



Amphitheater School District Reopening

Special Governing Board Meeting

September 15, 2020

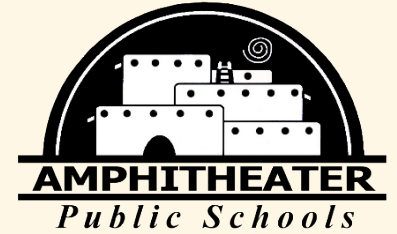


Meeting a complicated challenge

- Once in a century event.
- Unknowns and uncertainties abound and evolve.
- Divergent, even competing opinions and data.
- Recent events having impact.
- Parent needs for reopening of in-person school.
- Parent concerns about health and safety.
- Staff desires to reopen schools for in-person learning.
- Staff concerns about health and safety.
- Business and community needs for reopening.
- Social-emotional impacts of closure and the pandemic generally on students, staff, and community.
- Student desires to return to school, friends, activities.
- Student worries about their futures and opportunities.
- Digital access inequities – for students and staff.
- Food insecurities for students.
- Traumatic experiences for students.
- District funding at risk with decreased enrollment and attendance.
- Staff losses and shortage generally.



A Quick Review.)



- March 13 (a Friday): We left for Spring Break, to return Monday, March 23.
- March 15 (Sunday): Governor closes schools until March 27.
- March 23-27: Educational Enrichment Efforts begin.
- March 27: Legislation mandated rules and funding protections for schools
- March 30: Governor extends closure for rest of SY
- March 30: Online education begins.
- In the ensuing weeks, fluidity of the situation grew.
- May 4: Formation of a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Reopening in this school year
- Week of May 18: The school year ends; School to start Aug. 6
- June 29: Governor orders continuation of closure to Aug 17
- July 23: Governor directs that districts consider guidance from state and local health departments to determine how and when to reopen schools.



Amphitheater's Approach

The District weighed all of the factors—COVID numbers, health issues, wellbeing of children and adults, health needs, learning needs—and formulated what we believed to be the best plan for our community.

- 1 Opened school Aug. 10 in the “Remote by Necessity” model for all students who want to attend in-person school eventually.
- 2 Offered an “Online by Request” model for families who wish to remain in online school even after in-person school their children attend school in-person even when it does become available (approx. 800 students)
- 3 Stand ready for “In-Person Learning” when our public health officials advise it is safe to do so.

Choices for Families

Amphitheater Public Schools have given families choice to have their children attend school in person (when possible) or entirely online through the District.

1 In-person learning with health and safety measures in place

2 Online learning by request

1A: When school buildings are closed, this shifts to the “Remote Learning by Necessity” model.





Key Points to Remember

1

We must be flexible. We are prepared to make changes to this plan as necessary depending on the situation in our community, state, and nation.

2

Amphitheater will follow applicable orders or guidance issued by national, state and local leaders as they apply to the District and the reopening of schools.

3

Amphitheater's reopening plan is guided by the Arizona Department of Education's Roadmap for Reopening and CDC/AZDHS/PCHD public health guidelines for reopening.

4

Pima County has ordered everyone over 5 years old to wear a mask except when they cannot keep 6 feet of physical distancing (with some exceptions). District policy now echoes this.





Surveys: Main Takeaways

1

Health and safety are main concerns for families and staff.

4

Some families are in situations where they must have a remote schooling option.

2

Students need the consistency and support provided by in-person education.

5

Class sizes and the ability to provide social-distancing are common concerns for families and employees.

3

Most people are willing to wear masks and socially distance when possible if that means students can attend school in-person.

6

Finding solutions that work for everyone is impossible, no matter how hard we try.



Where do things stand now?

- We have been watching state and local (most relevant) data for indicators allowing us to resume in-person learning.
- After a period of indicators climbing in wrong direction, more recent weeks have shown declines (the right direction).
- State's reopening benchmarks: 3 of 3 met.
- County's reopening benchmarks – all yellow and green are required for partial (hybrid) opening; all green required for full in-person opening



ADHS Data for Pima

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-schools>

Select a county to filter the data.



What is this dashboard?

ADHS County-Level School Benchmarks
This dashboard is used to determine the level of community spread of COVID-19 in Arizona and assist with decision making for the types of delivery model schools may consider.

Time Frame

This dashboard does not look at the past two weeks due to potential lags in data.

Hover over the icon to get more information on the data in this dashboard.

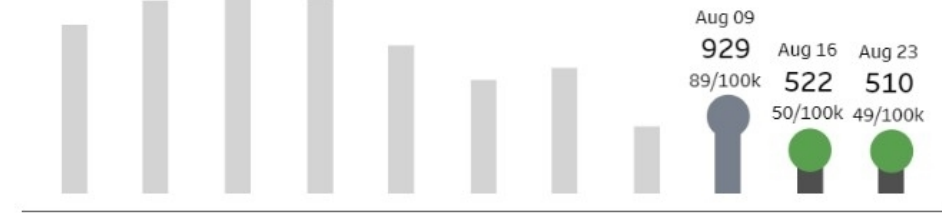


Date Updated: 9/10/2020

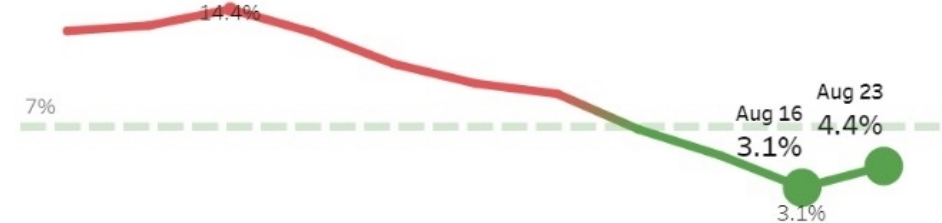
Showing data for **Pima County** (Southeastern Region)

Benchmark Met

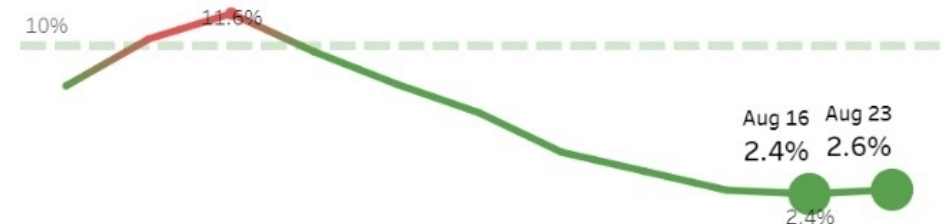
- 1 a) ☒ Decline in cases: **Met** OR
1 b) ☒ Less than 100 cases per 100,000 individuals for two consecutive weeks: **Met**



- 2) ☒ Two consecutive weeks with percent positivity below 7%: **Benchmark Met**



- 3) ☒ Two consecutive weeks with hospital visits for COVID-like illnesses in the region below 10%: **Benchmark Met**



PCHD Recommended Return to School Criteria

1. Disease Criteria

Cases over two consecutive weeks (with complete reporting of cases)

Percent Positivity

COVID-19 like illness

2. Healthcare Capacity Criteria

Lab Testing Availability and Utilization

Adequate hospital bed capacity to care for 2X the current COVID cases (+ surge) – Statewide

Sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Emergency Responders

3. Public Health Capacity Criteria

Timely case investigation

Testing of symptomatic contacts within 48 hours

Facilities/support for patients who can't be discharged home – Statewide

Criteria not met

Progress

Criteria met

Criteria not met

Progress

Criteria met

Criteria not met




Progress

Criteria met



Where do things stand now?

PCHD Indicators Summary

- 1 
- 7 
- 1 

Current metrics guide against reopening in any form presently. Metrics are expected to improve, however, and support potential *hybrid openings* very soon.

When all indicators are green: full reopening is possible.



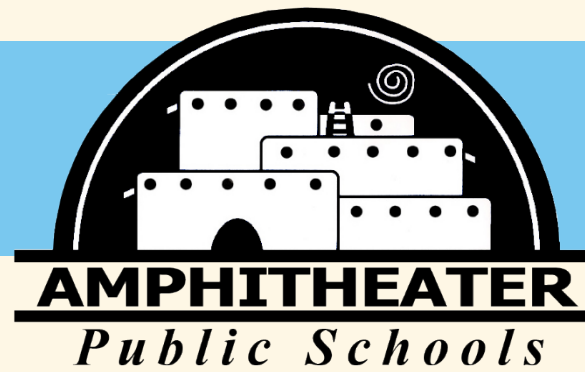
Full Reopening

- This agenda item originally proposed a full reopening after Amphi Fall Break (Oct. 12) based upon a trajectory of improving metrics.
- Recent local pandemic events have called the trajectory into question.
- PCHD advised yesterday that all metrics “going green” within the next few weeks will not happen; indeed, it appears that conditions will only support hybrid instruction for the entirety of October.
- Full in-person reopening on October 12 is not advised.
- Parent and Staff surveys conducted to assess interests and potential participation demonstrated that most intend to attend reopened schools as soon as possible.

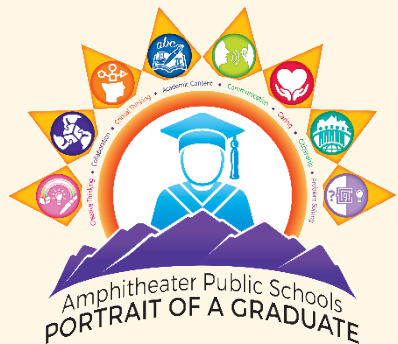
Recent Survey of Families and Staff

- To seek feedback on mitigation efforts and plan components
- Cleaning and Sanitation
- PPE/Health and Safety
- Contact Limitations
- Communication
- Transportation
- Food and Nutrition
- Individualized feedback on learning model(s) choices in event of full reopening for in-person learning on October 12





Family and Staff Surveys



Michelle Valenzuela
Director of Communications



Re-Opening Schools Surveys

We sent three surveys last week. Two were parent surveys—one for elementary school parents and one for middle and high school parents. The questions were the same, except for having content specific to school level. On the secondary survey, we added a question about extracurricular activities.

