



# COVID-19 student learning survey: 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 when face-to-face classes were suspended.

The Government of Yukon suspended face-to-face classes on April 15 until the end of the 2019-20 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yukon school principals, teachers and school staff followed the [Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements](#) to provide learning at home for students for the remainder of the school year. During the course of the pandemic, we will continue to survey students, families and school staff to learn about what is working well, and what needs to be improved to ensure we are providing effective learning for students.

## Engagement process

### **Purpose**

We asked students, families and school staff about their experiences and perspectives on learning during the pandemic, and about what activities and supports have been effective and not effective to support student learning needs. The primary goal of the survey was to identify what has been most effective during the suspension of face-to-face classes to inform the delivery of instruction for the 2020-21 school year and during the course of 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 July 15-22, 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 staff, school principals and staff in planning learning opportunities and ongoing instruction for students during the 2020-21 school year and over the course of the pandemic to ensure we remain responsive to student learning needs and are supporting teachers and school staff.

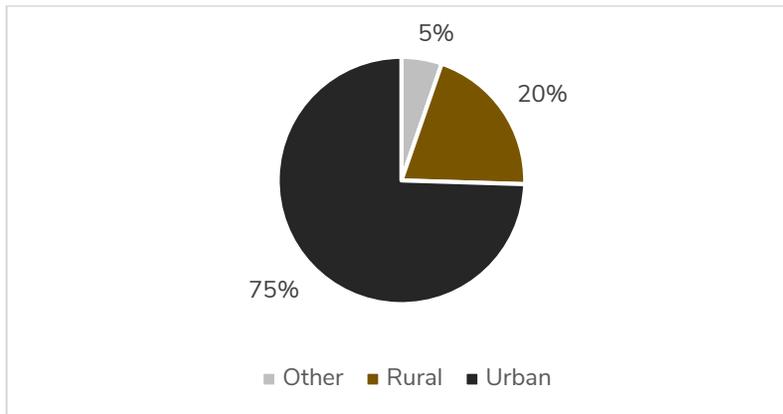
## What We Heard

The survey was completed by 2383 respondents, with participation from 1944 parents, 231 students and 208 school staff.

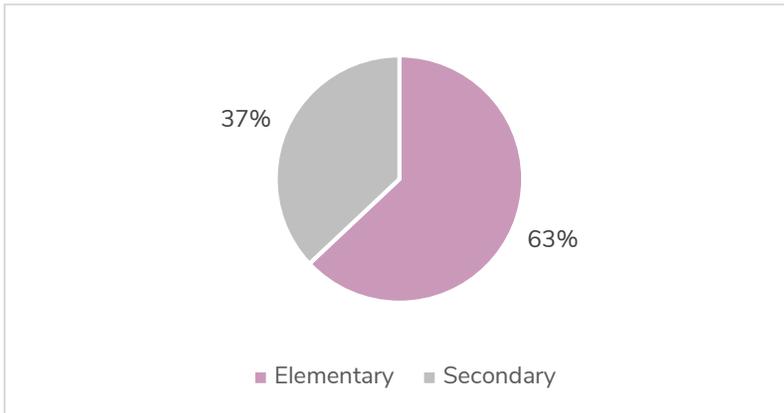
Below are the results for the school staff who completed the survey.

### What we asked school staff

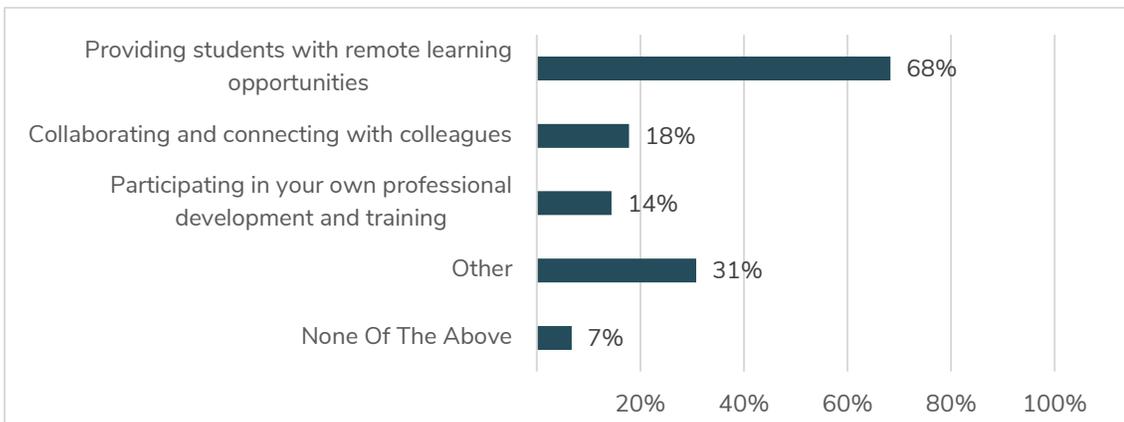
1. What school did you work in during the 2019-20 school year?



