

Superintendent's Advisory Committee



*Program
Innovation and
Expansion
Survey Findings*

Background

- 1) The committee history & composition
- 2) Survey Goals
- 3) Respondents

History of the Advisory Committee

The Superintendent's Advisory Committee has been meeting since August of 2014.

It was formed by the Superintendent to research the understanding of our current programs and investigate future innovative opportunities for students.

Who is in the Advisory Committee

The committee is made up of staff members and community members.

These nine people have been dedicated and loyal to a monthly meeting schedule and additional committee work over the last 15 months.

Who is in the Advisory Committee

I would like to formally introduce our committee to the School Board:

Becky Wilkoff, Gretchen Feiss, Dana Bateman, Amanda Hennessey, Nancy Burnette, James Ford, Andrew Kosak, Rick Hogan, and Vlad Douhovnikoff.

What the Advisory Committee Did

After research and discussion, the committee developed the “*Program Innovation and Expansion Survey*” that was launched this past Spring and concluded on October 2, 2015. It is the results of this survey that we would like to share with you tonight. Due to the committee’s efforts at community events as well as online participation we gathered 670 responses.

Findings of survey

Our community supports:

- Current choice programming
- Expanded options for choice programming
- Increased innovation in curriculum and instructional practices

Goals of Survey

This survey sought to assess two main things:

- 1) How are Brunswick's students being served by the innovative and specialized programs currently offered?
- 2) What are the education programs our community would most like to see in our schools?

Community members responded to these questions:

- What is your relationship to schools and community?
- What programming do you know?
 - Would you recommend programming that you have experienced?
- What would you like to see?
 - We proposed three categories:
 - focus on student-centered learning
 - variety of classroom configurations
 - grouping/organizing students by learning interests

How Survey Was Disseminated

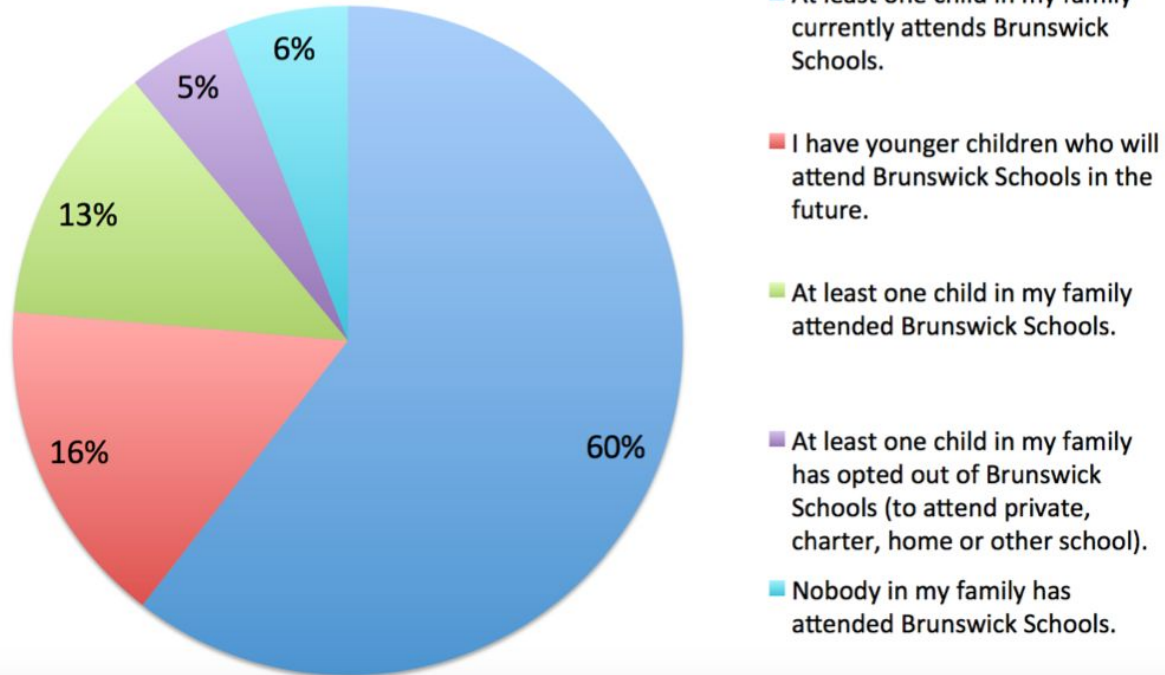
- Flyers with website address
 - distributed at various community events
- Website address posted on all schools' websites
- Website address posted on Coffin & HBS parent group Facebook pages and e-newsletters
- Booths with flyers & tablets at
 - BHS football game
 - K-12 Open Houses

Number of Respondents

673 Respondents (margin of error 4%)

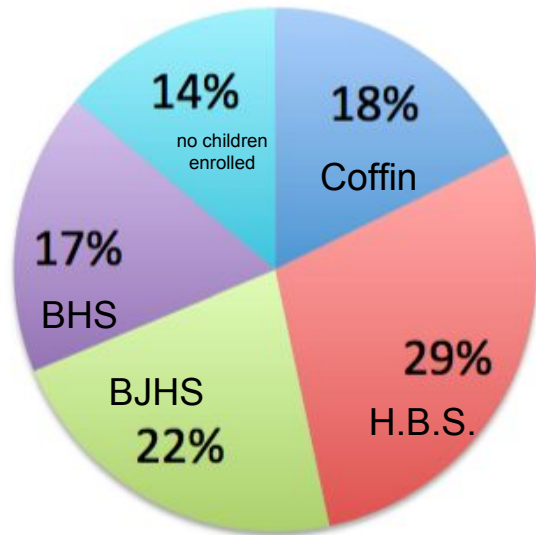
Who Responded: Involvement in Community

Please check all of the descriptions that apply to your family.



Who Responded: Enrollment in Schools

If you have children currently attending Brunswick Schools, at which school(s) is your child/are your children enrolled?



