

# HIDDEN FUTURE FRONT LINE: EDUCATORS' PERSPECTIVE ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN (HIFLEC)

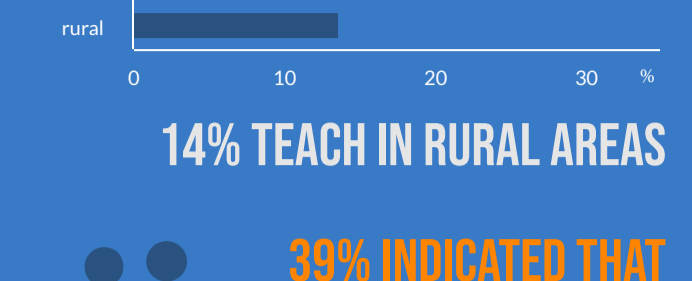
## SURVEY RESULTS

We asked Ontario kindergarten educators about the realities of distance learning, their concerns for the return to school, and about their own health. This is what they told us.

### 3,028 KINDERGARTEN EDUCATORS

74% kindergarten teachers

26% early childhood educators



14% TEACH IN RURAL AREAS

39% INDICATED THAT MOST CHILDREN IN THEIR CLASS HAVE TWO PARENTS AT HOME

### 50% OF EDUCATORS INDICATED THAT LESS THAN 1/4 OF CHILDREN IN THEIR CLASS

- live in single family homes
- have English or French as a second language
- are newcomers to Canada

### DISTANCE LEARNING

MORE THAN 90% STARTED DISTANCE LEARNING BY THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL

- 56% interacted with individual families at least once a week
- 52% had access to the resources needed to support children's learning
- 76% reported longer preparation time than before the lockdown
- 56% of online interactions with their class lasted 30 minutes or less