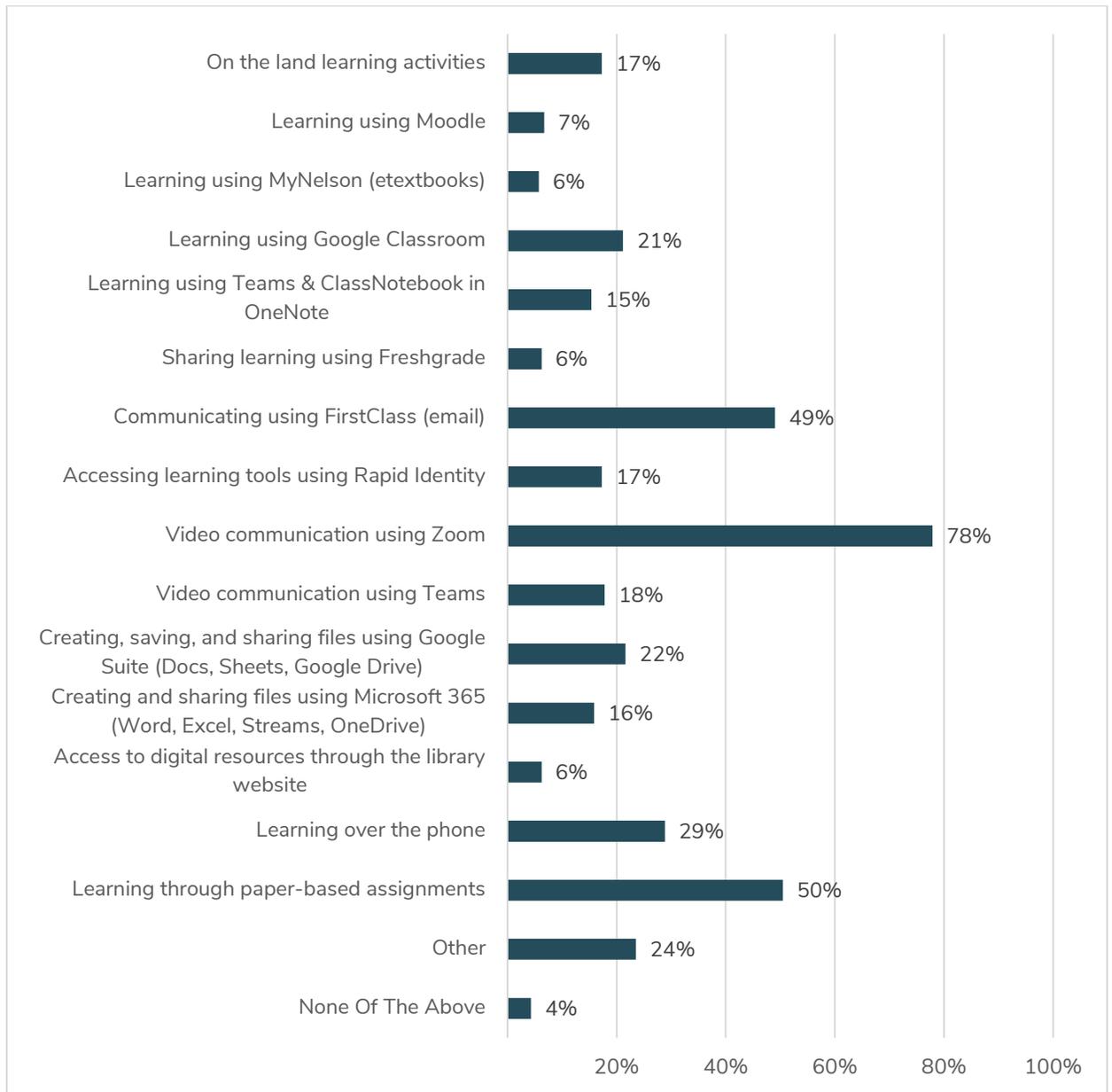
2. Which grade level did you teach in during the 2019-20 school year?



