



COVID-19, Distance Learning, and Fall 2020 Planning

Berkeley Unified School District
May 27, 2020

Brent Stephens, Superintendent
Bajé Thiara, Associate Superintendent
Natasha Beery, Director of BSEP and Community Relations

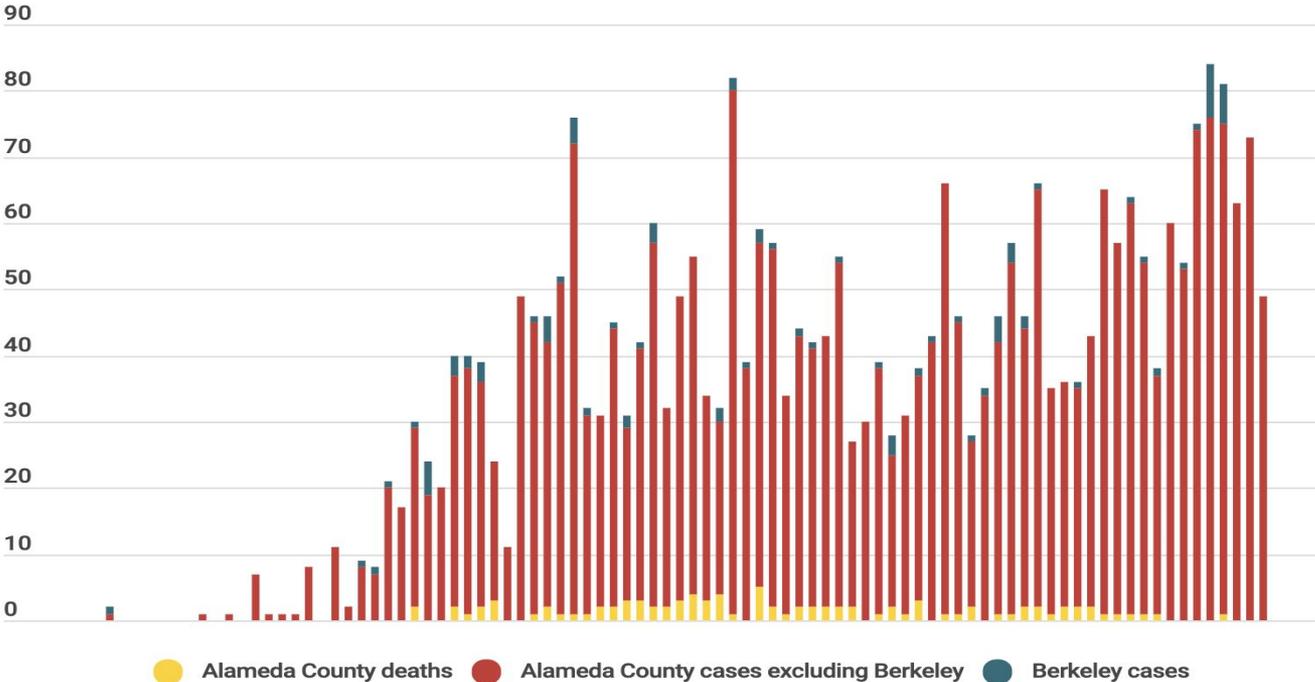
TOPICS

1. State and County Public Health Updates
2. Summary of Recent Feedback about Distance Learning
3. Fall 2020 Planning
4. Ongoing Community and Staff Engagement
5. Action Items
 - a. 12.1.1. Approval of June 8-12, Student Make Up and Staff Planning Week
 - b. 12.1.2. Approval of Superintendent's Recommendations for 2020-2021 Planning Assumptions

State and County Public Health Updates

Confirmed Cases March 11 > May 27

Cases and deaths by date, Alameda County



Credit. Berkeleyside, used by permission

Guidance to Schools in the Time of Coronavirus/COVID-19

State

[California's Pandemic Roadmap](#): 6 indicators, 4 stages

[Roadmap Updates](#): May 8 and May 27 modifications; varies by county

[CDE Statewide Meetings About Reopening](#): Little guidance so far

Regional

[Six County + 1 City](#): Aligned S-I-P orders, joint Health Officer & COE meetings

