



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#ReopenStrong - PK to 5 Student Learning Preference Survey

December 2020



Survey Details

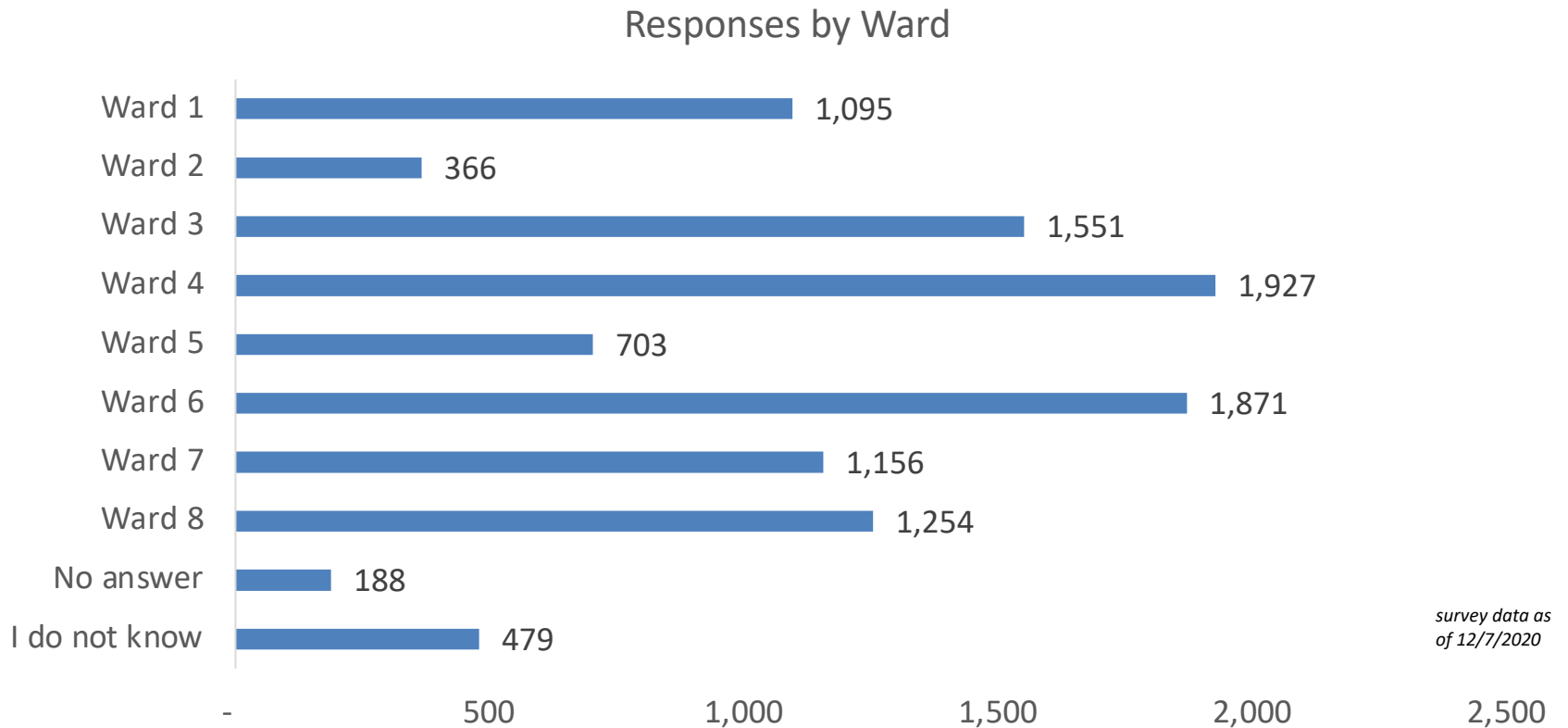
The survey was administered by School Reopen Community Corps with the support from DCPS Central Office Community Action Teams. Parents were asked to submit a survey for each child they have enrolled in PK-5 at a DCPS school. The survey was voluntary, and all survey questions were optional.

- These results represents responses from 81 school communities that serve students in grades PK-5.
- Survey window: November 24 – December 4.

