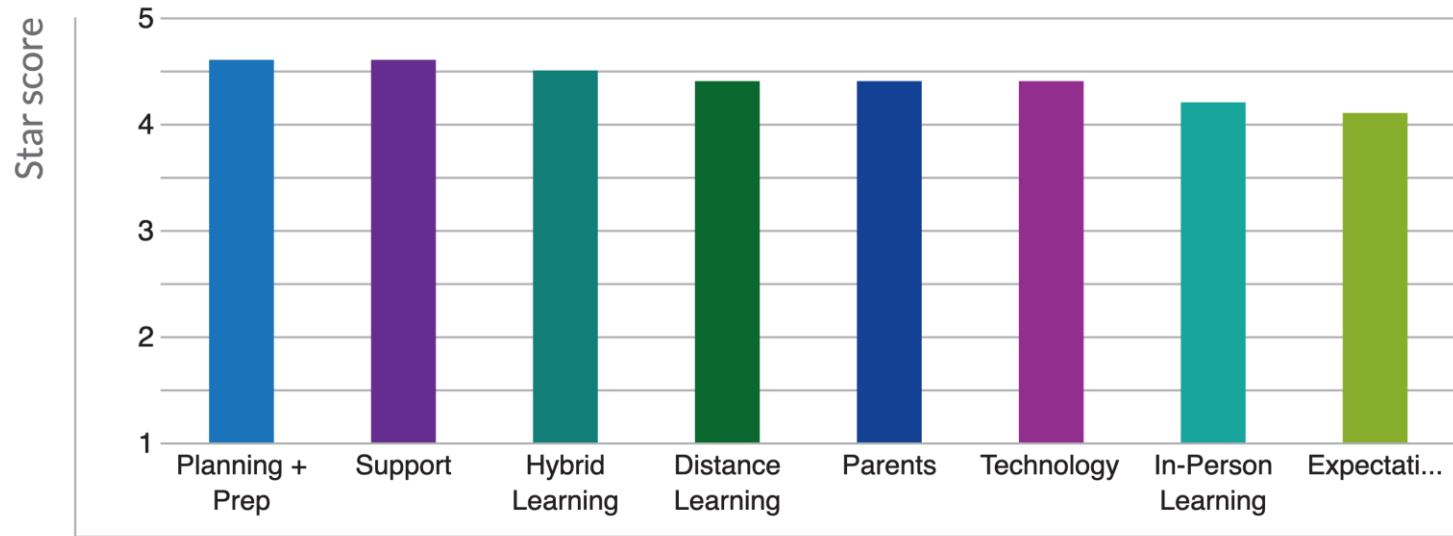
Stress levels of teachers is insurmountable. Administration and community pressure for more in this environment is debilitating. The mental health of teachers needs to be taken more seriously. 4.6  (25 )
Ranked #2 of 342

The half day planning days have been crucial! I use every minute I have to plan so this time was more than needed. Despite having a half day on most Wednesdays, I am still spending countless hours after school to plan. I am neglecting my own family. 4.6  (25 )
Ranked #3 of 342



HYBRID/REMOTE LEARNING THEMES

Top Themes





THEMES

Planning + Prep



We are doing the job of three teachers in one. We are doing beyond what other districts are being asked to do. 4.6 ★★★★★ (27 👤)

The half day planning days have been crucial! I use every minute I have to plan so this time was more than needed. Despite having a half day on most Wednesdays, I am still spending countless hours after school to plan. I am neglecting my own family. 4.6 ★★★★★ (25 👤)

Planning time There is no where for teachers to plan during preps. We have no time in our classrooms. Wednesday afternoons are so important right now for common plan 4.5 ★★★★★ (18 👤)

It is VERY challenging to meet the needs of all students!! My head is spinning half the time while I'm trying to manage the class, the curriculum and The new way of teaching. It's ALL TOO MUCH. And then we have to be in meetings after school that are way to stressful! I mean- we are in a pandemic! 4.4 ★★★★★ (26 👤)