[Alameda County COE](#): Road to Reopening workbook

[City of Berkeley](#): Regular meetings with EOC and Public Health

Fall 2020 Planning will involve a number of structures

School Board	Provide overall guidance to the Superintendent and staff; react to the developing draft plan; and approve overall Fall 2020 Reopening Plan.
Superintendent's Cabinet	Overall management of the Fall 2020 planning process; develop planning documents for distribution to schools through school principals
School Principals	Review Fall 2020 planning materials, generate feedback, and consider implications for your own school; Lead meetings at each school with School Leadership Teams
School Leadership Teams	Review Fall 2020 planning materials, generate feedback, and consider implications for your own school during once per week meetings with the principal.
Advisory Committees	Serve as a sounding board to the development of BUSD Fall 2020 Reopening Plan in meetings that take place twice per month
Labor Partners	Meet regularly to share information and issues, identify contractual issues, propose possible solutions, and reach agreements.

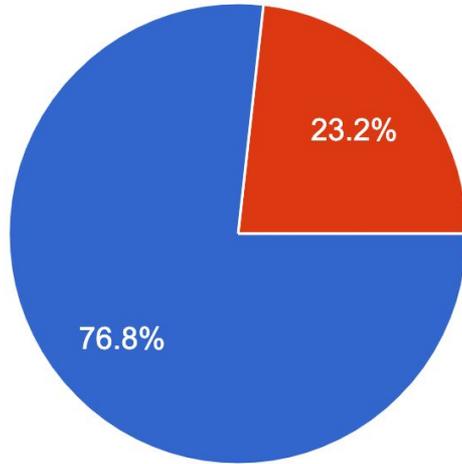
Fall 2020 Planning

Educator and Community Advisory Meetings

Responses from Fall 2020 Advisory Meetings, Week of May 6, 2020

Which Committee are you a part of? (Fall 2020 Planning Educator Advisory Committee, or Fall 2020 Planning Community Advisory Committee)

99 responses

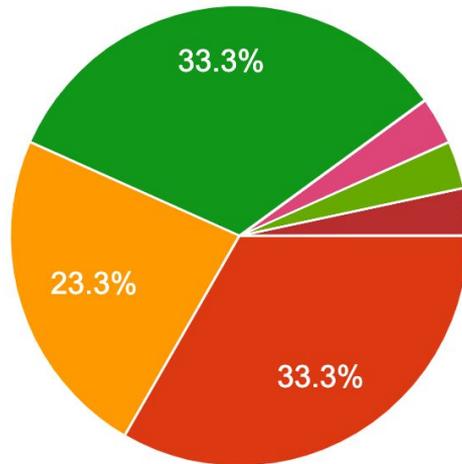


- Fall 2020 Planning Educator Advisory Committee
- Fall 2020 Planning Community Advisory Committee
- Other: I read the BUSD Fall 2020 Planning Overview and would like to offer my opinion.

