

Request for Remote Public Input for House Select Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/13/2020 03:44 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Jill Watkins	#ReopenNC
04/13/2020 03:51 PM	Education Working Group	Please Reopen Diana Hammill	Thank you for accepting comments. I am curious why restrictions are not a choice or topic being discussed. It is imperative that we open up North Carolina again. I am disappointed that the human population cannot be trusted to do what is best for themselves. You have broken our constitutional rights to life, liberty, and happiness. Lines have been crossed and trust has been broken. You must lift these restrictions!! The cure is officially worse than the virus.
04/13/2020 04:25 PM	Education Working Group	Rhonda Henley	Hello, I am writing to you about the concern I have for our economy. I understand everyone is concerned about the pandemic we are dealing with right now, but we shouldn't let it cripple our economy. Is anyone really considering the long term effects of what will happen if we continue on the path we are going? Not only are we letting this pandemic control us, we're letting it decide our future way of life and that's NOT okay. North Carolinians need to be able to go to work for ourselves, for our families, and for our neighbors. Small businesses owners need to be open or they won't be able to come back from this. Money will eventually run out and giving out government money will only go so far. Then what? Increased unemployment, increased crime, increased mental health issues from worrying about how we're going to take care and provide for our families, just to name a few. North Carolina is a great state, America is a great nation, but we have to work to keep it that way. Thank you for your time.
04/13/2020 04:28 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Rosalyn Byler	Please reopen NC. Most of us are not at risk for Covid 19, and we'd like the liberty to live our lives again. Encourage those at risk to self quarantine, and allow us to move on while our economy has a chance. Also, please do not make vaccines mandatory. We are Americans. We want the right to choose, for ourselves and our children.
04/13/2020 04:54 PM	Education Working Group	Patriot Rachael Jensen	North Carolina is a wonderful state! Filled with thoughtful, patriotic and freedom loving people. I believe that it's important for us to open back up the economy while still using wisdom principles. My hope is that we can follow suit of the Texas governor and reopen as soon as his wise. Maybe as soon as May 1.
04/13/2020 04:59 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Dana L Skogen	It is obvious now, that the threat was not what was predicted. We are thankful that it was not, so now the stay at home order should be lifted and we should get back to work and back to school and be free to worship as the constitution has given us the right to do. Thank you.
04/13/2020 05:02 PM	Education Working Group	Mack Moore	Reopen NC businesses now - rescind Gov Cooper's executive orders, Call the Legislature back to get involved, remind Cooper that he must have concurrence of Council of State for any further Exec Orders.
04/13/2020 05:28 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Robin Bliven	Please don't close schools for the year prematurely. If by May 15 the virus has peaked and moved along then many districts can still get 3-4 weeks of school in. The kids and teachers need that time for normalcy and well being.

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04/13/2020 05:34 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Candace Bradley	At this time homeschoolers are still require to adhere to end of grade testing. This creates a hardship in many ways. First of all we have to pay for our own testing. Most homeschool family are single income families, so paying for testing puts strain on an already tight budget, especially now. Secondly, a large amount of homeschoolers test in large groups together or like my family, we hire a testing administrator to test our children. Our testing administrator travels to us and many other families preforming end of grade test, which would go against current social distancing guidelines and mandates. Thank you for your time. Candace J Bradley
04/13/2020 05:40 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Victoria Davis	I urge the committee to reopen all NC businesses by May 1st. We have healthcare facilities that now know what they are up against, we will have had adequate time to restock our PPE, we are able to take other measures to protect the vulnerable. These measures should include shopping hours for the elderly, more public hand washing stations, even wearing masks in crowded areas. With adequate measures taken, we can ensure North Carolina businesses that they aren't being risky by operating here and that the NC General Assembly will do everything possible to support them AS SOON AS POSSIBLE in a crisis. Let us get back to work! We don't want more stimulus money and more national debt. We want to work and earn an honest income.
04/13/2020 05:43 PM	Education Working Group	Neurological development Alecia English	The NC Infant Toddler program should be re-opened immediately. These children only have 3 years of myelination to regain or gain skills list from a variety of developmental problems. You are wasting precious time from these children that will benefit them for decades of their lives. My own child only has 6 months left to benefit during this critical time in his brain development. He's made astounding progress after having 1/4 of his brain removed by Duke Neurosurgeons 2 years ago today, and I want him to reach his full potential. The therapists in the ITP (infant toddler program) are integral for us. Reopen the state now for the development of our youngest children that are trying so hard for a better life. Do not steal the precious myelination period (0-3 years of age) from these poor children. It serves these families and these children for lifetimes! Teletherapy, while better than nothing, is not equivalent to in-person therapy and you are not serving these children as promised by law. Don't waste this precious time! Reopen now!
04/13/2020 05:43 PM	Education Working Group	Essential workers Dawn Phillips	I work in child nutrition and seems every other department has been able to get paid to stay home if they feel unsafe except us and custodians. Can you explain why the salaried people are treated like they are more valuable than us We make nothing and have to risk the most right now
04/13/2020 06:01 PM	Education Working Group	Reopen NC Heather Essary	To whom it may concern, I am a former teacher, current work at home mother of four children. I am very concerned for the education quality for our children as the stay at home orders are instituted and continue. Though teachers are working harder than ever to educate our children, remote learning is not an ideal or truly applicable strategy for many children and certainly not for extended periods of time. The longer students are barred from school, the farther the gap in education will widen between those students who have help and access and those who do not. Not to mention the farther students who are already behind will continue to fall without the support they were receiving. Please do not extend the orders and allow students and teachers to return to the schools.

