About this Survey

This report presents the results of a survey that was given to Scarsdale parents to gather input for the District Restart Committees. The survey was designed and reviewed by members of the Restart Steering Committee, which included parents, teachers, and administration, and was distributed to parents in the second week of July. The survey allowed parents to: respond to some general questions; provide additional responses based on their childrens’ grade level bands: kindergarten, grades 1 and 2, grades 3-5, middle school, and high school; and submit any additional ideas and thoughts.

Survey respondents were informed about the goals of the survey: The Scarsdale School District is working on plans for re-opening school buildings in the 2020-21 school year and is currently exploring various options that will be guided by New York State laws and regulations, and based on available guidance from public health experts. Governor Cuomo and the NY Departments of Health and Education will determine how many children can be in a given building/classroom at a time, and that determination will dictate whether we return in the fall to full in-person learning, hybrid in-person and e-learning, or full e-learning. The District has convened Restart Committees composed of Cabinet members, administrators, teachers, counselors, nurses, parents, Board of Education members, students, and the District physician. These Committees want your feedback to understand what is most important to you! Please fill out this survey with the assumption that health and safety measures like social distancing are still in place.

All survey responses were confidential.
Before presenting the survey data, we would like to set a context for viewing the responses:

- The survey was answered by over 2,700 families, representing a very significant percentage of the parent population.

- The survey comments indicated that parents did not agree on a single approach for continuing our educational program in the fall. There were passionate opinions about the best way to move forward, with parents indicating that students must return to school and others indicating that they believed that remote learning should continue.

- The survey responses capture one moment in time, and it is possible that the result may look different if the survey is readministered in August.

- This survey is part of a larger effort to gather data from all stakeholders, and the results from the survey will help to provide context for the Restart planning efforts.

A summary of the results presented in this report was shared with the District Restart Committee on July 22nd. We are pleased to present it to the Scarsdale community, and we would like to thank all of the restart committee members who created this survey, as well as all the community members who completed it.
Survey Results

The survey began by asking parents about their comfort level for allowing students to return to school this fall. Specifically, they were asked “Based on what you know right now, how comfortable are you with sending your child/ren to school this Fall, if recommended health and safety measures are followed?”

Approximately 25% of parents indicated that they were “not at all comfortable” or “a little uncomfortable,” 58% stated that they were “very comfortable” or “mostly comfortable,” and 17% were not sure.

The next series of questions asked parents to present their opinions by ranking a number of factors related to a possible return to school, including a “hybrid” scenario and an approach that features “full eLearning.” Parents were also asked about the availability of technology and transportation.

The charts on the following pages reflect the parent responses, including responses from parents who have children in different levels.

After the charts, this Report provides a summary of ideas, thoughts, and concerns that were expressed by parents during the final comment section of the survey.
Parent Responses
How many children do you have in the Scarsdale Schools?

2,725 responses

- 1 child: 34.9%
- 2 children: 49.3%
- 3 children: 14.6%
- 4 children: 0.0%
- 5 children: 0.0%
- 6 children: 0.0%
Based on what you know right now, how comfortable are you with sending your child/ren to school this fall, if recommended health and safety measures are followed?

2,758 responses

- Very comfortable: 29.4%
- Mostly comfortable: 28.9%
- Not sure yet: 16.5%
- A little uncomfortable: 12.5%
- Not at all comfortable: 12.7%
How important are the following items to you and your family as we develop our plans for the opening of school in the fall? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

- A rigorous academic program
- Health and safety precautions
- Social-emotional support for students
- Clear assessments of student progress/regular teacher feedback to students
- Athletic and physical activities
- Arts, music, and specials activities
- Childcare
- Options for students/families uncomfortable with returning to in-person school
- Transportation to and from school
If State regulations permit any in-person learning in the fall, please select all items that you would want to feel comfortable before sending your child/ren to school:

2,708 responses

- All students must wear face coverings (2091 responses, 77.2%)
- All staff must wear face masks (2320 responses, 85.7%)
- Everyone entering the building has temperature checks (1909 responses, 70.5%)
- Reduction of class size (1844 responses, 68.1%)
- Staggered arrival and dismissal (1798 responses, 66.4%)
- Accommodations for social distancing (1817 responses, 67.1%)
- At this point, I do not believe I will be comfortable sending my children (351 responses, 13%)
If the State regulations require that we have a HYBRID scenario with part in-person and part e-learning, check the scenario that you most agree with:

2,747 responses

- I want all my children attending in-person school on the same days and schedule, even if they are in different...
- I want all my children who are in the same school attending on the same days and schedule, but don’t mind if...
- I don’t mind if my children attend in-person school on different days and s...
- I have only one child in our schools, so this question does not apply to me.
If the State regulations require that we have a HYBRID scenario with part in-person and part e-learning (and understanding that in a hybrid scenario teachers will likely be providing both in-person and e-learning), which issues are most important to you? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

- Instruction and progress in core content areas
- Ability to provide adequate parental co-teaching
- Teacher “office hours” (virtual or in-person) for students
- Frequent feedback on student progress
- Clear and consistent schedule
- Assignments that can be accessed and completed independently
- Academic support
- Extracurricular activities
- Social and emotional support
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Reasonable response time for parental inquiries
Which of the following best describes your household situation regarding internet bandwidth?

2,755 responses

- 96.1%: All students in our household have access to the internet simultaneously (not including by using phones).
- 3.9%: Only some students in our household have access to the internet simultaneously at any given time (not including by using phones).
- 0.0%: No students in our household have access to the internet.
Which of the following best describes your household’s situation regarding technology devices? Devices are defined as computers, tablets, and eBooks. Cellphones are NOT considered devices.

- Each student in our household has access to their own personal device.
- All students in our household have access to a shared device when they need it.
- All students in our household have access to a shared device, but not always when they need it.
- One or more students in our house does not have access to any device.

2,759 responses
If the State regulations require that we have a HYBRID scenario with part in-person and part e-learning, please rank the following scheduling options determined that such a schedule is not feasible.

1. Sending your children to school on alternating weeks, so in...
2. Sending your children to in-person school on only certain days of each week (e.g.....)
3. Having your child learn from home full time...
Kindergarten Parents
If the State regulations require that we have a HYBRID scenario with part in-person and part e-learning (and understanding that in a hybrid scenario teachers will likely be providing both in-person and e-learning), which experiences are... SCHOOL IN-PERSON? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

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- Synchronous instruction with the whole class
- Synchronous instruction with smaller groups of students
- Synchronous instruction multiple times each day
- Access to asynchronous learning opportunities (ie, pre-recorded lessons)
- Assignments that can be accessed and completed independently
- A variety of ways to learn from home (paper packets, recorded videos, live teaching, one-on-one tutoring, small group work, etc.)
- Limited screen time
If State regulations require that we must continue with FULL E-LEARNING in the fall, which student and parent supports are most important to you? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

Reliable student access to teachers, i.e., virtual daily "office hours"
Reasonable teacher response time for parental inquiries
Frequent student and parent feedback on assignments and progress
Access to academic support
Access to social and emotional support
Time spent on specials, such as P.E., music and art

Greater social interaction with classmates online
Virtual extracurricular activities, such as clubs
Parent workshops (i.e., Google Classroom tutorial, technology platform support, subject matter tips)
Consistent platforms for homework and progress tracking
Option to print assignments or complete and submit them on-line
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, and your kindergartner/s is attending school in person, how would they get to school most often? Please select all applicable choices.

