



Barcroft Elementary School Calendar Alignment Recommendation

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- Review background regarding the Barcroft Modified School Year Calendar (MSYC) goals
- Outline findings of APS study and rationale for aligning the Barcroft calendar with the traditional APS calendar
- Community engagement and feedback on the proposal
- Superintendent's recommendation and next steps

Goals for Barcroft's Modified School Year Calendar

Adopted by the School Board in September 2002

Increase student achievement through:

- An extended learning period with a shorter summer vacation to minimize learning loss for all students
- Specialized learning programs that would take place during the three extended learning sessions

When the calendar was proposed in 2002, the Superintendent noted the calendar change would not incur additional costs.

Study of the Modified School Year Calendar

The APS Office of Planning & Evaluation (P&E) conducted an evaluation of the Modified School Year Calendar in December 2019. P&E analyzed achievement and finance data, finding:

No evidence the Modified School Year Calendar achieved the goals of increasing student achievement or minimizing learning loss

- Student achievement data suggests the year-round calendar has had a neutral effect based on comparing Barcroft with the other APS Title I schools.
- No significant difference in students' performance
 - English Learners assessed to be proficient or making progress on the WIDA ACCESS test 2017 through 2019
 - Reading, Math, and Science passing rates, SOLs from 2015 through 2019

Costs to maintain the Modified School Year Calendar are significant

- Barcroft has highest per pupil cost, \$17,470 for FY 2020. The total cost is \$676,320.
- Total cost per pupil for Barcroft is higher than that of the next highest school (Barrett).
- The Hanover report states that the year-round calendar may increase district operating costs.

Additional Findings

- Schools in neighboring districts have moved away from having modified calendars.

Indirect costs to maintain the MSYC are significant

Human Resources	<p>The typical sharing of staff among schools does not work because the calendars do not align, so APS supplements Barcroft by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making part-time staffing allocations full-time • Adding extra workdays (E-days) for Special Education services like speech and psychological and educational testing
Information Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergy requires customized programming at additional cost to accommodate the MSYC • Additional system setups for Barcroft maintained across all APS applications • Additional staff time required for Grading and Report Cards for Barcroft and added complexity associated with State and Federal Reporting
Facilities & Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation costs are higher, as bus drivers require an 11-month contract • Barcroft staff can focus on supporting students in July, rather than printing and mailing transportation messages ahead of other schools
Teaching & Learning	<p>Barcroft teachers and administrators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are not able to participate in many of the district-wide professional learning opportunities; still required to learn the information • Miss out on collaboration opportunities with their peers at other schools



