

SC 02.25.21 Revised

Latest Guidance: Operating Schools During Pandemic



Haverhill Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
February 25, 2021



Current HPS COVID-19 Dashboard



COVID-19 Data | Week of 2/11/21 - 2/17/21

[PREVIOUS DASHBOARDS](#)

Current Instructional Mode:
Hybrid

Number of Pools completed: 119 pools tested
Number of Pools positive: 4 pools positive

CITY OF HAVERHILL DATA

Percent Positivity:	5.2%
Change in Percent Positivity	Lower
Average Daily Incidence	34.3 per 100,000
Relative Change in Case Counts	Lower Color: Red

STUDENT DATA

Positive in Person	3
Positive Remote	7
Quarantined Students	91
Weekly Attendance Rate	90%
School Year Positivity Count	528

STAFF DATA

Positive Staff in Person	2
Positive Staff Remote	0
Quarantined Staff	24
Weekly Attendance Rate	95%
School Year Positivity Count	116



Factors for Changing School Learning Model



Factors for Changing School Learning Model

The Haverhill Public School's uses the below criteria when determining a school/district change between remote/hybrid learning models.

MA Department of Public Health HAVERHILL POSITIVITY RATE (14 Days)

MASS.GOV
COVID
REPORTING

- Is the rate improving, LOWER, HIGHER or NO CHANGE?
- Is any change related to a cluster?

DISTRICT TESTING RESULTS

POOL TESTING
INFORMATION
VIDEO

- What are the **POOL** positivity rates (by school)?
- What is the **STAFF** positivity rate (by school)?
- What is the **STUDENT** positivity rate (by school)?

NUMBER OF STAFF QUARANTINED (CLOSE CONTACT)

HPS COVID
DASHBOARD

- School-wide
- Classroom

VACCINATION

MASS COVID
VACCINATION
INFORMATION

- Availability of vaccines.
- Percentage of staff completed vaccines?



Layered Mitigation Strategies

Haverhill consistently implements “layered mitigation strategies”:

1. Universal and Correct Use of Masks*

- ✓ <https://www.haverhill-ps.org/covid-19/>

2. Physical Distancing*

- ✓ Desks measured 6 feet apart
- ✓ Floors marked for social distance
- ✓ One-way hallways
- ✓ Staggered hallway passing times

3. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- ✓ Sanitizing station installation
- ✓ HVAC inspection, repair and upgrades
- ✓ Sink & bubbler inspection, repair, replacement

4. Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

- ✓ 10 Additional custodial staff
- ✓ 30 Electrostatic sprayers
- ✓ 250 Air scrubbers
- ✓ Replace/repair screens & windows district wide
- ✓ 1000 plus desk-top dividers

5. Contact Tracing & Isolation & Quarantine

- ✓ Daily self-attestation staff
- ✓ Strict visitor policies
- ✓ In-district contract
- ✓ 616 staff* quarantined/isolated
- ✓ 1972 students* quarantined/isolated

* CDC priority mitigation strategies for return to In-Person Learning

* as of 2/22/21



Layers of Prevention

Haverhill has begun to implement “layers of prevention”

COVID 19 Testing

HPS COVID testing program

- ✓ In-house contact tracing
- ✓ Partnership with PMA for PCR testing
- ✓ Pool Testing Pilot staff & students
- ✓ BINAXNow testing for rapid results

COVID 19 Vaccination

“As soon as supply allows”

- School staff is in Phase 2, Group 3 of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccination Phases
- The state has just moved to Phase 2, Group 2
- We are awaiting notification of when this next phase will begin



DESE Pending Proposal to Return to Full In-Person Learning

DESE Commissioner Riley Reports –

"A broader plan, to be released in March, to begin returning more students to in-person learning this spring, assuming our state's health metrics continue to improve.

Ideally, my initial goal is to bring all elementary school students back to in-person learning five days a week this April. "

Riley reports he will be bring his plan to the Board of Education in the coming weeks for a vote – if approved guidance will be released mid-March for an early April phased in approach to return to In-person Learning.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT DESE PROPOSAL?

- Continue to recommend masking, physical distancing, hand hygiene, cleaning, and contact tracing.
- **Continue to recommend a minimum of 3 feet distancing**
- Phased return to In-person instruction beginning with elementary schools.
- Pooled testing plays a prominent role
- Testing program for symptomatic staff and students are pivotal
- Vaccines are not a prerequisite for returning to in-person learning



DESE Pending Proposal to Return to Full In-Person Learning

DESE Transportation Guidance ***Revised 2/11/2021***

Core Practices

- Masks
- Windows open - 2 inches
- Seating capacity guidelines are lifted K – 4
- Seating capacity guidelines for MS/HS w/ high community prevalence 2 students per bench
- Assigned seating all levels
- Review & revise Reopening Transportation Plan



CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

If the two indicators suggest different levels, the actions corresponding to the higher threshold should be chosen. County-level data on total new cases in the past 7 days and test percent positivity are available on the County View tab in [CDC’s COVID Data Tracker](#).