Survey Questions

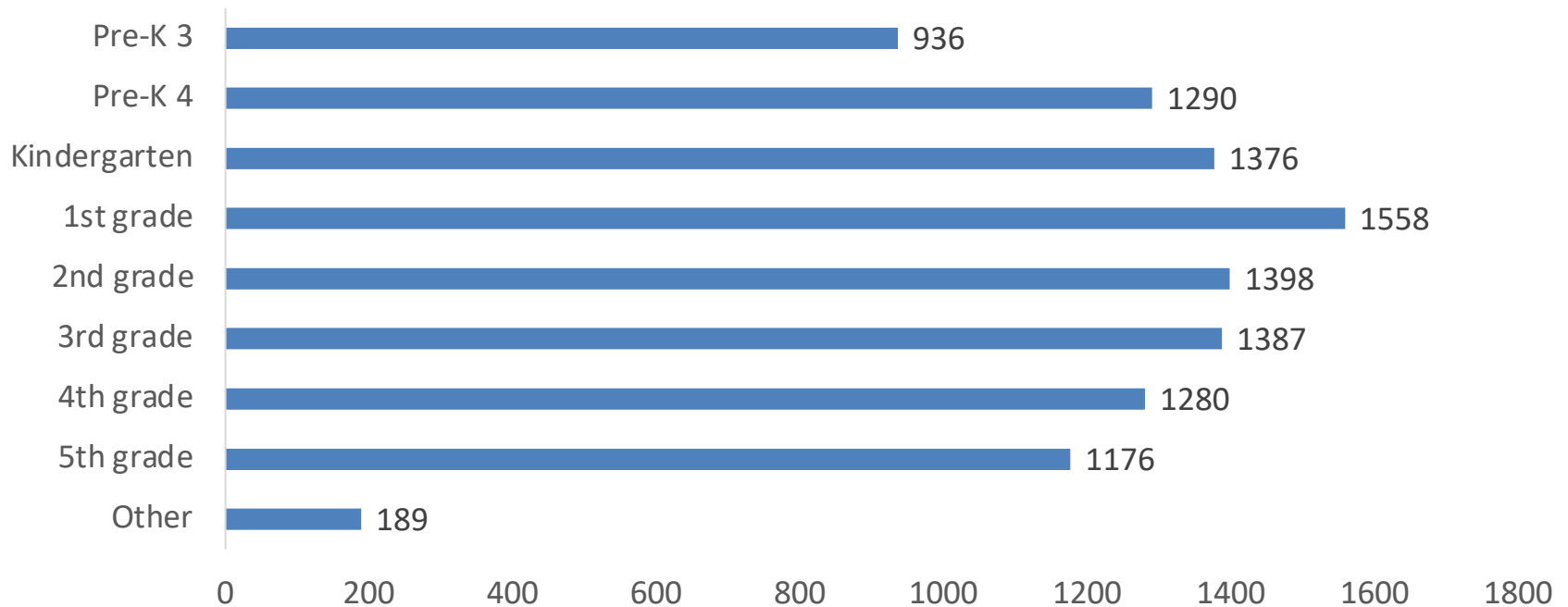
- 4 demographic questions:
 - Which DCPS school does your child currently attend?
 - What grade is your child currently enrolled in?
 - Does your child have Individualized Education Program (IEP) accommodations in place?
 - What ward do you live in?
- 2 content questions:
 - What in-person learning option do you prefer for your child?
 - CARE classrooms
 - In-Person Learning classrooms
 - Either, I would accept a seat in a CARE or In-Person Learning classroom
 - Neither, I prefer keeping my child in a virtual-only classroom
 - We know great teacher-student relationships matter. If you are interested in sending your child for In-Person Learning with a DCPS teacher, please select which sentence best describes you.
 - It is very important to me that my child keeps their teacher, and I will not send my child to school if my child would need to change teachers.
 - While it is important to me that my child keeps their teacher, I would still send my child to school if my child changes teachers.
 - It is less important to me that my child keep their teacher, and I plan to send my child for In-Person Learning even if it means the teacher changes.
 - I plan to keep my child Learning from Home.
- One open-ended question:
 - To help your Reopen Community Corps inform decisions about your school reopening, what additional information would you like your school to consider? dcpsreopenstrong.com/community-corps