Posting assignments and creating daily slide decks and google doc schedules is extremely time consuming. Although necessary to keep kids on task, there is often not enough time to create or transform hard copy assignments into digital format. 4.4 ★★★★★ (18 👤)

The half day Wednesday preparation time is working well. We can collaborate together and develop a plan for the upcoming days. 4.3 ★★★★★ (24 👤)



THEMES

Support



I am very worried about the mental health of my colleagues and myself we are working so hard and still feel like we are failing the kids. It is taking a toll. 4.4 ★★★★★ (12 👤)

I have received thank yous and notes of gratitude from parents who believe we are going above and beyond. We are doing an excellent job as teachers- we are working at school & home, instead of being with our families or breathing. Give us some gratitude. 4.4 ★★★★★ (12 👤)

Teachers are extremely stressed and I don't feel like much has been done to address this. The social emotional piece is important for students AND teachers. We can't realistically do it all; this model is not sustainable. 4.3 ★★★★★ (27 👤)

I am proud to be a Pelham teacher and always have been. We are a devoted, professional group, doing our best to meet many needs at this point. We need to be fully supported, not further pressured by our administration in order to continue. 4.2 ★★★★★ (14 👤)



THEMES

Hybrid Learning



It is so challenging teaching to two classrooms - one in person and one at home I feel I need to focus on the students in class during the time they are with me in the building, but know that the students at home lose focus. 4.5 ★★★★★ (26 👤)

I'm extremely overwhelmed w/ teaching the fully remote students, the cohort in front of me, and the cohort working from home. This plan is not working. The fully remote students deserve their own teacher. 4.5 ★★★★★ (25 👤)

It's very challenging doing two jobs at once...teaching in person and virtually. 4.4 ★★★★★ (16 👤)

Challenge: managing both students in the classroom and at home at the same time. It is near impossible to manage questions, confusion, comments, etc. with kids at home while simultaneously interacting and assisting kids in class. 4.3 ★★★★★ (22 👤)

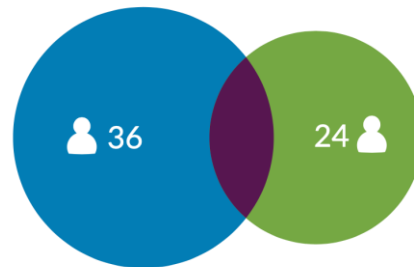
Simultaneously teaching students at home and in person is a challenge. While elementary class sizes in-person are smaller, which is a positive, teaching and maintaining engagement online is a challenge. 4.3 ★★★★★ (22 👤)

There is no real way to control what goes on when a student is remote regardless of how engaging we may try to be or how communicative. Students may be distracted and fatigued while home and there may be no one to refocus or redirect in those moments. 4.3 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



DIFFERENCES

Support, Class, Virtual [Side A: 36 | Side B: 24]



Side A

The student chromebooks are not **working well**. This is important because the students need to be on chromebook to use go guardian.

★ 4.8 ★ 1.5

It is **hard to get all the students to have their video on—with their whole face in the video**. It would be helpful to have regular “assemblies” (virtually) to reinforce rules and expectations. I think it would be worth the time.

★ 4.3 ★ 2.0

Side A/B Common (high)

We are doing the **job of three teachers in one**. We are doing beyond what other districts are being asked to do.

★ 4.9 ★ 5.0

The **teachers are already fried**. It won't sustain well. Remember what it was like to be a teacher before you make rules about attendance, monitoring work while out sick, drills, etc

★ 4.7 ★ 4.9

Side B

In addition to having so much more to **plan, we find out there are inconsistencies with times to leave the building. We need to leave by 4**. Other elementary schools are allowing teachers to stay longer even past 6. Trying to plan and prepare is extremely difficult.

★ 2.0 ★ 4.5



WRAP UP

Next Steps



Take Aways:

- Improve technology issues
- Develop and communicate clear processes and expectations
- Provide opportunities for social connection for students
- Provide continuing teacher training and support
- Minimize initiatives
- Protect planning time
- Attend to student and teacher wellness
- Consider full virtual teachers for full virtual elementary students
- Shift to Google Meet
- Consider ways to increase in person time for youngest learners