304 responses

- District school bus: 48 (15.8%)
- Private bus: 13 (4.3%)
- Walking, biking, or car: 269 (88.5%)
- Depends on return to the office schedule: 2 (0.7%)
- Parent transportation: 1 (0.3%)
- I would not be sending my children to school: 1 (0.3%)
- Parent/caregiver drop off: 1 (0.3%)
- Being driven: 1 (0.3%)
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, your kindergartener/s is attending school in person, and you are eligible for transport... in order to open up additional spacing on buses?

285 responses

- Yes: 69.8%
- No: 16.1%
- Undecided: 14%
Parents of Students in Grades 1-2
If the State regulations require that we have a HYBRID scenario with part in-person and part e-learning (and understanding that in a hybrid scenario teachers will likely be providing both in-person and e-learning), which experiences are... SCHOOL IN-PERSON? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

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- Access to asynchronous learning opportunities (ie, pre-recorded lessons)
- Assignments that can be accessed and completed independently
- A variety of ways to learn from home (paper packets, recorded videos, live teaching, one-on-one tutoring, small group work, etc.)
- Limited screen time
If State regulations require that we must continue with FULL E-LEARNING in the fall, which student and parent supports are most important to you? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

- Reliable student access to teachers, i.e., virtual daily “office hours”
- Reasonable teacher response time for parental inquiries
- Frequent student and parent feedback on assignments and progress
- Access to academic support
- Access to social and emotional support
- Time spent on specials, such as P.E., music and art
- Greater social interaction with classmates online
- Virtual extracurricular activities, such as clubs
- Parent workshops (i.e., Google Classroom tutorial, technology platform support, subject matter tips)
- Consistent platforms for homework and progress tracking
- Option to print assignments or complete and submit them online
Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how did your child/ren in grades 1-2 get to school most often? Please select all applicable choices.

665 responses

- District school bus: 141 (21.2%)
- Private bus: 37 (5.6%)
- Walking, biking, or car: 494 (74.3%)
- First time in district: 2 (0.3%)
- This is our first year in the district: 1 (0.2%)
- New to Scarsdale: 1 (0.2%)
- He was not attending this school: 1 (0.2%)
- We just moved to Scarsdale, my children...: 1 (0.2%)
- Bus from kbs: 1 (0.2%)
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, and your child/ren in grades 1-2 are attending school in person, how would your child/ren most often? Please select all applicable choices.

669 responses

- District school bus: 93 (13.9%)
- Private bus: 17 (2.5%)
- Walking, biking, or car: 598 (89.4%)
- Don’t know: 2 (0.3%)
- Our car: 1 (0.1%)
- Parent Driven: 1 (0.1%)
- Parent transportation: 1 (0.1%)
- Car: 1 (0.1%)
- parent drop off: 1 (0.1%)
- able to not bus if it means school is o...: 1 (0.1%)
- school is o...: 1 (0.1%)
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, your child/ren in grades 1-2 are attending school in person, and you are eligible for... in order to open up additional spacing on buses?

610 responses

- Yes: 73.9%
- No: 14.8%
- Undecided: 11.3%
Parents of Students in Grades 3-5
If the State regulations require that we have a HYBRID scenario with part in-person and part e-learning (and understanding that in a hybrid scenario teachers will likely be providing both in-person and e-learning), which experiences are... SCHOOL IN-PERSON? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

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If State regulations require that we must continue with FULL E-LEARNING in the fall, which instructional formats are most important to you? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

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<th>Rank</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Synchronous instruction with smaller groups of students</td>
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If State regulations require that we must continue with FULL E-LEARNING in the fall, which student and parent supports are most important to you? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

- Reliable student access to teachers, i.e., virtual daily “office hours”
- Reasonable teacher response time for parental inquiries
- Frequent student and parent feedback on assignments and progress
- Access to academic support
- Access to social and emotional support
- Time spent on specials, such as P.E., music and art
- Greater social interaction with classmates online
- Virtual extracurricular activities, such as clubs
- Parent workshops (i.e., Google Classroom tutorial, technology platform support, subject matter tips)
- Consistent platforms for homework and progress tracking
- Option to print assignments or complete and submit them on-line
Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how did your child/ren in grades 3-5 get to school most often?
Please select all applicable choices.