Community Advisory Meeting, Representation

Please indicate your level

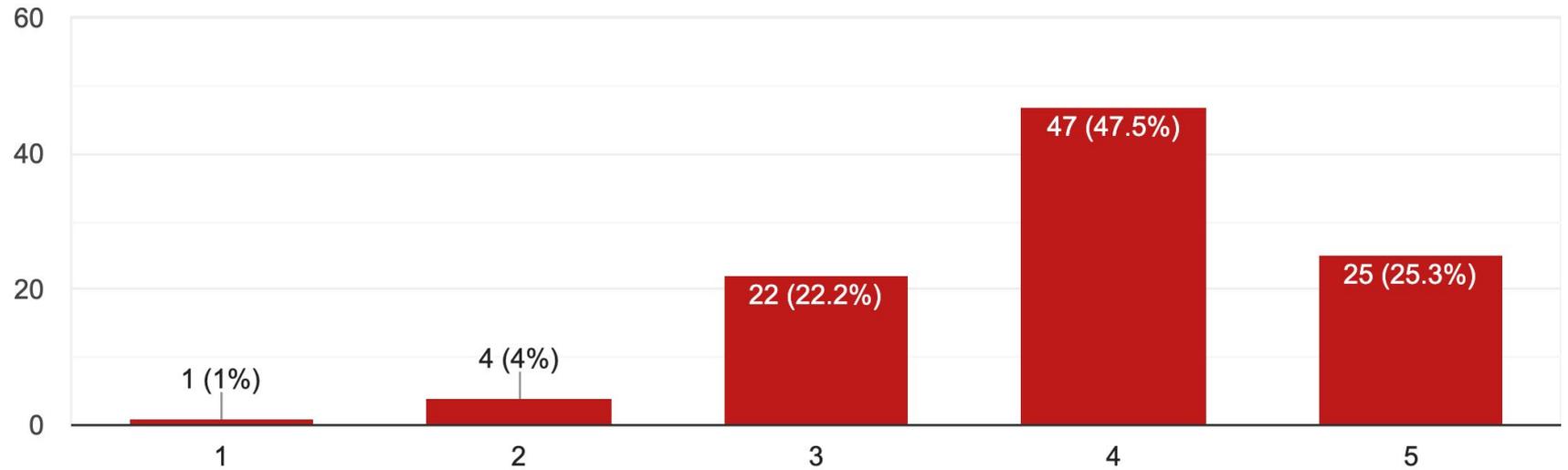
30 responses



- PreK
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Berkeley Adult School
- Berkeley Independent Study
- Community Member, Parent of middle schooler and high schoolers.
- Both middle and high school
- Middle and High School too

How well does this Fall 2020 planning process provide multiple entry points for a variety of perspectives? (5 is the highest rating)

99 responses



Themes about Using Our Campus Facilities

- Calculate Space Use with Physical Distancing
- Create Small, Stable “Bubble Groups”
- Provide Face Coverings and Cleaning Supplies
- Use More Time in Outdoor Space
- Use Space Around District for Classrooms
- Child Care needed for Young Children
- Transportation / Sibling Scheduling Issues
- Some Families May Prefer to Opt-Out for Fall

