

## Prevailing Priorities for School Reopening in the 2020-21 School Year

(Approximate % of respondents who commented about each topic)

### Return to regular school day and schedule with in-person instruction

Student	~39%	Please I want to go back to school! I miss my friends, teachers, and learning! – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade student
Family	~37%	Children need to learn and be in school, so we believe it is best for them to return as normal as possible and full time. – Parent of a 1 <sup>st</sup> Grader
Staff	~29%	We must open our schools. Parents and students need us to educate their children. – High school teacher

### Precautionary measures – cleaning, masks, hand washing, temperature checks, social distancing

Student	~31%	Hand sanitizer every where, ensure that schools are cleaned frequently, having access to washing our hands without being in a crowded bathroom. – 7 <sup>th</sup> grade student
Family	~35%	Common sense health practices including hand washing and providing hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes in every classroom for cleaning desks in between students. – Parent of a 10 <sup>th</sup> grader
Staff	~30%	Effort to maintain small class sizes and social distancing, best practices for cleaning and hand washing, temperature checks. – Elementary school teacher

### Control of COVID-19 – vaccine, testing

Student	~5%	I need to be safe for my Mom and Grandma, I would prefer to return after a vaccine is developed. - 10 <sup>th</sup> grade student
Family	~13%	Vaccine available or Covid-19 is almost eliminated. Can't trust that everyone will follow distancing and cleaning rules, even if enforced. – Parent of a 4 <sup>th</sup> grader
Staff	~14%	Cases in Nevada need to drop significantly and consistently before allowing students in the building at all. I also need to see visible, consistent data that indicates in-person transmission is low risk during staff-student interaction. - Elementary school teacher

## Key Considerations

- 1. Safety is the primary consideration among most.** The safety of students, family members, and staff is the key consideration of most when choosing priorities for the future. Some report having siblings and other family members whose health is compromised are fearful of getting them sick.
- 2. Calls for choice of formats and hybrid approaches:** Many would like to choose between in-person instruction or distance learning. Some also point to the need for a hybrid approach to transition more smoothly between each: “Unfortunately, I think it will be inevitable that a teacher or child will get sick and then you will be forced to implement a hybrid model or go completely online anyway. Why not just implement a hybrid model from the start? I think doing this proactively will be less chaotic and more preventive...” – Parent of two high school students
- 3. Consideration is essential for the learning needs of diverse learners, including those with disabilities, students who are learning English, and academically advanced students.** The learning and instructional needs of these students pose unique challenges and opportunities. Many ask that careful planning be given to ensure instruction is rigorous for these students.
- 4. Many are against enforcement of precautionary measures, especially face masks.** People disagree with the use of face masks for a variety of reasons, including the belief that they cause illness, impede social development, and exacerbate behavioral problems. Some believe the WCSD is overreacting to COVID-19 and say additional measures are altogether unnecessary.
- 5. Consistent use of measures that are grounded in evidence.** Several people ask for the WCSD to choose policies and practices that are grounded in evidence, to be rational (as opposed to reactionary), and implement chosen strategies consistently across schools.

## Prevailing Challenges for School Reopening in the 2020-21 School Year

(Approximate % of respondents who commented about each topic)

### Distance Learning – limited access to technology, dissatisfaction with approach

Student	~26%	I struggle in school and spent way to much time on my work during distance learning because I didn't have anyone to help me when I had a question. – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade student
Family	~39%	As a parent of three children will be almost impossible to do home school, because I don't have access to buy three computers, also I'm a single parent who has to work and don't have access to child care because it's to expensive. – Parent of 3 elementary school students
Staff	~35%	I am very concerned about the equity of distance learning for our students in Title 1 schools. Many do not have access to a means for participating in learning electronically (internet, device, etc.). I absolutely believe these students will fall even further behind if we continue with distance learning regardless of our efforts. – Elementary school administrator

### Challenges to Learning at Home

Student	~23%	A lot of people throughout the area have parents who are working full tile jobs and can't take days out of the week to help teach their kids, like my parents. – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade student
Family	~38%	A couple of my kids are decent about the distance learning, but one of my kids is awful about it. He learns from a teacher way better that from me. His behavior at home is so much worse. I have to ignore my other children to be able to get him through distance learning. – Parent of elementary and middle school students
Staff	~43%	It is important for the district to remember that some teachers have their own children at home. If a split schedule happens it will be difficult to find part time care for own children... It will be difficult to balance all of this if it is all happening at the same time. – Elementary school teacher

### Well-Being and Learning Loss

Student	~15%	I feel really sad to be stuck in the house everyday and not seeing friends or having any variety in my day. I'm also sad that there is no freshman football this year. I will probably never be able to make the team with try-outs so this was my only hope and I was really excited. – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade student
Family	~20%	My biggest concern is my son's mental health... I am afraid that suicides and self harm will be on the rise of we don't at least try to return to some sort of normal. – Parent of a 6 <sup>th</sup> grader
Staff	~21%	Keeping students at home is causing them to fall behind emotionally and academically, struggle with their families with long lasting negative effects/behaviors, isolating struggling populations in home environments that do not know how to adequately address their needs is not good. – Middle school teacher

#### About The School Reopening Survey (SRS)

SRS gauged student, parent, and staff needs on COVID-19 safety criteria for returning to school in SY 2020-21.

- ✓ SRS was developed by Accountability and was fielded June 5-June 26. The survey yielded responses from students in grades 5-12 (n=3,260), parents and guardians (n=18,523), and district staff (n=4,833).
- ✓ A descriptive coding process with multiple cycles of coding was used to uncover prevailing themes within open responses. The first cycle drew from a sample of responses to develop initial codes. Subsequent cycles included all responses to generate and refine categories.
- ✓ In the interest of focusing on a small set of key findings, some potentially valuable results are omitted. Descriptions of the full range of findings, including subgroup differences, will be presented in future reports.