

**SCHOOL NAME:** Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science

**SUBMITTER:** Wendell Johns

**SUBMISSION DATE:** 6/14/2021

### **SCHOOL BACKGROUND**

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Campus name(s) and location(s): **Howard University Middle School of Mathematics and Science**

Year(s) opened: **August 2005**

Grade served: **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>**

Date the charter will be eligible for renewal: **August 2025** When did the school's board approve the proposed change(s)? Please attach minutes from the meeting and vote results. **June 2, 2021**

### **EDUCATIONAL APPROACH**

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1. Describe the school's proposed educational approach and philosophy for educating students. How does this approach differ from the educational philosophy or methods the school articulated in its charter application and agreement?

**The proposed educational approach and philosophy for educating our students expands our ability to reach all of our students. For the past 5 years, we have used a blended learning model with the Summit Learning Platform. Our students receive facilitated instruction from their teacher and are then provided with a personalized learning plan that leads to content mastery. Resources to support instruction are in the Summit Learning Platform and students access the support resources through a variety of sources that include but are not limited to videos, blogs, ebooks. The proposed change would allow our students to experience this same blended learning in a virtual setting at the same time as their peers are in-person. This does not differ from the educational methods articulated in our charter application and agreement.**

2. What's the rationale for the educational shift?

**As we prepare for in-person learning in the fall of SY2021-22, we have a number of families who have indicated that they would prefer virtual learning for a variety of reasons. These reasons include fear of COVID-19 contagion, uncertainty about public transportation (the majority of our student population lives outside of Ward 1 and relies on WMATA to get to and from school), and the realization that their student works better from home. If we don't provide a virtual option for these students, it will adversely affect our enrollment. During the pandemic, we recognized that we have a portion of our student population that works better remotely. Adolescent development in the middle grade years directly effects their ability to interact socially and achieve academically. For some of our students, they were able to thrive academically in a virtual setting, something that they were unable to do in-person. The robust nature of Summit learning coupled with our school's implementation of Microsoft Teams and our remote device management has allowed us to provide the same level of instruction virtually that our students would receive in person.**

3. How many students does the school plan to educate virtually? Are there any eligibility requirements a student must meet to participate in the virtual program? If so, describe them below.

**We anticipate 15% of our student population or approximately 40 students will be educated virtually. This will be the maximum number of students who will be allowed to learn virtually. This cap will be part of the eligibility criteria. Parent permission will also be required along with attendance expectations. Parents will indicate why they are selecting a virtual option for their students so that we can keep up to date on the needs of our families.**

4. How will the proposed educational approach impact curricular choices, including resources, assessments, standards, and instructional strategies?

**There is no impact to the educational approach, curricular choices, resources, assessments, standards, or instructional strategies. If physical resources are needed, such as manipulatives, or items for science experiments, they will be sent to the students' home, just as we successfully did during the 2020-2021 school year.**

- a. Identify the virtual platform(s) the school will adopt and provide a rationale for its selection.

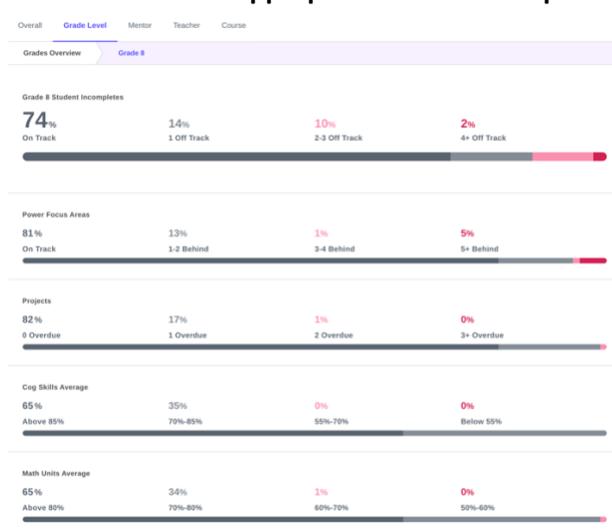
**We will continue to use the Summit Learning Platform. This platform has been used by our school for the past 5 years. It is used for in-person and virtual learning.**

- b. Identify the new curricular choices the school will adopt and provide a rationale for the curricular shift.