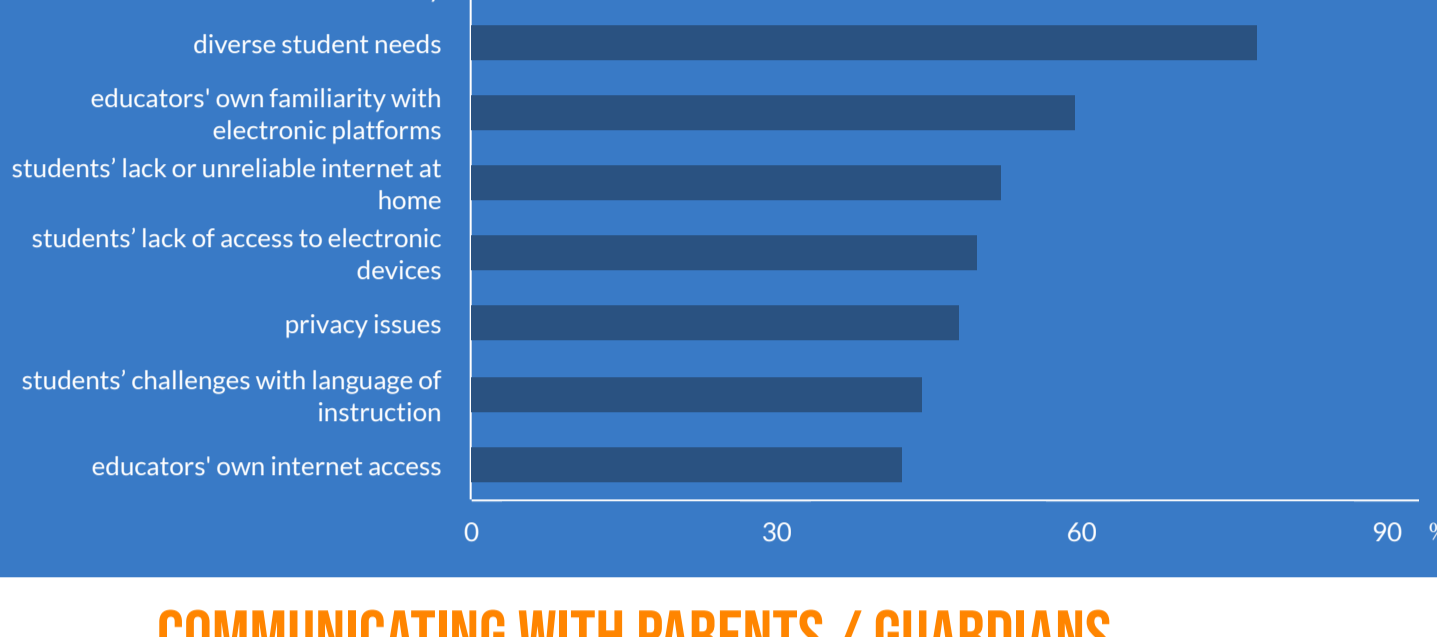


EDUCATORS WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES BASED ON CHILD'S NEEDS

98% OF EDUCATORS USED TEACHING RESOURCES THAT THEY FOUND\*

\*In addition to resources and guidelines provided by schools and school boards, unions, and peer support

### BARRIERS TO DISTANCE LEARNING



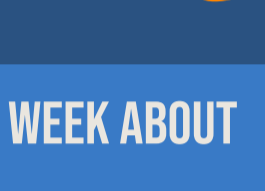
### COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS / GUARDIANS

87% were in contact with parents / guardians at least once since the lockdown started