■ Robert P. T. Coffin School

■ Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School

■ Brunswick Junior High School

■ Brunswick High School

■ No children enrolled in Brunswick schools at this time

Results

- 1) Current choice programing
- 2) Future innovation in choice programing
- 3) School specific program preferences
- 4) Open comments
- 5) What did we learn?

We asked about these current choice programs:

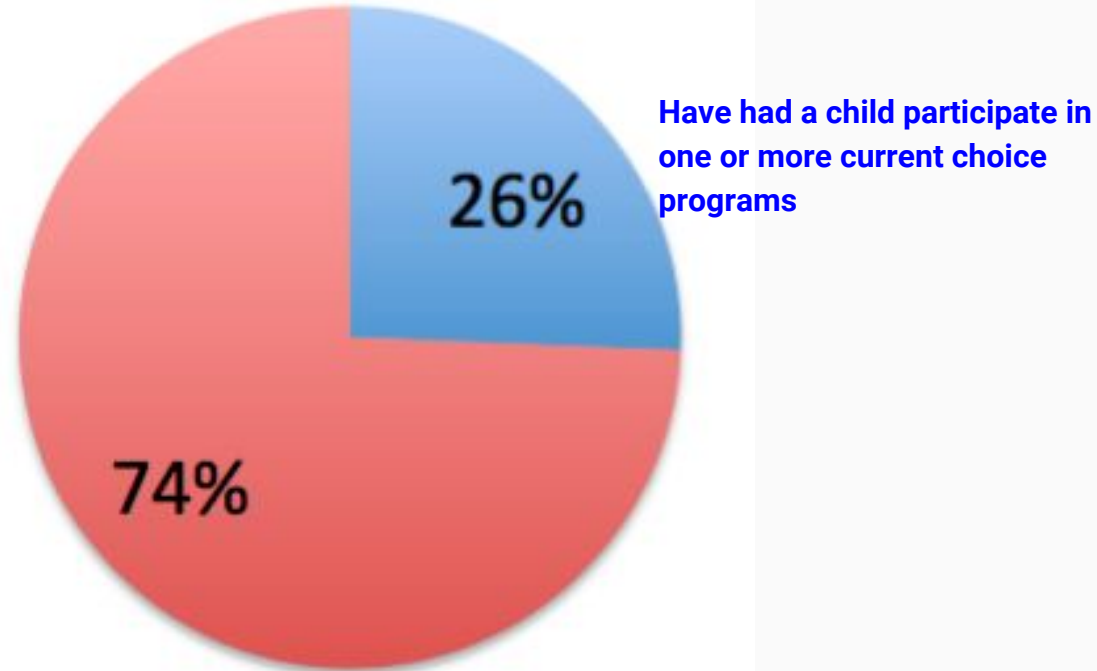
- Multi-age Primary Den at Coffin School
- Looping at HBS Elementary School
- Project X at Jr. High School
- The Academy at High School
- The Union School
- A.P. courses at High School

Familiarity with Choice Options:

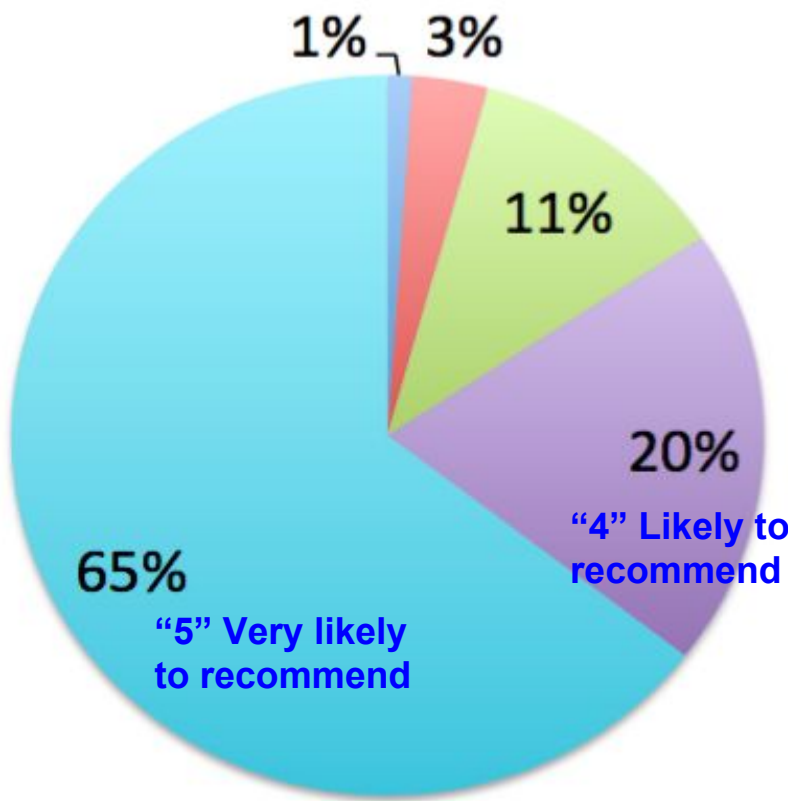
	% unaware
Multiage	30
Looping	42
Project X	82
Academy	60
AP	33

Many still unaware of options available

Overall Participation in Current Choice Programming



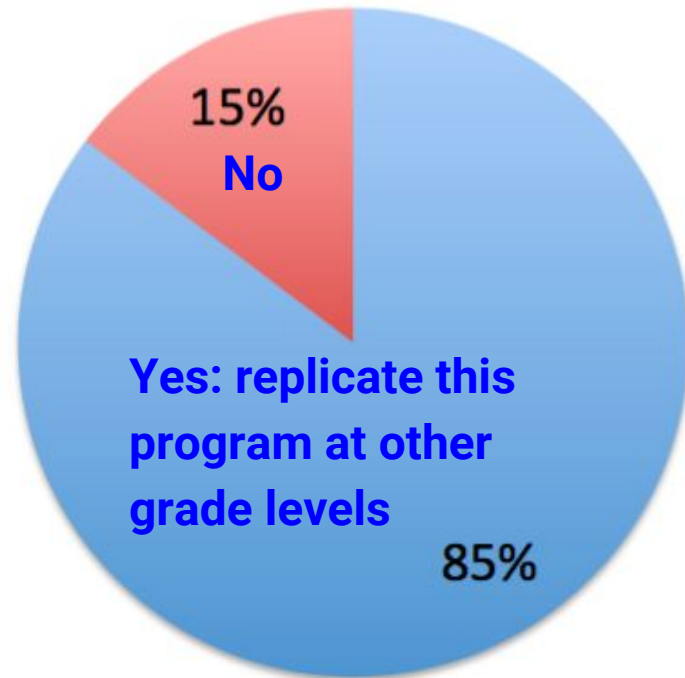
Overall summary of current choice programs: Likely to recommend for other students.