1,780 ➡ Elementary Family Survey

2,483 ➡ Secondary Family Survey

1,198 ➡ Employee Survey



About the surveys

Each survey contained information about mitigation measures the District plans to implement in several categories. The survey then asked participants to respond to a prompt. Example:

Please review the Cleaning and Sanitation measures that will be in place for reopening in-person learning and then respond to the prompt below.

- All desks and chairs will be cleaned after every class. Students may assist with the cleaning of their own desks. Teachers may spray, and students may wipe desks.
- Hand sanitizer and/or soap and water will be available in every classroom.
- Alcohol wipes will be available to sanitize computer keyboards and other devices.
- Rooms will be ventilated to the extent possible.
- Libraries and maker spaces will require hand-washing/sanitizing before entering.
- Libraries will set aside returned items for the time period recommended by the CDC before handling.
- A COVID-19 Response Team has been formed that can respond to a suspected case of COVID-19 to provide deep sanitizing of necessary areas.
- Additional custodial staffing and grounds-keeping duties for added cleaning of facilities and playground equipment (touchpoints).

Prompt: I am satisfied with the Cleaning and Sanitizing measures described.



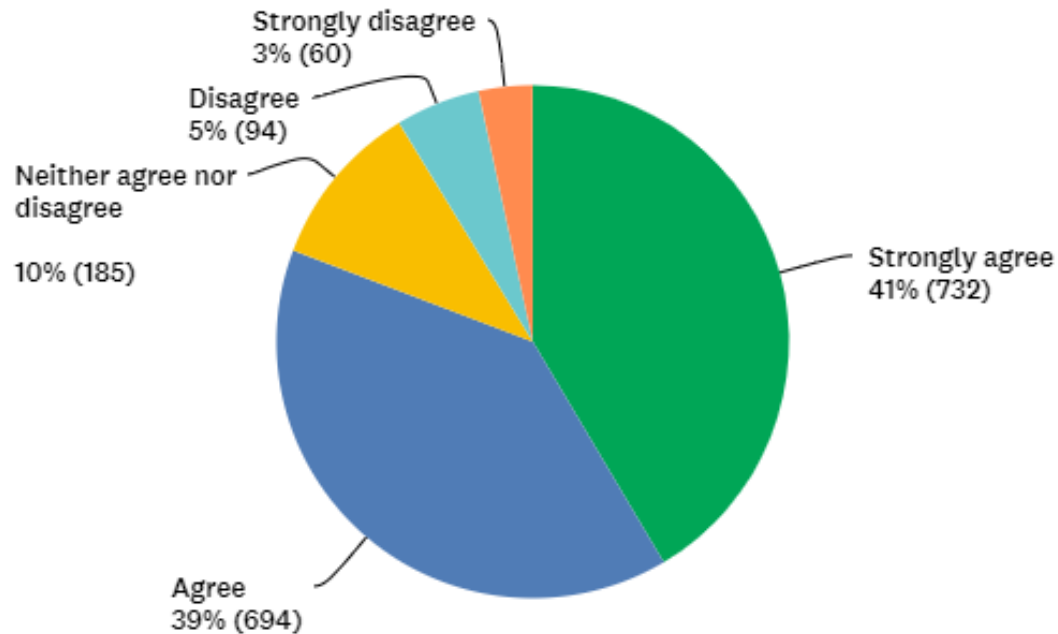
About the surveys

At the end of each survey, we asked a question about plans for the future. We asked parents about what type of learning model they expected to choose for their children, and we asked employees about their plans for their work.

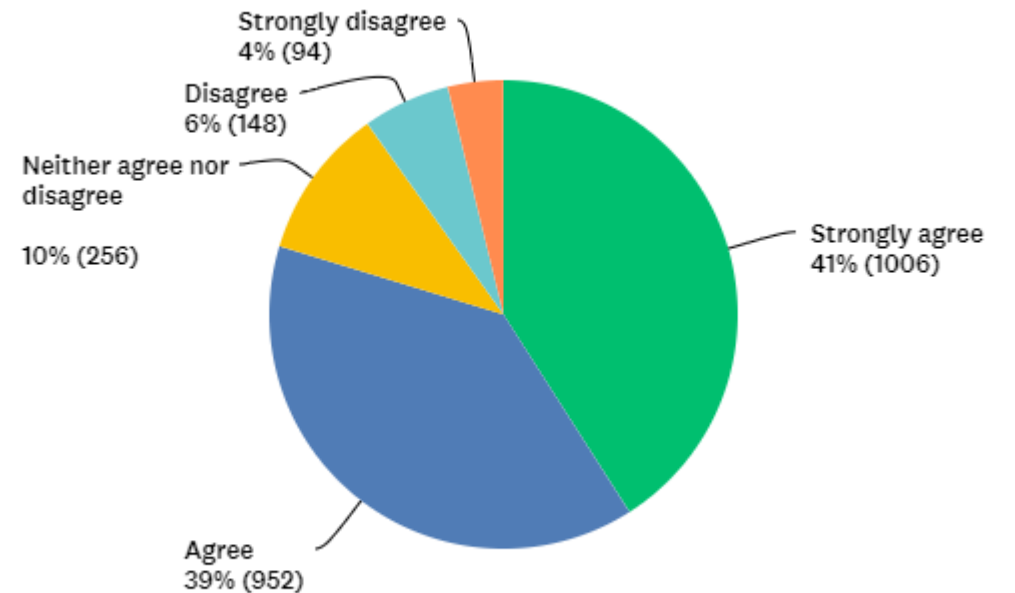
It's important to note that these surveys were not anonymous and that the answers were non-binding for families and employees.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Elementary Families

