

The Oklahoma Education Association Survey on Oklahoma Schools and the Pandemic

The online survey was conducted December 1-14 for members of the Oklahoma Education Association. A total of 3,580 surveys were completed, and 3,147 were deemed to be valid. Not all questions required an answer, so most results will total to less than 3,147.



The Pandemic

Thinking about the COVID-19 pandemic and Oklahoma specifically, how do you feel right now?

The worst is behind us.	116	4%
We are going through the worst part of things right now.	1,108	35%
The worst is ahead of us.	1,406	45%
Unsure	517	16%

Do you personally know someone who has contracted COVID-19?

Yes	3,054	97%
No	93	3%

Have you contracted COVID-19?

Yes	360	12%
No	2,729	88%

How confident are you that your local district administration will provide what you need to be safe at work?

Very confident	536	17%
Somewhat confident	1,145	36%
Not confident	1,341	43%
Not sure	125	4%

How confident are you that your local school board will provide what you need to be safe at work?

Very confident	429	14%
Somewhat confident	1,157	37%
Not confident	1,424	45%
Not sure	137	4%

How confident are you that the Oklahoma Legislature will provide what you need to be safe at work?

Very confident	69	2%
Somewhat confident	595	19%
Not confident	2,336	74%
Not sure	147	5%

How confident are you that Gov. Kevin Stitt will provide what you need to be safe at work?

Very confident	109	3%
Somewhat confident	347	11%
Not confident	2,595	82%
Not sure	96	3%

School Safety

Overall, do you think Oklahoma schools are safe for in-person instruction right now?

Yes	529	17%
No	1,969	63%
Unsure	649	21%

Is social distancing possible in your school if everyone was learning in person at the same time?

Yes	302	10%
No	2,845	90%

Does your district have a mask policy for everyone (students, staff, and visitors) when inside district buildings?

Yes, everyone wears masks inside at all times.	2,590	82%
Yes, but the policy only applies during certain times, such as during passing periods or assemblies.	485	15%
No, my district does not have a mask policy.	71	2%

Thinking about mask use in your school, how well does everyone follow protocols?

	Always Wear Masks Correctly	Sometimes Wear Masks Correctly	Rarely/Never Wears Correctly
Students	506	2,246	241
Staff in your building	1,437	1,595	62
Parents and families	257	1,454	463
Visitors (volunteers, contractors, etc.)	885	1,256	138

Thinking about your personal experience in the COVID-19 crisis and your job at a public school, please indicate which of the following statements you AGREE with.

I'm concerned about my health and contracting COVID-19.	2,709	89%
I'm concerned with my family's health and someone in my household contracting COVID-19.	2,812	93%
I'm concerned for students contracting COVID-19.	2,693	89%
I am not concerned about these issues.	229	6%
<i>Note: These percentages are the number of 3,036 survey participants who checked agree with at least one of the statements; 111 participants skipped this question. Participants could check more than one box.</i>		

The Oklahoma Department of Health is allowing school districts to set up “in-school quarantines” for students exposed to COVID. Do you think this is a good practice?

Yes	270	9%
No	2,877	91%

Student Learning

How have you taught students this year?

Virtually, where all my students are off campus and learning remotely.	372	13%
In person, where all my students are in the classroom.	533	18%
Blended, where some of my students are in the classroom and some are learning remotely. This is also sometimes called a hybrid model.	568	20%
Virtual AND blended.	243	8%
Virtual AND in person.	631	22%
Blended AND in person.	63	2%
ALL THREE learning scenarios: virtual, blended, and in person.	491	17%

Does your district allow for students to attend school VIRTUALLY full-time? This is often called a virtual option.

Yes	3,064	97%
No	50	2%
Unsure	33	1%

Below is a list of issues or problems experienced during the pandemic. For each one, please indicate how serious of a problem you think this is for students in your school.

	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem
Keeping students on track with their education	2,385	641	67
Mental health and well-being of students	1,998	949	101
Keeping students safe and healthy	1,907	976	172
The amount of screen time for students	1,556	1,137	314
Social interaction among students	1,510	1,207	362
Being able to afford internet	1,091	1,029	895
Accessing food or other necessities	953	1,074	947
Building relationships with educators	920	1,367	785

Please choose the statement that best describes the SUBSTITUTE TEACHER situation in your district.

We have had enough subs to continue on as normal, whether learning remotely or in person.	227	7%
We haven't had enough subs to continue on as normal, but the disruptions have been minor.	1,249	40%
We haven't had enough subs to continue on as normal, and the disruptions have been major.	1,304	41%
We have had to cancel school in our building at least once because of a lack of substitute teachers.	367	12%

Should state testing be suspended this year?

Yes	2,976	95%
No	171	5%

How Oklahoma School Employees Are Doing

Do you have enough time to plan for your teaching workload?

Yes	1,070	39%
No	1,660	61%

What is your overall stress level on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 10 (highest)?

1	73	2%
2	39	1%
3	82	3%
4	122	4%
5	212	7%
6	209	7%
7	385	12%
8	680	22%
9	473	15%
10	840	27%
<i>Overall Average: 7.702</i>		

What is ONE word you would use to describe your predominant feeling about your job right now?

Stressed
Overwhelmed
Exhausted
Frustrated
Anxious
Scared
Tired
Uncertain
Challenging
Worried
<i>Note: These are the top 10 answers of an open-ended question. Some instances of words were combined, such as “stressful” and “stressed” or “anxious” and “anxiety.”</i>

How has your workload changed this year compared to the same time last year?

Increased	2,682	86%
Decreased	298	4%
Stayed the same	112	10%

Do you have enough time to plan for your teaching workload?

Yes	1,070	39%
No	1,660	61%

Have you experienced financial stress because of the pandemic?

Yes	1,345	43%
No	1,802	57%

Are you worried your district will either lay off workers or leave empty positions unfilled in the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes	2,136	68%
No	1,011	32%

How has this school year affected your long-term professional planning?

I have no plans to leave my job in education early.	2,318	74%
I am going to retire at the end of this school year, THE SAME TIME as planned.	94	3%
I am going to retire at the end of this school year, EARLIER than planned.	152	5%
I am going to quit teaching at the end of this school year.	90	3%
I am looking for another job and will leave teaching as soon as I find one.	493	16%

About the Survey Participants

What is your primary job role?

Certified teacher - elementary school	1,007	32%
Certified teacher - high school	647	21%
Certified teacher - middle school	601	19%
Certified teacher - early childhood	397	13%
Certified teacher - other	160	5%
Support professionals (clerical services, transportation, custodial and maintenance, food service, higher education support professional, etc.)	118	4%
Para-educator / teaching assistant	91	3%
Counselor	83	3%
Administrator	36	1%
Aspiring educator	7	< 1%

How long have you worked in education?

Less than 5 years	434	14%
5 to 10 years	661	21%
11 to 15 years	479	15%
16 to 20 years	479	15%
21 to 25 years	462	15%
26 to 30 years	343	11%
31 or more years	289	9%

How would you describe your district?

Rural	626	20%
Urban	981	31%
Suburban	1,489	47%
Other	51	2%

Are you a parent of school-age children?

Yes	1,213	39%
No	1,934	61%