CDC Recommendations for HPS w/Comprehensive Pool Testing

Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies, Testing, and Safe K12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission for Schools that Implement Expanded Screening Testing

Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
All schools implement 5 key mitigation strategies: Universal use of masks required; physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. Diagnostic testing²: Symptomatic students, teachers, and staff and close contacts referred for diagnostic testing			
Screening Test ³			
Routine screening testing of teachers and staff offered once per week			
No screening testing for students	Routine screening testing of students offered once per week ⁴		
School Status			
K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible ⁵		K-12 schools in hybrid learning mode ³ or reduced attendance ⁶ Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required	
Sports and extracurricular activities occur; physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible ⁷	Sports and extracurricular activities occur with physical distancing of 6 feet or more required	Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with physical distancing of 6 feet or more	Sports and extracurricular activities are virtual only



CDC Indicators and Thresholds – HPS Embedded Data

CDC Indicators for Community Transmission of COVID-19 Haverhill

Date	City/Town	Case Count	Percent Positivity
8/12/20	Haverhill	22	1.10%
8/19/20	Haverhill	27	1.18%
8/26/20	Haverhill	29	1.26%
9/2/20	Haverhill	43	1.64%
9/8/20	Haverhill	63	2.07%
9/16/20	Haverhill	50	1.65%
9/23/20	Haverhill	52	1.77%
9/30/20	Haverhill	129	3.27%
10/7/20	Haverhill	184	3.46%
10/14/20	Haverhill	152	2.42%
10/22/20	Haverhill	121	2.16%
10/29/20	Haverhill	111	2.27%
11/6/20	Haverhill	143	2.80%
11/12/20	Haverhill	199	3.39%
11/19/20	Haverhill	256	3.93%
11/27/20	Haverhill	406	5.46%
12/3/20	Haverhill	538	7.21%
12/10/20	Haverhill	805	9.65%
12/17/20	Haverhill	990	10.90%
12/24/20	Haverhill	901	11.22%
12/31/21	Haverhill	761	10.95%
1/7/21	Haverhill	750	10.73%
1/14/21	Haverhill	951	10.99%
1/21/21	Haverhill	984	10.40%
1/28/21	Haverhill	754	8.78%
2/4/21	Haverhill	542	7.00%
2/11/21	Haverhill	397	5.85%
2/18/21	Haverhill	317	5.22%

If the two indicators suggest different levels, the actions corresponding to the higher threshold should be chosen. County-level data on total new cases in the past 7 days and test percent positivity are available on the County View tab in [CDC's COVID Data Tracker](#).



CDC More Nuanced Indicators and Thresholds for Return to Full In-person Learning

High Transmission Red

- All schools implement 5 key mitigation strategies
- Diagnostic testing
- Weekly screening testing of staff & students
- Hybrid learning mode
- Physical distancing of 6 feet required
- Sports and extracurricular activities are virtual only

Substantial Transmission Orange

- All schools implement 5 key mitigation strategies
- Diagnostic testing
- Weekly screening testing of staff & students
- Hybrid learning mode
- Physical distancing of 6 feet required
- Sports and extracurricular outdoors, with physical distancing of 6 feet