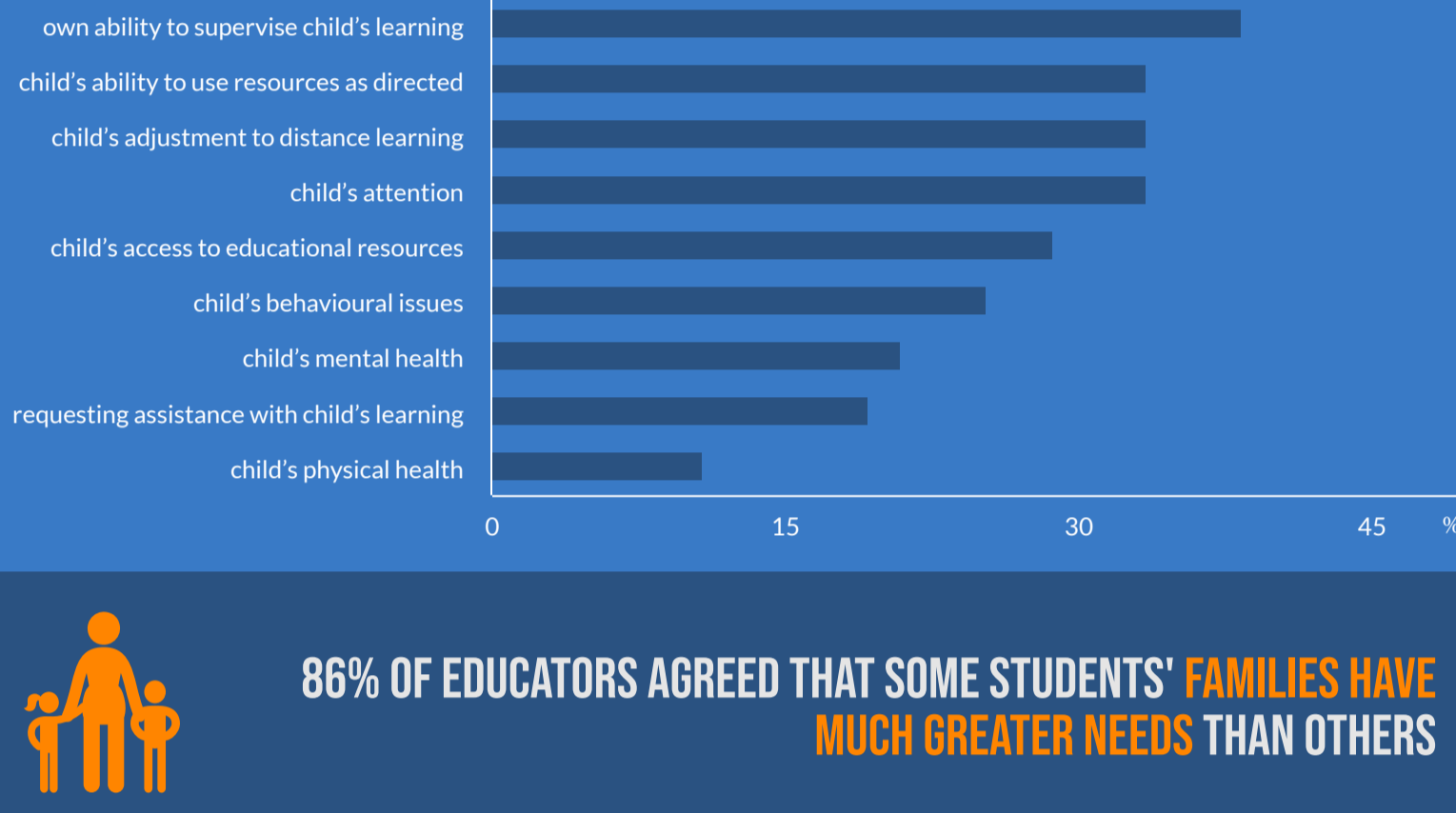


11% were not able to communicate with some of the parents / guardians of their students

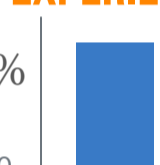
84% OF EDUCATORS REPORTED THAT SOME PARENTS / GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN IN THEIR CLASS HAD OPTED OUT OF DISTANCE LEARNING



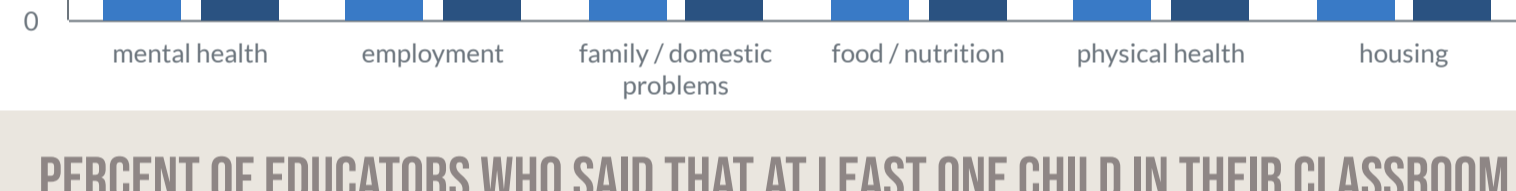
### PARENTS / GUARDIANS REACHED OUT TO EDUCATORS AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK ABOUT



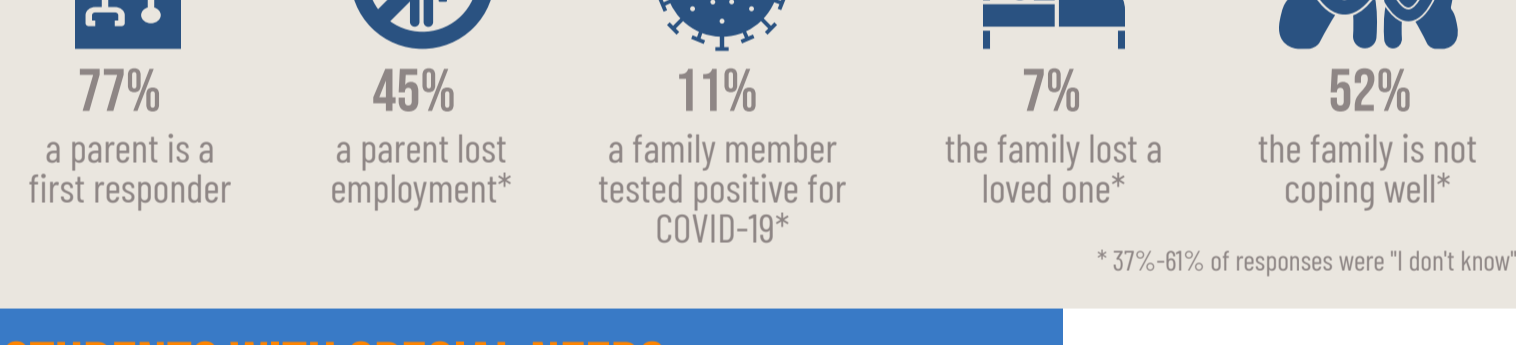
86% OF EDUCATORS AGREED THAT SOME STUDENTS' FAMILIES HAVE MUCH GREATER NEEDS THAN OTHERS



