



Learning during COVID-19 survey Summer 2021

Students, Parents or Guardians
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.

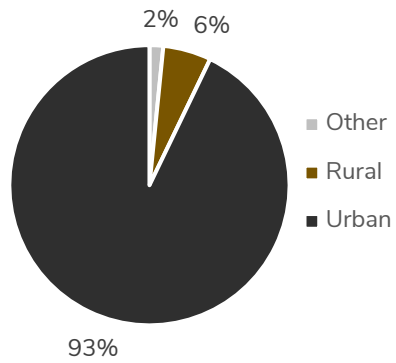
What we heard

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

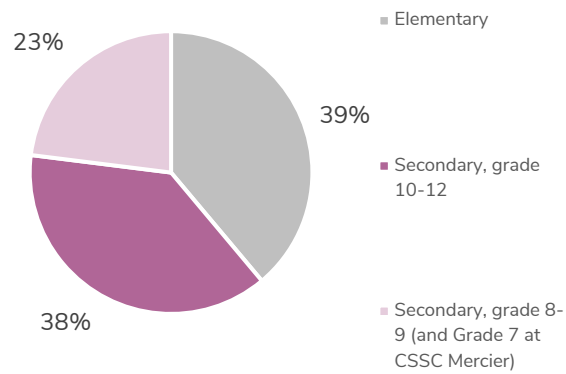
Below are the results for students and their families or guardians who completed the survey.

What we asked students

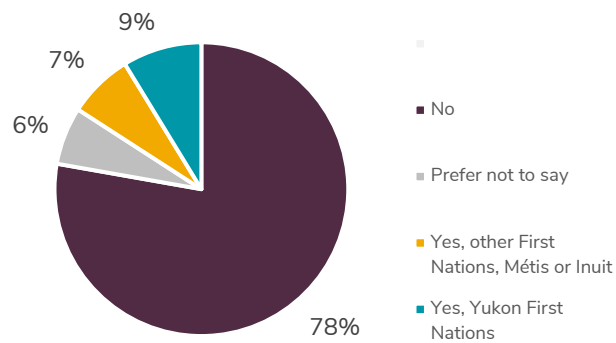
1. What school do you currently attend?



2. What grade level are you in?

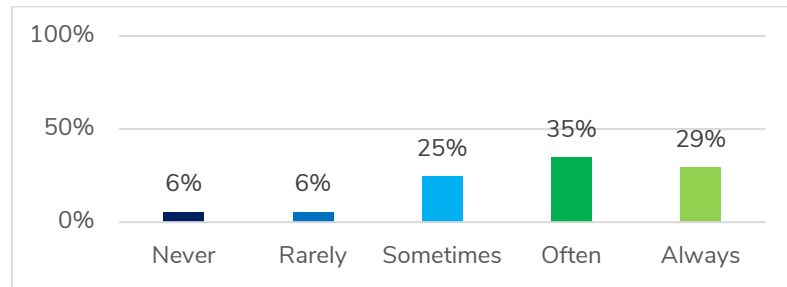


3. Do you identify as an Indigenous person (First Nations, Métis or Inuit)?

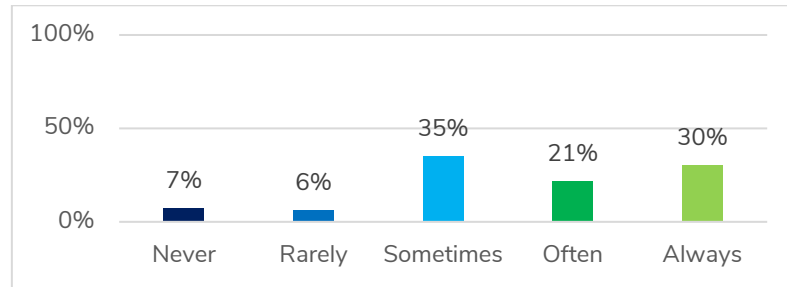


4. How are you feeling about the COVID-19 health and safety routines in place at your school?

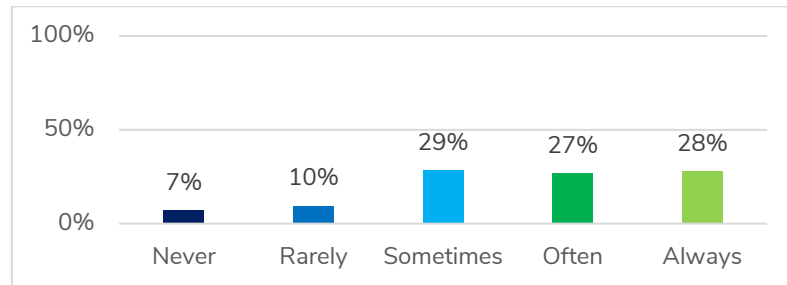
a) Safe



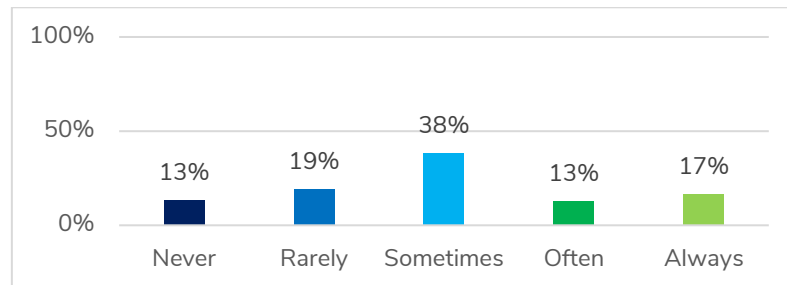
b) Confident



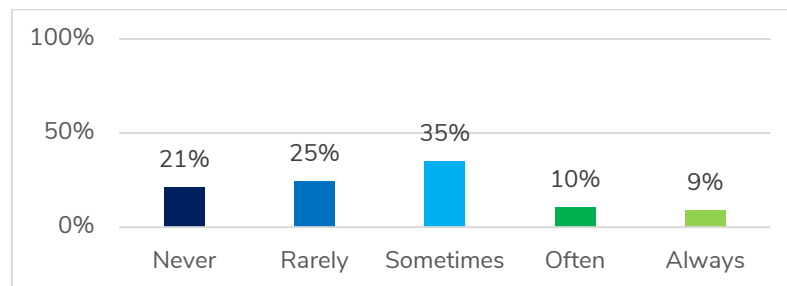
c) Informed



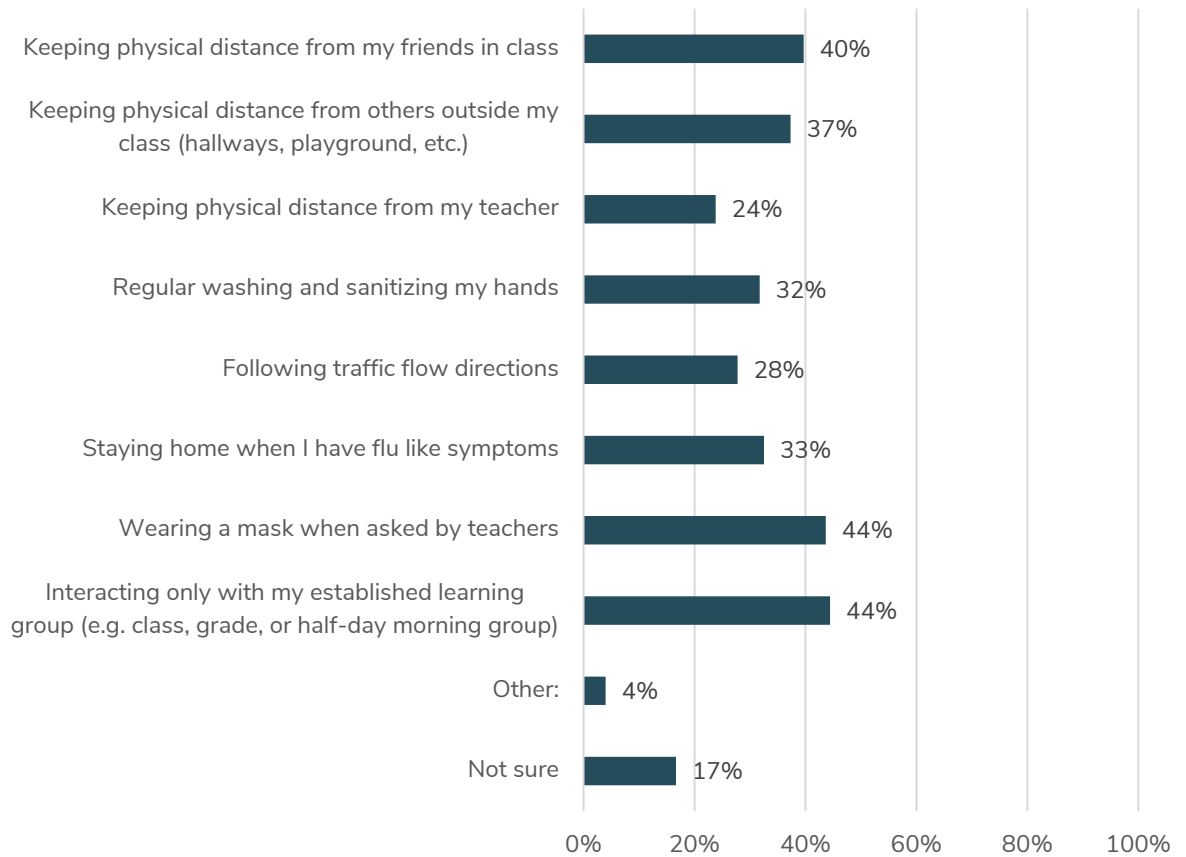
d) Frustrated



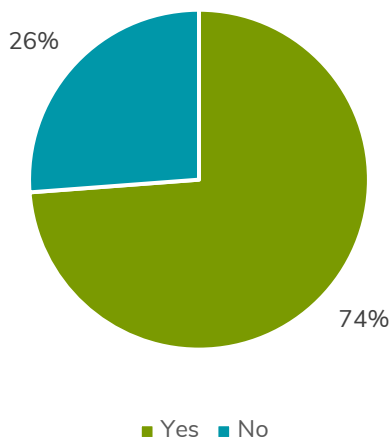
e) Confused



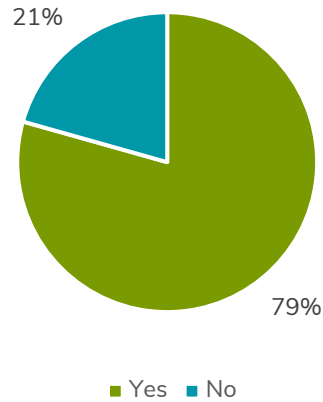
5. What COVID-19 health and safety routines at your school have the most impact on you? Select all that apply:



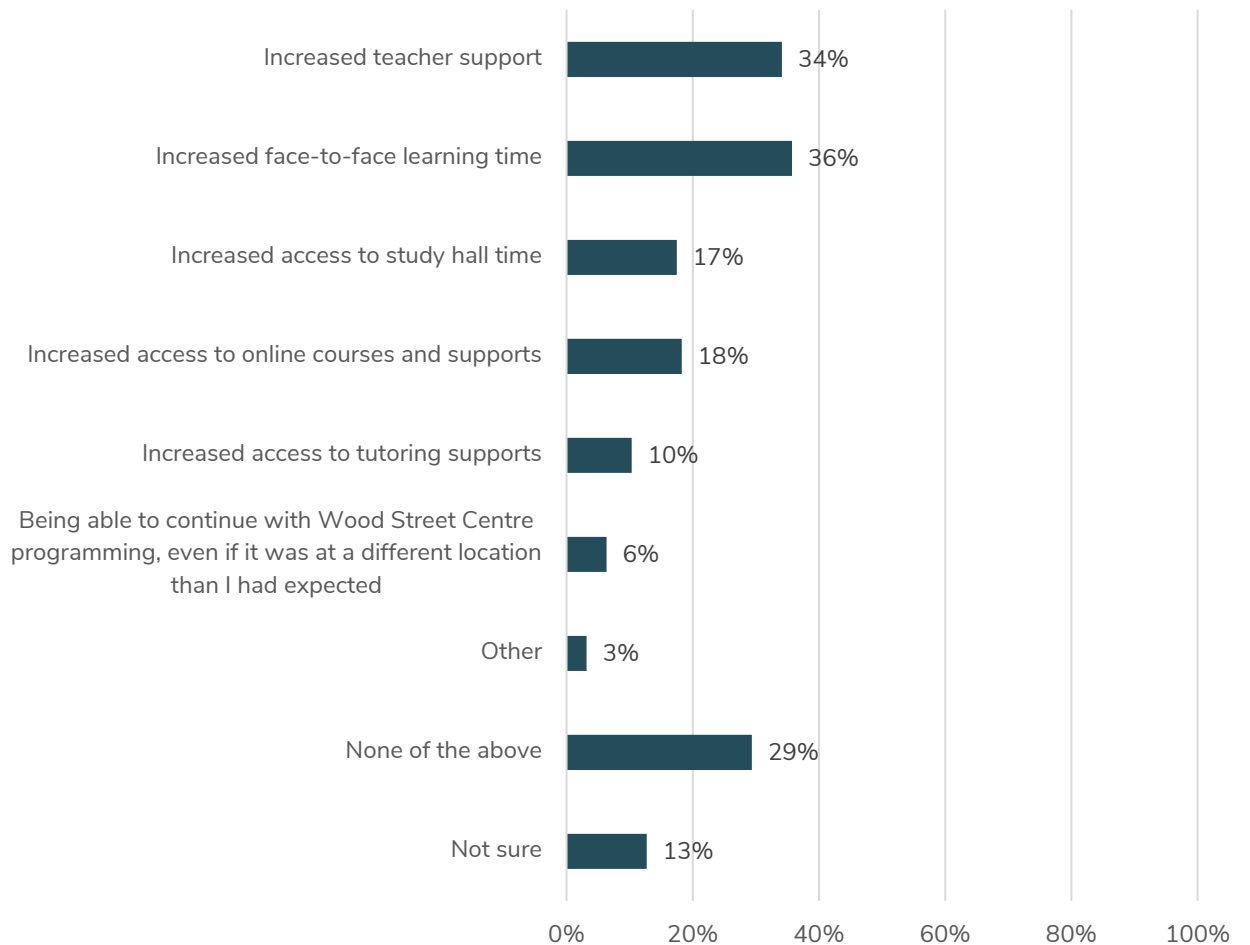
6. Were masks, where required, used consistently at your school?



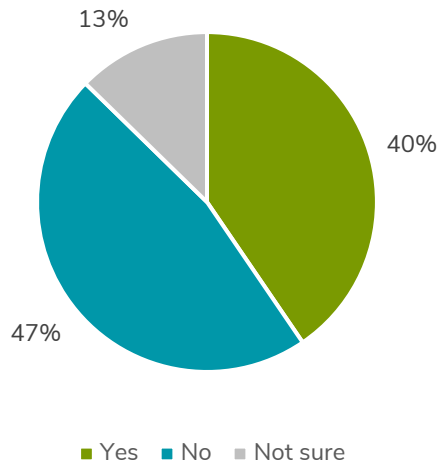
7. Were you able to effectively maintain hand washing and personal hygiene measures at school?



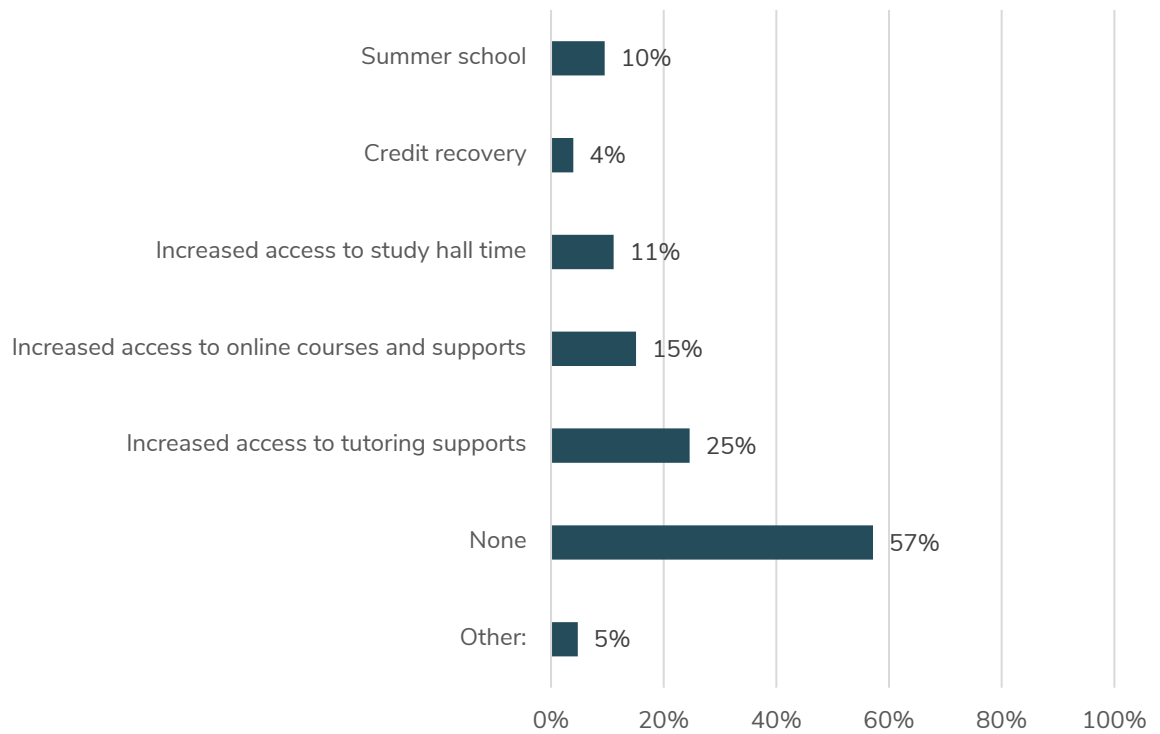
8. What additional supports have been most helpful to you to be successful in your learning during the pandemic? Select all that apply:



9. Do you feel you will need to catch up on your learning in the coming school year?

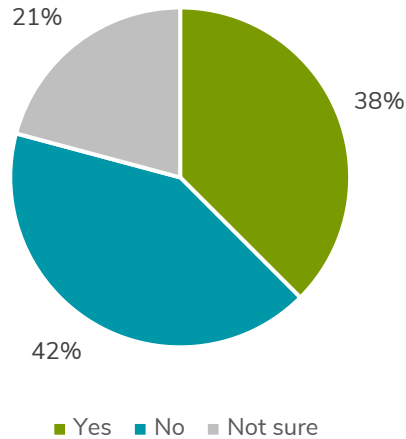


10. What additional support (if any) do you feel you need to help you make up for any learning that you have missed out on over the past year?



