

IS SASKATCHEWAN READY FOR A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL?

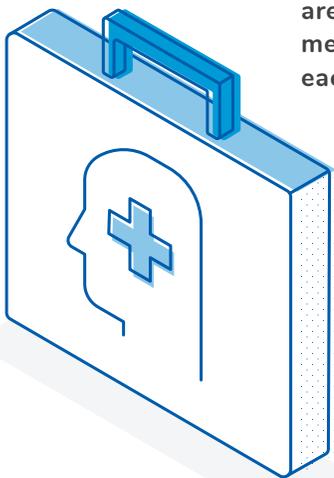
TEACHERS AREN'T SO SURE

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

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Teachers are excited to return to school but they are also anxious about how best to balance the mental health and well-being for students and each other.

"Am I okay or am I just in a constant state of anxiety that I have become accustomed to?"
- Survey Respondent

"I worry constantly about my students and the situation they and their family are in...."
- Survey Respondent



What's keeping teachers up at night?

72.9% of teachers are worried about the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of their students

62.7% of teachers are concerned about the impact of digital technologies used during the pandemic on the physical, mental, social and emotional well-being of their students



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

80.9% do not feel the same emotional connection with their students as prior to the pandemic

34.4% are taking on some of the trauma their students are feeling

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.