### PERCENT OF EDUCATORS WHO SAID THAT AT LEAST ONE CHILD IN THEIR CLASSROOM EXPERIENCED THE FOLLOWING FAMILY PROBLEMS

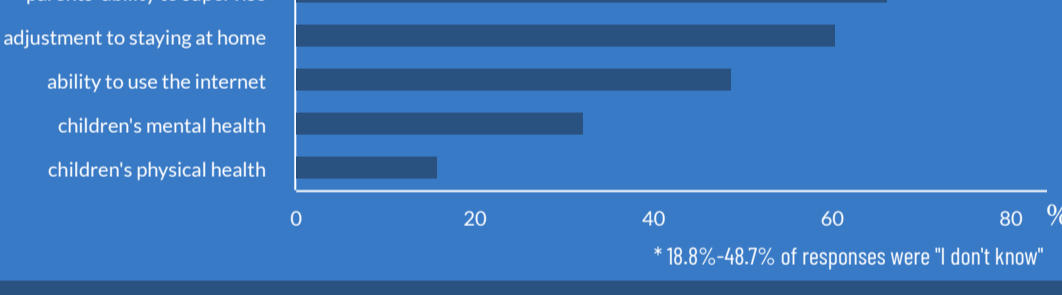


### PERCENT OF EDUCATORS WHO SAID THAT AT LEAST ONE CHILD IN THEIR CLASSROOM EXPERIENCED THE FOLLOWING DUE TO COVID-19



### STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

ONE OR MORE STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS EXPERIENCED SPECIFIC DIFFICULTIES WITH\*



83% had at least 1 child with special needs in their class

56% had 1-3 children with special needs in their class

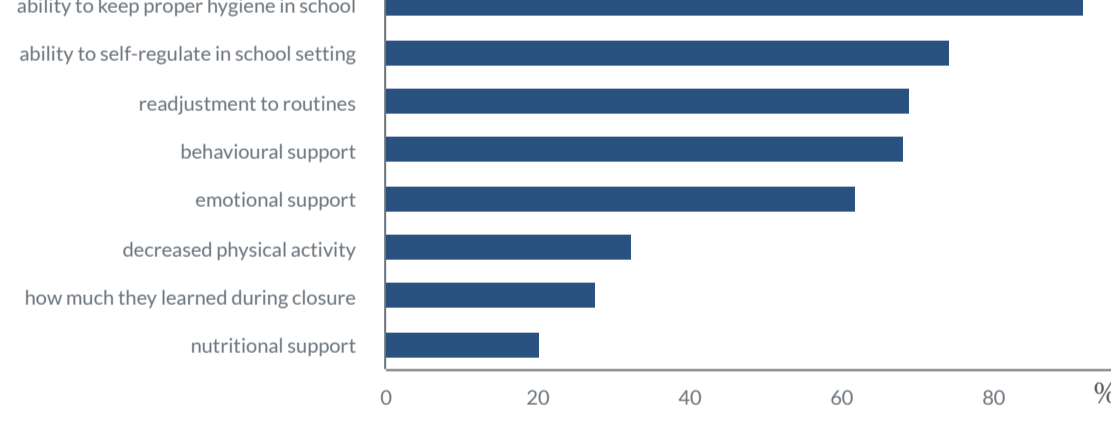
### 90% OF EDUCATORS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE RETURN TO SCHOOL



59% OF EDUCATORS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SUPPORTS IN THE CLASSROOM

(e.g., educational assistant, language support for English / French learners, mental health supports)

