



Azerbaijani Women's
Support Centre (AWSC)

Perspectives on Back to School during COVID-19

September 7, 2020

Azerbaijani Women's Support Centre (AWSC) conducted a general survey regarding back to school during COVID-19. The survey questions were general but comprehensive enough to generate responses in order to understand the concern and anxiety of parents regarding planning on back to school during COVID-19.

In total, 52 respondents responded to the survey. 96.15% of respondents were 18 years of age and older and residents of Ontario. Among the participants, 40 (76.92%) responded that their child/children will go back to class in the fall, and 12 (23.08%) responded that they will not send their kid back to school. 36 (69.23%) of participants responded that they think their school has adequate safety measures to ensure a safe environment for children. Only 16 (30.77%) responded to the opposite.

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Q2 Will your child/children go back to class in the fall?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 0

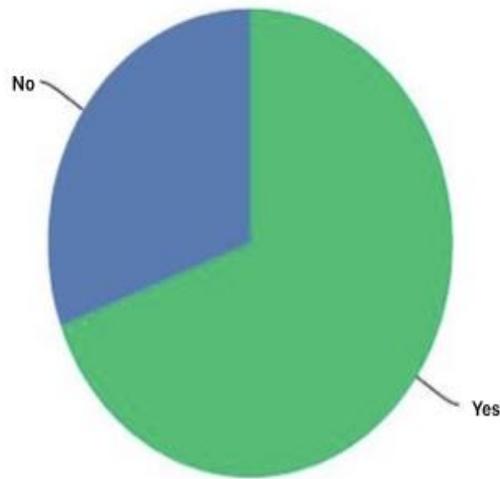


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	76.92%	40
No	23.08%	12
TOTAL		52

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Q3 Do you think your school has adequate safety measures to ensure a safe environment for children?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 0



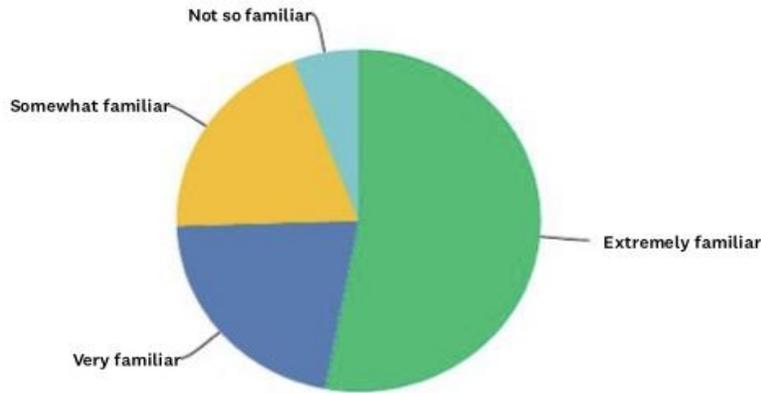
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	69.23%	36
No	30.77%	16
TOTAL		52

In regard to the question, "Are you familiar with safety indicators and protocols of your school boards in case of a COVID-19 outbreak?", 27 (52.94%) responded that they are "extremely familiar", 11 (21.57%) responded "very familiar", 10 (19.61%) responded, "somewhat familiar," and 3 (5.88%) responded, "not at all familiar."

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Q4 Are you familiar with safety indicators and protocols of your school boards in case of a COVID-19 outbreak?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 1



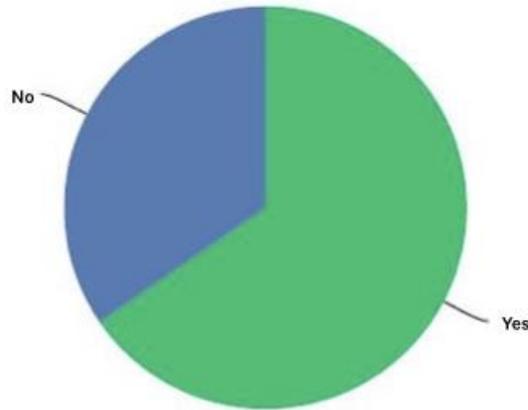
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely familiar	52.94%	27
Very familiar	21.57%	11
Somewhat familiar	19.61%	10
Not so familiar	5.88%	3
Not at all familiar	0.00%	0
TOTAL		51

Among the participants, 34 (65.38%) respondents reported that they will spend extra money to purchase personal protective gear for their kids, and 18 (34.62%) responded they will not.

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Q5 Will you spend extra money to purchase personal protective gear for your kids?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 0



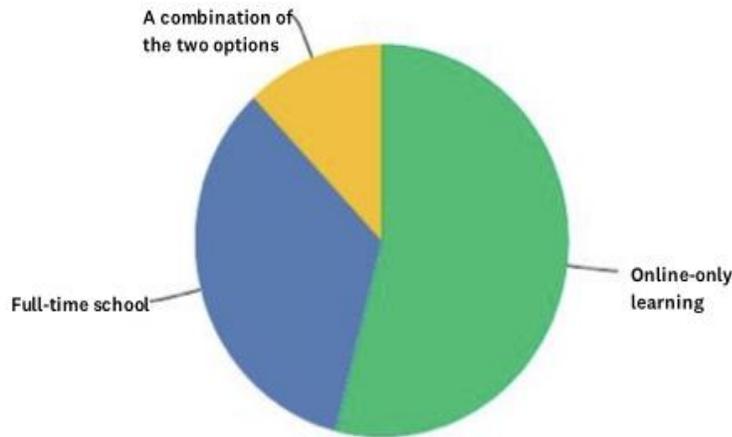
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	65.38%	34
No	34.62%	18
TOTAL		52

27 (54%) respondents reported that they prefer online-only learning, 17 (34%) responded they prefer full-time school and only 6 (12%) reported that they prefer a combination of the two options.

