

Virtual In-house Option
Feedback from families
May 2021

Executive Summary of Survey Responses

Detailed statistics about our responses and a more detailed summary of open-ended feedback are included in pages 2-7.

After removing duplicate responses (two adults responded about the same student), we received feedback and current projected enrollment choices for 972 students out of a total projected enrollment of 2358 students for next year (41% response rate).

Of those families, 60 (6%) indicated a preference for WIVA, an in-house virtual option or that they are undecided.

In the survey responses, 80% of students who are currently attending our in-house virtual option plan to return to in-person instruction for next year.

In addition to asking about their attendance preference, we asked families for open-ended feedback on 3 questions:

1) If you have chosen an in-house virtual option, what COVID-19 mitigation/safety strategies need to be in place for you to feel comfortable battling school in person?

Wearing face masks, vaccines available for children and social distances were the most common responses.

2) What topics would you like us to consider in our planning for in-house virtual options?

Having a virtual option if quarantine is needed, having an option that could encourage families to keep sick kids home, and having an alternative to switch to if the number of COVID cases increase were the most common responses.

In terms of features families mentioned, having built in time for students to interact with each other and with their teacher was the most common response. There were mixed responses on if the sessions would be best live or in a recorded format.

Many families gave feedback in this section about WIVA indicating that the amount of parent support needed for student learning is not sustainable and that they were concerned about WIVA meeting their student's needs.

3) What is the most important feature of a virtual plan for you/your child?

Teacher support/connections and outreach, engagement, connections with classmates and having an option available in case of quarantine or illness were the most common responses.

Additional comments

In addition to specific responses to the questions posed, several families mentioned a concern for having a virtual option during next school year and the impact it would have on in-person services and the budget of the District.

Demographic information for our District, compared to that of our virtual families and survey responses

	District Enrollment (includes, in person, McFarland virtual, Resident WIVA and homeschool families)	Students attending McFarland virtual option, Resident WIVA or transferred to homeschool mid-year*	Survey Responses
Total Students	2480	324*	974
Hispanic	106 (4.2%)	14 (4.3%)	34 (3.5%)
American Indian/Alaska Native	5 (0.2%)	1 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)
Asian	88 (3.6%)	25 (7.7%)	19 (2.0%)
Black	38 (1.5%)	5 (1.5%)	6 (0.6%)
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
White	2074 (83.6%)	257 (79.3%)	848 (87.0%)
Two or More	169 (6.8%)	22 (6.8%)	58 (6.0%)

*There are an additional 52 students not attending in person who were also sent the survey, but they are not in Infinite Campus

With this survey we specifically wanted to hear from families that are not currently attending in person

	Students attending McFarland virtual option, Resident WIVA or transferred to homeschool mid-year*	Survey Responses from this group
Total Students	324*	164
Hispanic	14 (4.3%)	4 (2.4%)
American Indian/Alaska Native	1 (0.3%)	0 (0%)
Asian	25 (7.7%)	7 (4.3%)
Black	5 (1.5%)	1 (0.6%)
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
White	257 (79.3%)	137 (83.5%)
Two or More	22 (6.8%)	7 (4.3%)

Responses based on how students are currently attending school

Current Attendance model	Plan to attend school in 2021-22				
	In Person	WIVA	In-house Virtual	Undecided	Total
In Person	800	0	5	2	807
WIVA	18	5	16	2	41
In-house Virtual	86	0	20	1	107
Home School	7	0	5	1	13
Different District	1	0	2	1	4
Total	912	5	48	7	972

Responses based on next year's grade

Grade	In Person	WIVA	In-house Virtual	Undecided	Total of non-in person responses
K	39		2	1	3
1	55		2	0	2
2	68		6	2	8
3	48		4	0	4
4	71		7	1	8
5	68		3	0	3
6	77		2	0	2
7	71		2	2	4
8	89		2	1	3
9	81	1	5	0	5
10	93	1	3	0	3
11	86	2	6	0	6
12	66	1	4	0	4
Total	912	5	48	7	60

If you have chosen an in-house virtual option, what COVID-19 mitigation/safety strategies need to be in place for you to feel comfortable battling school in person?

