

Hello,

I am a mom of two boys with special needs and feel that they need to be back in school. One of the reasons is because they have become so comfortable and complacent at home that they no longer want to go back to school. They have become addicted to their tablets and it is incredibly difficult to get them off them to go for walks, go outside and do anything that would separate them. They have become shy, overweight and just little moles that are losing social skills. They need to be around people to get help with social skills and develop skills that will help them to be more independent.

Additionally I am now not working so I can be with my son who does not qualify for services and thankfully after much advocating I have a worker for my son with Autism. There is no way that one person can school two kids with special needs. Both my kids have IEP's and aren't getting the services that they are entitled to with it. The 1:1 that my son should have is spread out over the entire SCC so if we didn't have our PSW he would be at a huge disadvantage.

I feel/know that our society does not value people with disabilities and it becomes even more obvious with how they are forgotten and not supported during this time. I think the districts are not taking the kids mental health into consideration. From what I've heard kids are not super spreaders and I see no reason why once teachers are vaccinated schools cannot re-open by March. And not with 35 square foot per student. How would that work for a child who needs a 1:1 aide? It wouldn't and it would force more people to keep their kids home.

If we can eat outside, go to Target and Costco we should be able to go to school. Clear partitions around desks would enable more people to be in the rooms as well. Please take my email into consideration as school is the ONLY social outlet my boys have as this world is not inclusive or friendly to kids with Autism.

Thanks,
Carolyn Pasquarella