

# **AFT CONNECTICUT**

## **PREK-12 MEMBERSHIP SCHOOL BUILDING REOPENING SURVEY JULY 2020**

Prepared by:

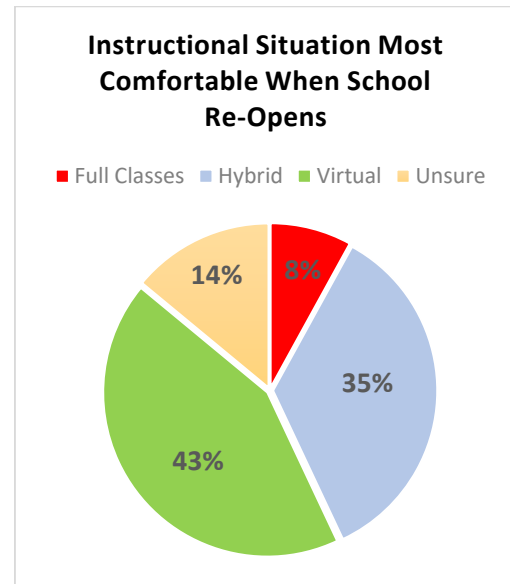
**DFM Research**

Saint Paul, Minnesota

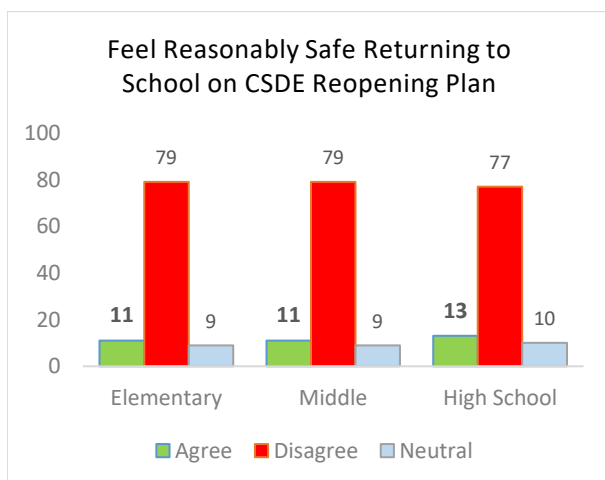
## Executive Summary:

American Federation of Teachers Connecticut (AFT CT) members overwhelmingly oppose returning to a full classes with face-to-face instruction, even when following Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Only eight percent want to return to that scenario, based on a July survey of AFT CT teachers and other classroom professionals. The AFT CT membership survey was conducted from July 20 – 25, 2020, consisting of 4,441 members who sufficiently completed the online survey. With regards to returning to school with full classes, the crosstab data presents the complete picture. Consider:

- Men (12 percent) and those over age 60 (11 percent) are the strongest supporters of opening full classes – yet the support level doesn't even reach the teens. All other demographic groupings show only single-digit support for full classes.
- Women and young members are the least likely to want to teach in a full class scenario; just six percent of women, five percent of age 18-29 and six percent between ages 30-39.
- High School teachers and younger members are more likely to support complete virtual distance learning; 48 percent of High School teachers favor virtual learning for reopening to 42 percent of Elementary teachers.



The survey results clearly show that no matter how you frame the questions, teachers are very concerned (the data show a lot of intensity, with words like strongly and extreme being the majority response to most questions) about going back to the classroom in the fall. When asked about risk factors, 73 percent responded with ‘extreme’ concern having interactions with non-compliant students (Q4a), while 63 percent ‘strongly’ agree with the statement that they are concerned about students not following CDC guidelines (Q14). This is a key point found in the survey, teachers and other classroom professionals have intense feeling/beliefs on these issues, not lukewarm or blasé.

