



2020 – 2021 SCHOOL YEAR  
REOPENING OF LINDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reimagine what excellence and distinction look like in Linden Public Schools, we value and appreciate the input from all of our stakeholders. During these challenging times, decisions have to be made regarding the safety and education of our students and staff.

We thank everyone who took the time to complete the parent survey. This data from the survey will be used to inform the district's reopening committees as we finalize our reopening plan(s) for September. Even if you were not able to complete the survey, you still have the opportunity to share your concerns and questions with the district. We have created a dedicated email hotline for parents and staff to communicate directly with the district regarding reopening plans and protocols. All additional questions and feedback can be forward to [LPSreopen2020@lindenps.org](mailto:LPSreopen2020@lindenps.org).

We thank you all for your continued patience and support as we navigate our new normal, which we all hope will be temporary. Please continue to keep your children academically engaged during the summer and stay safe.

Carpe diem,

*Marnie Hazelton Ed. D.*

Dr. Marnie Hazelton

Superintendent of Schools  
Linden Public Schools

<b>Q1. In September, my child will be in grade</b>		
Answer Choices	<b>Responses</b>	
Pre-K	3.06%	63
Kindergarten	6.76%	139
1	8.41%	173
2	9.24%	190
3	9.19%	189
4	8.99%	185
5	9.04%	186
6	7.29%	150
7	7.78%	160
8	7.24%	149
9	6.56%	135
10	5.30%	109
11	5.74%	118
12	5.40%	111
	<b>Answered</b>	2057
	<b>Skipped</b>	7

<b>Q2. In September,</b>		
Answer Choices	<b>Responses</b>	
I am willing to send my child back to school every day with safety measures in place	36.04%	740
I am willing to send my child back to school on an alternating schedule of live and virtual learning	29.47%	605
I am not willing to send my child back to school and would like instruction to remain virtual	32.34%	664
I will not be sending my child back to school	2.14%	44
	<b>Answered</b>	2053
	<b>Skipped</b>	11

<b>Q3. When schools reopen, which plan best meets your needs?</b>		
Answer Choices	<b>Responses</b>	
In person, every day with safety precautions	31.79%	654
At home, virtual with computer, video lessons and independent offline work	31.40%	646
A combination of virtual and in person learning	34.81%	716
Other (please specify)	1.99%	41
	<b>Answered</b>	2057
	<b>Skipped</b>	7

<b>Q4. What is the primary reason for your response to the previous question?</b>		
Answer Choices	<b>Responses</b>	
It is my child's choice	2.91%	60
It is my personal preference	7.76%	160
It is the most effective learning option for my child	28.48%	587
I need childcare	1.75%	36
Health and safety concerns for my child	56.09%	1156
Other (please specify)	3.01%	62
	<b>Answered</b>	2061
	<b>Skipped</b>	3

<b>Q5. When school reopens, which schedule would you most prefer for your child?</b>		
Answer Choices	<b>Responses</b>	
Full day, in person, everyday	28.46%	567
Full day, in person on an alternating schedule (2-3 days per week) with the other days virtual	24.85%	495
Half day, in person, everyday	4.82%	96
Half day, in person on an alternating schedule (2-3 days per week) with the other days virtual	26.96%	537
Alternate weeks in person and virtual	14.91%	297
	<b>Answered</b>	1992
	<b>Skipped</b>	72

<b>Q6. What type of transportation option do you anticipate for your child?</b>		
Answer Choices	<b>Responses</b>	
School bus to and from school	13.01%	267
School bus TO school only	0.88%	18
School bus FROM school only	1.51%	31
No bus at all	84.61%	1737
	<b>Answered</b>	2053
	<b>Skipped</b>	7

<b>Q7. When we return to school, my child will participate in the following if available:</b>			
Answer Choices		Responses	
Athletics		15.71%	322
After school clubs and activities		16.49%	338
After school tutoring		5.41%	111
My child will not participate in extra-curricular and after school activities		62.39%	1279
		<b>Answered</b>	2050
		<b>Skipped</b>	14

