

**From:** [Melissa Gabler](#)  
**To:** [SPCSA Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - DANN Parent - Recommendation to Issue COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance  
**Date:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 8:04:45 PM

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My name is Melissa Gabler and I am a parent and also serve as President on the PTO board at Doral Academy of Northern Nevada (DANN). Our family is more than excited for school to start back up in just a little under 2 weeks. I am writing to you today in regards to the most recent recommendation regarding school reopenings set forth by Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director. I am asking you to **please disregard this recommendation** and allow our school to continue with the original reopening plan of a hybrid schedule on August 24, 2020 that was submitted and approved.

Our Principal, her leadership team and our amazing staff and teachers have spent countless hours creating a reopening plan that is not only safe but has the best interest of the Doral student body, staff and teachers. With the new recommendation that is being made, it would be impossible for our school to operate on a week by week basis. Therefore, we would be forced into a distance learning model when so many of our families and teachers did not ask for that.

My kids (6 and 8) are craving the social interaction, emotional support, consistency and routine that school provides. We have made the CHOICE to be at Doral Academy rather than our zoned district school and my kids LOVE it.....Nothing makes them happier than being at school with their peers and teachers! How many people can say that about their kids when it comes to school? The experience they have here at Doral with the amazing "hands on" arts integration and social emotional learning is what sets it apart from all of the others!

One of the main concerns I have for my children is the emotional toll it will have on them if we continue to pivot them back and forth from an in-person to distance learning model on a week by week basis. These poor kids need nothing more right now than stability and routine. Their entire world has been turned upside down. They have been isolated for months and haven't been able to go to school, play with friends, go on vacation, participate in sports, go to the park, library or church. They need consistency and to be back in a school setting with their peers and teachers not stuck behind a computer screen 5 days a week!

Our Principal and her staff know our students, they know their teachers, they know our families and they know our community.....therefore, I think it is in the best interest to allow **them** to be the decision makers in how our school re-opens safely.

I do appreciate that the State Charter Authority may have their own concerns, however, please allow the schools to make the decisions that are best suited for their students, staff, teachers and community! We are all navigating uncharted waters right now, but I do know one thing.....this is not the time for a one size fits all approach.

Thank you for your time!

- Melissa Gabler, DANN Mother of 2 and PTO President