FALL 2020 SCHOOL REOPENING SURVEY

During the week of May 27th to June 3rd Virginia PTA conducted a parent survey for our members in English and Spanish. Our intent was to better understand the impact the pandemic had on learning and understand the concerns families have about reopening schools in the fall. We received 50,400 responses including 3,475 comments over the course of the week from every corner of the Commonwealth. Approximately 8% of the responses are from parents in schools with unaffiliated parent groups. Survey responses by state, region and specialized education services are summarized below. We acknowledge that as the severity of the outbreak changes and scientific discovery advances, that parent opinions may change.

Virginia PTA prioritizes the health and welfare of students, staff and families and supports reopening plans that provide high quality education, are community centered, practical, feasible and meet the risk tolerance level of individual communities. We urge our members to review our Position Statement on ‘Virginia’s Phased School Reopening’.

**Grade Levels of Responses**: Respondents were allowed to select as many grade levels as applied to their family. Families indicated 7% have a child in public or private pre-school, 43% have a kindergarten to second grader, 42% have a third to fifth grader, 36% have a student in middle or intermediate school and 33% have a high school student.

**Specialized Education Services**: Respondents were allowed to select as many specialized education services as applied to their family. Families indicated 53% don’t receive any specialized instruction, 20% receive gifted services, 15% have an IEP, 11% receive special reading instruction, 10% have a 504, 9% receive speech instruction, 3% receive mental health services and 1% receive English language learner or dual language immersion instruction. Note, twice exceptional students may have responded in several categories.

**Top 3 Concerns**: Across all regions, parents’ number one concern, related to a fall reopening, was the level of education their children were receiving under emergency distance learning, with 85% of parents selecting this as a top concern for the fall. This was followed by keeping their family and children healthy (65%), socializing (61%) and balancing work with distance learning (46%). Spanish language survey responses indicated family health and safety as their number one concern (82%).

**Family Work & Childcare**: Many families highlighted the struggle of trying to maintain their work schedule while also supporting their children’s distance learning and the dueling screen-time and internet requirements. Other families have the added concern of having a member of their household in a high risk, essential worker environment. While at a state level, 33% indicated they were working from home, with 17% stay at home parents, 19% essential workers and 13% K-12 teachers, this varies significantly by region, with the following three regions having higher ratios of parents working in an essential worker job;
Blue Ridge (28%), Southwest (33%) and Southside (33%). Note, we only allowed for one answer, so families may have more work situations in their home.

- **Free-Reduced Meals**: Many students and families rely on meals provided through the school system to support the food security of their family. While at a state-level, 16% said that they qualify for free-reduced price meals, this varies significantly by region with the following areas having a much high reliance on school meals; Blue Ridge (23%), Southwest (42%), Southside (48%), Spanish language survey (68%) while the Northern region has a significantly lower reliance (6%).

- **Internet**: At a state-level, only 5% indicated they didn’t have adequate Internet to complete their work with 2% indicating they also didn’t have the equipment needed. Notably, in the Southside Region 17% don’t have adequate internet with 11% also not having needed equipment. In the Blue Ridge and Southwest Regions, 9-10% indicated they don’t have adequate internet access and 4-5% don’t have equipment.

- **Emergency Distance Learning Instruction Type & Text Books**: While the majority of the state received instruction through a platform like Google Classroom (76%), and 46% had virtual live instruction, that changes significantly for students in the Southside Region who have lower levels of internet access, with 74% receiving a paper packet (compared to 51% statewide) and 24% receiving virtual instruction. Likewise, the Southwest and Blue Ridge Regions had 19%-26% receiving live instruction and 56-66% paper-based instruction. Across the state, 24% of families created their own instruction with this practice being highest in the Northern Region (32%) and lowest in the Southwest (12%). Despite varying levels of instruction and internet access across the state, 38% of parents strongly agree or agree that traditional textbooks would have helped, with 35% neutral and 27% disagree or strongly disagree that text books would have helped. Comparatively, 55% of Spanish language respondents agree or strongly agree that textbooks would have helped.

- **Family Experience with Emergency Distance Learning**: Across all regions, the majority of families indicated that their student was doing “fine” with their distance learning experience (58%). It is notable that there are students who are also thriving (8%), struggling to complete work (32%), not doing the work (4%), not receiving work from school (3%), not receiving needed special education services (7%) and, as a whole, 23% of families indicate the quality of the emergency implementation of spring distance learning didn’t meet their expectations.

- **Transportation Plans**: Across the state, 21% plan to start driving their student to school in the fall as a result of fears of COVID-19 transmission.

- **Mental Health**: Across the state, 61% of families strongly agree or agree that COVID-19 has had a mental health impact on their student, with 21% neutral and 19% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. The Spanish language survey results comparatively show only 41% think there is a mental health impact for their students.
• **Student Face Covering:** At a state level, families indicated universal support for students wearing a face covering, with 24% indicating their student would be comfortable wearing a face covering all day, 55% indicating their student would wear a face covering for a portion of the day and 21% saying that their student would not wear a face mask at all. Notable variances are the Spanish language survey which indicated 100% support for wearing a face covering and the Southwest and Southside Region where 37-39% indicated their student would not wear a face covering at all. Families that indicated their student would wear a face covering all day didn’t show a significantly different response to schedule preferences, however, those indicating their student would not wear a face covering had a stronger preference for a return to full daily classic instruction (58%) compared to the state level all response average of 40%.

