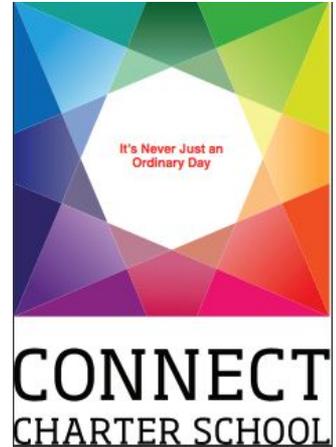


Connect Charter School Parent Survey Results

August 2020
470 Responses



Based on the information contained in Connect's re-entry plan, what is your level of comfort in having your child attend classes in school?

468 Responses

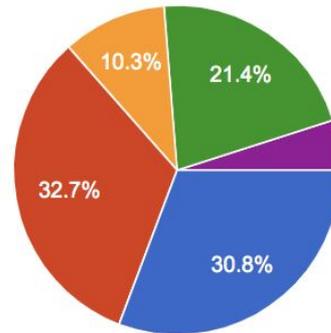
63.5%
very/mostly
comfortable

31.7%
undecided/some
what
uncomfortable

4.9% child will
not be attending
in-school classes
(23 students)

Based on the information contained in Connect's re-entry plan, what is your level of comfort in having your child attend classes in school?

468 responses



- Very comfortable
- Mostly comfortable with specific concerns (specify in comments)
- Undecided
- Somewhat uncomfortable (specify in comments)
- Child will not be attending in-school classes (specify in comments)

Comfort of children returning to school

Uncomfortable with class size; worry about teenagers not wanting to wear masks. Challenges with social distancing.

I believe hand sanitizer is unhealthy and I'm opposed to my child using it, and I also feel that prolonged mask wearing is also unhealthy.

My child will definitely not be attending under scenario 1. The cohort idea is flawed and does not take into consideration extracurricular activities students take outside of Connect and the extra cohort groups therein. Far too many contact points and the lack of social distancing with 26 students in a classroom, not to mention 6-8 hours in a classroom breathing the same air.

Our family has tried hard during the pandemic to protect our health and the health of those around us. We are seeing signs in Calgary that people are fatigued with the virus and are no longer taking the best precautions. We are also seeing the new era of cases increase as a result. Returning to school, our two children will be exposed to dozens of other children and we have no way of knowing about the activities and behaviours of each of those children and their families.

“

I do wonder how everything will work once students start to get the inevitable fall round of colds and sore throats, but I believe that as a community, we're going to have to take it one step at a time. One of the great strengths of Connect is its ability to use 'adaptive management' to adjust plans as and when required. I can envision a scenario where one third or more of a classroom is out (at home) waiting until they are allowed to come to come back to school. We are confident that the teachers will find a way to make this work--but I am concerned it may place an additional burden on the teachers and assistants.

I don't see how any of the precautions laid out can protect the children and teachers from exposure to too many different groups of people who have varying levels of exposure and risk tolerance. Even now in the midst of a 'spike', I continue to see people not wearing masks and being reckless or ignorant about cohort groups and how spread can be exponential. Even if small children are not seen any more as super spreaders, adolescents can carry huge viral loads, not exhibit symptoms and pass it to vulnerable people. What I've read is most spread is in the home and at close contact. I don't want to get sick from my kids, not do I want to lose my parents or grandparent to this virus.

My only concerns are not with the school itself but more with the continually evolving virus. We still don't know enough to predict how it will affect children long term until we start seeing more of them contracting the virus.

We think you have come up with an excellent plan given the circumstances we are in. Our discomfort is solely based on all of the unknowns. We do not think the government has a good handle on things and the directions given to schools has not been that great. It seem like we are doing an experiment with the kids.

