



Learning during COVID-19 survey Summer 2021

School Staff
Department of Education



Background

The Department of Education surveyed students, families and school staff to learn about their perspectives and experiences on learning, mental health and wellness at the end of the 2020-21 school year.

The Government of Yukon committed to surveying students, families and school staff at the outset of the pandemic to gauge the impacts on learning and health and safety throughout the school year, and to help determine if supports needed to be adapted.

The third installment of the Learning during COVID-19 survey was launched at the end of the 2021 school year and gathered feedback from students, families and school staff on the last half of the school year, with a specific focus on mental health and any potentially lost learning.

The first Learning during COVID-19 survey was completed in July 2020 following the suspension of face-to-face classes in April 2020 due to the pandemic. We sent a follow-up survey to students, families and staff in November 2020.

Engagement process

Purpose

With this follow-up survey, we asked students, families and school staff new questions on how the pandemic has impacted mental health and wellness; the types of mental health and wellness services being accessed; awareness of support services, and preferences for accessing them. Questions were also expanded to explore if respondents felt there was lost learning this year and what learning supports are preferred.

The primary goal of the survey was to gather feedback to hear how students, staff and families were doing as they finished off the 2020-21 school year. Feedback from the

survey will help inform plans for the upcoming school year and provide insight into approaches for pandemic recovery.

Process

This survey was developed with feedback invited from Yukon First Nations and partners in education, including the Yukon Teachers' Association, school council chairs, the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards and Committees, the Catholic Education Association of Yukon and the Commission scolaire francophone du Yukon.

This survey was voluntary and students, families and school staff had the opportunity to fill out the survey online from June 9-23, 2021.

The quantitative responses to the survey were analyzed and presented using graphs. The qualitative responses, or written comments, were analyzed and codified thematically to identify key themes to written feedback.

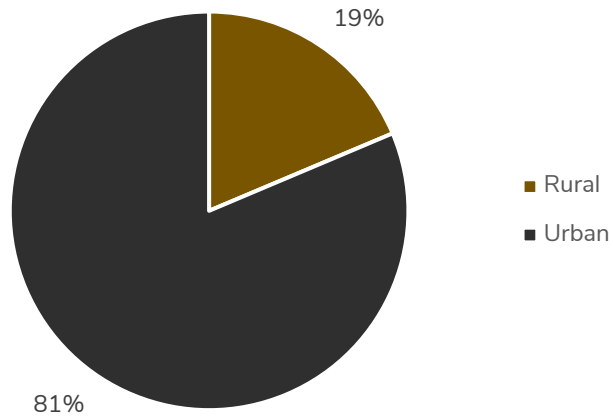
What We Heard

The survey was completed by 947 respondents, with participation from 762 families, 126 students and 59 school staff.

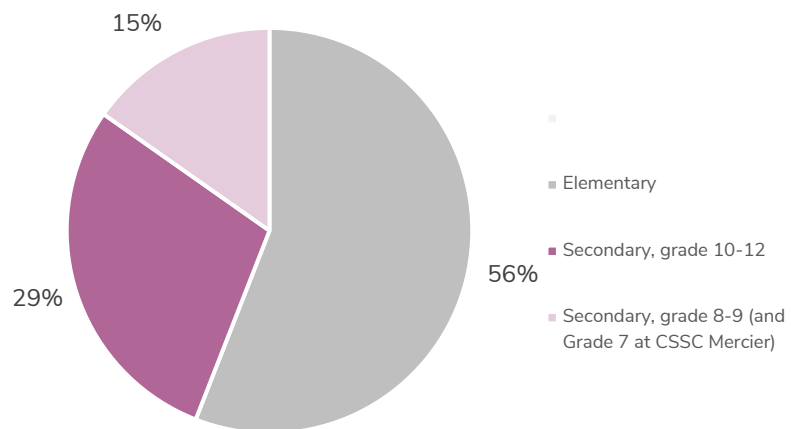
Below are the results for the school staff who completed the survey.

