

## Video Public Comment

Jen Shorter - [Work days on election days](#)

## Written Public Comments

Sara Velasco	Calendar changes for election days	I am in support of making ALL election days teacher work days or days kids are otherwise out of school. Allowing the public into schools while kids are in school is a huge safety concern, especially in light of all the school shooting. Allowing students in school at that time makes safety compromised.
Renata Mello	Please consider making All election days teacher workday.	<p>Please consider making All election days teacher workday. It's not safe for our students to be at school during election days with no control over who enters the school building and what's their intention.</p> <p>Also, traffic inside school is increased which is another point of concern for student arriving and leaving . Please consider this request, consider the safety of our children, teachers and staff.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Marissa Parker	Voting while school is in session	<p>Good day,</p> <p>Us parents are already terrified to send our children to school on any given day. Holding voting at their school while the children are present makes it all the worse. There is no viable reason why this practice needs to persist. Please find another polling location or cancel school for that day. The best option would be to give our beloved educators the day off as well.</p> <p>Respectfully, Marissa Parker</p>

Kristen Black	Election days	Please make ALL election days teacher work days, or other days where our children are not on campus. It is an extreme safety risk for our schools to be open for instruction and open for unmonitored public access.
Morgan Fowler	Make all election days teacher workdays or holidays for year round students	Safety needs to be the top priority for our children. With that in mind, all days where polling stations are open in public schools should be a holiday or teach workday for students. People are unpredictable, especially around elections and it is unsafe for our children to share a building with voters who are able to freely come in and out. Please consider amending the schedule
Carrie Randa	Election Day teacher work days	When the board is considering calendar changes please consider making all election days teacher work days so that no children are in any buildings shared with the voting public. Great measures are taken to keep students safe in the current environment and there is no way to ensure safety with strangers in and out of school all day voting. There is no reason students should be at school on any election days, whether they be primaries or general elections. Students should not be in the school at the same time as random adults who come and go without the normal screening done to ensure safety. Please make all election days teacher work days.
Kelly McKeivitt	Election Day polling at schools	Thank you for discussing calendar changes. I am fully in support of making any Election Day a teacher planning/work day or holiday. This will keep kids out of schools where polling is taking place and ensure their safety.
Sara Nelson	Children not in school during public voting	Given recent events, I don't feel comfortable with my children attending school when it is open to the public for voting. If the calendar isn't changed to reflect this security concern, I will keep my children home from school on those days.

Courtney Wileman	Make Election Day a Teacher Work Day	To ensure the safety of students and to try to reduce the spread of COVID, Election Day should be a teacher work day or holiday. It is not safe to open school doors to the Public while school is in session. That makes it too easy for someone with malicious intent to have access to the school and cause harm. It also causes traffic problems during arrival and dismissal.
Mariann Kromenacker	Election days should be teacher workdays	Schools are used as polling locations all throughout wake county. Lots of people go through the schools on those days. The children should be safe at home. Thank you for considering schedule changes for this issue!
Jenae Delayen	Elections during school hours	I would like the board to consider changing the calendar to avoid hosting the elections during school hours. This is incredibly unsafe and a simple solution is to change these days to teacher work days.
Elizabeth Tate	Make ALL election days teacher workdays	<p>I think for our children's safety, schools should not be in session on election day and instead make ALL election days coincide with teacher workdays. There is no need for strangers to be on campus while children are in the classroom. I volunteered at the primary election, and I was surprised for the school I was at to be in session. We were in an open quad where students were walking back and forth to class/lunch, and anyone could interact with the students and there was not even extra security. Very concerning as a parent to see this and thankful that nothing bad had happened.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider this and I hope that you all will vote to change the school schedule for 2022 to have the general election be a teacher workday. The election this year is an immediate concern, but I hope that this can be a long-term change.</p>
Lindsay Giroux	Schools on Election Day	I hope the board will consider reasonable alternatives (such as a teacher workday) for Election Day to avoid situations where buildings with students and staff have a