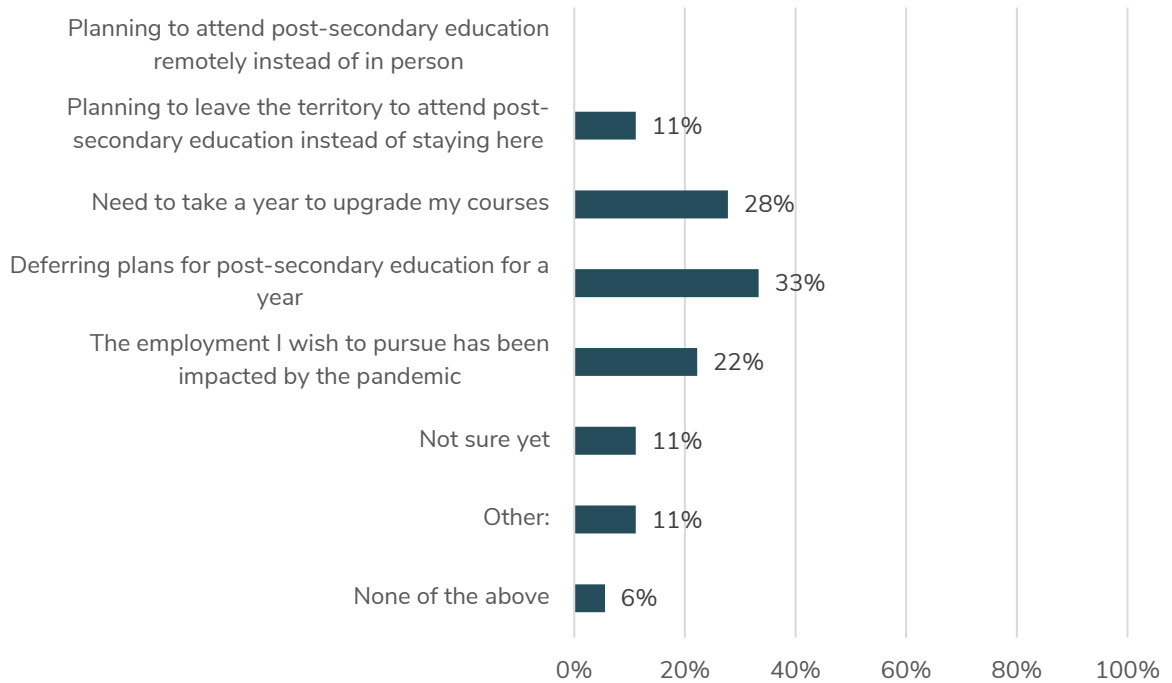
11. Has the pandemic impacted your plans for after graduation?

(Note: this question was for grade 10-12 students)

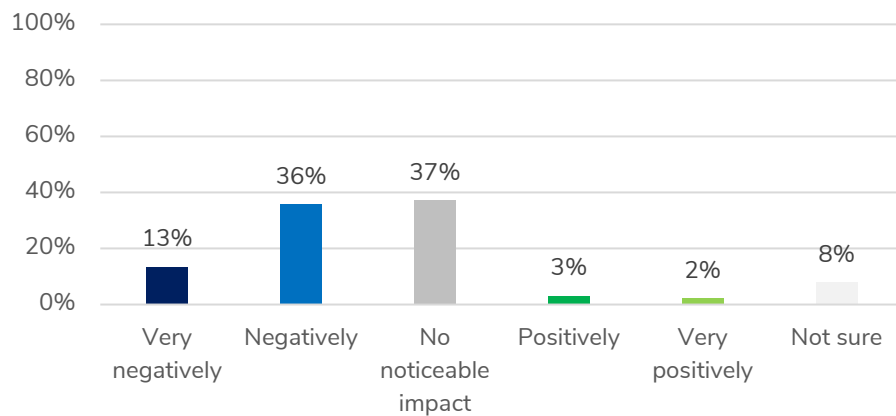


12. How have your plans changed?

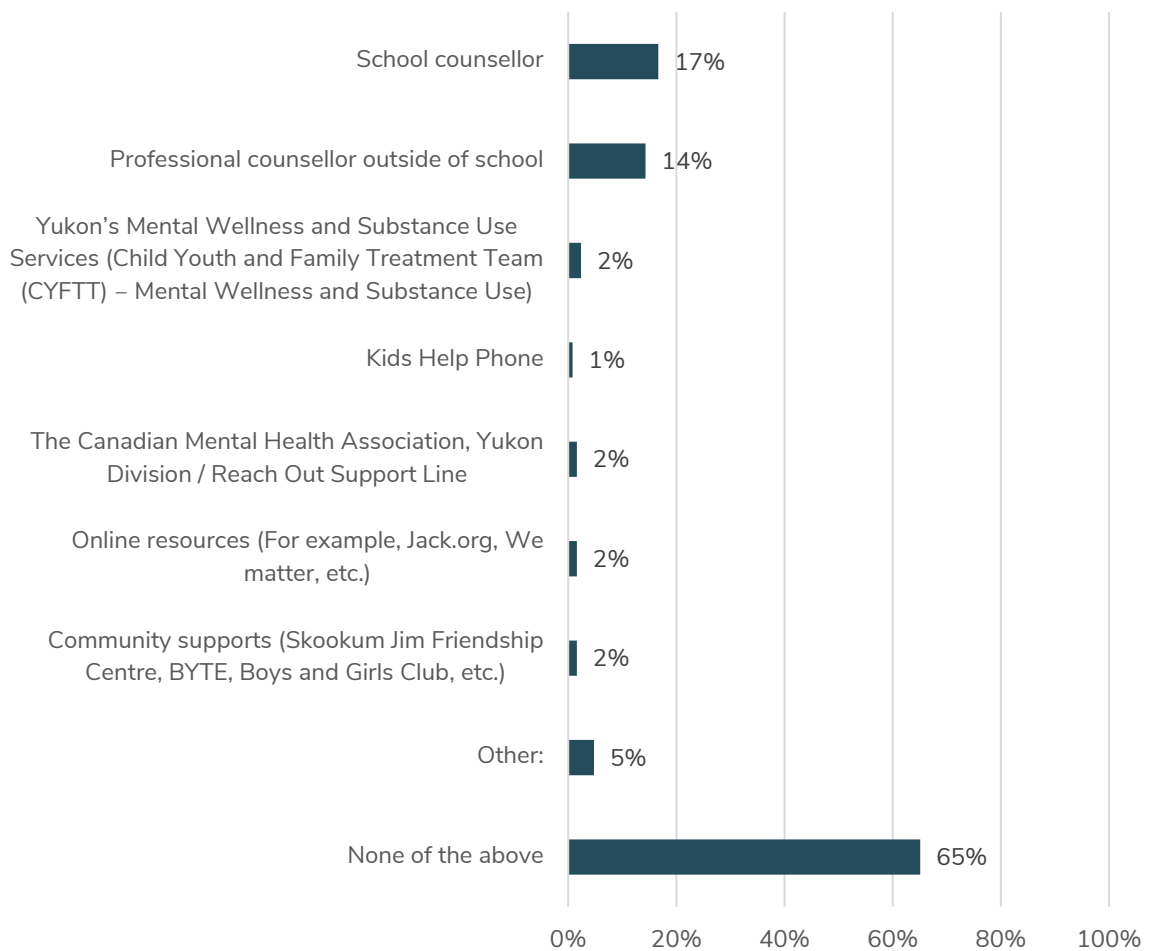
(Note: this question was for grade 10-12 students)



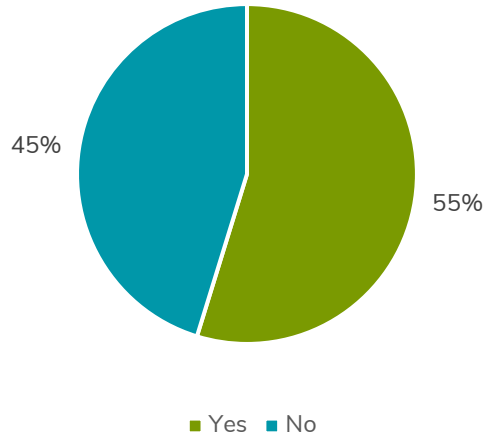
13. How has the pandemic impacted your mental health and wellness?



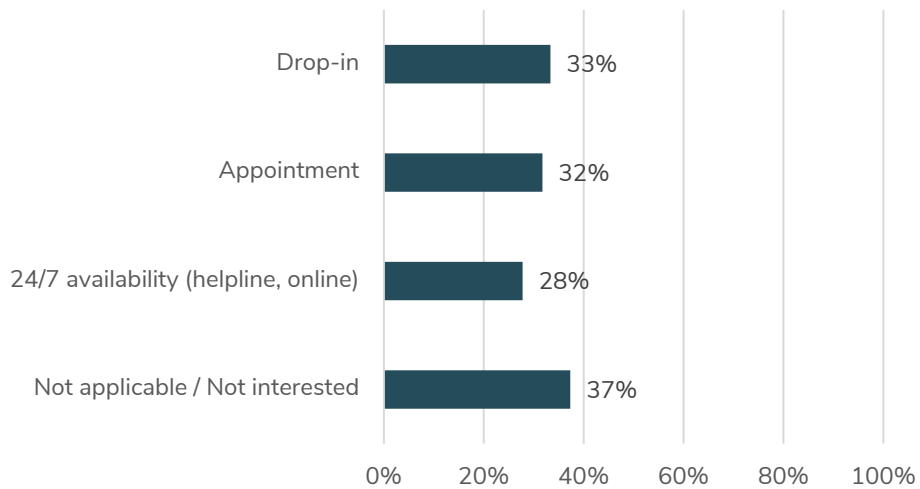
14. Have you accessed any of the following mental health supports this school year? Please check all that apply:



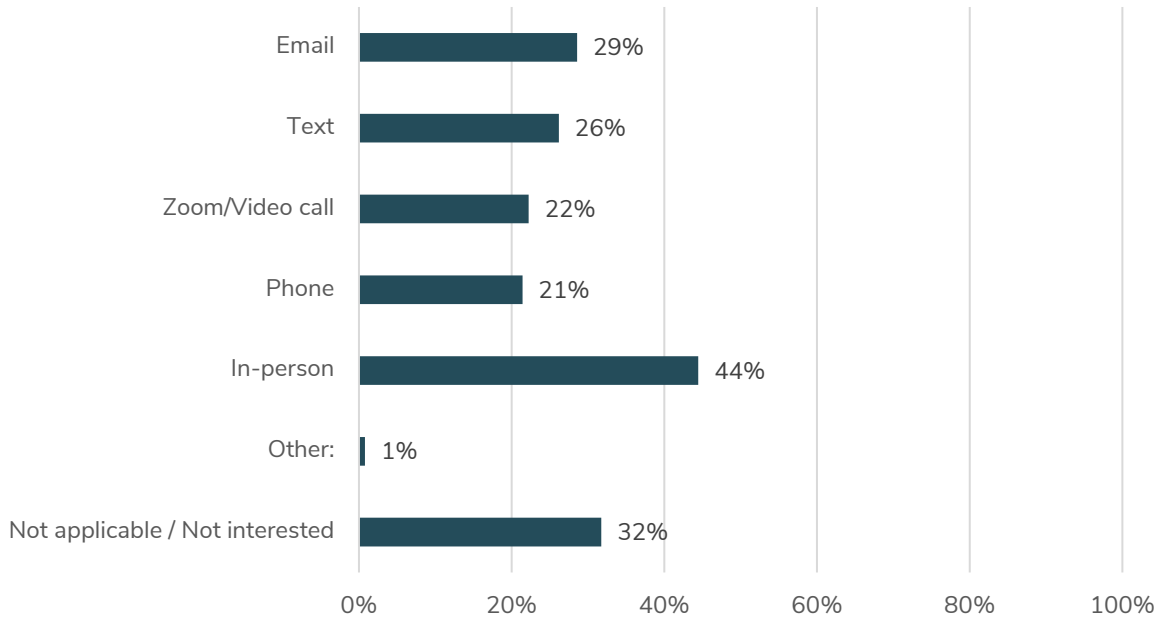
15. Do you know how to access the mental health and wellness services that are available to you in your school and community?



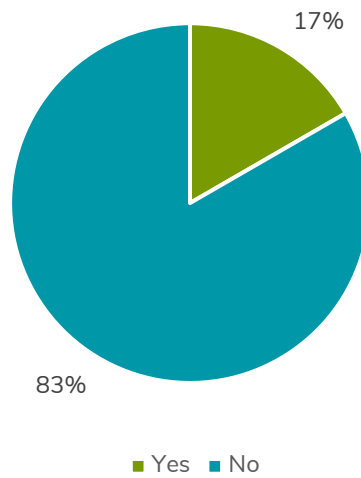
16. How would you prefer to access mental health and wellness services available in your school and community? Check all that apply:



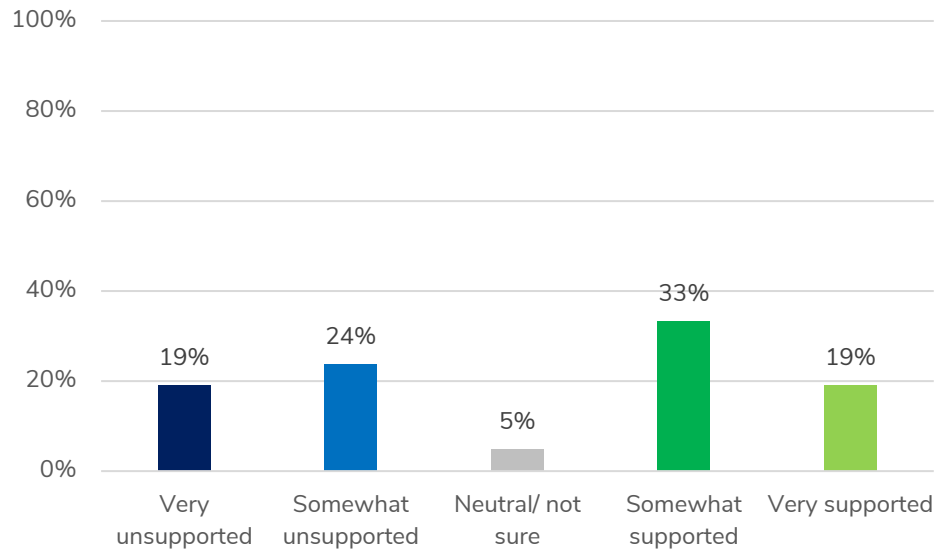
17. I want to be able to receive supports by (Check all that apply):



18. Do you have an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan?



19. How supported do you feel by your teacher(s) in achieving your learning goals in this plan while learning this year?



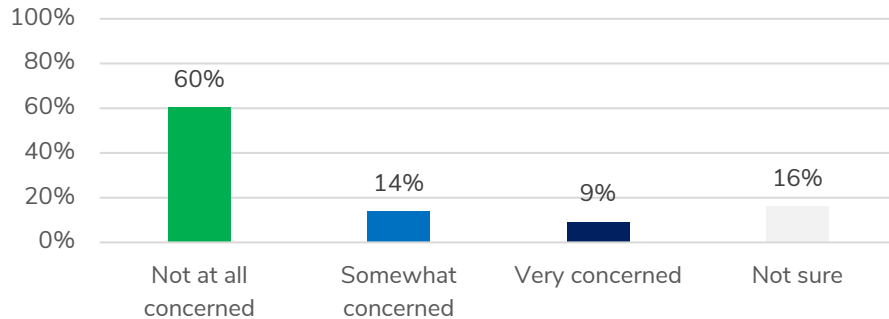
19.1. How could we improve the supports for you in achieving your learning goals in your plan?

Of those who provided comments, one main theme emerged. Almost all respondents identified a need for more support with academics. Most respondents mentioned a need for more educational assistants and one on one support in general.

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

- 20.** 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.

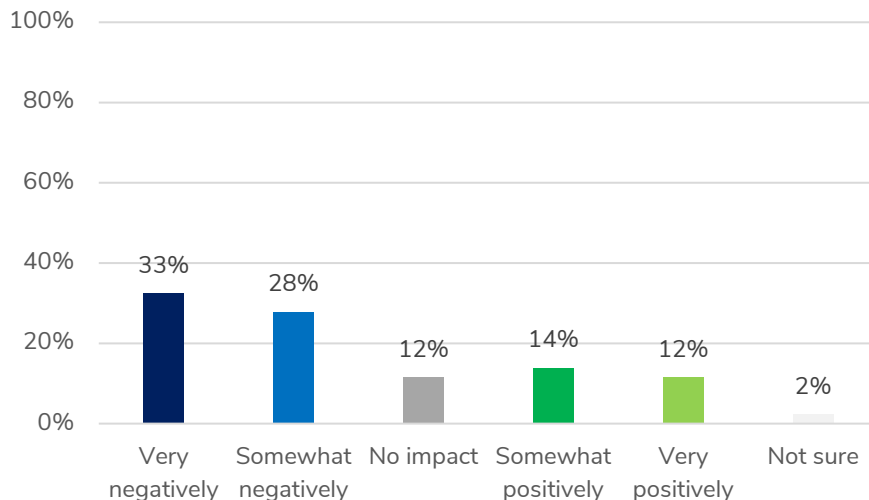
Did you have any concerns about making this change at your school?



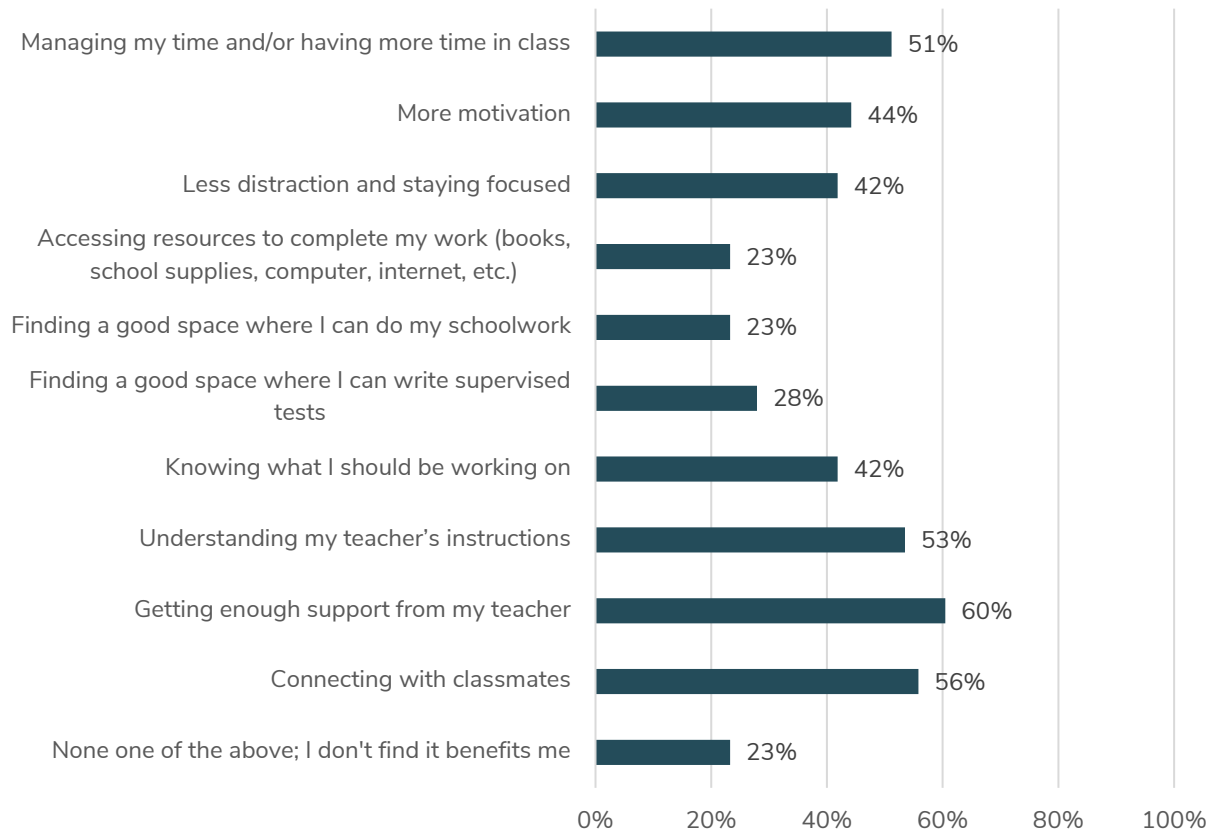
20.1. What were your concerns?