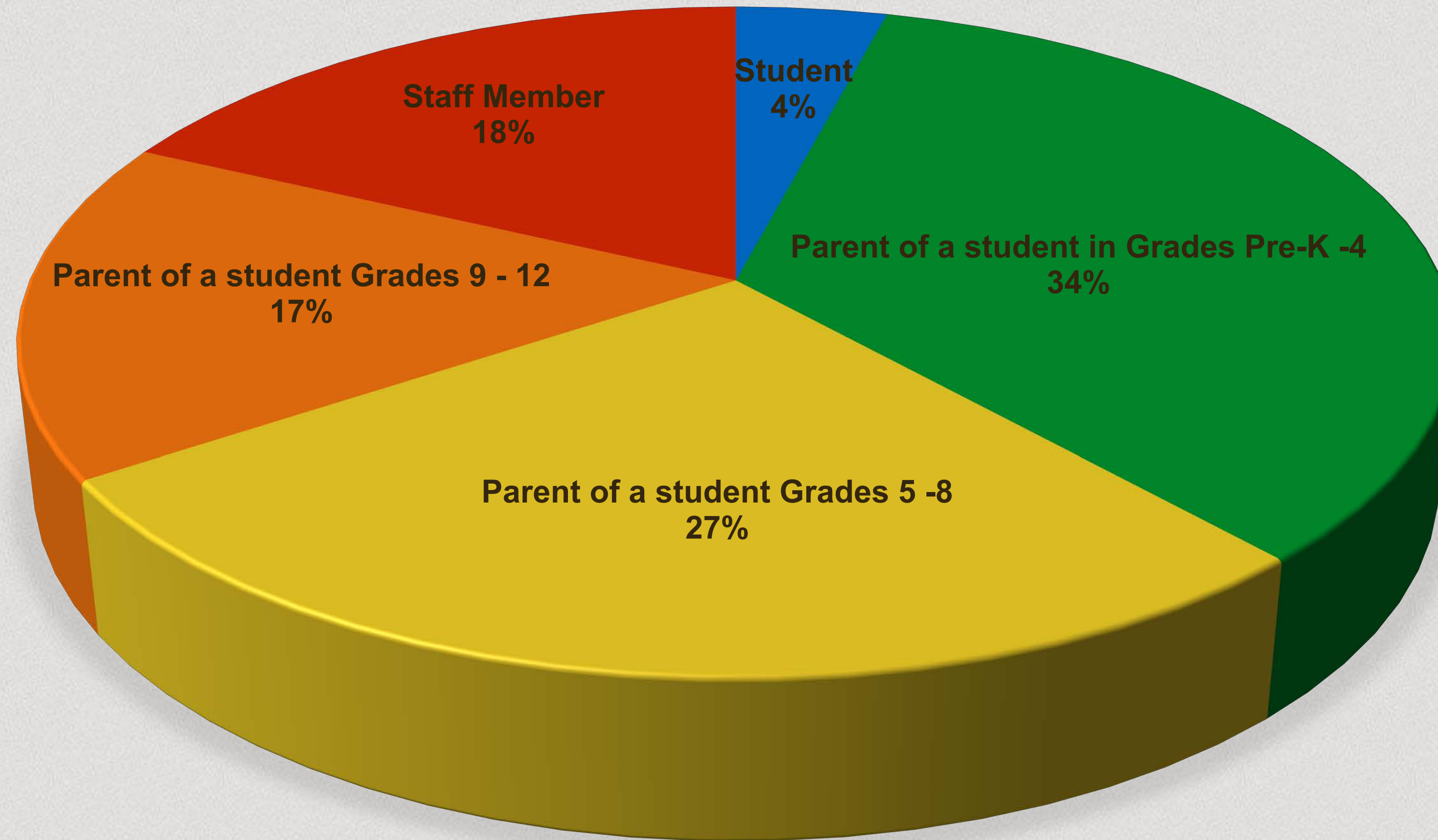
Moderate Transmission Yellow

- All schools implement 5 key mitigation strategies
- Diagnostic testing
- Weekly screening testing of staff & students
- Full in-person instruction
- Physical distancing of 6 feet to the extent possible
- Sports and extracurricular in or outdoors, with physical distancing of 6 feet

Q1: What is your role?