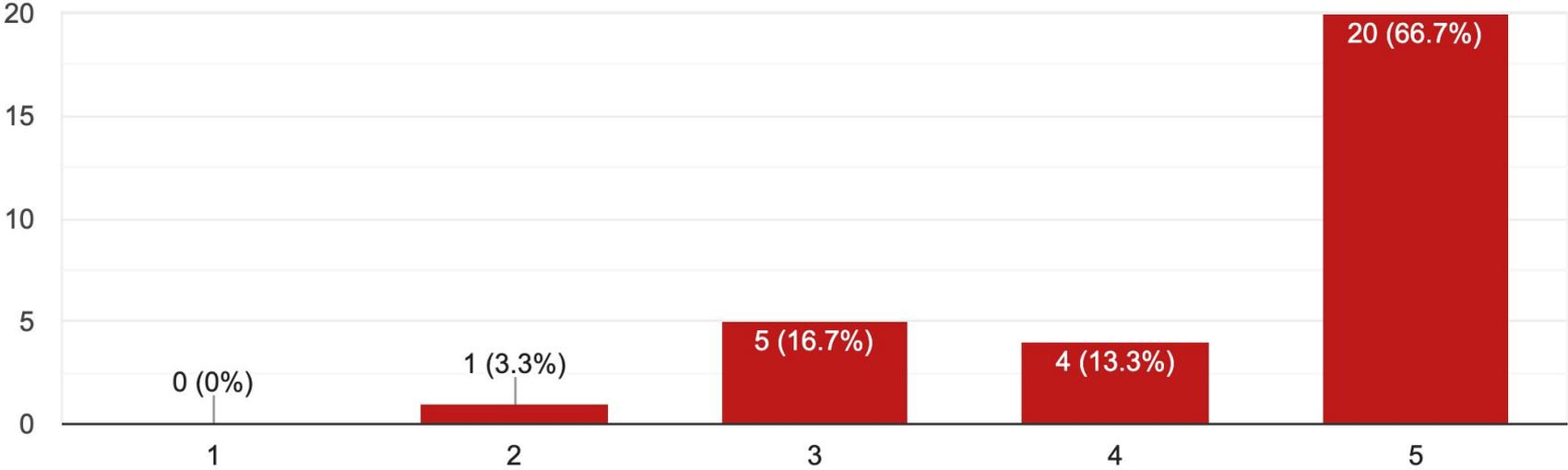
Themes about Teaching

- Teachers need Access to Classrooms for Distance Learning - Wifi, supplies, etc.
- Social-Emotional Health of students and staff should be an explicit part of our planning
- Concerns about screen time
- Scheduling issues
- Teaching Strategies and PD
- Standards, Pacing
- Teacher-Student connections:

Community Advisory Meeting Feedback: "Scheduling is important in 2020-2021"

Distance Learning: For the sake of consistency for students and teachers, distance learning should take place on a regular schedule. (5 is strong agreement)

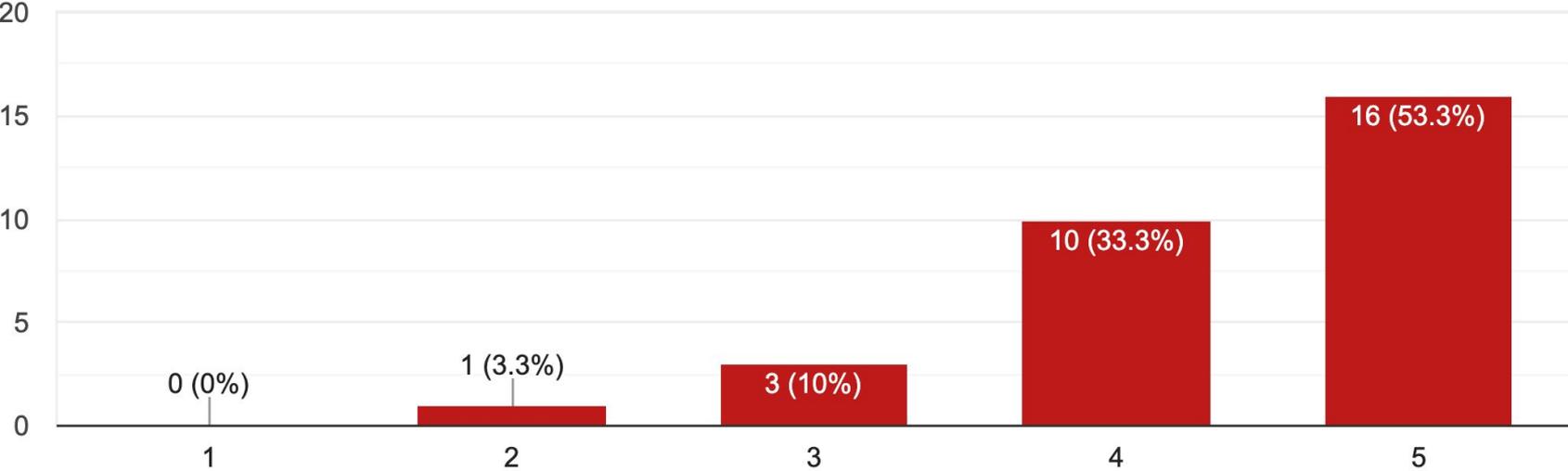
30 responses



Community Advisory Meeting Feedback: "More live instruction is important"

Distance Learning: Live synchronous instruction should increase in quantity in the coming year. (5 is strong agreement)