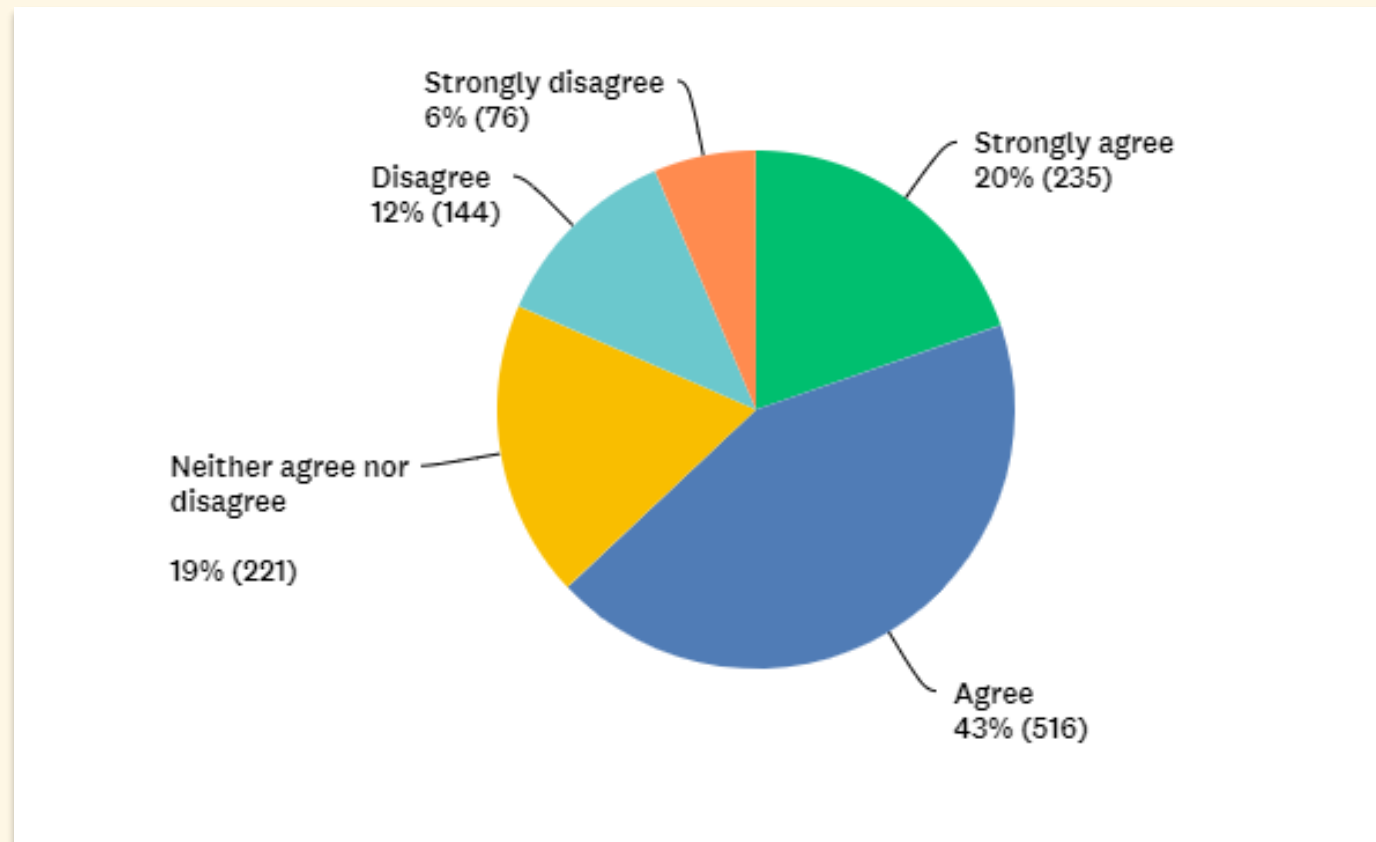


Secondary Families



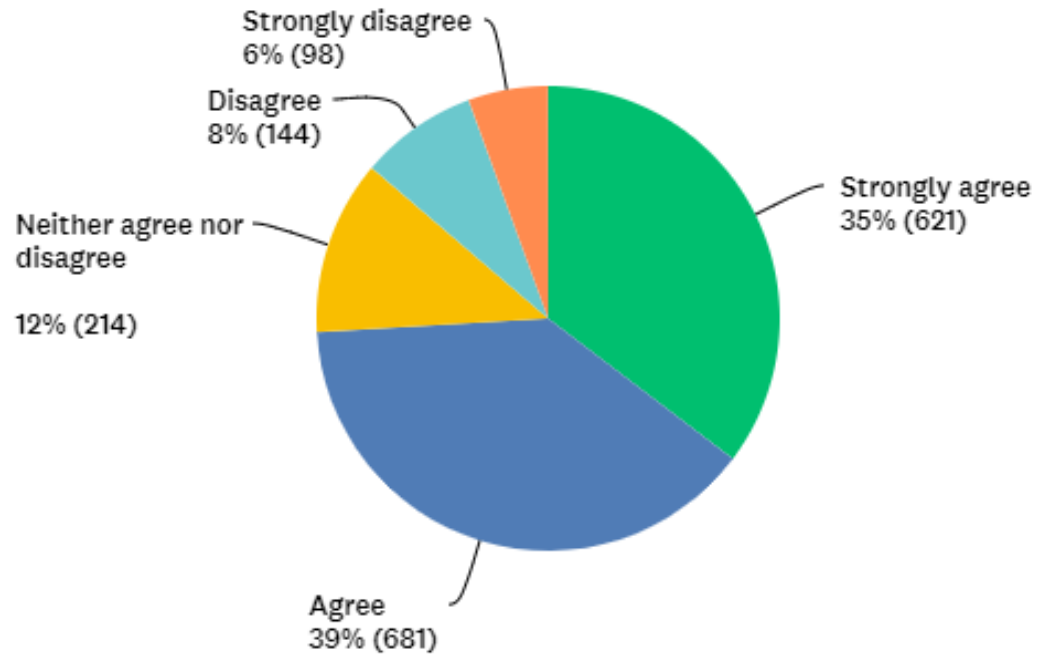
Cleaning and Sanitizing

Employees

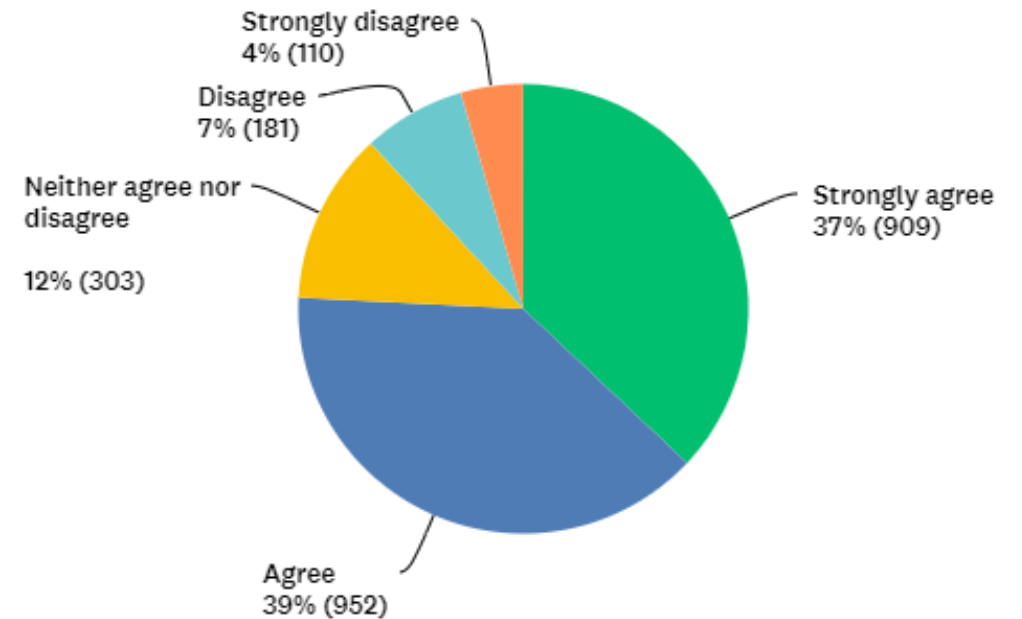


PPE/Health and Safety

Elementary Families

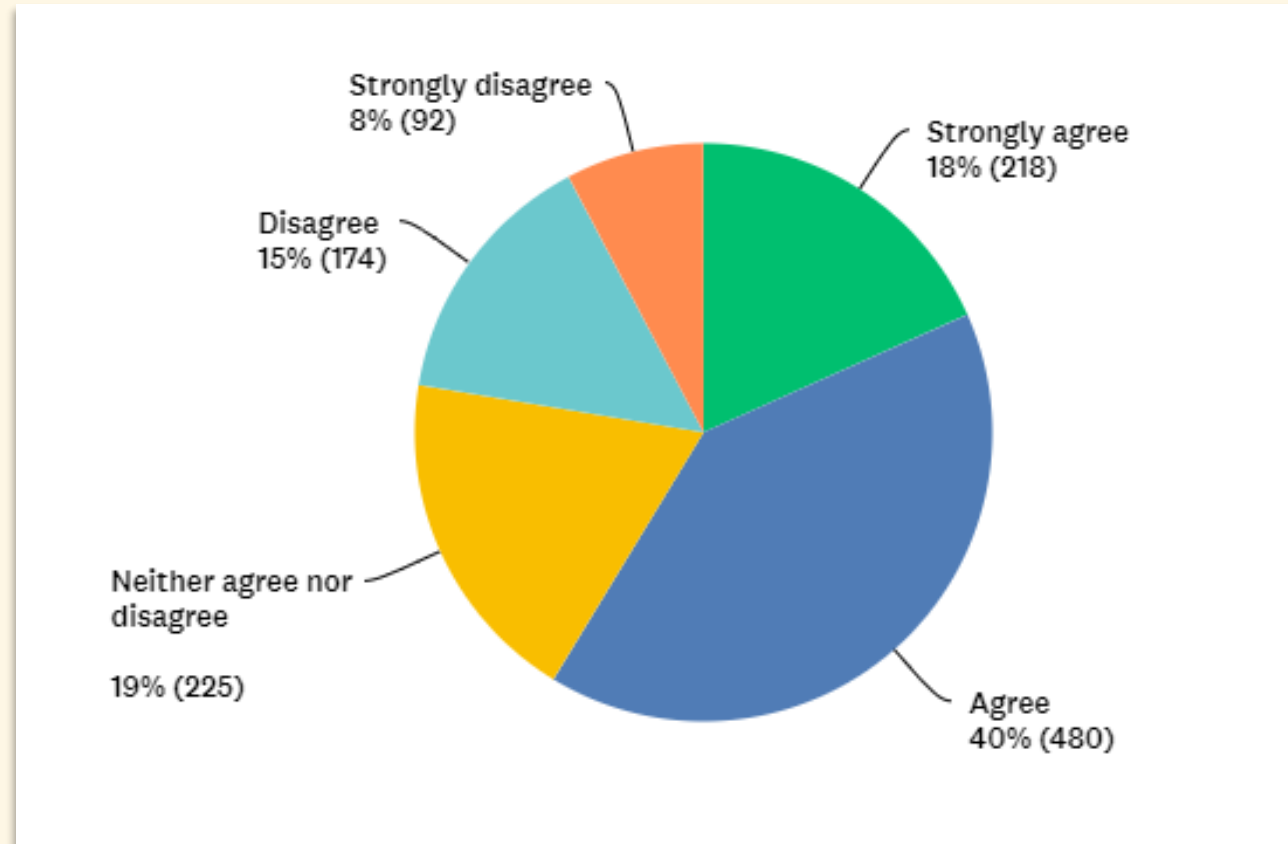


Secondary Families



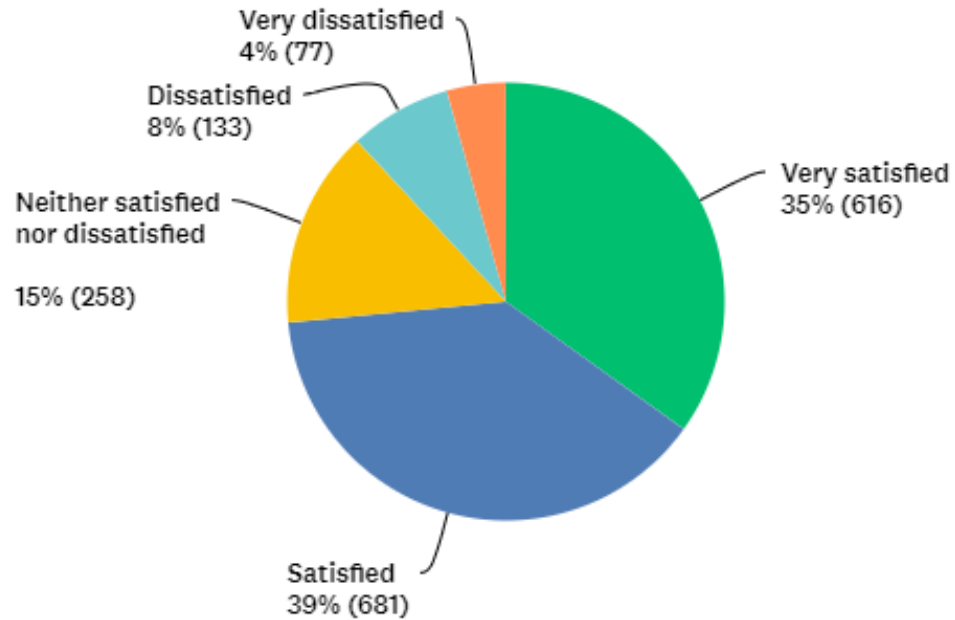
PPE/Health and Safety

Employees

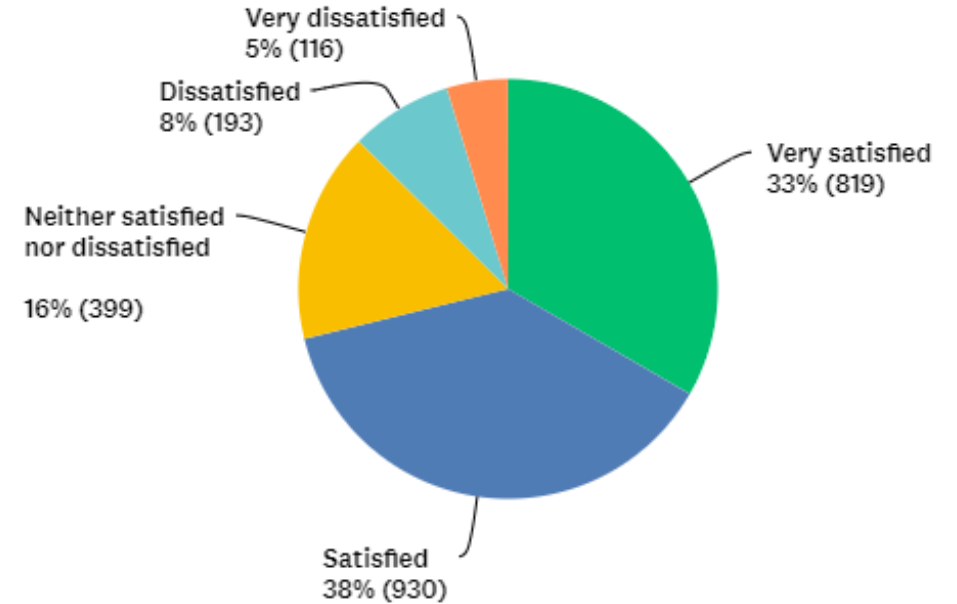


Contact Limiting

Elementary Families



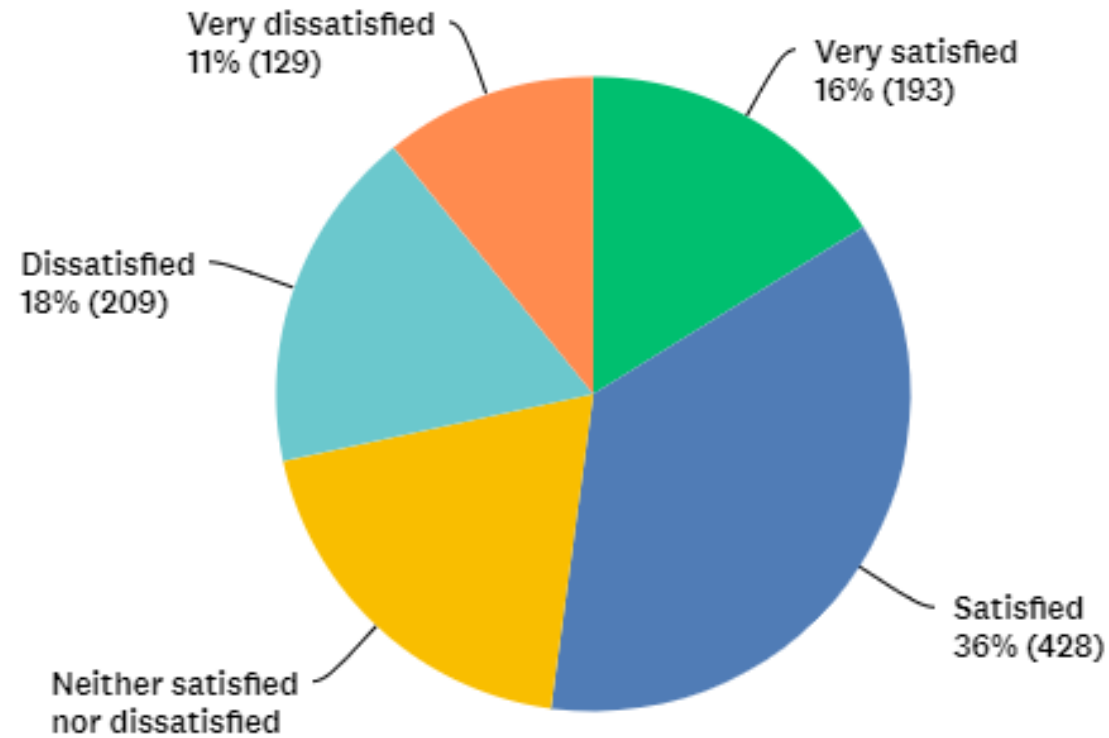
Secondary Families





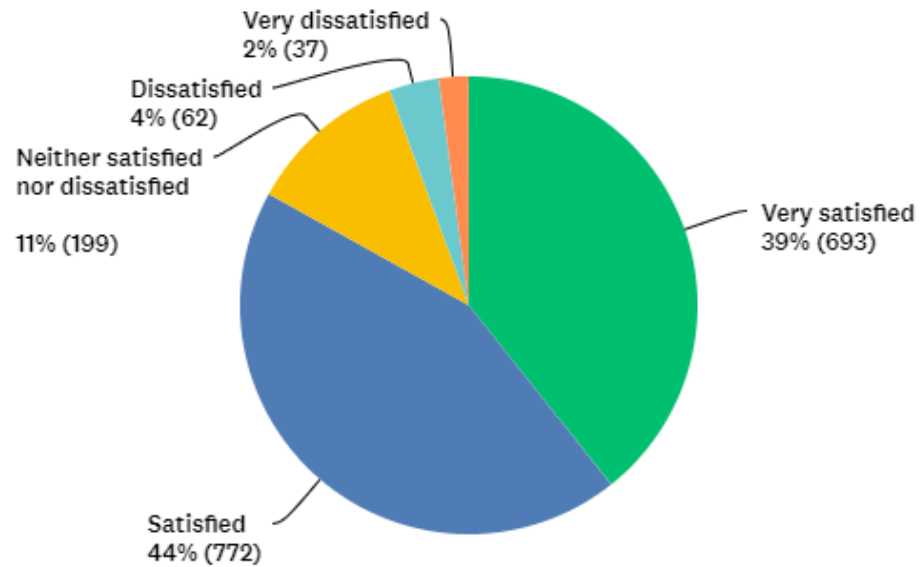
Contact Limiting

Employees

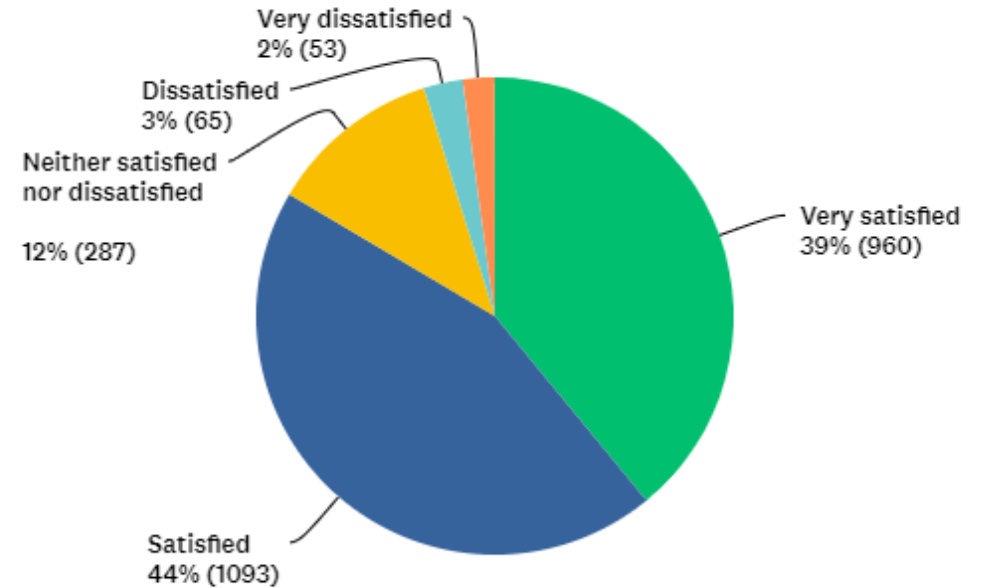


Communication

Elementary Families

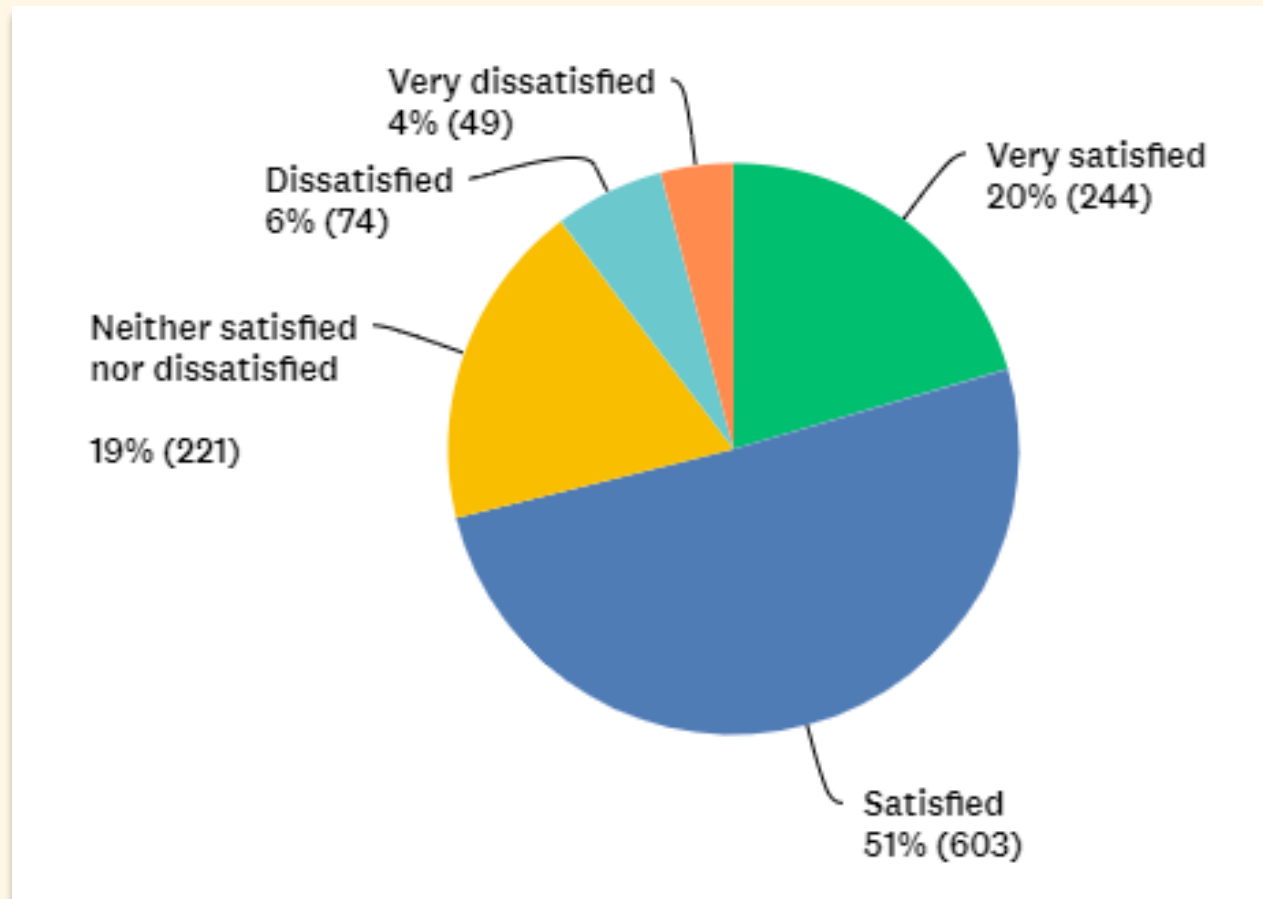


Secondary Families



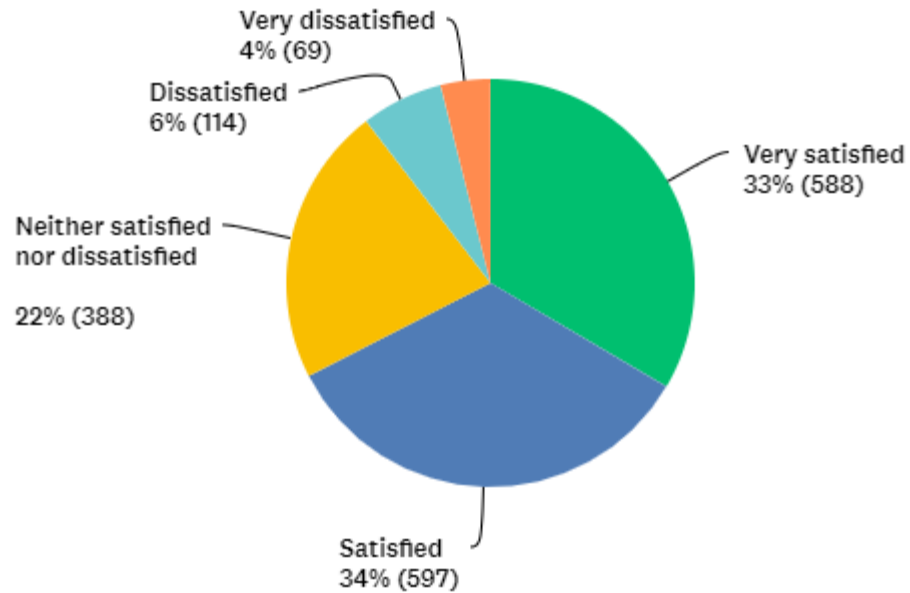
Communication

Employees

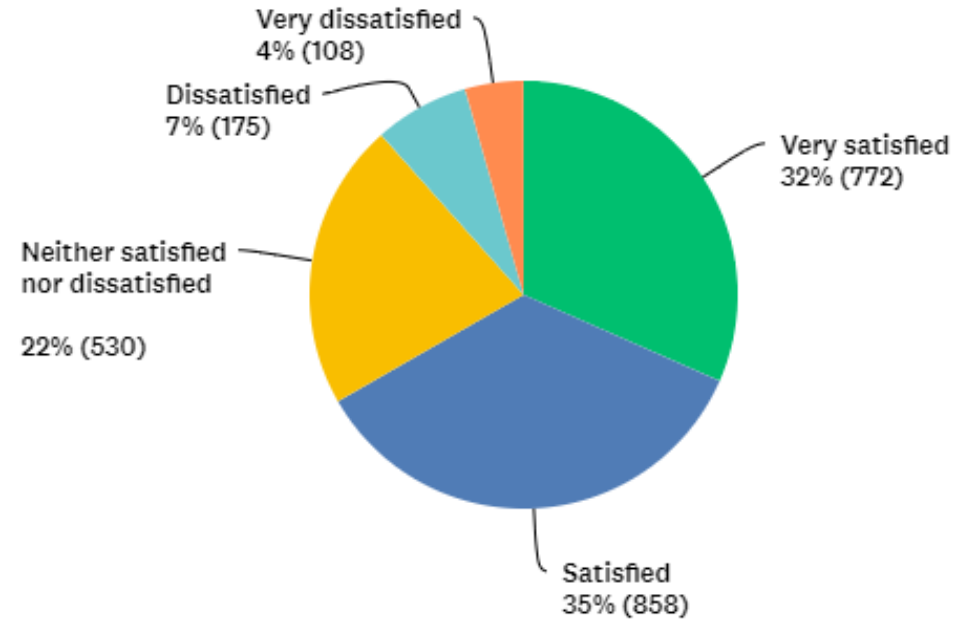


Transportation

Elementary Families



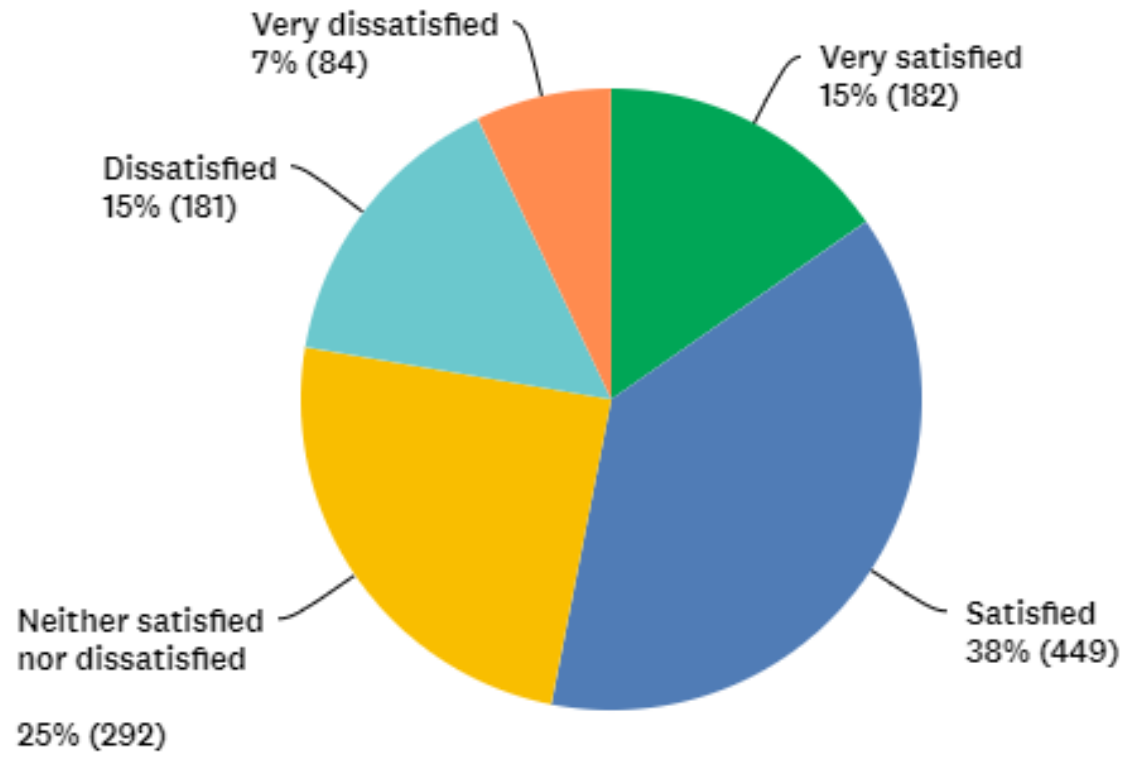
Secondary Families





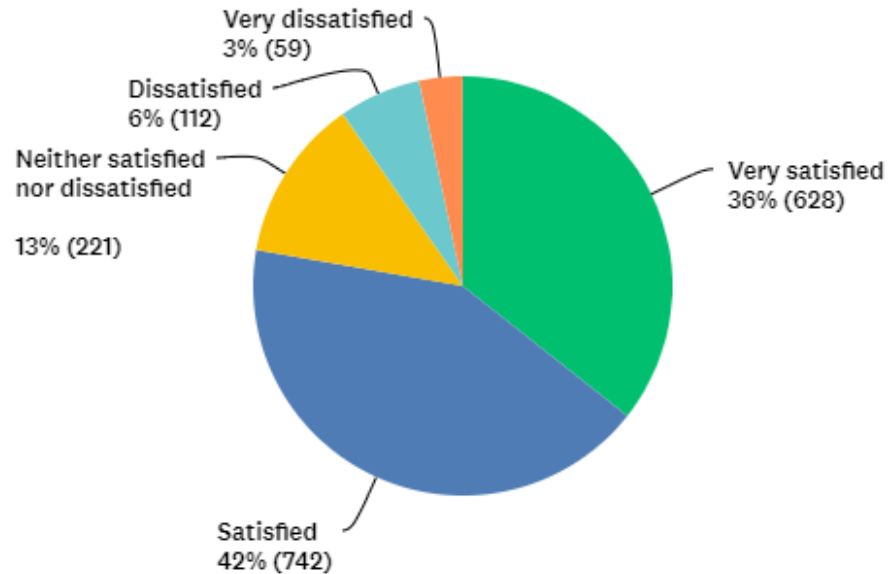
Transportation

Employees

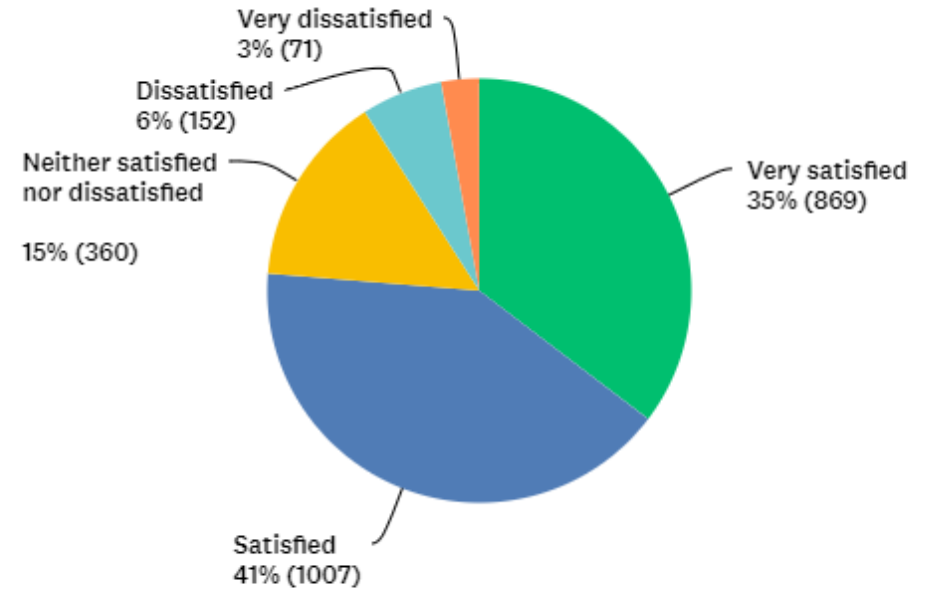


