RCSS Safe Reopening Plan

14 July 2020

The Initial RCSS Reopening Plan

- Followed the June 1, 2020 guidance from the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia Department of Education

- Utilized survey data from parents and employees

- Considered the number of COVID-19 cases in Augusta/Richmond County

- Included an action matrix for COVID-19 cases affecting schools

- Featured face-to-face and online options for students
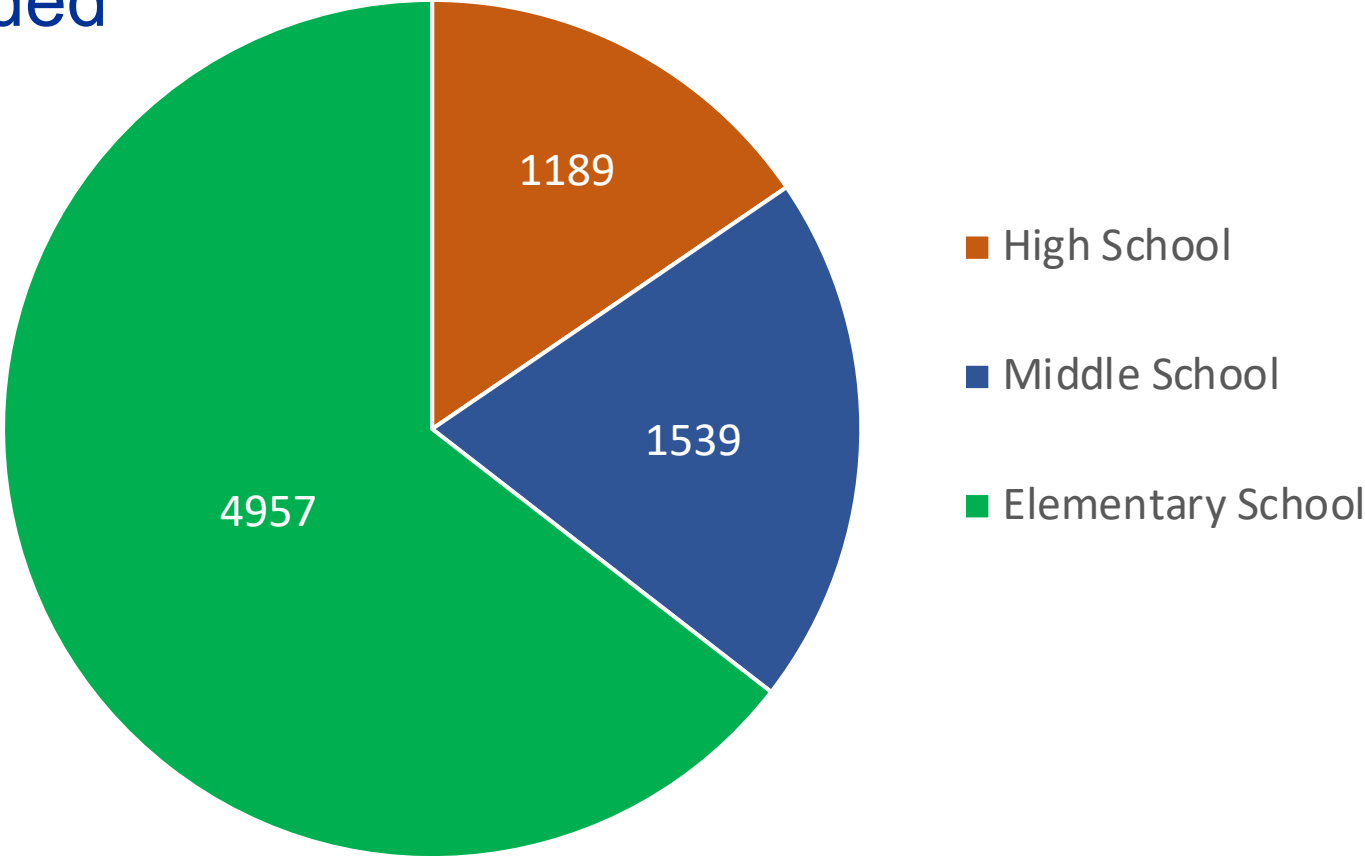
Richmond County COVID-19 Numbers