Note: Some responses were not an answer to the question are are removed not included in this list

- Continue current mitigation strategies (5)
- Face masks (27)
- Vaccine available for children (25)
- Vaccination requirement for 12+ (6)
- Masks for unvaccinated
- No masks and kids can eat together in cafeteria (2)
- No masks (or optional masks) (4)
- Social distancing (11)
- Hand washing/sanitizing (9)
- Increased air-flow/ventilation in rooms (8)
- CDC guidelines (7)
- Public Health/DHS recommendations (5)
- Spacing at lunch/ lunch as safe as possible (4)
- Through cleaning of facilities (4)
- Keep students in cohorts as much as possible (3)
- Limited numbers of students in a room (3)
- Continuation of the general notification of covid cases (3)
- Consult with a group of doctors, not just one. Include an infectious disease expert (3)
- Quarantine followed by negative test for travelers/vacationers (3)
- Fewer positive cases in the community (3)
- No cohorts (2)
- Have a very few, very clear rules that are actually enforced (mask up for example)
- No lockers
- Large spaces used for band and choir
- Posted strategies on how schools and teachers will handle students exhibiting symptoms
- Testing of quarantine/exposed students/staff prior to return to school
- Strict rules on children/staff not entering the building with any symptoms whatsoever
- Temperature checks in the morning
- Fewer positive cases at school
- COVID pool testing

What topics would you like us to consider in our planning for in-house virtual options?

Note: Some responses were not an answer to the question are are removed not included in this list

Most frequent responses

- Virtual option if quarantine is needed (15)
- Having a virtual attendance when kids are sick might lead to more people keeping their kids home when they are sick (10)
- If the Covid situation worsens, we would want to pivot to virtual learning (7)
- I think you should consider having a virtual option long term - there are benefits beyond COVID response (4)
- We believe it is important to maintain the virtual option for students who aren't able to be vaccinated or have a family member who is at risk (We also need to keep the sickest in our community in mind, and that includes children.) (2)
- Consider an appropriate length of time for online school - I don't know how a kid could sit via zoom from 7:40 - 3:00 (the normal school hours) (2)
- Provide extracurricular activities virtually (3)
- I urge the district to avoid the concurrent model. (Teachers are stretched too thin when trying to do both) (2)
- Teachers need to be able to handle in person and virtual students. My kids are virtual now and their teachers walk off talking and forget they can't hear them.
- Students who are virtual (concurrent) often do not feel a part of the community (3)

Features requested

- Build in in time for kids to interact with each other (4)
 - At WIVA there is almost no social engagement, and it is a very lonely and isolating experience.
- At least 4 hours of live virtual sessions where teachers and students are present and interacting
- Majority asynchronous option
- Something that would work for virtual a couple days a week if needed
- Recorded options are preferred with perhaps 1-2 live class meetings
- Consider live and recorded lessons.
- Access to participating in class discussion and assignments/ virtual students feel included (4)
- Make sure that teachers respond timely to inquiries. (2)
- If I had a child in the virtual option, I think it would be challenging for the teacher and students to have students drop in for a few days or a week at a time. That would totally change the dynamic of the class for the students and the focus of the teacher.
- Keep students with the same teacher even if they have to quarantine, as well as students who switch to virtual for a quarter or semester
- I'd like a way as a parent to see the same information as my child. It is hard without textbooks and a syllabus to stay on top of assignments. (3)
- Technology availability for all students
- Flipped learning and other ideas could potentially work well especially for older grades
- A better way to hear what is going on in the classroom with the in-person children
- Equal access to McFarland curriculum
- Comparable access to depth of studies compared to in-person
- Small group instruction
- Social-emotional support/learning
- Include related arts

Feedback about WIVA

- WIVA is not a sustainable option for our family. There is a significant amount of effort required by the learning coach (parent) (2)
- Based on what I understand about WIVA, that virtual is not equitable compared to the MSD virtual option
- WIVA is not a good match for anyone with an IEP
- Please understand how WIVA is not a realistic alternative for many families (2)
- My experience with WIVA has been rough despite many advantages my family has. I'd say WIVA is a homeschool option with some virtual support. It's completely inadequate and inequitable from a virtual schooling perspective.
- Personalized instruction like reading groups available (this was not the case with WIVA)
- WIVA doesn't scaffold your student if they are academically high or low in any areas