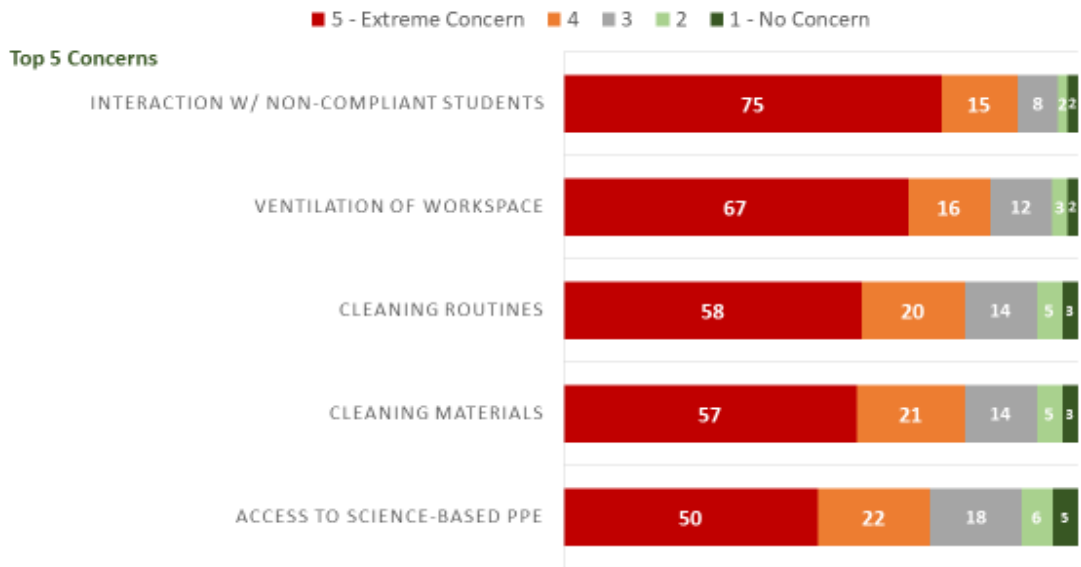


Question eight get right to the crux of the issue, do teachers feel safe returning to school this fall based on the CSDE plan. The answer is a clear ‘no’. Overall, 77 percent disagree about feeling safe, with 50 percent at strongly disagree. Only 13 percent agree that they will feel safe. Doesn't matter the classroom setting.

When you combine the two above questions, review the demographics and the data as a whole, around one-in-ten AFT CT teachers are in favor and comfortable returning to a full classroom for fall reopening of schools.

# Key Findings:

Q4: Using a scale of 1 to 5, rate your risk factor concern about exposure to COVID-19 when school reopens? (1 being 'no concern' and 5 being 'extreme concern')



## WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT?

Legend: Strongly Disagree (Red), Disagree (Orange), Neutra/Unsure (Grey), Agree (Light Green), Strongly Agree (Dark Green)

Q14: I AM CONCERNED STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES ABOUT WEARING THEIR MASK, HAND WASHING, ETC.



Q16: I AM CONCERNED ABOUT COVID-19 TRANSMISSION WHEN STUDENTS REMOVE THEIR MASK IN MY CLASSROOM



Q20: TVAL NEEDS TO BE SUSPENDED IN CURRENT ENVIRONMENT AND MORE SUPPORT NEEDED TO PROVIDE GUIDCANCE AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING



## **Topline:**

<u>Interviews:</u>	4,441 AFT Connecticut Teachers via Online Survey (sufficiently completed)
<u>Margin of Error:</u>	Self-Selection Sample
<u>Interview Dates:</u>	July 20-25, 2020
<u>Sample:</u>	List provided by AFT Connecticut. Survey link distributed via Local leaders
<u>Survey Sponsor:</u>	AFT Connecticut

**Q4:** Using a scale of 1 to 5, rate your risk factor concern about exposure to COVID-19 when school reopens? (1 being 'no concern' and 5 being 'extreme concern')?