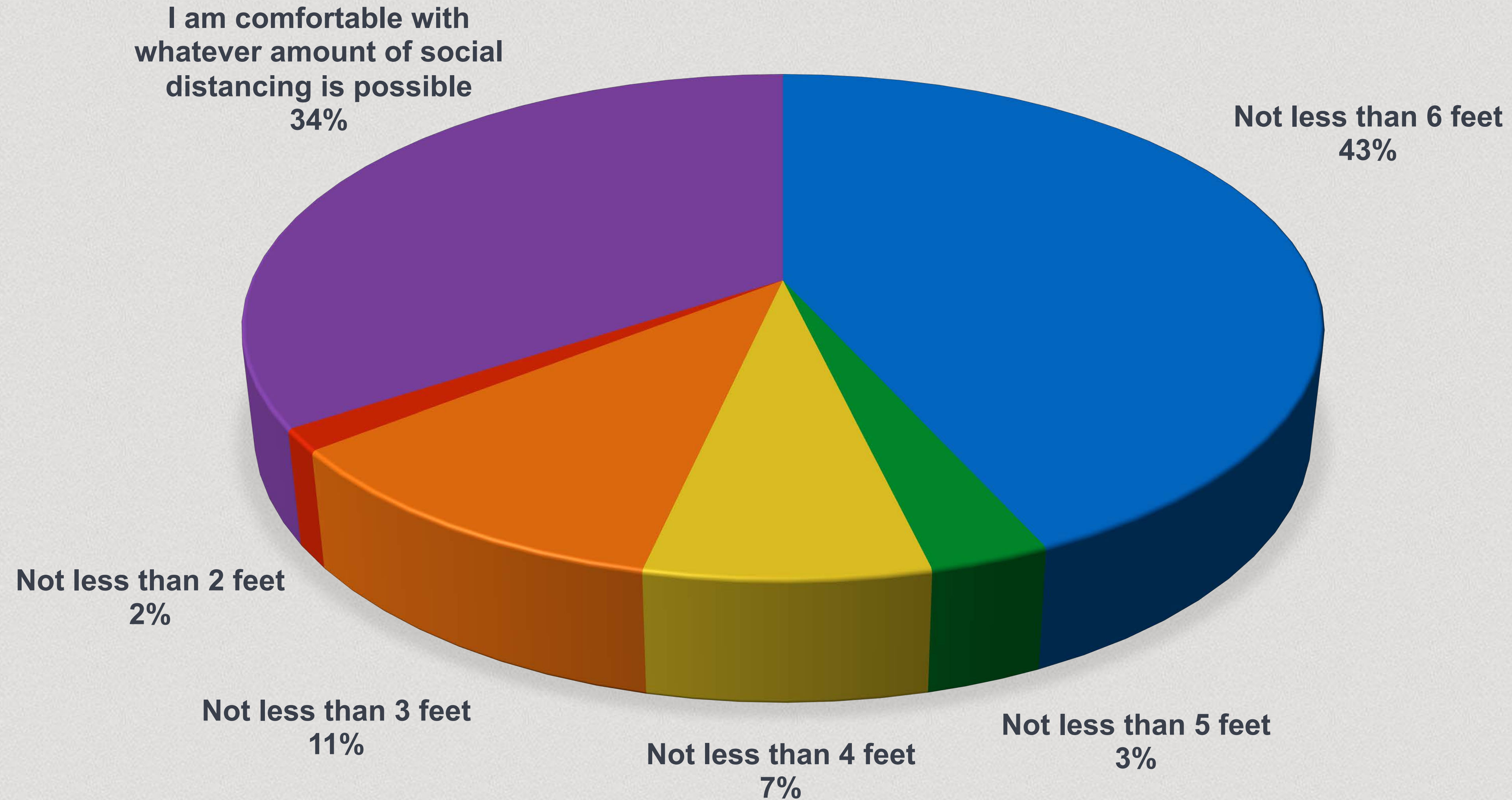


TOTAL RESPONSES: 3,575





The LEAST amount of social distancing I am comfortable with is:





Lunch Options

Guidance for unmasked student has consistently been 6 feet social distance, we await revised DESE guidance

Cafeterias can not accommodate full student body at 6 feet SD – currently we have 30-40% capacity in schools lunches have been added to accommodate SD.

We can consider

- In-person ending before lunch
- Picnic tables in good weather
- Some student eating in classroom others in café – will require additional staffing
- Barriers b/w students in café – will require cleaning of barriers b/w lunches



Parent/Student Survey Results (N = 2,747)

Would you consider a shorter in-person school day, ending just before lunch, in order to avoid having students less than 6ft apart, unmasked in the cafeteria?

No	41%
Yes	35%
Maybe	24%

Would you be comfortable with less than 6 ft social distance when students are eating unmasked if there are plastic dividers between students?