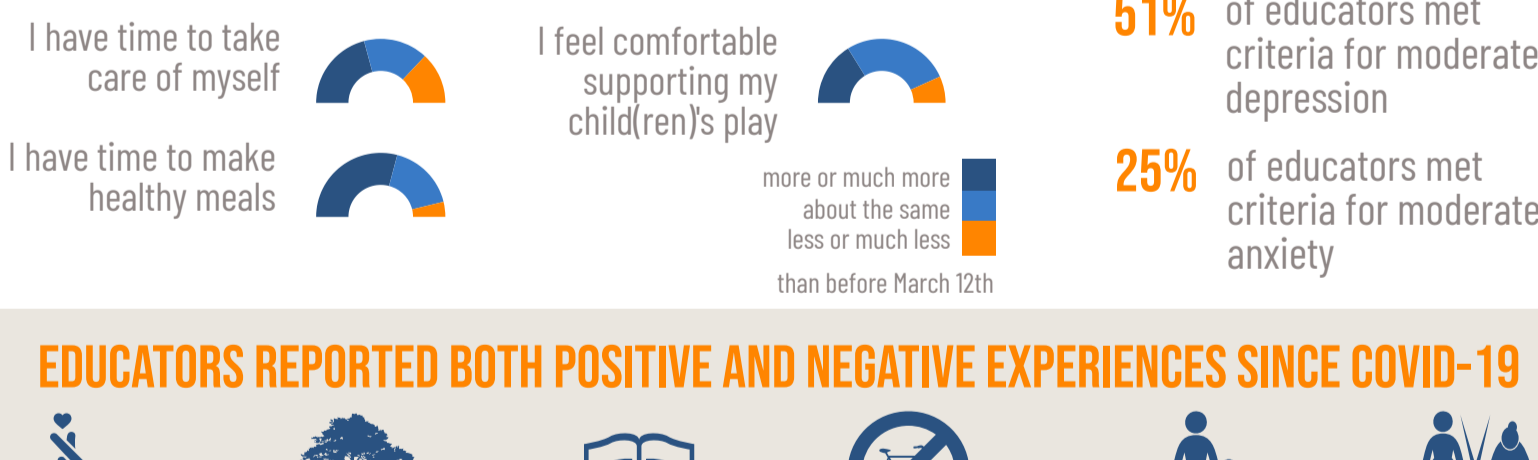
### EDUCATORS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT CHILDREN'S



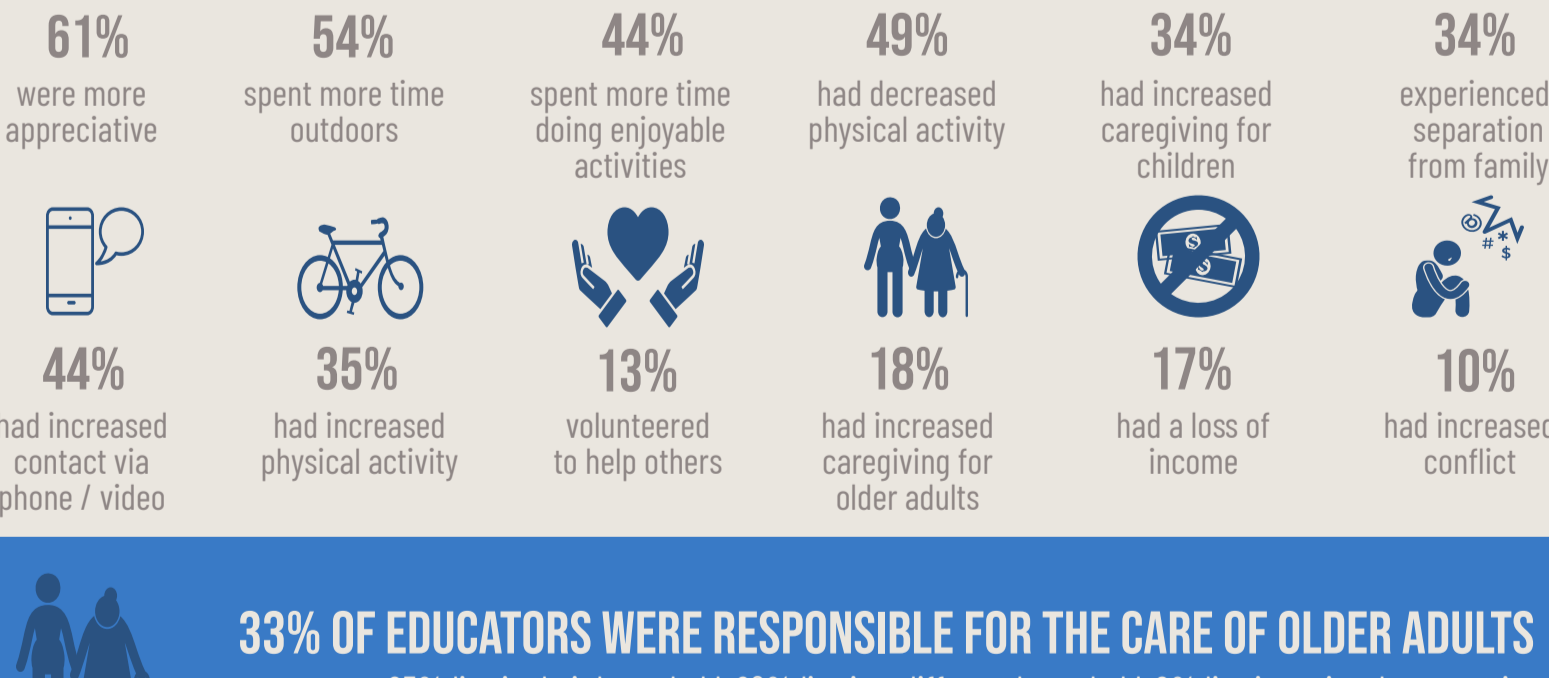
92% OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATORS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEMSELVES OR THEIR STUDENTS CONTRACTING COVID-19