Of those students who responded, one theme emerged. Most respondents expressed their concerns about Health and Safety measures linked to going back to school full-time last spring. Most were concerned about the risk of getting infected by the COVID-19 virus.

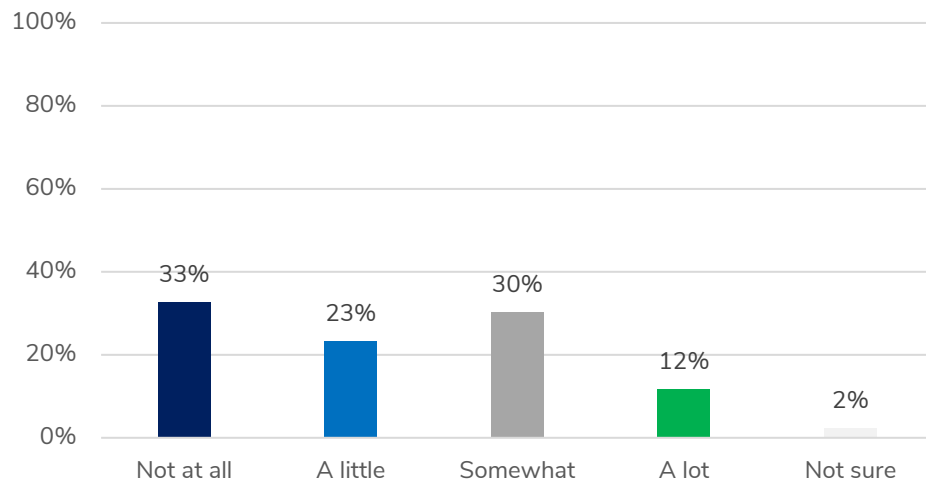
- 21.** Overall, how do you feel half-day, in-class model impacted your achievement in school?



22. What did you benefit from on the full-day in-class schedule? Select all that apply:

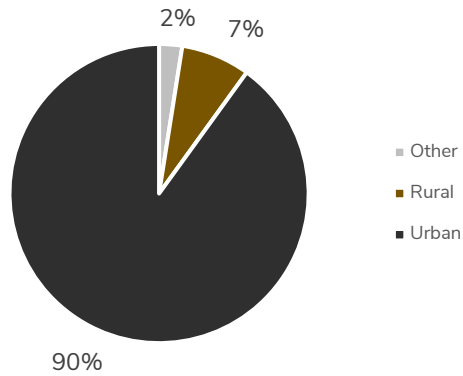


23. To what extent has the return to full-time in-class instruction helped you make up for any learning that you may have missed out on over this school year?

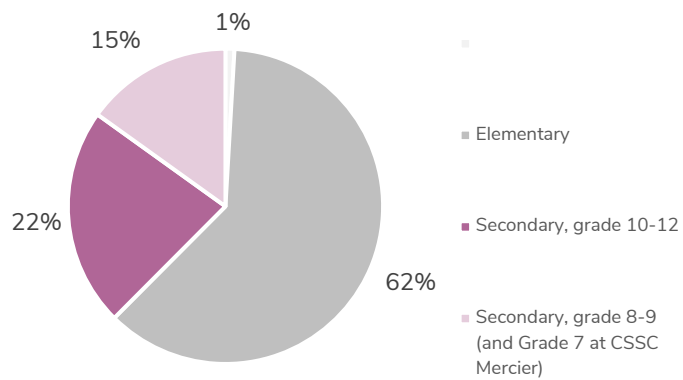


What we asked families

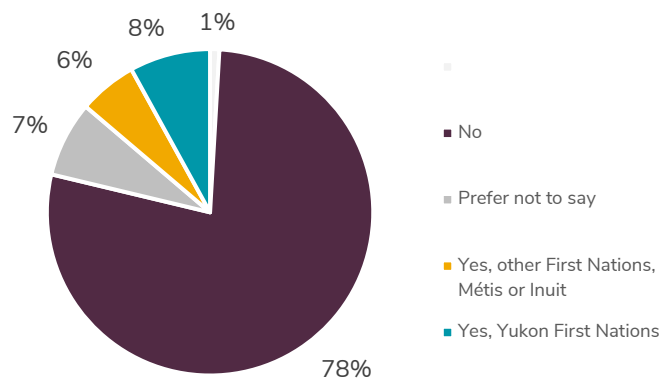
1. What school is your child attending this school year?



