

*Paramus Public Schools:  
Public Board Update*

October 26, 2020

# Overview of Update

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# Student Learning Schedules: Overview

- **Mandate of Flexibility**
  - Due to the constantly shifting nature of the pandemic and its dynamic impact on families, we must remain flexible in our approach to assessing and implementing best practices for our students
  - We must also balance the need for consistency and structure in children's lives with the benefits of restructuring their learning models
  - An ongoing feedback loop is more essential this school year than at any time before
    - The majority of our students spend over 50%--and up to 100%--of their school time at home
    - Soliciting feedback and input from our educators and our students' families is a critical component of this feedback loop

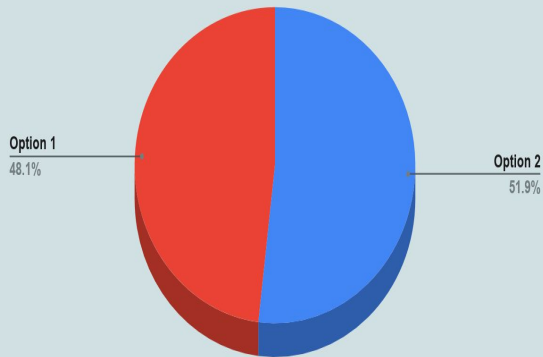
# Student Learning Schedules: Options

Option 1 (Blue Cohort)					
Session	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	<u>Hybrid</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Hybrid</u> In-Person Synchronous	<u>Hybrid</u> Virtual Asynchronous	<u>Hybrid</u> In-Person Synchronous	<u>Hybrid</u> Virtual Asynchronous
	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Asynchronous	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Asynchronous
Afternoon	Virtual Blend	Virtual Blend	Virtual Blend	Virtual Blend	Virtual Blend

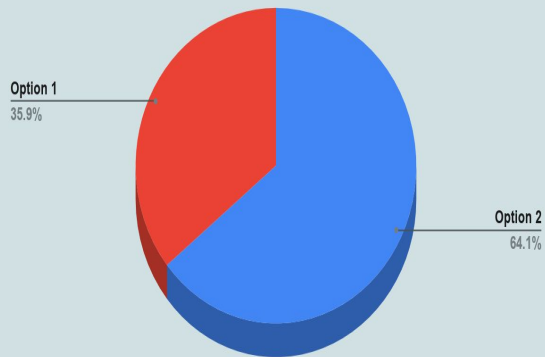
Option 2 (Blue Cohort)					
Session	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	<u>Hybrid</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Hybrid</u> In-Person Synchronous	<u>Hybrid</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Hybrid</u> In-Person Synchronous	<u>Hybrid</u> Virtual Synchronous
	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Synchronous	<u>Full-Remote</u> Virtual Synchronous
Afternoon	Virtual Blend	Virtual Blend	Virtual Blend	Virtual Blend	Virtual Blend

# Student Learning Schedules: Survey Data

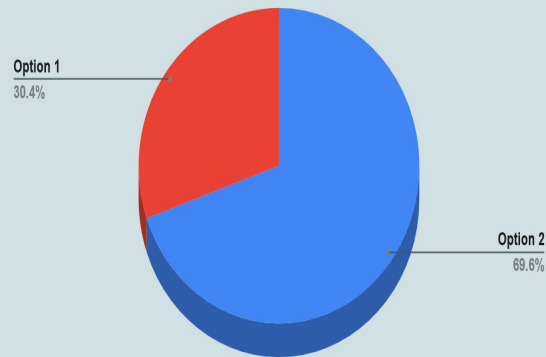
Elementary School



Middle School



High School



# Student Learning Schedules: Key Takeaways

- Common thread throughout the responses was the need for **consistency** across schedules.
  - Elementary School
    - Due to number of changes elementary students have experienced, maintaining the current schedule (Option 1) provides a greater period of transition and consistency for these students.
  - Middle/High School
    - Due to the fact that these students will have virtually been in the Option 2 model for over two months, implementing Option 2 provides ease of transition and consistency for these students.
    - Teachers will engage in professional development in best practices within this model.
- Administrators and teachers will continue to assess the viability of moving toward an Option 2 model at the elementary level.
- The most effective learning models for full-remote students will continue to be assessed.
- The district continues to upgrade its instructional technology, including:
  - Acquisition of bluetooth microphones for teachers
  - Ordering of high-definition external webcam devices for teachers
  - Ordering of additional devices for teachers to serve as external monitors for remote learners
- Due to the change in the CDC's definition of "close contact," it is important to maintain a schedule in which the majority of students are not in the buildings on consecutive days. As the health data change, additional changes to the schedule may be needed.

# Health and Safety: Closure and Notification Scenarios

*While the particular details of any possible positive case and/or exposure will ultimately determine the approach needed, the following scenarios from the New Jersey Department of Health are useful in gaining an overall understanding of the guidance:*

SCENARIO	CLOSURE
<i>1 confirmed case in the school</i>	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days.
<i>2 or more cases in the same classroom (outbreak limited to one cohort)</i>	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days. Recommendations for whether the entire classroom would be considered exposed will be based on public health investigation.
<i>2 or more cases within 14 days, but are linked to an exposure outside the school setting (e.g. in same household, exposed at the same event outside of school)</i>	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive cases are excluded from school for 14 days.
<i>2 or more cases within 14 days, linked together by some activity in school, but who are in different classrooms (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)</i>	Recommendations for whether school closure is indicated will be based on investigation by local health department.
<i>A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (e.g., large event or large local employer) and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the school community</i>	Consider closing school for 14 days, based on investigation by local health department.
<i>2 or more cases are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple classrooms and a clear connection between cases cannot be easily identified (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)</i>	Close school for 14 days.
<i>Very high risk of community transmission (refer to COVID-19 Regional Risk Level Matrix)</i>	Close school until COVID-19 transmission decreases.

\* Note: A temporary closure may also be considered for a period of 2-5 days if a student or staff member attended school while potentially infectious, before being confirmed as having COVID-19. This short-term dismissal allows time for local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school and perform contact tracing.