

**From:** [Laura Uschyk](#)  
**To:** [SPCSA Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for 12/4/2020 meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 11:50:07 AM

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Hi -

This is in relation to agenda item 4(a). I strongly urge the charter board to consider returning to school in person full time. There are several reasons for this, outlined below.

1. Schools have yet to be identified as centers of superspreaders for the disease. Here are several sources indicating from multiple studies and platforms. All four are recent studies/articles and reports that occurred within the last three months.
  1. [The Atlantic: Schools Aren't Super-Spreaders](#)
  2. [Kids, School, and COVID-19: What We Know](#) - Association of American Medical Colleges
  3. [What Health Data Says ABOUT Safely Reopening Schools - NPR](#)
  4. [Schools are not Spreading covid-19](#) - Washington Post
2. Contract Tracing and Substitute Teachers -
  1. One limitation to in person education was the availability of substitute teachers for those teachers that were exposed to the disease whether at school or through other instances (family, work, community, etc); Washoe County has released emergency regulation signed by Sisolak, ignoring previous regulations for subs to create greater availability of subs when the need arises.
3. [The AAP still recommends in person learning for several reasons:](#)
  1. to combat racial inequality, ethnic equality, and social justice.
  2. 1 in 5 teenagers are not able to complete schoolwork due to connectivity, and this adversely impacts diverse students in diverse, black, and low income families and the disparities will worsen over time.
  3. With the above principles (and more cited in the article) in mind, **the AAP strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.**
4. [Washoe County Elementary Schools are remaining in person.](#) - using similar research at a much broader scale, WCSD is keeping elementary schools open for younger students.
5. [Pew Research](#) supports a decrease in satisfaction in learning in the transition to remote learning.
  1. This data supports an alarming trend that many parents are concerned about the instruction and education students are receiving in a remote learning environment. This is not commentary on Doral's response to the remote learning environment - as it has been fairly good given the circumstances we are in. This is around remote learning for young students *period*.
  2. Concerns range from too much screen time, maintaining social friendships, emotional well being, exercise and unsupervised time.
6. [60% of US K-12 Public Schools](#) have 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.
  1. This charter board's response is in the *minority in the nation's response to covid-19*.
  2. *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*

At the end of the day - I think a variable response is important. There are high risk families and studies that need to be given the option to *stay at home*. However, there are families that need an onsite education - recommended by WHO, the AAP and the AAM. These organizations have created recommendations for in person learning that we can't ignore.

Thank you.

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