		large amount of foot traffic. A workday would make safe voting easier for everyone (staff, high school students, and those who currently have to park and navigate schools to vote) and would ensure there's not a security risk. Thanks.
Cortney Shackson	Closing school on Election Day.	Please close school on election days for kids and staff safety.
Kate Launer	Election days	For the safety of all students and staff, please allow schools to be closed on all election days. We cannot guarantee campus safety for our students and staff on those days. School safety should be a top priority.
Sarah Wilson	School in session on election days	School should not be in session on election days. If you dont make these teacher in service days i will keep my children home when their school is used as polling location. In our current times this isnt safe for our children.
Naomi Launer	Election Days	As a student, it is unsafe and disruptive. Because anyone could enter, people like school shooters could enter the school. Therefore, the environment is not safe for students. Next, election days are disruptive to school schedules, which is quite annoying, and the voters' cars can be blocking some transportation. With that all being said, I think students should not go to school during the election days.
Sofia Launer	Schools Closed For Election Day	As a student, I feel it would be safer to close schools to both students and staff members in election days. When voters come to schools on election days, they have unrestricted access to the whole school, and all people working and learning there. We do have volunteers manning the voting booths, but while they are well meaning, they are often unqualified and unfit to protect students and staff in a possibly dangerous situations. Based on my experience as a student at a designated polling site, and my experience as the child of a staff member at a designated polling site, these volunteers are also unacceptably lenient. My family members, friends, and I have all seen voters walking into the school and roaming halls, using the bathrooms, and even helping themselves to snacks in the teachers'

		lounge. Any of those people could have had intentions to harm people working and learning in the schools. It is ludicrous that we allow them such access to our community's children, and our hard-working teachers.
Lindsay Maciukiewicz	Election days - closing school	Please close school on public election days. Should not have random people (voters/volunteers) wandering the school when school is in session.
Kim Hatch	Teacher Workdays on Election Days	I was grateful to hear the board is discussing proposed calendar changes at their upcoming work session and am hopeful this will include making upcoming election days teacher workdays so that our students can remaining safe by staying off campus. I understand that for year-round students, they will have to share the building with voters on 7/26, as it's too late to make changes, but as you are considering calendar changes, please keep in mind all days when schools would be used for elections, not just 11/8/22. I also encourage the board to consider this when looking beyond just this school year and instead make it a standard part of the calendar for future elections as well. Currently, the published 2023-2024 WCPSS calendars have students on campus for all three published election days - 10/10/23, 11/7/23, and 3/5/24 - but there is no mention of discussing changes to this future calendar at the work session, only the 2022-2023 calendar. This should be a long term change, not just one for the upcoming election. Thank you!
Nicole Welch	Covid Mitigation Plans for 2022-2023	My daughter is a rising 4th grade student in Wake County Public Schools and I am very concerned that there appear to be no concrete plans in place to protect our students and teachers during increased levels of COVID transmission. The CDC currently rates COVID at a Medium level in Wake County. According to the CDC's guidance to schools and ECE centers layered mitigation methods should be in place to keep schools open. These methods include masking, ventilation, testing, cohorting, case investigation, quarantine and of course encouraging vaccination. So what is WCPSS doing? Please don't leave this up to individual schools with limited resources. We need a county-wide plan NOW. We need our school board to

		ask the county, state and federal government for guidance. The CDC has provided guidance, why aren't our schools following it?
Mimosa Hines	Election Day	<p>I would like to ask the Board to please amend the upcoming school calendar to allow Election days to be school holidays/workdays. There is no reason to put our students and staff at increased risk during these infrequent days. It would also be an opportunity to encourage wake co employees to go vote. Following are a few more reason why this should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>••Election days give ill-intentioned people access to school buildings and students</li> <li>••Cones, ropes, and hallway monitors are inadequate barriers for stopping an armed person</li> <li>••School campus traffic and parking are negatively impacted (especially during carpool, arrival, and dismissal times) trying to accommodate voters</li> <li>••Voters could potentially increase the spread of COVID since they are not a part of the students' COVID "school bubbles"</li> </ul> <p>And while I know every school and school administration does their absolute best to ensure student safety every single day, election days pose an incredibly large and unnecessary risk to student (and staff) safety. Please consider making the upcoming election days teacher workdays so everyone can remain safe.</p>