### EDUCATORS WELL-BEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Most educators felt that COVID-19 closures did not affect their well-being greatly



### EDUCATORS REPORTED BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES SINCE COVID-19



33% OF EDUCATORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARE OF OLDER ADULTS

25% live in their household, 68% live in a different household, 9% live in assisted care setting

### LESS THAN 1% OF EDUCATORS WERE DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19



61% OF EDUCATORS HAVE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18

64% were primarily responsible for teaching their own children



63% had difficulty balancing work and caring for children

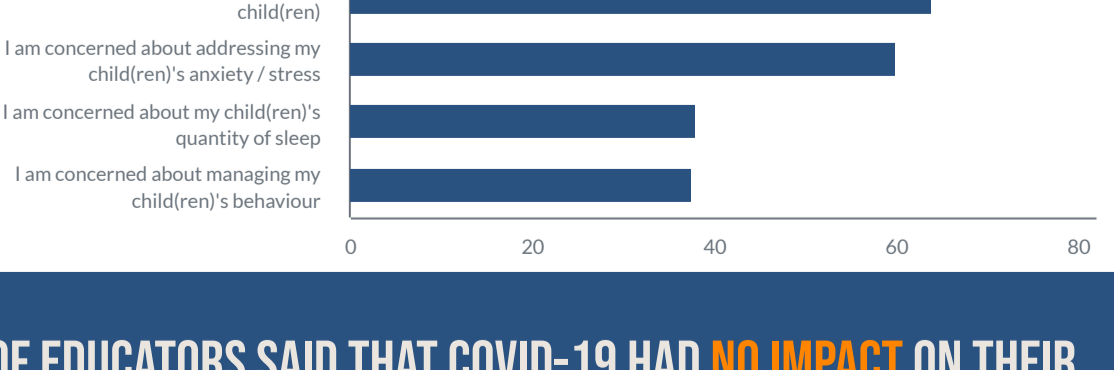


### EDUCATORS ARE PARENTS TOO

COVID-19 has affected the lives of educators' children



### Educators are concerned about their children



56% OF EDUCATORS SAID THAT COVID-19 HAD NO IMPACT ON THEIR ABILITY TO MEET FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS (such as rent / mortgage payments, utilities bills, groceries)

Our survey provided a timely snapshot of the realities of emergency distance learning, educators' perceptions of student well-being, and impact of the pandemic on kindergartners and their educators. The results highlight areas of concern for the return to school. When reviewing these results, please remember that the sample was not meant to be representative of all kindergarten educators in Ontario.

The survey was open from May 21st to July 17th, 2020. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Association des enseignantes et enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETF), and the Ontario Elementary Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA) in promoting the study.