



Parkland School Division

K-12 School Re-Entry Parent/Guardian Survey Results

June 19, 2020

BACKGROUND

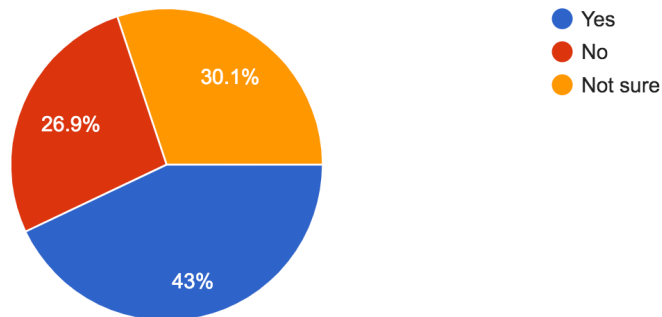
Parkland School Division is planning for what the 2020-2021 school year might look like for our students, staff and families. In May, Alberta's Ministry of Education (through the Alberta School Councils Association, ASCA) surveyed parents to ask for feedback on three potential scenarios that are being considered. School authorities will be directed by the Ministry once they decide on a path forward and all plans will start with the most up-to-date public health measures set by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Knowing what's important to our families will help us plan for versions of the three different scenarios being considered by the Government of Alberta:

- Normal return to operations
- A modified school calendar - Eg. longer/shorter school day hours, alternating days, split class attendance morning/afternoon, combination of in-class and at-home learning
- Schools remain closed for classes and at-home learning continues

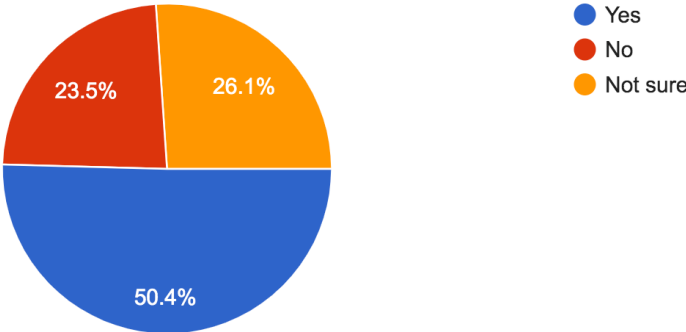
Participation in the PSD parent/guardian survey was completely voluntary and was conducted after the ASCA survey. The PSD survey was open for a total of 9 days and generated 5,271 responses.

RESULTS

As we plan for the scenarios being discussed by the Government of Alberta, will you be able to support your children's online learning in the fall given considerations such as work, childcare, other obligations, etc.? (5,271 responses)

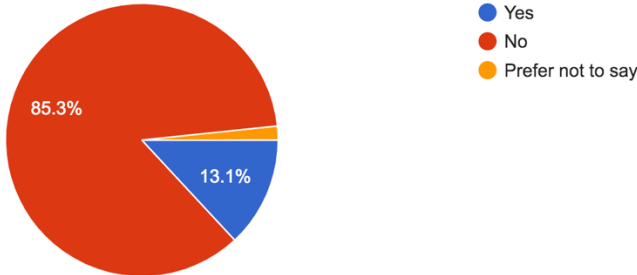


Will you be able to accommodate a combination of in-class and at-home learning where your children split time between home and school to allow for better physical distancing in classrooms? (5,251 responses)

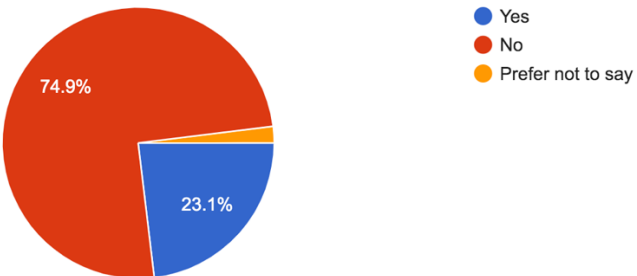


HEALTH RELATED DATA

Do any of your children enrolled at PSD have underlying health issues that may put them at higher risk should they be exposed to COVID-19? (5,254 responses)



Does anyone in your household, other than your children enrolled at PSD, have underlying health issues that may put them at higher risk should they be exposed to COVID-19? (5,252 responses)



The health and safety of our students and staff is our priority and we will continue to follow the direction of the Chief Medical Officer of Health. In the meantime, we would like your input on how important the following measures are in making you feel comfortable with your child or children returning to in-person classes.

■ Not at all important ■ Somewhat important ■ Very important ■ This will guide my decision to keep my child at home

Regular Handwashing – Very important: 4,493

Enhanced cleaning protocols – Very important: 3,782

Hand Sanitizer – Very important: 3,507

Stricter protocols for responding to staff and students who are sick – Very important: 3,457

Somewhat important: Masks & Physical Distancing Protocols

Note: Masks received almost as many 'Not Important at all' votes as 'Somewhat important votes'.