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			Thank you for your time and consideration.
04/13/2020 06:26 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Jessica Hult	<p>We (my family) agreed to do this self isolation for 30 days based on worst case scenario charts. The worst case scenario was greatly overplayed. 30 days is up next week; it's time to #reopenNC.</p> <p>Our business, and so many others are suffering horribly. We've eaten through our life savings keeping employees paid so they can eat- without any compensation. And now to find out NC ranks LAST in unemployment services?!?! Enough is enough. #reopenNC</p>
04/13/2020 06:28 PM	Education Working Group	Lisa Gerboth	If the schools are reopened before a vaccine is available, then the NC State Legislature should let any family who wants to, sign their kids up for a Virtual school and the State should cover the cost. The Virtual school should be the choice of the parents as long as the child is doing work at the appropriate grade level and has adult supervision.
04/13/2020 06:28 PM	Education Working Group	Lisa Gerboth	If the schools are reopened before a vaccine is available, then the NC State Legislature should let any family who wants to, sign their kids up for a Virtual school and the State should cover the cost. The Virtual school should be the choice of the parents as long as the child is doing work at the appropriate grade level and has adult supervision.
04/13/2020 06:37 PM	Education Working Group	ReOpen NC Danielle White	I train horses and teach the public for a living. Not only I but the entire community is affected by this shut down. The state needs to allow us to open back up before more economic and mental damage is done to this community. People need to work. It is important we practice good hygiene and stay safe, but this has gone too far.
04/13/2020 06:41 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Lisa Riggs	No forced vaccinations!!
04/13/2020 06:49 PM	Education Working Group	Maureen Rupert	Students need to get back to school both, public & private! Colleges need to open back up!
04/13/2020 07:20 PM	Education Working Group	Testing for Homeschoolers Racquel Mabry	<p>Hello,</p> <p>First, I would like to thank you for your service to our great state! I have some questions about standardized testing this year. I saw that the federal government has approved North Carolina's request not to enforce standardized testing for this school year. I also saw that this could apply to students in private schools as well. So, this could affect public and private school children grades 3-12. In North Carolina, homeschooled students must start standardized testing in 1st grade and turn those results in to the state every year. I would like to ask for homeschool testing requirements to be waived this school year as well. This is state law and not federal, and I am unsure of who to ask. Our lives have been disrupted just like everyone else's. Our homeschool groups are cancelled, field trips are cancelled, rec league sports are no more, we can't meet in our churches to worship, and there are parents whose jobs are in limbo. We are all living through this crisis together.</p> <p>"Neither students nor teachers need to be focused on high-stakes tests during this difficult time," U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos said in a news release Friday. "Students are simply too unlikely to be able to perform their best in this environment."</p> <p>I agree with Mrs. DeVos and I think the same of our state's homeschooled students. I was</p>