Community Engagement and Input Summary

Fall 2020 Engagement Objectives

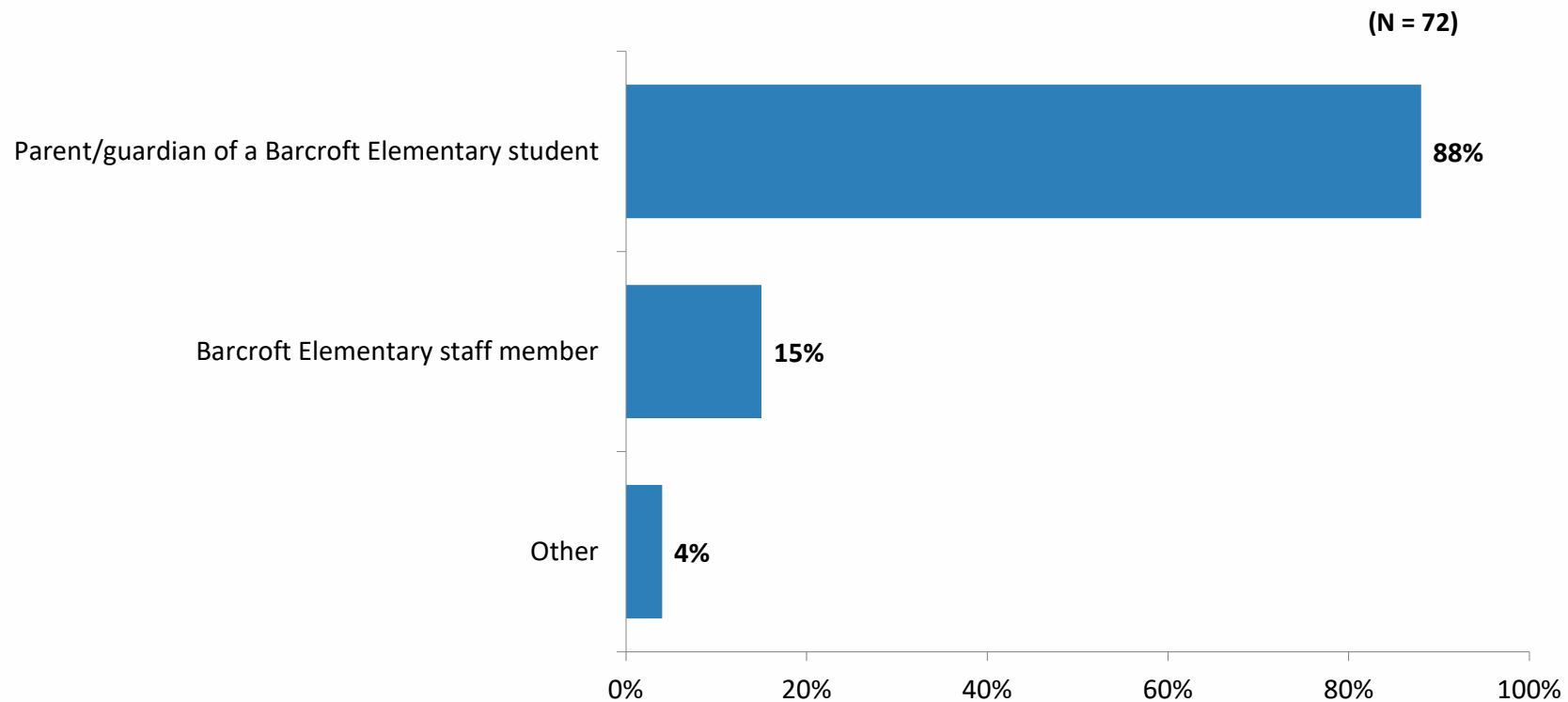
- Inform the Barcroft staff and families of the proposal to follow the APS calendar, transitioning from the modified school year calendar
- Seek input on the benefits of the MSYC and proposed alignment
- Gather feedback from Barcroft staff and families regarding supports they may need to help them through the calendar transition and additional considerations to support the school community, should Barcroft move to the traditional calendar

