

**Shared Key  
Interests**

1. Advance student learning, achievement, and success by keeping it at the heart and as the filter for our decision making.

2. Utilize research-based curricula that reflects 21st Century themes and applications and are responsive to the needs and potential of all students, preparing them for a global society.

3. Provide real-life, diverse learning opportunities with practical applications in the classroom and beyond.

4. Inform and engage the community in shaping educational strategy and formulating responses to change.

5. Attract, retain, and develop a high quality, diverse, creative, and innovative workforce of leaders.

6. Provide safe, secure, flexible, inviting, and well-maintained environments that nurture student well-being and enhance teaching and learning.

7. Identify, integrate, and expand technology to foster adaptability and maximize learning for all.

8. Foster mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations that expand learning opportunities and resources.

**Wausau School District**

Board of Education Meeting Agenda

In Compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law

Public Notice s.19.84 (3)  
Exemptions s.19.85

Tricia Zunker, President  
Ka Lo, Clerk

**A Special Meeting of the BOARD OF EDUCATION will be held in the Wausau East High School Auditorium, 2607 N. 18th Street, Wausau, WI 54403 at 5:00 PM or immediately following the previous meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021.**

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I. Call to Order

II. Project Relaunch Update (**Action Requested**)

2

III. Adjourn

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NOTICE POSTED: Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 9:00 am

By: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE SENT TO:

WSAU WSAW-TV WAOW-TV WJFW-TV CITY PAGES WAUSAU PILOT & REVIEW SCHOOLS  
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# CAN THE WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFELY RETURN SECONDARY STUDENTS to SCHOOL FOUR DAYS PER WEEK?

1/25/2021

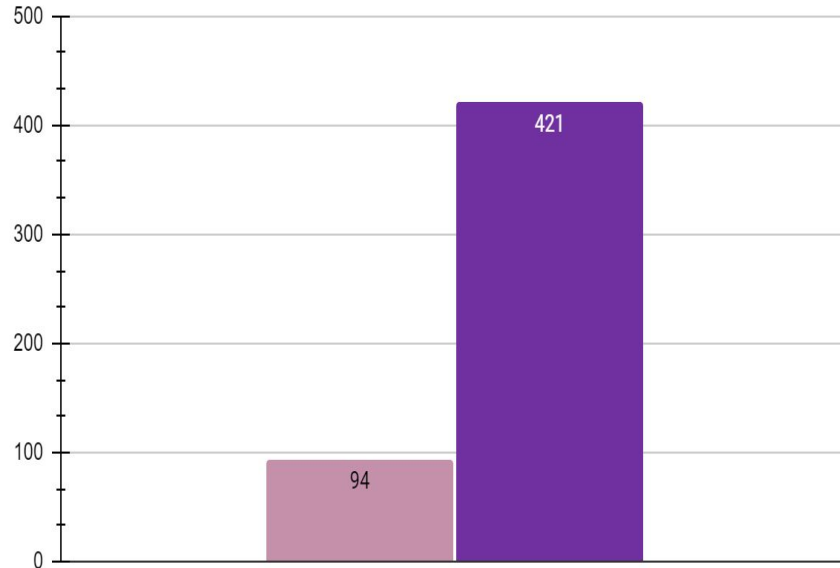
“The Mission of the Wausau School District is to Advance Student Learning, Achievement and Success.”