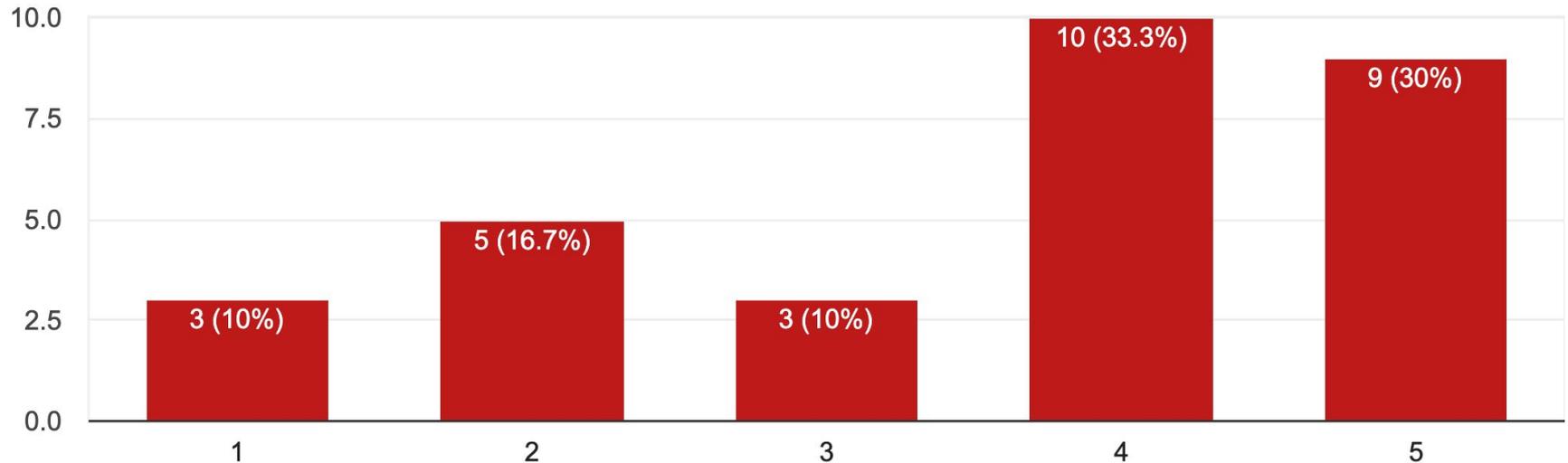
30 responses



Community Advisory Meeting Feedback: Split views on grading

Distance Learning: Grades should revert to an "A-F" system to increase buy-in, motivation, and clarity. (5 is strong agreement)