Jennifer McMullin	Student Safety	<p>Thank you for acknowledging the community concern regarding students on campus for election days, while over 75 WCPSS schools are being used as polling sites.</p> <p>As a parent of a WCPSS student, I respectfully request that the WCPSS School board amend the 2022-2023 academic calendar for 7/26/2022 and 11/8/2022. In addition, I respectfully request that all future WCPSS academic calendars are carefully planned to ensure that students are not in school on election days. These future dates are already known, since the Board of Elections provides those dates years in advance.</p> <p>This request is aligned with WCPSS's initiative to enhance school safety and security, as reported in the WRAL news segment on June 22, 2022 (<a href="https://www.wral.com/wake-county-school-leaders-look-at-ways-to-tighten-security/20343565/">https://www.wral.com/wake-county-school-leaders-look-at-ways-to-tighten-security/20343565/</a> ).</p> <p>.</p> <p>As currently planned, over 75 WCPSS schools are used as polling sites on election days, while more than 54,000 students are on campus.</p> <p>School safety and security are automatically compromised when the general public is given access to school buildings and students. Temporary barriers like tables, ropes, cones, and hallway monitors are insufficient safety measures and provide minimal protection between students and the general public.</p> <p>While amending WCPSS academic calendars is a huge undertaking, it is possible. The following school districts are all larger than WCPSS: New York City, Chicago, Hawaii, Philadelphia. None of them have students in school on elections days. Some have teacher work days. Some are student remote learning days. But all</p>
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		<p>have students off campus on election days.</p> <p>When considering the 160,000 students in our WCPSS schools, I implore you to be proactive with your collective decisions that directly impact the safety and well-being of our children.</p> <p>Let's start with amending the WCPSS school calendars to keep our students out of schools on election days.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Links:</p> <p>Petition- <a href="https://chnng.it/QGjTsCym">https://chnng.it/QGjTsCym</a>  Safe School Polling Website-  <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/safeschoolpolling/english">https://sites.google.com/view/safeschoolpolling/english</a>  Wake County Board of Elections (election dates)-  <a href="https://www.wakegov.com/departments-government/board-elections/election-information/future-election-dates">https://www.wakegov.com/departments-government/board-elections/election-information/future-election-dates</a></p>
Sarah Thompson	Covid safety	<p>Hello. My high schooler is returning to in person after being in va since there wasn't an option for him to continue in va. He's had cancer a few times and had a transplant and has lung damage. I worked very hard traveling to nyc and Jacksonville fl for treatments. I am absolutely terrified to send him back to school. We have been very care and safe this whole pandemic. We don't go into stores or restaurants. We mask even outside. I'm not willing to risk his lungs even more if he were to get Covid. I have no choice but to send him his senior year. Luckily he will be able to leave for lunch. Other kids are not able to leave during lunch. That's why my elementary child won't be going to our fantastic magnet school. So we lost our</p>

		<p>spot there now since wake co didn't continue va. I think you need to reevaluate your safety measures to make it a safe place for ALL children. Right now without masking or lower class sizes or tracking cases isn't safe for my child. He deserves one year of in person school before he graduates. My youngest deserves that too. It seems there's no safety measures in place now. If you had to safe your child over and over again you would understand why I'm so worried. I hope none of you are ever in that position! Please revisit the facts on cases. Cases of children. Cases of multiple infections and symptoms worsening. Let's put high risk students and staffs needs on the table. Their health should be part of the conversation.</p>
Christina Jones	Hepa filters	<p>I am a current Substitute Teacher for WCPSS. I purchased a hepa filter for both of my daughters classrooms last year and I'm confused as to why there isn't one in every classroom this year. Studies have been done as to their effectiveness and we are YET AGAIN headed for another Covid surge. What are your goal posts for mitigation methods against severe illness? Not just Covid, but the flu, and other airborne illnesses.</p> <p>I'm unsure as to what the School Boards role is if NOT to protect students. It seems like you're always waiting on guidance from the state and CDC. When do you guys make a decision? Is that not your call? Please help me understand your purpose because it's overwhelming for me to constantly be worried about why my children are in dangerous situations that it does t seem this board wants to account for. It all comes down to policies being followed and I just want to know what the policy is.</p>

