

# IS SASKATCHEWAN READY FOR A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL?

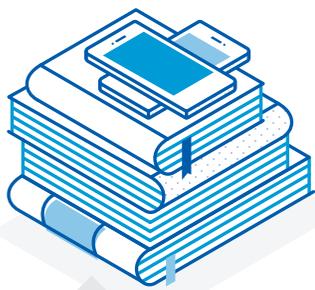
## TEACHERS AREN'T SO SURE

Saskatchewan teachers want to return to classes but have concerns about how to do so safely and in a way that ensures equitable learning opportunities and access for all students. Teachers have been busier than ever, working to shift and adapt to a constantly changing educational landscape. Teachers have many outstanding questions and not enough answers. This uncertainty is creating unnecessary stress for teachers as well as Saskatchewan students and their families.

## TOP 3 TEACHER CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING TO SCHOOL

- 1 Mental health and well-being for students and staff
- 2 Equity of supports for teaching and learning
- 3 Access to technology

## EQUITY



When schools had to quickly shift to provide online learning opportunities, teachers noticed declines in student focus, readiness and overall engagement.

"I worry that social inequities will make things more difficult."  
- Survey Respondent

"I teach students with special needs so distance learning is not working that well. They aren't engaged in doing work at home. Parents are exhausted and doing what they can having their kids with them 24/7."  
- Survey Respondent



### What's keeping teachers up at night?

**39.7%** of teachers said the majority of the students do not have access to a reliable internet connection and computer/device to complete their assignments



### COVID-19 Safety: How teachers are feeling...

Teachers are worried about their students who are struggling with online instruction, including:

- Students living in poverty (**82.2%**)
- Students in single-parent homes (**75.2%**)
- Students with exceptionalities (**71.4%**)
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit students (**63.8%**)
- Students with English as a Second Language (**62.2%**)

## ADVOCATING FOR A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOLS

It's time to speak up. Ensuring a safe return to schools requires the voice of teachers, caregivers and local school decision makers.

- Teachers with concerns can contact the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.
- Concerned students, caregivers and community members should contact their school division.

Thank you Saskatchewan teachers, students, families, school divisions and communities for your support during this unprecedented and historic event. Teachers are excited to return and reconnect with students and colleagues face to face. But let's continue to support one another in doing this safely. See you at school this fall!



## THE PANDEMIC SURVEY

In June, the Canadian Teachers' Federation asked teachers to respond to a Pan-Canadian Pandemic Survey to explore the impact of COVID-19 on educators and students. Approximately 1,500 Saskatchewan teachers responded. That represents about 11 percent of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation membership.

## WHAT TEACHERS KNOW

- Discrepancy between families with strong support for technology and those with little to none affects students' learning opportunities.
- Relationships and connections between teachers, students and caregivers is critical to student success.
- The pandemic has exposed glaring inequities within our communities.

## WHAT TEACHERS NEED

1. Clear, consistent, specific guidelines and communication about the resumption of classes and safety protocols from both the provincial government and their school division.
2. Adequate supports for students with intensive needs.
3. Physical, mental and emotional supports for students.
4. Confidence that schools are safe places for teaching and learning and that appropriate cleaning and social-distancing protocols are in place.

Data provided courtesy of the Canadian Teachers' Federation survey entitled *Canadian Teachers Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

1. Survey was administered online to the STF membership from June 1 to June 18, 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic: 1,538 Saskatchewan teachers responded.