



Learning during COVID-19 survey Fall 2020 School Staff

Department of Education



Background

The Department of Education surveyed students, families and school staff to learn about their perspectives and experiences on learning since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.

The Government of Yukon surveyed students, families and school staff in November 2020 to check on learning as students returned to school for the start of the 2020-21 school year. This was a follow-up survey to our initial Learning during COVID-19 survey in July 2020 on learning after face-to-face classes were suspended on April 15 until the end of the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We committed to continue checking in with students, families and school staff during the course of the pandemic and will be conducting a third survey in spring 2021.

Engagement process

Purpose

With this follow-up survey, we asked students, families and school staff about their experiences and perspectives on health and safety routines, learning while back at school and learning for the three large Whitehorse schools for Grade 10-12 students on the half-day schedule since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.

The primary goal of the survey was to gather feedback that will support central administration and school staff in making adjustments to school programming or identifying additional supports to meet student learning needs and ensure health and safety during the pandemic.

Process

This survey was developed with feedback invited from Yukon First Nations and partners in education, including the Yukon Teachers' Association, school council chairs, the Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards and Committees, the Catholic Education Association of Yukon and the Commission Scolaire Francophone du Yukon.

This survey was voluntary and students, families and school staff had the opportunity to fill out the survey online or by phone from November 23-30, 2020.

The quantitative responses to the survey were analyzed and presented using graphs. The qualitative responses, or written comments, were analyzed and codified thematically to identify key themes to written feedback.

The results of the survey will support central administration and school staff to make adjustments to school programming or identify additional supports to meet student learning needs and ensure health and safety during the pandemic.

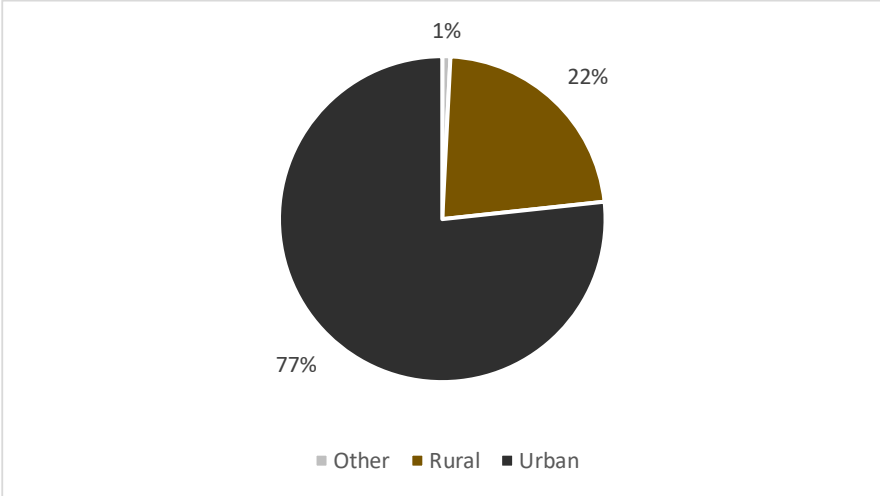
What We Heard

The survey was completed by 2085 respondents, with participation from 1340 parents, 496 students and 249 school staff.

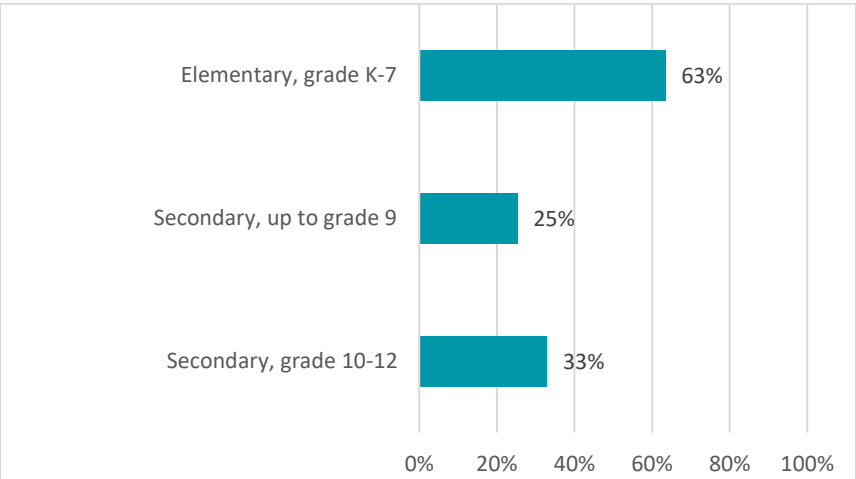
Below are the results for the school staff who completed the survey.

What we asked school staff

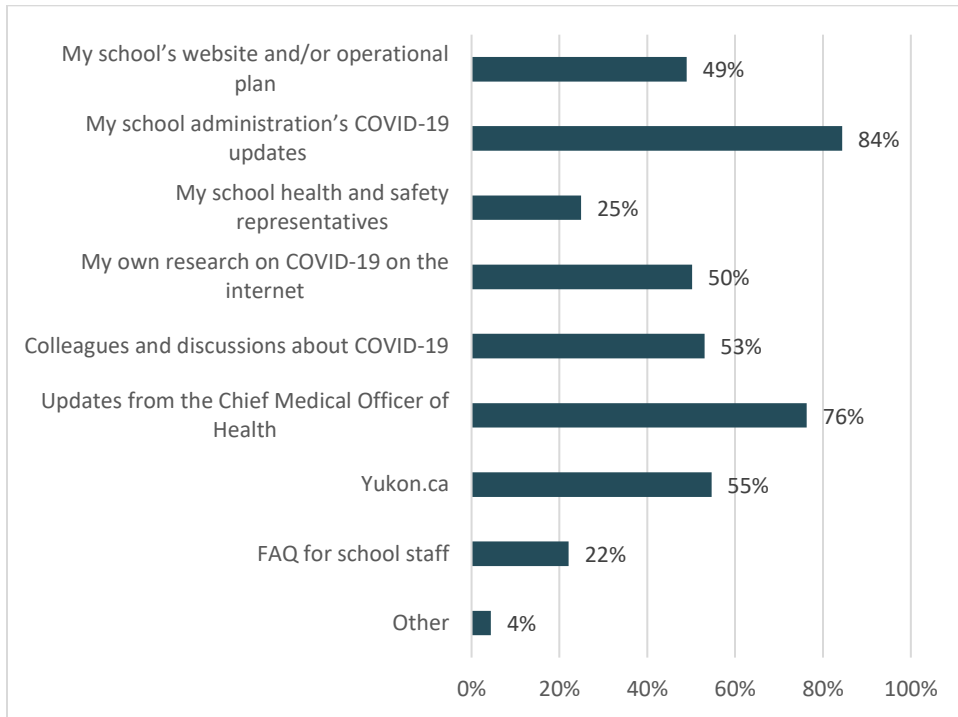
1. What school are you currently working at?