John Scarborough	Covid and the 22/23 school year	<p>As we are just a few weeks away from the traditional school year starting and the year round schools already in session I'm increasingly concerned that the WCPSS has abandoned the Covid-19 mitigation guidelines provided by the NC DHHS.</p> <p>It is now known that the BA 5 variant of Covid-19 is the dominant one in circulation and is both the most contagious to date as well as the best able to defeat antibodies from vaccines or previous infection.</p> <p>With low vaccination rates in all levels of schools especially in K-5, non existent public testing and contact tracing I'm afraid that we are about to see a level of infections among students and staff that will far exceed the previous waves. The level of "Covid fatigue" is high and I know that masks are a hinderance. But with 20% of pediatric infections resulting in "long Covid" can we in good faith stick our heads on the sand?</p> <p>The attitude of the district seems to be that it's something that we will just have to learn to live with, however living with an endemic disease such as covid-19 means that we need to take prudent and responsible measures at every level to prevent unnecessary spread this disease. To date I've not seen that occurring despite the many millions of dollars provided to the district for just those purposes.</p> <p>I strongly urge the board to take the necessary measures to protect students, staff, and the community by implementing the recommendations of the NC DHHS as well as doing air exchange and CO2 level studies to find most effective way to combat the virus.</p>
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Mike Nutt	Inclusive classroom environments protect students	<p>I'm the parent of a Wake County Public School student.</p> <p>A few days after the mass school shooting at Uvalde, a parent committed a terrible act of violence toward one of our elementary schools. Someone called their State Representative to complain about a picture in a Wake County elementary school. That state representative decided to call House Speaker Tim Moore and together they went on Fox News and turned Ballentine Elementary school into a target of the nation's hate. And the Momma Bears roared their terrible roars and gnashed their terrible teeth. And presumably, rather than risk the death threats that follow when the Parents First crowd makes you a target, the teacher who was trying to create an inclusive environment for her students resigned. How is this an act of violence?</p> <p>The Trevor Project's 2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health found that 42% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth. [1]</p> <p>A recent systematic review in the Journal of School Nursing found that LGBTQ students in schools with more positive school climates were at lower risk of suicidality and reported fewer depressive symptoms compared to students in less positive school climates. [2]</p> <p>Building a more gender-inclusive environment for all students is a matter of life or death. We cannot afford to lose our best and most inclusive teachers because of bigoted bullies. These are the teachers that are going to save our students' lives. So board members, I humbly request a report on the policy failure that allowed a beloved preschool teacher to be pressured by their principal and thugs in the General Assembly into resigning. We must correct our policies before we lose any more teachers or students to this hate.</p>
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		<p>It's my understanding that Dr. Martin made some comments condemning what happened. But frankly that's not good enough. Members of the Board, how do we make sure this never happens again? The Republicans on Jones Street didn't have enough votes to pass their "Don't Say Gay" bill this summer, but that hardly matters if teachers are going to be cancelled even without HB755 on the books. We cannot do the work of these fascists for them. They want us to hate queer people so we're so full of anger we don't notice those same politicians are keeping us sick, poor, and dead. We must emphatically, proactively, and unambiguously protect our teachers, our queer and trans students, and students who have queer and trans family members through a clear change in our policy that allows unapologetic, inclusive representation in our schools at all grade levels.</p> <p>[1] <a href="https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021/?section=Introduction">https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021/?section=Introduction</a>  [2] doi: 10.1177/1059840520970847</p>
Lawrence Yearick	Student Rights Prom Homecoming Dances	<p>Dear WCPSS</p> <p>Please be thorough on policy and procedures regarding testing students for drugs and alcohol at middle and high school Dances.</p> <p>Will administration use force for testing? What if a student refuses? What if it is alleged a rumor and that the student is not under the influence? What is the recourse for his embarrassment amongst peers.</p> <p>If you think this can be done privately and discreetly you clearly haven't been in a school environment. Students show up in groups at these events and if a student is pulled in isolation word will get around.</p> <p>What deep training will be used. Administrators love to stare students down as they walk in a dance. What training will be used to check pupils to see if students are under drugs at dances.</p> <p>Where is the guidebook! If this is a commitment then the training and</p>

