



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ
DISTRICT 26

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Senator José Menéndez Releases the Full Survey Results Concerning Public Input on Reopening of Schools

San Antonio, Texas - In order to best represent our constituents and all Texans across the state, on July 7, 2020 we conducted a Google Survey created to gather data on the concerns that our educators and parents face amidst the reopening of schools. We received an overwhelming response of 15,380 Texans who completed the survey. As a result, we created the attached graphs and tables outlining our survey participants, their concerns, and the school and senate districts that they represent.

A total of 10,710 educators along with 4,670 parents and concerned individuals filled out our survey. The category of parents and concerned individuals includes grandparents, legal guardians, and relatives caring for children. Our survey also gathered data on the concerns these groups have for returning back to school.

We separated these concerns into 8 major categories based on the feedback that we received from participants. The 8 categories and the number of folks concerned within those categories are:

- Safety (9,738),
- Contracting COVID-19 (9,956),
- STAAR Testing (6,908),
- School Facilities (6,766),
- School Funding (6,354),
- Curriculum for Teachers (5,504),
- Equal Access to Education (5,099),
- Other Concerns (3,223),
- and No Concerns (138).

Furthermore, an estimated number of 542 school districts represented and participated in the survey. As you review the graphs, we ask that you keep in mind that this data is a representative sample of the State of Texas as a whole.

Following these results, we will be filing several pieces of legislation that includes, but is not limited to, repealing the STAAR test and reallocating these funds to assist our schools with the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will also file legislation supplementing teachers with medical leave if they were to contract or be exposed to COVID-19. This leave would not come out of their personal leave nor their authorized time allocated by the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Additionally, we will file a bill appropriating specific funds to assist parents and children with special needs to ensure they have an equal access to education, whether that be additional assistance at home or for remote learning.

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