



## EAST LONGMEADOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

180 Maple Street  
East Longmeadow, MA. 01028-2788  
*Achievement & Accountability*

Gordon C. Smith  
Superintendent of Schools

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Assistant Superintendent for Business

May 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to all who were able to respond to the survey (results attached) and your words of support for our amazing teachers! **Please know how much we appreciate all that you are doing. We know it has not been easy, and we are doing everything we can to make things more manageable.**

I wanted to give you an update on how we are using the information:

### **Workload:**

The results of the survey showed that nearly 75% felt the workload their child was receiving was just right. If you feel that your child is not receiving enough, be sure to utilize the enrichment/specials opportunities. If those don't suffice, or if your child is overwhelmed, we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher.

### **Feedback, Instruction, and Connectedness:**

Averaged together, 71% of families thought these were "just right." Using the Commissioner's new guidelines, we are working making online instruction and teacher feedback more consistent across the district.

### **Supports:**

#### Mental Health

With the help of our counselors and school psychologists, I have begun to update our [website](#) with resources for [managing anxiety and stress](#) and [keeping students motivated](#) during distance learning. As a parent of a 9 year old, I am reminded of just how much structure my child's

teachers provide for her at school, and how hard it is for me to provide that for her at home (especially while working full time!). One thing to remember is that our [executive functioning skills](#) do not fully develop until our twenties! So I need to remind myself that managing time, organizing materials, initiating tasks and regulating emotions are things she is still working on mastering and can inhibit her motivation. The tools [here](#) will provide suggestions for creating schedules, checklists, and reward systems ([research](#) actually shows they can be beneficial if used well) to keep them on track.

### Chromebooks and Personalized Learning Tools

Under the "[Logging in from Home](#)" button, I've listed the most common personalized learning tools (e.g., i-ready, ST Math, Lexia, Albert-io.) Under each icon, there is a link to resources on that program especially designed for parents and caregivers. (*TIP: To see your child's progress on i-Ready, log in as him/her and then click on "My Progress" You can also log into your child's Google Classroom (3-12) to see what assignments are missing*).

**Your child will have access to personalized learning programs over the summer and are encouraged to utilize them. Borrowed Chromebooks will also remain with you over the summer. If you are in need of a Chromebook, please complete this [form](#) and mail to [helpdesk@eastlongmeadowma.gov](mailto:helpdesk@eastlongmeadowma.gov).**

### Counseling

If you are interested in a school counselor reaching out to your child (or to you), please fill out this [form](#).

### **Office Hours and Workshops**

In addition to providing information on the website, we are planning future workshops for families. More information will be coming soon. I will also host office hours to answer questions on our personalized learning tools this [Thursday, May 21st from 2:00pm-3:00pm](#) and next [Tuesday, May 26th from 6:00pm to 7:00pm](#).

If you have any questions, or would like this information translated, please email me at [heather.brown@eastlongmeadowma.gov](mailto:heather.brown@eastlongmeadowma.gov).

Take care,

Heather Brown  
Director of Curriculum



## ELPS Family and Caregiver Survey

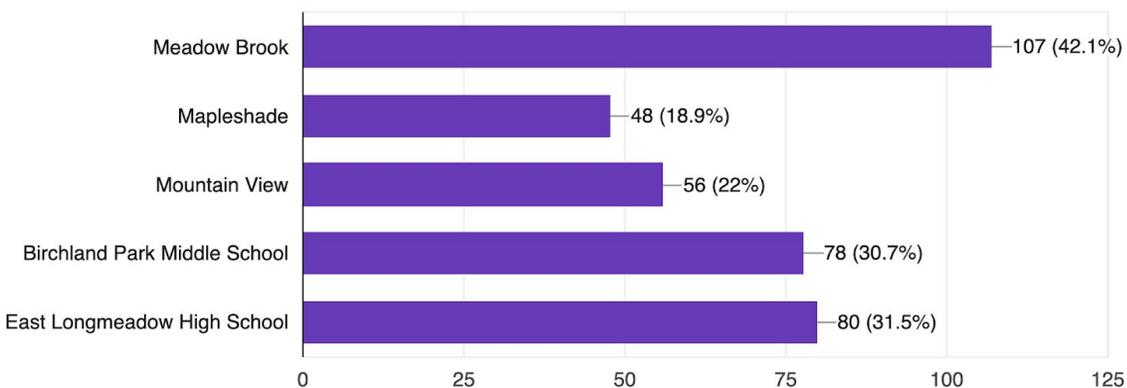
*On Tuesday, May 5th, ELPS sent out a survey to all families and caregivers. We will use this data to address any issues that are raised as well as to determine what additional support families need and in what formats would work best. The results below are based on 254 responses received on May 15th by 4 p.m.*

Survey:

East Longmeadow Public Schools wants to commend families for all that you have been doing for your children during this unprecedented time. We know that many of you are juggling work while supporting your children and/ or taking care of other family members, and some of you are directly affected by this pandemic. We know that it hasn't been easy for anyone, and while we know our teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, and administrators are working incredibly hard to support your children, we are reaching out as well to see what additional supports you might need. Please take a moment to complete this brief survey.