	implementation need to be unbiased and accurate.
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<p>Melanie Connelly</p>	<p>Title IX K-12 Changes / Title IX Coordinator</p>	<p>Dear Ms. Moore, and WCPSS Current BOE :</p> <p>Please consider having a Title IX Coordinator at Each K-12 school in WCPSS. See below on information found on US Dept of Education Website.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Education Releases Proposed Changes to Title IX Regulations, Invites Public Comment Department Commemorates 50 Years of Protecting and Advancing the Rights of All Students JUNE 23, 2022 Contact: Press Office, (202) 401-1576, <a href="mailto:press@ed.gov">press@ed.gov</a> Today, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX – the landmark civil rights law that has opened doors for generations of women and girls – the U.S. Department of Education released for public comment proposed changes to the regulations that help elementary and secondary schools and colleges and universities implement this vital legislation. The proposed amendments will restore crucial protections for students who are victims of sexual harassment, assault, and sex-based discrimination – a critical safety net for survivors that was weakened under previous regulations. The proposed regulations will advance educational equity and opportunity for women and girls across the country to ensure that every student in America, from kindergarten through a doctorate degree, can achieve her dreams.</p> <p>"Over the last 50 years, Title IX has paved the way for millions of girls and women to access equal opportunity in our nation's schools and has been instrumental in combating sexual assault and sexual violence in educational settings," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this landmark law, our proposed changes will allow us to continue that progress and ensure all our nation's students – no matter where they live, who they are, or</p>
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whom they love – can learn, grow, and thrive in school. We welcome public comment on these critical regulations so we can further the Biden-Harris Administration's mission of creating educational environments free from sex discrimination and sexual violence."

The proposed regulations will advance Title IX's goal of ensuring that no person experiences sex discrimination, sex-based harassment, or sexual violence in education. As the Supreme Court wrote in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020), it is "impossible to discriminate against a person" on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity without "discriminating against that individual based on sex." The regulations will require that all students receive appropriate supports in accessing all aspects of education. They will strengthen protections for LGBTQI+ students who face discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. And they will require that school procedures for complaints of sex discrimination, including sexual violence and other sex-based harassment, are fair to all involved. The proposed regulations also reaffirm the Department's core commitment to fundamental fairness for all parties, respect for freedom of speech and academic freedom, respect for complainants' autonomy, and clear legal obligations that enable robust enforcement of Title IX.

The proposed regulations would:

Clearly protect students and employees from all forms of sex discrimination.

Provide full protection from sex-based harassment.

Protect the right of parents and guardians to support their elementary and secondary school children.

Require schools to take prompt and effective action to end any sex discrimination in their education programs or activities – and to prevent its recurrence and remedy its effects.

	<p>Protect students and employees who are pregnant or have pregnancy-related conditions.</p> <p>Require schools to respond promptly to all complaints of sex discrimination with a fair and reliable process that includes trained, unbiased decisionmakers to evaluate the evidence.</p> <p>Require schools to provide supportive measures to students and employees affected by conduct that may constitute sex discrimination, including students who have brought complaints or been accused of sex-based harassment.</p> <p>Protect LGBTQI+ students from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics.</p> <p>Clarify and confirm protection from retaliation for students, employees, and others who exercise their Title IX rights.</p> <p>Improve the adaptability of the regulations' grievance procedure requirements so that all recipients can implement Title IX's promise of nondiscrimination fully and fairly in their educational environments.</p> <p>Ensure that schools share their nondiscrimination policies with all students, employees, and other participants in their education programs or activities.</p> <p>The Department will engage in a separate rulemaking to address Title IX's application to athletics.</p> <p>The Department's comprehensive review of its Title IX regulations began in March 2021, as directed by Executive Order 14021 – Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free From Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity. The Department has sought public input throughout that process. Over the last year, the Department has heard from a wide variety of stakeholders, including students, parents, and educators in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools, state government representatives, advocates, lawyers, researchers, and other stakeholders through the Title IX nationwide virtual public hearing in June 2021 convened by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and in</p>
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numerous listening sessions and meetings. This input, together with careful review of federal case law and OCR's enforcement work under Title IX, highlighted the need to revise the current regulations to protect more fully against sex discrimination in all education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

"The proposed regulations reflect the Department's commitment to give full effect to Title IX, ensuring that no person experiences sex discrimination in education, and that school procedures for addressing complaints of sex discrimination, including sexual violence and other forms of sex-based harassment, are clear, effective, and fair to all involved," said Catherine E. Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

The Department's proposed Title IX regulations will be open for public comment for 60 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register.