Food and Nutrition

Elementary Families



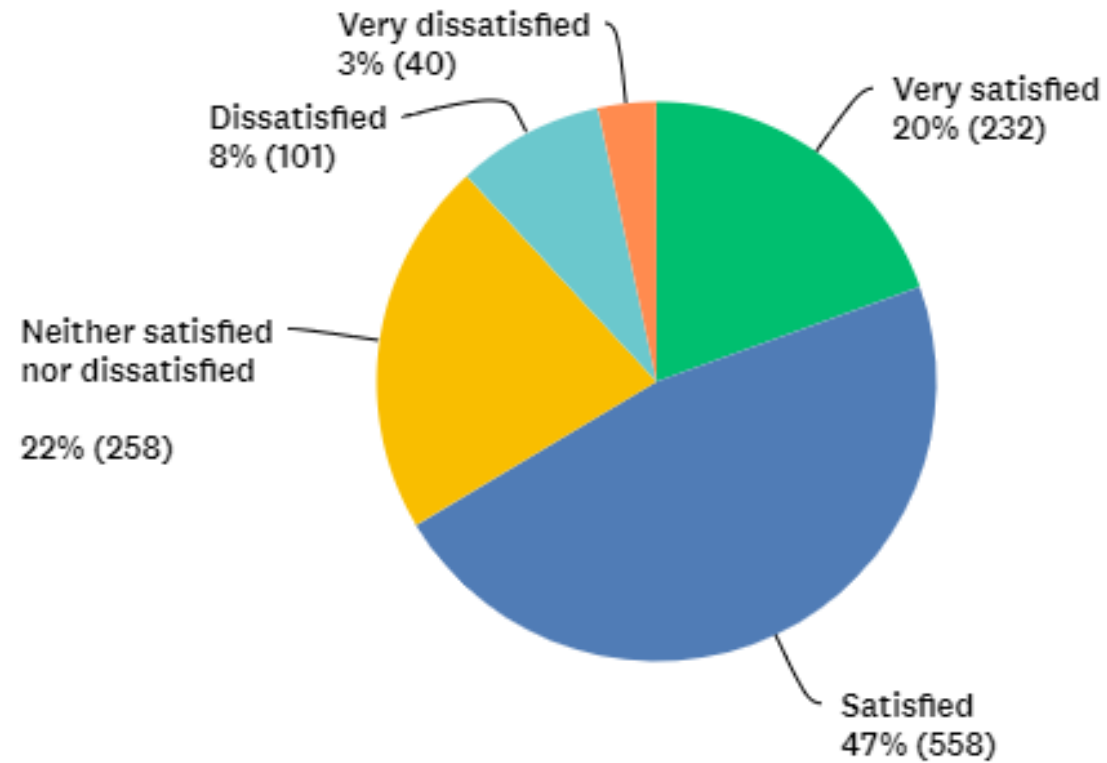
Secondary Families





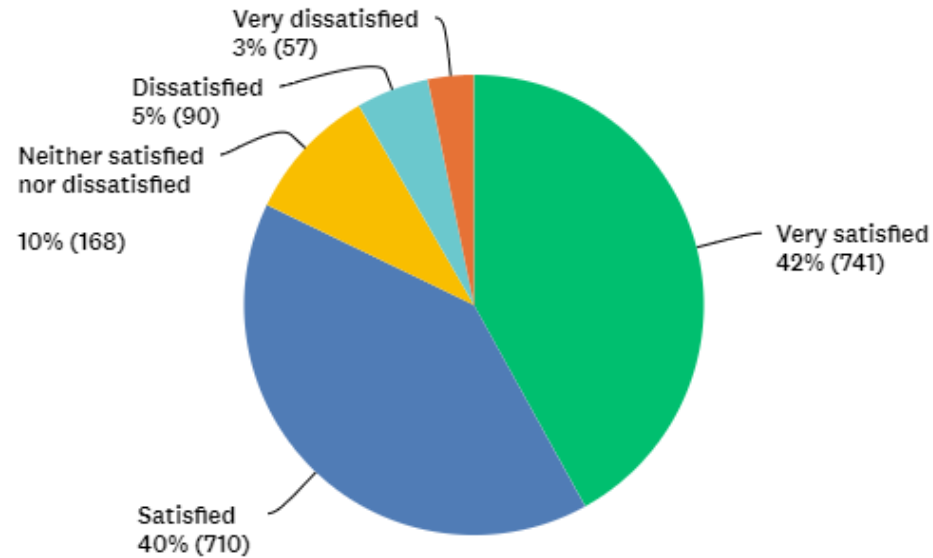
Food and Nutrition

Employees

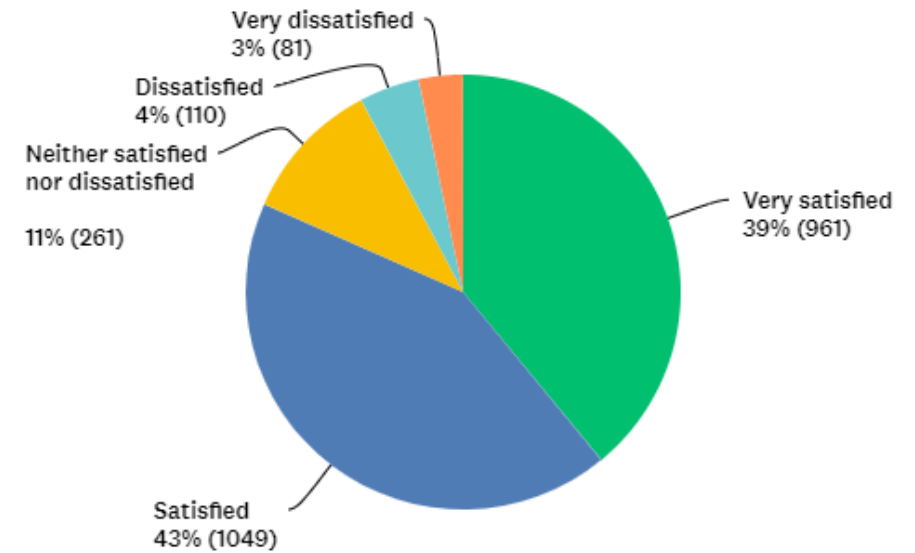


Education Services

Elementary Families



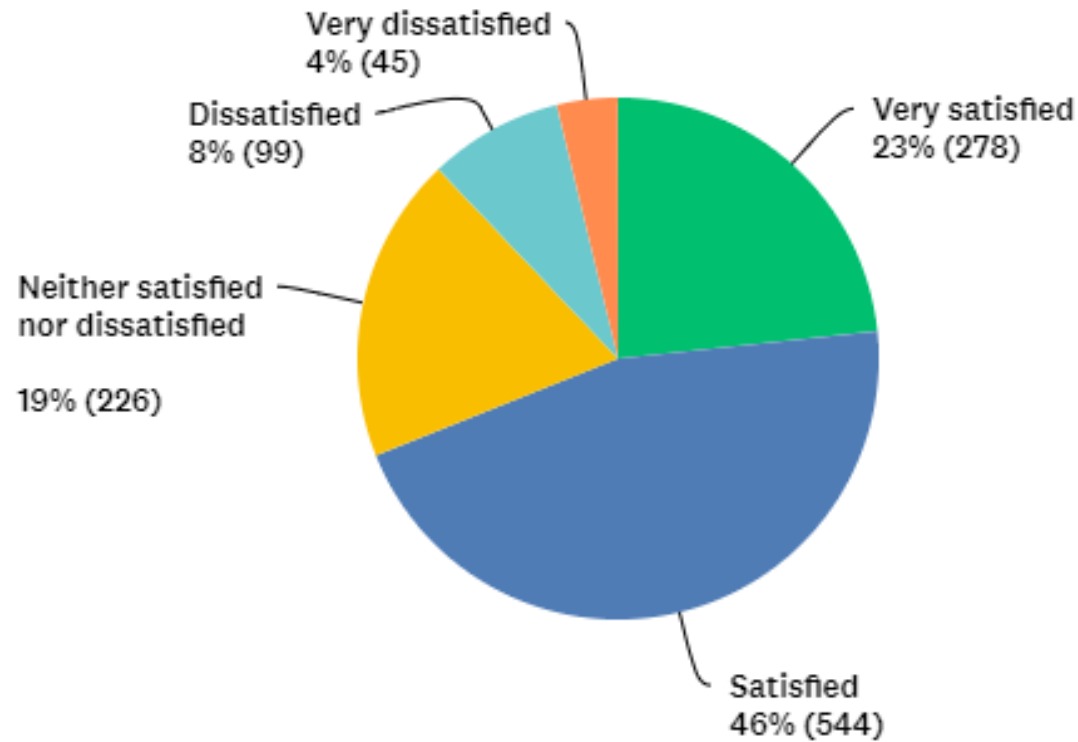
Secondary Families





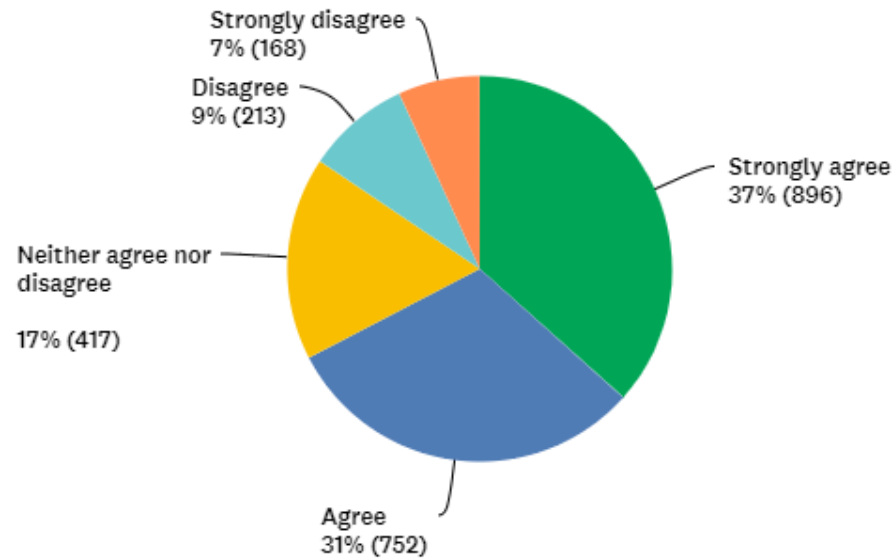
Education Services

Employees

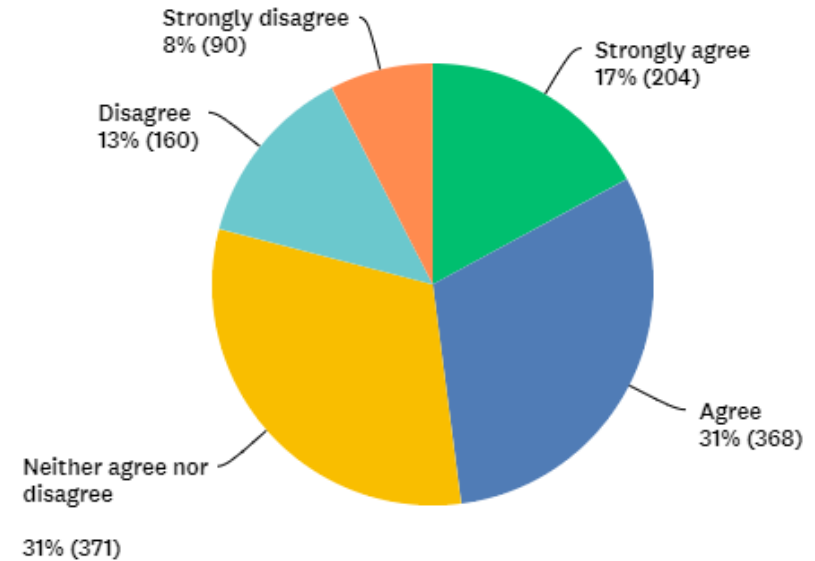


Extracurricular Activities

Secondary Families



Employees





Elementary Family Survey

Q: Please choose the option that best describes your plans for your children. This is for our information as we plan. Your answer will not impact your student's current learning option.

ANSWER CHOICES ▾	RESPONSES ▾	
▼ My children are enrolled in the Remote by Necessity model and will return to school in-person on Oct. 1 (for kindergarten, first grade and self-contained special education students) or Oct. 12 as the District is currently planning.	64%	1,132