What we asked school staff

1. What school are you currently working at?

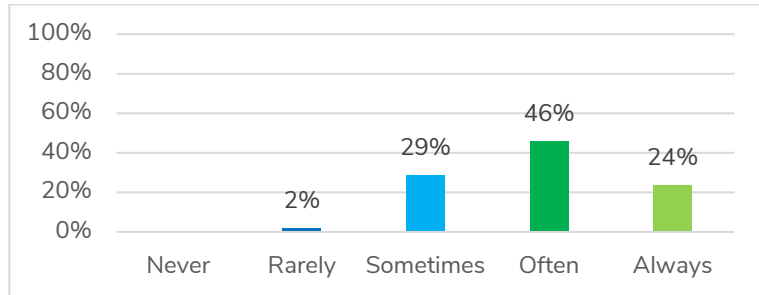


2. Which grade level are you teaching this school year?

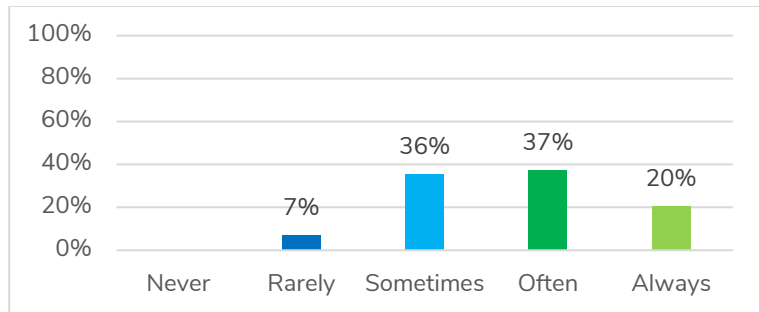


3. How are you feeling about the COVID-19 health and safety routines in place at your school?

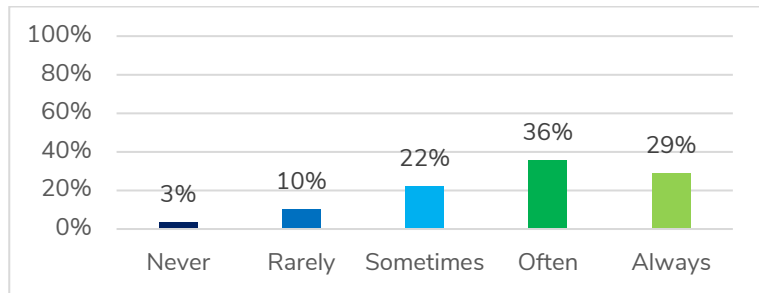
a) Safe



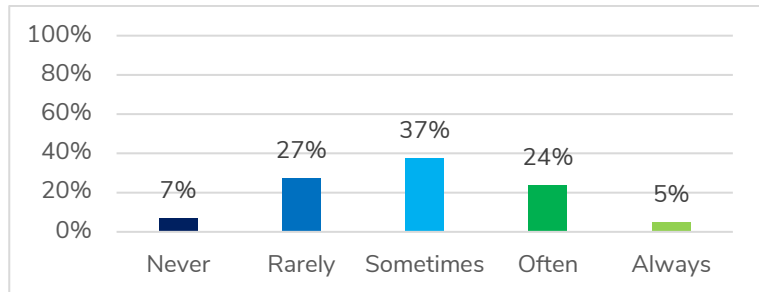
b) Confident



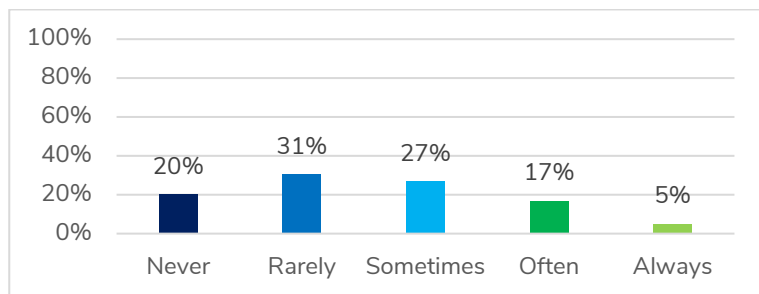
c) Informed



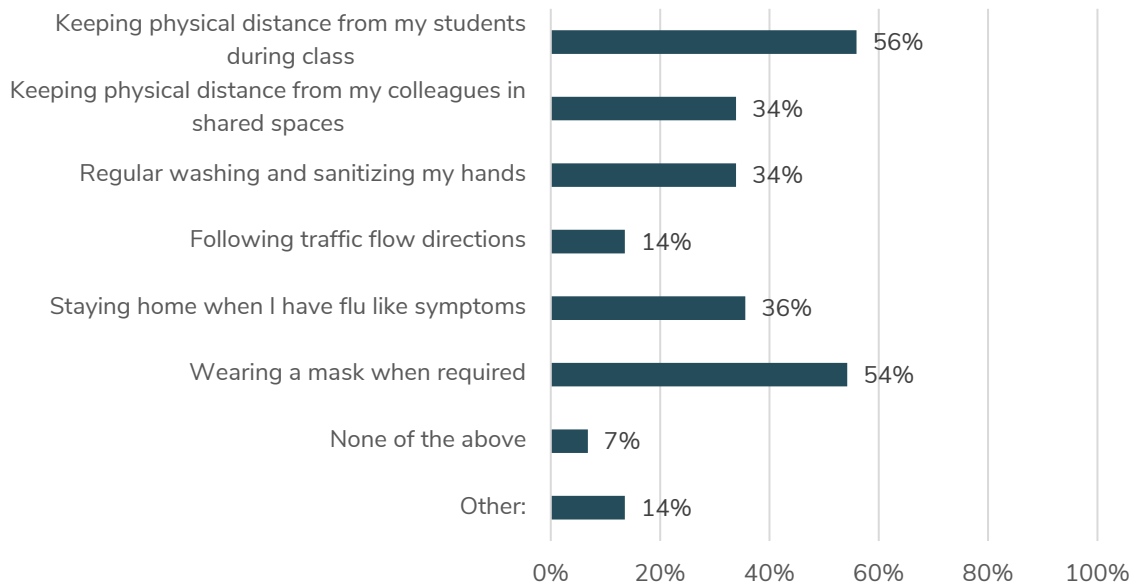
d) Frustrated



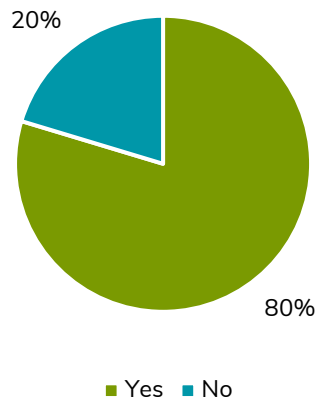
e) Confused



4. What COVID-19 health and safety routines at your school had the greatest impact on you and student learning in the classroom?