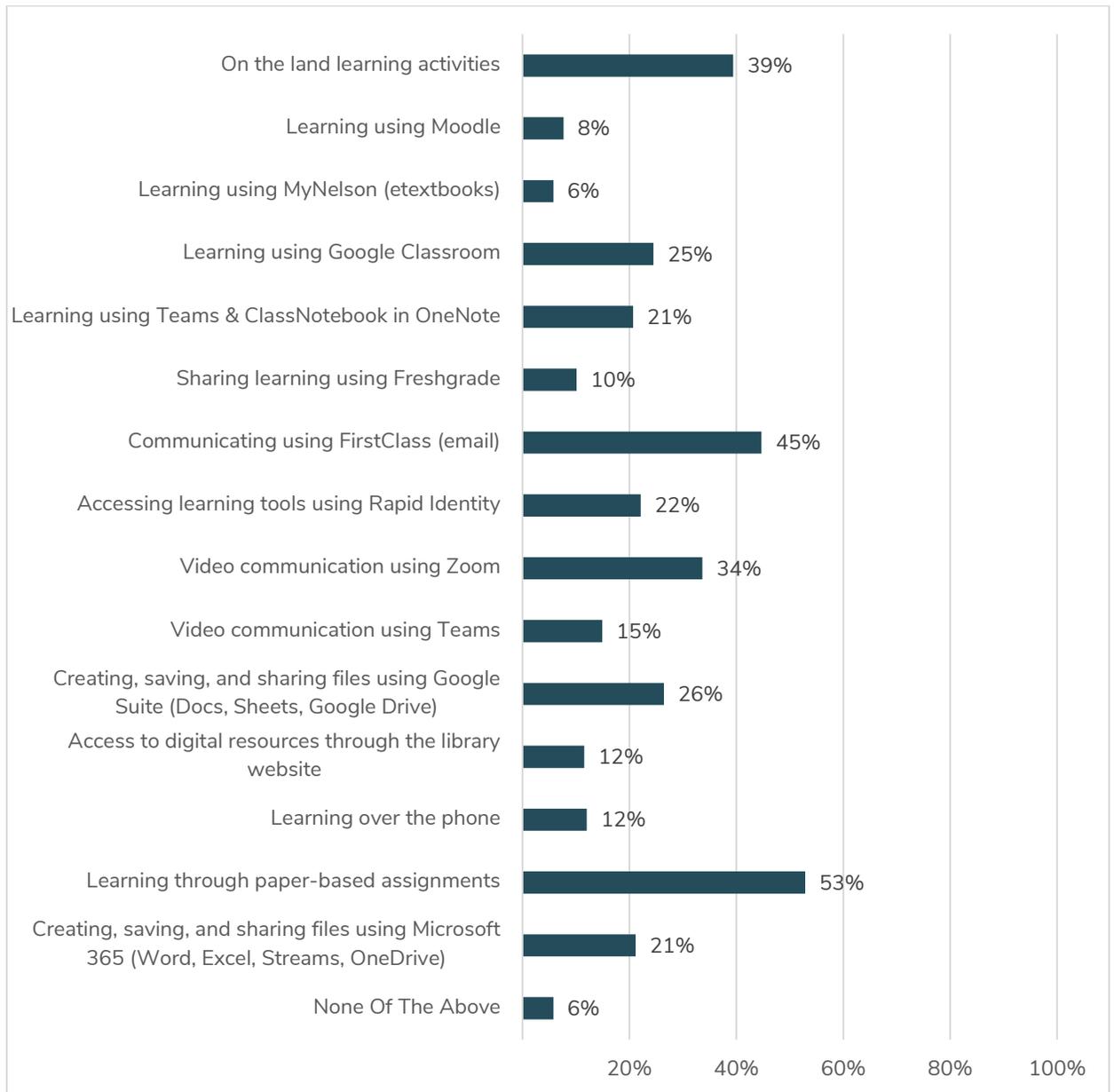
3. What did you find the most challenging when face-to-face learning was suspended at the end of the 2019-20 school year?



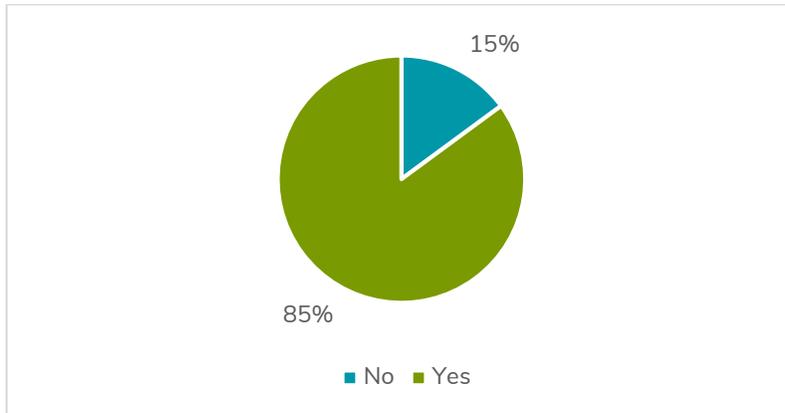
4. What instructional tools did you use that worked well for your students while face-to-face classes were suspended?