We heard from over 10,500 families across all 8 Wards

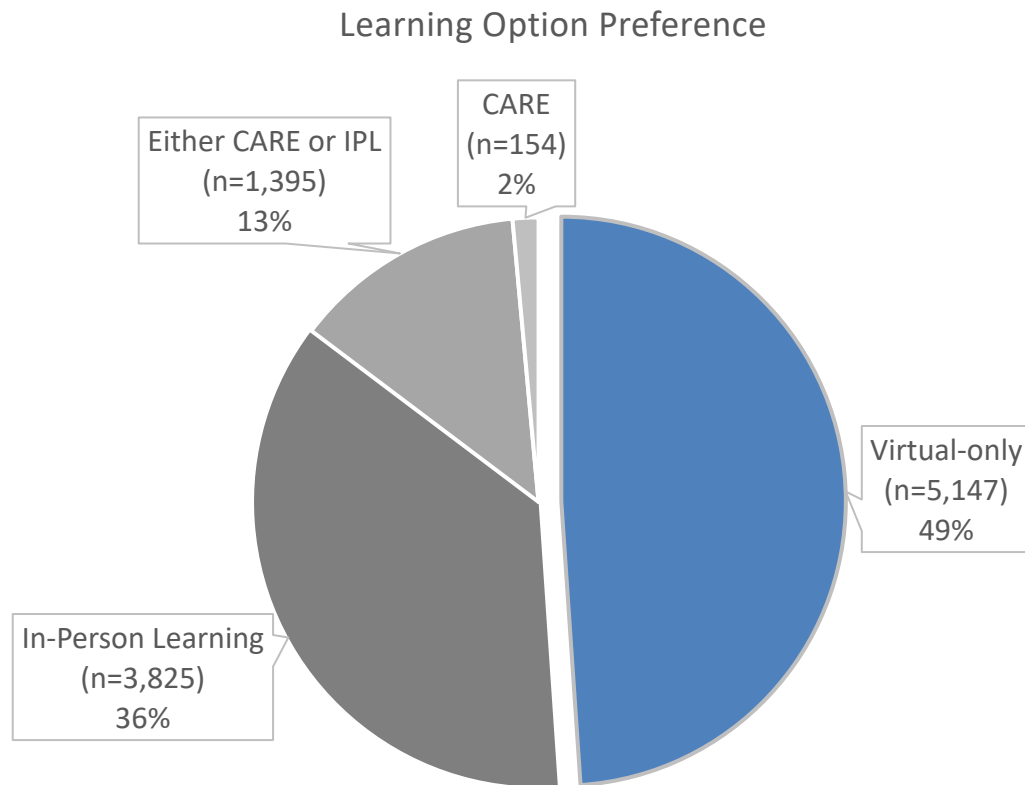


We heard from over 10,500 families across all PK-5 Grade Levels

Responses by Student Grade Level



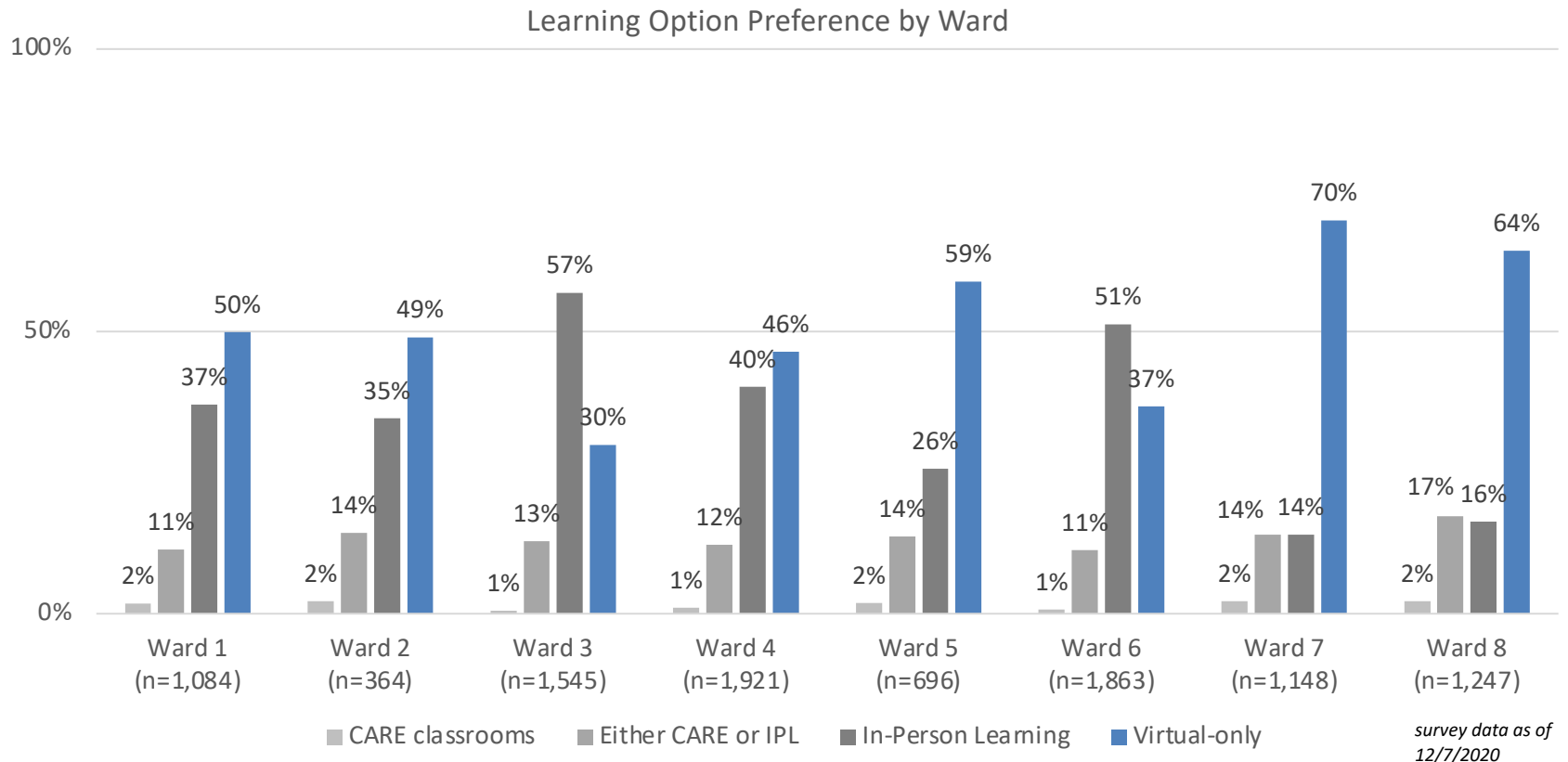
Families were almost evenly split between their preferences for virtual-only vs In-Person or CARE classroom learning options