# How Did Secondary Students Achieve First Semester?

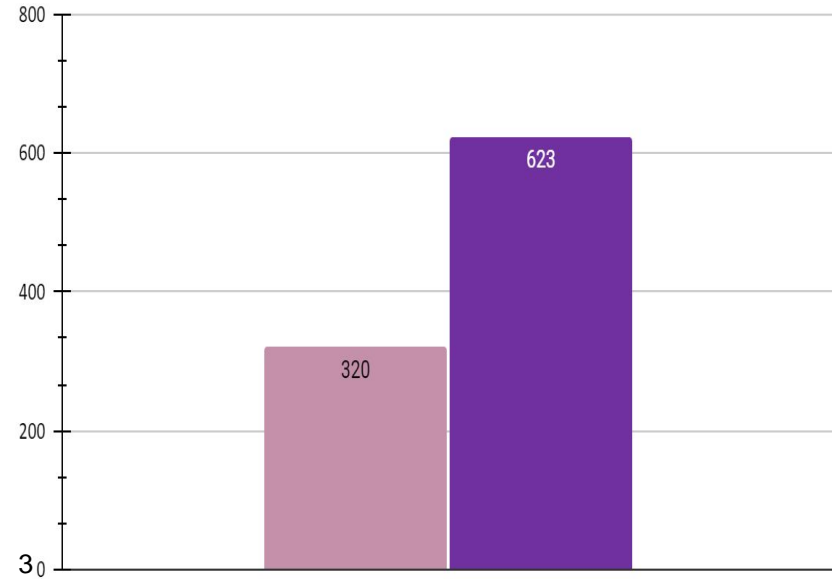
## # of Middle School Students with F's

S1 2019 S1 2020



## # of High School Students with F's

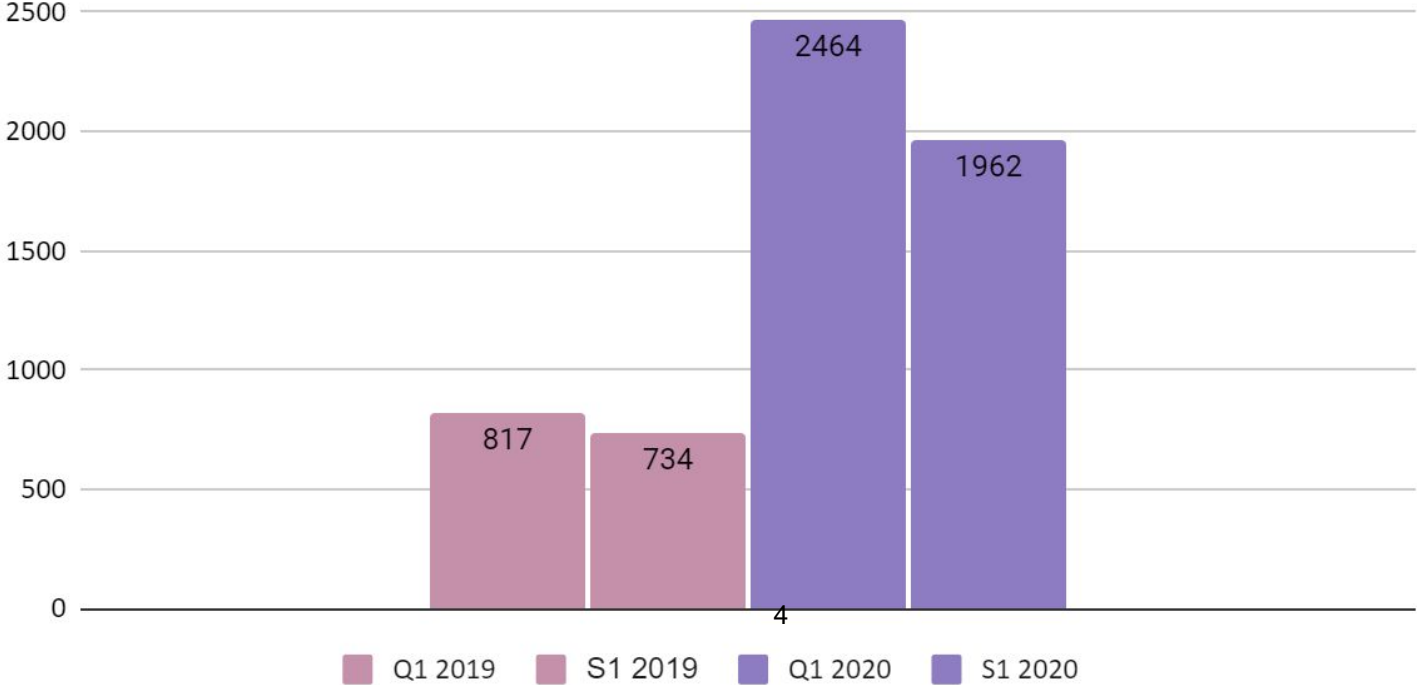
S1 2019 S1 2020





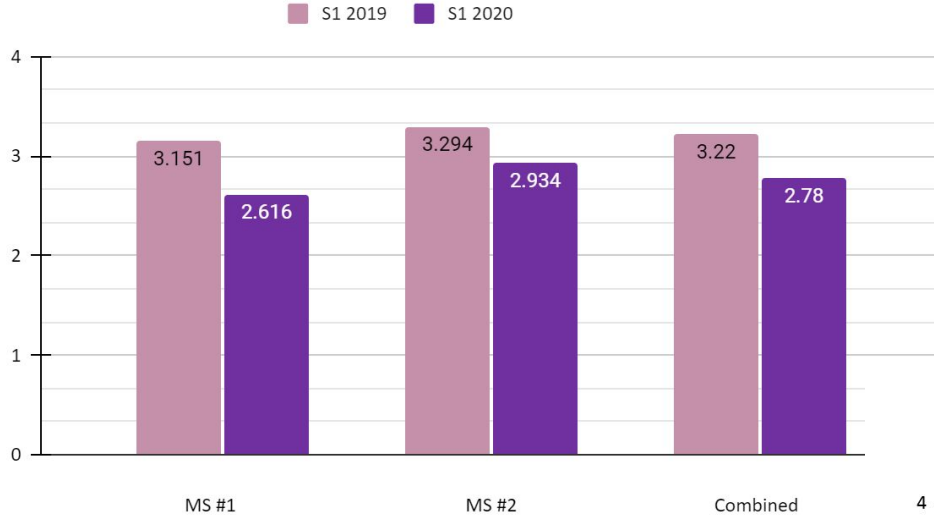
# # of F's at High Schools

Quarter & Semester 2019 vs. Quarter & Semester 2020

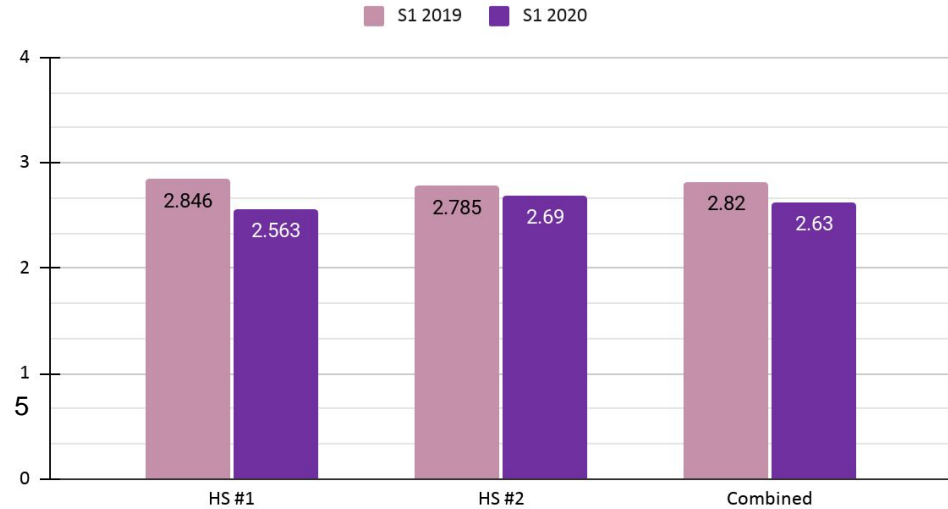




## Middle School GPA Comparison (4.0 = A)

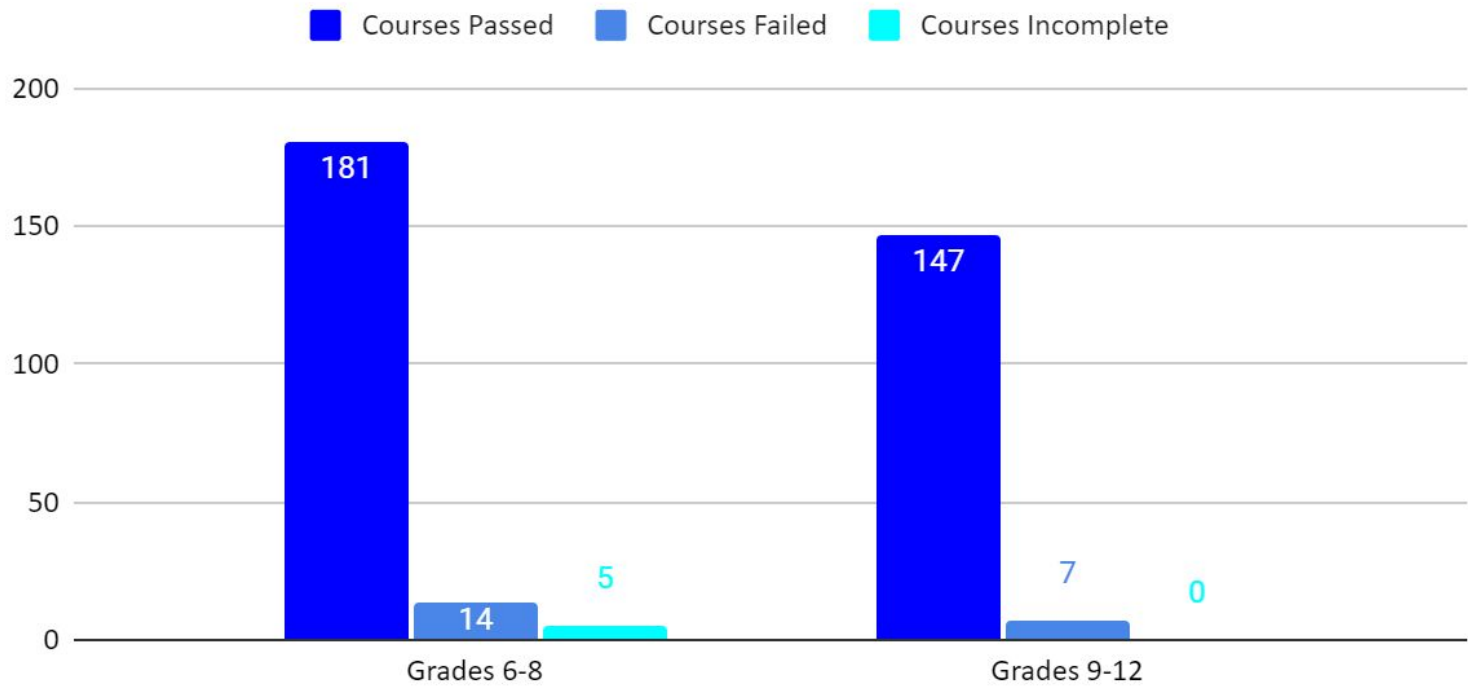