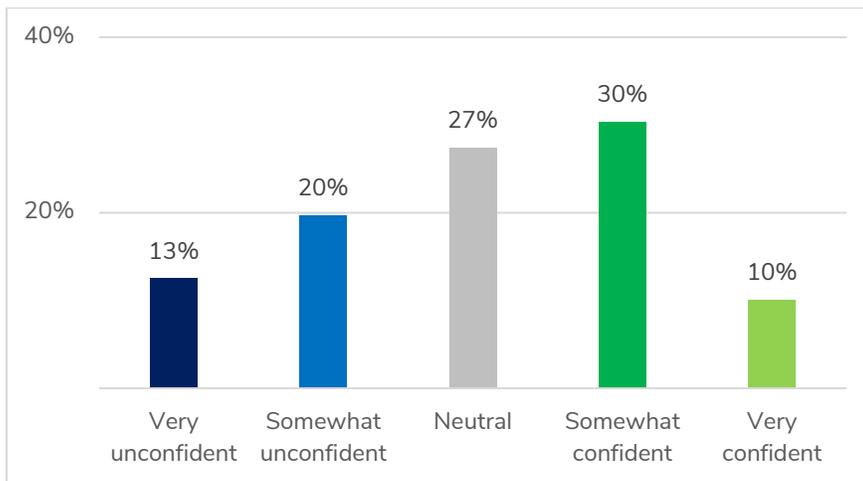
5. Which of these instructional tools do you plan to continue to be part of learning when your students return to class in school?



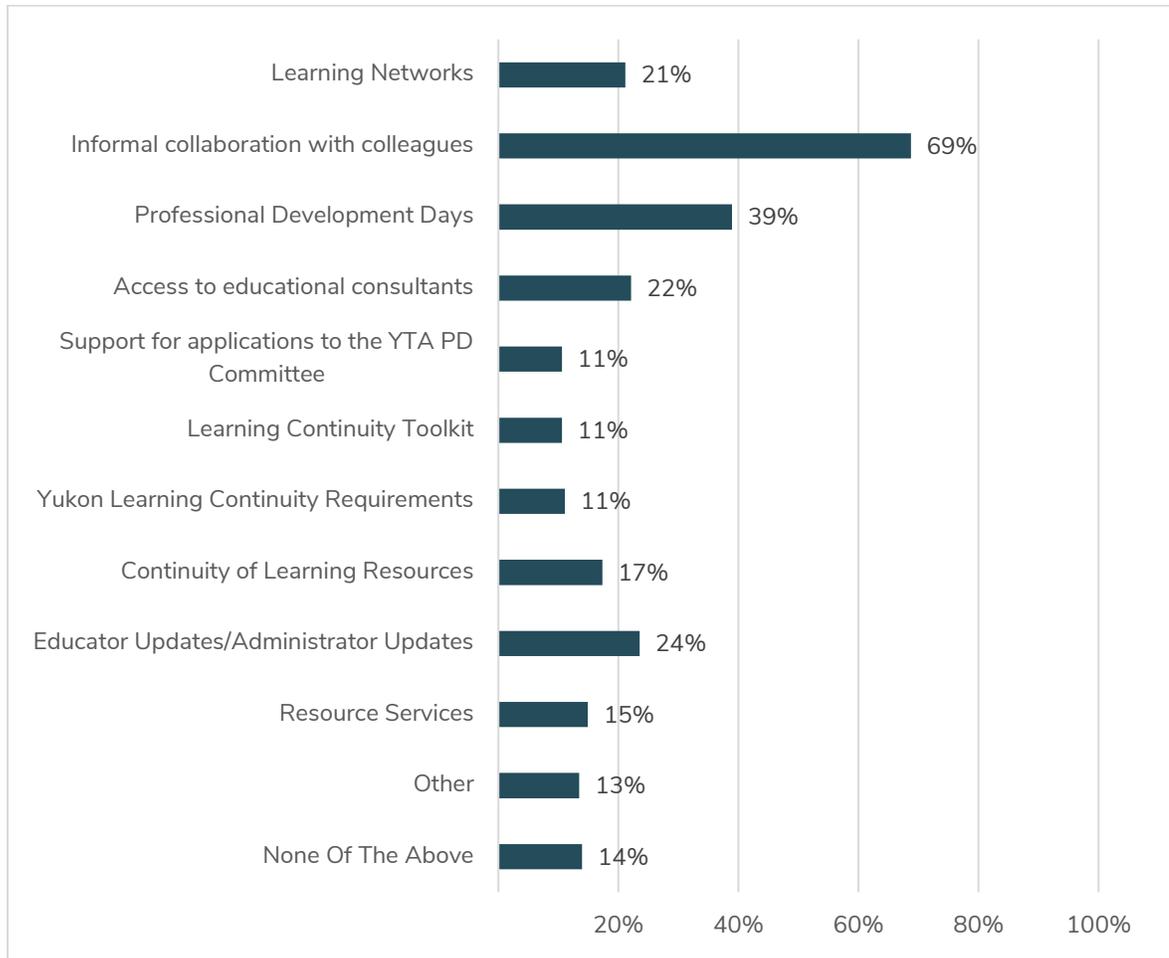
6. Do you have access to a computer, laptop or tablet through your school that you can use at home?