2. Which grade level is your child in during this school year?

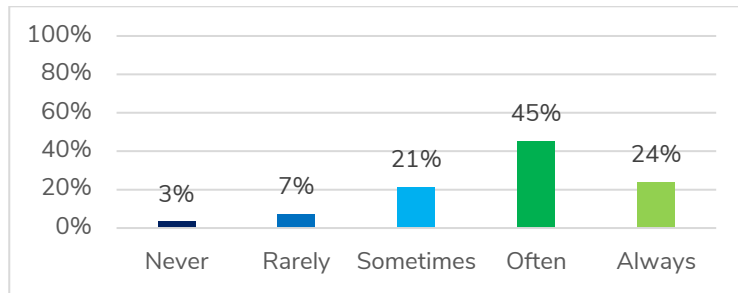


3. Do you self-identify as an Indigenous person (First Nations, Métis or Inuit)?

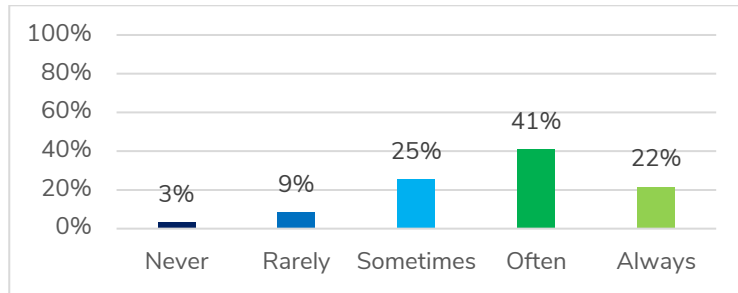


4. How are you feeling about the COVID-19 health and safety routines in place at your school?

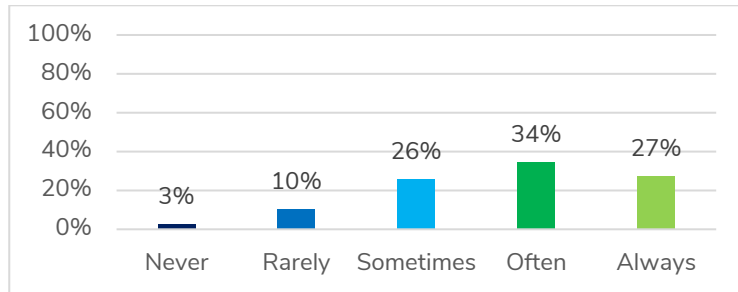
a) Safe



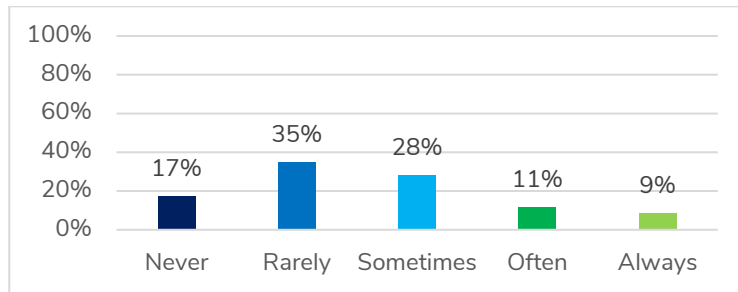
b) Confident



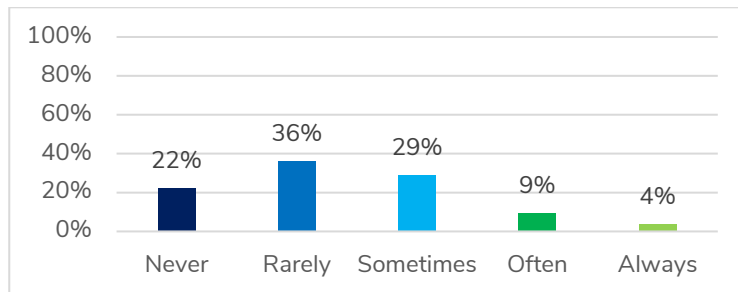
c) Informed



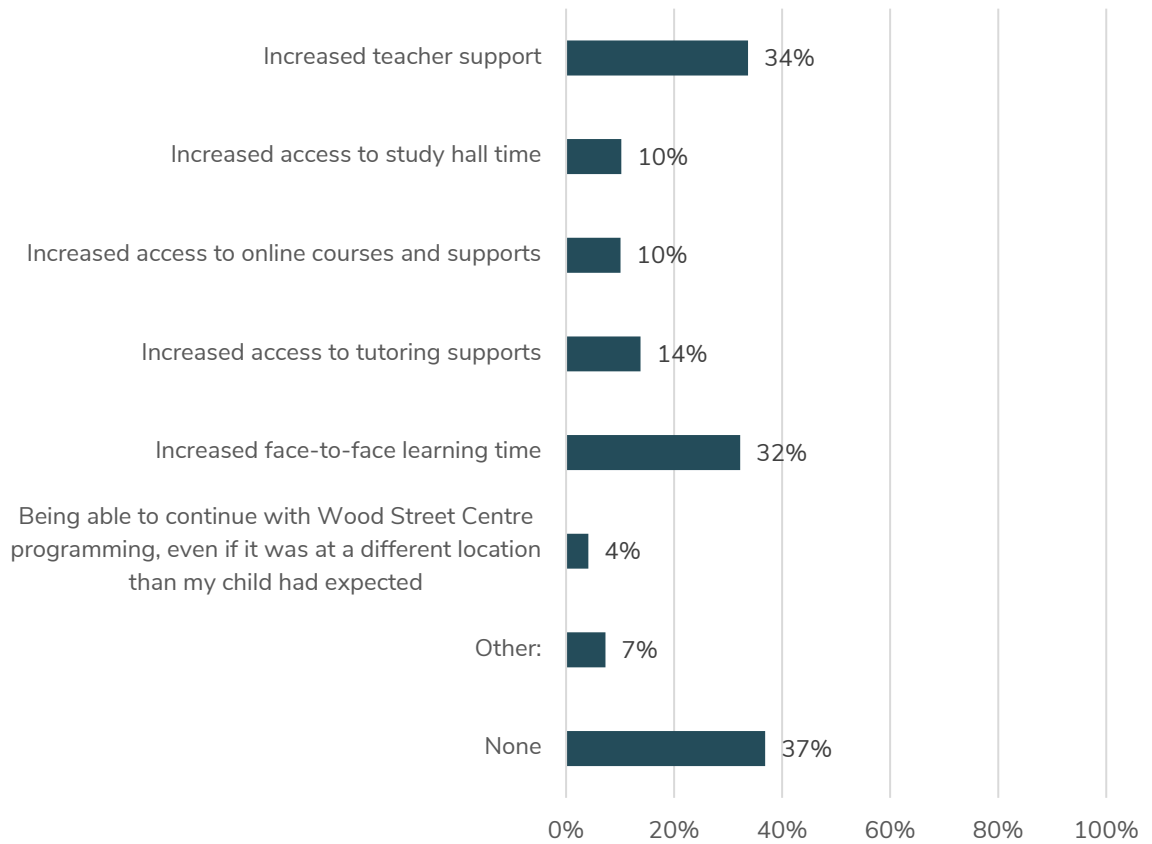
d) Frustrated



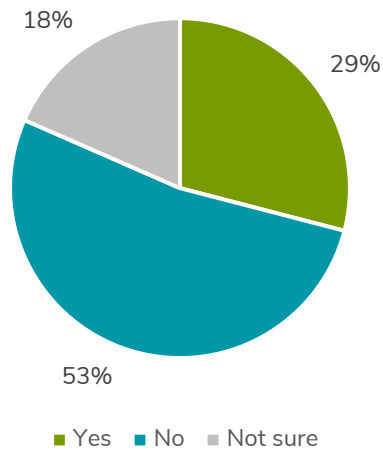
e) Confused



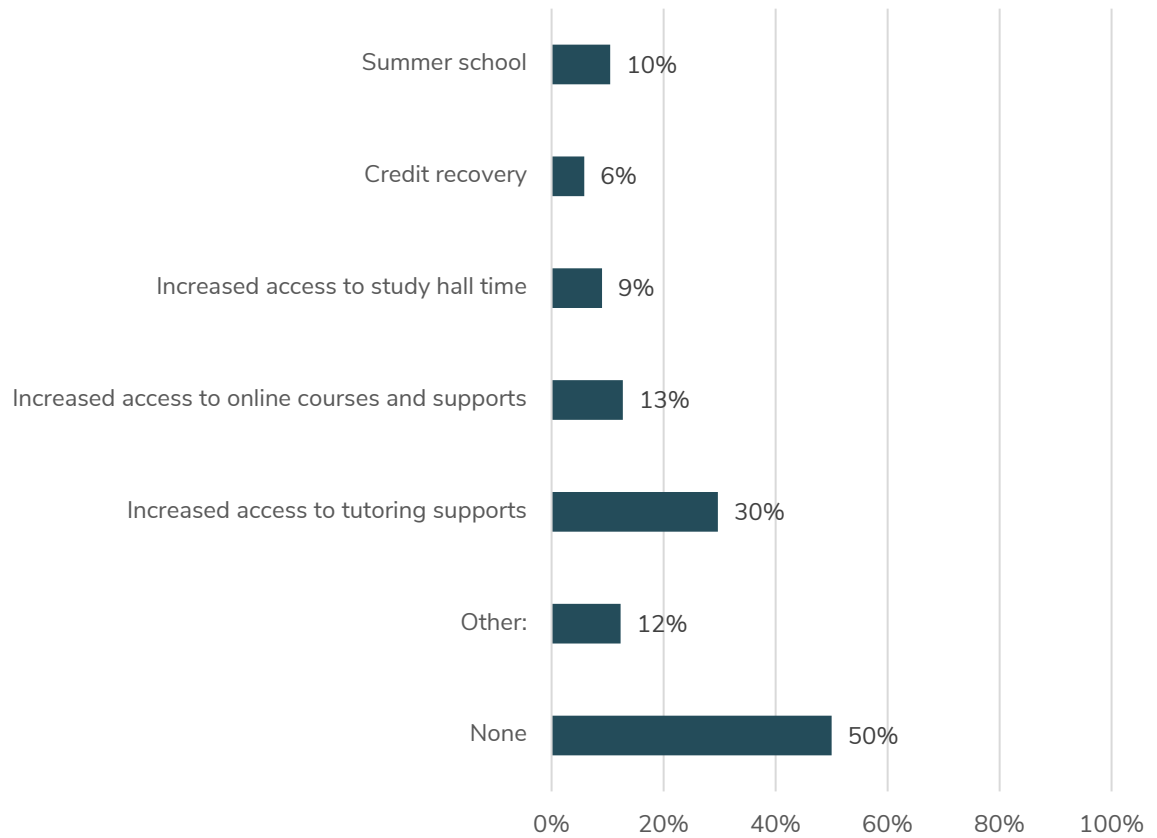
5. What additional supports have been most helpful to your child to be successful in their learning during the pandemic?



6. Will your child need to catch up on their learning in the coming school year?

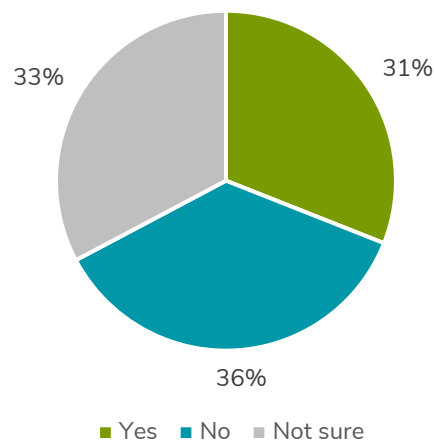


7. What additional support (if any) do you feel your child needs to help them make up for any learning that they have missed out on over the past year?



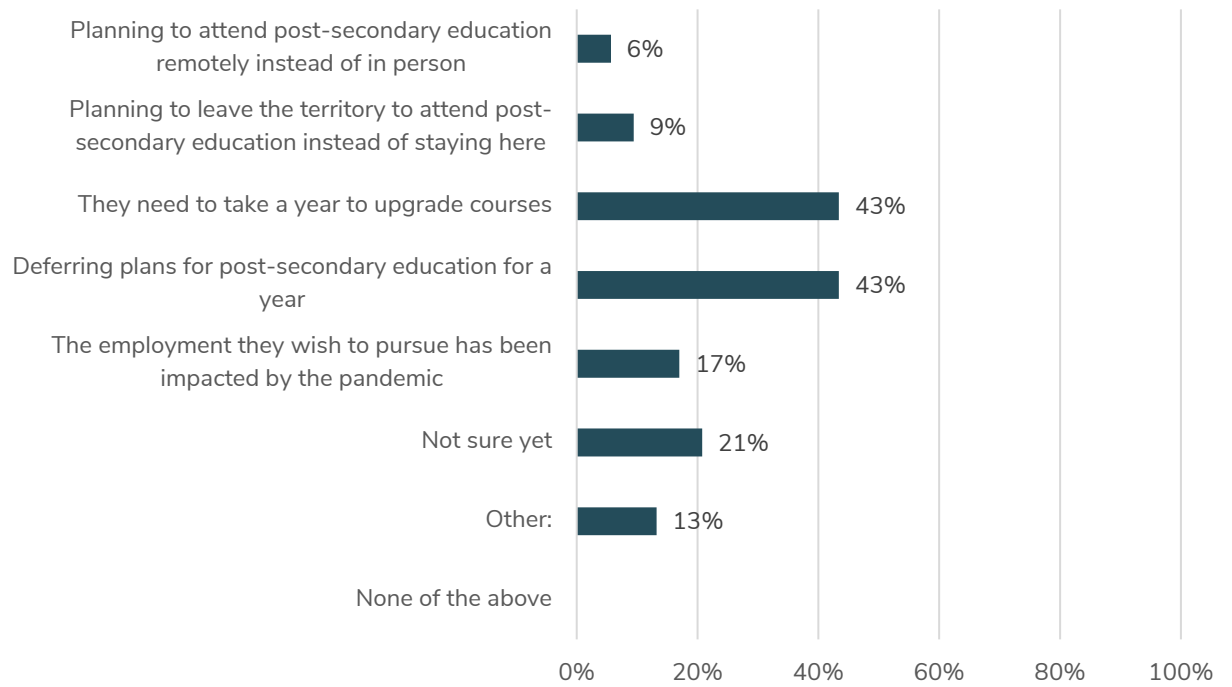
8. Has the pandemic impacted your child's plans for after graduation?