- As of 14 July 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (24 June Numbers)
  - Confirmed Cases: 1830 (776)
  - Number of Richmond County Residents: 202,518
  - Cases per Week Moving Average: 250 (53)
  - Cases per 100k Richmond County Residents: 905 (383)
  - Deaths per 100k Richmond County Residents: 31 (24)
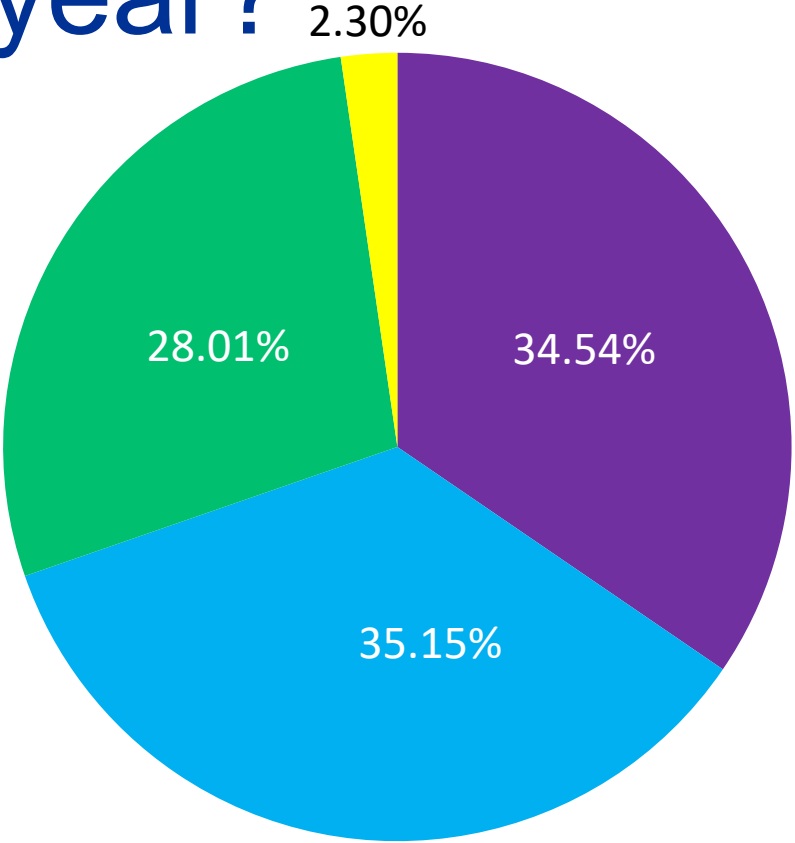 - Total Deaths: 62 (48)

Cases per 100K

⬜	None
🟦	1 – 547
🟦	548 – 998
🟦	999 – 1809
🟦	1810 – 2930
🟥	2931 – 4359

Parent 2020-2021 COVID-19 Survey

- Available from June 16 - June 23
- 7,685 parents responded

- High School
- Middle School
- Elementary School

Which option best describes your plans for your children for the 2020-2021 school year?
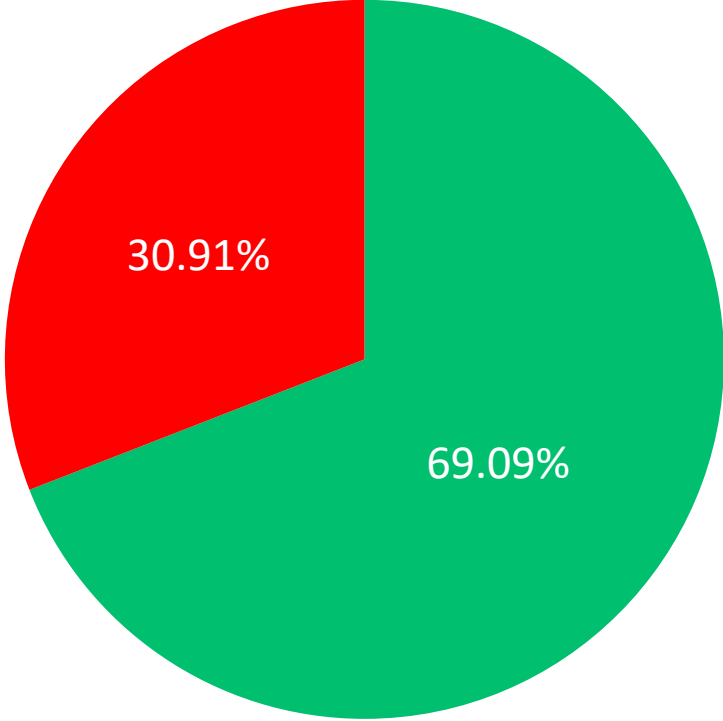
2.30%

34.54%

28.01%

35.15%

■ Attend school in person for full time instruction at a Richmond County School System School.

■ Virtual learning where instruction is completely online and taught by a Richmond County School System teacher.

■ Blended Learning where instruction is completely online some days and in person on others.

■ Other (please specify)

What are your feelings about your child(ren) returning to school in August?