7. How confident are you in your preparedness to teach using a combination of digital tools and face-to-face instructional practices?



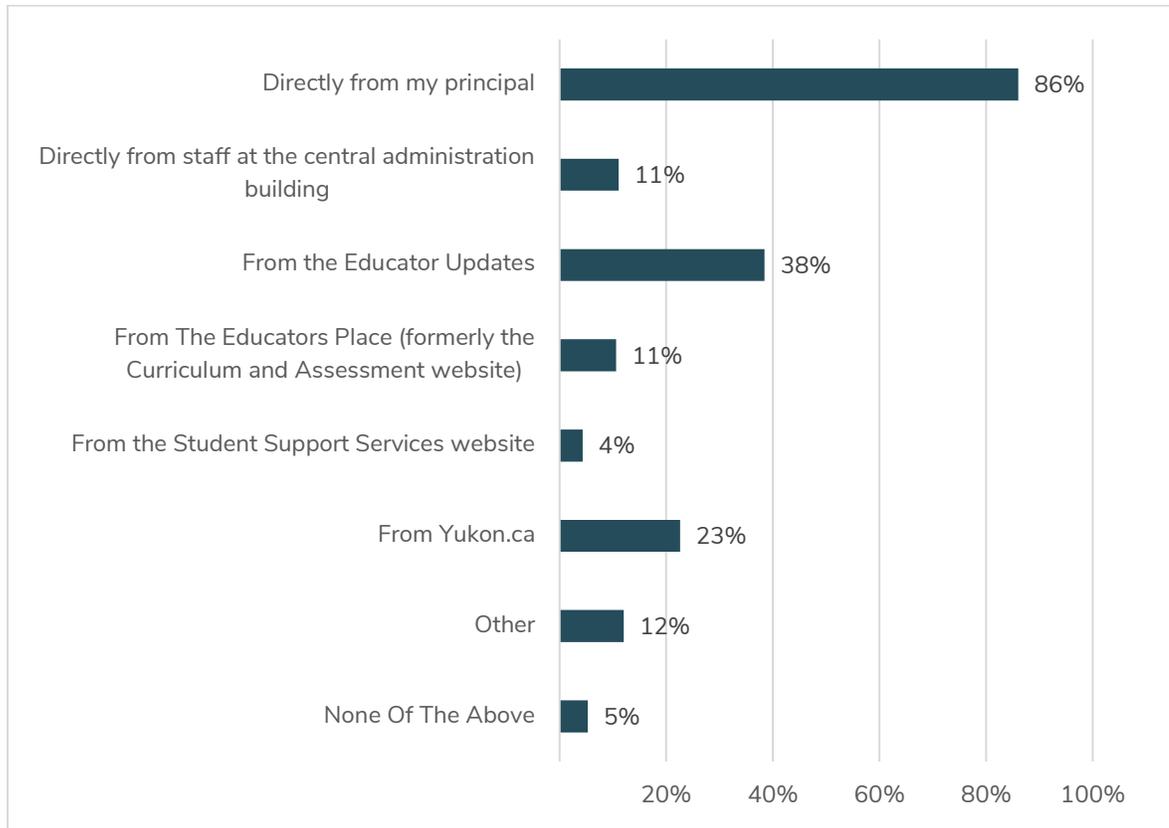
8. What supports have you accessed or received over the past three years that were helpful to you in providing students with quality instruction while face-to-face classes were suspended?



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

Of those who provided further comments on this question, two key themes emerged. Teachers and school staff who participated identified the need for more communication from the central administration staff that is consistent and timely. They also identified the need for further professional development including on delivering learning online and using digital tools for teaching.