Community Engagement Timeline

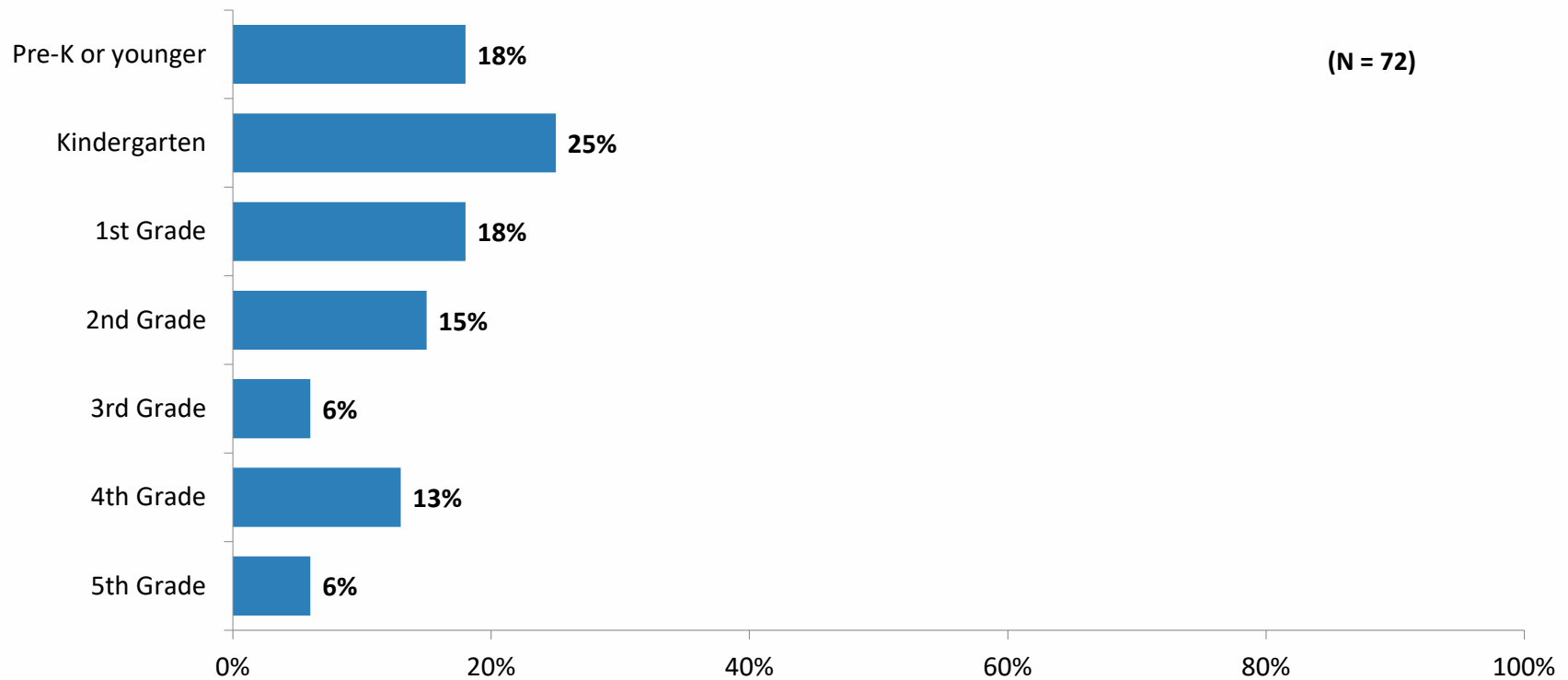
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| September 21 | Barcroft staff meeting presentation |
| September 22 | Barcroft PTA meeting presentation in English with Spanish interpretation |
| September 23 | Engage webpage launched |
| September 24 | School Talk message informing Barcroft community |
| Sept. 24-Oct. 15 | Barcroft Community Questionnaire in multiple languages |
| September 29 | Virtual Open Office Hours presentation and Q&A |
| October 23 | Virtual Community Forum in Spanish with English interpretation |
| November 17 | Proposal presented to School Board for Information |
| December 3 | School Board takes action on Barcroft proposal |



Responses came from:



Responses from parents had children in the following grades:



What about the current modified school year calendar best serves students and families?

Most repeated responses:

- Less concerns over childcare due to shorter summer breaks
- More flexibility for families
- Students experience new learning opportunities during intersession
- Learning retention increased throughout the year



Additional Input and Questions

In community meetings and feedback received through the questionnaire and Engage messages, families expressed concerns regarding:

- The shift in the approach and community engagement process, compared to stated process outlined in the spring
- Timing of the proposed calendar change, during the pandemic and elementary (Level 2) family selection process
- Community engagement goals and limited timeframe

Superintendent's Recommendation

- The Superintendent proposes to align the Barcroft school year calendar with the calendars of all other APS elementary schools beginning in the 2021-22 school year, due to:
 - No evidence that maintaining a separate calendar has achieved the stated goals to increase student achievement
 - Budget constraints and the need to reduce division-wide operational costs
 - Long-term planning considerations and the need to adopt consistent, countywide practices across schools to the extent possible
- APS commits to work with Barcroft staff and families to provide support in the transition for childcare, access to summer programs and other instructional supports to increase student achievement.

Feedback and Q&A