### **Interactions with Other Staff**

1 – No concern.....	7%
2 .....	13
3 – Some concern .....	33
4 .....	22
5 – Extreme concern .....	26

### **Interactions with Compliant Students**

1 – No concern.....	8%
2 .....	12
3 – Some concern .....	30
4 .....	23
5 – Extreme concern .....	28

### **Interactions with Non-Compliant Students**

1 – No concern.....	2%
2 .....	2
3 – Some concern .....	8
4 .....	15
5 – Extreme concern .....	73

### **Cleaning Materials in Workspace**

1 – No concern.....	3%
2 .....	5
3 – Some concern .....	14
4 .....	21
5 – Extreme concern .....	57

### **Cleaning Routines**

1 – No concern.....	3%
2 .....	5
3 – Some concern .....	14
4 .....	20
5 – Extreme concern .....	58

**Ventilation of Your Workspace**

1 – No concern .....	2%
2 .....	3
3 – Some concern .....	12
4 .....	16
5 – Extreme concern .....	67

**Parents/Volunteers/Vendors Entering the Building**

1 – No concern .....	6%
2 .....	9
3 – Some concern .....	23
4 .....	20
5 – Extreme concern .....	41

**Access to science-based PPE**

1 – No concern .....	5%
2 .....	6
3 – Some concern .....	18
4 .....	22
5 – Extreme concern .....	50

**Safe Entry Protocols to Enter Building (Temperature Checks, Parent Pick Up)**

1 – No concern .....	4%
2 .....	5
3 – Some concern .....	18
4 .....	24
5 – Extreme concern .....	49

**Q4z:** And which risk factors concerns you the MOST about exposure to COVID-19 when school reopens? (CHOOSE UP TO THREE)

Interactions with Other Staff .....	17%
Interactions with Compliant Students .....	24
Interactions with Non-Compliant Students .....	81
Cleaning Materials in Workplace .....	31
Cleaning Routines .....	42
Ventilation of Your Workspace .....	59
Parents/Volunteers/Vendors Entering the Building .....	14
Access to science-based PPE .....	31
Safe Entry Protocols to Enter Building .....	32

**Q5:** Which best describes your concern about student safety?

I believe all students can return safely to school full time .....	2%
I believe the majority of students can return safely to school full time .	11
I am concerned that the districts will be unable to meet the minimum AAP/CDC requirements to keep students safe .....	46
I do not believe it is safe for students to return to school .....	40

**Q6:** Which of the following instructional situations would you be most comfortable with when school reopens?

Full Classes Face to Face following CDC guidelines .....	8%
Reduced Face to Face Hybrid Model following CDC guidelines ....	35
Completely Virtual Distance Learning .....	43
Unsure .....	14

**Q7:** Which best describes your feelings about the following statement?

"I believe that my district has the funds available to meet the AAP/CDC minimum requirements for a safe return to school"

Strongly agree .....	2%
Agree .....	7
Disagree .....	21
Strongly disagree .....	54
Neutral / Unsure .....	15

**Q8:** Which best describes your feelings about the following statement?

"Based on the **CSDE reopening plan**, I feel reasonably safe returning to my school building for instruction this fall."

Strongly agree .....	3%
Agree .....	10
Disagree .....	27
Strongly disagree .....	50
Neutral / Unsure .....	10

**Q9:** Which best describes your feelings about the following statement?

"Based on **my local reopening plan**, I feel reasonably safe returning to my school building for instruction this fall."

Strongly agree .....	3%
Agree .....	9
Disagree .....	26
Strongly disagree .....	46
Neutral / Unsure .....	16

**Q10:** Based on your prior student numbers, is there enough “usable space” in your classroom to support a full class of appropriately socially distanced students?

Yes .....	<b>6%</b>
No .....	<b>86</b>
Unsure .....	<b>7</b>

**Q11:** Based on usable space in your classroom and social distancing guidelines, estimate what you think would be the safe number of students in your class?

7 - 9 .....	<b>40%</b>
10 - 12 .....	<b>35</b>
13 - 15 .....	<b>10</b>
Other .....	<b>16</b>

**Q12:** Using AAP guidance for 6 feet of social distance among adults, how should Data Team Meetings, Faculty Meetings, PPT Meetings, Parent/Teacher conferences, Trainings, other staff meetings be conducted?