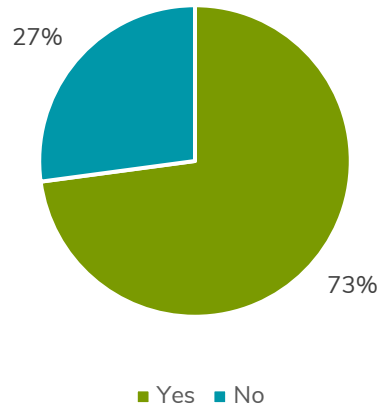
5. Were masks, where required, used consistently at your school?



5.1 If not, what were the reasons that masks were not being used as required?

Since this question specifically pertained to health and safety measures, all responses were related to health and safety measures. Many respondents mentioned that it was mostly students in high school or older elementary school students who didn't wear a mask as required. Some expressed a lack of enforcement.

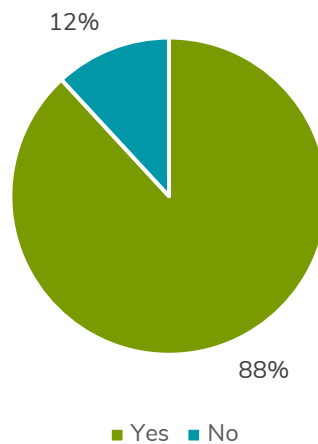
6. Were you able to effectively carry out the cleaning/sanitization tasks assigned to you at school?



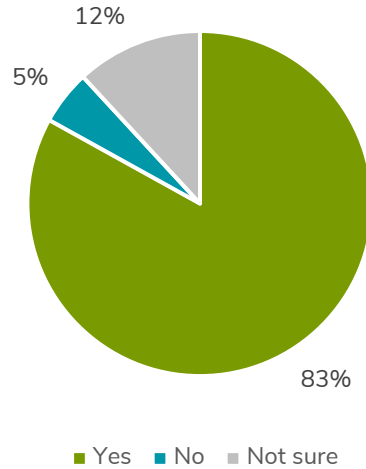
- 6.1 If not, what were the reasons you were not able to do so?

Since this question specifically pertained to health and safety measures, all responses were related to health and safety measures. Most respondents mentioned the lack of time as the main reason why they were not able to carry out all the cleaning/sanitization tasks assigned at school.

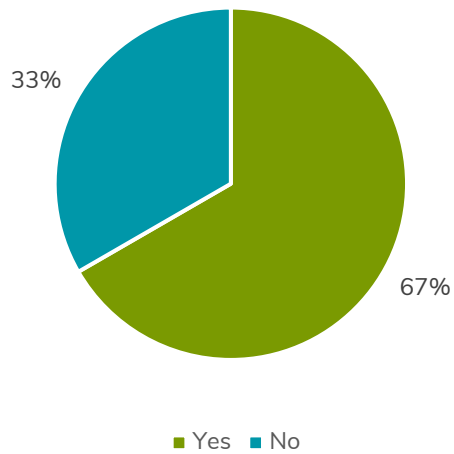
7. Were you able to effectively maintain hand washing and personal hygiene measures at school?



