

From: [R Reyes](#)
To: [SPCSA Public Comment](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Board Meeting
Date: Thursday, November 5, 2020 8:31:00 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the last several weeks, COVID-19 case numbers have been increasing, and it is bound to only get worse as we approach flu season, the holidays, and schools attempting to move from virtual to hybrid. This is deeply concerning to me as a mother of three children in the public charter school system, and as a teacher at one of your charter schools. As the board discusses our next steps today, I urge you to please consider returning to virtual for the safety of our community.

Several schools that employed the hybrid model earlier in the school year are already returning to virtual due to students and staff getting sick. Unfortunately cases in school-age children have been rising as well. At the beginning of October we were seeing less than 10 cases a day in children ages 5-17, and now we are up to 14 new cases a day in that age range. This sort of spike is happening all around the country. We don't fully understand the extent of the damage this virus can cause on our bodies long term, and are even more in the dark regarding how it affects children in particular. So far, thirteen kids in Clark County have contracted COVID-19 and then were diagnosed with Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome shortly after. This is simply not a risk I feel confident putting my students through, let alone my own kids. Children have also been proven to transmit the virus more successfully, and studies are showing that they can be even more contagious than some adults.

Students' lives have been turned upside down since the start of this pandemic in March. Having a stable routine is such an important component in a child's life, and I feel that our kids are finally starting to feel some semblance of "normal" again. Moving kids from fully virtual to the hybrid model is yet another drastic change for students, teachers, and families, and would only escalate the current surge in Clark County cases. Returning to virtual would give teachers the opportunity to grow even more as virtual educators, and will keep our families safe from unnecessary exposure to the virus. Hybrid is not a responsible choice for now.

Historically speaking, pandemics tend to be even worse during the second wave, and now we are seeing cases of reinfection as well. Should history repeat itself, we need to take precautions to safeguard our children and community. Otherwise, the results could be devastating for our city. I ask that you please examine all of the information we have on COVID-19 in Clark County, and take our health into consideration before bringing students back into our buildings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rebekah Reyes