## High School GPA Comparison (4.0 = A)





# WAVE Full-Time Student Data by Course, Semester 1



6

**MS = 91% (181) Passed, HS = 95% (147) Passed**



# What Feedback did Secondary Certified Staff Share?

276 Staff of 311 (88% response rate) responded to a survey asking about next steps.

Yes, having students in school more often will help students succeed.

I feel safe now, but will feel less safe if we reduce the distance between students.

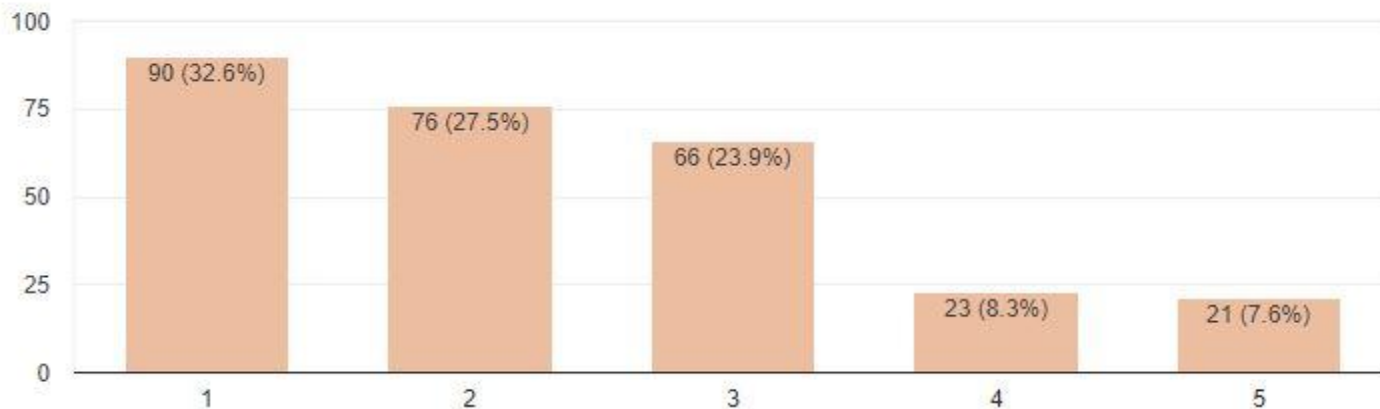
I would like to wait until after we have been vaccinated to bring more students in.