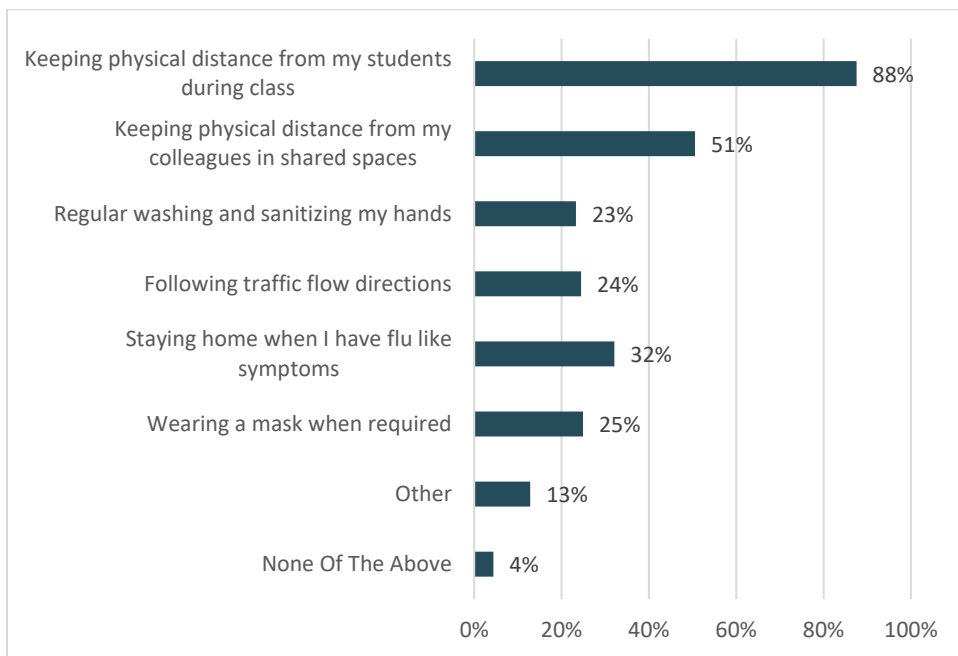
2. Which grade level(s) are you teaching this school year?