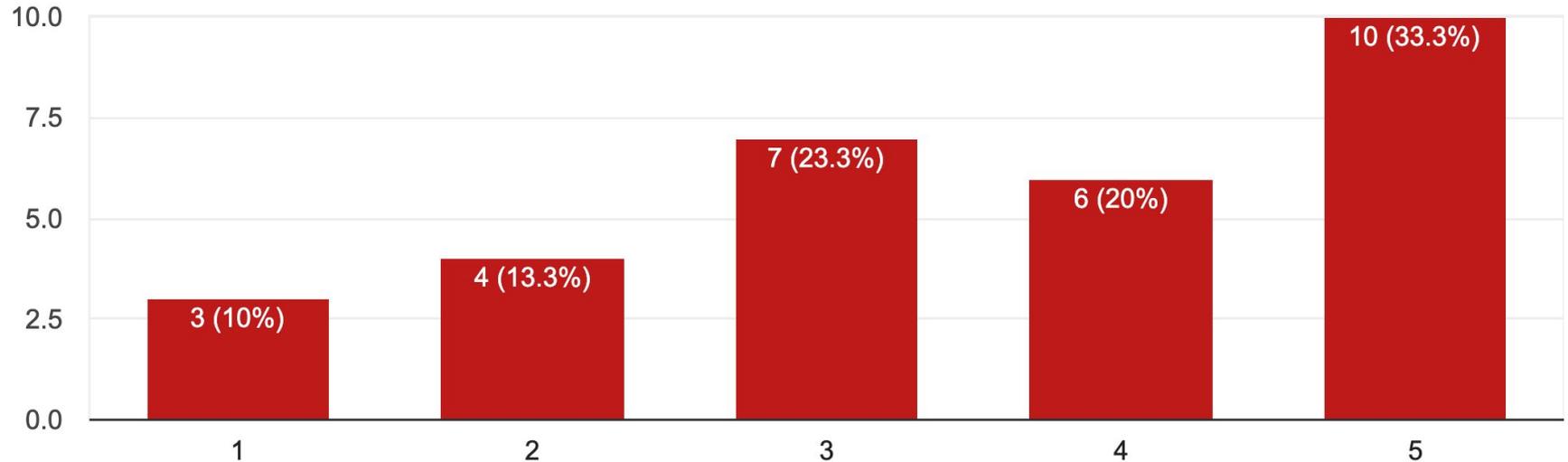
30 responses



Community Advisory Meeting Feedback: How to Use On-Campus Time

On Campus Activity: When students are permitted to be on campus, the primary focus should be on class time and instruction. (5 is strong agreement)

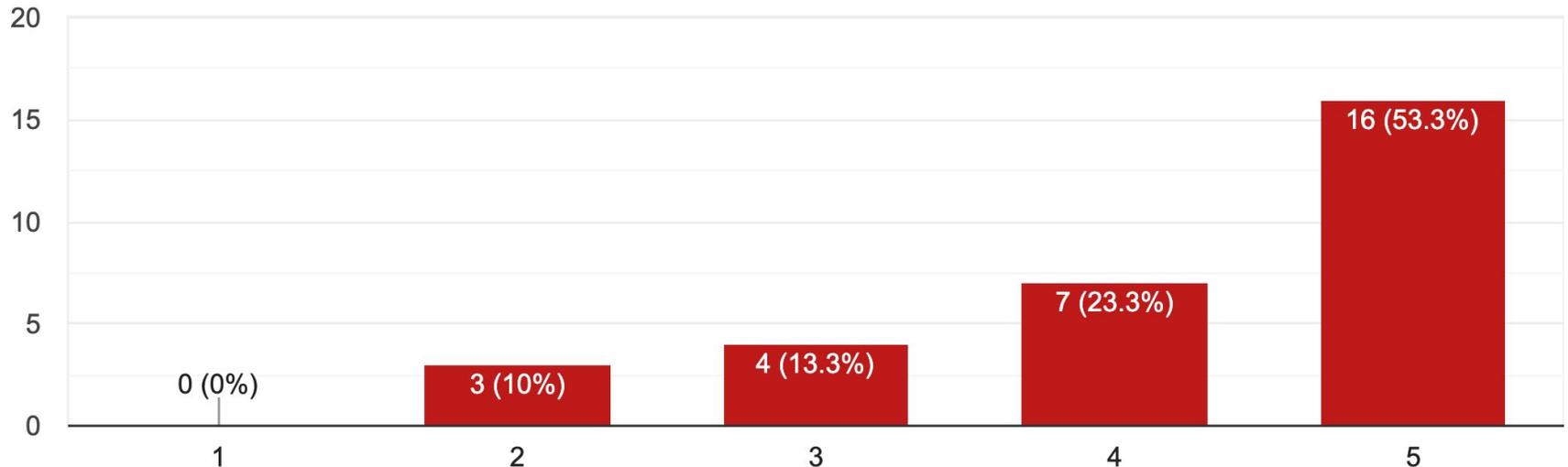
30 responses



Community Advisory Meeting Feedback: How to Use On-Campus Time

On Campus Activity: When students are permitted to be on campus, the primary focus should be on social activity and community building. (5 is strong agreement)

30 responses



Advisory Meetings

School Reopening Educator Advisory Meeting	School Reopening Community Advisory Meeting
May 11, 4:00 - 5:30	May 12, 4:00 - 5:30
May 27, 2:00 - 3:30	May 26, 4:00 - 5:30
June 8, 4:00 - 5:30	June 9, 4:00 - 5:30
June 22, 4:00 - 5:30	June 23, 4:00 - 5:30

Fall 2020 Planning

Student Survey Data

April Student Survey, Grades 6-12

The student survey was completed by 2,260 students (40% of those enrolled) across all secondary enrollment sites in BUSD. As seen in Table 1, the sample is representative of the district demographics.