Alternative Learning Arrangements for Students who will not be Attending In-Person Classes

395 Responses

Independent e-learning at home provided by Connect with teacher monitoring
32.7%

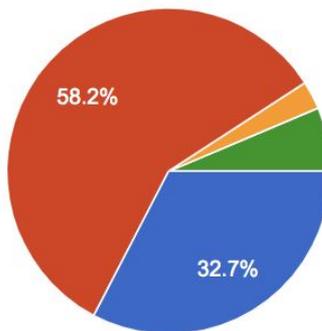
Webcam connection to classroom:
58.2%

Independent home learning program
2.8%

Other
6.3%

Our leadership team is exploring options within our resources to provide alternative learning models for students who cannot attend school in person. If your child will not be attending in-school classes, would be your preferred option of alternative learning?

395 responses



- Independent e-learning at home provided by Connect with regular teacher monitoring
- Webcam connection to a classroom in school
- An independent home-schooling program such as may be provided by the Alberta Distance Learning Center (registering in such a program may re...)
- Other (please specify in comments)

Alternative Learning Arrangements

The school and teachers can only do so much. To keep the quality of programming going (and teachers well-being) teachers can't be teaching/planning for multiple ways of delivering programming. Webcam connection to class makes the most sense.

E-learning provided by Connect is preferred. Beside the teacher instruction, a small group of students can work together through virtual meeting to work on some common tasks to enforce the learning experiences.

I feel kids will miss a lot of school even if they do plan to attend due to runny nose, cough that seems to come during cold and flu season. A webcam connection to the classroom would be super helpful so that they do not miss class work and can work from home.

Webcam connection to live teaching is great. Would like to have the ability for students to have access to "teacher office hours" for them to be able to ask questions and review understanding of material taught.

“

I feel there needs to be greater support for ongoing learning at home or making up classroom work when/if kids are sick. In the 'Before', we would send kids to school with a slight cold, and keep them home if it got worse. When they missed school, there was not make-up work assigned. I worry that with everyone now being more vigilant about not sending kids with the slightest of symptoms, there will be an increase in sick days (even if not COVID sick). How will this be handled?

I'm very aware of the strains and pressures on teachers at the moment. Please keep their well-being as top-of-mind as our kids! Webcam option would be amazing - I'm sure there are many things to think through to make this effective and realistic for all involved. E-learning led by the teacher is good, too, but is it asking teachers to double their workload??

I believe all the teachers should be miked as they will be wearing masks and face shields, so the addition of webcams in the classroom will not be bothersome and will further the need to have the teachers use microphones. The webcam will be more inclusive and will be supported by the appropriate communication of lessons plans that the teachers already do.

Rank your level of comfort on the following measures

Staggered entry dates: **71.9%** very/somewhat comfortable

Cohorts of students remaining together for instruction: **70.3%** very/somewhat comfortable

Difficulty of maintaining 2 metres of physical distancing within classrooms: **41.2%** very/somewhat comfortable

Staggered recess/lunch breaks: **70.2%** very/somewhat comfortable

Use of outdoor learning spaces: **87.4%** very/somewhat comfortable

*Required use of masks in common areas: **74.4%** very/somewhat comfortable

*Use of face shields by teachers as an alternative to masks: **67.3%** very/somewhat comfortable

Physical restructuring of classrooms (remove non-essential furniture to maximize physical distancing): **81%** very/somewhat comfortable

Installation of hand sanitizing/hand washing stations at all entrances: **91.2%** very/somewhat comfortable

**Government of Alberta updated guidelines August 5*

Comments

Teachers should be allowed to choose PPE that makes them comfortable. If teachers stay healthy, school can continue.

We think the teachers also need to feel safe and protected. They will have a difficult job over the. Next couple of months. Our family will work with assigned teacher and will follow precautions that they are also comfortable with.

Like with the rest of the world, some parents will still send their child to school sick despite the forms and warnings. What consequences are there for the parents, the child, the cohort, the overall school, etc? if this proves to be the case, particularly if it is a repeated action.

Being an incoming Grade 4 parent, I do feel the importance of having our children attend in person at first to get to know the school, the staff and their new environment. I'm encouraged by the use of outdoor spaces as a protective measure.

Furthermore, there is mounting evidence to support airborne component of spread, and the importance of ventilation. I would think an even more effective investment than plexiglass, would be a portable hepa-filter for each classroom, assuming the ventilation in an old building is not optimized. Even if this requires fundraising.