Additional responses

- Would in-person class sizes increase as a result of virtual option
- In-house virtual option is very important
- How to check for accountability/follow-up for virtual students
- It was difficult when my students had to look in different places for things
- Please communicate plans in a timely manner so families can make appropriate plans.
- Thank you for pursuing virtual options for the younger kids
- The impact of Teacher Workload
- In house virtual option allows families to remain connected to the district
- Technology, clubs, English, Social studies, Social emotional time, Science
- I know that it may not be possible to offer every class virtually, so we would need to know which classes will be available and if there will be options for filling any gaps there may be.
- Flexibility and alignment
- Please keep the option open year-long. Some parents/kids may still want/need to "socially" distance for medical/other reasons and sadly the school can't achieve an actual safe distance needed (2)
- My child with autism has excelled academically and emotionally for the first time ever while attending school virtually. Please consider allowing part of the day virtual for children with an IEP.
- Hire additional teachers. Our students need and deserve adequate attention and guidance from their educator (2)
- For children that are immune compromised
- I believe an in-house virtual option is vital to support the learning needs of the community. (3)
- Not having an in-house virtual option for K-2 was discriminatory toward children and families in those grades.
- My son is currently virtual and I feel is missing out on the quality education McFarland is known for because virtual seems to be at a disadvantage
- Some families do not have the option to take any kind of risk with this virus because of existing health conditions. (2)
- We will open enroll in another district if our teachers are forced to offer virtual and in person simultaneous learning

What is the most important feature of a virtual plan for you/your child?

Note: Some responses were not an answer to the question are are removed not included in this list

- Teacher support/connections/outreach (14)
- Engagement (13)
- Connections with classmates (11)
- Having synchronous (live) lessons (9)
- An option in case of quarantine or illness (8)
- Consistency (8)
- Something that models the actual full school day better than just a few hours a day (8)
- Keeping our kids connected to the regular McFarland teachers, curriculum and classmates (4)
- An option in case the pandemic takes a turn for the worse (3)
- A way to ask teachers questions 1:1 and get individual attention (3)
- Ability to learn at own pace (3)
- Ability to access materials and assignments info and grades (3)
- One-on-one teacher interactions with little to no involvement from parents (2)
- Feeling included (2)
- Having live or recorded classes taught by a teacher (vs. parent trying to teach the lesson on their own)
- Hands on with a teacher if it is necessary
- Needs to be full virtual education including related arts with minimal parent support needed (2)
- Longer than current virtual classes and on A/B schedule
- Ability to attend MHS classes to ensure path to graduation and alignment with current course plan
- Accessibility
- Early notification - One of the things I had noticed this past year is that the sooner a decisive decision could be made on what was gonna be done, even if there is decent, the more people were able to adapt to it
- Maybe to have the option to come in person for a few courses so they are not so isolated
- Communication with parents about how to navigate Canvas/assignments
- Easy links to connect to room
- That it not pull resources from in person instruction for the rest of the kids
- Flexibility in attendance, recorded lessons offer this
- Flexibility to come and go in person/virtual if the need arises
- Avoiding a set back in learning
- Following IEP program
- Addressing the needs of all students, especially those with compromised immune systems
- We have been very happy with academic success with WIVA this year - we would need to know the in house option would continue to challenge her
- Rigor and alignment
- I think teachers have been really good at involving and engaging “zoomers”
- Better audio in the classroom
- Movement breaks
- Equity is important - a feeling of inclusion, appropriate educational experience, and being connected to peers are important
- Access to education be equitable. WIVA is completely parent driven and it was extremely hard to manage full time jobs while trying to keep up the demands of our daughters education.

Additional thoughts shared:

- Several responses indicated that they did not feel like a virtual option is necessary. Some of those mentioned concerns about the cost of a virtual option.
- Some other responses requested a change in current quarantine protocols.