▼ My children are enrolled in the Amphi Academy Online and will remain in full-time online learning.	6%	114
▼ My children are enrolled in the Amphi Academy Online but wish to change to in-person learning on Oct. 1 (for kindergarten, first grade and self-contained special education students) or Oct. 12 as the District is currently planning.	5%	90
▼ My children are enrolled the Remote by Necessity model but wish to change to the Amphi Academy Online.	4%	72
▼ I plan to move my children out of the District.	1%	9
▼ I am not sure.	20%	356
TOTAL	1,773	

[Comments \(327\)](#)



Secondary Family Survey

Q: Please choose the option that best describes your plans for your children. This is for our information as we plan. Your answer will not impact your student's current learning option.

ANSWER CHOICES ▾	RESPONSES ▾	
▾ My children are enrolled in the Remote by Necessity model and will return to school in-person on Oct. 12 as the District is currently planning.	66%	1,636
▾ My children are enrolled in the Amphi Academy Online and will remain in full-time online learning.	5%	120
▾ My children are enrolled in the Amphi Academy Online but wish to change to in-person learning on Oct. 12 as the District is currently planning.	4%	108
▾ My children are enrolled the Remote by Necessity model but wish to change to the Amphi Academy Online.	4%	102
▾ I plan to move my children out of the District.	0%	7
▾ I am not sure.	20%	492
TOTAL	2,465	

[Comments \(463\)](#)



Employee Survey

Q: Please choose the option that best describes your plans for your children. This is for our information as we plan. Your answer will not impact your student's current learning option.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I plan to work in my normal work assignment.	75.96%	910
I plan to resign when the students return.	0.58%	7
I'm a teacher and would like to apply for a position with Amphi Academy Online if one becomes available.	1.42%	17
I plan to request an extension of my current leave of absence for as long as possible.	0.33%	4
I plan to use my available paid leave balances to be away from work as long as possible.	1.00%	12