3. I get information about the COVID-19 virus and the health and safety measures at my school through:

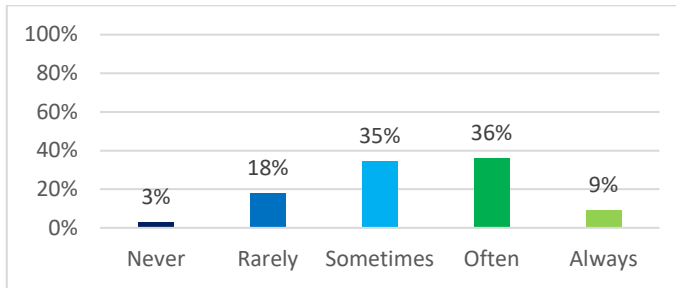


4. What COVID-19 health and safety routines at your school are challenging for you to adhere to?

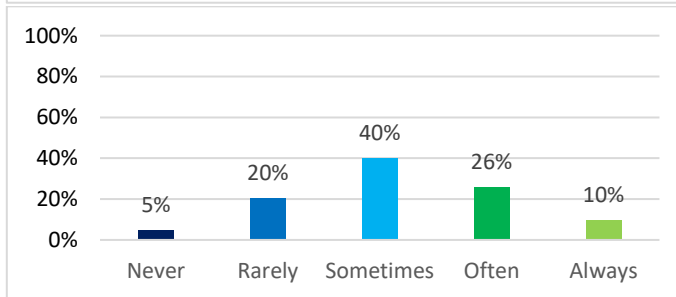


5. How are you feeling about the COVID-19 health and safety routines in place at your school?

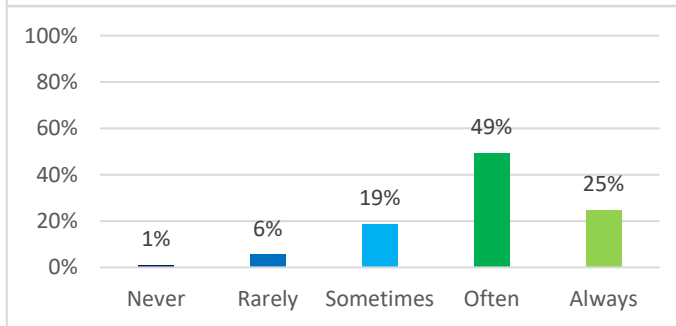
A) Safe



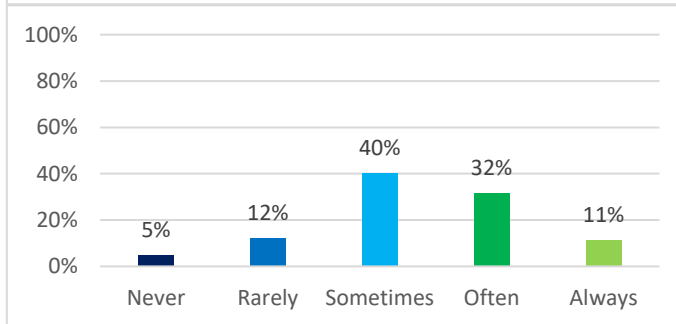
B) Confident



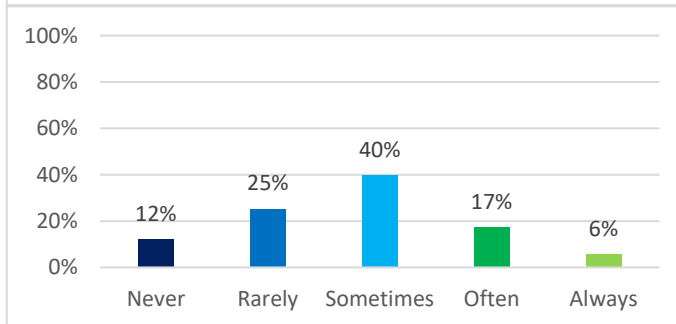
C) Informed



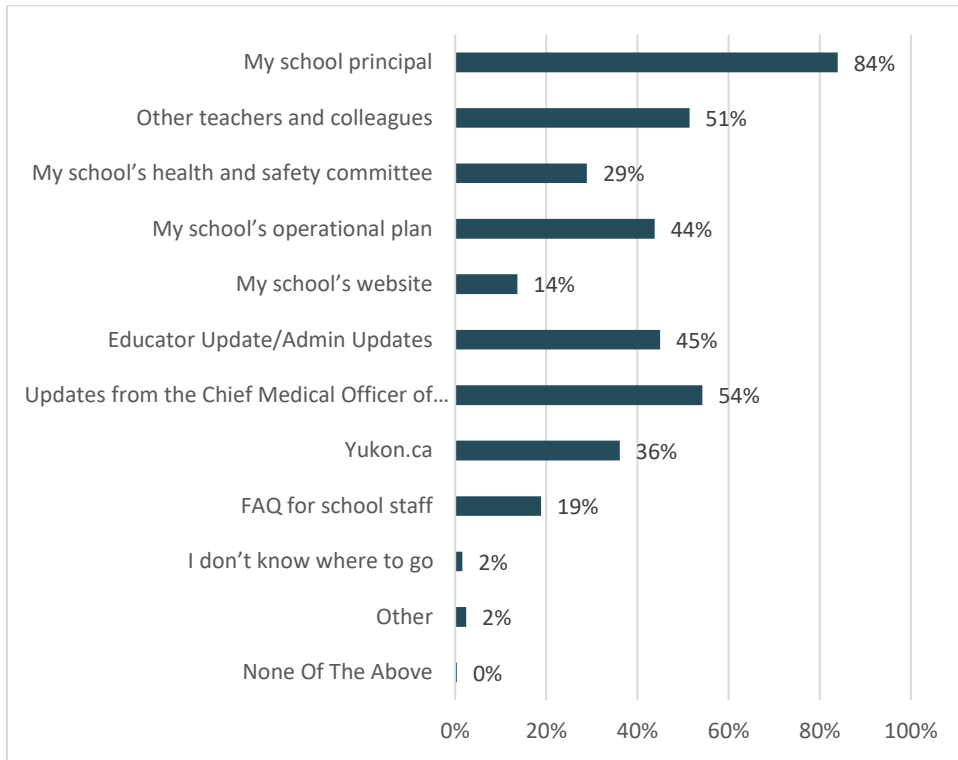
D) Frustrated



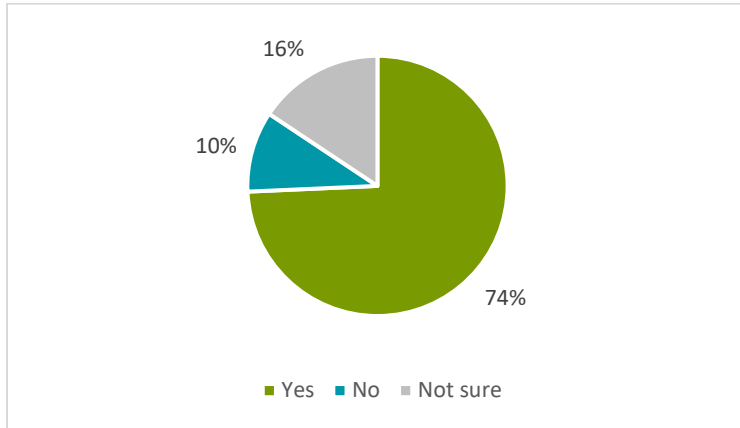
E) Confused



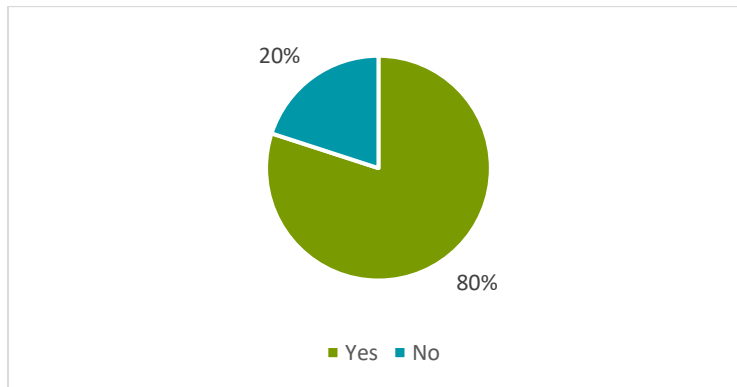
6. Where do you go to get your questions on health and safety routines at your school answered?



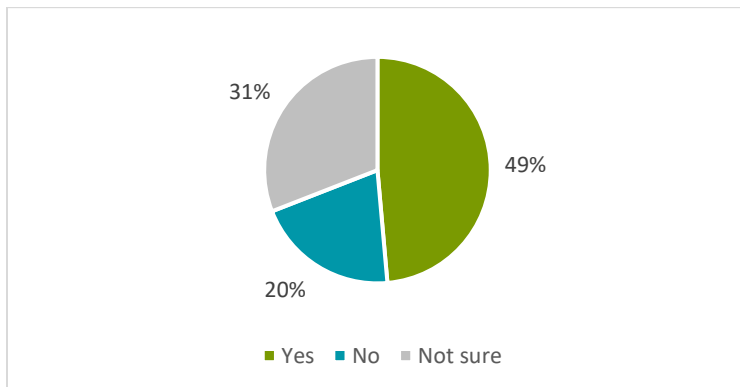
7. Are you able to keep an adequate supply of equipment and supports in your school to make sure you and your students are following the health and safety guidelines (hand sanitizer, cleaning products, masks, etc.)?



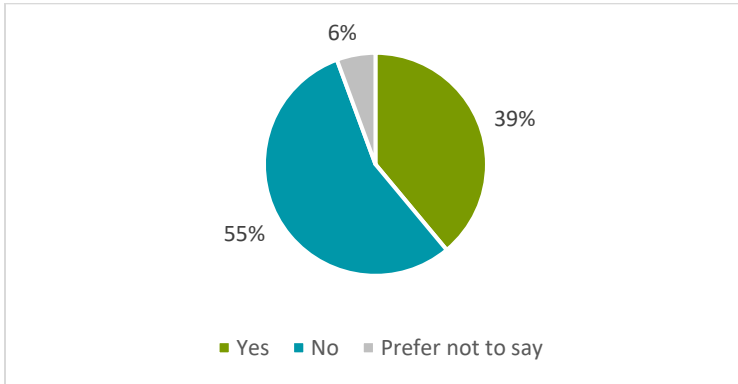
7.1. If you answered no, have you shared this information with your principal and/ or Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee?



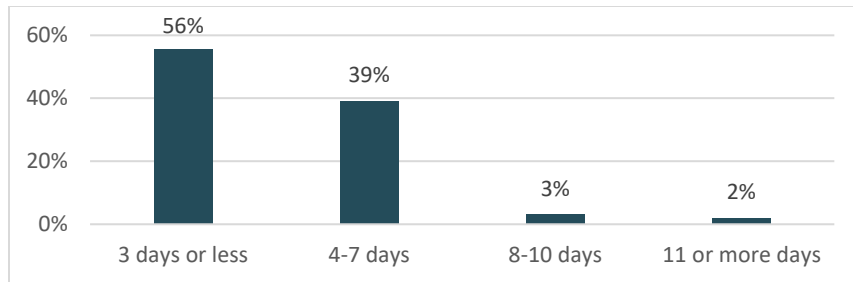
8. Do you find that the traffic light system to monitor when you or your students should stay home has been effective?



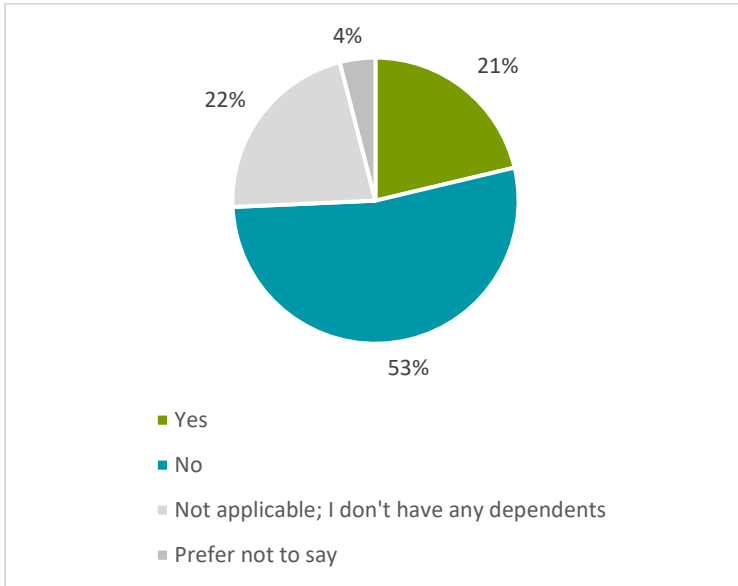
9. Have you missed any work days so far this school year because of the COVID-19 health and safety protocols on staying home when sick or showing symptoms?