**We are not adopting any new curricula**

- c. Describe the long-range plan for curriculum implementation and professional development. How will the school ensure implementation fidelity?

**In the Summit Learning platform, data provides evidence of curriculum implementation. The following is a sample of the data that is provided in the platform to inform administrators and teachers of student progress. Data can be drilled down to the student level to create the appropriate intervention plans.**



5. How will the school ensure all students—including students with disabilities, English learners, economically disadvantaged and at-risk students, and students above or below grade level—benefit from the proposed educational approach?

**Many of the parents who would prefer a virtual instructional option are economically disadvantaged or their students are considered at-risk. The Summit Learning platform provides the ability to create Specialized Support Groups for students with disabilities, for ELLs or for any student who is struggling academically. With this tool, teachers are able to create plans to supplement teaching and learning and provide intervention strategies to help the student succeed. The following is a sample of this tool. Guidance is provided on what areas to focus**

The screenshot shows the 'Support Profile' form in the Summit Learning platform. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Progress', 'Week', 'Year', and 'Support Profile'. Below the tabs, a note states: 'This profile lets you collaborate with other educators on how to best support this student (the student will not have access to this page)'. The form is divided into several sections:

- Defined Learning Needs:** Includes checkboxes for 'Individualized Education Program (IEP)', 'Section 504 Plan', and 'English Language Development (ELD)'. The IEP checkbox is checked.
- Areas to Support:** Features a 'Learn More' link and a toggle switch for 'Reading Foundations', which is currently turned on.
- Where To Focus:** A text input field containing 'Vocabulary practice' with a green checkmark icon to its right.
- Support Needed:** Includes checkboxes for 'Decoding' and 'Comprehension', both of which are currently unchecked.
- Reading Level And Date Of Last Assessment:** A text input field containing 'Fountas and Pinnell: R, ~4th grade (10/19/2020)'. Below this field are 'Cancel' and 'Submit' buttons.
- Writing Foundations:** A toggle switch that is currently turned off.
- Language Foundations:** A toggle switch that is currently turned off.
- Math Foundations:** Includes a toggle switch that is currently turned on and a 'Where To Focus' section with a text input field containing 'Review lessons and concepts with the student. Do frequent and varied checks for understanding.'
- Self-Directed Learning Foundations:** A toggle switch that is currently turned on.

6. How will the school ensure its proposed educational approach will result in successfully meeting its charter goals and academic achievement expectations? How will the school track outcomes among its virtually educated students?

**Our charter goals are that at least 60% of all students in all grade levels will achieve at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or meet/exceed their growth spring targets in English Language Arts and Math based on the NWEA MAP's national norms by the June test administration each year. As part of this educational approach all students will complete the NWEA MAP testing so that we can assess their progress. Academic growth is a key part of our charter goals and we will provide mentoring, after school tutoring and Saturday school if needed to keep students learning virtually on track. Our attendance goals and expectations of our students will remain the same virtually as they are for in-person instruction. Student attendance will be monitored daily and interventions put in place if attendance issues arise. Virtually educated students' outcomes will be tracked the same way students learning in-person will be monitored because**