• **Student Temperature Check:** Across the state, 72% of families strongly agree or agree with a daily temperature check when boarding the bus or entering the school building, with 17% neutral and 11% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

• **Fall Schedule Flexibility:** Families largely selected a rotation schedule, with 30% indicating they prefer a schedule that allows the entire family to have the same rotation schedule, 34% indicated a rotation schedule would be preferable for their family even if the children had different schedules while 16% indicated they prefer full virtual instruction and 20% indicated that they could not support a rotation schedule or distance learning due to work. Looking only at essential workers and on-site workers, 34% said they could not support distance learning due to work and only 9% selected a full virtual option.

• **Fall Schedule Preference:** Given that physical distancing will be difficult in a traditional sized classroom, we asked parents to select a preferred instruction schedule. The majority of families selected some form of return to the school building with 45% selecting a rotation schedule (23% two days, 14% half day, 6% A/B/C week, 2% one day); 40% a classic daily schedule and 15% selecting full distance learning (13% with virtual meetings and 2% with no virtual meetings). Notably of those that indicated they could not support distance learning or a rotation schedule due to work, 88% selected return to a classic daily schedule.
SURVEY RESULTS
Return to School May 27 – June 3, 2020

ALL REGIONS

SURVEY RESPONSES BY REGION

- Tidewater: 27%
- Southside: 3%
- Blue Ridge: 13%
- Southwest: 6%
- Northern: 30%
- Central: 21%

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

- SPED: 7,677
- GIFTED: 10,143
- SPEECH: 4,318
- READING: 5,764
- MENTAL HEALTH: 1,419
- NONE: 26,690

FAMILY WORK & CHILDCARE

- K-12 Teacher: 6,643
- Essential Worker: 9,684
- Working on Site: 3,967
- Worked from Home: 16,391
- Stay At Home Parent: 8,625
- Paid Leave due to COVID: 1,462
- Unemployed due to COVID: 359

FREE or REDUCED LUNCH

- 16%
- 84%

INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

- No Internet: 5%
- No Internet or Technology Equipment: 2%
- Have Internet: 93%
SURVEY RESULTS
Return to School May 27 – June 3, 2020

BLUE RIDGE REGION

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

BLUE RIDGE * 6,526 Responses

FAMILY WORK & CHILD CARE

FREE or REDUCED LUNCH

TYPE OF DISTANCE LEARNING THIS SPRING

INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

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BLUE RIDGE REGION

GRADE LEVELS

- High
- Middle
- Gr 3-5
- Gr K-2
- Prek

FAMILY EXPERIENCE

- Throwing
- Free
- No Work Received
- Not Done Work
- Not Up to Expectations

WOULD TEXTBOOKS HELP?

- Strong Disagree
- Strong Agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Neutral

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT?

- Strong Disagree
- Strong Agree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Neutral

Thinking about Fall: Top Three Concerns

- Mental Health Resources
- Balance work
- Find Childcare
- Socializing
- Special Education Resources
- Appropriate Education
- Access to Food
- Keep Family Healthy
SURVEY RESULTS
Return to School May 27 – June 3, 2020

SOUTHWEST REGION

SOUTHWEST* 2,747 Responses

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<th>Responses</th>
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<td>Montgomery County</td>
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SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

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<td>504</td>
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<td>Gifted</td>
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<td>Speech</td>
<td>274</td>
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<td>Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>None</td>
<td>411</td>
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</table>

FREE or REDUCED LUNCH

- 43% Free/Reduced
- 57% No

INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

- No Internet or Technology Equipment: 9%
- Have Internet: 91%

FAMILY WORK & CHILDCARE

- K-12 Teacher: 304
- Essential Worker: 894
- Working at Home: 503
- Stay At Home Parent: 496
- Paid Leave Due to COVID: 68
- Unemployed Due to COVID: 44

TYPE OF DISTANCE LEARNING THIS SPRING

- Parent: 2,000
- Google: 1,800
- Virtual Live Interaction: 1,600
- Game Software: 1,400
- Own Curriculum: 1,200
- Seesaw: 1,000
- Edulink: 800
- Schoology: 600

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### GRADE LEVELS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,400</td>
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<td>Gr K-2</td>
<td>1,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prek</td>
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### FAMILY EXPERIENCE

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<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>1,509</td>
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<tr>
<td>Struggle, Not Completing...</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Work Received</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haven't Done Work</td>
<td>111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service don't meet needs</td>
<td>151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not up to expectations</td>
<td>502</td>
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### WOULD TEXTBOOKS HELP?