Of those with DIRECT EXPERIENCE:

- 1 not likely to recommend program
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 Very likely to recommend program

Overall summary: Would you like to see current program replicated?



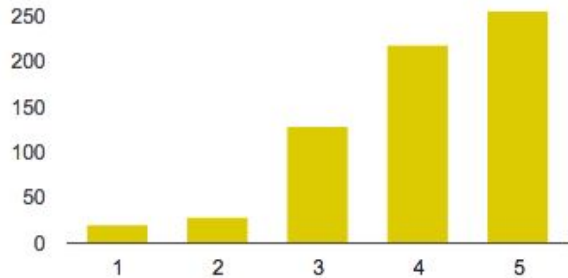
Future innovation in choice programming

Organized by:

- Student Centered Learning
- Classroom Configurations
- Learning Interest

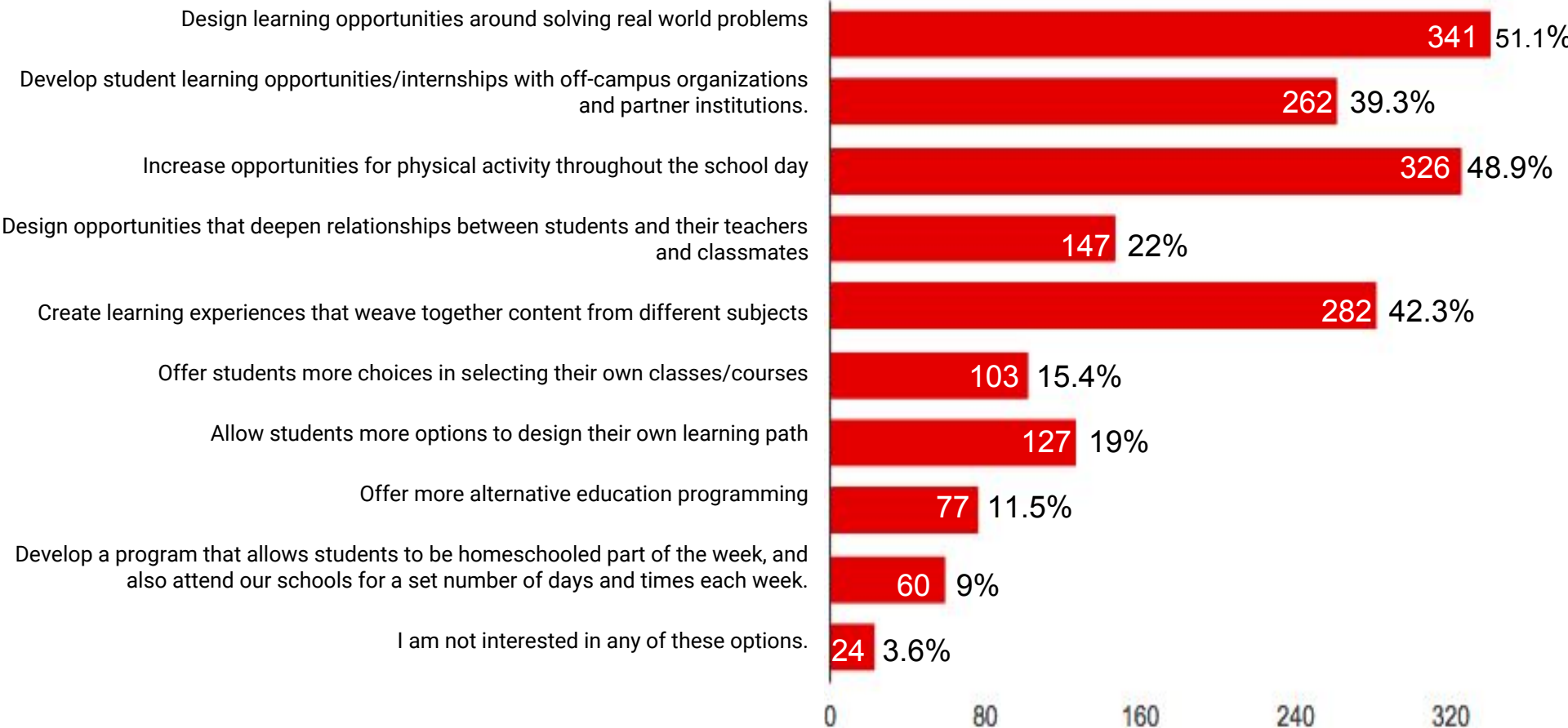
Student Centered Learning

Overall, how interested are you in seeing the Brunswick School Department shift more toward more student-centered learning?



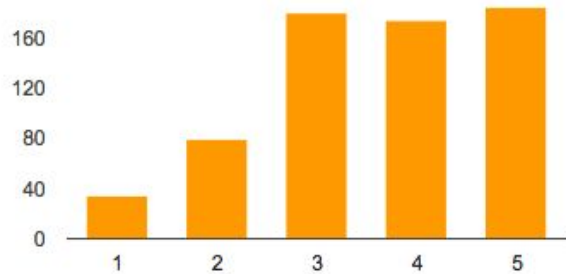
Not at all interested: 1	21	3.2%
2	29	4.4%
3	130	19.9%
4	218	33.3%
Very interested: 5	256	39.1%

Student-Centered Learning (respondents chose 3 top options)



Variety of Classroom Configuration

Overall, how interested are you in seeing the Brunswick School Department offer more variation in classroom configurations?