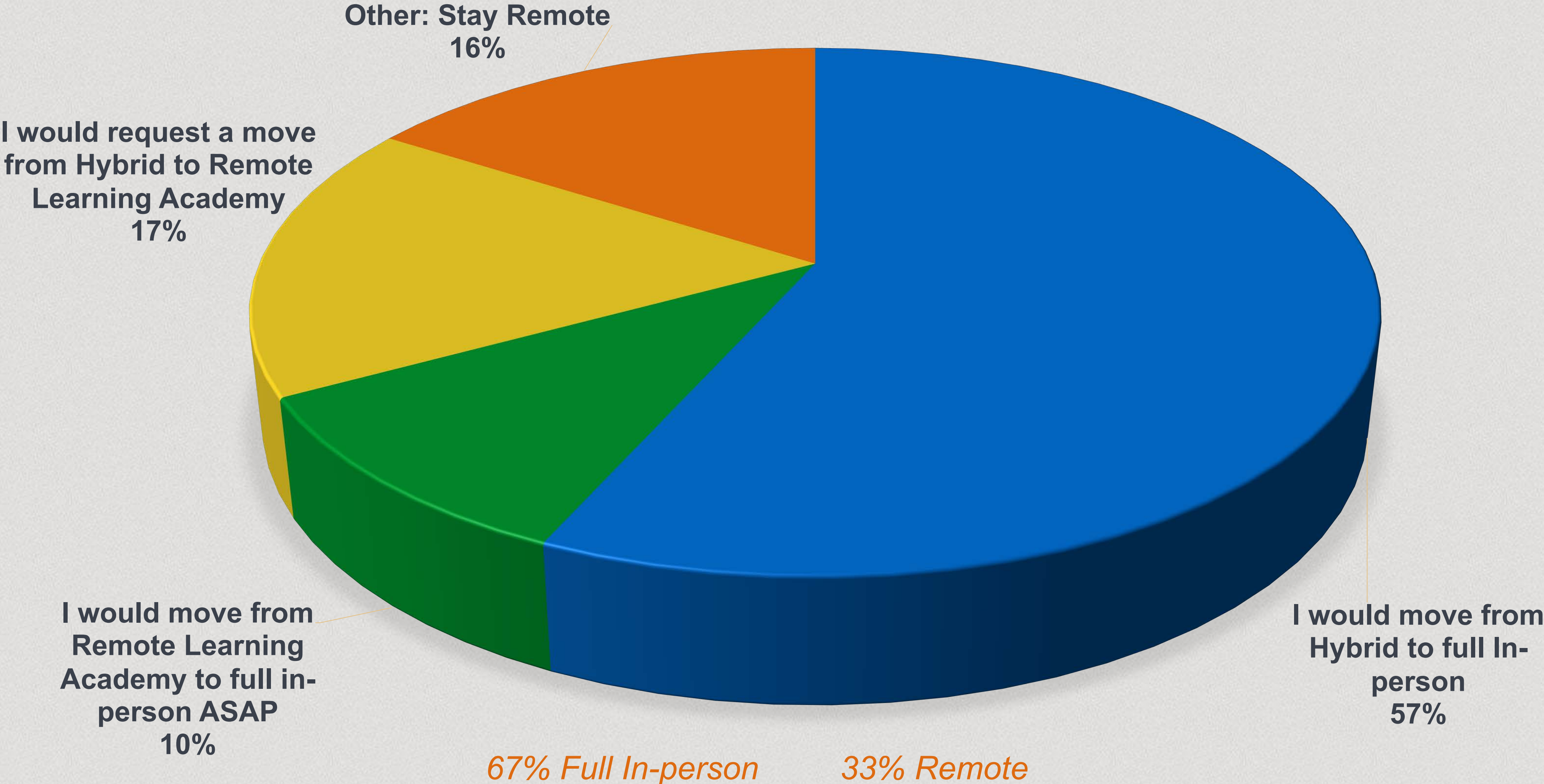
No	41%
Yes	35%
Maybe	24%

If HPS returns to a full in-person 5 day per week model, we will likely no longer have a hybrid option, How will this impact your choice of learning models?



Mid-Year learning model changes may result in changes to school or teacher

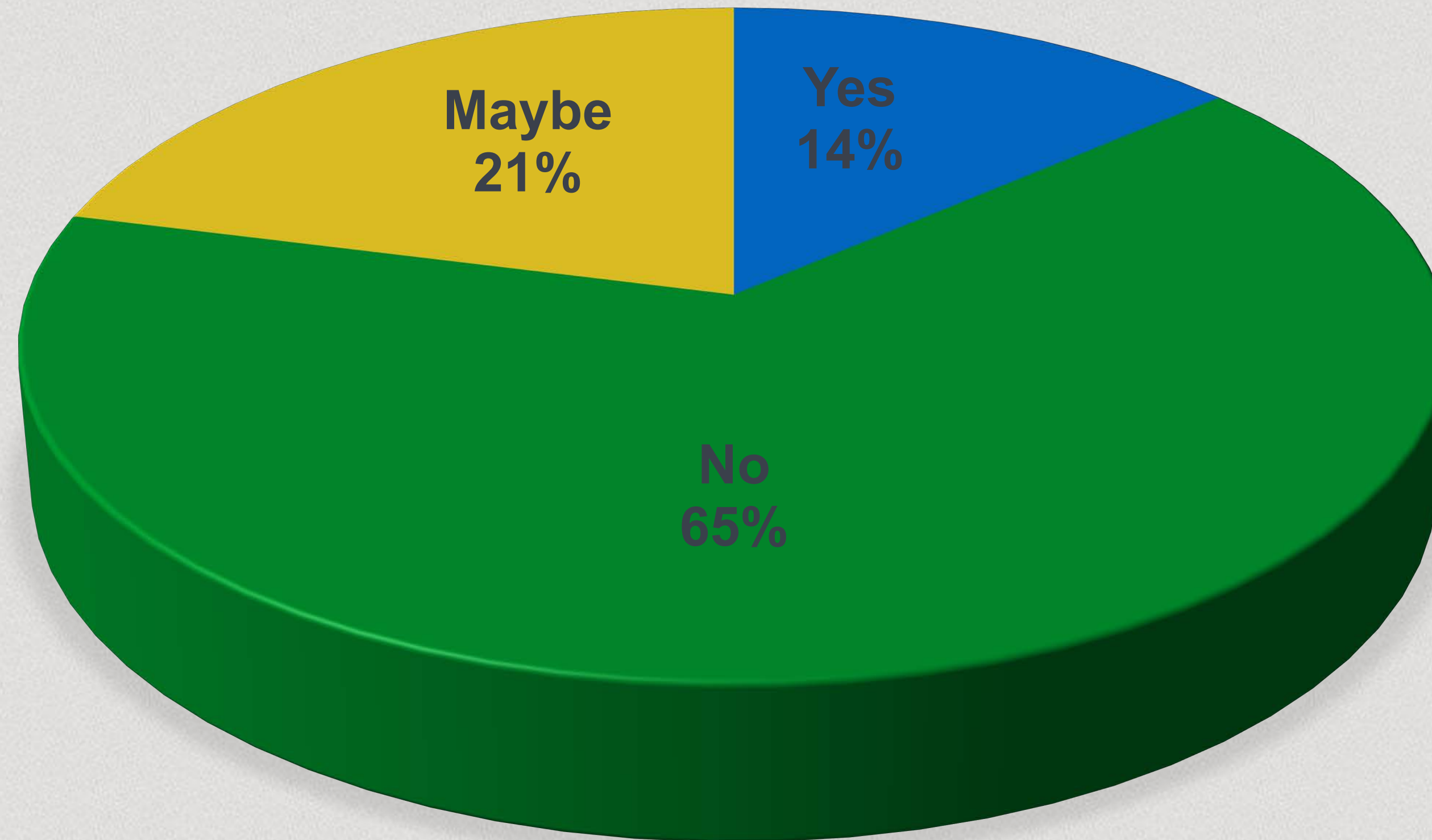
TOTAL RESPONSES: 2,417 PARENTS & STUDENTS





