

**From:** [Melissa Gabler](#)  
**To:** [SPCSA Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Agenda item 4(a)  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 4:19:27 PM

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Hello,

My name is Melissa Gabler and I am the mother of two children (1st and 3rd grade) that attend Doral Academy of Northern Nevada in Reno, NV

I am submitting public comment in relation to agenda item 4(a) for the meeting scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2020. I strongly urge the charter board to consider allowing each individual school to make the decision to return full time in person learning.

Our students have not been in the classroom full time for over 8 months. This is simply unacceptable. While our school is amazing and our Principal, Angela Orr, and her staff have done a phenomenal job of creating a comprehensive distance learning model it is not the same.

It breaks my heart that my 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, age 9, has been in tears on more than one occasion because of the stresses and frustrations related to distance learning. He misses his teacher and peers and it is greatly affecting his emotional and mental health. This is happening to children all over the country. Just today I read an article that an 11 year old boy in California took his own life during distance learning as a result of the emotional toll that this pandemic is having on our children.

There are several reasons why this board should consider allowing all schools to move to full time in person learning:

1. There is sufficient research to show that schools are not the center of super spreaders for COVID-19. Here are four recent studies/articles and reports to back this statement up:
  - a. [The Atlantic: Schools Aren't Super-Spreaders](#)
  - b. [Kids, School, and COVID-19: What We Know](#) - Association of American Medical Colleges
  - c. [What Health Data Says About Safely Reopening Schools - NPR](#)
  - d. [Schools are not Spreading covid-19](#) - Washington Post
2. Washoe County has released an emergency regulation signed by Governor Sisolak to lessen the requirements to obtain a substitute teaching license. This, along with the CDC's most recent guidelines shorting the quarantine period from 14 days to 7-10 days will help to provide relief for schools that are short staffed due to quarantine or illness.
3. 60% of US K-12 Public Schools have the option to attend in person learning, at least a few days a week. 35.7% are attending in person school, full time. 26.5% are attending at least a hybrid arrangement. This is a sample of 1,200 districts, including all 50 states, and the largest 200 districts in the country.
  - a. This charter board's response is in the *minority in the nation's response to covid-19*.

b. *Nevada is no worse, no nor better than any state responding to COVID-19 - according to [NPR's state chart as of December 1](#) - and does not warrant this response at this different of a solution*

4. Excessive screen time! Both my husband and I work from home full time which makes it extremely hard for us to assist my children with their distance learning. This means that my poor children are left to fend for themselves for hours at a time stuck in front of a computer screen. Up until now, we as parents have been told by our pediatricians and the American Association of Pediatrics how detrimental and harmful extended screen time is for children. It has a huge negative impact on the developmental growth and now here we are being forced as parents to have them stare at screens all day! Not to mention, my 7 year old has headaches almost daily as a result of excessive screen time.

In the end, I am just asking you to do what is right for our children. We need our Charter schools to have the autonomy and choice to offer an in-person learning model 5 days a week if that is what they feel is best for their individual school. These children are the future of our great State of Nevada and they deserve their right to a quality and **full time in-person** public education!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Gabler