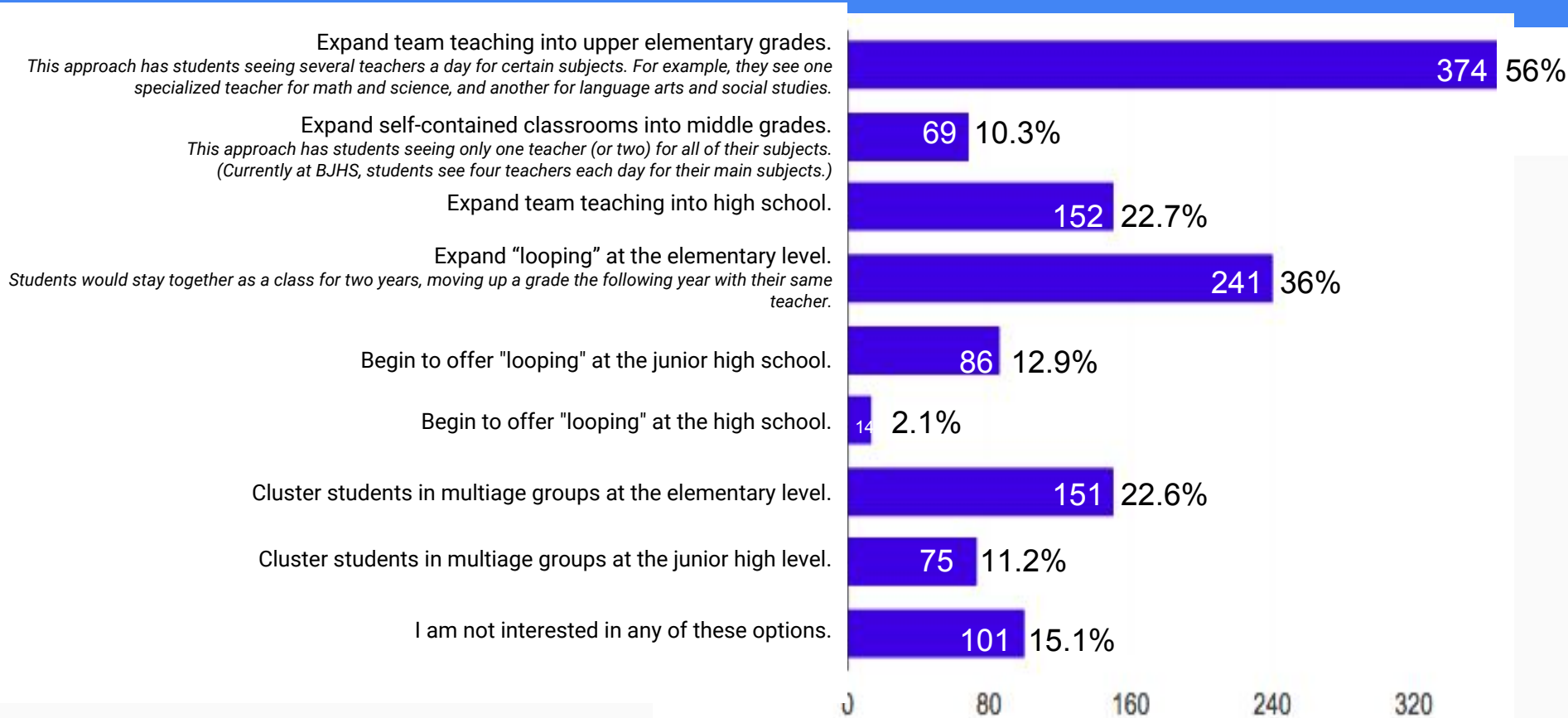
Not at all interested: 1	34	5.2%
2	79	12.1%
3	181	27.7%
4	175	26.8%
Very interested: 5	185	28.3%

not at all interested

very interested

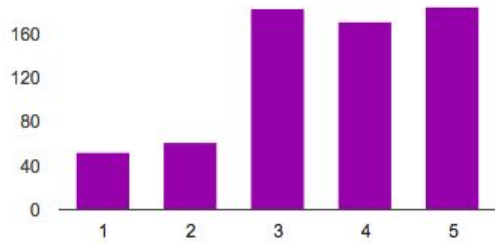
Variety in classroom configuration

(respondents choose up to three options)



Organizing Students by Learning Interest

Overall, how interested are you in seeing the Brunswick School Department create opportunities to organize students by learning interests?



Not at all interested: 1	52	7.9%
2	62	9.5%
3	184	28.1%
4	172	26.3%
Very interested: 5	185	28.2%

not at all interested

very interested

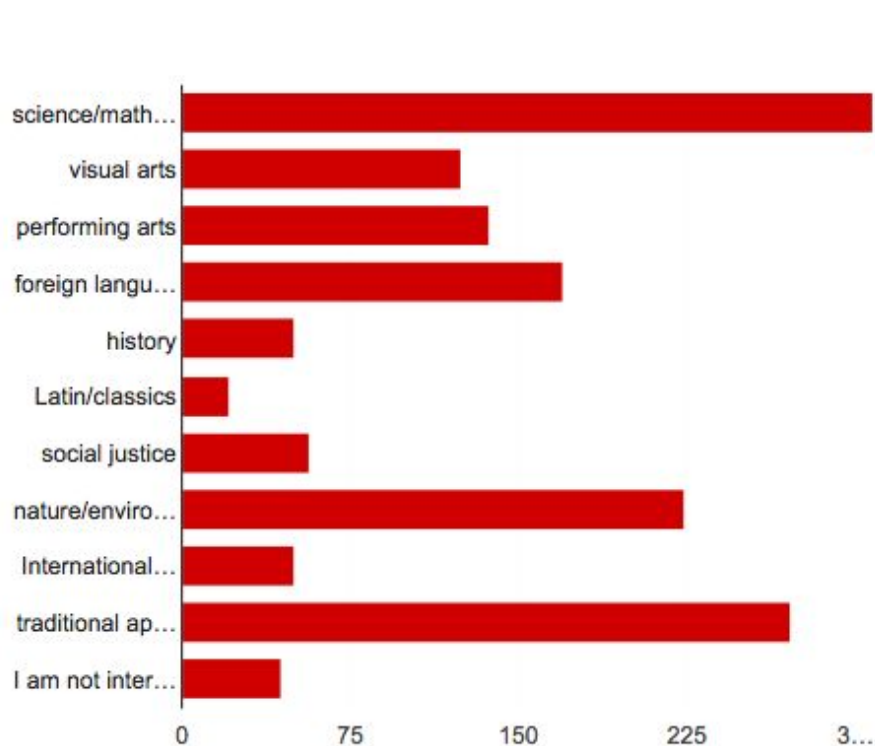
What would you like to see at each school?