I am unsure.	20.70%	248
TOTAL	1,198	

[Comments \(281\)](#)



How do we reopen?

- Reopening is an absolute priority, but it must be done safely and in accordance with guidance from our public health systems.
- A quarter of the school year has been conducted online, and a majority of our students and parents want to return to school as soon as possible.
- We now know that full in-person reopening after Amphi Fall Break (Oct. 12) will not be possible.
- Hybrid Model: previously considered for the start of school but discounted at the time, because of health conditions which did not support its implementation and other factors.
- The learning needs of our children must be the primary consideration so long as the safety of all can be assured.
- A hybrid model, while not perfect, can strike the balance.



Survey

Q

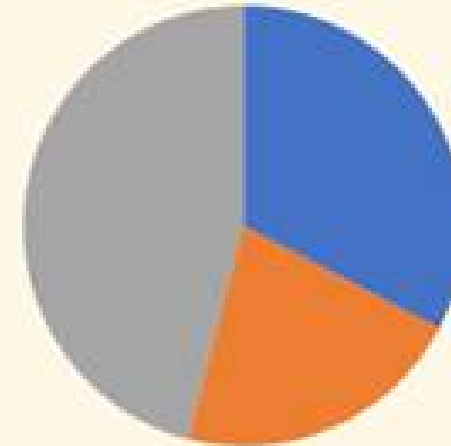
We asked families and employees which of the three models described by The Arizona Department of Education they would prefer.

