

June 11, 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

As we continue to confront these challenging times and the realities of dealing with the COVID-19 virus, I want to tell you how much I appreciate your input as we discuss and plan for the reopening of our schools and the return of our children. Your voice helps us to determine the best course of action for all our children. I know that with your input we will be able to develop a model that the community, as a whole, can support and that will address the needs of both children and families.

The district received 461 responses. Building and district administrators have carefully reviewed the results. Here is what we found.

#### Preferred Scenario (Choose Only One)

461 responses



**Please refer back to the survey for the full descriptions of scenarios.**

#### General Comment Summary:

- 55% of the participants want to return to school full time, and the rest of the respondents want some form of a hybrid program.
- Many parents are concerned about students wearing masks in school all day.
- There are multiple worries about how students will be safe on buses.
- Working parents need students to be in school so they can work
- Multiple parents prefer to have their students learning at home.
- Students are stating they want to be back in school with peers.

The Commissioner of Education has begun to advise all districts on what the school day may look like next year. Here is what we know so far:

- Classes will be no more than ten students and two teachers. (It is possible that this may change, to some degree, as summer moves on if COVID-19 cases continue to slow)

- There will be a hybrid model. At times, students will be at home doing remote learning, and at other times students will be receiving instruction in school. The district is looking for ways to telecast classes so all students can participate, whether at home or in school.
- There may be some allowances for some students to be present in school on a full-time basis or for some students to be entirely online. Details about this possibility will be coming at a later date.
- All students will be required to wear face-covering unless they have a medical note. The district is reviewing this issue to see if face shields could be considered as a face covering. If so, the district would be able to provide these face shields to students who have medical documentation stating they can not wear a facemask.

Thank you again for your participation in the survey. Your voice is very important to us. Please continue to give us feedback. We will keep everyone updated as we hear from the commissioner and continue the development of our plan. We hope that even as you deal with the current social distancing restrictions, you are able to still enjoy this wonderful weather we are having and have confidence that we will get this right. Your children are our number one priority.

Sincerely,  
Darcy Fernandes  
Superintendent  
Athol Royalston Regional School District.