(Note: this question was for parents and guardians of grade 10-12 students)

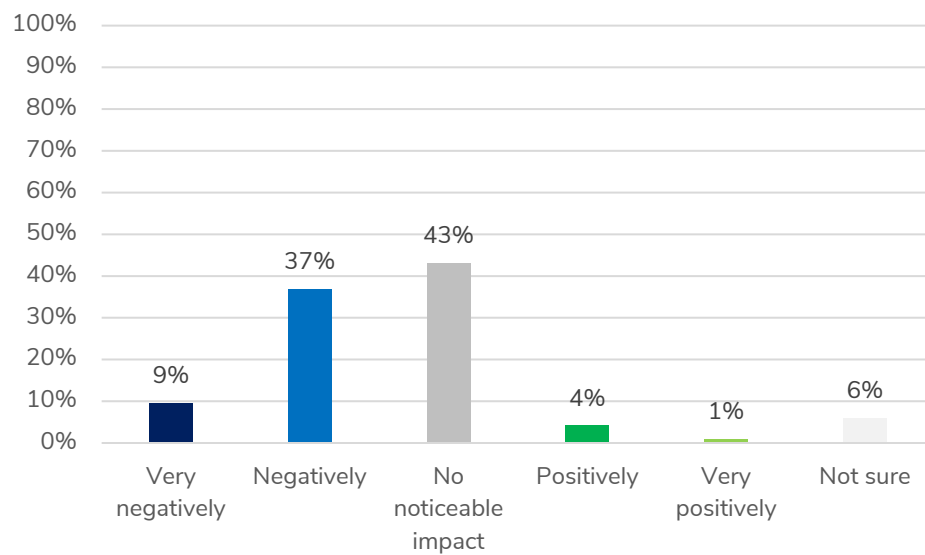


9. How have their plans changed?

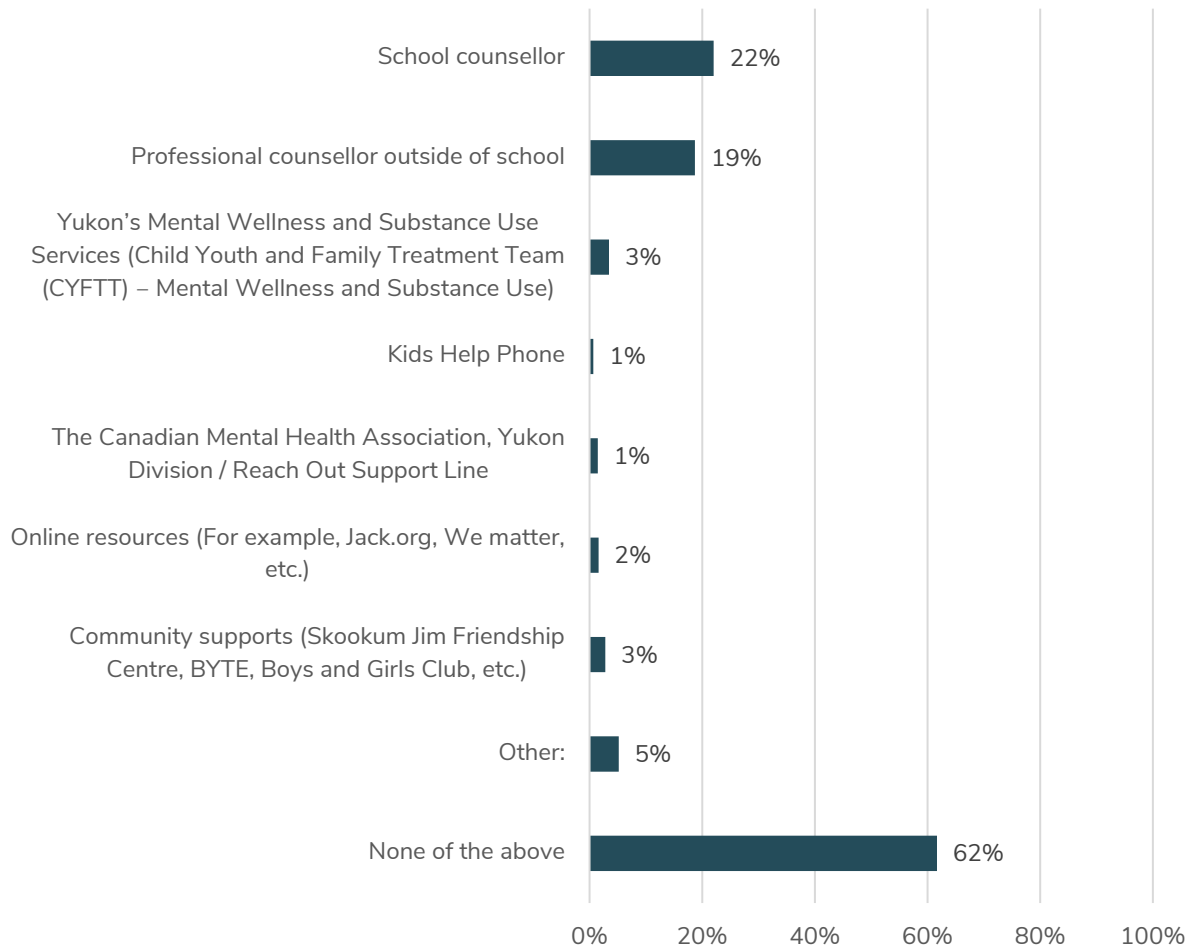
(Note: this question was for parents and guardians of grade 10-12 students)



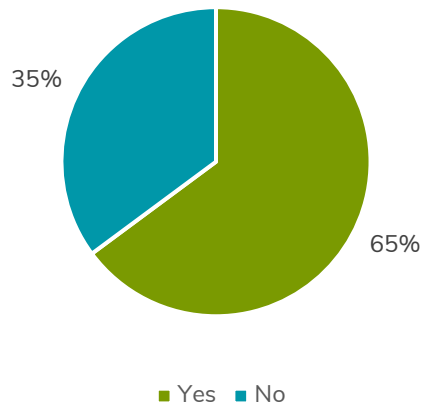
10. How has the pandemic impacted your child's mental health and wellness?



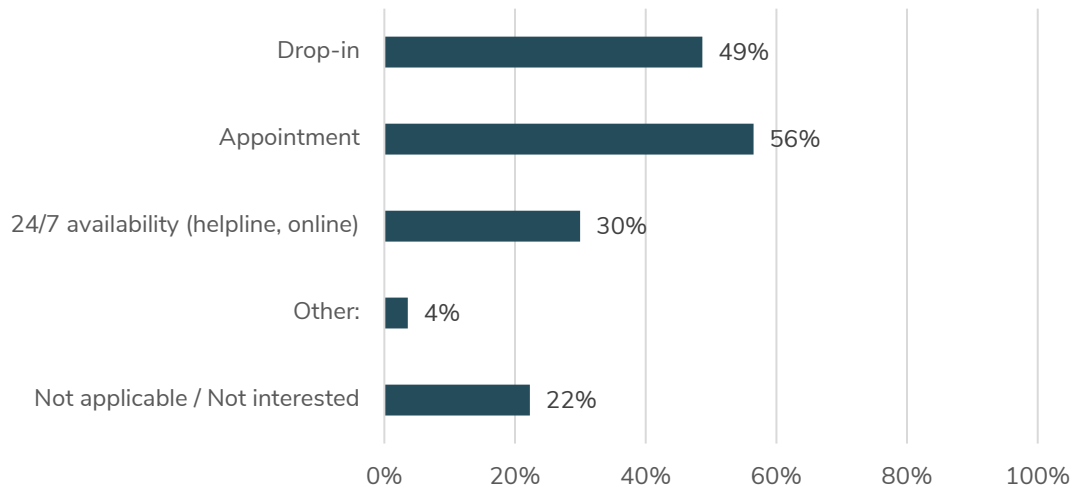
11. Has your child accessed any of the following mental health supports this school year? Please check all that apply:



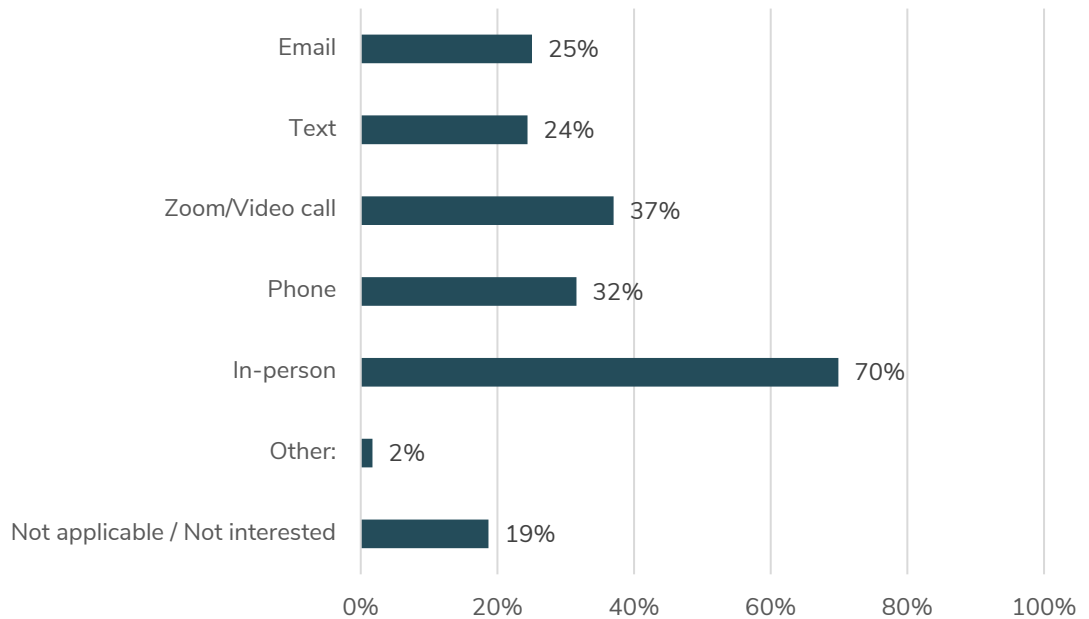
12. Do you know how to access the mental health and wellness services that are available to your child in your school and community?