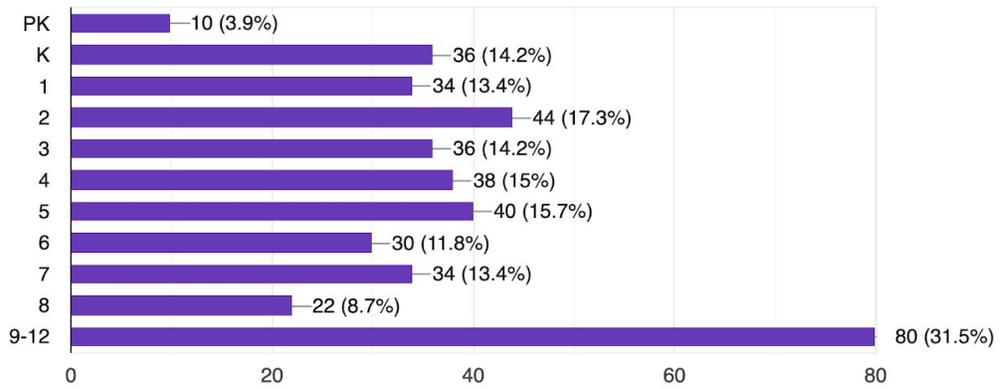
What schools do your children attend? (check all that apply)

254 responses



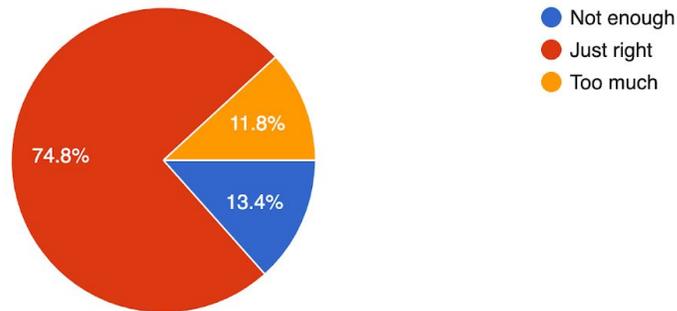
### What grades are your children in? (Check all that apply)

254 responses

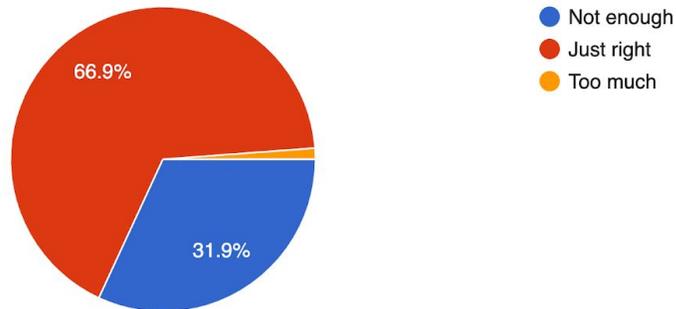


### The amount of work my children are receiving is:

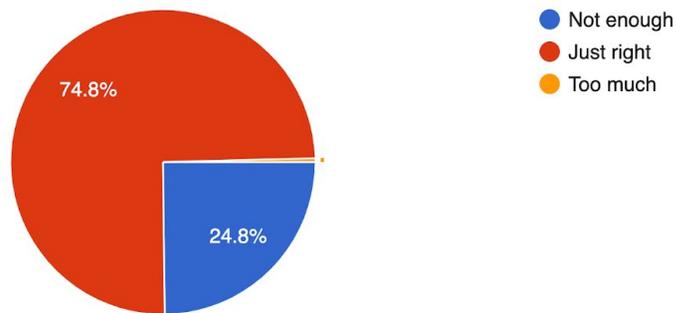
254 responses



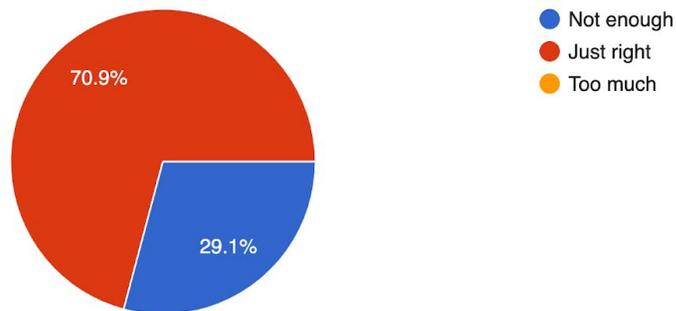
The amount of instruction my children are receiving from their teachers is:  
254 responses