**they are all using the same Summit Learning system, and will be assessed through the same system.**

7. How will this approach further serve the school in meeting its mission?

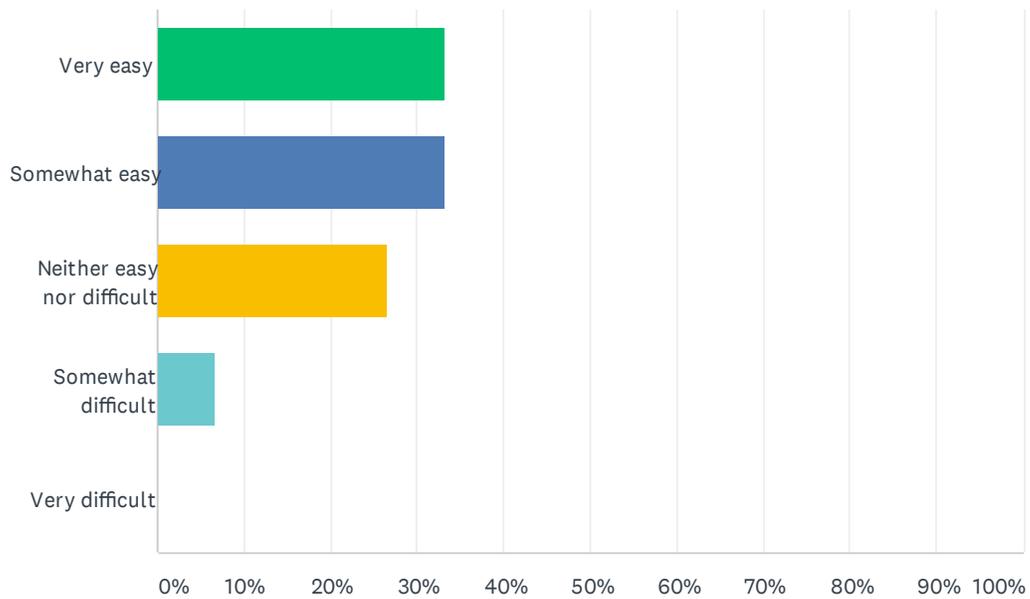
Our school's mission is to provide a sound foundation in all academic subjects, with a concentration in mathematics and science; the intellectual, social and emotional growth of each student will be nurtured, while an appreciation for diversity and sensitivity of all individuals will be encouraged in an enriched educational environment that will prepare students to succeed in high school and beyond. By providing our children an opportunity to learn in-person or virtually, we will meet our mission of being sensitive to the needs of all of the children that we serve. Having the ability to provide virtual learning to our children will allow us to continue to provide for their social, emotional and academic growth.

8. How did the school engage its internal community in redeveloping its educational approach? Include evidence demonstrating staff and parent support for the proposed changes.

**We conducted surveys with our staff and our parents regarding the proposed changes. The attached are the survey results, supporting this proposed change.**

## Q1 How easy or difficult would it be for you to provide virtual instruction to some students in the fall?

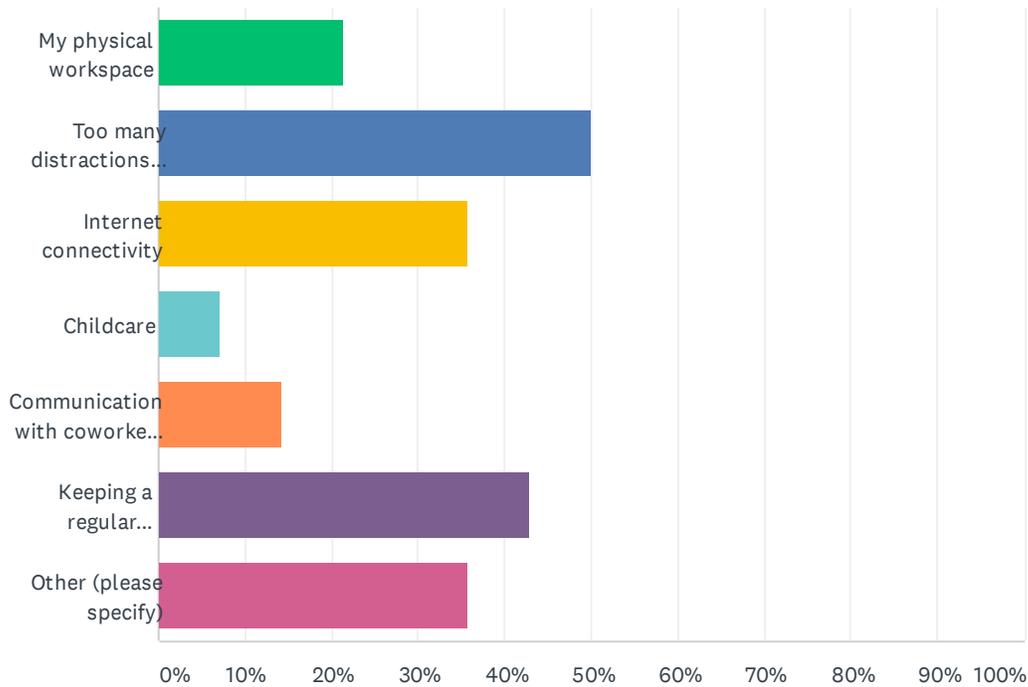
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very easy	33.33%	5
Somewhat easy	33.33%	5
Neither easy nor difficult	26.67%	4
Somewhat difficult	6.67%	1
Very difficult	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>

## Q2 What are the TOP THREE biggest challenges would you face if you had to provide instruction to students virtually in the fall?