Organized at:

- Elementary School
- Junior High School
- High School

Elementary Level

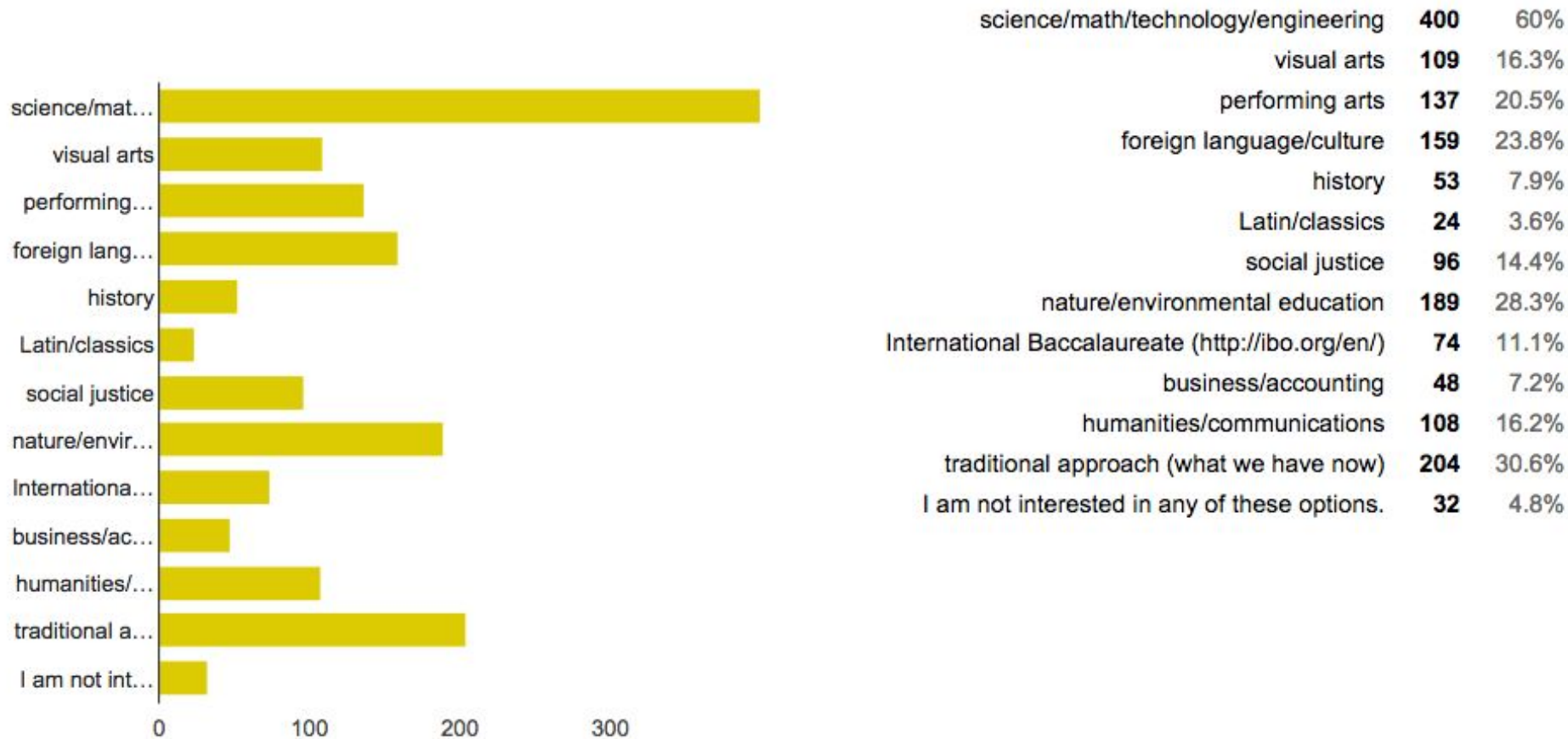
At the elementary level, I would like to see students organized around an interest in:



science/math/technology/engineering	308	46.2%
visual arts	125	18.7%
performing arts	137	20.5%
foreign language/culture	170	25.5%
history	50	7.5%
Latin/classics	21	3.1%
social justice	57	8.5%
nature/environmental education	224	33.6%
International Baccalaureate (http://ibo.org/en/)	50	7.5%
traditional approach (what we have now)	271	40.6%
I am not interested in any of these options.	44	6.6%