31.01%

67.58%

- I DO NOT have concerns about my child(ren) returning to school in August.
- I DO have concerns about my child(ren) returning to school in August.
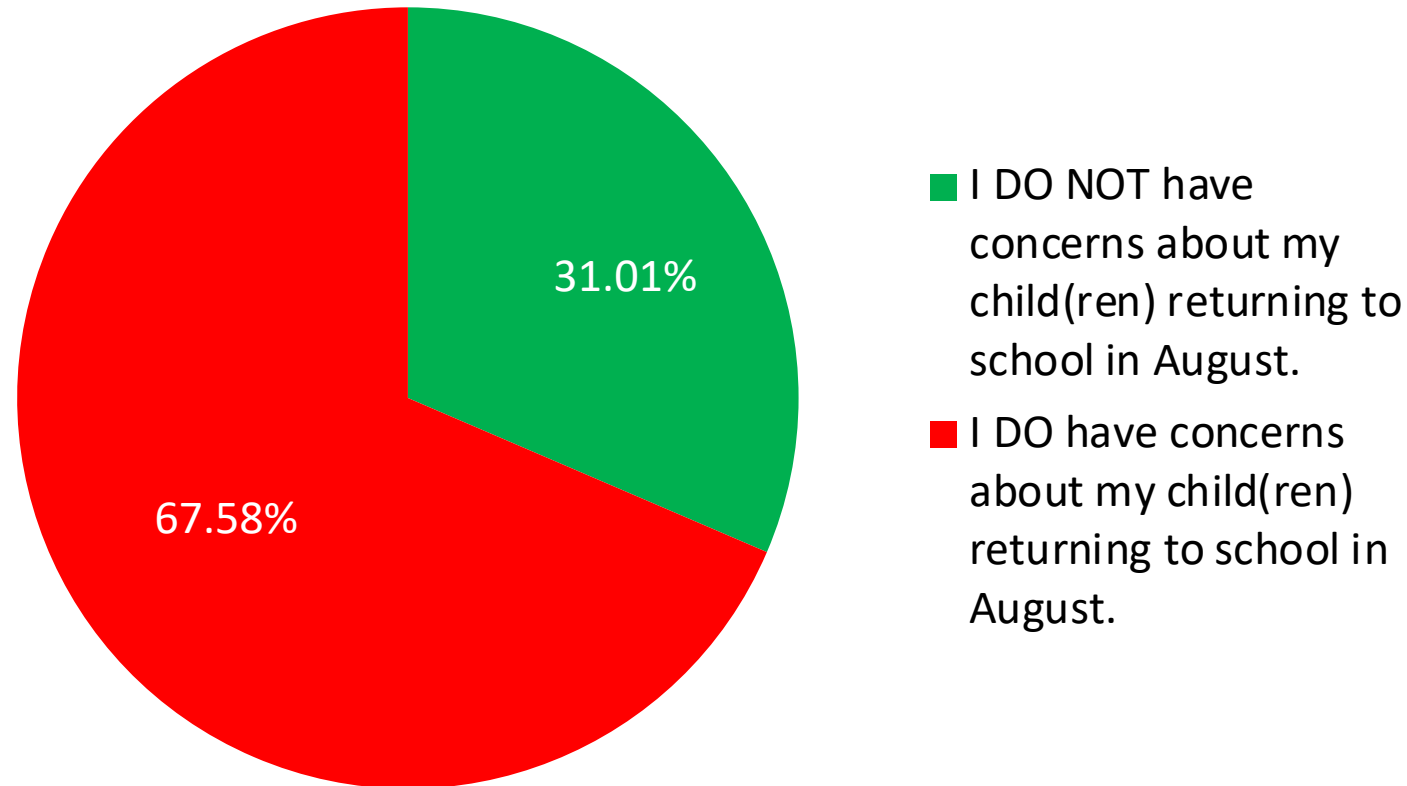
Which of the following best describes the technology access for your child(ren)?
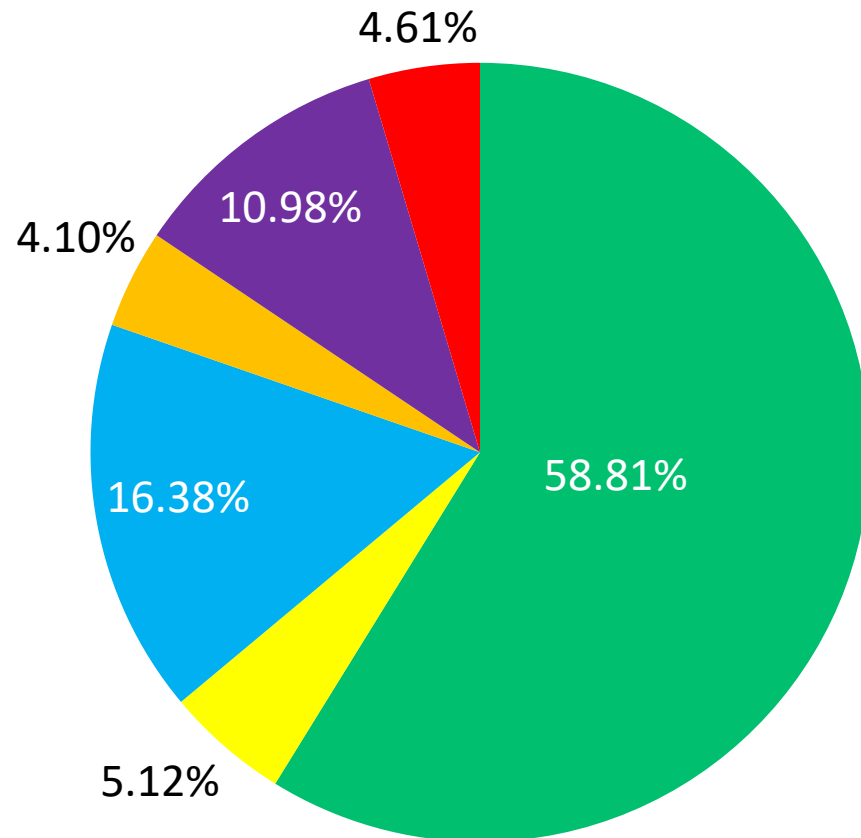
Pie chart values: 4.61%, 10.98%, 4.10%, 16.38%, 5.12%, 58.81%

- My child(ren) can use their own personal device (laptop, desktop, tablet) to access the internet.
- My child(ren) can use their own personal device (laptop, desktop, tablet) with limited internet access.
- My child(ren) can use a shared device (laptop, desktop, tablet) to access the internet.
- My child(ren) can use a shared device (laptop, desktop, tablet) with limited internet access.
- My child(ren) do not have access to a device (laptop, desktop, tablet) and have internet access.
- My child(ren) do not have access to a device (laptop, desktop, tablet) or the internet.