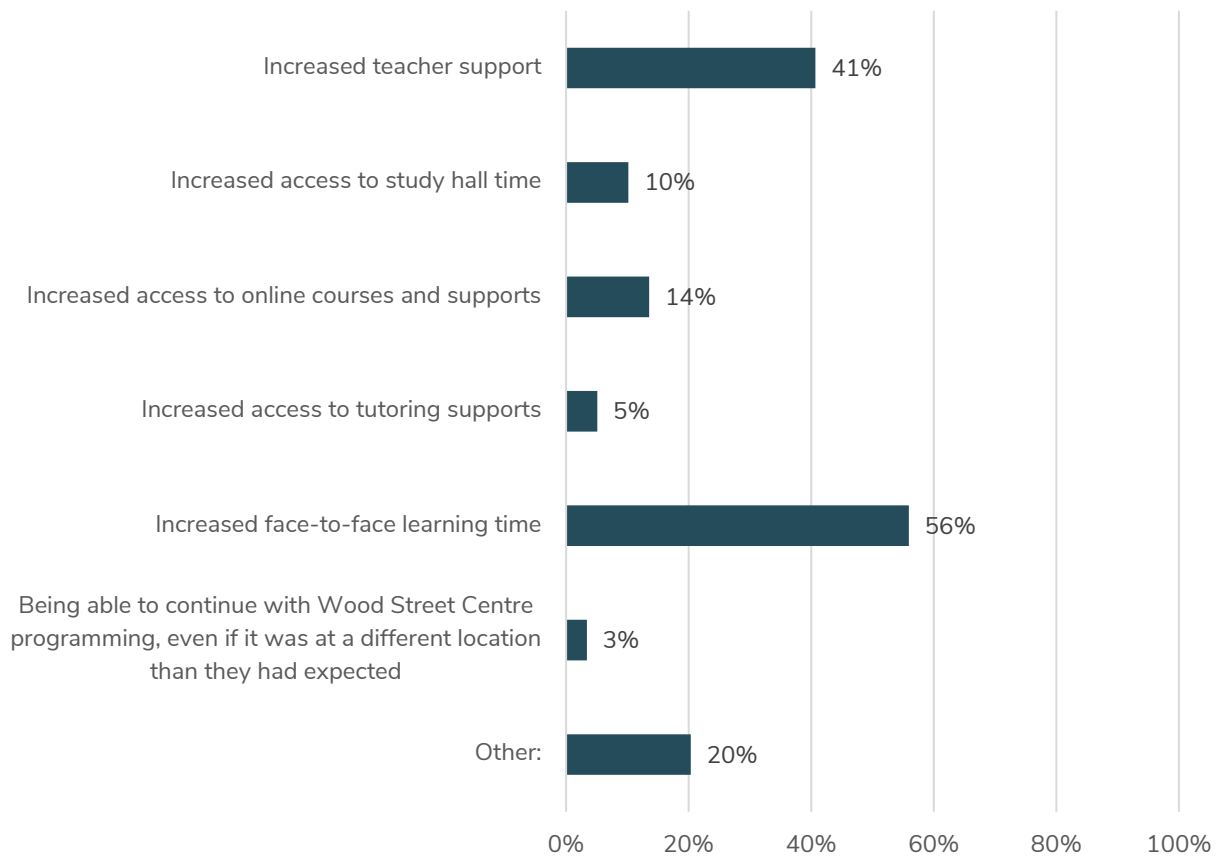
8. Have you been able to keep an adequate supply of equipment and supplies in your school to make sure you and your students are following the health and safety guidelines (e.g. hand sanitizer, cleaning products, masks, etc.)?



8.1 If you answered no, have you shared this information with your principal and/ or Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee?



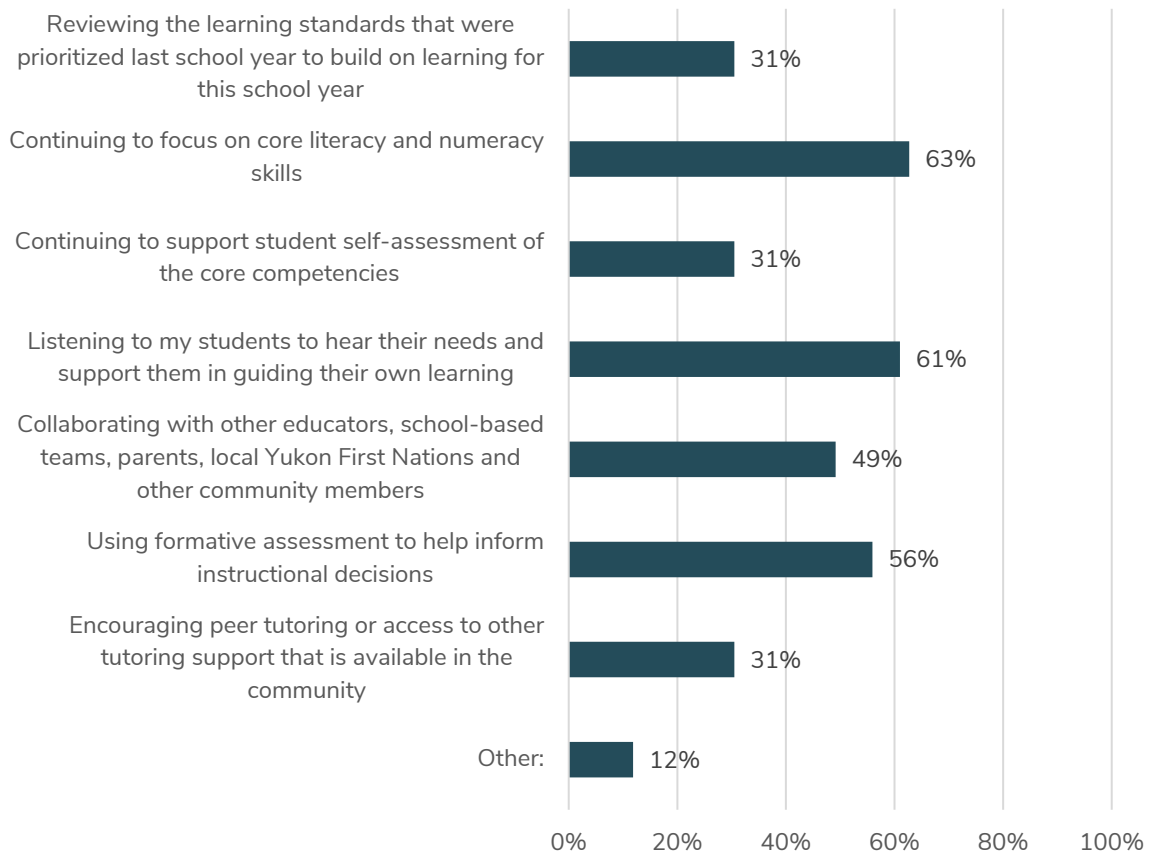
9. What additional supports have been most helpful for your students to be successful in their learning during the pandemic?