Demographic Group	Proportion of Survey Respondents	Proportion of Overall Enrollment
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.27%	0.25%
Asian	7.48%	7.47%
Black or African American	11.50%	13.77%
Filipino	0.58%	0.54%
Hispanic	21.24%	22.82%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.09%	0.20%
Two or More Races	13.67%	13.81%
White	45.09%	41.04%
Unduplicated Count	26.11%	29.56%
Socio-economically Disadvantaged	23.98%	26.50%
English Language Learners	4.51%	6.20%
McKinney-Vento	2.04%	2.95%
Special Education	7.79%	12.00%

A Few Findings

Most students say that overall, their teachers are doing a good job

Most student say that for the most part, my classmates are respectful during online instruction

About three fourths of students say that they are being assigned work that is challenging

About half of students responded that online discussions with other students are important to them

Very few students say that they have been assigned too few assignments

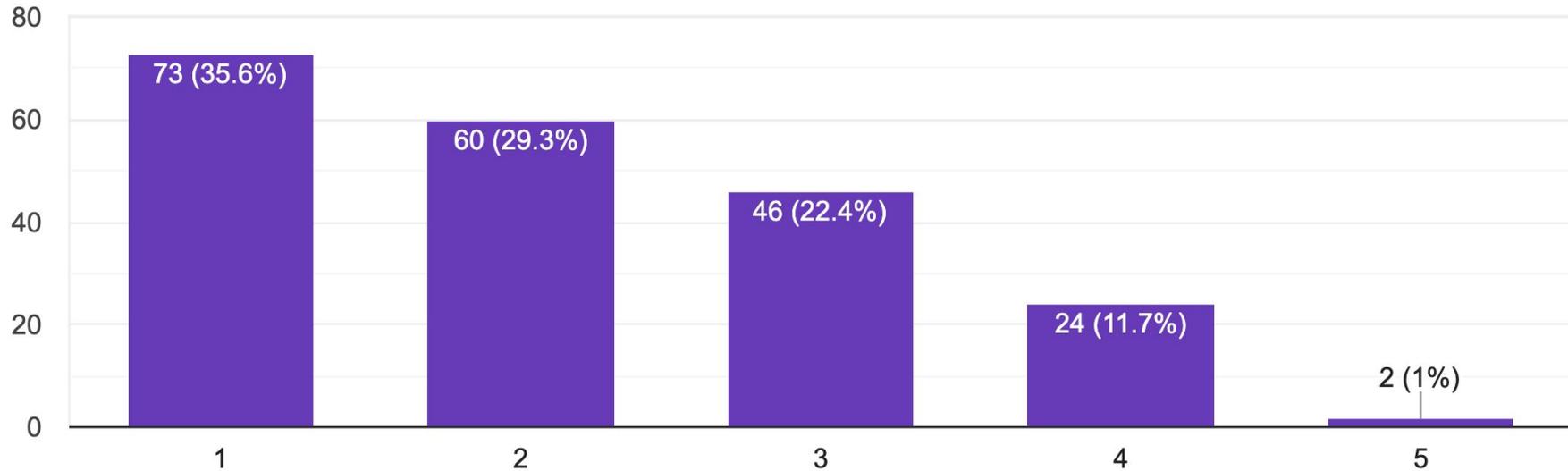
Figure 1. Secondary students response rates by question and rating



May 2020 Senior Survey: How to Use On-Campus Time

How motivated have you felt to participate in distance learning?

205 responses



This week, BUSD is surveying families and staff about a number of important questions about the Fall.

- Preferences about on-campus vs. distance learning
- Comfort levels with fall return scenarios
- Child care needs for younger children

African American Affinity Town Hall

90
Participants

106
Thoughts

2020
Ratings

I would love to see more enrichment programs offered to families of color such as science camps.
The data shows that these types of programs are more engaging than traditional summer school. They tend to be more successful in closing the gap.