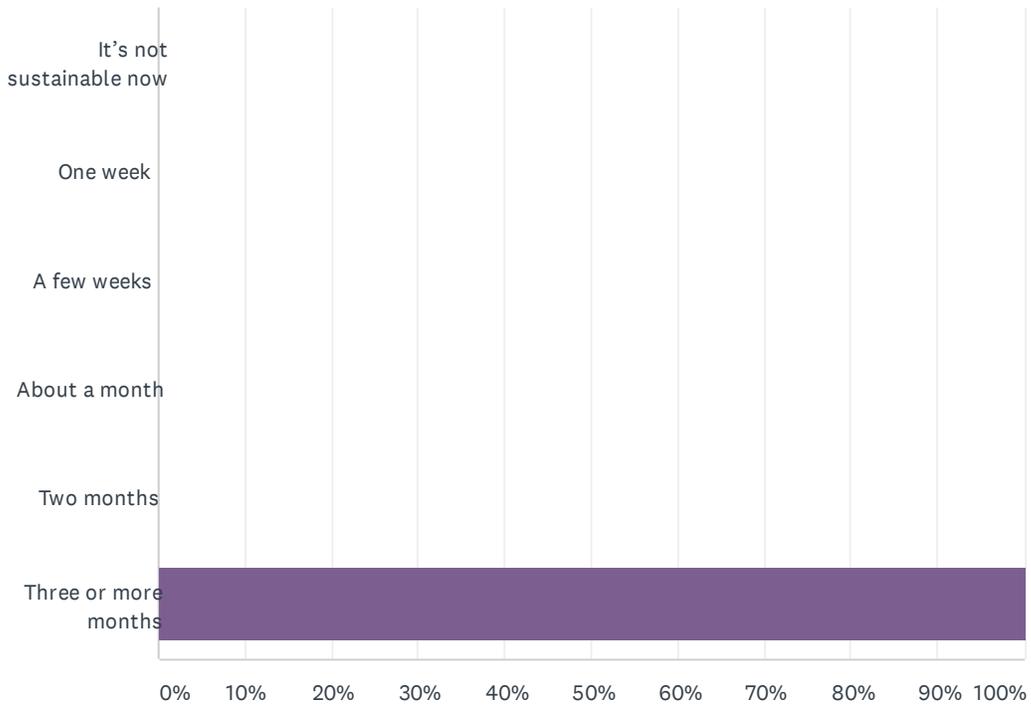
Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
My physical workspace	21.43%	3
Too many distractions in the classroom	50.00%	7
Internet connectivity	35.71%	5
Childcare	7.14%	1
Communication with coworkers is harder	14.29%	2
Keeping a regular schedule	42.86%	6
Other (please specify)	35.71%	5
Total Respondents: 14		

### Q3 Thinking about your current work from home arrangements, how long is this something you could comfortably maintain?

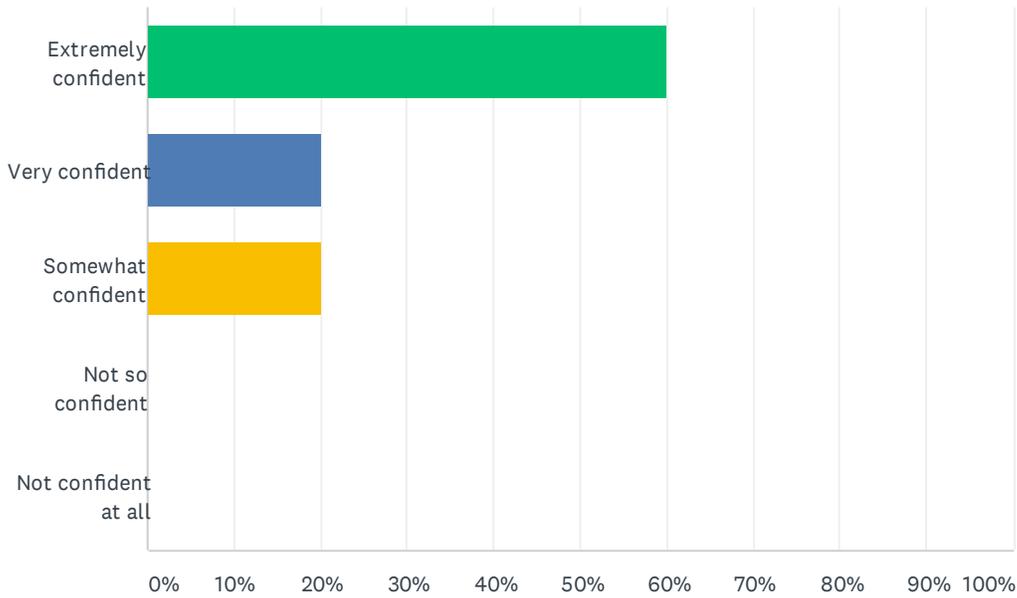
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
It's not sustainable now	0.00%	0
One week	0.00%	0
A few weeks	0.00%	0
About a month	0.00%	0
Two months	0.00%	0
Three or more months	100.00%	15
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>