Employee 2020-2021 COVID-19 Survey

- Available from June 16 - June 23
- 1,850 employees responded

4.02%

7.17%

88.81%

- At a Richmond County School
- At the RCSS Central Office
- Other RCSS Facility
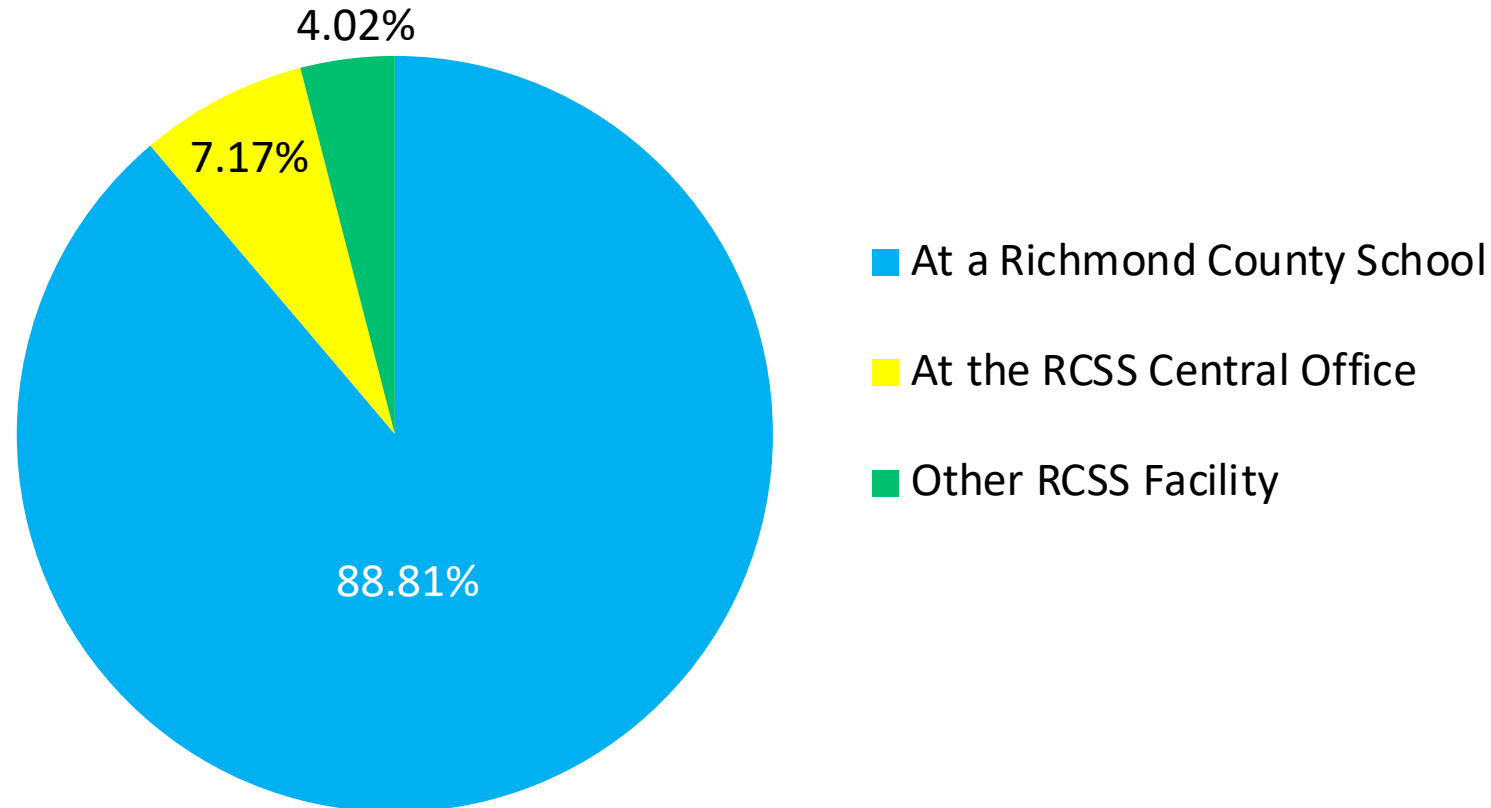
Which option best describes your thoughts about students returning to school in the fall?

3.84%

22.51%

48.81%

24.84%

- Students should return to school for in person instruction full time.

- Students should return to school using virtual (online) learning for instruction.

- Students should return to school using a blended learning model. Attending some days in person and others using virtual instruction.