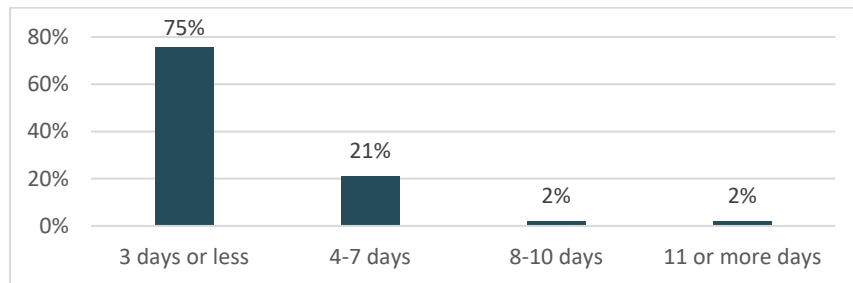
9.1. How many work days have you missed while following these protocols?



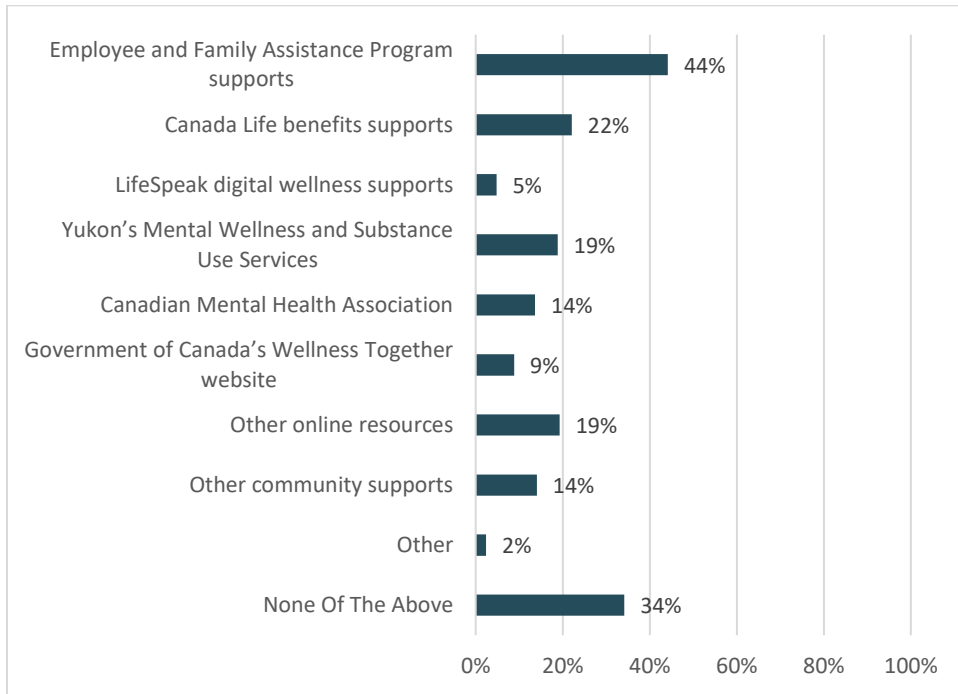
10. Have you missed any work days so far this school year because you have had to be home with a dependent because of the COVID-19 health and safety protocols on staying home when sick or showing symptoms?



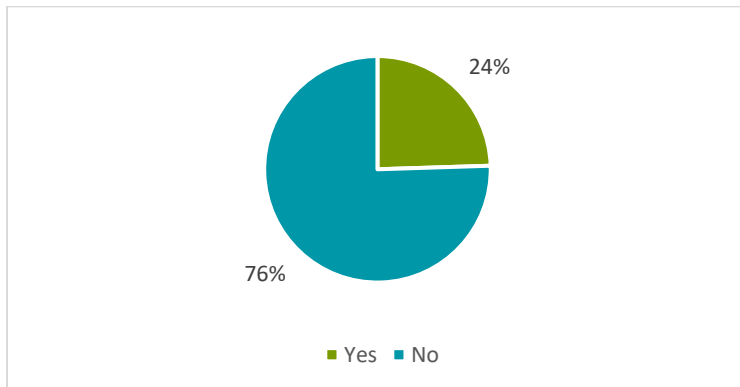
10.1. How many work days would you say you have missed while following these protocols?



11. Do you know how to access the following mental health and wellness supports, that are currently available if needed?



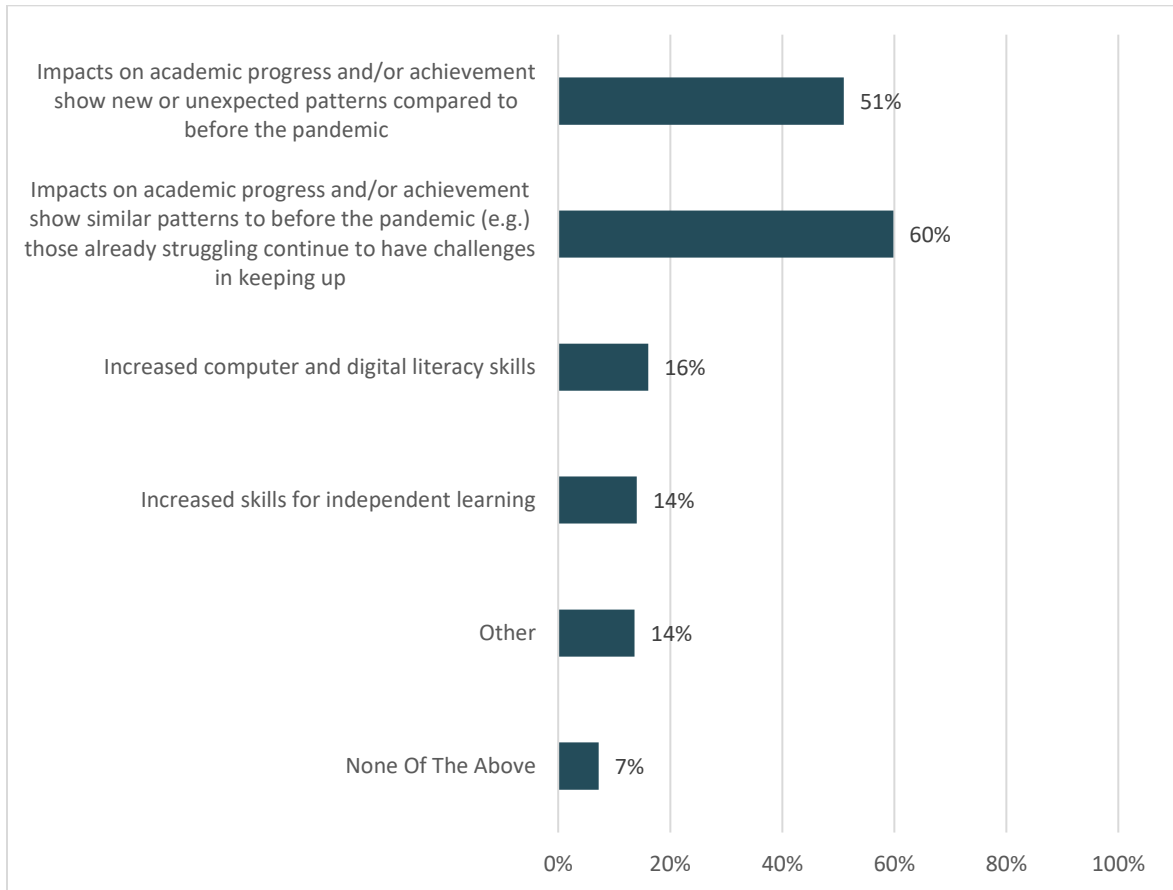
12. Are there additional mental health and wellness supports that would be helpful?