1,126 responses

- District school bus: 256 (22.7%)
- Private bus: 60 (5.3%)
- Walking, biking, or car: 837 (74.3%)
- Private bus from Kids BASE: 1 (0.1%)
- Taxi: 1 (0.1%)
- New to Scarsdale: 1 (0.1%)
- Car: 1 (0.1%)
- We are new to the district: 1 (0.1%)
- Kids base bus, car or walking: 1 (0.1%)
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, and your child/ren in grades 3-5 are attending school in person, how would your child/re... most often? Please select all applicable choices.

1,128 responses

- District school bus: 181 (16%)
- Private bus: 37 (3.3%)
- Walking, biking, or car:
  - Car: 2 (0.2%)
  - I'm not sure—depends on whether Kids B...: 2 (0.2%)
  - Taxi: 1 (0.1%)
  - drive: 1 (0.1%)
  - car: 1 (0.1%)
- unclear at this time: 1 (0.1%)
- private bus or car: 1 (0.1%)
- kids base bus, car or walking: 1 (0.1%)
- We would transport them: 1 (0.1%)
- They will not attend if the pandemic co...: 1 (0.1%)

- Overall, the most common choice is walking, biking, or car, with 970 responses (86%).
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, your child/ren in grades 3-5 are attending school in person, and you are eligible for... in order to open up additional spacing on buses?
1,035 responses
Middle School Parents
If the State regulations require that we have a HYBRID scenario with part in-person and part e-learning (and understanding that in a hybrid scenario teachers will likely be providing both in-person and e-learning), which experiences are... SCHOOL IN-PERSON? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

| Whole class instruction in core content areas | Extracurricular activities |
| Small group instruction in core content areas | Art, music, and electives |
| Activities that build social-emotional skills | Science and "hands on" learning |
| Support for students struggling in core content areas | Writing exercises and lessons |
| Athletic and physical activities | Special Education services |
If State regulations require that we must continue with FULL E-LEARNING in the fall, which instructional formats are most important to you? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

Synchronous instruction with the whole class
Synchronous instruction with smaller groups of students
Synchronous instruction multiple times each day.
Access to asynchronous learning opportunities (ie, pre-recorded lessons)
Assignments that can be accessed and completed independently
A variety of ways to learn from home (paper packets, recorded videos, live teaching, one-on-one tutoring, small group work, etc.)
Limited screen time
If State regulations require that we must continue with FULL E-LEARNING in the fall, which student and parent supports are most important to you? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

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Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how did your Middle School child/ren get to school most often? Please select all applicable choices.

1,086 responses

- **District school bus**: 660 (60.8%)
- **Private bus**: 139 (12.8%)
- **Walking, biking, or car**: 321 (29.6%)
- **Walked to Heathcote**: 2 (0.2%)
- **Parent**: 1 (0.1%)
- **First year**: 1 (0.1%)
- **n/a just entering middle school now**: 1 (0.1%)
- **this will be 1st year**: 1 (0.1%)
- **Was in elementary school new to SMS**: 1 (0.1%)
- **N/A**: 1 (0.1%)
- **Took district bus to the elementary school our first year in middle school so it did not fit**: 1 (0.1%)
- **Drive to school by parents**: 1 (0.1%)
- **New to middle school**: 1 (0.1%)
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, and your Middle School child/ren are attending school in person, how would your child/ren most often? Please select all applicable choices.