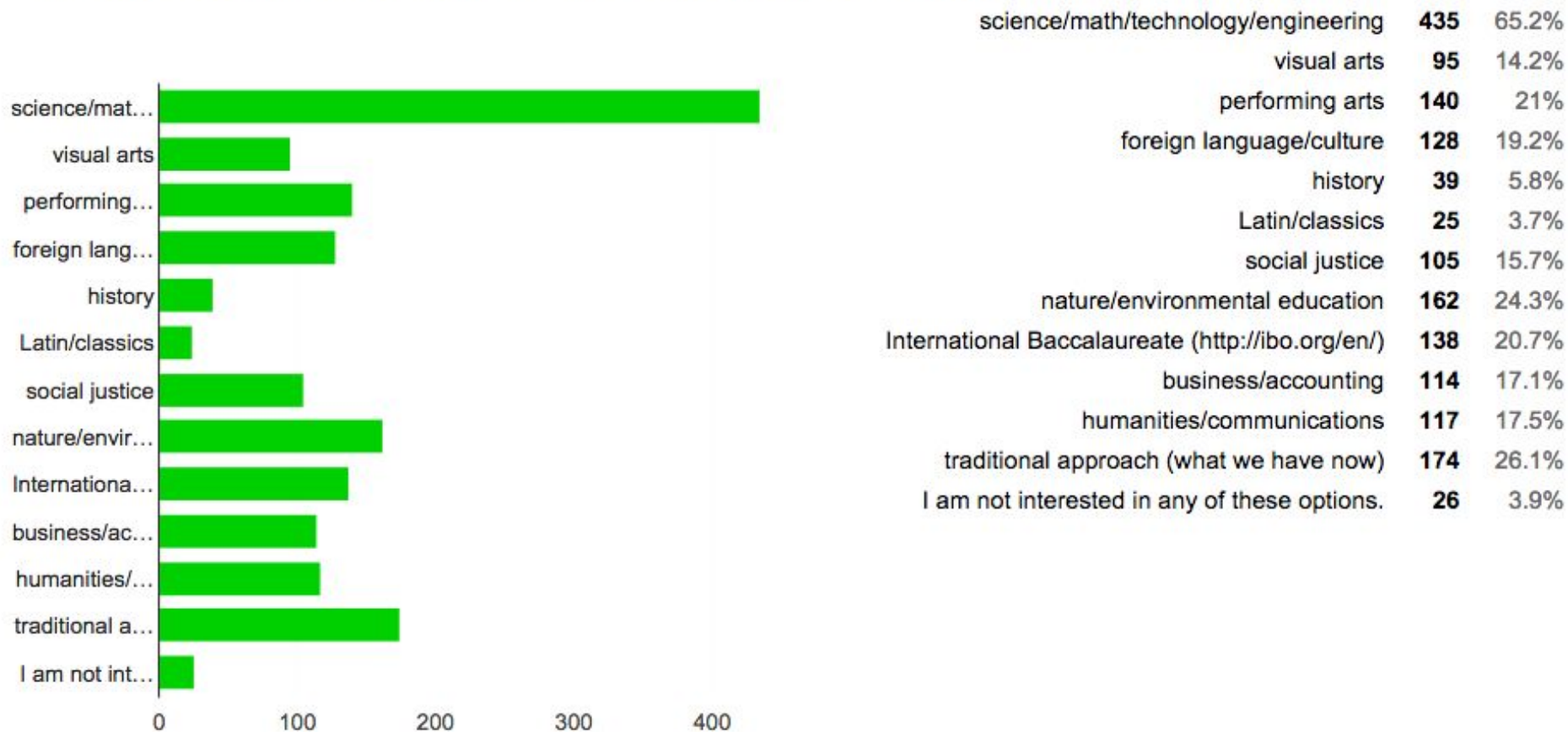
Junior High Level

At the junior high level, I would like to see students organized around an interest in:



High School Level

At the high school level, I would like to see students organized around an interest in:



Survey Comments: Numerous and varied

Most frequent topics mentioned by respondents:

- Expeditionary & exploratory learning
- Foreign language at the elementary level
- Project-based & theme-based learning
- STEM & STEAM
- “hybrid” homeschooling

Survey Comments: Numerous and varied

Not asked about on the survey, but were major topics:

- Heterogeneous vs homogeneous learning groups & large number of people asking for improved academic challenge for those “in the middle”.

- K-5 and K-8 configuration and facilities are on the minds of survey-takers.

What did we learn?

- 1) Current choice programs are extremely popular.
- 2) Broad enthusiasm for expansion of current programs.
- 3) Consensus that innovation is desired.

Consensus that innovation is desired.

Top vote getters:

Student centered learning (96.4% interested):

- Solving real world problems
- Increased opportunities for physical activity
- Weave together content from different subjects.

Class configuration (84.9% interested):

- Expand team teaching
- Expand looping
- Expand multi-age

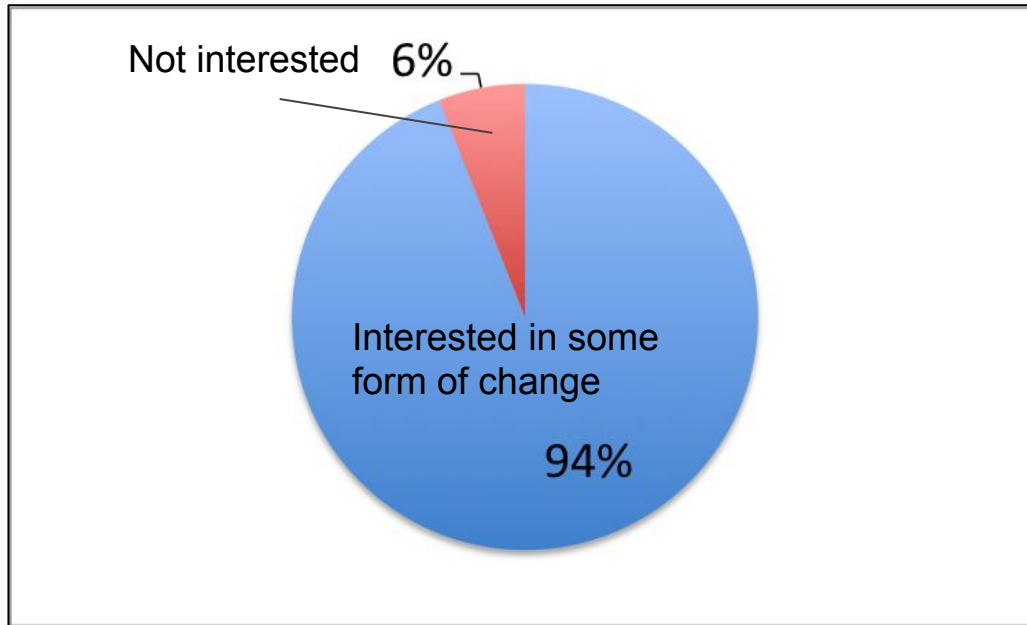
Organized by learning interest (93.4-96.1% interested):

- Science and Math
- Nature and Environment
- Traditional approach

Notable interest in:

- Increasing the physical activity of students in their school day
- Expanding looping, team teaching, and multiage options
- Developing a focus around Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Maintaining traditional educational model as a choice option

Overwhelming interest in change:



Examples of these ideas at work

Advisory committee found several places where these innovations are happening now; see addendum for links to articles.