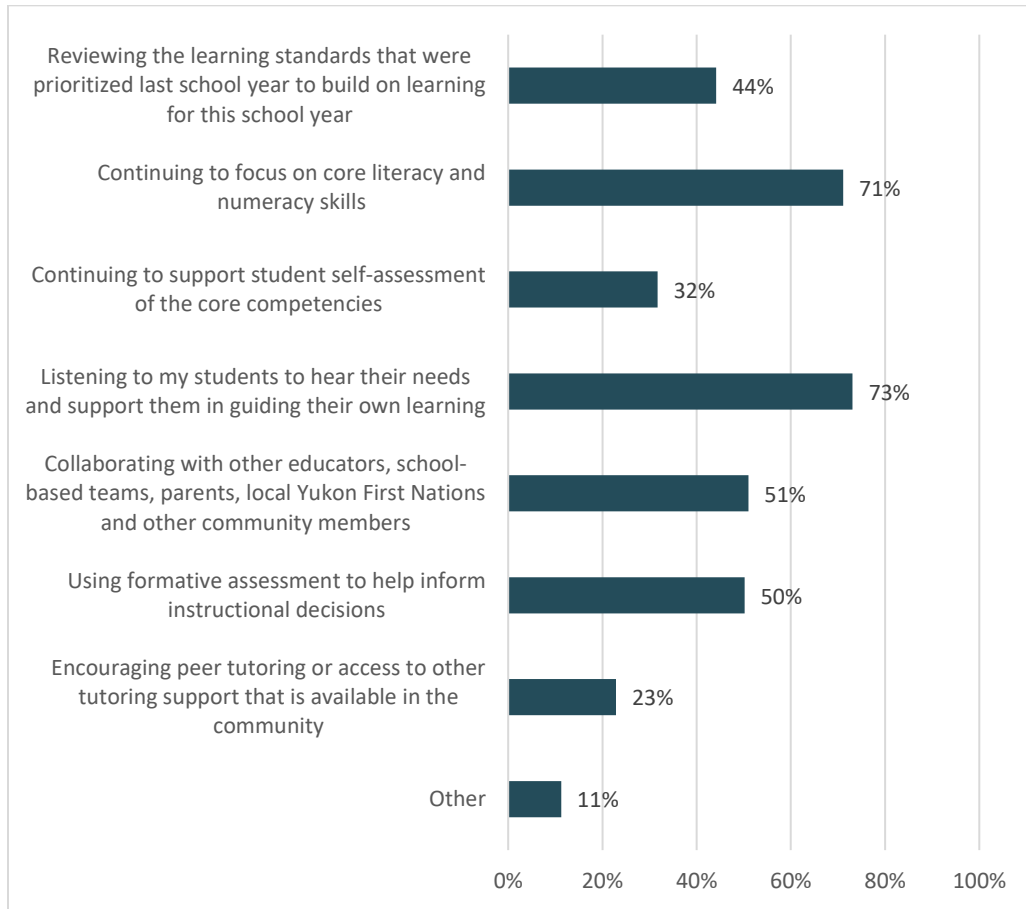
12.1 If yes, please explain?

Of those who responded, one main theme emerged. The majority suggested more support with mental health and wellness. Many expressed the need for more leave as an additional helpful mental health and wellness support.

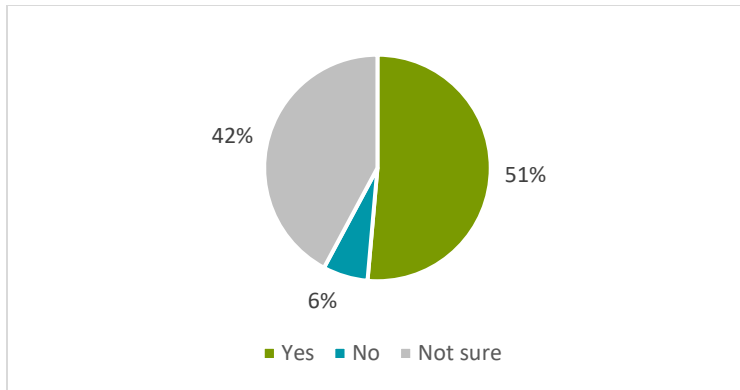
13. As students return to school this year, what impacts on their learning are you seeing from the end of last school year when students had to learn from home?



14. What strategies have you used to make sure students are caught up on their learning?



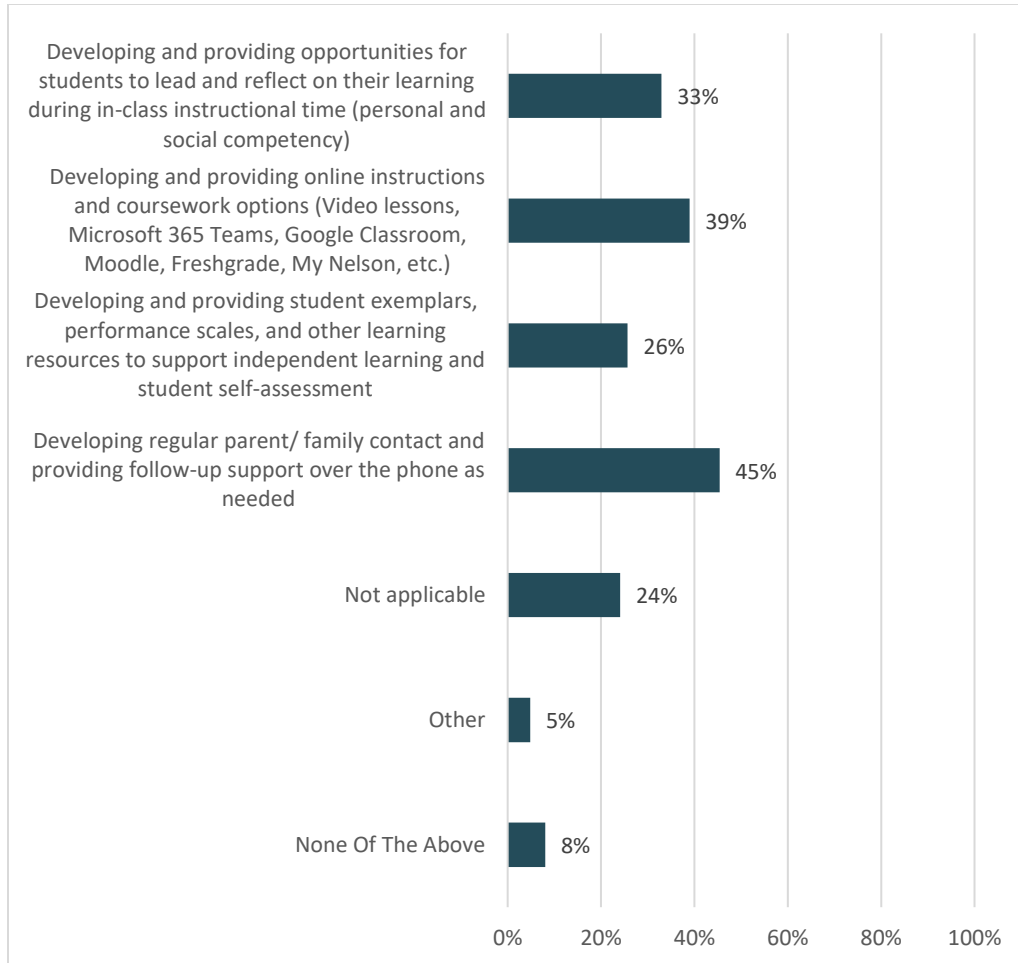
15. Have these strategies been successful so far?