# Can We Help More Students Succeed?

Allowing students who choose in-person learning to attend school four days every week will allow more students to be more successful.

276 responses



8

Strongly Agree

Data from Staff Survey 1-22-21

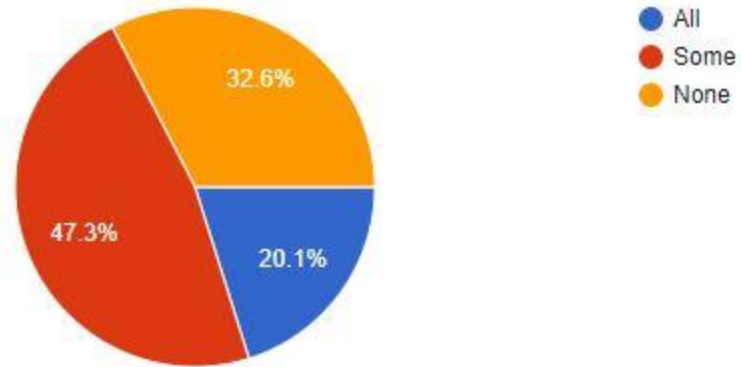
Strongly Disagree



# What are the Risks?

If all your current in-person students attended four days every week, in how many classes could you maintain 6 feet of social distance between students?