4.4 ★★★★★ (24)



Teachers and staff who are reflective of the Black community

4.4 ★★★★★ (24)



We have to solve the connectivity issue.

Access to the internet, working devices, an adult on call to problem solve: all kids need this

4.4 ★★★★★ (21)



Intervention for math and reading
Kids across ethnicities need this

4.3 ★★★★★ (25)



Coordinate with parents and caregivers when students are ON or OFF target. Frequent and personal texts and calls from educators.
Collective support encourages continued participation.

4.4 ★★★★★ (22)



It really helped me and my daughter when we received personal messages from her resource teacher, and from her classroom teachers.
When my daughter was getting frustrated with distance learning, it helped for her to know that her teachers were thinking about her.

4.2 ★★★★★ (21)



Last Week: School Planning Template

All Principals just received a planning tool to use with their Teacher Leaders or Instructional Leadership Team

The plan has two key parts

- Improvements to Distance Learning
- How to use our campuses

Principals are using this template as a way to consult with teachers and staff, and each level (PreK, Elementary, Middle, High School, and Adult Ed) will have its own plan.

Fall 2020 Planning

Proposed Planning Assumptions

“A Starting Point for Planning”

FOR BOARD APPROVAL: 2020-2021 Planning Assumptions:
Distance Learning Core with Supplemental On-Campus Learning

COVID-19 will continue to be present in Berkeley.

- (1) In 2020-2021, Distance Learning will form the core of our educational program for all students, at all grades. For this reason, reflecting on and improving Distance Learning are a first priority.
- (2) Next year, on-campus learning, if it is permitted, is very likely to be limited because of social distancing requirements, periods of school closure, supply shortages, concerns about safety, and/or illness. For this reason, planning for the thoughtful use of our campuses as a supplement to distance learning is our second priority.

Probable health requirements for student grouping

- Group Size: Creating small groups of students and staff in order to minimize the impact to a school community in the event that a student or staff member becomes infected
- Group Stability: Groups of students and staff should be stable for at least one month; each group should function as a “bubble”, with no contact between one group and another
- Duration of Contact: Contact outside of a single student group should be limited in duration because this limits the risk of exposure
- Indoor vs. Outdoor Activity: Outdoor activity appears to reduce the risk of exposure is therefore preferable to indoor activity

This is only a planning assumption

It permits planning, but leaves many questions to be answered.

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ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Affinity-based Town Hall in collaboration with PCAD last night
- Spanish Language Town Hall on May 28
- Weekly Staff Webinars with the Superintendent, Thursdays at 12:00
- Interactive Online Surveys via Thought Exchange
- Staff and Family Surveys about on-campus learning
- Ongoing equity-centered Family Outreach through the Office of Family Engagement and through our schools

12.1.1. Approval of June 8-12, Student Make Up and Staff Planning Week

Staff requests that the Board designate the week of June 8-12 a “Student Make Up and Staff Planning Week” The week will have the following features:

- No new assignments from teachers are expected
- No Office Hours are expected
- Students may continue to turn in work; teachers will continue to accept this work
- Grades are due on the same date as previously scheduled

In addition, this somewhat reduced teaching load will permit teachers to come together after two months of distance learning to reflect, learn, and plan for the coming school year, which we anticipate will feature the ongoing use of distance learning.

12.1.2. Approval of Superintendent's Recommendations for 2020-2021 Planning Assumptions

The Superintendent requests that the Boards approve the following assumptions about the coming school year for the purpose of focusing school principals and teacher leadership teams on developing plans for 2020-2021.

1. COVID-19 will continue to be present in Berkeley.
2. In 2020-2021, Distance Learning will form the core of our educational program for all students, at all grades. For this reason, reflecting on and improving Distance Learning are a first priority.
3. Next year, on-campus learning, if it is permitted, is very likely to be limited because of social distancing requirements, periods of school closure, supply shortages, lack of public confidence about safety, and illness. For this reason, planning for the thoughtful use of our campuses as a supplement to distance learning is our second priority.