

Survey Data on Student Engagement SUMMARY

An analysis of the CTF and Environics surveys completed in June 2020 to examine student engagement during the school closures

Conclusions

According to the surveys available to us, most students participated in emergency remote learning, with approximately a third of parents in the secondary panel, thereby becoming more familiar with their children's learning and actively facilitating that learning. Most teachings were delivered either asynchronously or through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous methods. How participation in learning translated into actual learning, though, is somewhat difficult to parse out.

Teachers and education workers were concerned that students were less prepared to learn than before the pandemic. Further, both OSSTF/FEESO's own surveys and external research raise concerns about the mental health and overall wellbeing of students during the pandemic lockdown. For teachers and educators, this often showed up as students being more likely to be tired and less able to focus. Parents flagged concerns about a lack of motivation and willingness to stay engaged in learning. Some concern was expressed that these problems may be exacerbated not just by the need to learn online, but the expanded screen-time this implies for students.

Finally, although intersectional data about various potential barriers to learning is unavailable, equity remains an important concern. Students living in poverty, students with disabilities, and students living in single-parent homes were seen as particularly vulnerable.

OSSTF/FEESO members have been invited to participate in several studies related to COVID-19 as it pertains to education, mental health and other concerns. Results will be shared as they become available:

- DBU #53/2020-2021 Canadian Teachers' Federation Teacher Mental Health Check-in Survey – Pandemic Research.
- D/BU #47/2020-2021 Guelph University and University of Toronto Research Study: Understanding the physical and mental health impacts of working during the COVID-19 pandemic
- D/BU #140/2019-2020 York University Research Study – Teachers' Experiences of a Mass Migration to Online Pedagogy
- DBU #125/2019-2020 Canadian Teachers' Federation – Pandemic Research Study