



# PHILADELPHIA *FEDERATION of TEACHERS*

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## **Executive Summary: PFT Member Feedback Regarding Reopening Schools May 26, 2020**

***Survey Completed by 6,325 PFT members between May 12-18, 2020***

**For full survey results: [tinyurl.com/PFTresultsMay2020](https://tinyurl.com/PFTresultsMay2020)**

From May 12-18, 2020, PFT members participated in an online survey regarding their insights into various components of reopening schools. *6,325 members participated.* We used many of the concepts detailed in the AFT's reopening document (<https://www.aft.org/reopen-schools>) to prepare the survey, and will continue to reference the guidance.

Overall, the survey shows a significant need for detail and science based reopening plans. There is significant unease with reopening under any circumstances before there is a vaccine. Further, members support a very thorough and comprehensive look at what measures must be in place when reopening is deemed safe.

Members, in addition to providing sliding scale answers on a variety of topics, had the opportunity to provide additional insight, questions, and suggestions. Members provided an abundance of scheduling suggestions, a sampling of which is provided in the full survey report.

Equally as significant, members wrote commentary regarding their overall concerns with plan implementation and enforcement. The most frequent submissions to the open feedback sections related to trepidation regarding the enforcement of any plan.

This survey is meant to spark discussion and engagement regarding reopening. It is not meant to serve as a reopening plan, as there is much more work that must take place before developing such a plan.

**A summary of each section follows.**

**Section 1: Consider the following components of a potential reopening plan and share your thoughts on their significance**

*1=Not at all significant; 5=Of top significance*

**Members looked at various potential components of a reopening plan and rated their input on the significance of various components. Sample responses include the following:**

- More than 95% of respondents believe that PFT involvement in creating, monitoring and implementing a plan is very important or of utmost importance.
- Similarly, more than 94% of respondents believe that Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Health Department involvement in creating, monitoring and implementing a plan is very important or of utmost importance.

PFT Member Feedback Regarding Reopening Schools  
Executive Summary | May 26, 2020

- Over 91% believe putting in place testing, tracing, and isolating infrastructure is very important or of utmost importance.
- Similarly, over 90% rated each of the following components as very important or of utmost importance: CDC approved cleaning of all buildings before reentry, daily CDC approved cleaning methods after reentry, daily monitoring of student/staff health on school grounds.
- Over 97% of respondents believe that increased access to sanitizing and handwashing stations for students and staff is very important or of utmost importance.
- There was less unanimity regarding required PPE usage. While 57.5% of respondents believe it was of utmost importance, there was a larger spread of replies across the board, and 16.1% scored the requirement as a “3.”
- Well over 90% of respondents support notification and closure protocols related to staff/student positive testing.

**Section 2: If some degree of social distancing remains required when schools reopen, which of the following methods would you support?**

*1=I do not support this at all.; 5=This is an excellent idea, and it has my full support*

**Members gauged their support for a variety of social distancing measures that could be a part of a reopening plan. Sample responses include the following:**

- 82% of respondents are strongly in favor of (4 or 5 rating) enrollment requirements based on physical space in classrooms.
- Over 71% of respondents are strongly in favor (4 or 5 rating) of a hybrid model of school, with some remote learning still taking place (with instruction from PFT members). The spread for these responses was more varied, and just over half of respondents rated this as a 5 (indicating their complete support for the concept).
- Nearly 90% are strongly in favor of (4 or 5 rating) of policies for at risk/vulnerable staff/students to work/learn (remotely or other possible methods)
- There was support for a variety of scheduling options. Just over 69% strongly support (4 or 5 rating) a staggered *morning/afternoon* schedule.
- Over 73% are strongly in favor of (4 or 5 rating) a staggered *daily* schedule (with students reporting on various days). 54% of respondents rated this option as a 5.
- There was less uniform support for in school options such as prohibiting assemblies, restricting school yard access, and students remaining in one classroom for the entire day.

**Section 3: What is your level of concern with the following statements?**

*1=I'm not at all concerned by this.; 5=This is a top concern for me.*

**Members gauged their concern with a variety of COVID related topics. Sample responses include the following:**

- Over 71% are very concerned (4 or 5 rating) about the possibility of reopening before there is a vaccine for COVID-19, with 54.5% of respondents rating this a 5.
- Over 86% very concerned (4 or 5 rating) about access to PPE.

PFT Member Feedback Regarding Reopening Schools  
Executive Summary | May 26, 2020

- Nearly 90% are very concerned (4 or 5 rating) about the challenges that students with special needs will face in various areas of any reopening protocol, with 74.4% rating this as a 5.
- Nearly 90% are very concerned (4 or 5 rating) about the equity of implementing a reopening plan.
- Nearly 90% are very concerned (4 or 5 rating) about the District's ability to properly prepare buildings for reopening, with 78% of respondents rating this a 5.
- Similarly, over 94% are very concerned (4 or 5 rating) about the District's ability to maintain sanitary conditions within schools and central office/other facilities, with nearly 85% of respondents rating this a 5.

#### **Section 4: Specific Concerns Surrounding Member Groups**

**Members in various areas offered their input on issues specific to their work, such as the following:**

- Nearly 71% of respondents are very concerned about challenges surrounding itinerant teacher &/or related service provider ability to serve their students.
- Over 76% of respondents are very concerned about specific issues related to specialists, push-in/pull-out teachers, and paraprofessionals who encounter multiple groups of students throughout the day.

***In addition to answering sliding scale questions, members had the opportunity to submit open feedback, and a sampling of that feedback is provided in the complete survey results.***