

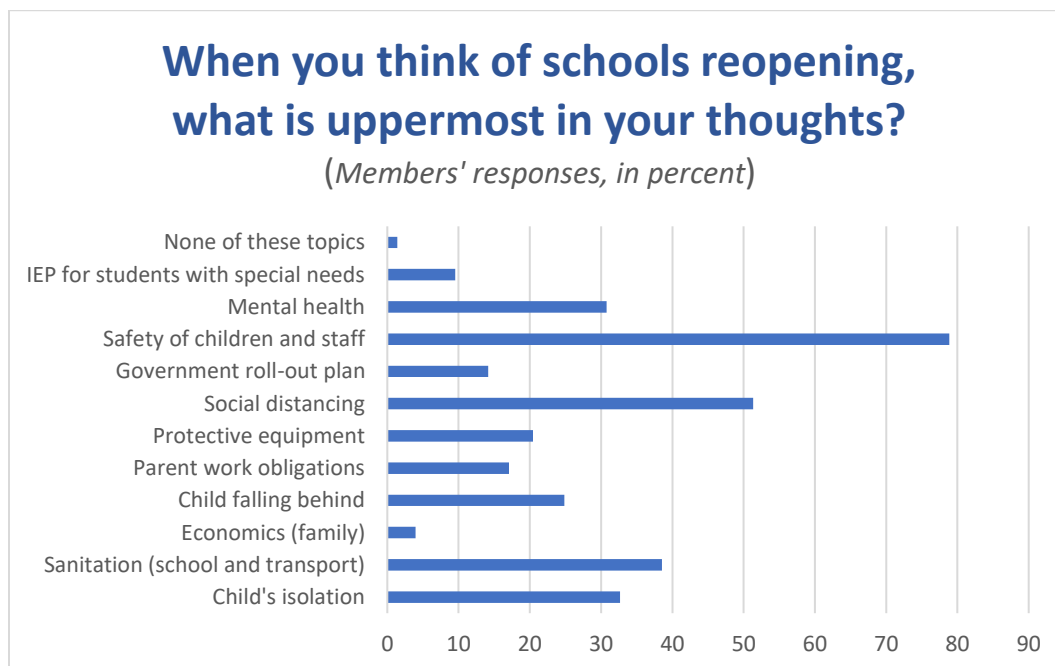


## The QFHSA Back-to-School Survey: *What Our Members Had to Say*

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) surveyed its members recently on the Quebec government's plan to reopen schools this spring. We learned that **a small minority of parents** (16.74%) plan to send their children back to school when it reopens. Of those who intend to keep their children at home, 65.5% are opting for distance learning; and 30%, home-schooling.

A total of 861 members, representing 20.5% of our membership, completed the survey. Most live in the Greater Montreal area (82.81%) and have children attending elementary schools in either the English Montreal School Board (38.79%) or Lester B. Pearson School Board (44.02%).

Why do most parents want to keep their children home this spring? By far **the biggest concern is the safety of children and school staff**. Other issues raised most often were the challenges of social distancing and sanitation, as shown in the following chart:



### *QFHSA Survey Results Cont'd*

In the chart we can also see that more than a third of parents expressed concerns about their child's isolation at home, although safety concerns are a greater preoccupation.

#### ***Other Findings***

Parents have a lot of misgivings about the measures the government is taking to ensure schools are safe for all (38.42% were not so confident; 29.92% were not at all confident). However, parents were more confident in their own school's preparedness for returning students (55.53% were somewhat confident; 12.34% were extremely confident).

A clear majority of parents are concerned about the negative psychological effect the new school reality (sanitary measures/social distancing) will have on very young children.

And although a majority of parents are opting to use distance learning services at home this spring, the materials they are using are getting mixed reviews. A total of 44.65% of respondents rated the distance learning services they have received as good or very good. Few gave them an excellent rating, and 22.21% gave them a failing grade.

*The survey was conducted from May 7-10, 2020.*