Are you willing to change classroom peers, teachers or schools if needed to allow for increase social distancing?

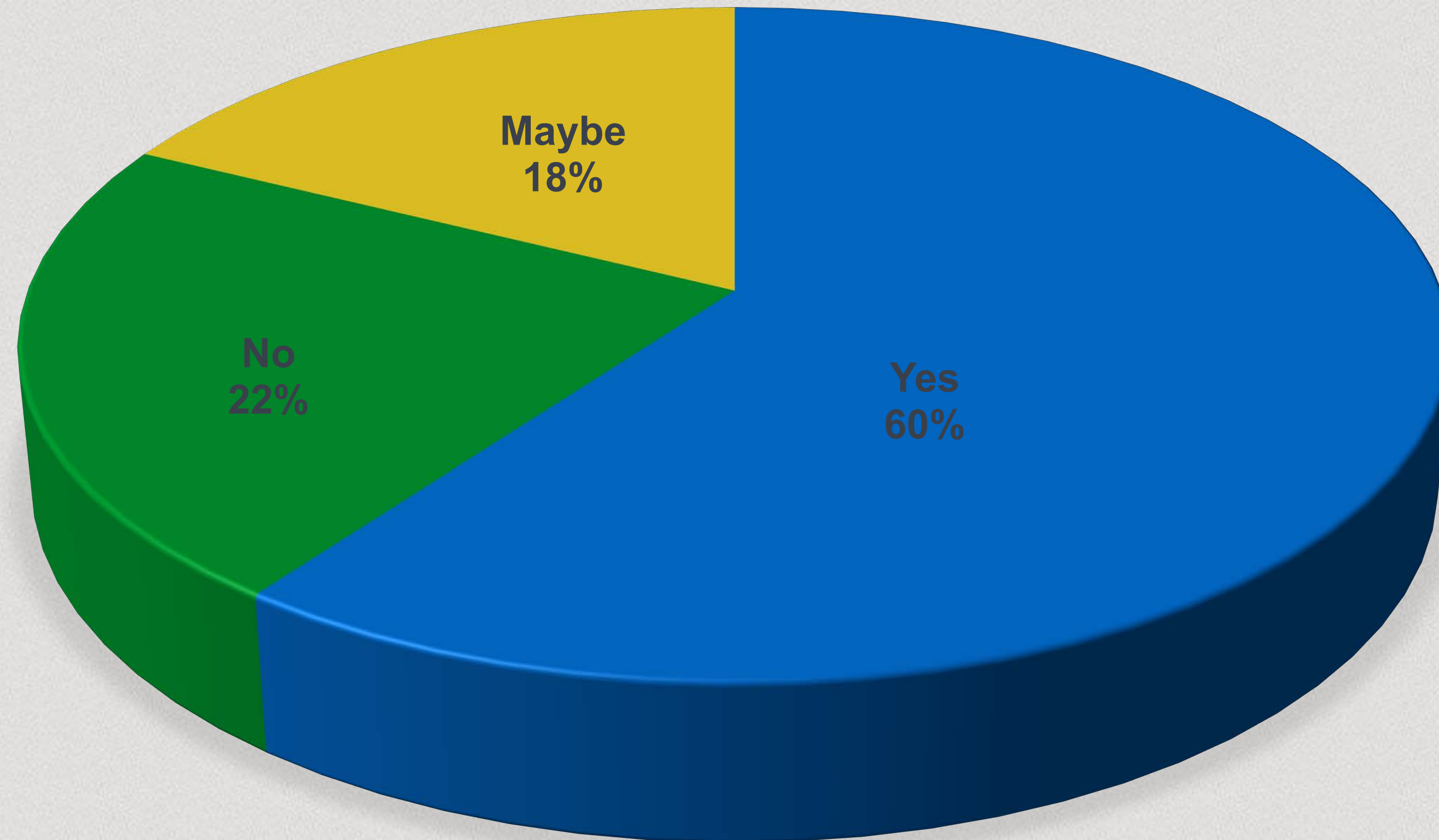
TOTAL RESPONSES: 2,973





If needed, would you be willing to have your students participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing (pool testing)?