- Other (please specify)
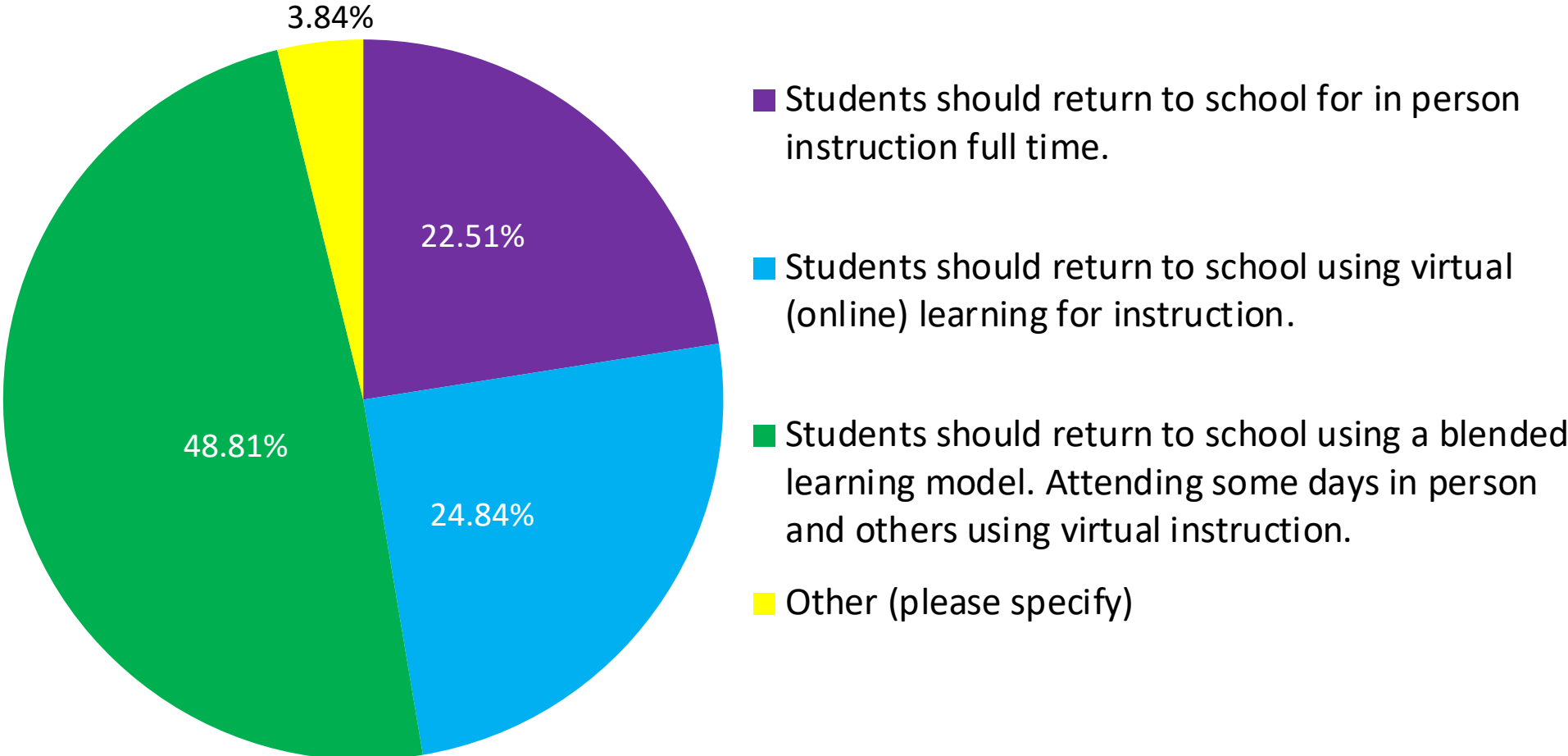
Should students/staff be required to wear personal protective equipment (ex. masks, face shields, gloves) while at school?

School Staff

- Yes
- No

24.38%

75.62%

Students

- Yes
- No

26.10%

73.90%
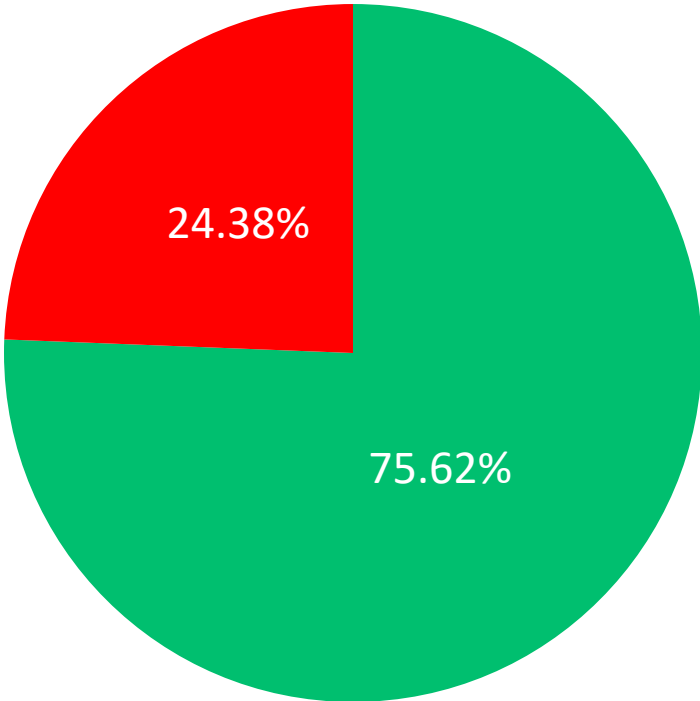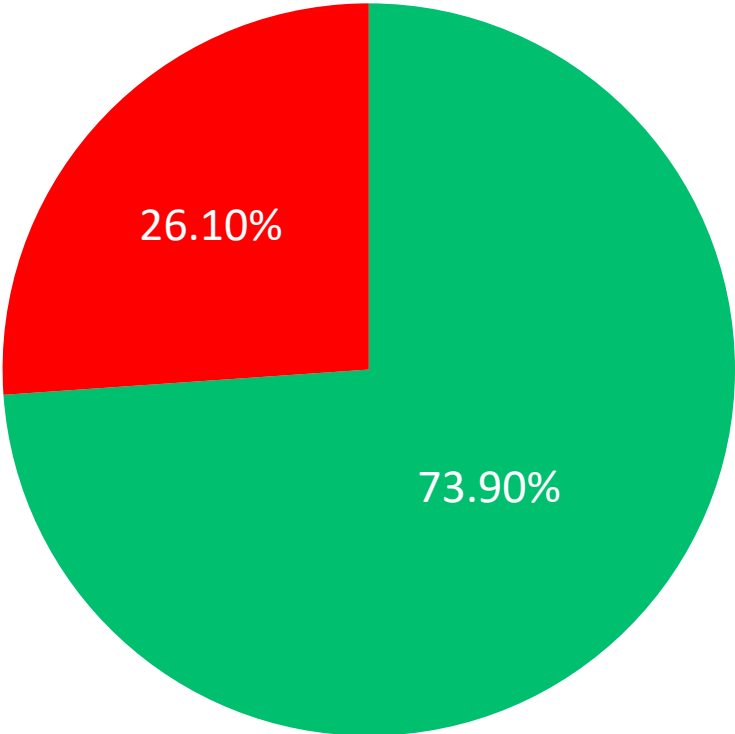
What are your feelings about students returning to school in August?