Families



- Students attend school in-person full time with safety measures in place
- Students attend school remotely
- Students have an option of some in-person and some remote instruction

Employees



- Students attend school in-person full time with safety measures in place
- Students attend school remotely
- Students have an option of some in-person and some remote instruction

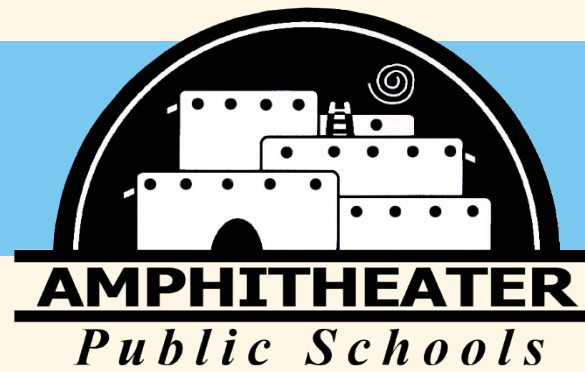
In a survey conducted in July, 43.38% of families wanted full-time in-person instruction when school resumed with safety measures in place; 41.89% wanted hybrid instruction (some remote and some in-person). Only 14.73% desired remote instruction exclusively.



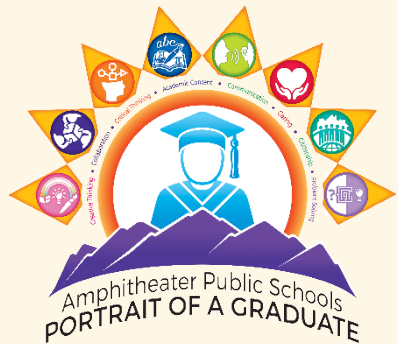
What are other Districts doing?

Status of Public School District Instructional Activity		
School District	Instructional	Target Date
Ajo Unified	Hybrid	10/7/2020
Altar Valley Elementary	Hybrid	10/19/2020
Baboquivari Unified	Board will decide on remote, hybrid, or in-person	10/7/2020
Catalina Foothills Unified	Remote	Pending
Continental Elementary	Hybrid	9/10/2020
Flowing Wells	Hybrid	10/5/2020
Marana Unified	Hybrid	10/19/2020
Pima Accomodation District	Hybrid	8/31/2020
Sahuarita Unified	Hybrid	9/17/2020
San Fernando Elementary	in-Person	10/12/2020
Sunnyside Unified	Hybrid	10/15/2020
Tanque Verde Unified	Hybrid	10/19/2020
Tucson Unified	Hybrid	10/19/2020
Vail Unified	Hybrid	9/21/2020

Data reported by PCHD as of 9-14-20



School Hybrid Reopening Plans



Dr. Roseanne Lopez, Associate Superintendent for Elementary Education
Michael Bejarano, Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education





Possible Elementary Hybrid Model

All students are assigned to Cohort #1 or Cohort #2.

- **Monday and Thursday** (Cohort #1 for each grade level and classroom attends school all day; assignments issued for the next day for remote learning)
- **Tuesday and Friday** (Cohort #2 for each grade level and classroom attends school all day; assignments issued for the next day for remote learning)
- **Wednesday** all students are home for online learning. Teachers schedule small group instruction as needed for acceleration, intervention, etc.

What would elementary school like?



- Classes will be half their current size
- Students will be seated as far apart as possible
- Students will wear masks
- Lunch tables and seating will be at least six feet apart, students will eat with their [grade level cohort](#)
- Students will have their own supplies
- Students will wash or sanitize their hands regularly during the day, especially when transitioning to a different location as a cohort
- Students will go to recess
- Students will go straight to class in the morning in order to stay with their [grade level cohort](#)
- Classes will be led to bus lines and the lunch room in lines, six feet apart
- Parents and non-program volunteers will not be allowed on campus



Cohorts: How they help contain the spread....



- Elementary students will be contained in their **grade level cohort** throughout the school day.
- Students will eat lunch with their grade level peers, have recess with grade level peers, and will not interact with children in other grade levels to the extent possible.
- WHY?: Containment of potential outbreaks of COVID-19.





Mondays	A – L (In Person) Cohort #1
	M – Z (Remote Learning Assignments on software, projects, reading, math practice) Cohort #2
Tuesdays	A – L (Remote learning assignments on software, projects, reading, math practice) Cohort #1
	M – Z (In Person) Cohort #2
Wednesdays	Zoom Live / Remote Learning Assignments on software/other
Thursdays	A – L (In Person) Cohort #1
	M – Z (Remote learning assignments on software, projects, reading, math practice) Cohort #2
Fridays	A – L (Remote learning assignments on software, projects, reading, math practice) Cohort #1
	M – Z (In Person) Cohort #2

Elementary Hybrid Schedule

*Specialists schedules will be modified/rotated



Elementary Hybrid Models: Pros

- Reduces class size by half
- Increases the ability to social distance
- Reduces number of students in hallways, cafeterias and buses
- Students are in school in person for part of the week
- Students get to see some of their friends, their teacher, and other staff members in person
- Students receive more direct instruction from their teacher than under the current model
- Helps students with issues related to isolation
- Students who need in person assistance can get the assistance



Elementary Hybrid Models: Cons

- Teachers must teach in person and online in some form throughout the week resulting in a heavier workload (e.g., lesson planning for remote learning and lesson/activity planning for in-person learning)
- Young children would work 2-3 days per week on online software and packet work without teacher “ZOOM” lessons
- Maintaining continuity of instruction will be challenging
- Reduction in content taught
- Working parents may find it difficult to find childcare with a hybrid schedule
- If in childcare on off days, could bring the virus to school from the daycare
- Logistical challenges for families with students spread across multiple grade levels and schools
- May require more teaching staff
- Requires parent or caregiver involvement
- Specialists and extracurricular activities will need to alter schedules



What would Secondary School look like?



Mondays	A – L (In Person)
	M – Z (Google Classroom)

Tuesdays	A – L (Google Classroom)
	M – Z (In Person)

Wednesdays	Zoom Live / Google Classroom
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Thursdays	A – L (In Person)
	M – Z (Google Classroom)

Fridays	A – L (Google Classroom)
	M – Z (In Person)

- Siblings with different last names could attend school, in-person, based on the older sibling's last name
- Students in Student Services programs would attend school, in-person, daily to ensure compliance with IEPs

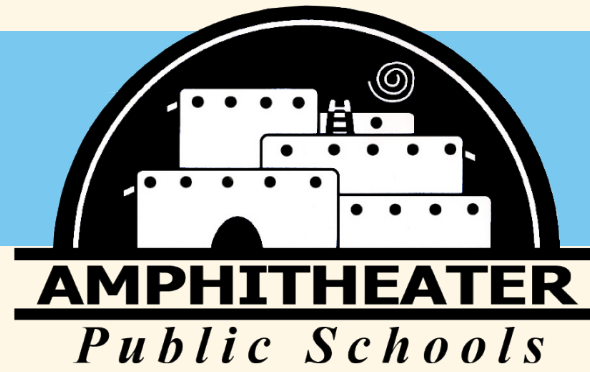


Secondary Hybrid Models: Pros

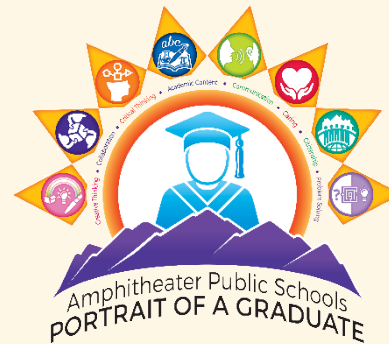
- Time for smaller groups of students to acclimate to new procedures
- Reduce the number of physical interactions by limiting the number of students on campus and on buses
- Increase the opportunity to provide proper social distancing
- Reduce overcrowded classrooms, hallways, cafeteria/MPR and common areas. Management of students in these shared spaces will be more effective Increase opportunities for teachers to provide 1:1 support to students as they transition back to campus
- Continued to use of Zoom and Google Classroom allows for smoother transition back to Remote Learning by Necessity if needed
- Attendance can be taken using same practices currently used in Remote Learning by Necessity Allows for flexibility
- Transition is easier for students as they are currently utilizing synchronous and asynchronous learning
- Allows teachers to provide consistent Tier I and Tier II interventions
- Students can benefit from technology on campus
- Another option for parents as online learning has proven to be difficult

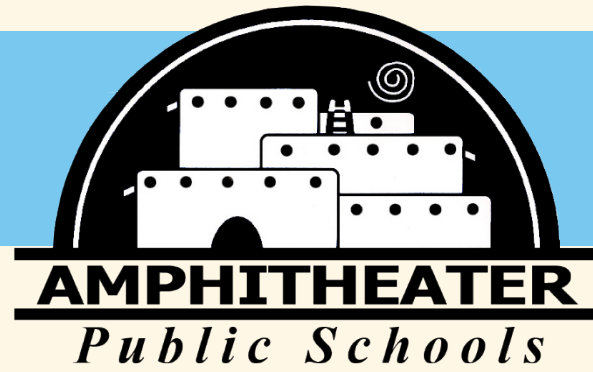
Secondary Hybrid Models: Cons

- Additional commitment by staff to prepare lessons and provide meaningful instruction to two groups of students on a daily basis
- Possible loss of instructional minutes and ADM
- Providing support and instruction for students without technology
- Requires teachers to take attendance for online and in-person students
- Families with multiple age children who rely on older children to care for younger siblings will have a difficulty time if schedules are different
- Students who have trouble with time management may struggle with keeping track of synchronous and asynchronous learning
- Chromebooks that are assigned to students away from campus are not available to students on campus
- Transportation for students participating in extra-curricular activities



Concluding Remarks





Questions?