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			<p>unsure of who to ask and if you know of a contact person, would you mind shooting me their information when you have the time?</p> <p>Thank you, Racquel Mabry</p>
04/13/2020 07:27 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Ashley Rinehart	As a former NC public school teacher, I would love to see this academic year salvaged by kids getting back to school by May 15, as the governor said, if not before. Distance learning was a good effort, but it is NOT what is best for our students or their families. NC has fared well with this virus, and we do not need a dramatic, extended lockdown, as some states may need.
04/13/2020 07:31 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Bethany Clark	I am a home school teacher as well as a mother that also has 2 children in the public school system. It is my strong opinion that we should not be required to have testing for this 2020 year. Not only are we in the same proverbial school boat as the public school- we have lost revenue and income that we typically use to pay for testing that we we won't have this year. This decision needs to be made across the board.
04/13/2020 07:35 PM	Education Working Group	End of year testing Amy Allen	Please consider waiving standardized testing to homeschool children as well for this current academic school year.
04/13/2020 07:36 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Susan Lomax	Please! For our students...let them go back to school before the end of the 2019-2020 school year! They need some structure back and our Seniors need a chance to have last couple of weeks at high school! I beg you as a parent of a Senior to please, please consider my request! Thank you!
04/13/2020 08:05 PM	Education Working Group	Open NC Back Up! Amber Bell	This shut down has permanently damaged do many people's lives. And we have passed the panic point (if there ever really was one) in this virus. It is time to OPEN NC BACK UP! Let griwn adults choose whether they want to deal with the minimal risk involved and going out to the store, going out to the park, or going to work, and they can choose to stay home and forgo those things. The rest of North Carolina needs to get back on track and we need to be able to go back to work, go back to school and go back to the parks. At some point business and people will choose to disobey this and simply overwhelmed the justice system to the point where you don't have enough people to give out tickets and fines/citations.
04/13/2020 08:16 PM	Education Working Group	Homeschooling Mom Sarah Smith	It has been brought to my attention that the end of year testing has been waived for 2020 for the NC public school students. According to the information I have been able to find online, homeschoolers are still required to test. The standardized test that I had originally signed my son up for has now been canceled due to Covid-19 and soci distancing rules. Many homeschooling families have seen a decrease in their income since covid-19, making it difficult to purchase standardized test for their students this year. For these reasons, I would like to see testing waived for ALL NC students. Thank you for all you are doing on our behalf.
04/13/2020 08:50 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Mike McDaniel	I am dismayed that we have an executive order that limits the number of people that are allowed at our houses of worship and that there seems to be no limit on the number of people that are allowed at businesses. I understand this may have started out as an attempt to slow the spread of Covid-19 but it is now time that we allow people to get back to houses of worship. It appears that this is yet another attempt to grab power away from the people of North Carolina.

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04/13/2020 08:54 PM	Education Working Group		<p>Let our children go back to school. Half of my daughter's fifth grade class at her urban public magnet school has been MIA since going online. Is not the loss of these children too high a price to pay for an illness that is mostly a problem for those with bad lifestyle choices? And if the children go back to school, we can hope for natural herd immunity and have no need for a deadly or crippling vaccine.</p> <p>https://youtu.be/IGC5sGdz4kg</p>
04/13/2020 09:11 PM	Education Working Group	President Scott Hicks	Put us back to work and quit causing our economy to crash over this hoax.
04/13/2020 09:30 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Tammy Clanton	Mandatory vaccination are un-American. VACCINES will NEVER eradicate a virus, especially one that has changed multiple times since its discovery in late 2019. The ONLY way out of this it TRUE herd immunity... not fake vaccine induced 'immunity' that wear off. Develop programs to help support those who have weak immune systems, and stop scaring the public. Vaccines will not do that. And if you feel a vaccine is non-negotiable - make sure the manufacturer can be held liable for any and all injuries. Being an American means freedom... I'm free to choose what I want for my own body, whether you think it's right or not.
04/13/2020 09:35 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Emily Conklin	The children need to be in school and the grown ups need to get back to work. Enough is enough.
04/13/2020 09:54 PM	Education Working Group	Owner Cary Ballet Suzanne Laliberte' Thomas	As the owner of a private dance conservatory in Cary we receive many questions regarding when we may resume dance classes, as well as what restrictions or changes may be implemented for small businesses like ours who work with multiple youths being individually active in a studio.
04/13/2020 10:09 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Charity Reese	I would like to see the tests for antibodies widely utilized. It would indicate if, in fact, the virus has been in N.C. This would establish what percent of the population is already immune and not a threat to others. Public officials must use actual and accurate data to create public policy.
04/13/2020 10:18 PM	Education Working Group	Oppose mandatory vaccines Lindsay Huneycutt	Vaccines are poison. We will never be for vaccines. Vaccines kill people and injure people every day.
04/13/2020 10:29 PM	Education Working Group	Candace Inscoe	We need to have a standard approach to distance learning. Wake county was out of school for two weeks because of lack of computer resources while Mecklenburg and Forsyth jumped into learning the first week. We must prioritize education and supporting teachers.
04/13/2020 11:26 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Paula Hall	I request the normal requirements for homeschool students to undergo standardized testing this school year be waived, as it has been waived for students in public school. Homeschool families pay for testing out of pocket, and given current restrictions on employment and the governor's "stay-at-home" order, this places a financial strain on many families. Homeschool families often meet for group testing sessions in April or May, which have been cancelled, with trained proctors or utilize formal testing proctors who travel from out of town, which is also impossible currently. Homeschool families often meet for group learning activities weekly, or multiple times per week, or utilize facilities and resources outside the home for educational experiences. None of these have been possible for weeks now given our state's current events and restrictions. Please

