



*Serving With Pride The*  
**Township of Manalapan**  
*and the*  
**Borough of Englishtown**

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

I have attached the results of the survey that was sent out last week. The survey was only sent to the parents of children attending the hybrid program since it impacted them directly. First of all, I want to assure the parents of children in the virtual academy that as long as the governor's executive remains in place, the district will have a 100% virtual option for students.

While a clear majority of parents (61.9 vs 38.1) prefer to combine the cohorts and end the hybrid program it was not the overwhelming majority I was anticipating. While many parents had questions over the second question, since it did not impact their own children, Option 1 was overwhelmingly preferred (82.3 vs 17.7). I will be discussing these results with the Board of Education on Tuesday. It is my expectation that the discussion will lead to a decision on when the district will proceed with implementing Option 1.

I will be sending out an additional survey next week. It will allow the district to determine the number of parents who are currently in the hybrid program who are going to choose a virtual option if we combine cohorts as well as the number of parents whose children are in the virtual academy who want to switch to Option 1 (If that is the direction chosen on Tuesday at the board meeting). If many parents are interested in switching, the district will have to make some structural changes to handle the transfer of students. If the numbers are similar to what occurred at the end of September, I will follow the same procedure, parents will contact their child's principal and transfers will be implemented at the building level.

It should be noted that since the survey was sent out, the CDC has changed the definition of a "close contact". As of today a "close contact" is anyone who has been closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period. The old definition indicated 10 minutes in continuous contact. The old definition allowed us to minimize the number of students who would have to be quarantined. The new definition creates a scenario where it is harder to clearly identify who is a "close contact" and will probably contribute to additional individuals being placed in quarantine.

I want again to thank all of you for your patience during this difficult time. Everyone has a different concept of what defines safety during this pandemic and finding a solution that meets the needs of all children is difficult and takes a certain amount of time.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact my office. Stay healthy!

Sincerely,

John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

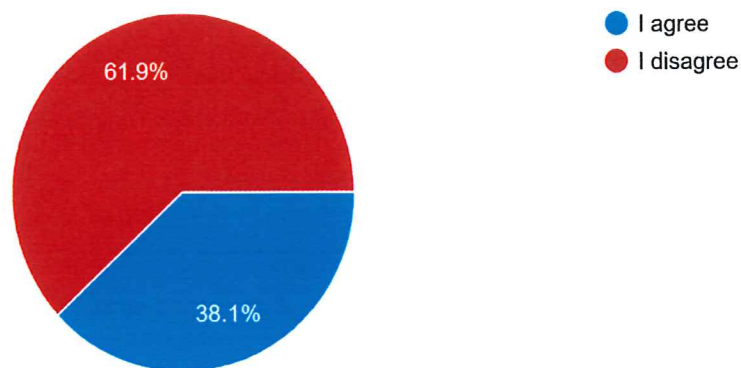
Attachment

## Reopening Survey

Over the past several weeks I have received numerous emails asking the same question. When will all students be able to attend school everyday? These questions have increased since neighboring communities have announced their plans. As I indicated at the last Board meeting Manalapan-Englishtown has always prided itself on leading when it comes to academic achievement and innovative instruction. Having all students return to school during a pandemic involves student health and safety and while other districts may have moved in that direction I believe with the infection rate increasing in the state as we move into flu season, the district decision to move in that direction should be based on the feelings and opinion of the parents of the children who are going to be returning to full size classes and buses carrying twice as many students as they are today. The following survey is being sent to those parents whose children are currently enrolled in the hybrid program.

Question 1: I prefer that the current hybrid program remain in place so that social distancing remains in place in every classroom.

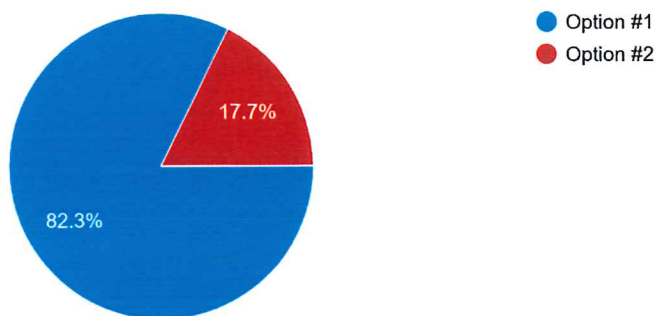
1,862 responses



**Question 2:** Please indicate which option you prefer, either #1 or #2 below. Even if you indicated in Question 1 that you prefer that the current Hybrid Program remain as it is, please choose an option. If the majority of the parents in the community prefer to end the hybrid program, it is important that all parents still have input in the type of schedule we move forward with.

Question 2: Please indicate which option you prefer, either #1 or #2 below. Even if you indicated in Question 1 that you prefer that the current Hybrid...put in the type of schedule we move forward with.

1,862 responses



### Option 1

Hybrid students transition to a single cohort that attends school 5 days a week for a 4 hour session each day. Small group instruction and special services will still be provided virtually in the afternoon.

In almost all cases, students will not be able to social distance in the classrooms, but will be required to wear their masks at all times. Each student will also be provided with a desk shield.

Students will still be able to have snacks. Snack time will be limited.

PreK, K, Self-Contained Special Ed., & Resource Room Students in Grades 1- 2: There will be no changes to the students current schedule

Grades 1-2: On 11/16/20 all hybrid students transition to a single cohort.

Grades 3-5: On 12/09/20 all hybrid students transition to a single cohort.

Grades 6-8: On 1/11/21 all hybrid students transition to a single cohort.

### Option 2

PreK, K, Self-Contained Special Ed., & Resource Room Students in Grades 1- 2: There will be no changes to the students current schedule.

Grades 1-2: On 11/16/20 all hybrid students transition to a 2.5 hour AM or PM in school session. The AM or PM designation would be determined in a manner consistent with the current kindergarten program. This session would focus on ELA and Math. This session would be complemented by a mandatory 1.5 hour virtual session at home in which instruction would focus on the other subject areas. Social distancing will be maintained in the classroom.

Grades 3-8: Hybrid students transition to a single cohort that attends school 5 days a week for a 4 hour session each day. Small group instruction and special services will still be provided virtually in the afternoon.

In almost all cases, students will not be able to social distance in the classrooms, but will be required to wear their masks at all times. Each student will also be provided with a desk shield.

Students will still be able to have snacks. Snack time will be limited.

Grades 3-5 would transition to this schedule on 12/09/20 and Grades 6-8 would transition to this schedule on 1/11/21.