survey data as of 12/7/2020

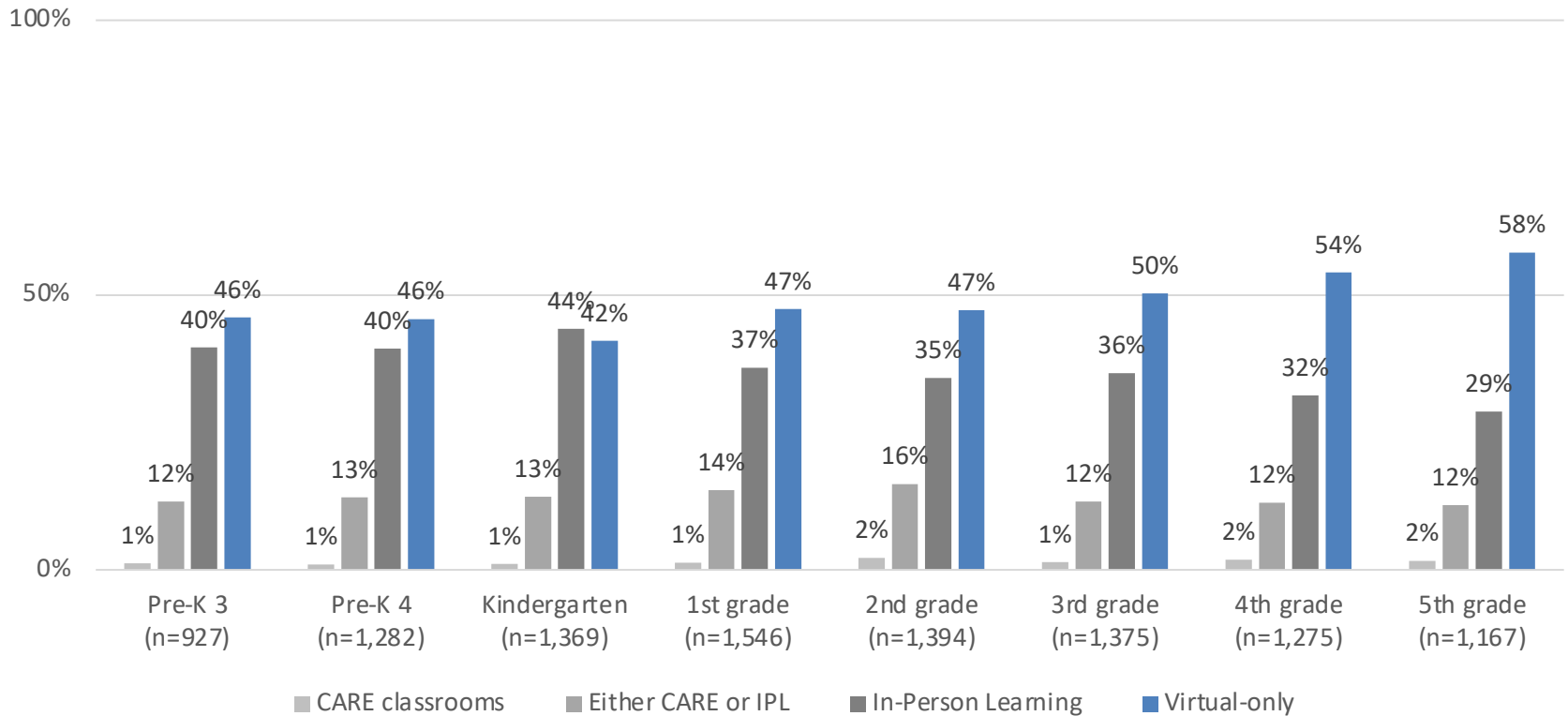
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Over half of families in Wards 5, 7, and 8 preferred a virtual-only option, while over half of families in Wards 3, 4, and 6 preferred an In-Person or CARE learning option