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04/13/2020 11:36 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Vickie Martin	<p>consider waiving annual testing requirements for homeschool students/families, as our lives are greatly affected by the coronavirus outbreak, just as everyone's has across our state. Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider this request.</p> <p>I request the normal requirements for homeschool students to undergo standardized testing this school year be waived. Homeschool families have been affected by the current restrictions on employment and travel and the governor's "stay-at-home" order, often placing a financial strain on families, which makes standardized testing a struggle in many homes. Homeschool families often meet for group testing sessions. Such group testing sessions have been cancelled due to restrictions on meeting in groups of 10 or more. Many families utilize formal testing proctors who travel from out of town, which is also impossible currently. Homeschool families have been unable to meet for group learning activities and community days or utilize facilities and resources outside the home for educational experiences. None of these have been possible for weeks now given our state's current events and restrictions. Please consider waiving annual testing requirements for homeschool students/families, as our lives are greatly affected by this viral outbreak. Thank you for your time.</p>
04/14/2020 12:40 AM	Education Working Group	Katrina Gray	<p>Dear Sirs and Madams,</p> <p>These are unprecedented times. We know there will be hiccups. But you MUST act NOW regarding the DES claims process, the lack of telephone coverage and non-working website. I have been calling the UI claims number all day, every day since April 2, 2020 because I had an error on my claim and your website would not allow me to correct it. Do you know what I get on the other end of the phone line? A recorded message stating that you are too busy to answer my call or you have a situation requiring evacuation of the building. I have sent emails through the contact us link. I have posted on the Facebook pages of DES and Gov. Cooper and I have yet to get any response. This is unacceptable. People need to pay bills, we need to buy food and medications!</p> <p>Get your website fixed, get more people in your call centers and work around-the-clock to get this done! This needs to be priority number one!</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Katrina Gray</p>
04/14/2020 06:23 AM	Education Working Group	Jennifer Taylor	I think homeschoolers and private school students should also be exempted from end of year assessments as the public school children were.
04/14/2020 07:22 AM	Education Working Group	School Reopening Timeline Eric Gibbons	<p>20%- 50% of those who are positive for Coronavirus have no symptoms. (When testing a random population broadly) Most of those people are children. Students are asymptomatic carriers passing the virus amongst themselves and the adults they interact with. Unless every student can be tested, and staff member, we should not reopen schools until there is a cure. Cities that kept schools open longer are reporting high numbers of staff deaths and community spread.</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html</p>

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04/14/2020 08:07 AM	Education Working Group	Jessica Ford	Please reopen North Carolina. This shut down is bleeding our economy. Allow people to make their own choices in regards to self isolation based on their personal needs. Healthy people should not be quarantined because we need to build herd immunity. A shut down of our regularly functioning education system is an absurd way to react to a virus and sets a dangerous precedent.
04/14/2020 08:52 AM	Education Working Group	Allison Gale	Please keep NC closed! Opening NC would cause the virus to spread through schools. Even it kids "don't get sick" they spread it all over the community!
04/14/2020 09:50 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs.. Elizabeth Dunton	I urge you to begin to reopen our state. Children need to be with their peers in school. I am witnessing happy, engaged kids who loved school become sad, depressed, unmotivated children. This isolation is not healthy or normal. We, as human beings, do not have the power to completely stop a virus. We have to have PERSONAL responsibility: stay home if sick, wash hands, etc. Please reopen businesses and schools before the damage is irreversible. This is still the United States of America, but if we continue down this totalitarian road, our country will be lost. We WILL hold those in charge responsible. Praying for our leaders to be full of wisdom and make the right decisions.
04/14/2020 11:12 AM	Education Working Group	Inessa Fannin	As a public school employee, I would urge the governor to leave the schools closed through the end of the school year. It seems unwise to take such a risk to go back for just a few weeks. The summer will give the state more time to plan an effective reopening for the fall.
04/14/2020 11:13 AM	Education Working Group	Lynn Jones-Hoats	Please keep us safe by making the hard decisions to remain closed down at this time. I realize it is hard to make these decisions especially when others feel that they can risk it, but I am small business owner and have no income coming in. I value my employees and their lives and their family's lives. Please keep the course listening to experts in the field not those that just care about bottom line.
04/14/2020 11:25 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Corrie Price	Thank you for your hard work for your citizens. We are in dire need of someone to stand for us as our rights and voices are taken away. Those who have been marginalized for too long and at risk of losing their homes, lives, and freedom if something isn't done. NO MORE BAILOUTS FOR BIG BUSINESS OR STOCK MARKETS!!! Please prioritize: Health Care without stipulations for preexisting conditions. Medical Choice- each family should have the right to choose their treatments Early Education (0-5) as supported and funded as Public and Private Schools. ECE teachers deserve benefits and living wage pay. Protect our medical care staff and ensure they have what they need Overall do things that radically center those who are often the "swing vote" but not the priority in office. It is time for us all to rise together. We are watching and the revolution is not being televised. We the people will stand and no longer will we wait for politicians to do the right thing. We demand your actions for everyone.