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July 27, 2020

Dear Two Rivers Supervisory Union Community:

Six days ago, we sent parents and families a survey asking for your thoughts and concerns about reopening. We have received, as of this morning, nearly 400 responses. We have also received over 100 responses to a staff and faculty survey asking for their concerns about returning to the classroom. These responses present a very different picture than responses to the survey sent out on June 1. It is clear from the information shared with us in the last week that everyone would, in theory, like to return full time to in-person instruction. It is equally clear that health and safety concerns make that too worrisome for most of our community. (Graphs showing the responses to the multiple choice questions from the parent survey are at the end of this letter).

In light of this input, which includes a desire to align schedules with some area schools, we are adjusting our initial plan. Students enrolled in TRSU schools will have two options;

1. **In-person schooling. This will be four days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) in the building with remote learning one day a week (Wednesday).** We will begin on an early release schedule for the first couple of weeks as we all adjust to wearing face coverings and being in classrooms with distancing. Please note that Wednesday's remote learning will look different depending on the school and grade level.
2. **Remote Only schooling.** There will be a Remote Only option available to all students. While we are still finalizing the details for this, Remote Only learning **will** be available.

As I said in the July 16 letter, these proposals are fluid. Our plans necessarily change as we receive new information from all of you, from the AOE, and from the Department of Health.

We will have our next open forum (by Zoom) on Wednesday, July 29 at 6:00. Here is the Zoom link (which will also be available on the TRSU website): <https://trsuzoom.us/j/96192949166>.

Based on the requirements and recommendations of the "Strong and Healthy Start" document from the Vermont AOE and Department of Health -- as well as the concerns of our families and our staff -- here is our (updated 7-27) plan:

Return to Buildings:

- All five of our schools open four days a week for in-person instruction of all students (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday). Wednesdays will be remote learning (which will look different depending on school and grade level).
- All schools will run early release schedules for the first couple of weeks on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- There **will** be a fully Remote Learning option for interested families. Students selecting this option would have to commit to it for at least the first semester (and could not alternate between school and home during that time.)
- Based on our examination of available space in each building and expectation of student numbers in each building, we can have all students attend school each day while maintaining appropriate social distancing. **Students will be seated 6' apart.**
- We will aim to have students outdoors as often as possible and for as long as the weather permits.
- All students and staff will be required to wear facial coverings whenever they are indoors. When outdoors, face coverings can be removed as long as at least 6' of social distancing is maintained.
- All students and staff will be required to have a health screening (temperature check and answering of health related questions) prior to entering the building each day. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or above will not be allowed to remain at school.
- Students will remain in cohorts to the extent possible.
- (Further details will be available soon.)

We are creating detailed guidelines to explain how the state level guidance will be implemented in each of our schools. Our plan is to send that information to you by August 7.

I know everyone wants it sooner. Please know that I also want that final plan in place yesterday. However, it is important to all of us in the TRSU that we listen to the concerns and suggestions of our families and staff members and adjust our plans accordingly. That just takes time.

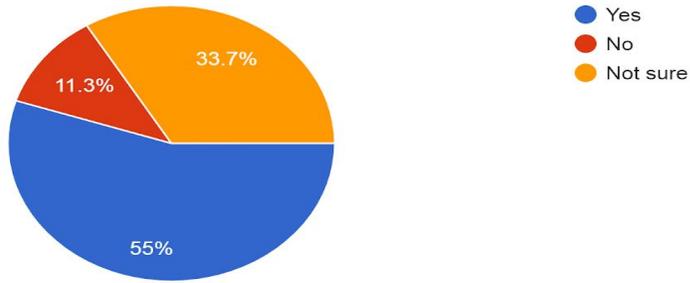
I continue to admire the nurturing and supportive nature of the members of our community. Even in the face of these difficult issues, you are thoughtful, positive, and kind. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us and for your patience as we strive to create a plan that balances our desire to have our students in the classroom with our need to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Lauren Fierman, Superintendent of Schools
Two Rivers Supervisory Union
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The charts below show families' responses to our 7/21 survey questions as of this morning (7/27). These numbers, along with the responses to open-ended questions, show that, while a majority of families want to return to in-person school instruction, many are understandably unsure and would like to move forward with a great deal of caution. The administration and staff of all our schools share those feelings.

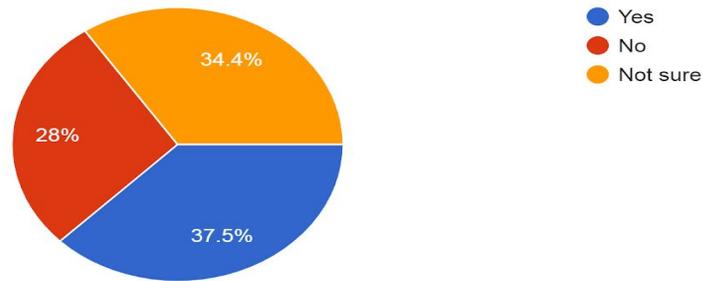
Right now, we are planning on In-person instruction in all schools. Are you planning on sending your child/children?

389 responses



If a Remote Only option were available, would you select that for your child/children?

389 responses



Buses will be available. If you plan on sending your child to school, what is your plan for transportation?

389 responses