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Q6 Do you prefer full-time school, online-only learning or a combination of the two options?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 2



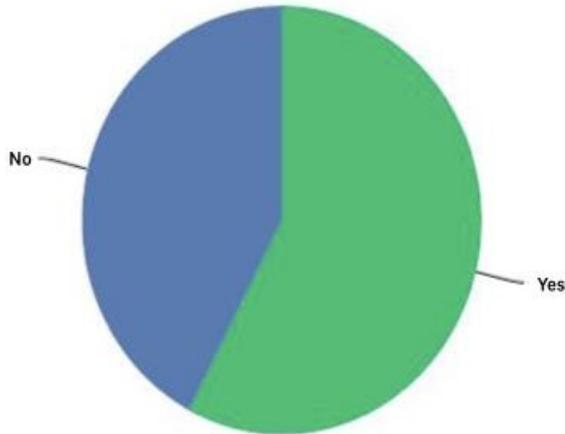
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Online-only learning	54.00%	27
Full-time school	34.00%	17
A combination of the two options	12.00%	6
TOTAL		50

In respect to the question, if the participants of the survey are nervous about sending their kids to school this fall, 57.69% reported they are, but only 22 (42.31%) reported they are not nervous.

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Q7 Are you nervous about sending your kids to school this fall?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 0



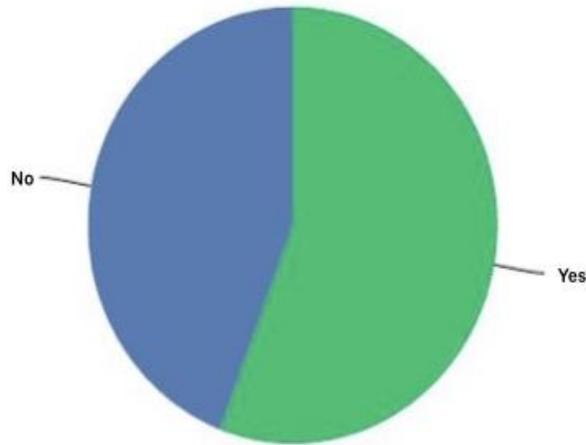
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.69%	30
No	42.31%	22
TOTAL		52

Among the participants, 29 (55.77%) reported that if they qualified for school busing, they will still be using that service this fall. However, 23 (44.23%) reported that they will not be using the school bus service.

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Q8 If you are qualified for school busing, will you still be using that service this fall?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 0



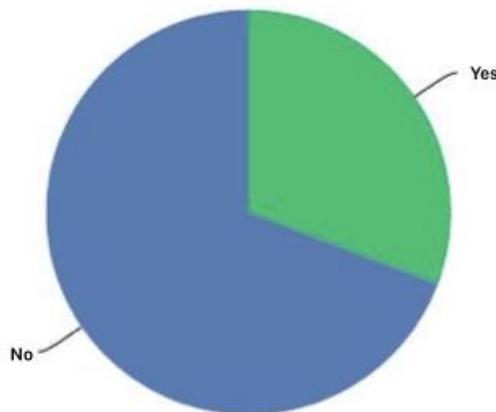
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	55.77%	29
No	44.23%	23
TOTAL		52

16 (30.7%) of participants reported that they think their kid will wear a face mask and keep two-meter physical distancing when in school. However, the majority of participants (69/23%) reported that they are not confident that their children will follow up the guideline at school regarding wearing a face mask and keeping a physical distance.

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Q9 Do you think your kid will wear a face mask and keep two-metre physical distancing when in school?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	30.77%	16
No	69.23%	36
TOTAL		52

Some participants also added their opinions and we are presenting their responses below:
Working parents:

"Having a combination of both is a better option to better manage the students, working parents have no option than sending kids to school but the concern is if it is safe and right decision."

"Sending kids to a quarantine camp instead of home by force."

"It will be a stressful year! I don't have a choice except to send my kids to school."

Face Masks and Physical Distancing:

"It's bullshit for kids to wear masks. The mask sends the carbon we removed back to our lungs. this weakens our immune system. Wearing masks for a long time at school is harmful to our children."

"Children under 11 still cannot take all the safety measures during classes and break time. They'll sit in the class together for amount of time that could spread the virus quickly among them. If we want to keep children safe at school than in each class there should be no more than 12 children per class and have 2 adult (Teacher and assistant) in elementary schools."

"I am concerning about washing hands often and I am against masks..."

Quality of education

"My son was supposed to start senior kindergarten this fall. No matter what the school's protocols are for COVID, it is just too hard for such a small child to follow safety rules. I have such a difficult time even taking him out for short errands. Children his age just can't comprehend social distancing or the importance of not touching your face, handwashing, etc. It is too much to put on them and too much to put on the school and school board to have to ensure their safety. I will be homeschooling him until it is truly safe for children to return to school."

"I only want my kid go to school and not wear a mask. I think education more important than COVID-19."

"My son's education level gonna be very low because all that quarantine vacations and previous teacher's strikes this year..."

"Education very important in people life. Online education not effective, children are not study in online For that reason, I send my children to school. But Be honest I am so worry."

"Hope children will have outdoor classes."

"It is important to study at school and I hope Ontario will do all the Health&Safety measurements to keep the kids healthy and safe! Also, combination of face to face school and online will work so far!"

Summary

The results of this survey among a small number of participants among the members of the Azerbaijani community underscore the nervousness and concern around the back to school this fall. Many parents feel that they do not have an option except to send their children to school despite their concern regarding the health and safety of their kids. AWSC hopes that the concern of the parents regarding health and safety and also the quality of education will be taken into consideration when the government applies certain protections to prevent COVID-19 among children during the flu season.