We recommend exploratory expeditions to existing programs to observe how to implement innovations in a working school district.

- Expeditionary Learning
 - Bath Middle School
 - King Middle School, Portland
 - Casco Bay High School, Portland
- Central Subject
 - Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA

Examples of these ideas at work

- **Foreign Language in Elementary Schools**
 - Tobin School, Natick, MA
 - Portland Kindergarten Program, Portland, ME
 - Florence Roche Elementary School, Groton, CT
- **School within a school**
 - Brookline High School, Brookline, MA
- **Nature/Environmental Education**
 - Marine Science Magnet High School, Groton, CT
 - Searsport High School, Searsport, ME
 - Juniper Hill School, Alna, ME

Addendum

See below slides for detailed data of specific current choice programming (excluding those for whom insufficient data was collected)

Links to Research

Expeditionary/Experiential Learning

Bath: http://www.rsu1.org/content_page2.aspx?schoolid=2&cid=252

Bath's Middle School [week-long canoe trip](#)

Casco Bay high school: <http://cbhs.portlandschools.org/>

[King Middle in Portland](#)

Nonprofits that support schools in these efforts: <http://elschools.org/>

Central Subject

Shady Hill School www.shs.org

Foreign Language

Roche School <http://www.groton.org/podium/default.aspx?t=204&nid=693294&sdb=1&bl=/now.aspx>

The Tobin School <http://www.thetobinschool.org/curriculum.html>

Links to Research

School within a School

Brookline High School <http://bhs.brookline.k12.ma.us/sws.html>

Nature/Environmental Education

Searsport High <http://sdhs.rsu20.org/home/boatbuilding>

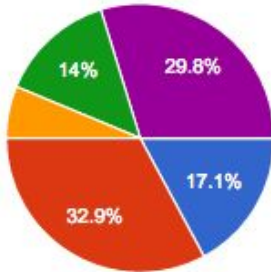
Marine Science Magnet School www.marinesciencemagnet.org

Juniper Hill School juniperhillschool.org

Familiarity with Choice Options: Multiage Primary Den, Coffin School

only enrolled families were polled about likelihood to recommend to others

How familiar are you with the multiage (Primary Den) classrooms at the elementary level?

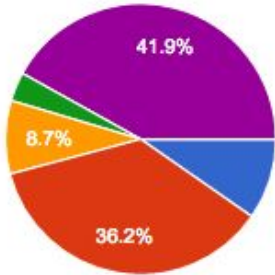


My child has been part of a multiage (Primary Den) classroom.	115	17.1%
I am familiar with this program.	221	32.8%
I wish my child had the opportunity to be enrolled in this program.	42	6.2%
I opted not to enroll my child in this program.	94	14%
I am not at all familiar with this program.	200	29.7%

Familiarity with Choice Options: Looping, Harriet Beecher Stowe School

only enrolled families were polled about likelihood to recommend to others

How familiar are you with the looping classes at Harriet Beecher Stowe School?

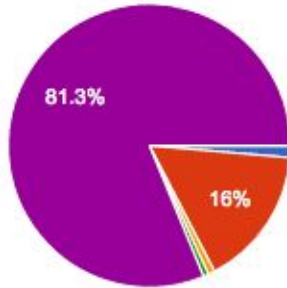


My child has been part of a looping class at HBS.	64	9.5%
I am familiar with this program.	240	35.6%
I wish my child had the opportunity to be enrolled in this program.	58	8.6%
I opted not to enroll my child in this program.	23	3.4%
I am not at all familiar with this program.	278	41.2%

Familiarity with Choice Options: Project X, BJHS

only enrolled families were polled about likelihood to recommend to others

How familiar are you with Project X (Alternative Education Program) at Brunswick Junior High School?

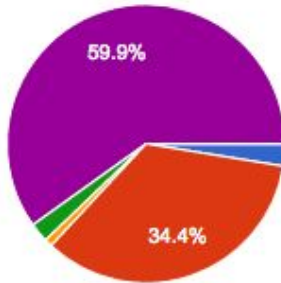


My child has been part of Project X.	9	1.3%
I am familiar with this program.	106	15.8%
I wish my child had the opportunity to be enrolled in this program.	5	0.7%
I opted not to enroll my child in this program.	4	0.6%
I am not at all familiar with this program.	538	79.9%

Familiarity with Choice Options: The Academy, BHS

only enrolled families were polled about likelihood to recommend to others

How familiar are you with The Academy at Brunswick High School?

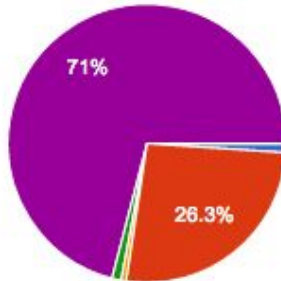


My child has been part of The Academy.	17	2.5%
I am familiar with this program.	228	33.9%
I wish my child had the opportunity to be enrolled in this program.	6	0.9%
I opted not to enroll my child in this program.	15	2.2%
I am not at all familiar with this program.	397	59%

Familiarity with Choice Options: The Union School

only enrolled families were polled about likelihood to recommend to others

How familiar are you with The Union School?