Families tended to prefer a virtual-only option for students in higher grades

Learning Option Preference by Grade

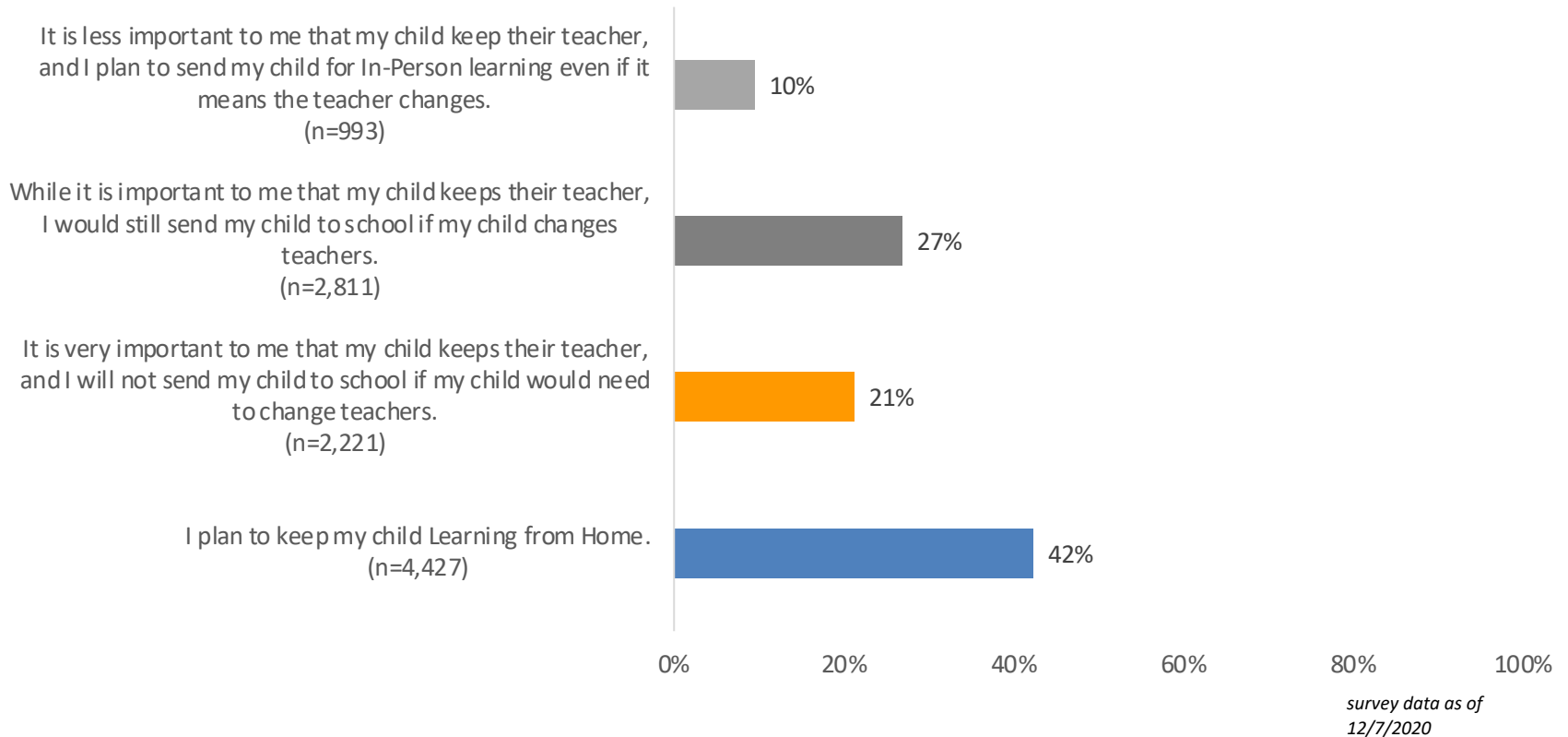


survey data as of 12/7/2020

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A fifth of families reported that it is very important to them that their child keeps their