“

Not confident students will properly clean their hands, unless supervised.

Hoping the option to thoroughly hand wash will still be offered as an alternative to constant hand sanitizer. Skin breakdown and allergies with hand sanitizer has presented an issue after months of use for one of our kids.

Making the most of outdoors spaces and teaching effectively outdoors is a strategy that Connect excels at. Please do this as much as possible.

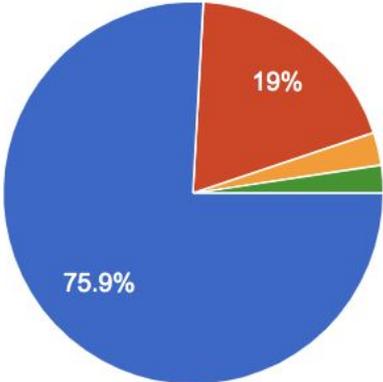
I understand that the schools need to follow government guidelines.. unfortunately I feel that these guidelines are not based on anything other than fear, my concerns are more that the school will mandate masks and social distancing will cause more harm to the mental health of my child. Children are not meant to learn in this environment. Sadly the fear of the media is controlling how our children are being educated and treated. It's very concerning to me!

Outdoor Learning Spaces

To what degree do you support the use of outdoor learning spaces (i.e. – outdoor classrooms on the school fields and utilizing our walk zone to North Glenmore Park and the Weaselhead) for student learning as a measure to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19?

468 responses

94.9%
very/
somewhat
supportive



- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- No opinion
- Do not support

Outdoor Learning Spaces

We are fortunate that this is even an option.

I acknowledge setting out a comprehensive re-entry plan was not an easy task and would like to commend the diligence and thoughtfulness that went into this plan. Great work! No plan will make everyone happy. Although I'm not entirely comfortable with the scenario 1 return, I believe your plan will help reduce some of the risks.

I think this is a fantastic use of the school's unique resources and will provide a level of replacement for the offsite experiences requiring transportation.

In last two years, we saw snow in September & October. Also it's not a pleasant weather in rest of months. Please remember that we are not living in Arizona.

This option feels like a very good alternative given the general recommendations of AHS and the lack of additional resources from the province to cover Covid-related expenses.

“

It is clear from many studies in the medical literature that open space greatly reduces viral transmission. In fact, in many studies, enclosed space constitutes a major risk factor for infection transmission.

It's not good idea to take kids outside because there will be many people, weather is uncertain in Calgary. Kids will not be safe outside all the time.

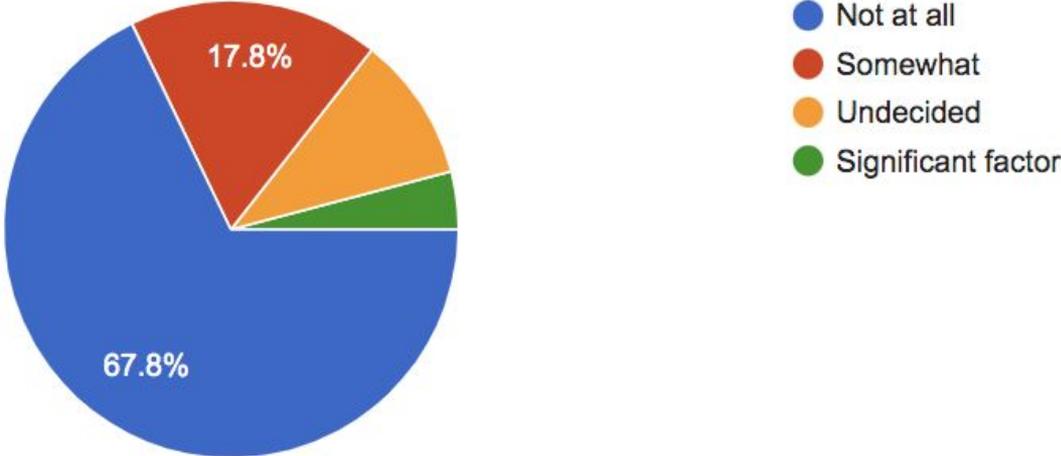
If children are required to stay in classes and not change classrooms this is a great way to get them outside and some exercise and change of scenery...stimulation

I would encourage the administration to not consider these protocols as temporary but to rather understand this is a long term issue, and that we should look at ways to build out outdoor learning including building a couple of gazebos or large shelters to better support outdoor learning where the students and teachers could sit in proper chairs/desks under the cover of a shelter. This is not going to be over despite what the media says by Q2 2021; the school should take advantage of whatever budget opportunities there are to build shelters for outdoor schooling this year!