### Q4 How confident are you in our school's ability to provide virtual learning to a small subset of students while providing in-person learning to the majority of our students?

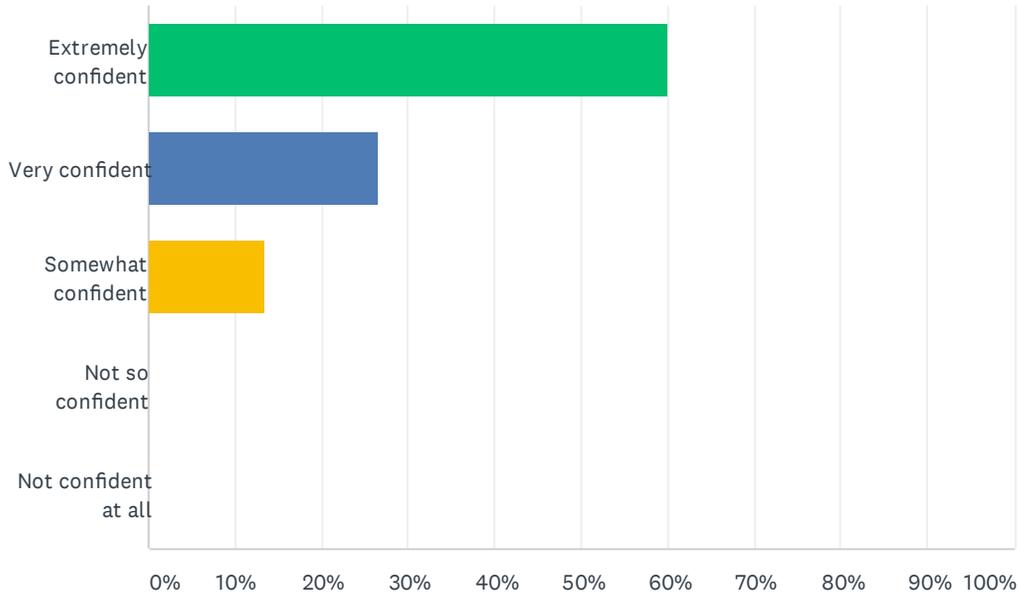
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely confident	60.00%	9
Very confident	20.00%	3
Somewhat confident	20.00%	3
Not so confident	0.00%	0
Not confident at all	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>15</b>

## Q5 How confident are you that the structure of the Summit Learning platform will support in-person and virtual learning?