WHAT WE HEARD?

LEARNING FROM HOME

- **We received many similar comments as those seen in the initial Parent/Guardian Survey.**
 - Lots of assignments but not enough instruction from teachers.
 - Concern for the way new concepts are taught. Some feel that a “live lesson” where the teacher leads the lesson is much better for student comprehension than if their child must learn from reading on their own (particularly in subjects like math or science).
 - Internet connectivity (reliability and speed) remains a concern for rural families.
 - Parents who feel they cannot properly help their child learn at home (issues with time and ability).
 - Less computer work and more pencil-to-paper work for younger grades.
 - Special needs make learning at home very challenging or impossible.
 - Some parents want more work/assignment (esp. in higher grades) while others want less (esp. in early years).
 - Non-French speaking parents of French Immersion students worry about their child’s language skills and learning.
- **Parent comment:** “If we don’t feel returning to school is safe given our family risks it would be great to have an option to not attend but continue with virtual.”
- **Parent comment:** “If the new school year is going to start with online learning, the structure and format should be consistent across all subjects and teachers.”
- **Parent comment:** “...a more detailed “teacher’s guide” for parents to follow would help.”
- **Parent comment:** “There should be a set time every day for teaching, none of this fluffy stuff on google meets, i.e. Teacher reading a book, I can do that, but I don’t know how to teach fractions to a Grade 3 kid.”

SAFETY MEASURES

- **Many comments about hoping face masks aren't required, including:**
 - **Parent comment:** "If my children are required to wear PPE when they return to school in the fall, I will not be sending them to school and will continue to teach them from home. I feel it will negatively affect their mental health to have to wear PPE at school and see staff wearing it as well."
 - **Parent comment:** "I work in nursing and am required to wear a mask for 12+ hours a day, it is very hard and makes you feel sick due to breathing in your own CO2 and lack of proper air. Kids won't comply with it and if they are forced to wear a mask there will be a lot more fatigued and headache driven kids because of this."

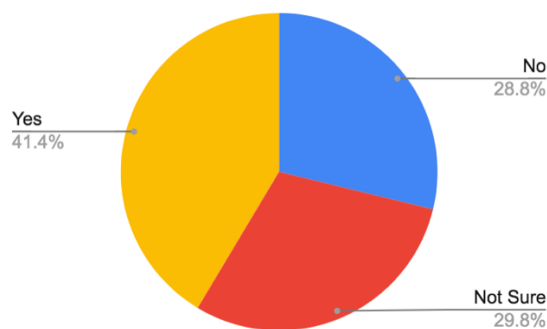
TRANSPORTATION

- **Parent comment:** "Transportation to/from school will be a concern based on a split week of home/in-class training, particularly as it relates to poor or cold weather."
- **Parent comment:** "The drop off/pick up situation at our school is a nightmare when buses are running. I am beyond concerned about what that situation will look like without buses running. And really unsure how social distancing will work in this situation."
- **Parent comment:** "I could drive some of the time, busses would not be a good idea. Kids would have to be masked and sanitize when they get on the bus and when they get off."

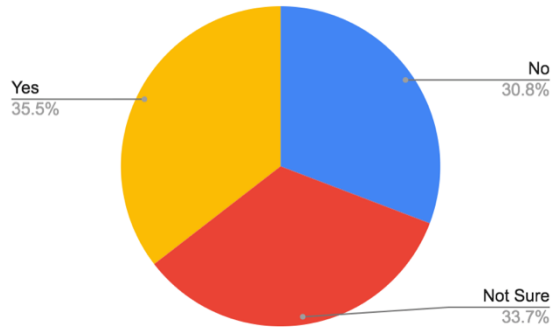
WILL SCENARIO 2 WORK FOR YOU?

In the survey, we asked, "As we plan for the scenarios being discussed by the Government of Alberta, will you be able to support your children's online learning in the fall given considerations such as work, childcare, other obligations, etc.?" In other words, would Scenario 2 work for you. Responses by age groups:

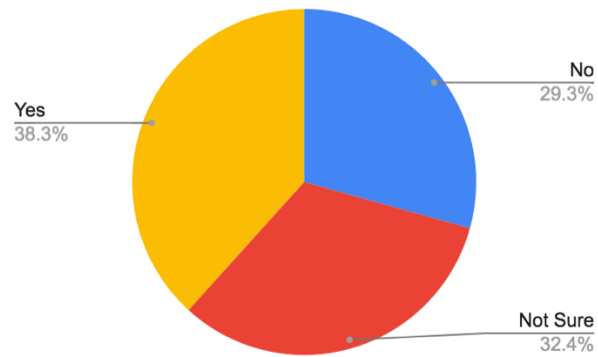
K-9 SCHOOLS



K-4 AND K-6 SCHOOLS



MIDDLE YEARS SCHOOLS



HIGH SCHOOLS