273 responses

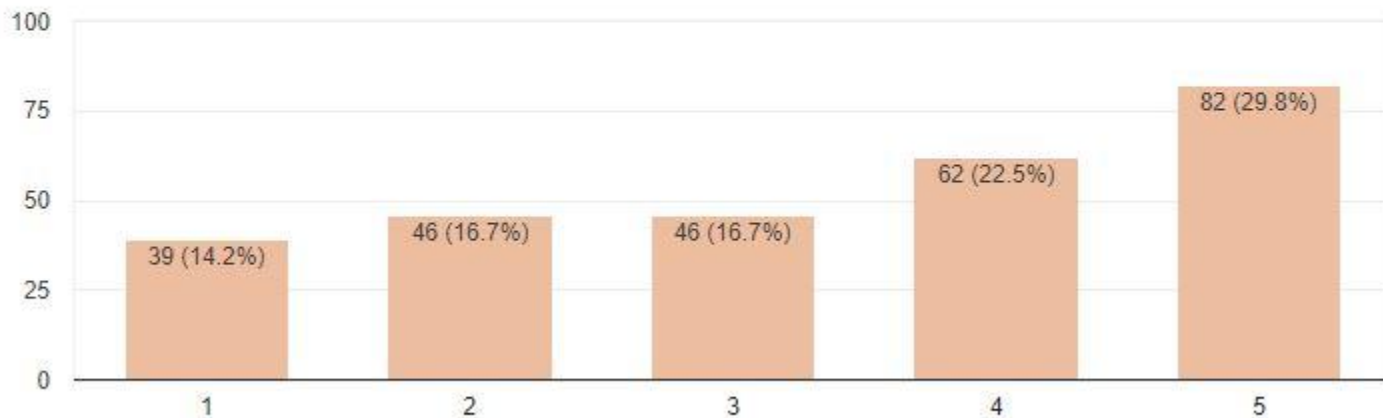




# What are the Risks?

If students are less than 6 feet apart in my classroom, office or other workspace, I would be able to maintain 6 feet of social distance from students and other staff.

275 responses



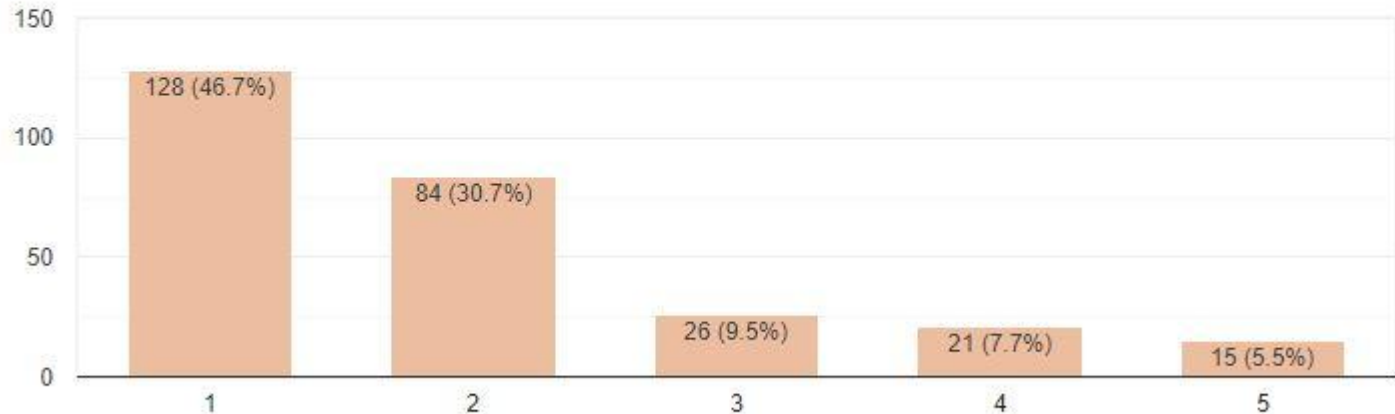


# What are the Risks?

I feel relatively safe in our current learning situation with secondary students in Group A alternating in-person attendance with students in Group B.



