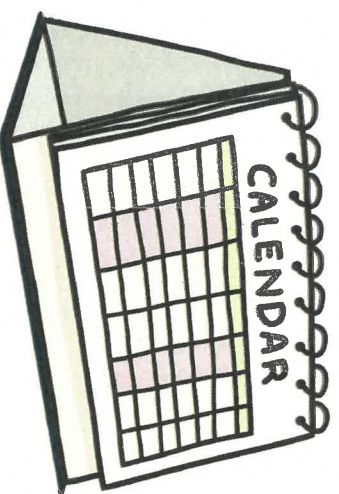
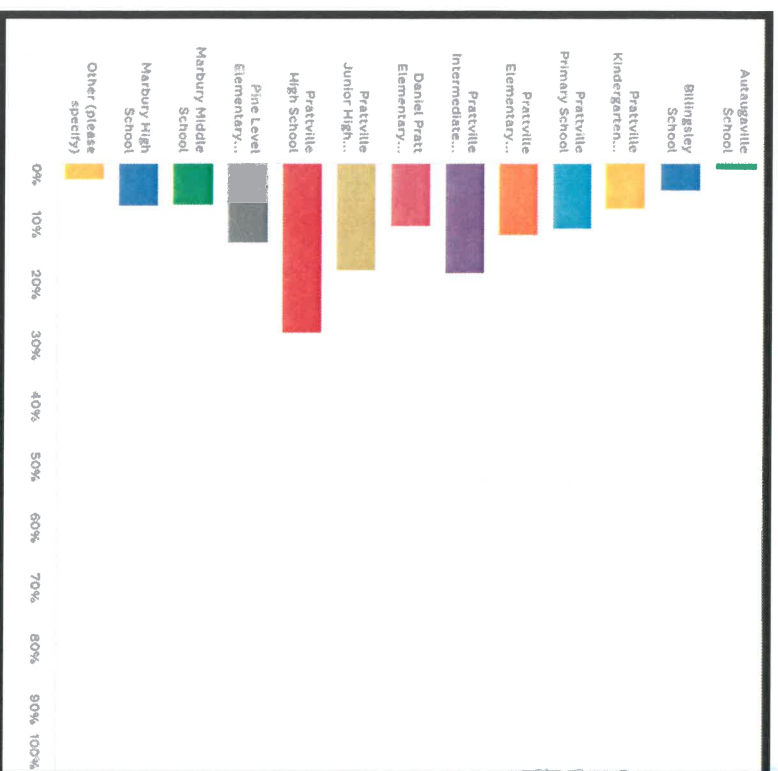


Possible Revisions to 2020-2021 School Calendar Parent Survey- May 2020



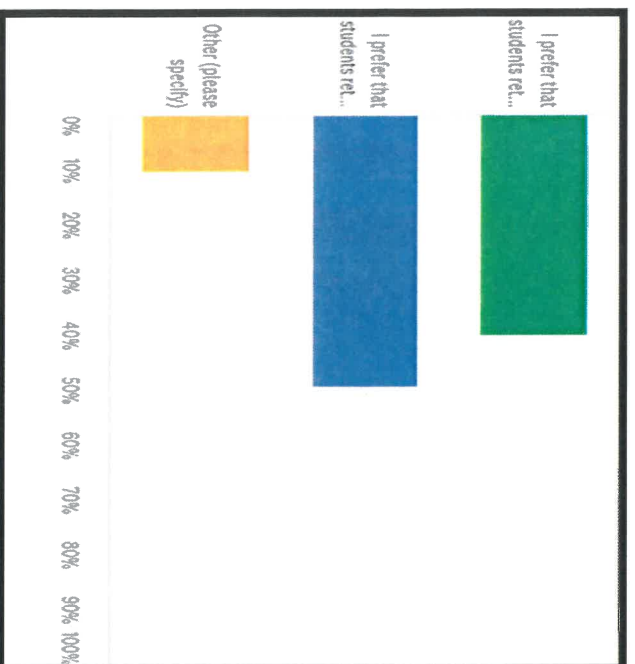
Autauga County Schools
Thursday, May 21, 2020

Q1: Where does your child currently attend school? Mark all that apply.