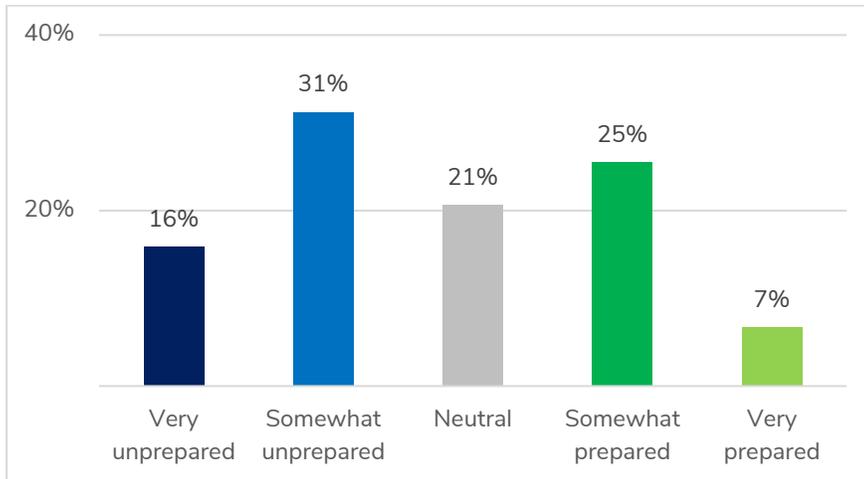
**10.**How did you access information and resources that you needed from your school administration and/or the staff at the central administration building?



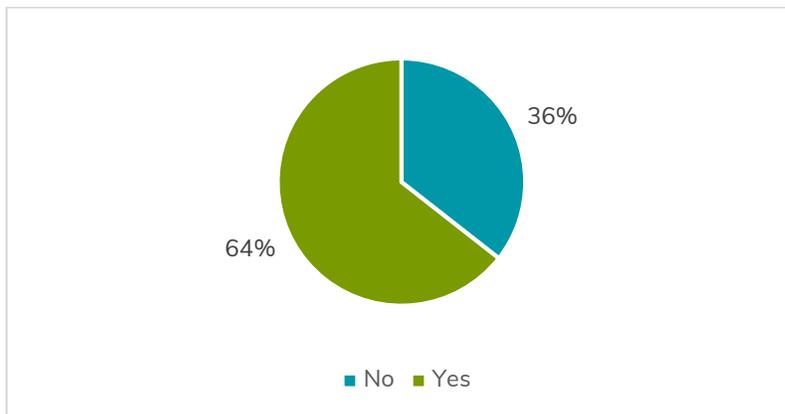
**11.**Do you have any suggestions about how access to information and resources could be improved in the future?

Of those who provided additional comments on this question, two themes emerged. Teachers and school staff who participated identified the need for a centralized location to access information and updates. They also identified the need for communication from central administration staff directly to school staff that is clear and timely.