The amount of feedback my children are receiving from their teachers is:  
254 responses



The amount of connection my children have with their teachers is:  
254 responses



## **Some feedback from families:**

- **Thank you so much for ALL of your hard work with putting together a curriculum that suits the needs of our kids during this new Remote Learning that we are navigating! As a teacher myself I know the struggles of trying to do multiple things at once, and know the hard work and dedication being put into making sure our EL students continue to receive the best education!**
- **The staff at Meadow Brook has been amazing!!!**
- **We are very pleased with the school/ staff response to online learning.**
- **We love our teachers' hard work. They have been amazing!**
- **Mountain View has been fantastic through all of this!**
- **I've been very pleased with the job the teachers and support staff are doing.**
- **Thank you so much for ALL of your hard work with putting together a curriculum that suits the needs of our kids during this new Remote Learning that we are navigating! As a teacher myself I know the struggles of trying to do multiple things at once, and know the hard work and dedication being put into making sure our EL students continue to receive the best education!**
- **We really do appreciate everything ELPS is doing in this unprecedented time. Thank you!!!!**
- **Overall, I am really happy with how quickly the school reacted and was able to provide my son with many tools to do his school work from home. The platforms they use are excellent, and in comparison to other friends/family I have spoken to with kids in other school districts , E.L. is very much advanced in the learning tools provided for our kids. Thank you!!**
- **I appreciate everything the teachers and support staff are doing. This is a wild ride and I have been impressed that the EL teachers are taking it in stride. Because of them, my kids have not missed a beat. I'm not saying every day is perfect learning at home. We have good days and crazy days. But I am saying that the material provided, the outreach from teachers, the expectations laid out for the students... all of that has been amazing. I appreciate being given the opportunity to ask for help or give feedback through this survey, but I have nothing but good things to say. We're hanging in there like everyone else, but we're glad we get to do it with the support of the EL teachers and staff.**
- **The middle school model is well organized, expectations are clear, assignments easy to access. Thank you teachers!!! I am a teacher as well so I appreciate the work that is being put into this new and strange way of teaching!**
- **Our student's PE teacher has done an outstanding job continuing to teach PE, giving students diverse learning opportunities and a way to stay active and engaged. We appreciate the positivity, creativity, and enthusiasm that Mr. Allen and Mr. Martin bring to the BPMS family (they go above and beyond). The**

superintendent from the start has been communicative and transparent and that is appreciated. We are thankful that the IT department and superintendent were proactive in the technology initiative in providing 6th graders and up with chrome books. This made a big difference in easing into this transition.

- The teachers are really doing a wonderful job with remote learning! This is new for everyone; they've made the transition to remote learning easy for my child.
- I'm overall very happy with all the work we've been receiving for classwork, I feel like my child is engaged and learning and being challenged appropriately! Great communication with everyone from Mapleshade!!!!
- I believe everyone at ELHS is doing a terrific job! We are in uncharted territory and this is a huge learning curve for everyone. In the event remote learning needs to continue into the fall, I do think some changes would need to be made to what is being done, but know ELHS will be on top of it. I have complete confidence in the administrators and teachers at ELHS and know they will continue to give their best to the students and their families. Thanks for everything!!!
- I think that ELPS and all of the educators, principals, therapists and guidance counselors that my kids rely on and interact with have done an amazing job transitioning kids to remote learning. It's not ideal, and we would all love to be back in the classroom but given the circumstances, I feel very grateful to be in this school district. The quickness with which distance learning was put in place was far ahead of surrounding towns from what I've heard from other families.
- I am beyond impressed with the teachers, administrators, and students in East Longmeadow. I do feel that my children are continuing to learn and make progress. This would not be possible without all teachers and staff. Thank you.
- We have felt supported and guided through these uncertain times by our child's teacher and the administration at Meadow Brook. They are doing a great job!
- We appreciate all the school has done!
- Overall I think the teachers are doing a great job. And I appreciate everything.