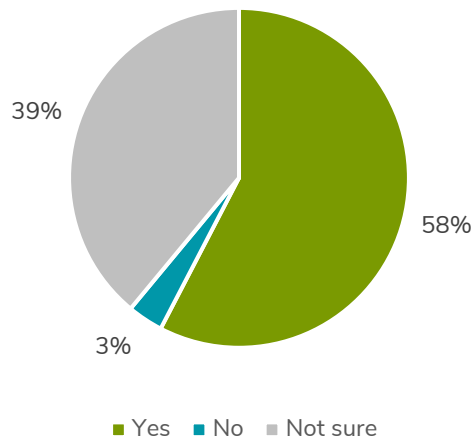
10. What specific strategies is your school using to assess and address the learning needs of those students who required support to recover learning in the coming school year?

Since this question was specific to strategies to assess and address learning needs, the responses were very diverse and could not be categorized. Some of the main themes that emerged were the use of reading recovery, the support of learning assistant teachers, learning coaches and educational assistants.

11. What strategies have you used to make sure students continue to get caught up on their learning?



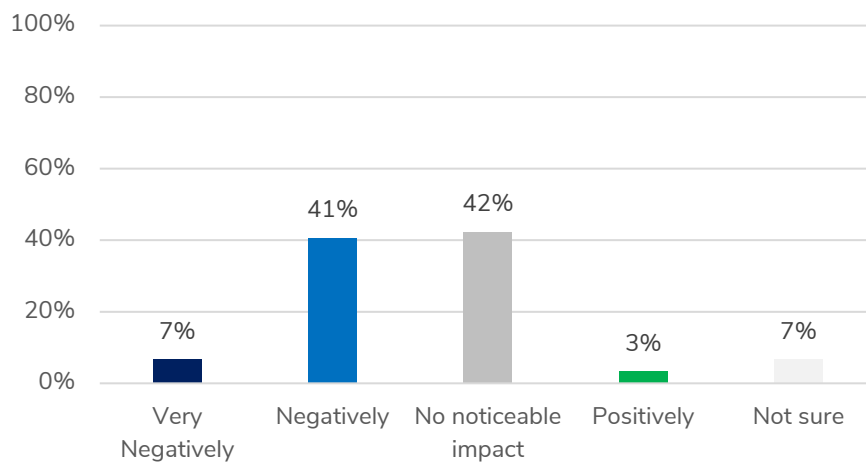
12. Have these strategies been successful so far?



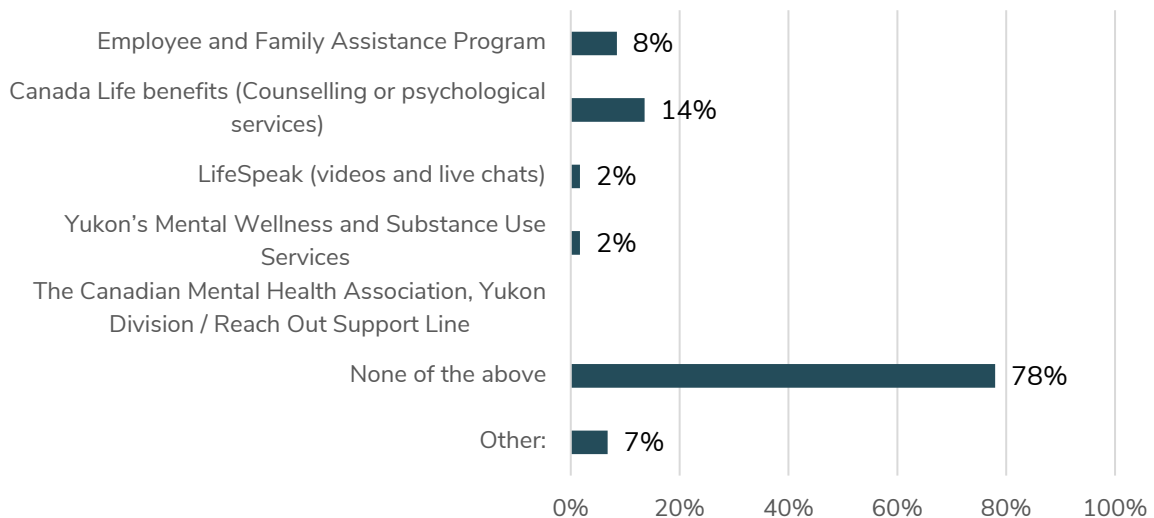
12.1 Please explain:

Since this section asked respondents to explain how the specific strategies used to make sure students continue to get caught up on their learning had been successful or not, the responses could not be categorized. Some of the main themes that emerged were self-assessment, leveraging relationships, listening and responding to students' individual needs.