<b>Q8. Please indicate your level of concern for the following:</b>								
	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned	Total	Weighted Average			
Catching or spreading COVID-19	78.75%	1623	16.30%	336	4.90%	101	2060	2.74
Learning loss	78.70%	1622	14.36%	296	6.65%	137	2055	2.71
Wearing of masks by students	76.42%	1575	16.50%	340	6.84%	141	2056	2.69
School sanitizing protocols	74.48%	1535	18.73%	386	6.45%	133	2054	2.67
Not being able to social distance in school	74.38%	1533	17.81%	367	7.52%	155	2055	2.66
Wearing of masks by teachers and staff	61.38%	1265	23.39%	482	14.90%	307	2054	2.46
School closing again	60.36%	1244	24.60%	507	14.56%	300	2051	2.45
No socialization time	46.24%	953	33.28%	686	19.80%	408	2047	2.25
Not being able to social distance on buses	51.04%	1052	9.36%	193	38.19%	787	2032	2.10
No childcare	32.80%	676	16.55%	341	49.15%	1013	2030	1.81
							<b>Answered</b>	<b>2061</b>
							<b>Skipped</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>Q9. Please indicate your priority for the following safety measures:</b>								
	Very Necessary	Somewhat Necessary	Not Necessary	Total	Weighted Average			
Hand sanitizing stations	93.64%	1930	5.24%	108	0.82%	17	2055	2.92
Temperature checks	79.23%	1633	15.62%	322	4.95%	102	2057	2.74
Social distancing	76.76%	1582	19.07%	393	4.03%	83	2058	2.72
Wearing of masks	76.27%	1572	16.59%	342	6.99%	144	2058	2.69
Contact tracing	73.36%	1512	19.07%	393	7.13%	147	2052	2.65
No visitors	65.55%	1351	24.94%	514	8.15%	168	2033	2.55
							<b>Answered</b>	<b>2048</b>
							<b>Skipped</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Q10. Best describe your internet access</b>		
Answer Choices	<b>Responses</b>	
None	1.03%	21
Limited - Not in my home	1.76%	36
Slow, unreliable	10.18%	208
Fast, reliable	58.76%	1201
Unlimited	29.40%	601
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>2044</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Q11. Please indicate the effectiveness of your schools' outreach during COVID-19 in the following areas:</b>										
	Very effective		Effective		Somewhat Effective		Not Effective		Total	Weighted Average
Supports for learning	38.91%	802	32.56%	671	21.11%	435	6.89%	142	2050	3.02
Access to instructional materials	42.07%	867	34.93%	720	17.71%	365	4.66%	96	2048	3.13
Overall response to the pandemic	44.06%	908	38.77%	799	13.97%	288	2.52%	52	2047	3.23
Communication from teachers	49.39%	1018	29.74%	613	16.11%	332	4.17%	86	2049	3.23
Communication from school	47.36%	976	35.32%	728	13.93%	287	3.06%	63	2054	3.26
									<b>Answered</b>	<b>2056</b>
									<b>Skipped</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Q12. What supports did your child receive during virtual learning? Check all that apply</b>		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Communication from teachers through email, texts, or phone.	76.12%	1562
Communication from teachers through online learning platforms or video conferencing	74.51%	1529
Counseling from social workers, school counselors, or child study team members	14.42%	296
Remedial instruction	8.19%	168
Other (please specify)	5.12%	105
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>2052</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>12</b>

<b>Q13. What was your preferred method of contact with the school or teacher?</b>		
Answer Choices	<b>Responses</b>	
Phone	23.51%	481
Email	47.75%	977
Virtual meeting	15.64%	320
Learning Platform	13.10%	268
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>2046</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>18</b>

<b>Q14. I was satisfied with my child's virtual learning experience:</b>		
Answer Choices	<b>Responses</b>	
Strongly agree	23.90%	490
Agree	31.27%	641
Somewhat agree	32.00%	656
Disagree	12.83%	263
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>2050</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>14</b>

<b>Q15. What would have made the experience better?</b>	
<b>Answered</b>	<b>1307</b>
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>457</b>

<b>Q16. Additional Comments</b>	
<b>Answered</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>Skipped</b>	<b>1061</b>



## Summary of Open-Ended Responses

### **Question 4: *What is the primary reason for your response to the previous question?***

Other responses from parents / legal guardians included:

- The willingness to have their child wear a mask all day.
- Concern for the health and safety of compromised family members at home.
- The inability to do virtual learning with their child at home.