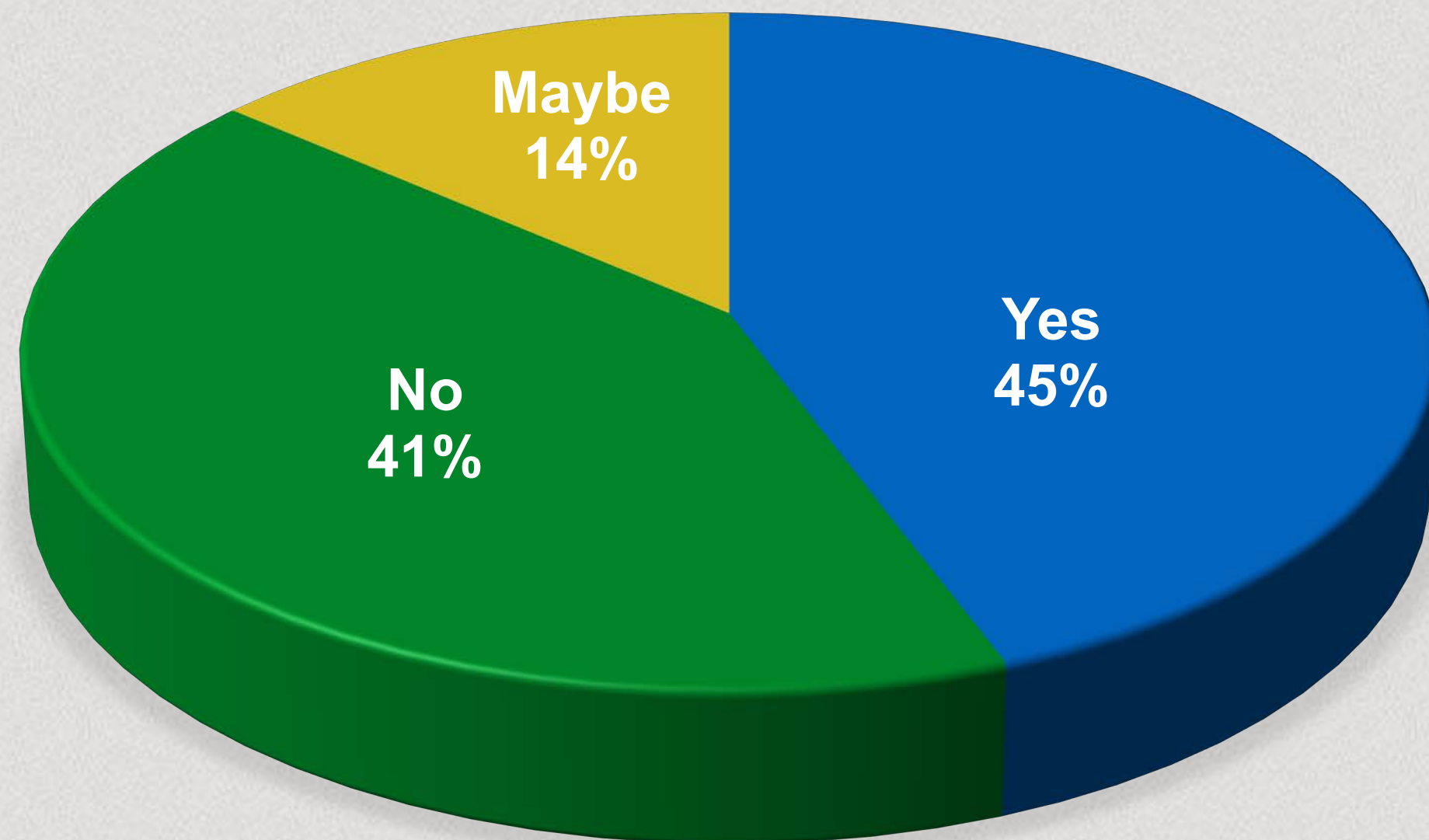
TOTAL RESPONSES: 2,973



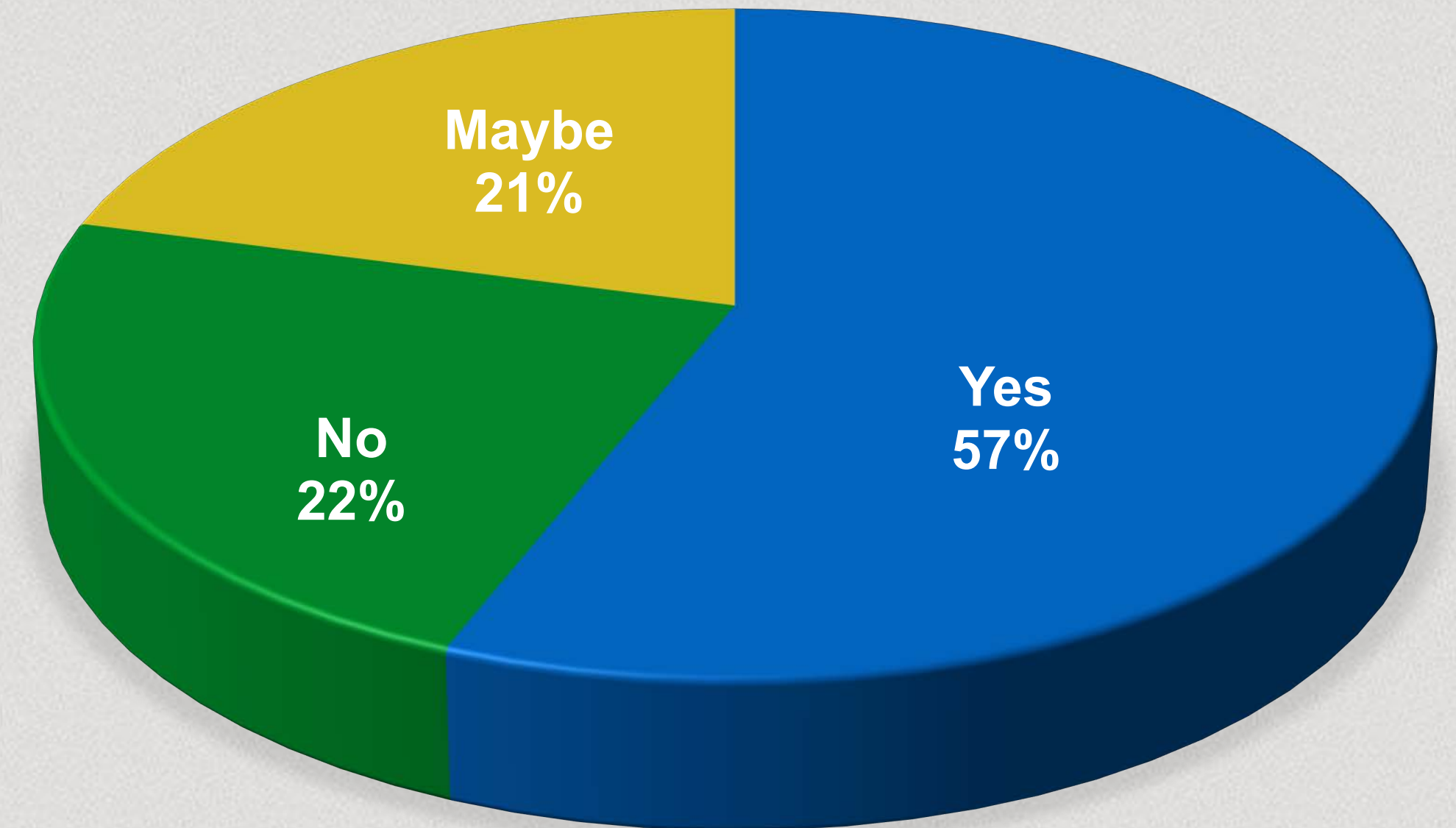


Would you return to full in-person learning before vaccination is widely available?

Vaccine Available to Teachers



Vaccine Available to Students





More information will be needed

In order to put together a thoughtful plan that will ensure a safe learning environment for all students and staff, more information will be needed.

- Some will require Board of Ed to Vote and DESE to release guidance
- Some will require HPS School Committee decisions
- Some will require conversations with HPS unions
- Some will require answers at the family level