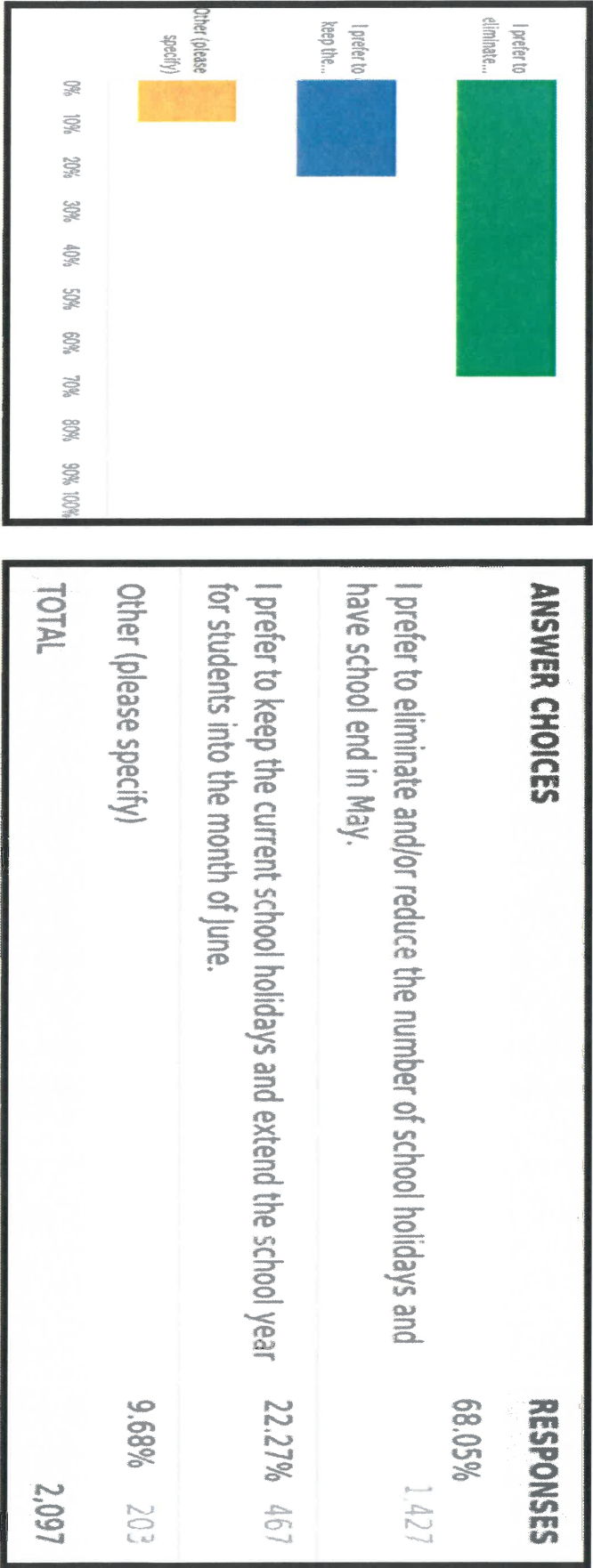
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Autaugaville School	20
Billingsley School	95
Prattville Kindergarten School	156
Prattville Primary School	229
Prattville Elementary School	251
Prattville Intermediate School	365
Daniel Pratt Elementary School	224
Prattville Junior High School	374
Prattville High School	589
Pine Level Elementary School	280
Marbury Middle School	146
Marbury High School	150
Other (please specify)	61
Total Respondents: 2,117	

Q2: According to our current 2020-2021 school calendar, the first day of school for our students is August 6, 2020. The State Superintendent has indicated that schools should consider postponing their start dates until late August or after Labor Day. (Labor Day is September 7, 2020.) If we postpone the start date for our students, what is your preference for students returning to school?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I prefer that students return to school in late August.	40.26%	856
I prefer that students return to school after Labor Day.	49.48%	1,052
Other (please specify)	10.25%	218
TOTAL		2,126

Q3: If we start school later in the year, we have to add this time back in other ways to accommodate the instructional time required of public schools. To do this, we have two options. We could still end school by May, but we would have to eliminate or shorten some of our school holidays. For example, we could shorten the Thanksgiving holiday to two or three days rather than the five days we currently have. Also, our fall break could be eliminated. Our other option is to keep the current school holidays, but our last day of school would be in the month of June. What is your preference?



Parent Comments

There should be a plan for a hybrid startup, if needed. This would include online learning combined with traditional in class instruction. This approach would limit the number of students on campus, while still providing 1 or 2 days in a classroom setting.

If we could have 175 required days instead of 180. The school day start at 7:45 and end at 3:15. This extended time should allow students to start on August 27th and keep all scheduled holidays in the current calendar.

I think starting school after Labor Day would be good but at that point flu season is ramping back up. When making these decisions please go ahead and think about the possibility of school being postponed later. Also how are our schools going to be able to have kids 6 feet apart? There isn't enough space for students now with classes being overloaded. Are you bringing in more staff? I hope all aspects will be looked at thoughtful and the best decision is made. I also ask that you pray and seek GODS guidance for direction and for him to come back into our school system. Thank you for all your hard work.

I would like to have an option to keep doing learning packets at home. I do not feel comfortable sending my child to school during COVID-19. I would like for the Superintendent and Board to address the plan for parents that do not wish to send their children to school during COVID-19.

As we remain in the midst of an uncertain time, my only comment is that I hope all votes submitted are taken with great consideration to ensure the safety of not only all students, but all faculty and staff members of Autauga County.

Parent Comments

Would it be possible to add 20 or so minutes to the end of each day? I don't envy your position and appreciate whatever solution you come up with.