274 responses



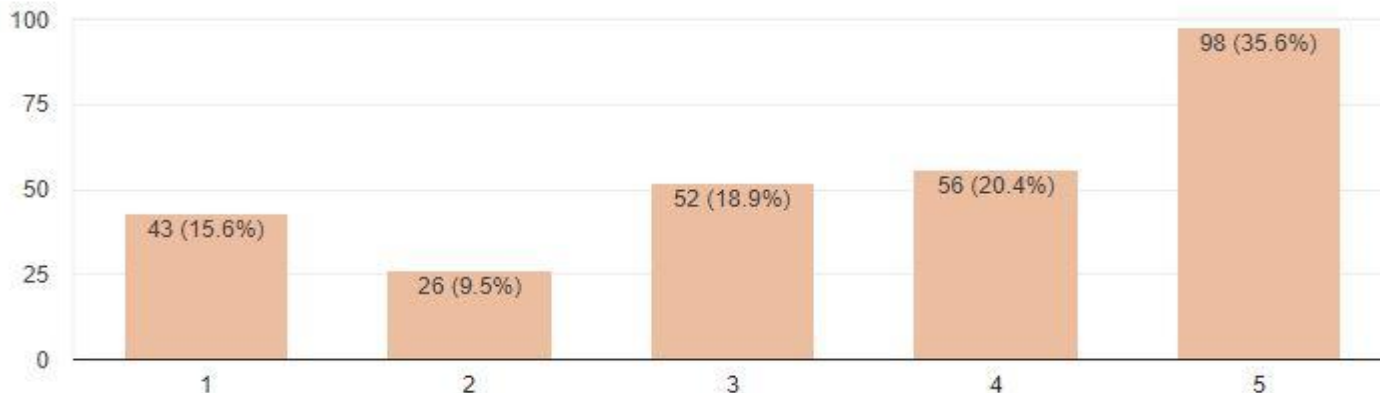


# What are the Risks?

If students who choose in-person learning are allowed to attend school four days every week, I would feel as safe as I do in our current situation.



275 responses



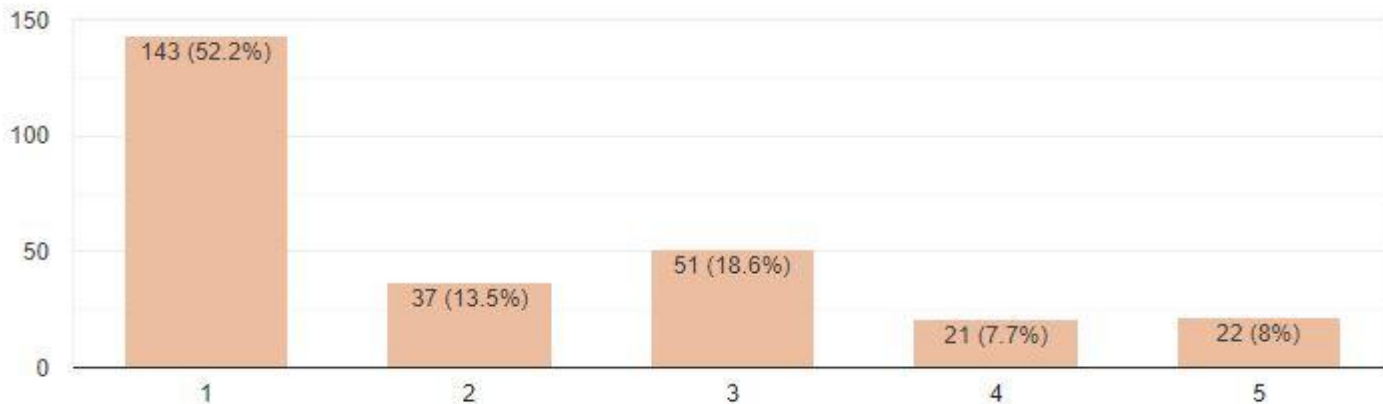


# What are the Risks?

I would prefer to wait until after staff, who choose to, are vaccinated before we allow students to attend school four days every week (likely in time for fourth quarter).



274 responses



13

Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree



# The Academic Failures Are a Structural Issue

- Poor first semester performance is not the students' fault.
- Poor first semester performance is not the teachers' fault.
- This failure was caused by a structure that does not support academic excellence.
- **The current educational structure is meant to ensure safety, but now, do we see ways to support academic excellence and keep people safe?**



# If 7 Other Districts Can Do It Safely...?

Several other districts in Wisconsin are educating 70-80% of their students in-person, with no cohorting, and with less than 6' of distance with comparable COVID transmission.

District	Average % students in person	Status of 6' distancing	% of students quarantined (1/12)	Number of staff Quarantined (1/12)
Wausau	60%	Required	2.25%	9
Mosinee	92-93%	"Best extent possible"	0.3%	1
Oconomowoc	75%	"Physical distancing is encouraged"	1.20%	10
New Berlin	75%	"May not be feasible"	1.5%	9
Hamilton	80%	"Maximum distance <sup>15</sup> "	1.68%	10



# If Seven Other Districts Can Do It Safely...?

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District	Average % students in person	Status of 6' distancing	% of students quarantined (1/12)	Number of staff Quarantined (1/12)
Wausau	60%	Required	2.25%	9
Elmbrook	72%	"As much space as possible"	2.70%	21
Kimberly	80%	"Perhaps"	2.4%	7
Franklin	81%	"Best extent possible"	3.8%	NA (#<5)



# We Have Been Here Before

- When we were virtual and other districts were in person, we saw transmission rates were comparable.
- The Board made the decision to move from virtual to in-person learning based in large part on that data.
- Everyone was anxious and expected the worst. The worst never came.
- How can we look at similar data and not take similar action?