27.41%

71.35%

■ I DO NOT have concerns about students returning to school in August.

■ I DO have concerns about students returning to school in August.
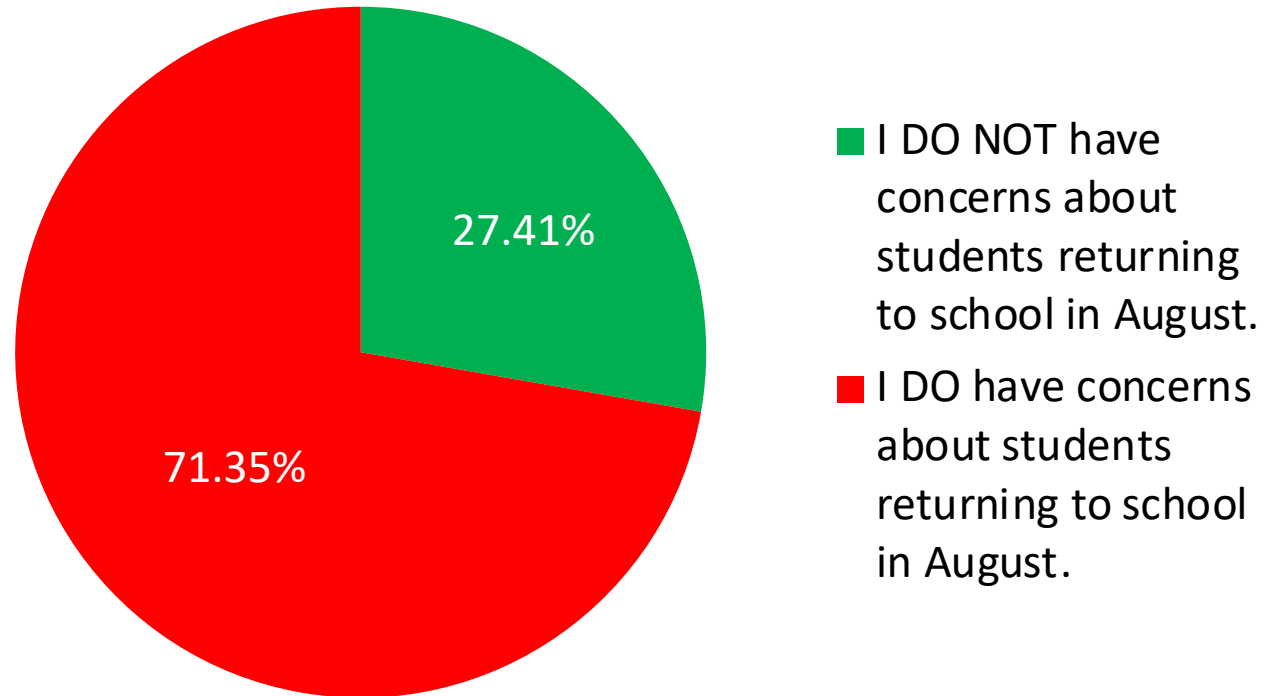
Survey Summary

Options	Parents	Employees
Attend school in person for full time instruction at a Richmond County School System School.	34.54%	22.51%
Virtual learning where instruction is completely online and taught by a Richmond County School System teacher.	35.15%	24.84%
Blended Learning where instruction is completely online some days and in person on others.	28.01%	48.81%
Other	2.30%	3.84%

Administration Recommendation

- Hybrid
    1. Traditional/Face-to-Face/<mark>Monday - Friday</mark>
        1. Proposed Start Date: <mark>September 8, 2020</mark>
    2. Virtual Learning/K-12 Online
- Parents must commit to an option by <mark>July 27, 2020</mark>
- <mark>Early August</mark>: Review plan and staffing based on student numbers registered for traditional or virtual learning
    - Staggered schedules may be implemented based on enrollment numbers per school
- If there is a surge in COVID-19 cases…
    - Before school starts: Recommend a further delay
    - Once school has started: Transition to full-time virtual learning for PK-12