### **Question 12: *What supports did your child receive during virtual learning? Check all that apply.***

Other responses from parents and guardians included:

- Some teachers communicated better and more often than others.
- Live conferencing / teaching was not often enough.
- Extra supports were provided in Title 1, ESL and Speech.

### **Question 15: *What would have made the experience better?***

In summary, parent / guardian responses included:

- Better structure, set time scheduling, longer time for instruction
- More teacher interaction
- More video conferencing
- Better teacher contact

### **Actual responses from parents / guardians were:**

“A Set schedule for all subject teachers to virtually meet.”

“Consistency with how school work was being distributed.”

“My Child’s virtual learning experience could have been enhanced if there was more teacher instruction, rather than parent’s teaching the lessons and administering tests. Virtual learning, in my opinion, does not support healthy social and emotional development of elementary school students and I fear they are falling behind in many areas.”

“More communication with the teacher.”

“More virtual classroom instruction.”

“In hopes that the school is better prepared for this pandemic, teachers should communicate with parents better. We need to also focus on those with special needs in the schools. There should be a form of reaching out to parents to discuss the child’s mental, emotional well-being as well.”

“More contact with students. More virtual learning. Less assigning stuff and not teaching them.”

“Improve teacher feedback and response, more instructional support with lessons, more support from social workers, tutoring/homework help sessions.”

### **Question 16: *Additional Comments***

In summary, parent / guardian responses included:

- They do not feel safe sending their child back.
- They want their child to go back for socialization.
- They do not want their child wearing a mask all day.
- They need special education services for their child.
- They want an option to be all virtual.
- They are concerned with the cleanliness and sanitizing of the schools.
- They want to see consistency amongst teachers.
- They would like half of the students in at a time to help with social distancing.

### **Actual responses from parents / guardians were:**

“As crucial as it is to have children in school and in a learning, social environment, the top priority is health and safety of the students, teachers. And family members. It is impossible to pretend that life is back to normal and keeping that and the priority of everyone’s health and safety in mind, parents and teachers should be given the option to decide what is best for their child and their family’s needs while still being able to have their child learn or have the teacher teach in an environment that does not put themselves and their family members at risk.”

“Our child struggled with only virtual learning and parents just need to know what student will need to do. Unclear how support and counseling that is part of the IEP would be implemented.”

“Serious concern of contracting and transmitting COVID 19. Worried about being able to keep social distancing and wearing a mask all day, everyday for both students and staff.”

“I would feel better if classes weren’t too overcrowded. I know first hand how crowded classes can get.”

“My major concern is having my child wearing a mask all day during school hours.”

“We appreciate the staff, we hope our children can remain home and learn online for their health.”

“We want the schools to open but with the proper safety measures our children health must come first.”

“Limiting my child’s time in school would make me feel safer. He would have some normalcy with a combination of safety precautions.”

“Schools should increase their cleaning methods and deep clean after every school day. Teachers and children should be able to breathe fresh air, talk, socialize and smile without difficulty hearing, breathing or worries of any infraction. Therefore, children and teachers should not have to wear a mask.”

“Just concerned about the safety and the kid’s better future as well because virtual learning is not as effective as in person school is but as well safety is important too so hopefully we will together find a way to secure our children future.”

“Teachers should have scheduled instruction time with students virtually. At least half of the regular school day.”

“This pandemic is very real and it has to be taken serious. Everyone has their own home issues but we have to think of the safety of our kids and teachers.”