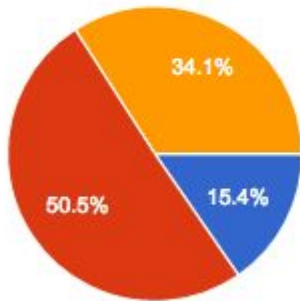


My child has attended The Union School.	7	1%
I am familiar with this program.	174	25.9%
I wish my child had the opportunity to be enrolled in this program.	4	0.6%
I opted not to enroll my child in this program.	7	1%
I am not at all familiar with this program.	469	69.7%

Familiarity with Choice Options: Advanced Placement

only enrolled families were polled about likelihood to recommend to others

How familiar are you with Advanced Placement programming at Brunswick High School?

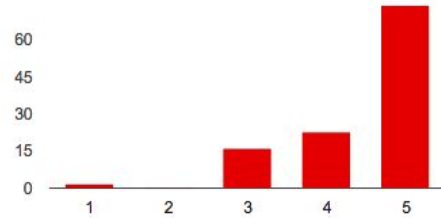


My child has taken one or more AP courses.	102	15.2%
I am familiar with this program.	335	49.8%
I am not at all familiar with this program.	226	33.6%

Current Programming: Multiage Primary Den

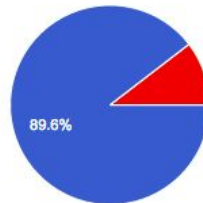
15% of
respondents had
direct experience

If your child has been part of a multiage classroom, how likely would you be to recommend this program to a friend?



Not at all likely: 1	2	1.7%
2	0	0%
3	16	13.9%
4	23	20%
Very likely: 5	74	64.3%

If your child has been part of a multiage classroom, would you like to see a program like this one replicated at other grade levels?

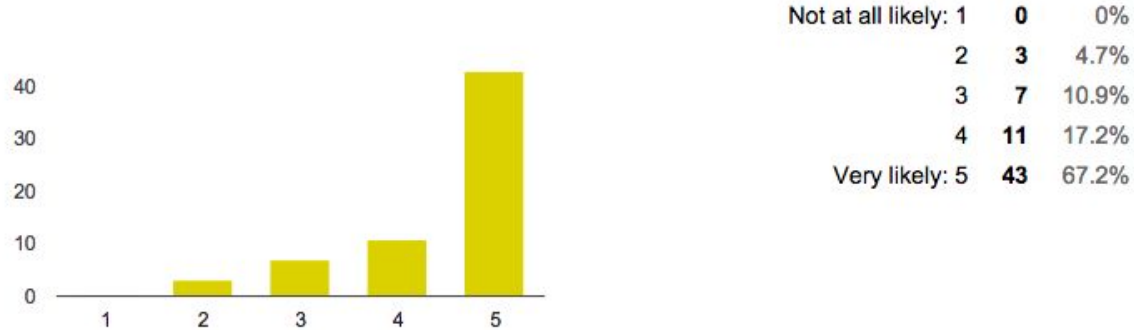


Yes	103	89.6%
No	12	10.4%

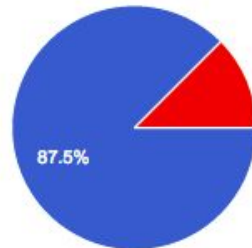
Current Programming: Looping at HBS

9.5% of respondents had direct experience

If your child has been part of a looping class at HBS, how likely would you be to recommend this program to a friend?



If your child has been part of a looping class at HBS, would you like to see a program like this one replicated at other grade levels?

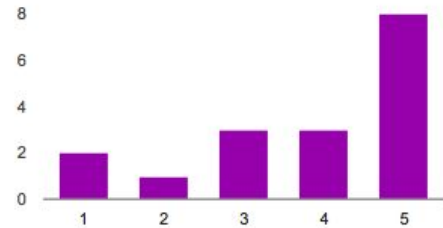


Yes	56	87.5%
No	8	12.5%

Current Programming: The Academy

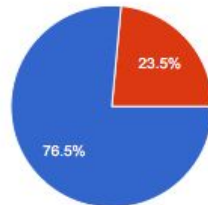
2.5% of
respondents had
direct experience

If your child has been part of The Academy at BHS, how likely would you be to recommend this program to a friend?



Not at all likely: 1	2	11.8%
2	1	5.9%
3	3	17.6%
4	3	17.6%
Very likely: 5	8	47.1%

If your child has been part of The Academy at BHS, would you like to see a program like this one replicated at other grade levels?

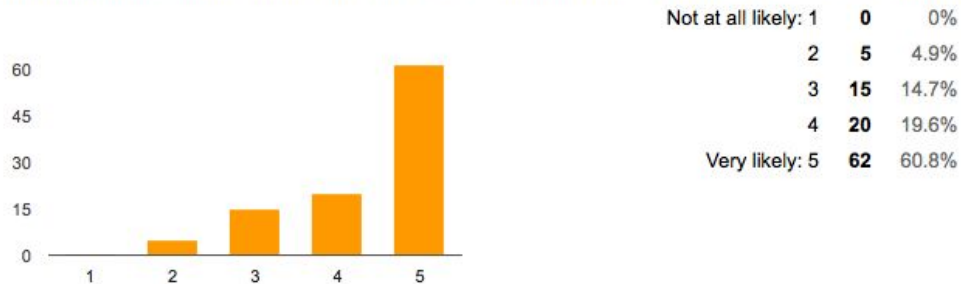


Yes	13	76.5%
No	4	23.5%

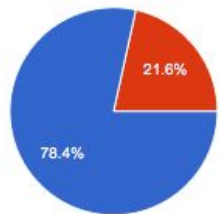
Current Programming: A. P. Courses

15.2% of respondents had direct experience

If your child has taken Advanced Placement courses, how likely would you be to recommend these courses to a friend?



If your child has taken Advanced Placement courses, would you like to see an expansion of AP course options at the high school?



Yes **80** 78.4%
No **22** 21.6%