Traditional Option Overview

- Areas of Consideration
  - Practicing Prevention
  - Transporting Students
  - Entering School Buildings
  - Serving Meals
  - Transitioning
  - Conducting Large Group Gatherings
  - Supporting Teaching & Learning
  - Protecting Vulnerable Populations
  - When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School

Practicing Prevention

- Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures

- Provide hand soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas

- Post signage on COVID-19 prevention & symptoms, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols

- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily

- Turn off water fountains and provide bottled water or allow students and staff to bring water from home

- Conduct deep cleaning before school reopens and on weekends, as needed

Transporting Students

- Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers
- Provide masks/facial coverings to bus drivers
- Allow and encourage students to wear masks/facial coverings
- Utilize spaced seating where possible
- Eliminate field trips
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus daily
- Establish protocols for bus stops, loading/unloading students to minimize the congregation of children from different households

Entering School Buildings

- Post signage on COVID-19 prevention and symptoms, good hygiene, and school/system specific protocols

- Require parents to check their children's temperature before sending them to school
  - Require parents to keep sick children home if temperature over 100.4

- Require school system employees to check their temperature before coming to work

- Designate entrance and exit flow paths for each building

- Establish a protocol for visitors (e.g. requesting use of face coverings and restrict non-essential visitors/volunteers)

- Establish a protocol for student pick up/drop off

Serving Meals

- Allow and encourage student hand washing before and after meal service
- Provide hand sanitizers for students and staff
- Use disposable plates, utensils, and other similar items
- Designate entrance and exit flow paths for cafeterias and serving lines
- Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the day
- Other possible options (grade-level appropriate):
  - Serving meals in classrooms
  - Pre-packaged/boxed lunches

Transitioning

- Limit congregating between groups/grade levels
- Provide additional time for transitions
- Designate hallway flow paths to minimize/eliminate congregating
- Stagger class changes

Conducting Large Group Gatherings

- Abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor's current statewide Executive Order

- Discourage the congregation of students in parking lots and common areas

- Stagger the schedule, when possible, for large group gatherings, such as recess and school meals

- Identify and utilize large spaces for social distancing

- Follow GHSA guidelines for athletic events and practices

Supporting Teaching & Learning

- Use master schedule to balance class sizes
- Remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms to maximize social distancing
- Limit physical interaction through partner or group work
- Establish distance between teacher and student desks/workspaces
- Identify and utilize large spaces for social distancing

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

- Provide virtual learning opportunities for students and staff in vulnerable categories

- Consider allowing special education students, where possible, to continue in person instruction as these students often rely on daily routines and social interactions to address their individual learning needs

- Adhere to state and federal employment law and extended leave allowances, as well as FERPA and HIPPA requirements

- Consult with local board attorney and HR personnel to offer special accommodations for personnel who are members of vulnerable populations

When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School

- Utilize the district decision tree for COVID-19 Screening as recommended by the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Georgia Department of Education.

- Follow the Georgia DPH "Return to School Guidance after COVID-19 Illness or Exposure" criteria for students and employees before they return to the building.

Online Academy Key Terms

- **Synchronous** teaching allows the teacher(s) and students to gather in real time using a virtual online meeting (Zoom or Teams) in order to engage, review, and discuss material and assignments.

- **Asynchronous** learning allows students to learn the same material at different times and locations. The term includes online learning in which students learn from instruction—such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own—that is not being delivered in person or in real time.

Key Staff Members

- **Project Coordinator**
- **Principal**
- **Assistant Principal***
- **Counselor***
- **Administrative Assistant**
- **Teachers** (allocations come from schools as students register)

- * Additional counselors and assistant principals may be needed depending on the number of students. The additional staff will come from existing school allocations.

- Students register for Online Academy July 1-20.

- Students commit to Online Academy for a semester at a time for High School students
  - Elementary School and Middle Sschool students can reconsider enrollment at fall break

- Online instruction offered Monday-Thursday

- Faculty housed at the National Hills Learning Center

- The Online Academy will be a "program" inside Infinite Campus; all student data will return to the zoned school

General Logistics

- K-5 students **must** have an adult in the home willing to assist the student during course hours, if needed. It is <u>strongly recommended</u> for 6-12.

- Paired (two staff members) home visits will be required, as necessary

- Students are scheduled to take 7 core courses and one homeroom/advisement course each semester

- Each course is scheduled for 50 minutes twice a week

- Teachers are required to offer a *minimum* of one synchronous lesson each week

- Teachers tutor/conference each afternoon and on Fridays; Teacher also have Professional Learning on Fridays

- HS teachers plan from 8:00-9:00 each day.

- Students will have one homeroom period scheduled each week to meet with a teacher, counselor, or administrator for advisement, as follows:
  - Individual synchronous advisement sessions
  - Small group synchronous advisement sessions
  - Individual asynchronous advisement activities

- Schedule allows students to travel to their zoned school to participate in after school extra-curricular activities, if they are available

9-12th Grade Schedule

Time	Mondays and Wednesdays	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Instructor Office Hours Friday
8:00-8:50	*Teacher Planning*	*Teacher Planning*	*Teacher Planning*
9:00-9:50	First Period Course	Fifth Period Course	9:00-9:50
10:00-10:50	Second Period Course	Sixth Period Course	10:00-10:50
11:00-11:50	Third Period Course	Seventh Period Course	11:00-11:50
12:00-1:00	Fourth Period Course	Eighth Period Course	12:00-1:00
1:00-2:00	Lunch	Lunch	N/A
2:00-3:00	Tutoring/Small Group Collaborations	Tutoring/Small Group Collaborations	Professional Learning for all Instructors

- Students are scheduled to take 4 core classes each semester (ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies – electives/connections will be optional and available through Edgenuity)

- Each course is scheduled for 50 minutes twice a week

- Teachers tutor/conference daily and on Fridays; Teachers will participate in Professional Learning each Friday

- MS teachers plan from 8:00-9:00 each day.