- **Strong Disagree**: 7%
- **Disagree**: 14%
- **Neutral**: 37%
- **Agree**: 27%
- **Strong Agree**: 15%

### MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT?

- **Strong Disagree**: 7%
- **Disagree**: 14%
- **Neutral**: 21%
- **Agree**: 32%
- **Strong Agree**: 26%

### Thinking about Fall: Top Three Concerns

1. Mental Health Resources
2. Balance work
3. Find Childcare
4. Socializing
5. Special Education Resources
6. Appropriate Education
7. Access to Food
8. Keep Family Healthy
SURVEY RESULTS
Return to School May 27 – June 3, 2020

SOUTH SIDE REGION

SOUTH SIDE * 1,574 Responses

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY
NOTTOWAY COUNTY
Lynchburg City
Loudoun County
Cumberland County
Charlotte County
Campbell County
Buckingham County
Appomattox County
Amelia County
Pittsylvania County
Mecklenburg County
Martinsville City
Henry County
Halifax County
Danville City

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

SOUTH SIDE REGION

FAMILY WORK & CHILDCARE

FREE or REDUCED LUNCH

INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

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CENTRAL REGION

**GRADE LEVELS**

- High
- Middle
- Gr 3-5
- Gr K-2
- Prek

**FAMILY EXPERIENCE**

- Struggle, Not Completing Work: 6,062
- Fine: 3,687
- No Work Received: 698
- Haven’t Done Work: 316
- Services don’t meet needs: 419
- Not up to expectations: 697

**WOULD TEXTBOOKS HELP?**

- Strong Disagree: 9%
- Disagree: 19%
- Neutral: 35%
- Agree: 25%
- Strong Agree: 12%

**MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT?**

- Strong Disagree: 5%
- Disagree: 12%
- Neutral: 21%
- Agree: 36%
- Strong Agree: 26%

**Thinking about Fall: Top Three Concerns**

- Mental Health Resources
- Balance work
- Find Childcare
- Socializing
- Special Education Resources
- Appropriate Education
- Access to Food
- Keep Family Healthy
SURVEY RESULTS
Return to School May 27 – June 3, 2020

NORTHERN REGION

15,061 Responses

NORTHERN REGION

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

-IEP 504 Gifted Speech Reading Mental Health None

7,622

-2,509 1,492 3,289 1,317 1,567 470

FAMILY WORK & CHILDCARE

FREE or REDUCED LUNCH

TYPE OF DISTANCE LEARNING THIS SPRING

INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

- No Internet
- No Internet or Technology Equipment
- Have Internet

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NORTHERN REGION

**GRADE LEVELS**
- High
- Middle
- Gr 3-5
- Gr K-2
- Prek

**FAMILY EXPERIENCE**
- Thriving
- Fine
- Struggle Not Completing Work
- No Work Received
- Haven't Done Work
- Services don't meet needs
- Not up to expectations

**WOULD TEXTBOOKS HELP?**
- Strong Disagree: 9%
- Strong Agree: 14%
- Disagree: 18%
- Agree: 25%
- Neutral: 34%

**MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT?**
- Strong Disagree: 5%
- Disagree: 12%
- Neutral: 21%
- Agree: 36%

**Thinking about Fall: Top Three Concerns**
- Mental Health Resources
- Balance work
- Find Childcare
- Socializing
- Special Education Resources
- Appropriate Education
- Access to Food
- Keep Family Healthy
NORTHERN REGION

**STUDENT FACE MASKS?**
- All Day: 32%
- Some of the day: 13%
- Not At All: 55%

**DAILY TEMPERATURE CHECKS?**
- Strong Disagree: 5%
- Disagree: 5%
- Neutral: 16%
- Agree: 36%
- Strong Agree: 38%

**TRANSPORTATION PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR?**
- Regular-Bus: 42%
- Regular Car-Walk: 34%
- Will start driving: 24%

**SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY**
- Rotate Family Together: 19%
- Rotate: 15%
- Only Distance Learning: 26%
- No Rotate due to work: 40%

**RETURN SCHEDULE PREFERENCE**
- Classic Daily: 32%
- One Day: 3%
- A/B/C Week: 6%
- Half Day: 16%
- Two Day: 25%
- Virtual w/Instruction: 16%
- Virtual w/NO instruction: 2%
SURVEY RESULTS
Return to School May 27 – June 3, 2020

SPECIAL EDUCATION

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT?

FAMILY LEARNING EXPERIENCE

STUDENT FACE MASKS?

TYPE OF DISTANCE LEARNING
THIS SPRING

WOULD TEXTBOOKS HELP?

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SPECIAL EDUCATION

TEMPERATURE CHECKS?

SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY?

SCHEDULE PREFERENCE

Thinking about Fall: Biggest Concerns
SURVEY RESULTS
Return to School May 27 – June 3, 2020

SPANISH SURVEY RESPONSES

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

FAMILY WORK & CHILDCARE

FREE or REDUCED LUNCH

TYPE OF DISTANCE LEARNING THIS SPRING

INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

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SPANISH SURVEY

GRADE LEVELS

FAMILY EXPERIENCE

WOULD TEXTBOOKS HELP?

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT?

Thinking about Fall: Top Three Concerns