teacher, and they will not send their child to school if the teacher changes

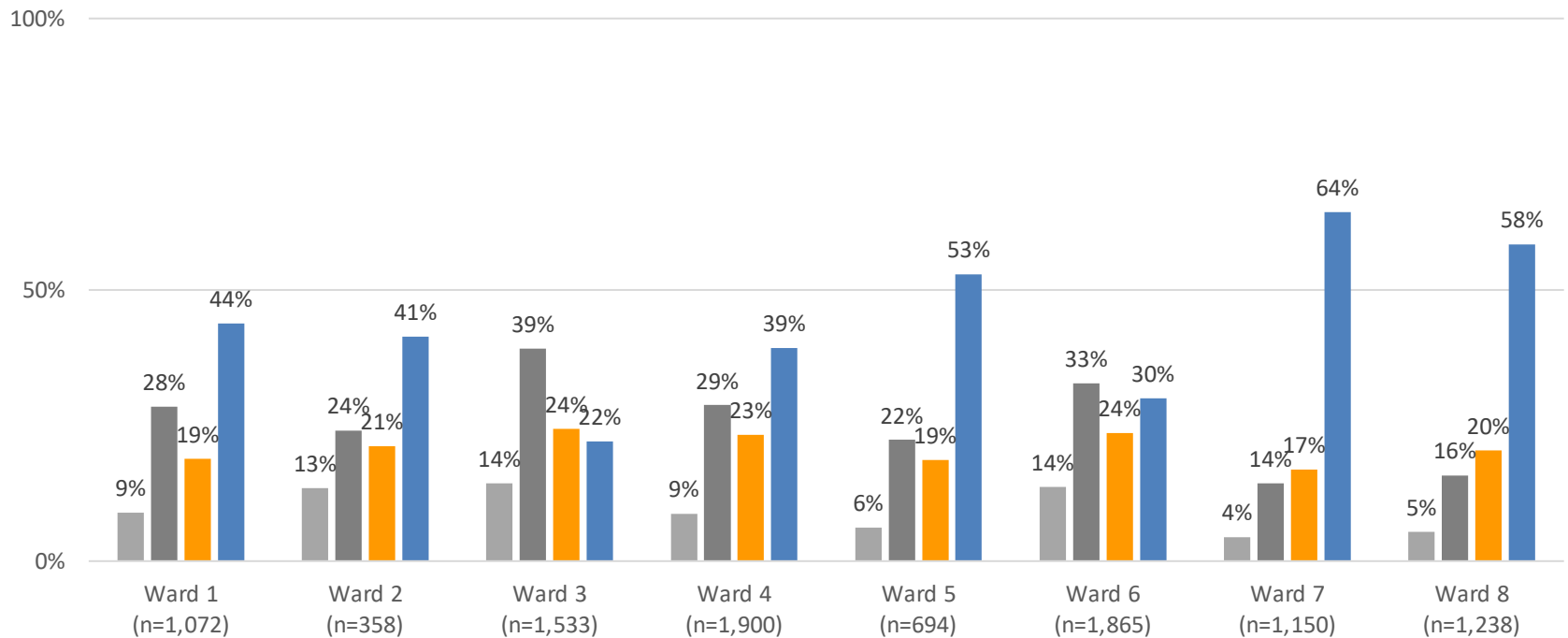
Teacher-Student Relationship Priorities



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Over half of Ward 3 families would still send their child to school for an in-person learning option even if the teacher changes