I support whatever decision you make. I know it's not going to be an easy one.

If it's gone in June or July why not start school early August as scheduled. If it does come back it will come back like in November-ish so might as well start normal time and get as much as we can done. Homeschooling is not an option for my as well as many other families. Me and my husband both work full-time and no one else who can do it.

From March to May we have closed and re-opened the economy of the State of Alabama. Surely the Autauga County Board of Education can wait another 30-45 days before making what appears to be a snap decision. Slow down and let the medical experts determine the course of action before making decisions that will affect children and families.

Resume school on August 6th as usual. Delaying by a month will do nothing. They have been out since March, this virus will not go away a month later so this makes no sense at all. The virus is here, find ways to deal with it. Businesses are opening back up and schools need to as well. Offer those that want virtual learning the ability to do so while others that need/want in person learning that option. This will reduce class sizes and help both sides. Parents can not work if their kids are out of school so get things back to normal and give families the flexibility to chose their method of education for their children. If you consider delaying you will have to continue delaying well past September if you are waiting for the virus to disappear.

Considering the available public health projections, there may be a COVID surge in the fall. I would prefer a school restart IF... 1. the number of new cases has significantly declined, 2. there are testing capabilities readily available and accessible in this community, 3. there is protective equipment available at retail stores (masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes, sanitizer, etc) for use by students/all BOE employees as a requirement, 4. there is a logical plan to physically distance students in the context of the school environment, 5. there is a solid cleaning plan/schedule/contract in place to clean/sanitize the school facilities/transportation as per CDC recommendations at a minimum before, during, and at end of school day and 6. if there is development of a hybrid learning plan; there are students/employees who may be high risk. A contingency plan that involves a blocked schedule (i.e. - more built in closures/breaks), reduced time in the school buildings in such large groups, and continued use of (remote/distance learning) alternative instructional methods would be ideal. In my opinion, it would be thoughtful to include additional planned closures in the fall/winter for the sake of community health and wellness.

You need to take into consideration the mental health of our children. My daughter's friend has already committed self harm. Get with it and help the children by stopping all this panic. Our children need to go back to their normal lives and back to their friends and teachers. You say you want what's in the best interest of our children, show it by giving them their lives back.

Keep our kids safe. Whatever it takes.

Please just do absolutely everything you can to help keep the students safe. If it's not safe for children to come back to school when the time arrives, please postpone school until it is safe for the children to return. Thank you for considering our responses to this survey and for all you do for our children.

Parent Comments

Whatever you do make a decision and stick to it. Also keep in mind parents are back to work and childcare is expensive and an extra month could break a family. You may be keeping them from a virus that they fight everyday in daycare but you are endangering them and their families with hardships not considered.

I'd still be interested in looking at alternative schedules to reduce the amount of time kids are subjected to the crowds of the school environment. Optional distance learning for parents and students that would be interested would be a great option. Also, possibly figuring out a way to do a shortened school week and trying to keep students in one location as much as possible would be a way to follow some social distancing policies too. Just so you know though, no matter what the board decides to do, there is no way to make everyone happy. Do the best you all can and hope for as much support as possible. Good luck!! :-)

You need to wait before making this decision, give it more time. I think you need to only consider starting at a later date if and when there is a clear need. Have a plan in place, sure, but don't make a decision now to have a late start date, wait and see if a late start is even needed.

I would prefer to keep the current school calendar and to resume e-Learning until it is safe to resume in-person learning. I would also prefer to have the option for my child to do e-Learning for the entire school year without having to worry about resuming in-person instruction.

Parent Comments

I recommend that we start school as planned on August 6th. Students have been out of a school environment since March 16th. Our children, especially those in rural areas, are paying an incredible price for having their education disrupted. If the reason for delaying the school year is to give schools "more time" to prepare, then a decision to delay school is unacceptable. Student education, health, and well-being is the most important deciding factor. In terms of health risks, our Alabama heat and humidity should assist us in combating COVID-19. Starting in early August should help us if school is disrupted later in the 2020-2021 school year. Proper hygiene practices, which include schools providing soap and paper towels every day for all bathrooms combined with routine classroom cleaning will help suppress the spread of the disease. At the end of the day, our students are going to have a learning slide. However, if we are proactive in beginning school then we can create a learning environment where all students can experience success. Please start school on August 6th.

What are the plans for students, if parents still are not comfortable sending their child(ren) back to school no matter the which date is selected? Will online still be provided?

I understand that instructional time is vital in the education system, however, children need a break too. They need a longer summer break--time to decompress & regroup and less homework. Our children have the rest of their lives to spend working 8 (or more) hours a day every day. Requiring them to do that as children is a true injustice. Because of long school hours and countless hours of homework each night, so many children are tired, overwhelmed, and depressed. Let children be children. Give them a longer break when they need it. Give fewer homework assignments and use class time to provide instruction instead of prioritizing standardized testing. They'll only be little for a little while.