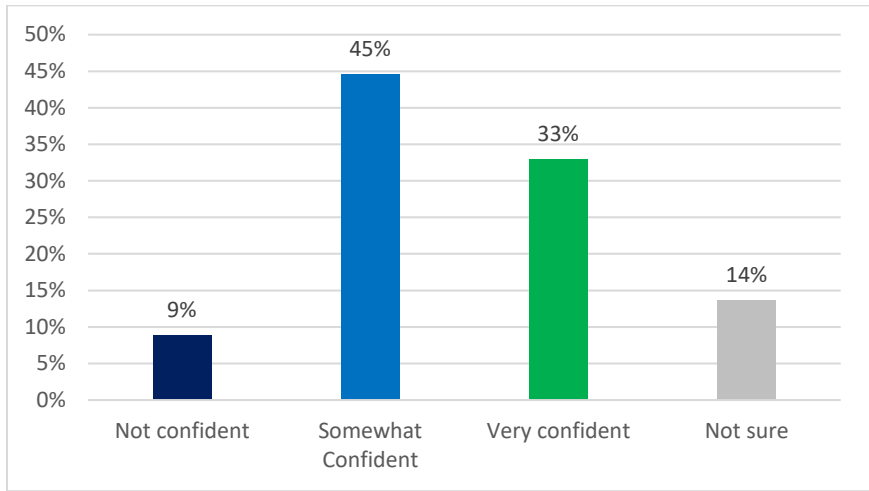
15.1 Please Explain

Of those who provided comments, three main themes emerged. The majority expressed their need for more support with academics, some spoke to the issue of student engagement and some feel that there should be more support with mental health and wellness.

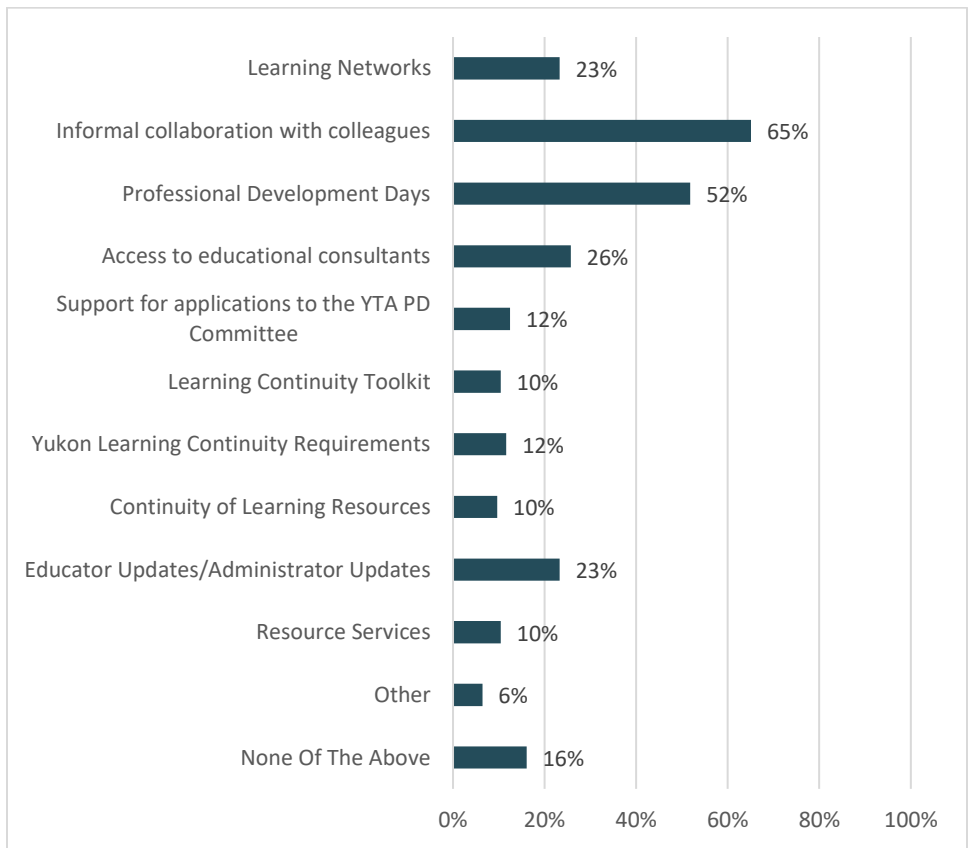
16. What blended learning strategies are you using to ensure students can continue to learn when/if they have to stay home because they are sick or showing symptoms, or if your school had to reduce the number of students in schools due to COVID-19?



17. How confident are you in your ability to provide learning to your students if the number of students in your class or school had to be reduced due to COVID-19?



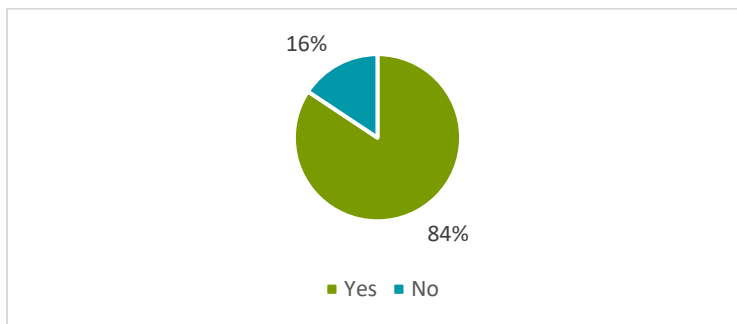
18. What supports have you accessed or received over the past three years that have been helpful in developing a blend of digital and face-to-face learning with both teacher and student-led opportunities?



19. Do you have any suggestions about how these resources or supports could be improved in the future?

Of those who responded, two themes emerged. Some suggested improved communications with the Department of Education and some spoke to improving access to technology. A few mentioned the need for more time to make sure students are caught up on their learning.

20. Do any of your students have an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan?

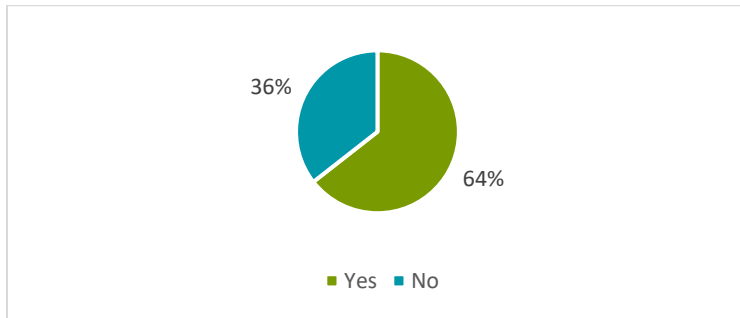


20.1 What additional training or supports for working with students on an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan could be provided to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?