- Students can register for the AM **OR** the PM session

- Teachers are required to offer synchronous core class lessons *daily* Monday-Thursdays

- Schedule allows students to participate in after-school activities

6th-8th Grade Schedule

Time	Mondays and Wednesdays	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Instructor Office Hours Fridays
8:00-9:00	*Teacher Planning*	*Teacher Planning*	*Teacher Planning*
9:00-9:50	AM First Period Course	AM Third Period Course	9:00-9:50
10:00-10:50	AM Second Period Course	AM Fourth Period Course	10:00-10:50
11:00-11:50	Optional additional Edgenuity Course OR Tutoring for AM and PM Students	Optional additional Edgenuity Course OR Tutoring for AM and PM Students	Professional Learning for all Instructors
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	N/A
1:00-2:00	PM First Period Course	PM Third Period Course	1:00-2:00
2:00-3:00	PM Second Period Course	PM Fourth Period Course	2:00-3:00

Elementary School Instructional Plan

- Students are scheduled to take a two-hour integrated elementary block (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, PE, Music, and Art)

- Students can register for the AM **OR** the PM session

- Teachers tutor and conference daily and on Fridays; Teacher will participate in Professional Learning each Friday

- ES teachers plan from 8:00-9:00 each day.

- Teachers are required to conduct synchronous lessons *daily,* Monday-Thursdays

K-5th Grade Schedule

Time	Mondays and Wednesdays	Tuesdays and Thursdays	Fridays
8:00-9:00	*Teacher Planning*	*Teacher Planning*	*Teacher Planning*
9:00-11:00	AM Elementary Block (ELA/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies and PE)	AM Elementary Block (ELA/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Music and Art)	AM Session Parent Conferences and Home Visits
11:00-11:50	Tutoring for AM and PM Students	Tutoring for AM and PM Students	Professional Learning for all Instructors
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-3:00	PM Elementary Block (ELA/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies and PE)	PM Elementary Block (ELA/Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Music and Art)	PM Session Parent Conferences and Home Visits

Sample Kindergarten Block

Time	Mondays and Wednesdays	Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:00-9:30	Phonics Instruction	Guided Reading Instruction
9:30-9:50	Writing Instruction	Math Instruction
9:50-10:00	*Movement Break*	*Movement Break*
10:00-10:30	Math Instruction	Daily Read Aloud/ Calendar Activities
10:30-11:00	Science and PE/Health Integrated Activity	Social Studies and Music/Art Integrated Activity

Online Academy Summary

Online Academy Summary

Grade Band	Digital Format	# of Courses	Student Hours	Electives
K-5	Synchronous	One integrated instructional block each day	Monday-Thursday 9:00-11:00am **/OR/** 1:00-3:00pm	PE, Music, and Art Integrated
6-8	Synchronous Core and Asynchronous Electives	2 core classes per day; 4 core classes total	Monday-Thursday 9:00-11:00am **/OR/** 1:00-3:00pm	*Optional* through Edgenuity and Georgia Virtual School
9-12	Blended Synchronous/ Asynchronous Instruction	4 courses per day; 8 courses total	Monday-Thursday 9:00-1:00	Available through Edgenuity and Georgia Virtual School

Administration Recommendation

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    2. Virtual Learning/K-12 Online

- Parents must commit to an option by <mark>July 27, 2020</mark>

- <mark>Early August</mark>: Review plan and staffing based on student numbers registered for traditional or virtual learning
    - Staggered schedules may be implemented based on enrollment numbers per school

- If there is a surge in COVID-19 cases…
    - Before school starts: Recommend a further delay
    - Once school has started: Transition to full-time virtual learning for PK-12

Teacher Professional Learning

- Teachers will be participating in a variety of virtual Professional Learning courses, including:
  - Recognizing and Closing Learning Gaps for Students
  - Teaching in a Virtual Setting
  - Physical Distancing and Proper Hand Hygiene
  - Routine Cleaning of High-Touch Surfaces
  - How to Talk to Children During and After COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Transitioning Back to School: Recognizing Signs of Anxiety and Depression
  - Training on Canvas, our New Learning Management System.

July 27 – September 4 Planning/Preparation

- Technology Distribution: August 17 – September 4

- Open House/Registration

- Parent Orientations

- Professional Development for Faculty and Staff

- Meal Service: Beginning August 5

Enrichment Opportunities before school starts:

- Complete work in Summer Express Workbooks (Grades K-8)

- Continue to work in iReady for Reading and Math skill practice (Grades K-8)

- Continue to read and record titles in summer reading logs #RCSSReadUpChallenge (K-8)

- Log into LaunchPad, click on Edgenuity, and work on the SAT or ACT courses (grades 9-12)

- Log into LaunchPad, click on Edgenuity, and work on the "Strategies for Academic Success" course (grades 9-12)

- Log into LaunchPad, click on Canvas, and complete the Canvas Orientation Course – Available in August (all grades)