Outdoor Education

To what degree does the temporary curtailment of offsite outdoor education experiences affect your commitment to have your child attend Connect?

466 responses



Temporary Postponement of Outdoor Education - Comments

We are in full support of keeping the general population healthy and understand this is a temporary measure.

Although this portion of the curriculum sets Connect apart and definitely influenced our decision to enroll our daughter there, the lack of outdoor education this coming school year has been more than offset by the extraordinary work done to ensure online learning continued at an excellent level and children's health, safety, and mental states were maintained.

We are committed to Connect and we're so impressed with the e-learning and the commitment of schools and teachers to continuing their programs.

Although these outings and camps will be missed, I understand the need to stop them temporarily. I am committed to Connect all the way!

If Connect does not offer the outdoor activities that they are known for I'd prefer to send my children to the public school that is without tuition and is in walking distance. This is literally why I send my kids to Connect.

“

Student & staff safety is my primary concern. Outdoor education is not a concern at this time. I put more value on student emotional well being & their core subjects.

This scenario isn't going to last forever. If anything, the Covid experience makes me more appreciative of Connect.

Offsite outdoor education does not need to stop, just be creative and have parents drive and keep activities to smaller group sizes.

This would be disappointing and ridiculous to me; however, we wouldn't leave Connect over this.

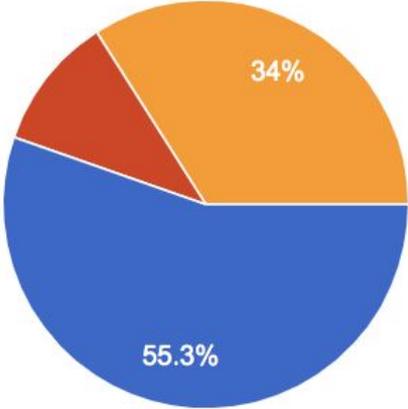
Outdoor Ed is a great part of Connect, and we really hope that curtailing it is temporary.

We would stay at Connect regardless but we should be exploring the outdoor ed trips..why cancel them?

Transportation

If you are currently registered for bus transportation for the 2020-21 school year, will you...

329 responses



- remain registered
- remove your child from the bus roster for the upcoming school year
- Undecided

Transportation comments

We will be removing our daughter from the bus mostly to ensure there is room for students who don't have the luxury of a ride to school.

We are undecided because we are uncomfortable with the busing but we do not know how our work obligations will unfold over the upcoming months. We may have to use the bus even we don't want to. We are considering carpooling with other families (waiting to see class assignments to see who the kids will be cohorting with you limit exposure to other families.)

Again, with the masks on buses and having to pay for this service I'd send my kids to the school they can walk to if Connect cannot offer their full curriculum.

Bus is the best option, but hearing that at times there can be up to 4 kids per seat, makes me very worried and uncomfortable.

Convenient, necessary, and will help kids acquire immunity... if they already haven't.

“

I feel there is no other option for my child given our family situation with two working parents and two siblings attending different schools, but I am very concerned about the density of children on the bus (an email stated that children may need to sit three to a row). I'd be willing to pay a higher fee if that meant additional buses could be added to allow for greater distancing on buses.

Monitoring behaviour on the buses has been an ongoing issue under normal circumstances and I think it will be a huge challenge for the bus drivers to safely ensure that the students stay in their assigned seats and wear masks.