1,089 responses

- **District school bus**: 467 (42.9%)
- **Private bus**: 70 (6.4%)
- **Walking, biking, or car**: 694 (63.7%)
  - Undecided
  - Parent
  - Drop them off privately
  - I would drive them
  - TBD
  - We are happy to drive our kids to school...
  - Parent would drop off and pickup. Not sure.
  - I would not be comfortable putting my child...
  - N/A - If the pandemic continues - we can...
  - I will drive my children to school
  - Equally happy to drive
  - Undecided
  - The capacity of bus will be limited so...
  - Me
  - Driven by parent
  - 1 (0.1%)
  - 1 (0.1%)
  - 1 (0.1%)
  - 1 (0.1%)
  - 1 (0.1%)
  - 1 (0.1%)
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, your Middle School child/ren are attending school in person, and you are eligible for... in order to open up additional spacing on buses?
1,054 responses

- Yes: 63%
- No: 20.9%
- Undecided: 16.1%
High School Parents
If the State regulations require that we have a HYBRID scenario with part in-person and part e-learning (and understanding that in a hybrid scenario teachers will likely be providing both in-person and e-learning), which experiences are... SCHOOL IN-PERSON? Please rank your top 3, with (1) being the most important.

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Synchronous instruction with the whole class
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Synchronous instruction multiple times each day
Access to asynchronous learning opportunities (ie, pre-recorded lessons)
Assignments that can be accessed and completed independently
A variety of ways to learn from home (paper packets, recorded videos, live teaching, one-on-one tutoring, small group work, etc.)
Limited screen time
Reliable student access to teachers, i.e., virtual daily “office hours”
Reasonable teacher response time for parental inquiries
Frequent student and parent feedback on assignments and progress
Access to academic support
Access to social and emotional support
Time spent on specials, such as P.E., music and art

Greater social interaction with classmates online
Virtual extracurricular activities, such as clubs
Parent workshops (i.e., Google Classroom tutorial, technology platform support, subject matter tips)
Consistent platforms for homework and progress tracking
Option to print assignments or complete and submit them on-line
Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, how did your High School child/ren get to school most often? Please select all applicable choices.

1,072 responses

- District school bus: 278 (25.9%)
- Private bus: 14 (1.3%)
- Walking, biking, or car: 815 (76%)
  - I drove them: 2 (0.2%)
  - Parent drives them: 1 (0.1%)
  - First year of High School: 1 (0.1%)
  - Parent would drive and pickup student: 1 (0.1%)
  - Car in the morning, bus in the afternoon: 1 (0.1%)
  - 8th Grader was on private bus: 1 (0.1%)
  - Driving: 1 (0.1%)
  - Parents drive: 1 (0.1%)
  - 9th grade: 1 (0.1%)
  - Mom driving: 1 (0.1%)
  - New to HS: 1 (0.1%)
  - Parent driving: 1 (0.1%)
  - N/A: 1 (0.1%)
  - Drove themselves: 1 (0.1%)
  - 9th grade, I think we will get bus: 1 (0.1%)
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, and your High School child/ren are attending school in person, how would your child/re... most often? Please select all applicable choices.

1,082 responses

- District school bus: 166 (15.3%)
- Private bus: 5 (0.5%)
- Walking, biking, or car: 964 (89.1%)
- I will drive them: 2 (0.2%)
- Parent: 1 (0.1%)
- I would drive them: 1 (0.1%)
- parent drives them: 1 (0.1%)
- Parent does drop off: 1 (0.1%)
- parent drop off: 1 (0.1%)
- driving: 1 (0.1%)
- With friends!!!: 1 (0.1%)
- Drive herself: 1 (0.1%)
- undecided: 1 (0.1%)
- parent driving: 1 (0.1%)
- Drive children: 1 (0.1%)
- Drive themselves: 1 (0.1%)
- I would drive him: 1 (0.1%)
- sometimes drop off by parents: 1 (0.1%)
Assuming the COVID-19 pandemic continues in the fall 2020, your High School child/ren are attending school in person, and you are eligible for... in order to open up additional spacing on buses?