# Proposal

- Motion to forward to the full school board meeting on February 8 to approve the return of all in-person secondary students to four days of school per week, every week, beginning on March 1.
- Vaccines will be widely available.
- Messaging to WSD parents about the proposed changes.
- Brainstorm with staff about any necessary safety protocol changes.



# Questions?

# Next Steps?

**Wausau School District  
415 Seymour Street  
P.O. Box 359  
Wausau WI 54402-0359  
715-261-0500**

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**Our Mission ... To advance student learning, achievement, and success.**



# SAFE RETURN OF STUDENTS TO OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Update: 02-08-21

The Mission of the Wausau School District is to Advance Student Learning, Achievement and Success.



# How did Secondary Students Achieve First Semester?

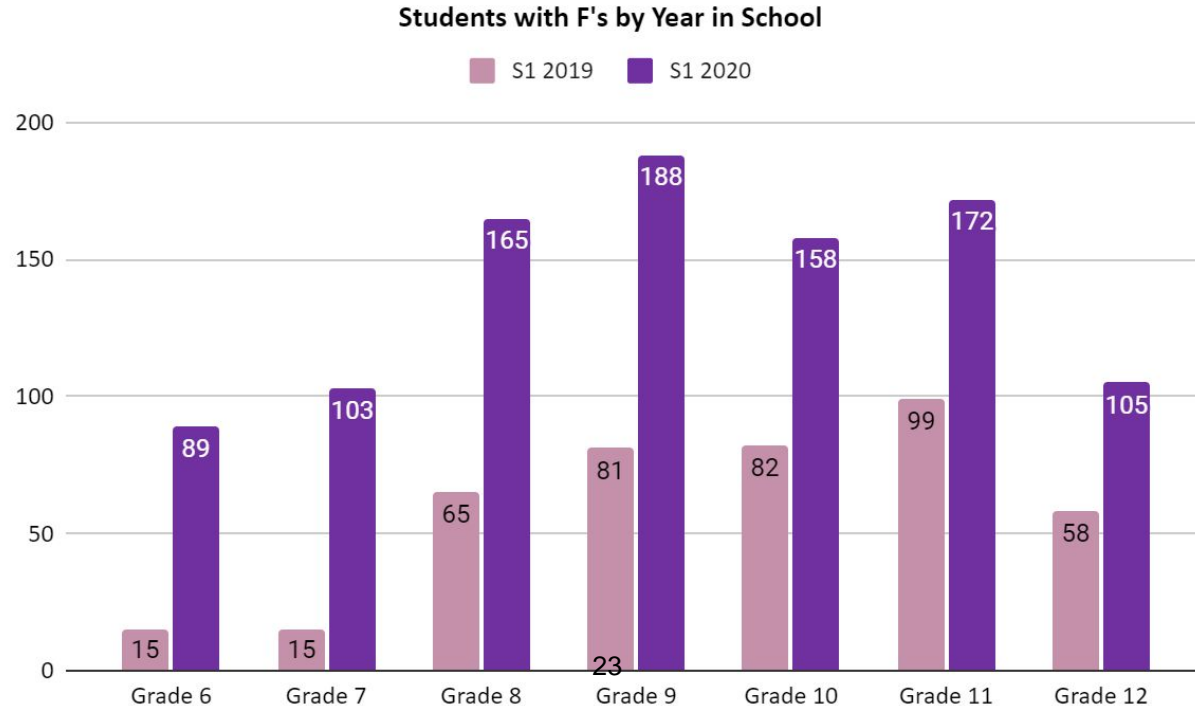
Summary of secondary data shared at the last School Board meeting:

- Number of **Students with F's increased** from S1 2019 to S1 2020
- **Number of F's increased** for high school students from S1 2019 to S1 2020
- **Number of F's decreased** for high school students from Quarter 1 to Semester 1 this year (2020-21)
- Average **GPA** (grade point average) **decreased** from S1 2019 to S1 2020