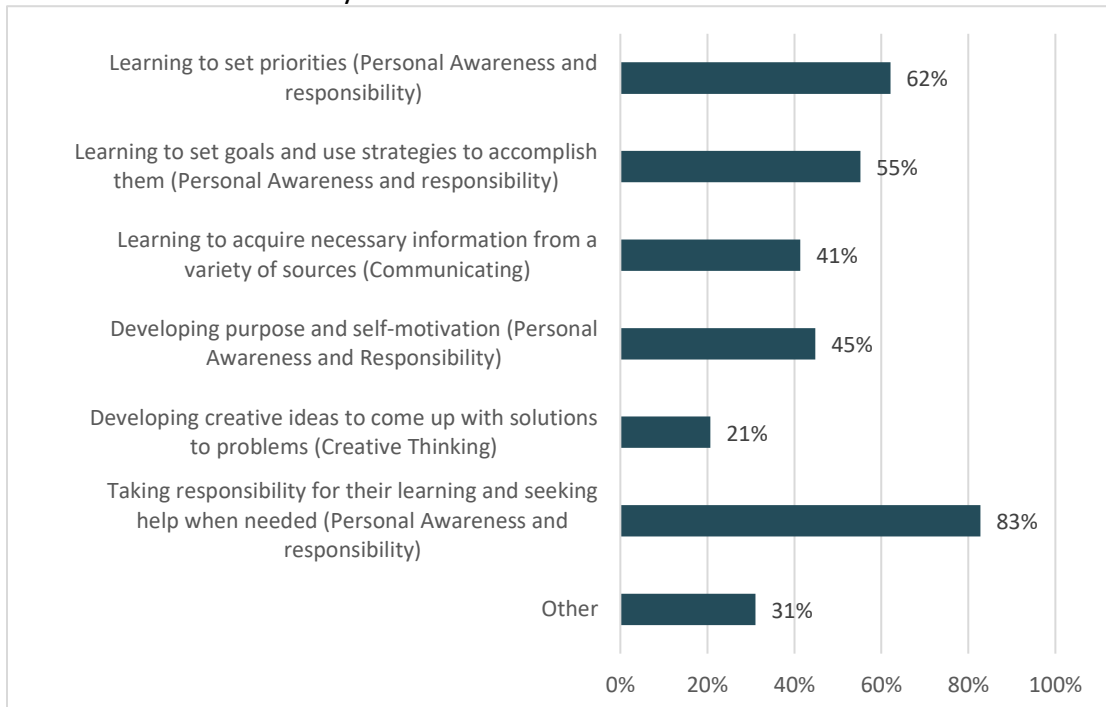
Of those who responded, one main theme emerged. Many respondents expressed the need for more staff to support students on an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan. A few spoke to the need for improved access to technology and increased support with mental health and wellness. A few respondents also mentioned the need for more time.

Additional questions for school staff teaching grades 10-12 at Porter Creek, Vanier Catholic, F.H. Collins secondary schools (excluding Wood Street Programs)

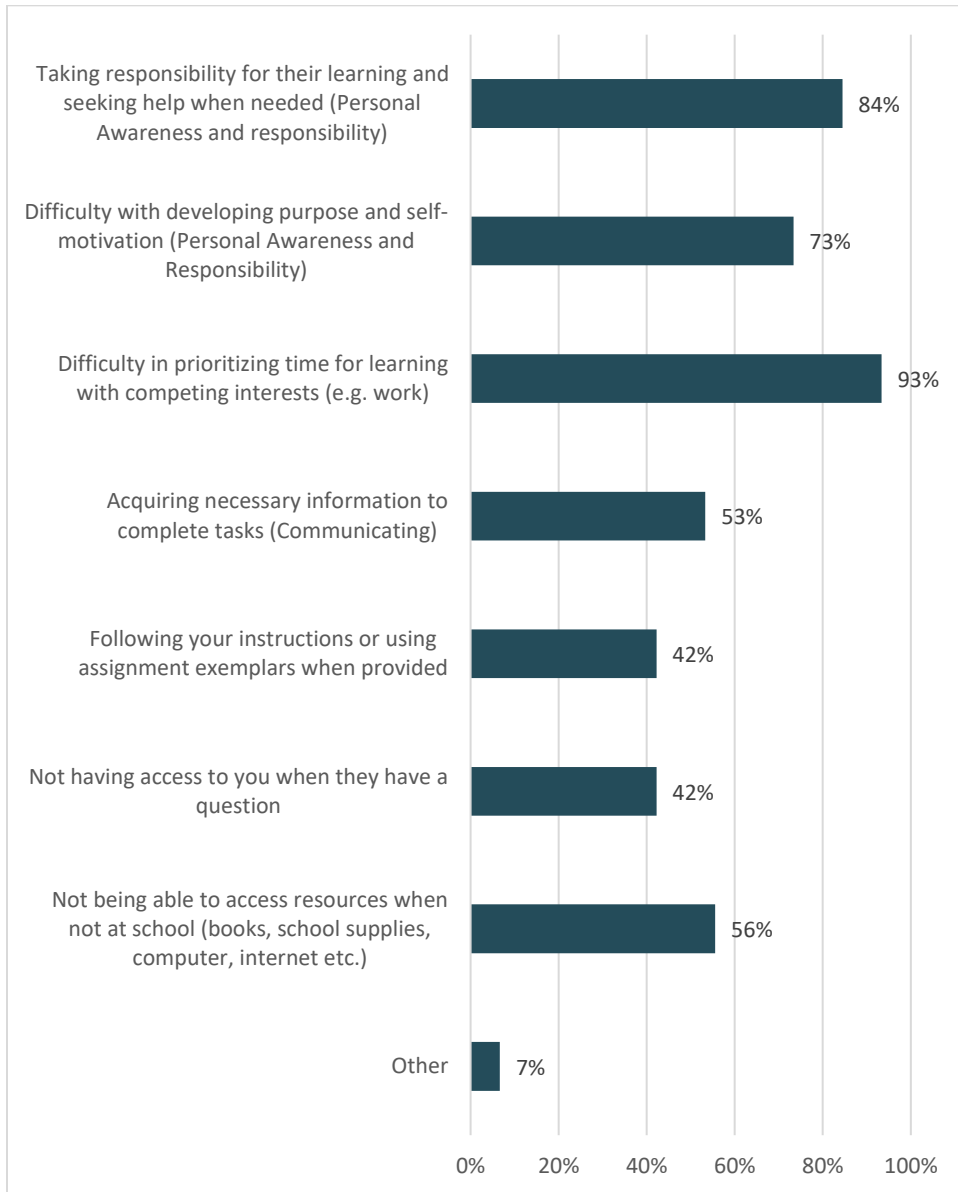
21. Have you seen evidence that learning on this schedule benefits some of your students?



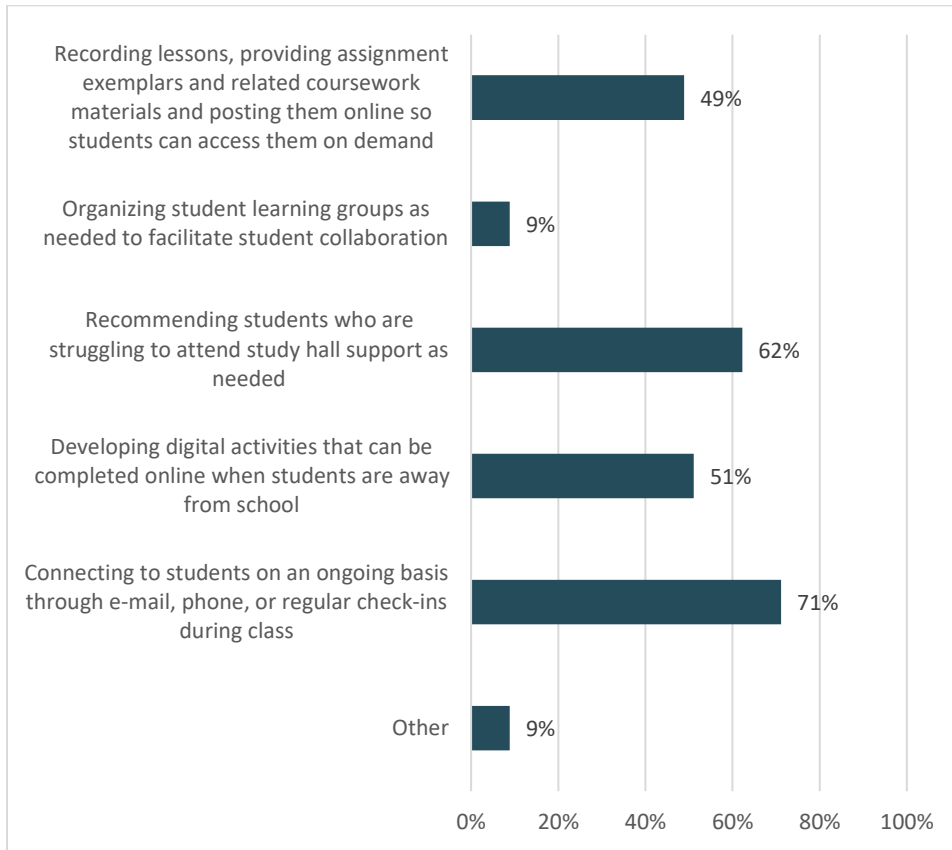
21.1. What benefits have you noticed?