Additional information on the proposed rule, including a summary with background information and a fact sheet, is available here.

The unofficial version of the proposed rule is available here.

See Link for more information - Information found on US Dept of Ed Website.

<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-proposed-changes-title-ix-regulations-invites-public-comment>

Kirstin Morrison	School Safety	<p>Thank you so much for taking the time to discuss proposed 2022-2023 instructional calendar changes during the work session today! I sincerely appreciate you hearing the concerns that I, along with other parents, expressed at the June 7th board meeting.</p> <p>I respectfully request that you continue to discuss and approve calendar changes that keep our students safely off school campuses on ALL election days that are currently scheduled to be in session moving forward: 11/8/22, 10/10/23, 11/7/23, 3/5/24, and dates into future years.</p> <p>One week from today (7/26/22), voters will enter 24 year-round school buildings to participate in the Secondary Primary election. Year-round students, including my son, will be learning in their classrooms, steps away from these voters. Voter turnout for the election next week is projected to be less than the General Election in November. However, in today's world, it is unsettling to permit even just one person into school buildings without being able to follow routine school safety protocol, such as securing identification. It only takes one person to create one unsafe situation.</p> <p>There are four main concerns that the over 650 WCPSS stakeholders who signed our Safe School Polling petition are concerned with should schools remain in session on election days (Petition found here: <a href="https://chnng.it/RQ4jkjbPvJ">https://chnng.it/RQ4jkjbPvJ</a>):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Election days give ill-intentioned people easier access to school buildings and students</li><li>2. Cones, ropes, and hallway monitors are inadequate barriers for stopping an armed person</li><li>3. School campus traffic and parking are negatively impacted (especially during carpool, arrival, and dismissal times) trying to accommodate voters</li><li>4. Voters could potentially increase the spread of COVID since they are not a part</li></ol>
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of the students' COVID "school bubbles"

In sharing this petition, it was unnerving how many concerning stories from past elections at schools were shared in the subsequent discussions. It became clear that parents are very concerned that their students share buildings with voters. Teachers also expressed heightened concern about protecting their students from potential danger on these days without the routine safety protocol in place.

I am sympathetic to the difficulty Wake County must face in meeting all calendaring requirements for multiple calendars. However, we owe it to the over 54,000 students served by schools that double as polling places to do everything we can to keep them safe. Moving forward, if it is impossible to align teacher workdays with ALL election days (even those with lower predicted turnout), then I hope you will discuss creative ways to keep our students safe. Perhaps the option of remote learning days might be considered on election days and any other days where the routine school safety protocol cannot be followed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter!

School Polling Locations (as of May 2022 Primary) by District:

District 1 (Ms. Scott) - 11 polling schools, 5 are year-round

District 2 (Ms. Johnson-Hostler) - 10 polling schools, 3 are year-round

District 3 (Ms. Cash) - 8 polling schools, 2 are year-round

District 4 (Ms. Waters) - 6 polling schools

District 5 (Dr. Martin) - 5 polling schools, 2 are year-round

District 6 (Ms. Kushner) - 9 polling schools

District 7 (Mr. Heagarty) - 8 polling schools, 4 are year-round

District 8 (Ms. Mahaffey) - 11 polling schools, 6 are year-round

District 9 (Ms. Carter) - 7 polling schools, 2 are year-round

		<p>Safe School Polling Website: <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/safeschoolpolling">https://sites.google.com/view/safeschoolpolling</a></p> <p>Safe School Polling Petition:  <a href="https://www.change.org/p/make-election-days-teacher-work-days-for-wcpss">https://www.change.org/p/make-election-days-teacher-work-days-for-wcpss</a></p>
Marisol Darnell	Covid Risk Mitigation	<p>As we near the new school year, I continue to worry about the lack of mitigation in schools as we live with Covid. My children (rising 3rd and Kinder) will wear masks, as they did last year (daughter was in preschool but still wore a mask). But what about the other methods that have been communicated within the layered protection approach? Ventilation, more outdoor eating.why is the school board not working to ensure schools in the county have appropriate ventilation to lessen infection? I worry about long Covid so much. The long-term effects of this disease are equally scary. My daughter tested positive in May and I fear infection as she begins her school career in Wake County. My son has never tested positive but I'm equally concerned.</p>
Chelsea Bartel	COVID Safety Precautions	<p>Dear Superintendent Moore and Board,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued work during difficult times. I am writing to request your consideration of continued COVID safety precautions in schools. Specifically, would you consider establishing a community positivity rate at which masks will be required in schools to help prevent community spread?</p> <p>I also request the continuation of in-school testing, with increased support in terms of monitoring/personnel. Despite registering him in November 2021, my 4th grader was not pulled for on-site testing for the first time until May 2022.</p> <p>Thank you, Chelsea Bartel</p>

Kira P Kroboth	Lack of CDC recommended COVID mitigation	<p>We know a lot more about COVID now than we did a year, or two years, ago. We know that children have high rates of infection, re-infection has cumulative effects on our bodies and the risk of long COVID goes up with each infection. We also now know that kids can get severe infection and kids do spread the virus and schools are not the safe places they were touted to be. Our classrooms all need HEPA air filtration for clean air in the absence of universal masking. Conduct CO2 audits. Our schools need district-level guidance that is in alignment with CDC/NCDHHS for medium and high-levels of transmission. Our schools' administration needs the authority to be sure the guidance is being followed. Our children need protection and our teachers need protection. COVID isn't going away and we do have to live with it. Living with it means layered mitigation (HEPA filters, outdoors eating, masking around those who are high risk or have disabilities, transparency of cases, communication of the risks, robust testing program, etc.). This mitigation should have a clear plan for the district that is on a sliding scale to prepare for times of high transmission. Trust in the experts. Trust in the science. And implement what is recommended. This is important for not just safety but for equity and learning. We must be able to trust our children are safe in our public schools.</p>
Susan Book	Covid Safety	<p>Our children's safety is a priority, as is the safety of those who work at WCPSS. Please make sure that we are doing all we can to mitigate Covid infections. This might include increased ventilation, lunch outside options and even masking when infections get high.</p> <p>Our staff shortages may make this challenging but those shortages will only increase if we have massive infections run rampant in our hallways and classrooms.</p>

<p>Todd Hackett</p>	<p>School Safety Security Associates</p>	<p>Dear School Board of Wake County</p> <p>Security associates are non-sworn personnel who are responsible for the security of the school campus they are assigned. Security personnel are assigned to K-12 schools. They provide additional security on busses and after school events.</p> <p>They will provide emergency and safety plans to guide effective and efficient responses.</p> <p>Learning about lockdowns, safety plan, securing doors, building that are designed with security vestibules at entrances. Implementation of safety should be top concern. We are trusting you with our children.</p> <p>Say something Anonymous Reporting, why don't all students know this is an option. We need to provide students and families with safety rights.</p>
<p>Sonya Slimm</p>	<p>School Safety Body Scanners</p>	<p>To the school board of WCPSS,</p> <p>When will WCPSS look into implementing body scanner machines at all of the k-12 schools? Charlotte Mecklenburg has purchased this equipment and have confiscated knives and it has decreased the amount of guns brought to schools. Please consider this technology to keep out schools safe. These are our children in your hands.</p>