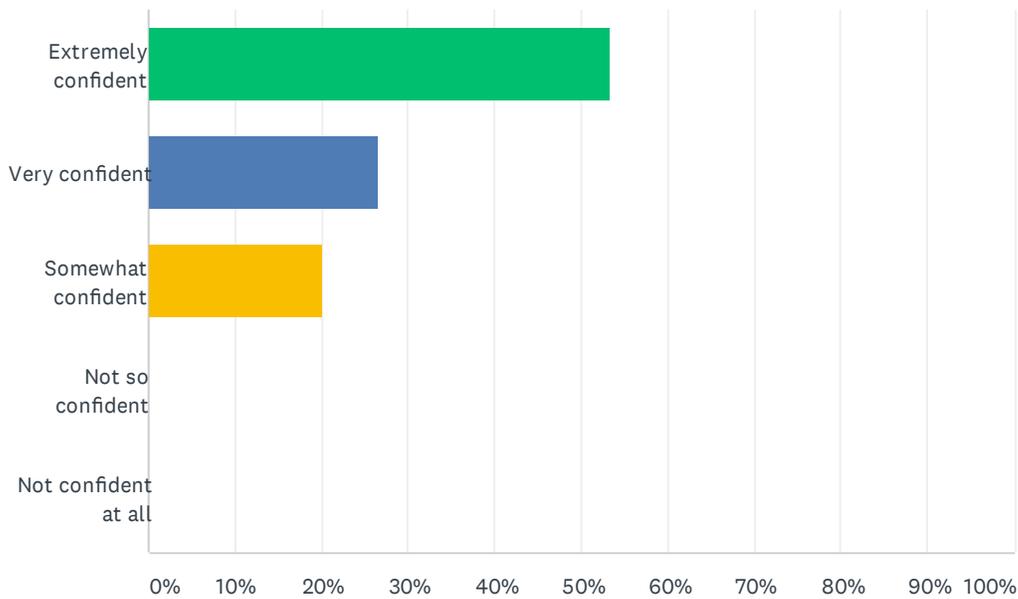
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Extremely confident	60.00% 9
Very confident	26.67% 4
Somewhat confident	13.33% 2
Not so confident	0.00% 0
Not confident at all	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

## Q6 Outside of work, how confident are you that you have the right support network to help you through this period?

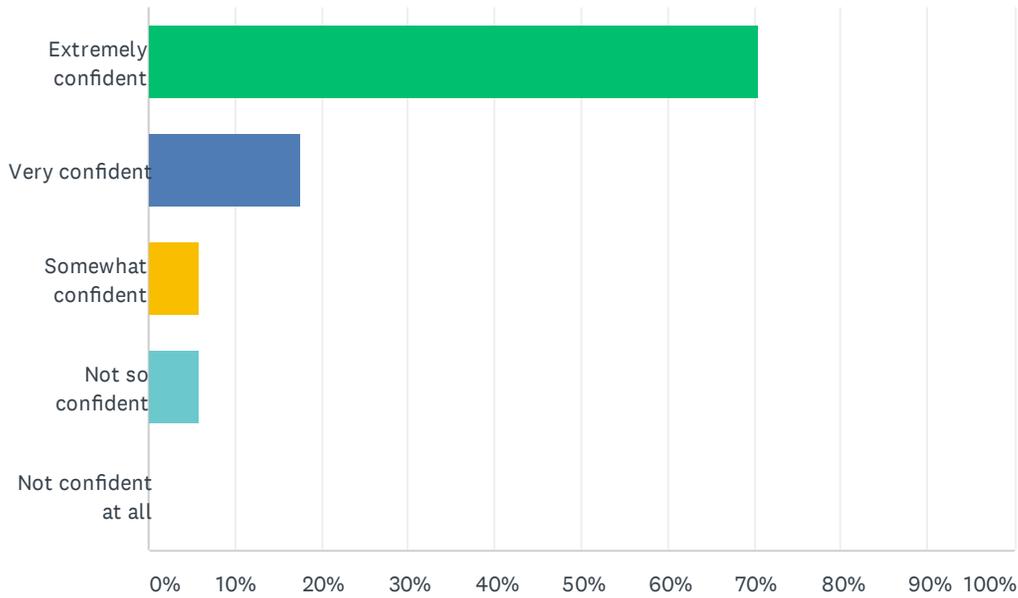
Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Extremely confident	53.33% 8
Very confident	26.67% 4
Somewhat confident	20.00% 3
Not so confident	0.00% 0
Not confident at all	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

# Q1 How confident are you in our school's ability to provide virtual learning to a small subset of students while providing in-person learning to the majority of our students?

