

March of 2020 will always be remembered as a time of turmoil for the United States. As COVID-19 spread through the country and studies showed that children may transmit the virus, emergency educational plans were developed to complete the year. Plans need to be made for innovative ways to educate while maintaining safety for our most promising resource. School districts are beginning to strategize their approach for the upcoming '20-'21 school year. With current capacity levels, most schools will not meet social distancing guidelines and will need to reassess how best to bring students and teachers back to campus. This may involve some method of time-sharing facilities, or only attending in-person classes for particular topics that require in-person learning; in-short, there is a need to thin the crowds physically in buildings while maintaining the current standards of education. One solution is to move some of the classes to online instruction. However, not all subjects are well suited for this. It is our hypothesis that educators of high school STEM subjects are more disposed to teaching online.

We are a consulting firm assisting the state of New Jersey in determining how to restart schools in September 2020 while observing social distancing. Our goal is to determine if educators of these topics are more inclined to teaching online for the upcoming year, which will assist in curbing the impact of COVID-19. We believe that a hybrid approach to the school year may be best, with some subjects taught on-campus while others are hosted online. We can determine if online classes are best suited for STEM subjects over other subjects by surveying educators. Questions would assess their ability and comfort in teaching online, accessing the test scores, participation and assignments submitted by students. Our plan is to survey New Jersey High School educators via email, phone calls and social media polls. There are a total of 116,351

full-time educators in the State of New Jersey; we will be collecting a sample of this population using a probability sampling method from the 516 secondary schools around the state (“New Jersey Public Fact Sheet”), Multiple methods were chosen to ensure we collect information from as many educators as possible (e.g. avoiding only collecting from those that are considered “tech-savvy”).

References:

New Jersey Public Facts Sheet. (n.d.). Retrieved from

<https://www.state.nj.us/education/data/fact.htm>