

Reopening Our Schools: GECDSB Parent/Guardian Input

On June 30, 2020 the GECDSB released a survey to our families. The purpose of the survey was to gather parent/guardian input to inform our school reopening planning. The information gathered, and the analyzed results provide us with important information and considerations. Thank you.

Final decisions about school reopening will be made later in the summer, and will be based on our local planning, current COVID-19 parameters, and the direction of the Minister of Education and provincial and local health experts. We will share our reopening plans with you as soon as this information is available.

Survey Dates: June 30, 2020 to July 8, 2020

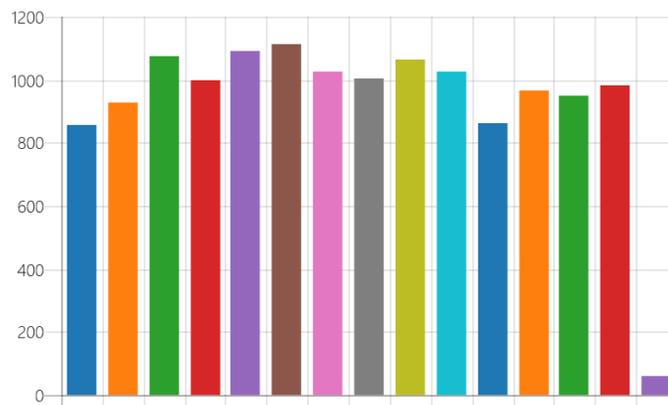
Brief Summary of Results:

Responses: 15,026

What grade will your child be entering in September?

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● Junior Kindergarten	857
● Senior Kindergarten	930
● Grade 1	1074
● Grade 2	998
● Grade 3	1089
● Grade 4	1115
● Grade 5	1025
● Grade 6	1001
● Grade 7	1062
● Grade 8	1028
● Grade 9	863
● Grade 10	966
● Grade 11	950
● Grade 12	984
● Other school setting	60



Analysis of the more than 15,000 responses identifies that 3 distinct parent/guardian groups or perspectives emerge from the survey.

Perspective 1: My child will be attending class in September if there is either part-time or full-time At-School instruction.

Parents whose responses are represented by Perspective 1 frequently indicated that:

My child needs to be in school;

My child needs to socialize with other students;

I need to return to work;

I am not concerned about my child becoming ill;

I trust the safety measures at school;

Staying home is not good for my child's well-being;

Perspective 2: My child will not be attending class in September, regardless of the model for instruction.

Perspective 3: I am not sure if my child will be attending school in September, yet.

Parents whose responses are represented by Perspective 2 and Perspective 3 most frequently indicated that their concerns were based primarily on:

- 1) *Their child's health and safety;*
- 2) *The health and safety of the school/classrooms.*

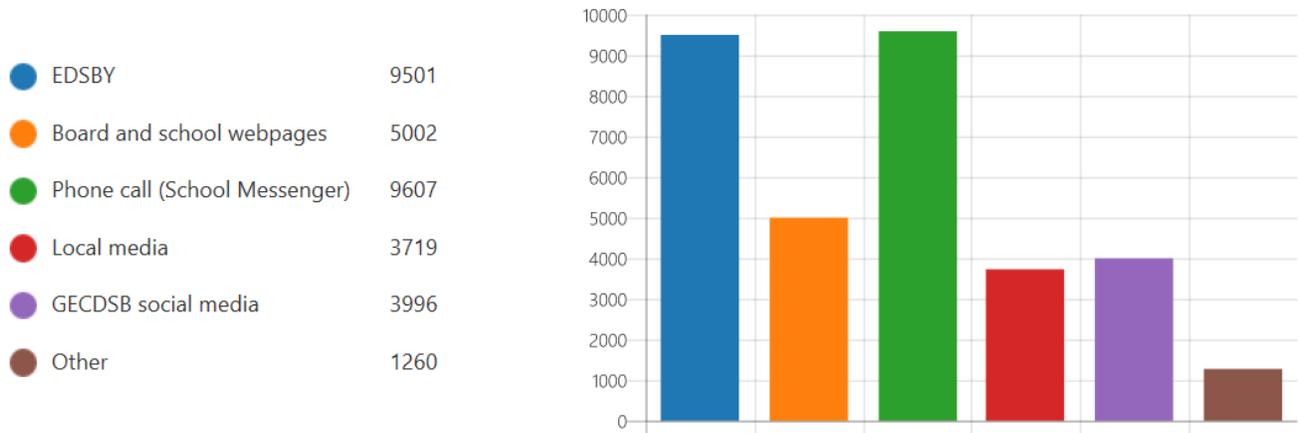
Analysis of 5,817 responses for, “What else should the GECDsB consider to ensure that families feel safe and supported as we plan for reopening our schools?” identifies the following common themes:

- Schedule families on the same days (A/B) if there is an alternate day model.
- Keep a consistent schedule if there is an alternate day model.
- Focus on safety for students/staff – cleaning schools and classrooms.
- Focus on health and safety for students/staff – hand washing, sanitizing, social distancing.
- Child Care: before and after school, and on alternate days in an Adapted Learning Model.
- An improved At-Home learning experience if this is part of our reopening plan.
- Communicate clearly and as soon as possible for planning purposes.
- Communicate and update us when there is new information.
- Share the new rules and protocols for schools with families.
- Follow the advice of health and safety experts (WECHU, Sick Kids Recommendations).
- Challenges for working families to support At-Home learning as they return to work.
- Focus supports on students with significant special education (and other) needs.
- Focus on mental health and wellness for all students when we return.
- Perspectives on masks (many suggest these are essential; many strongly oppose their use).
- Perspectives on social distancing (many suggest this is essential; many want their students to interact ‘regularly’ with peers).

Communication with Families:

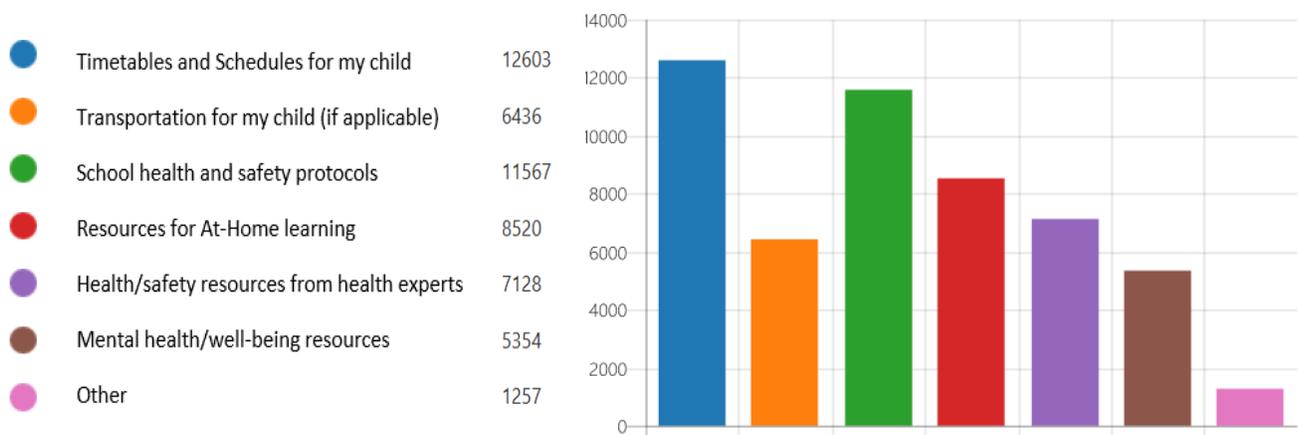
17. Communication: As more information is available about school reopening, how would you like to receive communication? (select any that apply)

[More Details](#)



18. Communication: As we prepare for reopening, what topics would you like to receive information about? (select any that apply)

[More Details](#)



Thank you for your input!

We will share our reopening plans with you as soon as possible.