If there is an option for e-learning, for how long will be the commitment? (as we prefer this, to in-person classes). If it's for the whole year, maybe he should be removed from the list. But in case the situation changes due to a vaccine (maybe), he should be able to use the bus. On the other hand, we understand money may be needed for the bus service so we are willing to keep him registered and keep the bus running without problems.

If your child will take a school bus, what level of additional protection do you feel would reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID-19 in the bus environment? (Check all that apply.)



323 responses



Additional Protection on Buses

“

While I acknowledge budget constraints, I do feel that if at all possible, additional buses should be added to reduce spread. One infected person on a bus could potentially infect multiple class cohorts and quickly spread through much of the school.

Max of two kids to a seat regardless of situation.

I think a seating plan will be provide limited value and will be difficult to manage/likely slow down bus schedules. But I am not opposed if the school believes this is an appropriate measure.

Please let the kids sit with whom they want. Sanitizer and masks totally understandable. My 2 children would hate to sit together. Plus having a gr 6 and gr 9 sharing conversations will ultimately cross a appropriateness boundary. Different levels of maturity

Overall I'm not happy with kids going back to the school and preferred online or shifting kids (based on days or some in the morning and some in the afternoon) . but I would say a big thank you for all you are doing , I understand that it is a hard time and making right decision and how is hard for all of you.

The parents and students need to know the consequences of misbehaving or not following the covid protocols on the bus. If they are not following the rules they need to find alternative transportation...period. Have us sign a contract with the known consequences. Most students are great, but the select few need to get with the program and need to be held accountable. Bus transportation is our biggest return to school concern right now.

Other Comments

Please consider educating parents to feel comfortable with being transparent and not having a stigma attached to covid 19. If the option is available to be fluid learning (if a child or parent had symptoms we are supportive and incorporate zoom for parts of lessons) then families can keep up with school and self isolate without fear of missing too much I fully support whatever the amazing admin at connect decides to do to try to make this work!! The use of masks in hallway/washrooms is definitely worth looking at as mandatory and if teachers would like to wear face shields, I support that decision! Everyone needs to feel safe and supported. Who knows? Maybe some kids will choose shields. Thank you for the survey and your devotion to the health of students.

“

My only concerns are not with the school itself but more with the continually evolving virus. We still don't know enough to predict how it will affect children long term until we start seeing more of them contracting the virus.

Thank you for this plan...the detail and consideration given to the well-being and experience of everyone moving through the school is deeply appreciated. You have all clearly not taken a summer holiday AT ALL! Your planning, communication, request for feedback, and clear interest in the wellbeing of everyone within the school, has increased my comfort level - though there will always be a level of discomfort and concern while COVID is circulating in Calgary's communities.

As long as there is no lapse with these measures. No "oh don't worry about it now but make sure you wash your hands next time"...that sort of thing.

We think you have come up best an excellent plan given the circumstances we are in. Our discomfort is solely based on all of the unknowns. We do not think the government has a good handle on things and the directions given to schools has not been that great. It seem like we are doing an experiment with the kids.

Connect has always had a rather loose environment for students to wander the hallways and take time outs. I think this needs to be curtailed. Masks in common areas, constant hand washing as children leave a classroom and re-enter the classroom. Maybe more scheduled time outside for a walk or run outside of recess and lunch.

I would feel more comfortable with smaller classes and an online component. I understand that Connect is following the government's guidelines; however, I find having all students back at school together troubling.

Connect Charter School 2020-2021 (Approved)

3915 Lewis Dr. SW Calgary T3E 5Z8
Phone: 403-282-2890
Fax: 403-282-2896
e-mail: office@connectcharter.ca
web site: www.connectcharter.ca

Students' First/Last Day of School

PD/Planning Day - No Classes

School Closure

Days for Teachers/Student/Conferences

Organizational Day - No Classes

Staff Retreat - No Classes

Holidays

Sept. 7 Labour Day
Oct. 12 Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 11 Remembrance Day
Feb. 15 Family Day
Apr. 2 Good Friday
May 24 Victoria Day

Total Operational Days 197
Total Instructional Days 175
Total PD / Retreat Days 15
Total Organizational / Conferences 7

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31