Teacher-Student Relationship Priorities by Ward



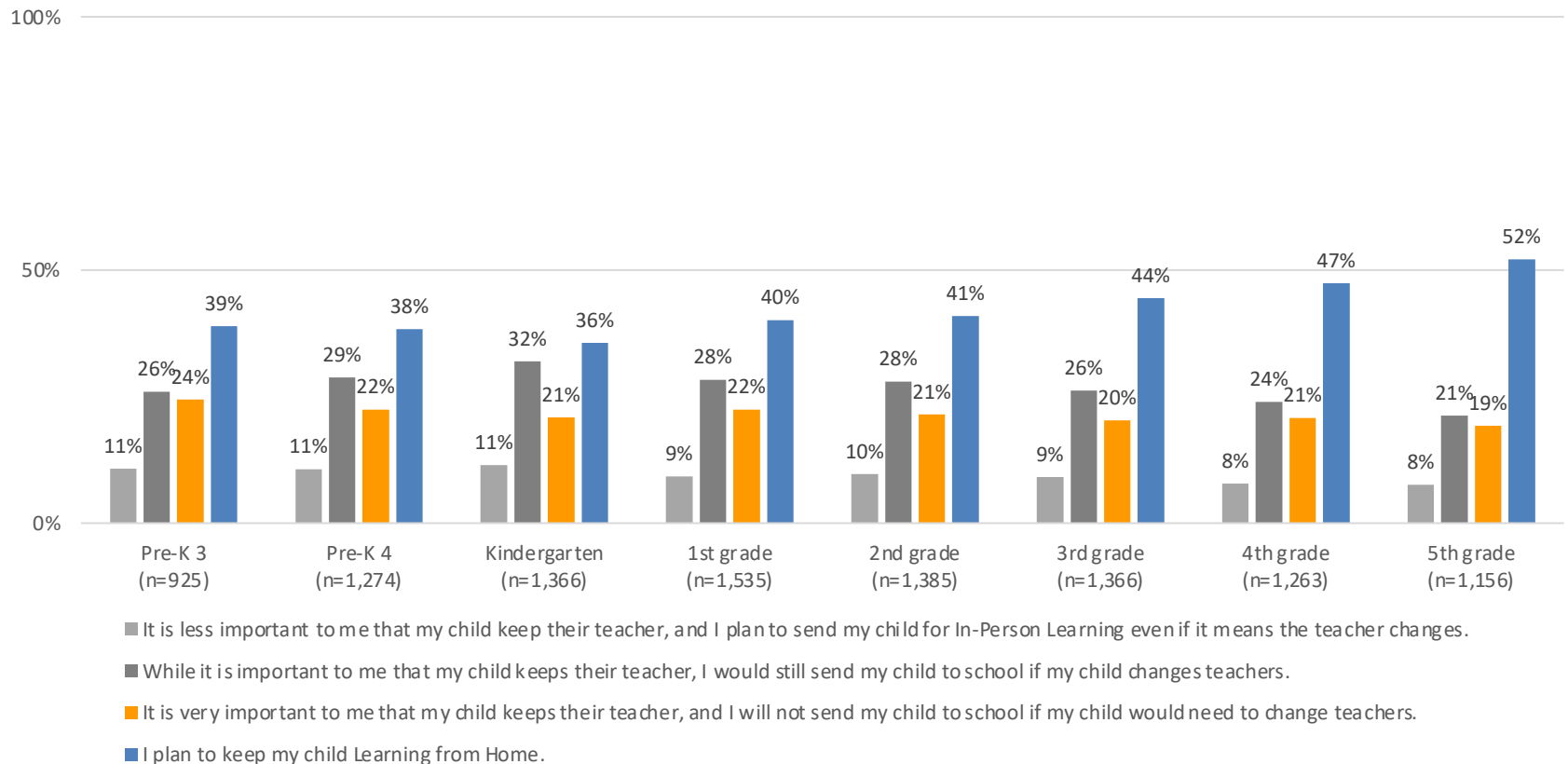
- It is less important to me that my child keep their teacher, and I plan to send my child for In-Person Learning even if it means the teacher changes.
- While it is important to me that my child keeps their teacher, I would still send my child to school if my child changes teachers.
- It is very important to me that my child keeps their teacher, and I will not send my child to school if my child would need to change teachers.
- I plan to keep my child Learning from Home.