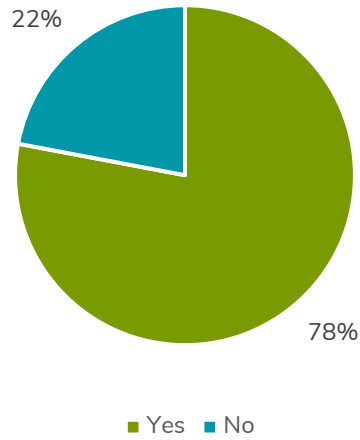
13. How has the pandemic impacted your mental health and wellness?



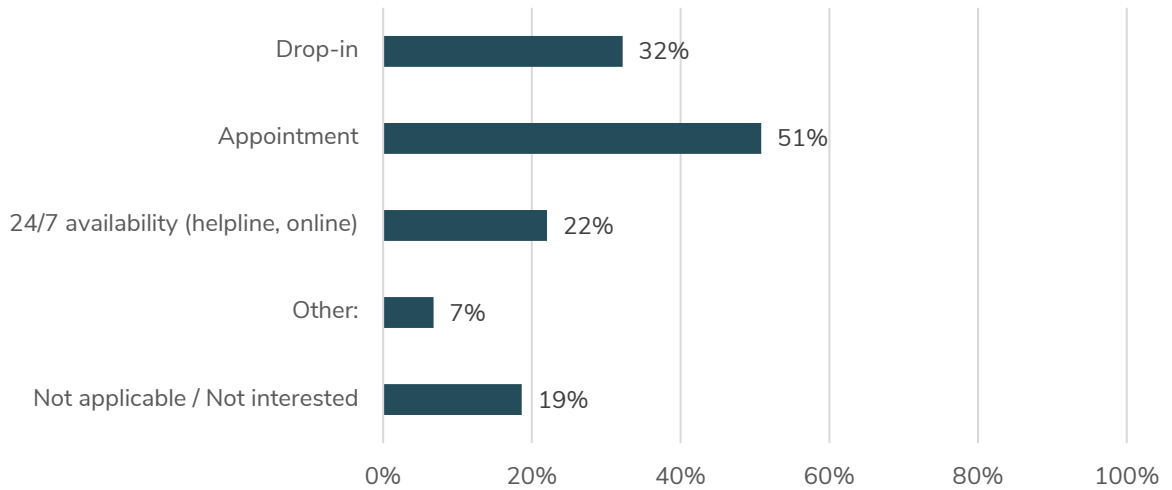
14. Have you accessed the mental health services that are available to you from your employer this school year?



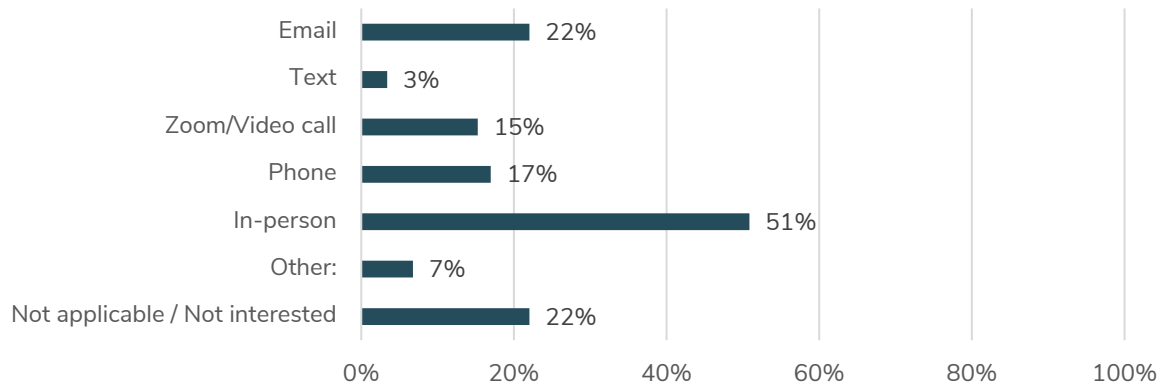
15. Do you know how to access the mental health and wellness services that are available to you by your employer?



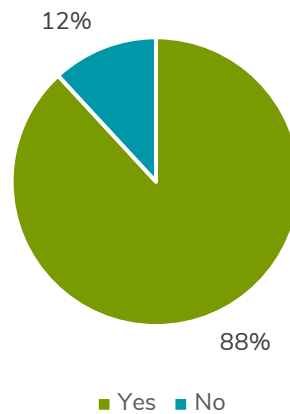
16. How would you prefer to access mental health and wellness services available in your school and community?