# How did Secondary Students Achieve First Semester?



Additional information since the last School Board meeting - Achievement

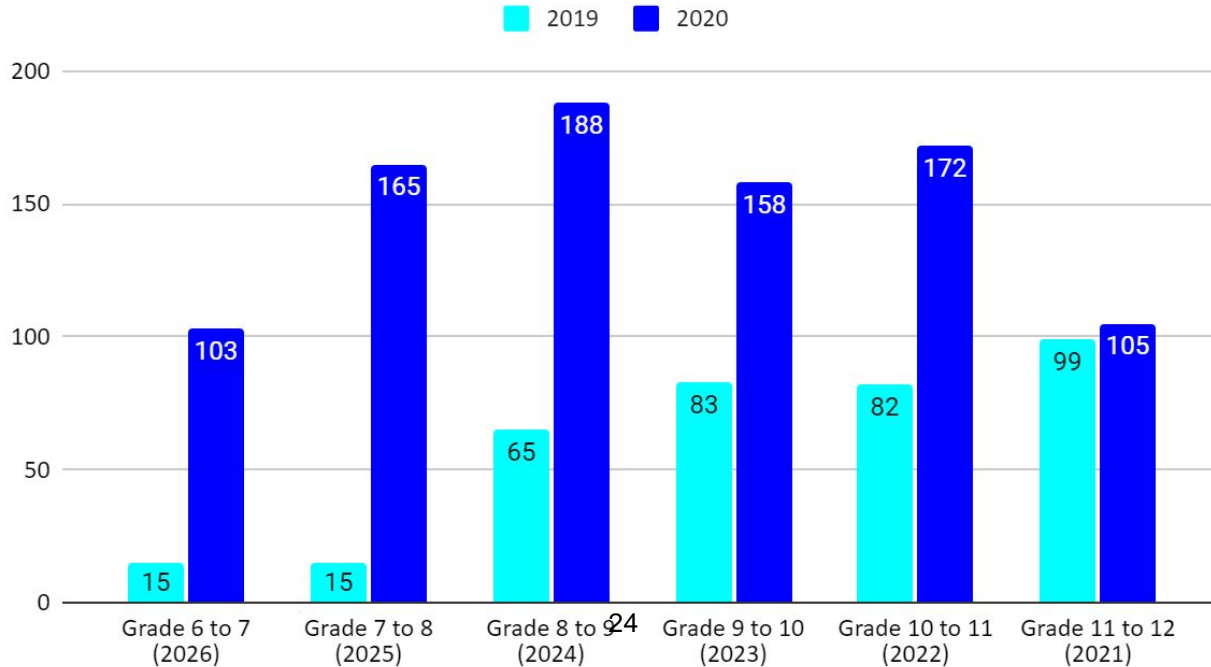


# How did Secondary Students Achieve First Semester?



Additional information since the last School Board meeting - Achievement

Students with Semester F's by Cohort Progression





# How did Secondary Students Achieve First Semester?

Additional information since the last School Board meeting:

- **College/University Admissions**
  - Holistic Review: UW System campuses use holistic review when reviewing applications. This will continue during COVID-19. UW campuses understand that COVID-19 has disrupted activities and employment. Pass/Fail grading due to COVID-19 is accepted. Students are expected to meet unit requirements. ([UW Help](#))
  - Many schools are not requiring ACT scores; however, these scores may still be used for scholarship purposes.
- **Virtual vs. Hybrid In-Person Students: Grading & Attendance**
  - All students learned virtually Quarter 1
  - All students are learning virtually at least part of the time during Quarter 2
  - Some students have changed modality (virtual vs. hybrid in-person) during Quarter 2



# What Feedback did Secondary Certified Staff Share?

- 276 Staff of 311 (88% response rate) responded to a survey asking about next steps.
- Yes, having students in school more often will help students succeed.
- I feel safe now, but will feel less safe if we reduce the distance between students.
  - *We are committed to collaborating with staff to address their concerns, including supporting them in maintaining 6' of social distancing from students and other adults.*
- I would like to wait until after we have been vaccinated to bring more students in.
  - *"Schools can safely reopen even if teachers are not vaccinated for the coronavirus, according to Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention."* [Wausau Daily Herald](#)



# What can we learn from others?

- Several other districts in Wisconsin are educating 70-80% of their students in-person, with no cohorting, and with less than 6' of distance with comparable COVID transmission
- Current Wausau School District COVID-19 Dashboard Data (as of 2/4/21)
  - Active staff case data
    - ◆ 5 positive cases
    - ◆ 21 quarantine cases
  - Completed staff case data
    - ◆ 186 positive cases
    - ◆ 687 quarantine cases
  - Active student case data
    - ◆ 2 positive cases
    - ◆ 74 quarantine cases



# What can we learn from others?

Marathon County & Wisconsin Health Departments recommend **maintaining, not reducing, 6'** of Social Distancing for students and staff.

## CDC Guidelines include 5 Mitigation Strategies:

- Consistent and correct use of masks
- Social distancing **to the extent possible**
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Contact tracing in collaboration with local health department

## Wisconsin Rapids Doctor's Research suggests...





# What can we learn from others?

[DHS Webinar](#) - Webinar for Local Public Health and School Stakeholders 1/28/2021. This webinar is also available on the Wisconsin Department Health Services website.

[CDC Report](#) - COVID-19 Cases and Transmission in 17 K-12 Schools - Wood County, WI, August 31- November 29, 2021



# Other Considerations

- District Food Service
- Transportation Partners
- Student/Family Communication



# Recommended Motion

- Return all in-person secondary students (grades 6-12) to four days of school per week, every week, beginning on March 1, 2021.

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