Virtual .....	<b>82%</b>
In-Person .....	<b>6</b>
Unsure .....	<b>13</b>

**Q13:** Do you feel confident that the facilities in your district will have the appropriate ventilation necessary to provide a safe environment for teaching and learning?

Yes .....	<b>5%</b>
No .....	<b>78</b>
Unsure .....	<b>17</b>

**Q14:** Which best describes your feelings about the following statement?

"I am concerned students will not be able to follow CDC guidelines about wearing their masks, hand washing, etc. at all required times during the day."

Strongly agree .....	<b>63%</b>
Agree .....	<b>27</b>
Disagree .....	<b>4</b>
Strongly disagree .....	<b>2</b>
Neutral / Unsure .....	<b>3</b>

**Q15:** If a Public Health Official toured your classroom/building before you returned to school to establish a maximum student capacity for each room, would you feel more confident in returning to school?

Yes .....	<b>39%</b>
No .....	<b>30</b>
Unsure .....	<b>30</b>

**Q16:** Which best describes your feelings about the following statement?

"I am concerned about COVID-19 transmission when students remove their masks to eat/drink in my classroom."

Strongly agree .....	51%
Agree .....	31
Disagree .....	7
Strongly disagree .....	2
Neutral / Unsure .....	10

**Q17:** Providing you with which of the following types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/supplies would make you more confident in returning to school? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

Medical grade Masks (N95) .....	75%
Plexiglass Around Teacher Desk .....	53
Plexiglass Around Student Desk/Station .....	59
Hand Sanitizer (with appropriate strength) .....	88
Nitrile Gloves .....	40
Classroom Bottle of Disinfectant Spray <i>Proven</i> to Kill COVID-19 .....	88
Evidence of Effective Ventilation .....	85
Other PPE (please specify) .....	21

**Q18:** How do you rate your proficiency in these areas?

**Social Emotional Learning**

None .....	1%
Limited .....	5
Developing .....	28
Proficient .....	55
Expert .....	11

**Equity and Diversity**

None .....	0%
Limited .....	4
Developing .....	27
Proficient .....	59
Expert .....	10

**Trauma Informed Care**

None .....	10%
Limited .....	21
Developing .....	37
Proficient .....	27
Expert .....	5



**Restorative Practice**

None .....	<b>4%</b>
Limited .....	<b>12</b>
Developing .....	<b>37</b>
Proficient .....	<b>41</b>
Expert .....	<b>6</b>

**Remote Learning**

None .....	<b>0%</b>
Limited .....	<b>7</b>
Developing .....	<b>48</b>
Proficient .....	<b>39</b>
Expert .....	<b>5</b>

**Q19:** In which of the following areas would you like to receive training? Select all that apply

Socio-Emotional Learning .....	<b>38%</b>
Equity and Diversity .....	<b>35</b>
Trauma-Informed Care .....	<b>53</b>
Remote Learning topics (platforms, tech, planning) .....	<b>75</b>
Other area (please specify) .....	<b>4</b>

**Q20:** Which best describes your feelings about the following statement?

“TVALL as we know it needs to be suspended while in this current environment and more support is needed to be put in place to provide guidance and professional training to staff.”

Strongly agree .....	<b>64%</b>
Agree .....	<b>21</b>
Disagree .....	<b>2</b>
Strongly disagree .....	<b>0</b>
Neutral / Unsure .....	<b>13</b>

**Q21:** Which best describes your comfort with your ability to deliver instruction remotely during Distance Learning instruction:

Very confident .....	<b>23%</b>
Confident .....	<b>44</b>
Developing .....	<b>30</b>
Not confident .....	<b>4</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>0</b>

**Q22:** If school buildings reopen, what is the single most significant factor which would prevent your ability to return to in-person learning?

Access to Day-care .....	<b>11</b>
Need to care for elderly/special needs dependents .....	<b>5</b>
You fall into one of the CDC high risk categories .....	<b>23</b>
A member of your household falls into one of the CDC high risk categories .....	<b>22</b>
Public transportation is sporadic or unavailable .....	<b>0</b>
Other .....	<b>11</b>
None .....	<b>28</b>