survey data as of 12/7/2020

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About a quarter of families with Pre-K 3 children reported that it is very important to them that their child keeps their teacher, and they will not send their child to school if the teacher changes

Teacher-Student Relationship Priorities by Grade



survey data as of 12/7/2020

THEMES FROM OPEN RESPONSE

Committed to Returning In-Person

- *“The data shows that schools can safely reopen with proper precautions. Kids are falling behind academically and missing out on important social emotional development, and this is very concerning to me. Schools should open on a hybrid model, especially for the youngest ages.” - Oyster-Adams Bilingual School Parent*
- *“After experiencing 6 months of distanced learning, it is clear to me it does not work for young children. The schools need to reopen.” - Shepherd ES Parent*
- *“I am confident in DCPS and their ability to return students and teachers to school safely. Mask wearing and frequent hand washing/sanitizing can be easily accomplished and is a small sacrifice compared to the social-emotional sacrifice children have been forced to make for 9 months now.” - Maury ES Parent*

Committed to Remaining Virtual-Only

- *“revisit reopening schools in the next school year (SY21/22) after a viable vaccine and more safety precautions are put in place.” - Beers ES Parent*
- *“The physical & emotional health of our teachers & students is paramount. Until our elementary schools’ HVAC systems are fully renovated with purification systems or units in each classroom; fully operational bathrooms (with running hot water for proper hand washing); PPE’s and sanitizing stations throughout EVERY school then our schools should NOT be reopening.” - Burroughs ES Parent*
- *“After how things were handled this summer/fall I do not trust DCPS to keep teachers or kids safe.” - SWWFS Parent*
- *“I understand the social-emotional benefits of my children returning to the classroom. I believe DCPS wants to keep every child, teacher, staff, and family member safe. I trust my school administrators. However, based on DCPS’ past failures, there is a lack of trust that the system can successfully and EQUITABLY perform the return to in-person learning.” - Beers ES Parent*

CARE vs In-Person Learning

- *"The safety of the students and school employees is the most important. I think only cares classrooms should open for safety concerns coupled with moving students mid year from the teachers they already have connections with." - Takoma EC Parent*
- *"I would NOT send my child to a CARE classroom, but would strongly advocate for a return to in-person learning with a teacher. For younger kids like my kindergartner, they are trying hard but really struggling to learn foundational reading and math skills online. They are falling behind every day and desperately need to be brought to the classroom as soon as possible." -Lafayette ES Parent*
- *"I would not send my child to school to do virtual learning from a CARES classroom, but I would send her for in-person learning with a teacher. I think especially for younger children (and I appreciate how hard the teachers are working) virtual learning does not work. I would also support a plan that prioritizes getting the children who need it most (homeless, parents are essential workers/cannot support children's learning, learning disabilities, etc.) back into the classroom with teachers even if my child's school did not have in-person learning." -Maury ES Parent*

Teacher-Student Relationships

- *“Allowing young students to keep their teachers is incredibly important in such a difficult year. They know their peers and their teacher and feel connected to them even with virtual learning. Frequent changing of their peer class or teachers for a few weeks of in person instruction will do more harm than good.”
- Lafayette ES Parent*
- *“After safety, the single most important factor to me is no disruption in my child’s relationship with his teacher.” - Murch ES Parent*
- *“I feel the purpose of PreK is to develop strong bonds with peers and teachers and to use that foundation to build social and emotional skills. My child has finally bonded with her teacher and peers in their virtual classroom and I feel it is important to keep that bonded unit together, particularly to help ease any transition into in-person learning. I have a strong preference for helping the kids make that switch with the teachers they have come to know and trust.” - J.O. Wilson ES Parent*
- *“I hope the disruption of changing teachers and routines is appropriately weighed with the benefits of returning small numbers of students to in-person instruction. It seems to me that asking kids to "start over" with a new teachers and the increases in class size are harmful for kids. I understand the need for some to have an in-person option, but the cost to all our students for offering this under the current plan does not seem to take the social-emotional health of students in DL into consideration.” - Shepherd ES Parent*