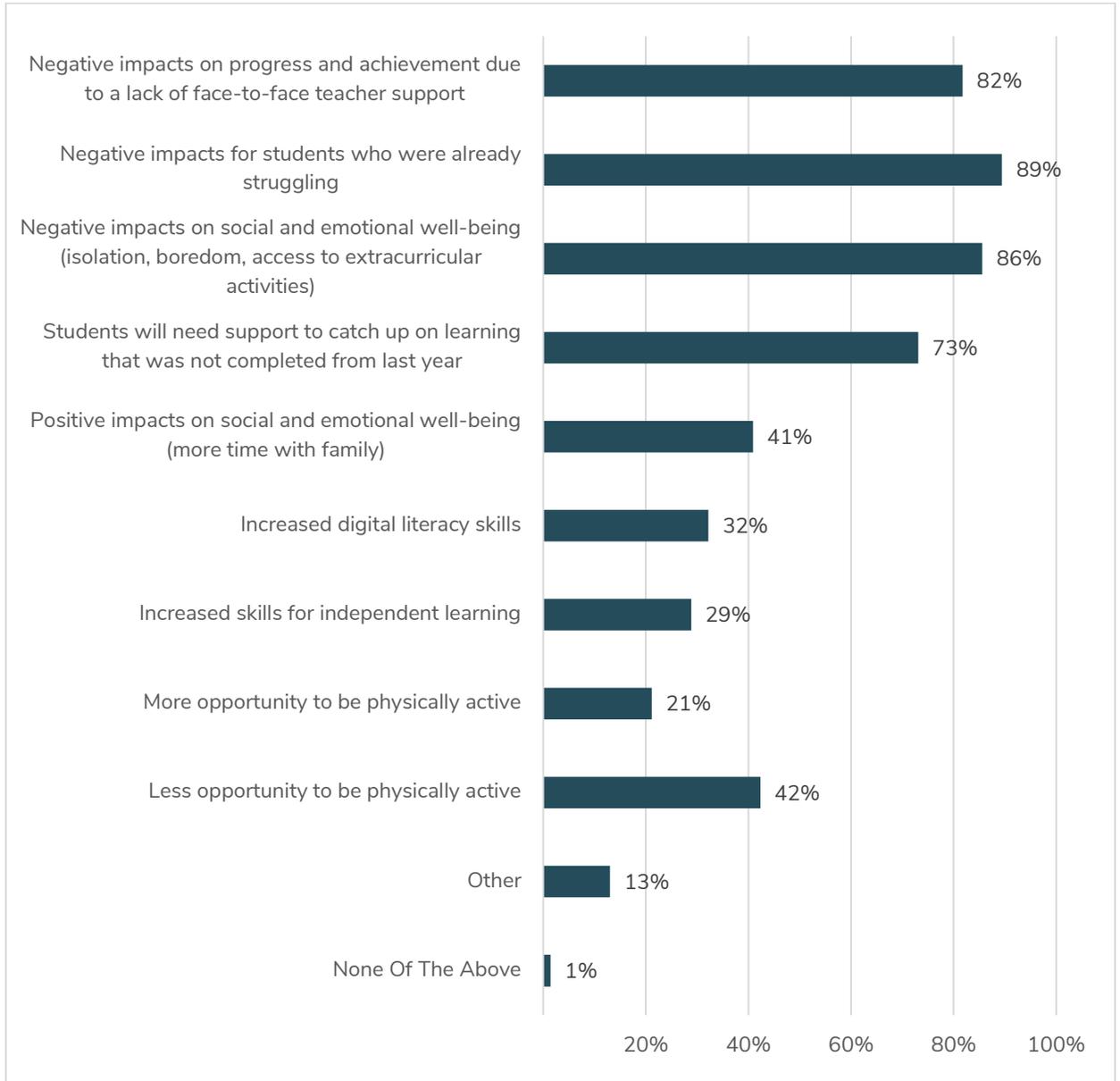
**12.**How prepared do you feel to continue your students' learning during the next year of school compared to previous school years before COVID-19?



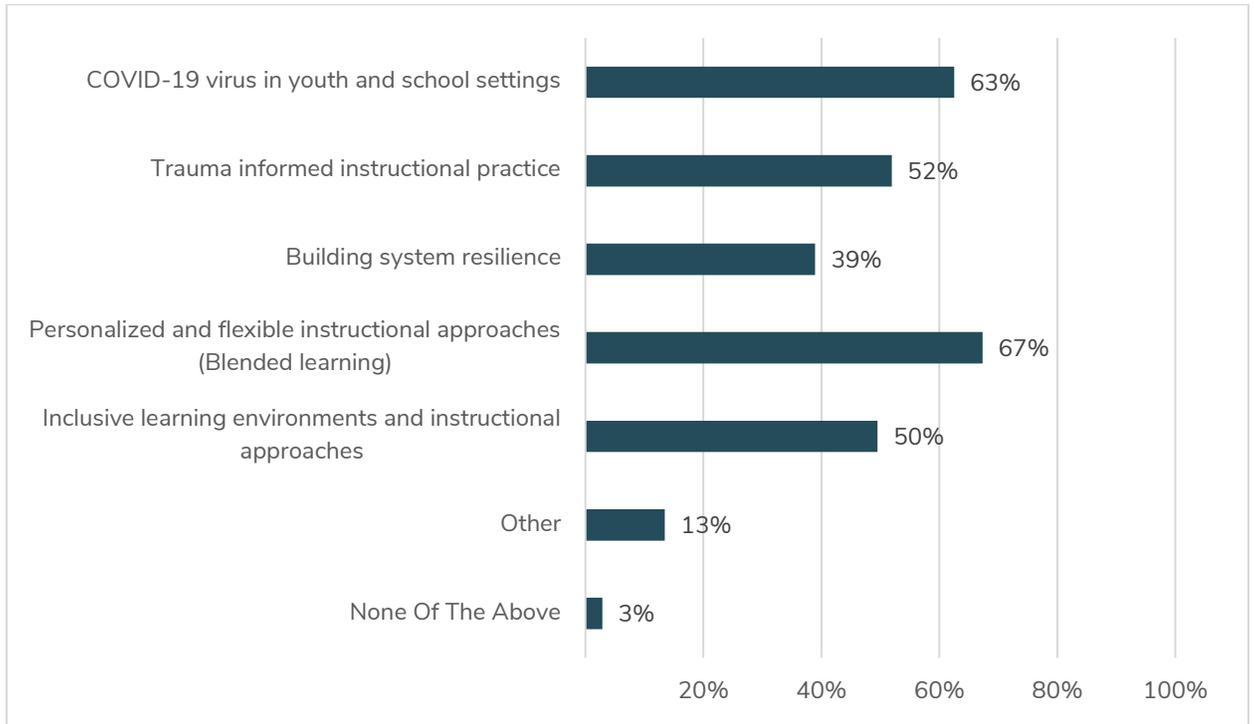
**13.**Are you aware of the Government of Yukon's mental health and wellness supports available to you (More information is available on [Yukonnect](#))?