981 responses
Parent Comments

Parents commented on a number of areas regarding the District’s Restart Plan. The following categories represent the nature of the comments that were entered into the survey:

**Theme: E-Learning:**
- Many requests for daily/more synchronous instruction, especially small group instruction; rigorous instruction; need to cover regular curriculum
- Need to make up for lost learning this fall.
- Need more robust teacher feedback for students; return student work
- Parents need more access to student progress (particularly elementary)
- Daily office hours/opportunity for 1-1 interaction
- Students need more direct teacher interaction during instruction
- Need for a regular and consistent schedule (preference is to model in-person schedule)
- Should have core classes each day. Given limited resources, focus on core classes
- Many parents requested the use of a unified technology platform
- Stream classrooms so everyone can be on the same schedule
- Need consistency in teaching/expectations across grade/levels
- Asynchronous should be presented by Scarsdale teachers (not YouTube or Khan Academy)
- Some parents suggested following the private school model -- provide structure to the day and full days of synchronous learning
Theme: Social Emotional Learning/Psychological Well-Being
- Strong need for activities to address SEL
- Need to find ways to have all kids socialize, even older ones; all kids suffer emotionally/psychologically without social interaction
- Need to develop a connection with teachers too which is hard to do over a screen. Hard in large group Zooms too.
- Routine is important for mental health
- Pods - parents trying to form pods outside school time to help with childcare, parent teaching, and socialization
- Concern about transition grades (K, 6, 9)
- Sports, extracurriculars, arts, clubs important for kids’ well-being

Theme: Requests for In-Person Instruction
- Social/emotional harm of keeping kids at home is too great
- Harm of keeping kids home far outweighs risks of COVID-19
- If kids mask, they will be safe. If kids stay in cohorts, they’ll be safe.
- Many parent/physicians support return to school
- Some parents view teachers as essential workers
- Harm from excessive screen time
- Working parents - e-learning especially challenging for homes with two working parents (especially at the younger levels). Finding time to help kids with school and work at the same time.
- Childcare concerns
- Have hybrid instruction at a minimum.
- If hybrid, have two tracts: one for in-school teachers and kids and one for at-home teachers and kids
- Many suggest prioritizing elementary kids/K-2, K-5; they can't learn online and are less likely to spread the virus
- Many requests to prioritize transition grades: K, 6, 9.
- Many parents have concerns about students with special needs; they struggled with e-learning. Prioritize in-person for them.
- A few parents suggested prioritizing high school students, especially juniors and seniors because of the college application process, and especially seniors because it’s their last year.
- Some suggested phasing in and out of in-person school around holidays/breaks.
- In-person school supported by American Academy of Pediatrics
- Sports, electives, extracurriculars, clubs are important in person
- Scarsdale is an affluent town so we should be able to afford all needed accommodations
- Other countries (China, Sweden) and areas (Europe) got kids back, so we should too

Theme: Parents Not Ready to Send Kids Back
- Too unsafe/stay remote
- Have a remote option for any at-risk kids and uncomfortable families (even if in full in-person or hybrid model). Will also help de-densify.
- Compliance - too hard for kids to follow. Kids can’t/won’t wear masks all day.
Theme: Schedule
- Parents want a consistent and predictable schedule
- School day must have structure
- In-person and remote schedule should align

Miscellaneous Comments
- Masking/social distance/temperature checks/safety guidelines. Assurances that kids will wear masks. Some parents don’t believe kids need to wear masks. Some believe that masks are too hot and dangerous.
- Many parents suggested wearing masks and face shields
- How do we ensure compliance? What are ramifications if students don’t follow the safety precautions?
- Some parents believe that students/teachers returning from high risks states/traveling should be required to quarantine.
- Some parents suggested looking at how some camps were able to open.
- Some parents suggested testing is needed if we are back in person.
- Facilities - filtration, modify spaces, put up barriers, install better ventilation
  - Outdoors/tents - Use outdoor spaces, especially tents, which could be used for classes/sports
  - Expand to community spaces
- Some parents questioned what happens if a Covid-19 case is found in one of the schools. Having a plan communicated up front is preferred.