Jamie Kerry	Covid safety protocols for 2022-2023	<p>I am a parent of a magnet elementary student with a disability in WCPSS. I purchased a HEPA filter for both of my son's classrooms last year, and the teachers were thrilled to have them as additional protection during the mask mandate, and certainly afterwards. My child happily masked with a proper KN95 from day one of school last year, and my whole family still wears them whenever we are indoors in public. Proper ventilators (KN95 or N95s) work; HEPA filtration works.</p> <p>We remain in a sustained COVID surge and the CDC transmission map now shows that 92% of people in the US live in areas with high transmission, including Wake County (<a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&amp;list_select_county=all_counties&amp;data-type=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&amp;list_select_county=all_counties&amp;data-type=Risk</a>) Transmission has skyrocketed since the mask mandate was dropped (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PI85hiYDeNo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PI85hiYDeNo</a>). It is completely unacceptable for the board to not implement serious mitigation methods at this late point. My track 4 son returns to school in less than 2 weeks, and the rest of district will in about a month. Please act now.</p> <p>We know a lot more about COVID now than we did a year, or two years, ago. We know that children have high rates of infection, re-infection has cumulative effects on our bodies and the risk of long COVID goes up with each infection. Our classrooms all need HEPA air filtration for clean air in the absence of universal masking. Charlotte schools recently conducted ventilation audits, found it was lacking, and placed HEPA purifiers in every classroom. Why isn't WCPSS doing anything? Installing MERV 13 filters in a general HVAC is not enough; the air change rate is insufficient to clean the air fast enough, which is why HEPA filtration at the classroom level is needed on top of it. If cost is an issue, Corsi-Rosenthal boxes are cheap, effective, and have reputable studies backing their safety and effectiveness.</p>
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Catherine Coley	COVID Precautions in Schools	<p>New COVID variants are causing case numbers to rise again, and the numbers are forecast to rise substantially in the fall. What is WCPSS doing, if anything, at this point to mitigate the spread of COVID in classrooms? One of the best ways to help mitigate the spread of COVID would be to invest in air filtering systems for the classrooms; however, we haven't seen a widespread effort by WCPSS to accomplish this. Ventilation audits of classrooms should be performed, and necessary equipment to increase ventilation and air filtration should be purchased. Also in schools, when adults model appropriate safety behaviors like mask-wearing, more students feel comfortable wearing masks, yet many of your school administration teams and teachers are not wearing masks, which puts both themselves and their students (not to mention students' families) at risk. Please comprehend that COVID isn't over just because state and local officials have relaxed rules and recommendations. That merely left the decision-making up to individual organizations. Please choose wisely, and choose to put the health of</p>

		<p>your students, school employees, and community at a higher priority. Thank you.</p>
<p>Michael Trudeau</p>	<p>COVID safety protocols</p>	<p>I am a parent of a magnet elementary student with a disability in WCPSS. I purchased a HEPA filter for both of my son's classrooms last year, and the teachers were thrilled to have them as additional protection during the mask mandate and afterward. My child happily masked with a proper KN95 from day one of school last year, and my whole family still wears them whenever we are indoors in public. Proper ventilators (KN95 or N95s) work; HEPA filtration works.</p> <p>The county and North Carolina remain in a sustained COVID surge, and the CDC transmission map now shows that 92% of people in the US live in areas with high transmission, including Wake County (<a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&amp;list_select_county=all_counties&amp;data-type=Risk">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&amp;list_select_county=all_counties&amp;data-type=Risk</a>). Transmission has skyrocketed since the mask mandate was dropped (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PI85hiYDeNo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PI85hiYDeNo</a>). It is unacceptable for the school board to not implement serious mitigation methods at this late point of the pandemic. My Track 4 son returns to school in less than 2 weeks, and the rest of district will return in about a month. Please act now.</p> <p>We know a lot more about COVID now than we did a year, or two years ago. We know that children have high rates of infection, re-infection has cumulative effects on our bodies, and the risk of "Long COVID" increases with each infection. Our classrooms all need HEPA air filtration for clean air in the absence of universal masking. Charlotte schools recently conducted ventilation audits, found ventilation was lacking, and in turn placed HEPA purifiers in every classroom. Why isn't WCPSS doing anything? Installing MERV 13 filters in a general HVAC is not enough; the air-change rate is insufficient to clean the air fast enough, which is why</p>

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DHHS has said to follow CDC guidance, but the Wake school board hasn't done that yet. Year-round kids are already in school. When will you as a board make a decision and actually take action? The board is placing my child and others parents' in a dangerous situation while the board does nothing in a bid to remain neutral and not make waves.

COVID isn't going away, and we do have to live with it. Living with it means layered mitigation (HEPA filters, outdoors eating, masking with high quality masks, transparency of cases, communication of the risks, robust testing program, etc.). This mitigation should have a clear plan for the district that is on a sliding scale to prepare for times of high transmission. This is important for not just safety but for equity and learning. We must be able to trust our children are safe in our public schools.