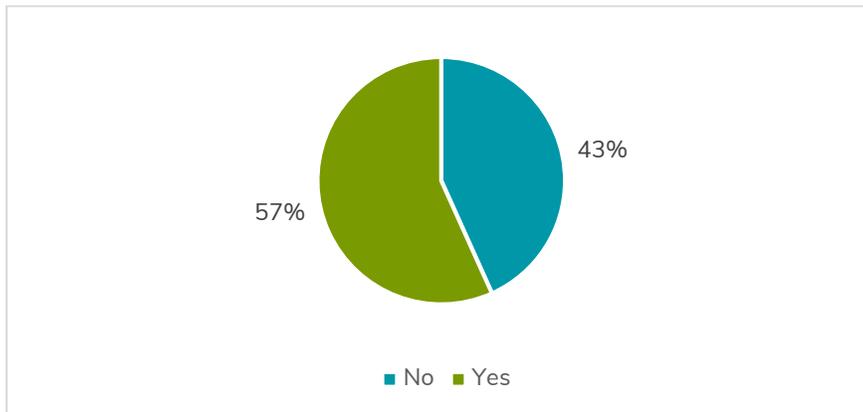
**14.** What impacts and unintended consequences do you feel may have occurred while your students were learning at home at the end of this school year?



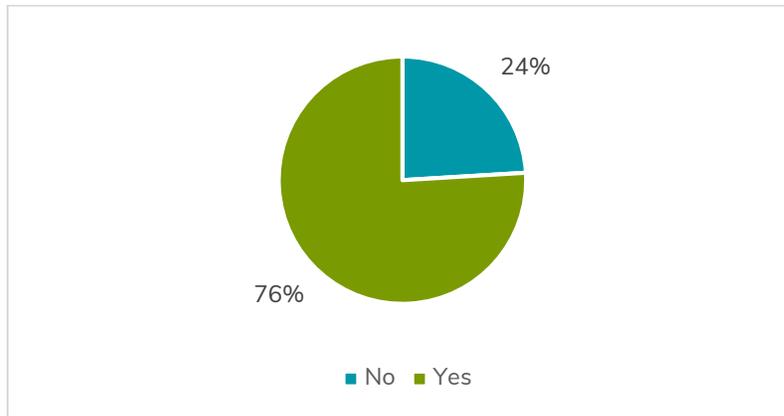
**15.**What specific professional learning and/ or training do you feel school staff need in order to ensure a successful return to school for students?



**16.**Do you know who the contacts are for your local First Nations and how your school works with them to support Yukon First Nations students and learning opportunities?



**17.**Did you support any students with an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan while students were learning at home at the end of the 2019-20 school year?



**17.1** How could we have improved how we supported you in working with students on an Individual Education Plan, Student Learning Plan or Behaviour Support Plan while students were learning at home at the end of the 2019-20 school year?

Of those who provided additional comments, two key themes emerged. Teachers and school staff who participated identified the need for further communication and planning. They identified the need for increased and more regular communication. They identified the need for increased access to professional development to support students and their families. They also identified the need for more access to technology.

**18.**Do you have any other comments?

Of those who provided additional comments, three key themes emerged. Teachers and school staff who participated identified the need for more planning, further communication and support for teachers and school staff. They identified the need for clearer direction and guidance, more regular and timely updates and further support from central administration staff.

## **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 July 15-22, 2020. It was announced publicly through a news release. The survey link was sent directly by e-mail to all Yukon families with children in Kindergarten to Grade 12 during the 2019-20 school year and school staff working in Kindergarten to Grade 12 public schools in 2019-20. 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 2383 respondents, with participation from 1944 parents, 231 students and 208 school staff.

### **Notification**

Information was sent out directly to parents/guardians and school staff by e-mail. The survey was also announced through a public news release.