17. I want to be able to receive supports by:



18. Do any of your students have an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan?



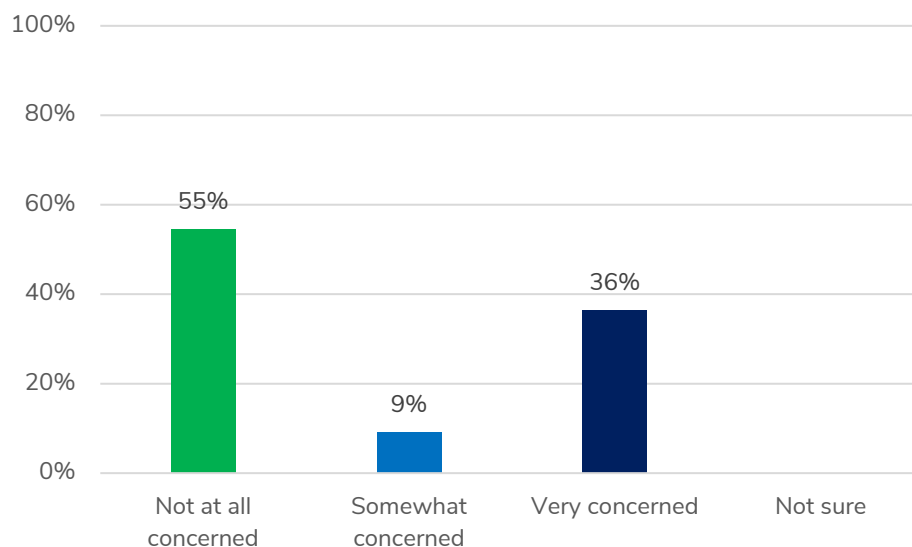
18.1 What additional training or supports for working with students on an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan could be provided to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Of those who responded, one main theme emerged. Many respondents expressed the need for more staff to support students on an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan. A few spoke to the need for improved access to technology and increased support with mental health and wellness. A few respondents also mentioned the need for more time.

Additional questions for school staff teaching grades 10-12 at Porter Creek, Vanier Catholic, F.H. Collins secondary schools (excluding Wood Street Programs)

- 19.** To enable students to return to full-time in-class learning, the physical distancing requirements were reduced from 2 metres to as much space as practicable.

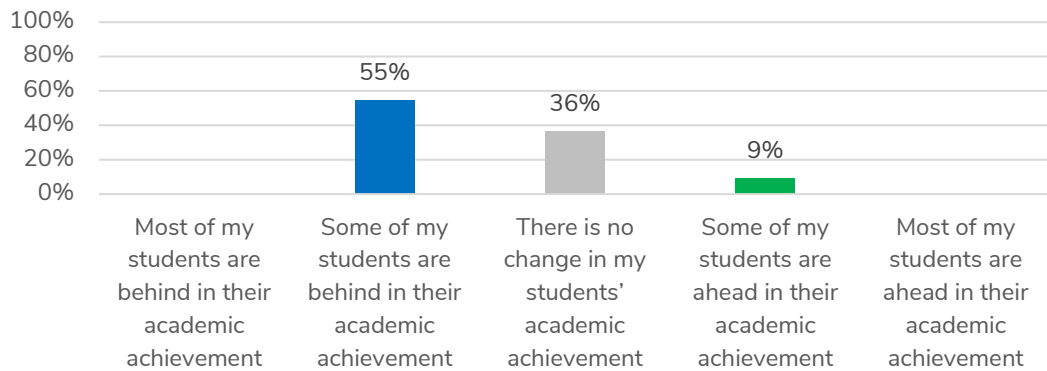
Did you have any concerns about making this change at your school?



