



Social-Emotional & Resiliency Update

Schools and COVID: How are
we doing?





By the numbers

- ▶ We continue to have low numbers of contact positives
- ▶ We are not experiencing positive spread by students in our schools. Positive contacts are occurring outside our school buildings.
- ▶ Multiple conversations on a daily basis with our school nurses.
- ▶ Contact tracing and enforcement of rules are keeping schools moving forward safely.
- ▶ Contact tracing identifies who needs to quarantine and who is not required to do so.
- ▶ Many students previously on OLP only have returned to face to face.



By the numbers

- ▶ From September to November we had two employees utilize the Employee Assistance Network. Only one of those was due to job stress.
- ▶ Student numbers for extra-curricular activities have remained consistent with last year.
- ▶ Initial failures are up as students adjust to more online interaction and less face-to-face interaction.
- ▶ Principals and counselors are reporting that loss of routine, family struggles with food or finances, and social isolation away from friends is having an impact on many students.



Observations

- ▶ It appears we have more instances of anxiety in our students. Some of our students are thriving with the half virtual schedule while others are really struggling with anxiety.
- ▶ The extra isolation paired with less stability in some cases at home is impacting many of our students.
- ▶ 360 classes were failed last semester. Most are this is the result of students not being self-disciplined enough to complete work online (OLP).
- ▶ Student wise, students crave to be at school (as well as many parents) just for the organization and consistency. Many students tell us that being at home isn't preferred to being at school.



Observations

- ▶ One of the saddest conversations I have had this year was with an OLP student and his mom. The student was begging to come back to Plan B, but the mom admitted she was scared of him and their entire family dying, but the student kept crying aloud and asking to come back. I followed up with some counseling suggestions.
- ▶ Students are more anxious, stressed, worried, and nervous than ever before.
- ▶ Overall student discipline (not apathy or lack of work effort for a variety of reasons) has plummeted. Students want to be here with their peers.
- ▶ From an education perspective, I, and teachers, are seeing a large number of students lose stamina and discipline for learning and the activities that go with learning. When they aren't physically here, they just don't "do" very easily.



Observations

- ▶ We are seeing students who are struggling with the dynamics of only coming to school 2 days a week.
- ▶ We are getting fewer Gaggle alerts than we have in the past.
- ▶ We are seeing less student behaviors requiring discipline.
- ▶ In terms of staff, it depends. Some are more stressed than others.
- ▶ Students are having difficulty creating and maintaining relationships and difficulty navigating differences between peers.
- ▶ The general "feel" in the building is much different than last year, even so in January versus September. I think teachers are struggling with wanting to stay in school for the kids, but also balancing keeping their own self and family safe.



Observations

- ▶ The most common thing I am hearing is "I am so glad we are in school, I missed my friends and teachers".
- ▶ I truly believe that kids are more resilient than we give them credit for and they are happy to be in school despite the distancing and masking.
- ▶ We did do some virtual counseling while we were out, but that can not compare to in person counseling.
- ▶ I have met with many students regarding food insecurities. Fortunately our "Free Food Friday's" have really helped with this, but we continue to see students without daily snacks or come in hungry.
- ▶ I am finding that students who have never had problems before, are now having problems connecting and making friends.



Observations

- ▶ CDC: Federal health officials indicate the “preponderance of available evidence” supports in-person instruction.
- ▶ In-person instruction can be carried out safely as long as mask-wearing and social distancing are maintained. This includes hybrid attendance models as needed to limit the total number of contacts and prevent crowding.
- ▶ The CDC team reviewed data from studies in the United States and abroad and found the experience in schools differed from nursing homes and high-density work sites where rapid spread has occurred.
- ▶ There has been little evidence that schools have contributed meaningfully to increased community transmission.
- ▶ “The conclusion here is with proper prevention efforts . . . we can keep transmission in schools and educational settings quite low,”