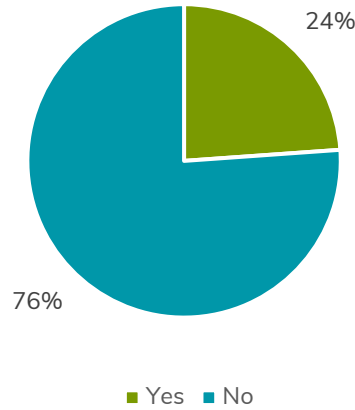
13. How would you prefer for your child to access mental health and wellness services available in your school and community? Check all that apply:



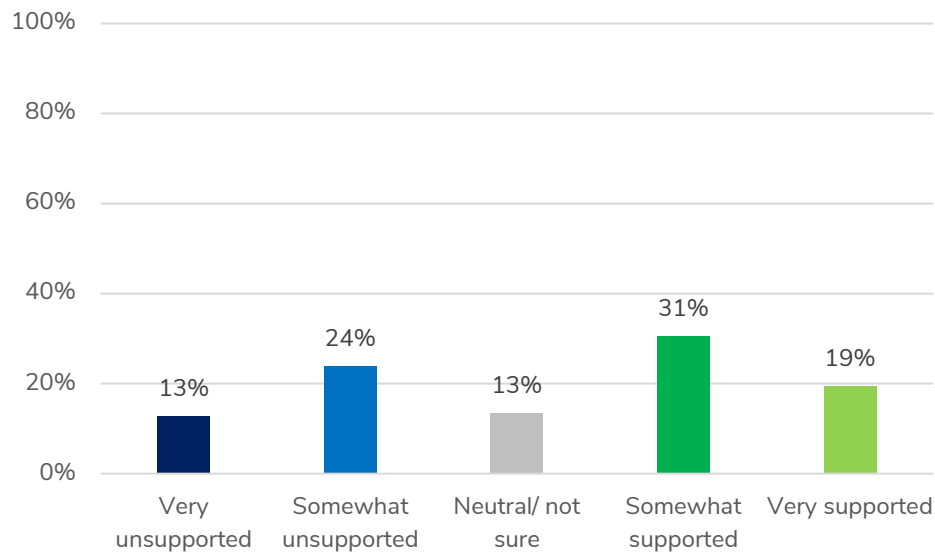
14. I want them to be able to receive supports by (Check all that apply):



15. Does your child have an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan?



16. How supported do you feel your child is in achieving the learning goals in this plan?



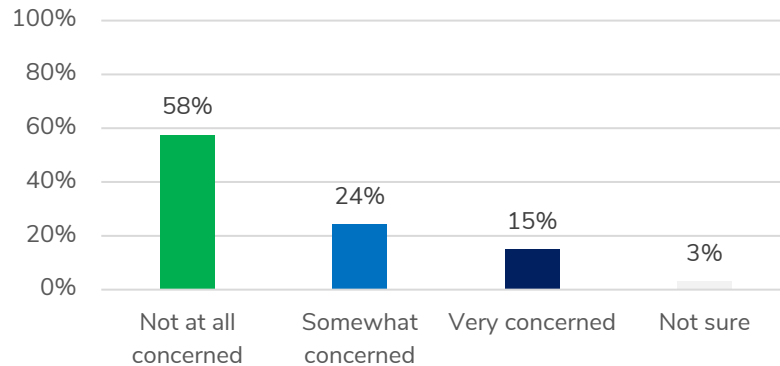
16.1. How could supports be improved to help your child in achieving the learning goals in their plan?

Of those who provided comments two main key themes emerged. Most families identified the need for more support in general with academics. Many families also expressed a need to improve communication between schools and teachers and families.

Additional questions for parents of students in grades 10-12 at Porter Creek, Vanier Catholic, F.H. Collins secondary schools (excluding Wood Street Programs)

- 17.** 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.

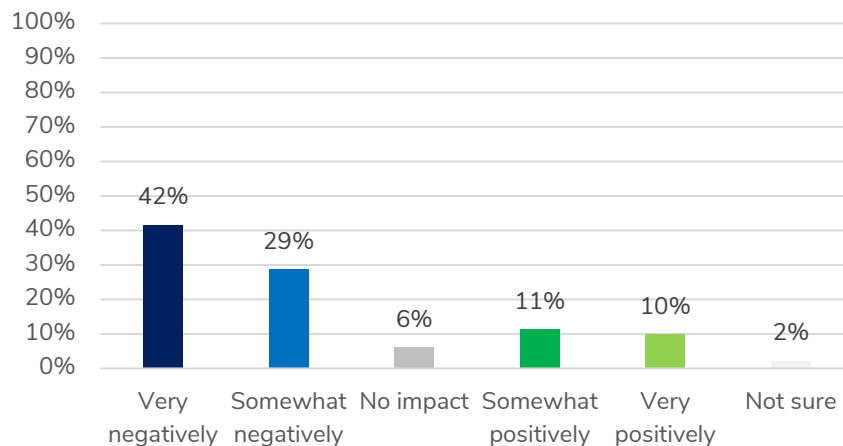
Did you have any concerns about making this change at your child’s school?



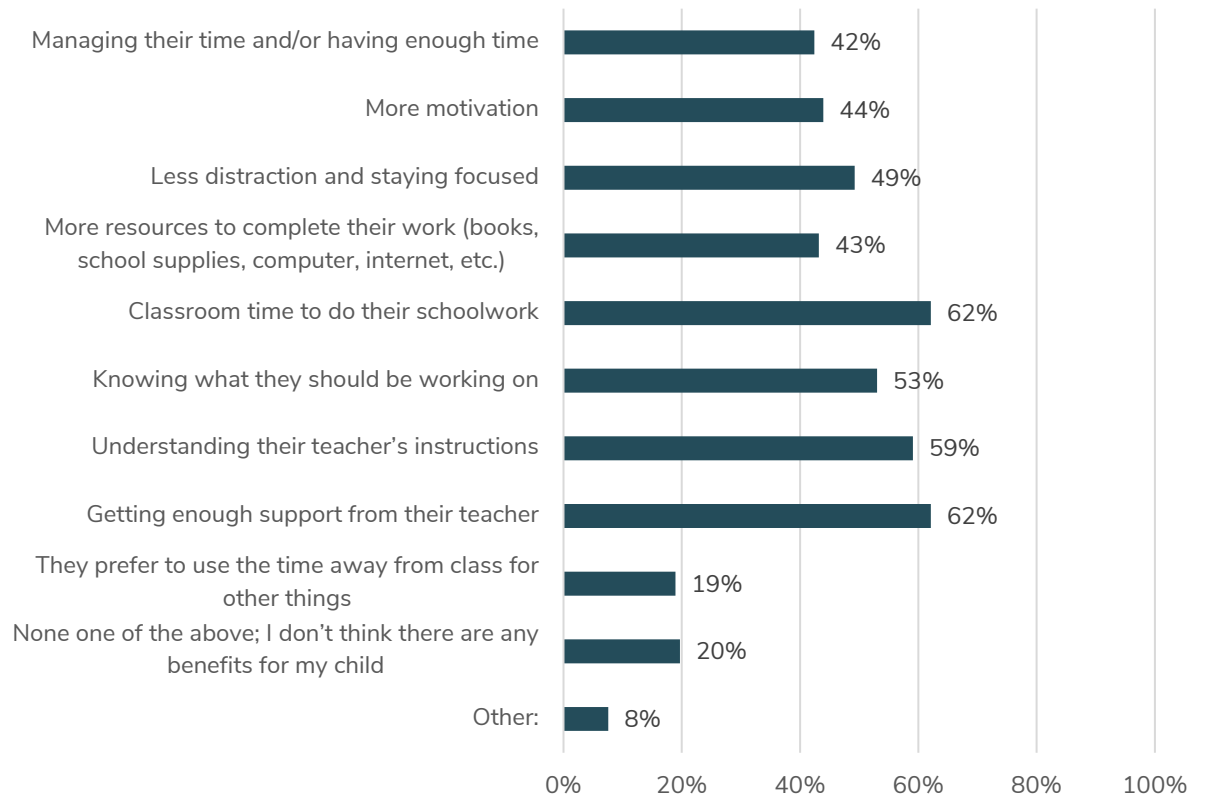
17.1. What were your concerns?

Of those who provided comments, most expressed their concerns regarding health and safety measures as high school students returned to full-time in-class learning in the spring. Some spoke about their concerns regarding the change to full-time in-class learning.

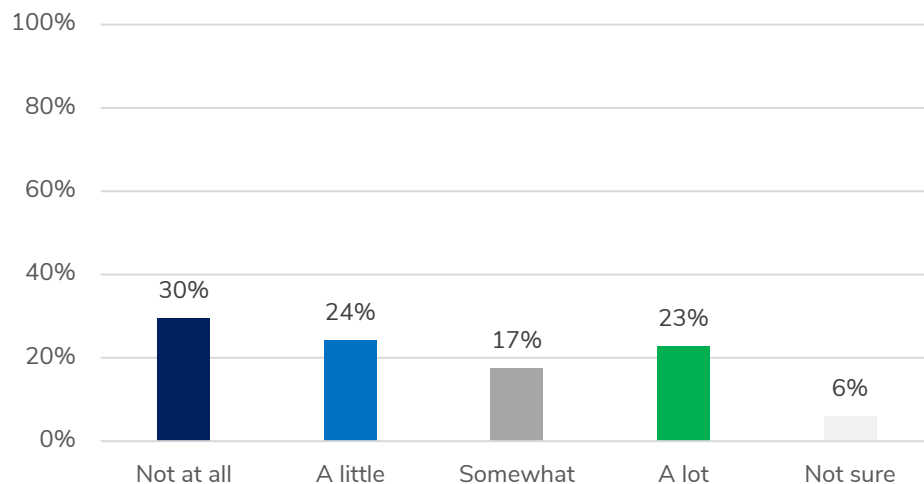
- 18.** How do you feel the half-day, in-class learning schedule impacted your child’s achievement in school?



19. What were the benefits for your child on returning to full-day in-class schedule? Select all that apply:



20. To what extent has the return to full-time in-class instruction helped your child 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.