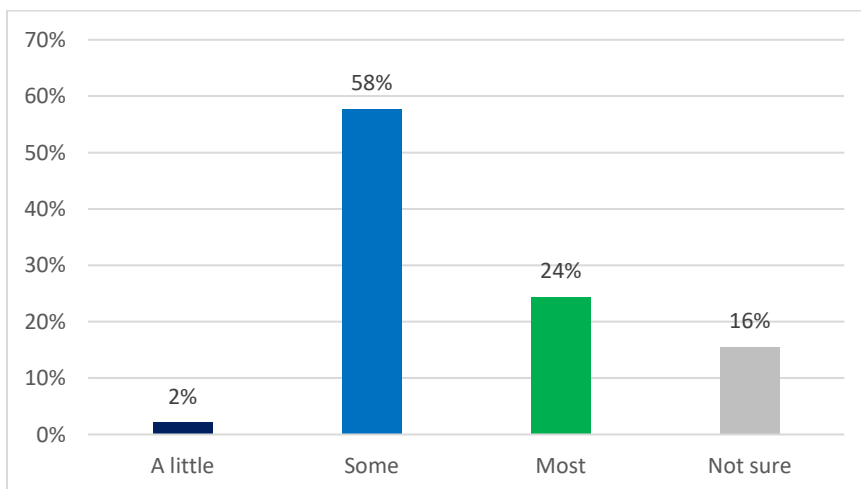
22. What do you think are the most common challenges for your students on this schedule?



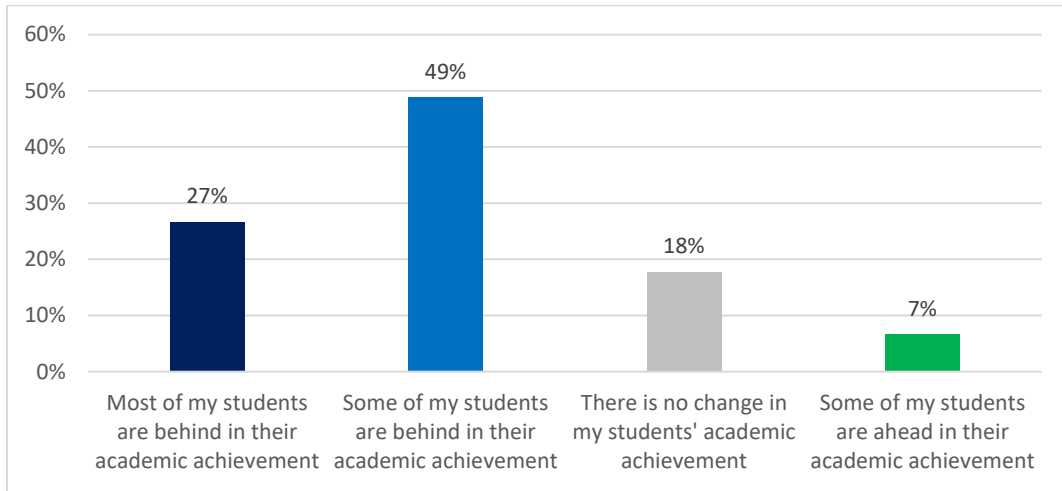
23. What blended learning strategies and other approaches have you used to mitigate these challenges for your students?



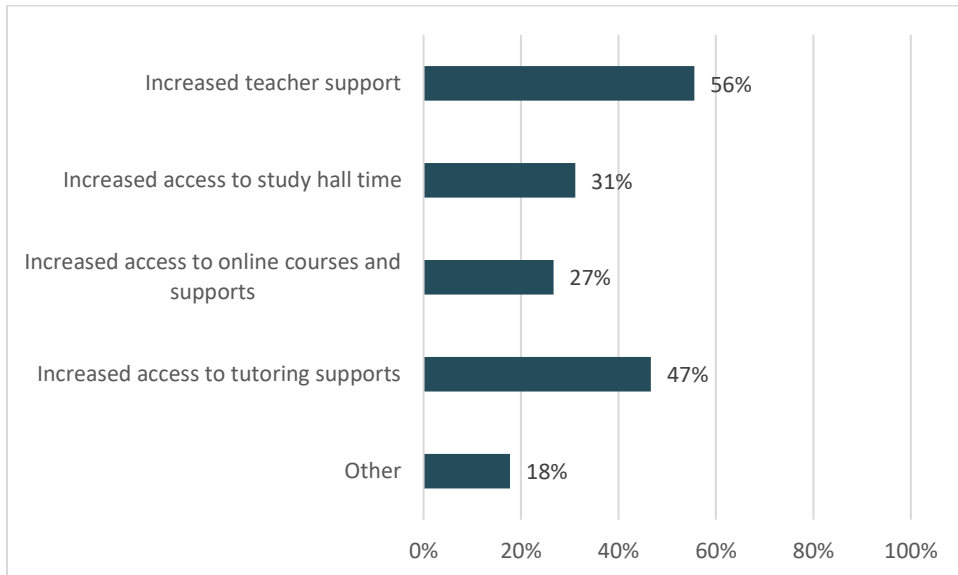
24. How much of the assigned schoolwork are your students completing each day, on average?



25. How do you feel the half day learning schedule is impacting your student's learning, on average?



26. What additional supports would be most helpful for your students to be successful in their learning this year?



What's next?

The feedback from this survey will be considered by central administration staff, school principals and school staff as we plan and adapt instruction and learning over the course of the pandemic to be responsive to student learning needs. It will also be shared with school councils, Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Teachers' Association and other education partners to support our ongoing work together to support student learning during the pandemic. We will be conducting follow up surveys during the 2020-21 school year to inform any necessary adjustments.

Participation

Engagement methods

This survey was voluntary and remained open from November 23-30, 2020. The survey link was sent directly by e-mail to all Yukon families with children in Kindergarten to Grade 12 this school year and school staff working in Kindergarten to Grade 12 public schools in 2020-21. Students, families and school staff were also invited to participate by completing the survey by phone if they were unable to fill it out online.

Participation by the numbers

The survey was completed by 2085 respondents, with participation from 1340 parents, 496 students and 249 school staff.

Notification

Information was sent out directly to parents/guardians and school staff by e-mail.