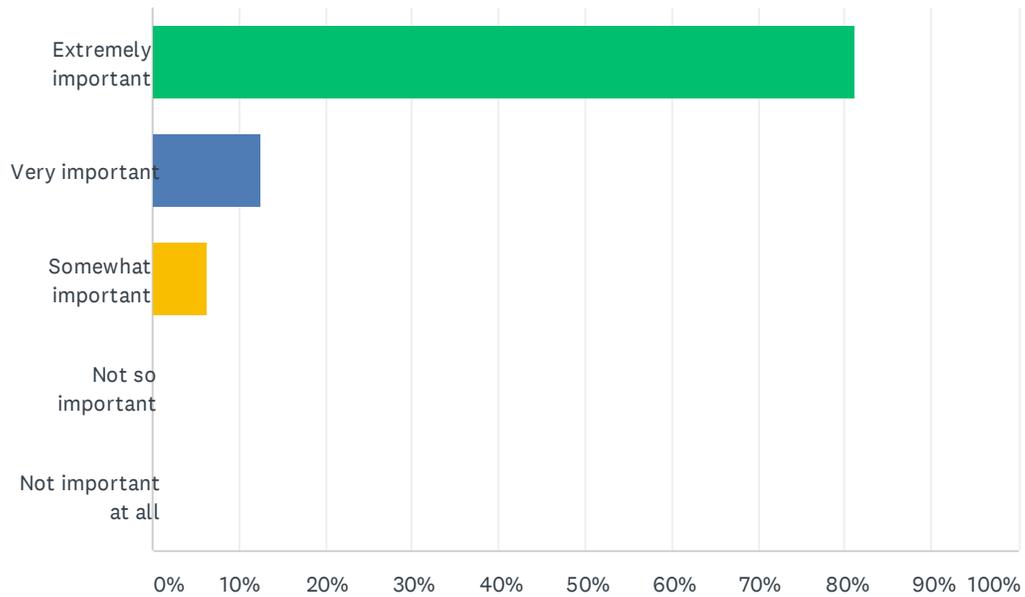
Answered: 17 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely confident	70.59%	12
Very confident	17.65%	3
Somewhat confident	5.88%	1
Not so confident	5.88%	1
Not confident at all	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17</b>

## Q2 How important is it to your family that our school have a virtual learning option for your child in the fall?

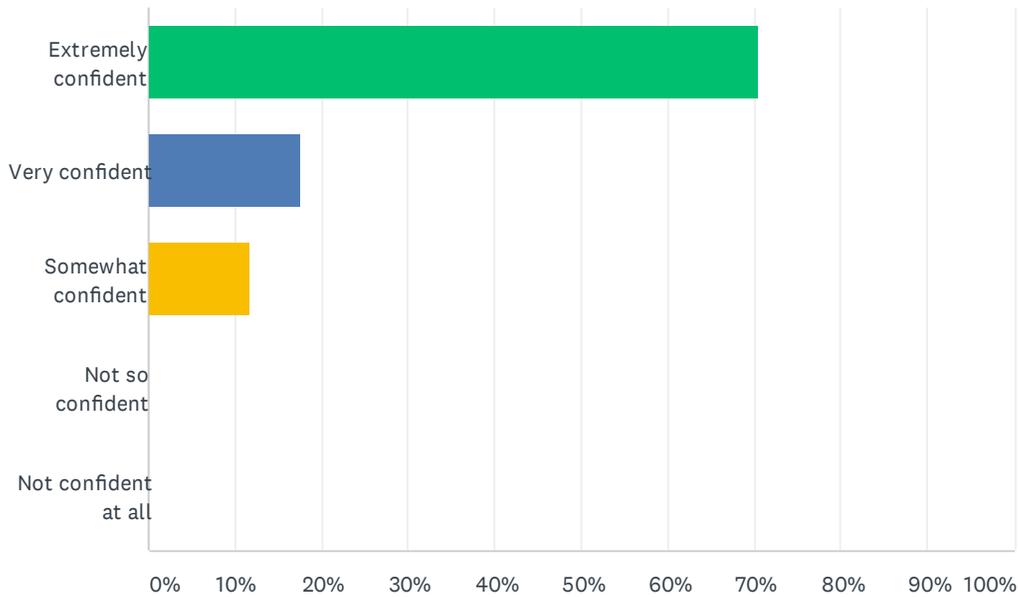
Answered: 16 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	81.25%	13
Very important	12.50%	2
Somewhat important	6.25%	1
Not so important	0.00%	0
Not important at all	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16</b>

### Q3 How confident are you that our school will be able to support your child if they are learning virtually?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely confident	70.59%	12
Very confident	17.65%	3
Somewhat confident	11.76%	2
Not so confident	0.00%	0
Not confident at all	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17</b>