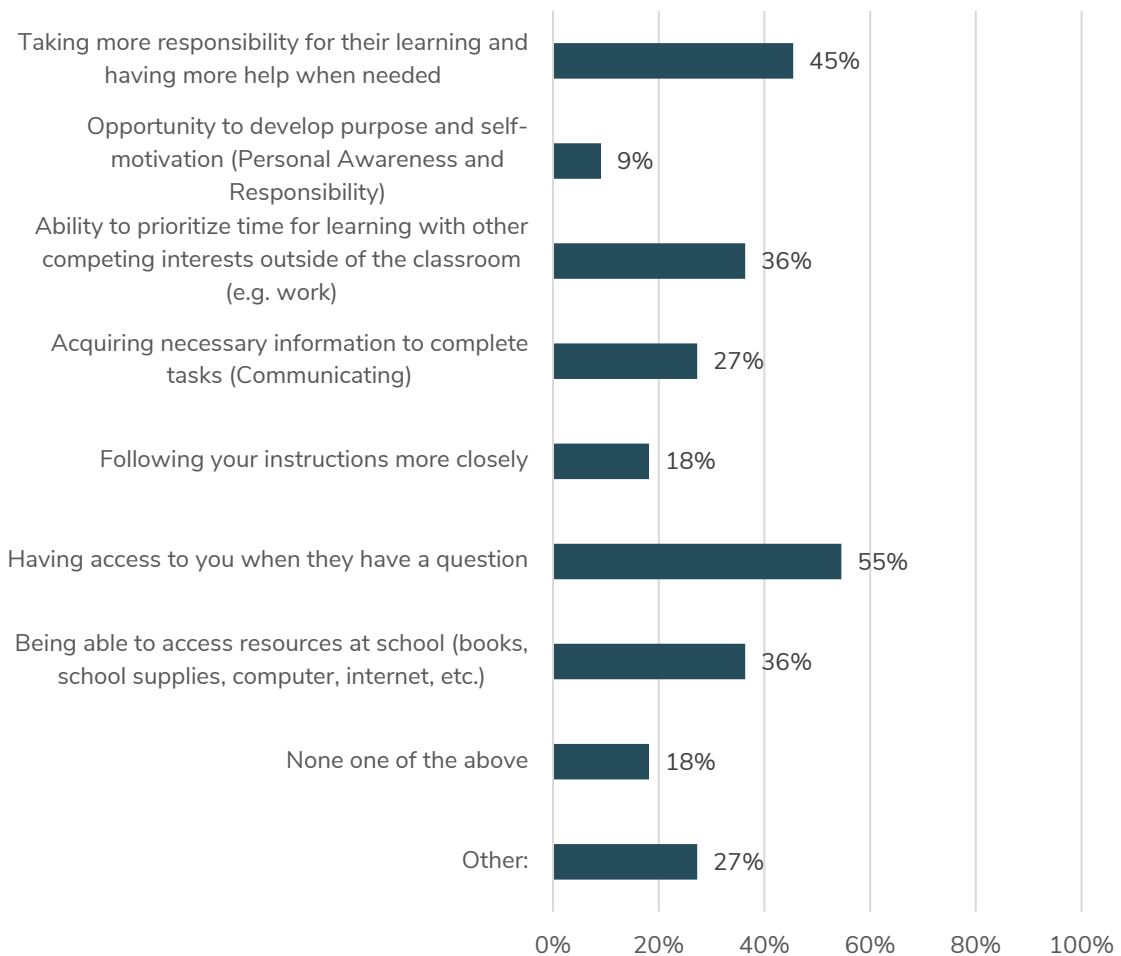
19.1 What were your concerns?

Of those who responded, one main theme emerged. All respondents expressed their concerns in regards to health and safety measures when students returned to full-time in-class learning in the spring. The respondents were concerned about an increase in the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

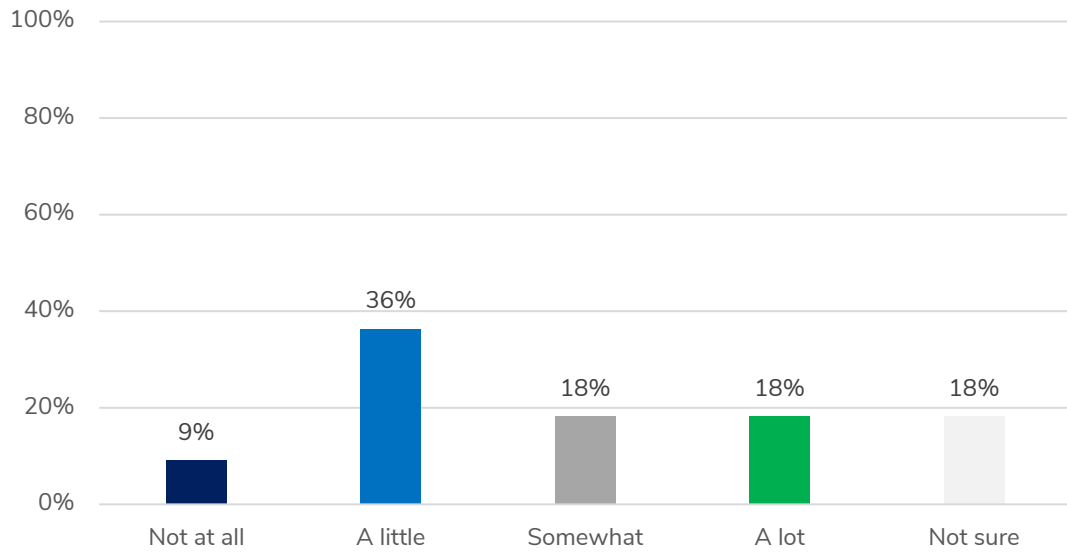
20. How do you feel the half-day, in-class learning schedule impacted your students' learning, on average?



21. What do you think are the most benefits for your students on the full-day in-class schedule? Select all that apply:



22. To what extent has the return to full-time in-class instruction helped your students make up for any learning that they may have missed out on over this school year?



What's next?

The feedback from this survey will be considered by central administration staff, school principals and school staff to help inform plans for the 2021-22 school year and provide insight into approaches to recover any potential lost learning from the pandemic. This report will also be shared with school councils, Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Teachers' Association and other education partners to support our ongoing work together to support student learning during the pandemic.

Participation

Engagement methods

This survey was voluntary and remained open from June 9-23, 2021. The survey link was sent directly by email to all Yukon families with children in Kindergarten to Grade 12 this school year and school staff working in Kindergarten to Grade 12 public schools in 2020-21.

Participation by the numbers

The survey was completed by 947 respondents, with participation from 762 families, 126 students and 59 school staff.

Notification

Information was sent out directly to families/guardians and school staff by email.