



Barcroft Calendar Alignment Community Meeting

October 23, 2020



Barcroft Calendar Alignment Plan

Fall 2020 Engagement Objectives

- Inform Barcroft community of the proposal to align the Barcroft calendar with the calendars of all other APS schools beginning in the 2021-22 school year, moving away from the modified school year calendar (MSYC).
- Gather community input regarding the MSYC benefits and the supports that staff and families may need to help them through the calendar transition.



Barcroft Calendar

2002 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

The Superintendent noted the calendar change would not incur additional costs



Rationale for Aligning the Barcroft Calendar

From the study

No evidence the Modified School Year Calendar increased student achievement or minimized learning loss

- Student achievement 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, Access 2017 through 2019
 - Reading, Math, and Science passing rates, SOLs from 2015 through 2019

Direct costs to maintain the Modified School Year Calendar are significant

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

Additional Study Findings

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



What the study did not capture

Concerns from the Barcroft community being gathered in this engagement process, from Barcroft

- families attending Barcroft
 - families attending Randolph through a transfer due to the MSYC
 - Staff
-
- Input from departments, identifying additional resources that APS expends to support the Barcroft's MSYC

Engagement Summary and Next Steps

September:

- Introduce calendar alignment plan and community engagement to Barcroft staff on Sept. 21 and community at Sept. 22 PTA meeting
- Launch Engage webpage on Wednesday, Sept. 23
- Hold virtual open office hours and meetings with Barcroft staff and families to answer questions:
 - Every Tuesday evening except when there is a PTA meeting
- Barcroft Community Questionnaire: Sept. 24-Oct. 15
- Hold Community Forum in Spanish on October 23

November 17: Staff presents Barcroft Calendar Realignment Proposal to School Board

December 3: School Board takes action on the Barcroft; Staff presents proposed School Year 2021-22 calendar

August 2021: Barcroft calendar for 2021-22 school year takes effect



Questions? Write to:
engage@apsva.us



What We Heard: Barcroft Calendar Alignment Questionnaire

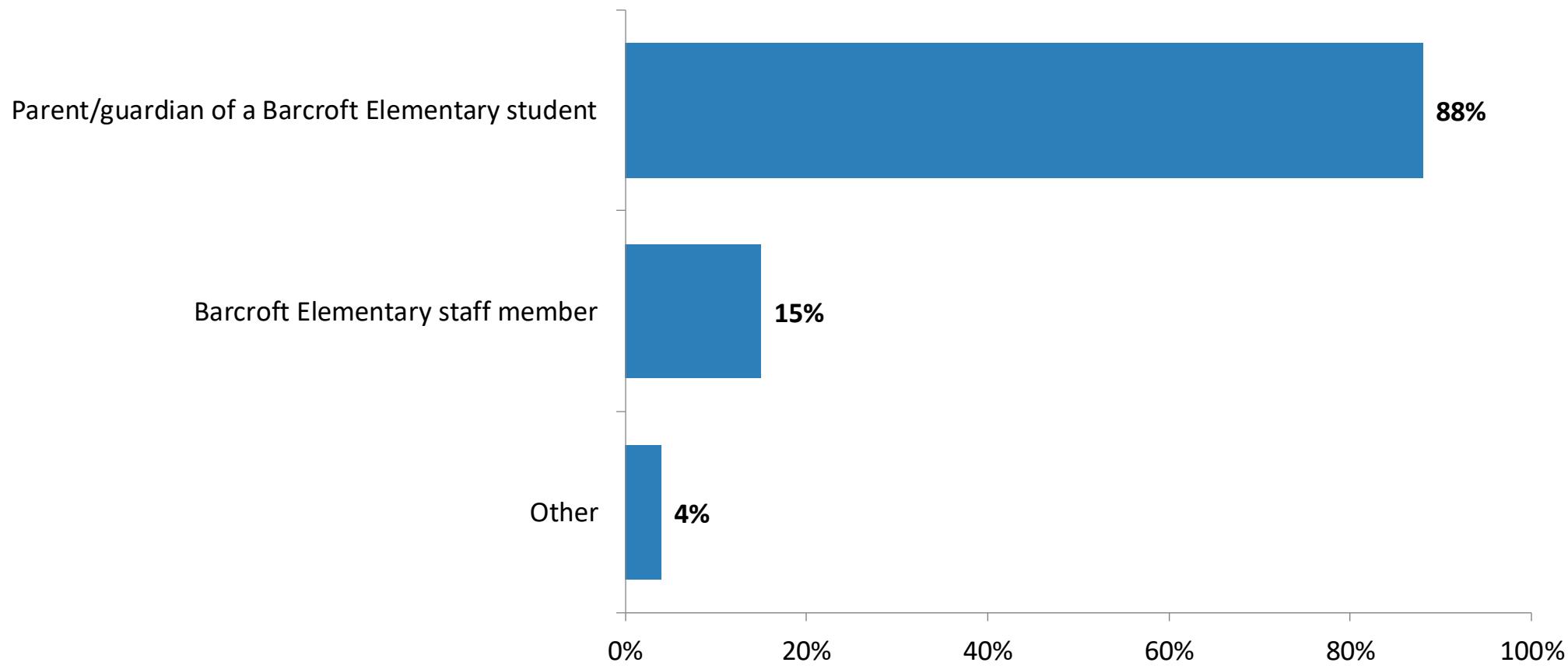
Results and Analysis



Barcroft Calendar Alignment Questionnaire – Question 1

Responses came from:

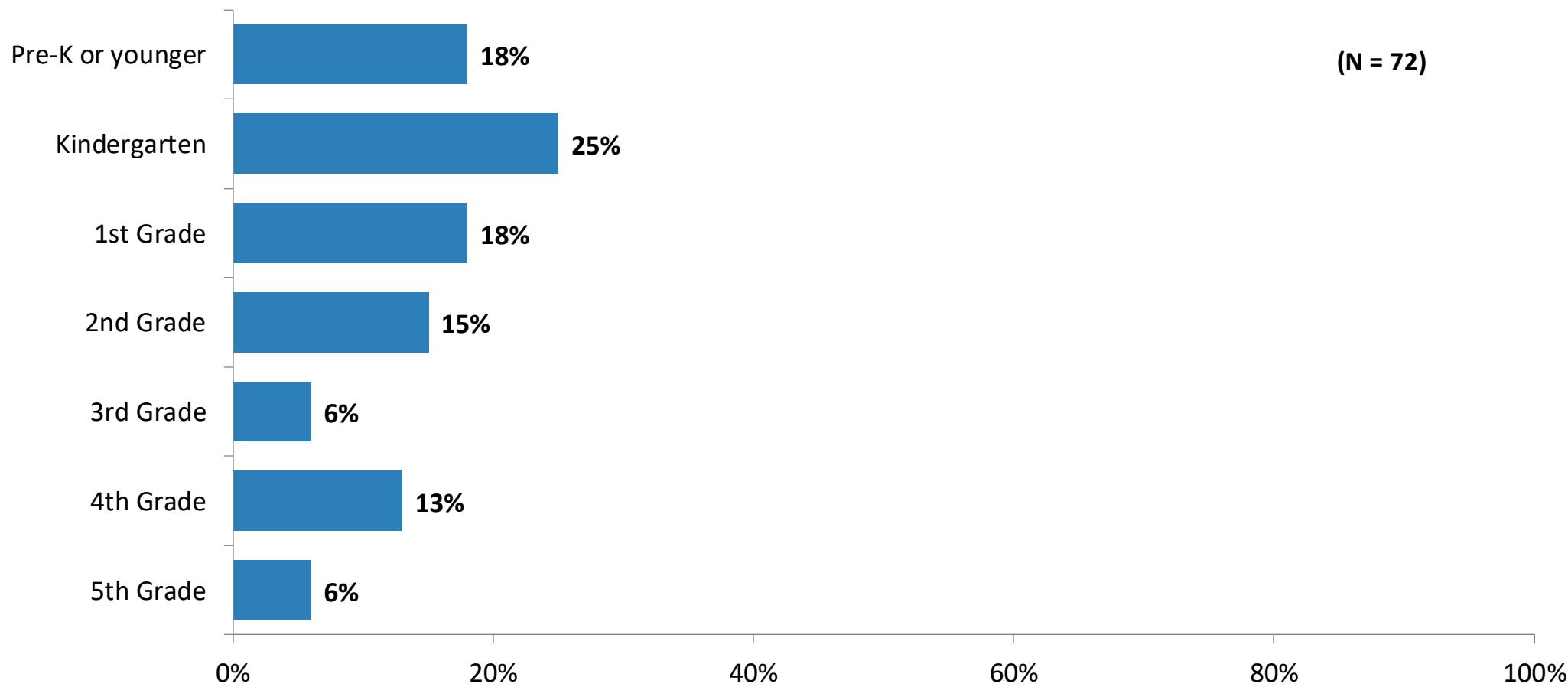
(N = 72)





Barcroft Calendar Alignment Questionnaire – Question 2

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





Barcroft Calendar Alignment Questionnaire – Question 4

What supports might students, parents/guardians, or staff at Barcroft Elementary need to transition successfully to a traditional school year calendar that aligns with other APS schools beginning in fall 2021?

Most repeated responses:

- More summer school programs at Barcroft
- Options for economically disadvantaged students
- Other options to boost student achievement
- Investment in STEM/Math/Science Programs
- Childcare support





Arlington
Public
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Feedback and Q&A



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