Hierarchical Value Map
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2021 COVID School Closures

Moderate and Conservative Suburban Women

EXCEPTIONALISM

MENTAL HEALTH

TRUST

TRUTH

VALUES

Attributes

Consequences
Values
Laddering
“Every industry has had to find a way to re-open and do business. Schools are no different. They should find a way to be open and keep kids safe at the same time.”

Hindy S.
Female, 45-54
Republican
Mod. - Right
"My son has autism and needs social interaction at school in order to learn how to be social. Learning online set him backwards socially, exasperating some of his earlier symptoms.*

Claudia H.
Female, 35-44
Independent
Mod. - Right

Anti-School Closures

Learning online is not up to par
Resulted in my son falling below grade level
Don't want my child to struggle when support is available
Don't want to add to his hurdles, lots of work to get past autism issues
My son has autism

Disheartening to see early symptoms reappear
Now that school is open, he is thriving again
Lots of sacrifice to improve my son's life, overcome his obstacles

Feel me and husband did a great job w/ son, sacrifices were worth it
Proud of my son

Can be shy, being social is not as natural for him compared to other kids
Needs to learn good social skills at young age (can only happen in person)
Takes training to just look someone in the eye and say "hello"

Became a productive adult later in life, work on his own

Son was priority but made work more difficult, worked longer hours into the night
Balancing the two is hard to do
Less time to cook dinner, work out, have personal time for myself
Had to ask my boss to extend deadlines to accommodate my situation

I can decompress
Good for my own mental health and sanity
Rejuvenates me, clears my mind

Difficult to juggle my job and help son with school
Hurt son's social skills
Further exaggerates his autism symptoms

*American Sign Language (ASL)
"Closing schools is unnecessarily instilling fear in our children that it's not safe to go back to school. This will make kids afraid to go back to school when they re-open."

Sara A.  
Female, 35-44  
Independent  
Mod. - Right
Remote learning causes parents to stay home instead of being at work. This hurts the economy overall by short-staffing many businesses which limits their services to the consumer.

Michelle S.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Mod. - Left
Tamara A.  
Female, 35-44  
Republican  
Mod. - Right

Anti-School Closures

- Kids not getting proper education in correct setting
- Closures made it near impossible for parents to work
- Need to learn curriculum
- Can't absorb material on computer
- Get easily distracted at home
- Could get left back in grade
- Strain on economy, difficult for people to get back into workforce, learn new skills
- Friends would ask me to watch their kids so they could work
- Isolation causes depression
- Kids need social interaction with peers
- Technology has taken over their lives
- No face to face connections
- Need activities, friends
- Son had to go on medication
- Makes them happy, feel successful, proud of themselves
- Feel responsible as his parent, "what am I doing wrong?"
- Accomplished as a parent, proud of kids

Graduate, keep succeeding
Go to college or trade school
Good enough job to afford a house
Proud of kids, want to know they're ok
Esp. my autistic son, make sure someone is there for him
Feel sympathetic, want to help them financially if I can
Friends couldn't find jobs after closures ended
Frustrated I couldn't help them more, had three kids of my own to watch
"I had a great high school experience and wish my kids had the same. Unfortunately the closures took that away from my 3 kids, and I won’t be able to share that with them later in life."

Stephanie S.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Mod. - Left
Susie M.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

- Need to go to work
- Kids education needs to be in proper setting
- Be with their peers
- Know their peers, how they think
- Learn about different people, not weird, just different
- Can't learn that staying at home
- We're all unique, embrace all people
- Learn different views, part of learning process
- Feel enlightened, my heart would feel free

- Provide for their own future families
- Live a successful life, truthful, follow law, learn to have their own voice
- Stand by & support my kids no matter how they choose to live
- Feel proud, honored, content - did everything I needed to do, did the right thing
- I'm a traveler, love different cultures - "medicine for our souls"
- Feel empowered, unique and content
- Show them beauty of nature
- Most beautiful thing about our world

- Mental & emotional health of my kids most important factor
- Instill routine, esp. at young age, important to know what to expect day to day
- Good for my own mental health
- Provide for my family
- Be an example to my kids
- Kids to have food, shelter etc.
- Take them on trips, experience the world
- Expose them to beauty of universe
- We can learn new things at home
Amy H.
Female, 35-44
Independent
Mod. - Left

Anti-School Closures

I teach special ed.
Behavioral and communication based teaching doesn’t translate online
Every kid should get education they need
Parents need that for their kids
My ethical responsibility to provide a good education and environment to these kids

Special ed. needs to be in person
Need access to "typical peers" (normal functioning kids)
Empowering for special ed. kids to be around them
Pulls on the heart strings

Charter school in my area remained open, kids didn’t get sick
Adults making decisions w/out understanding what kids go through
Kids should have a say in process, allow them to speak up
Would give me extreme relief, now schools realize it wasn’t necessary to close

Not necessary for schools to close
Not fair to kids to keep them at home
Could end up stealing at young age, learn poor behaviors
W/out school, can be harmful to them, not supervised or properly educated
Drop out of school at young age
Chances of positive outcomes are low, need motivation from being in school
Want them to be successful
Comforting, the way it should be

Kids need to be watched, esp. in low-income areas
Future of our society
Decent humans taking care of me as I get old
Sheri M.
Female, 45-54
Independent
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

Lost out on bonding time with him (I joined in karate)

No physical activity, esp. with extracurriculars cancelled (karate)

Stopped even wanting to go outside

I want to promote an active lifestyle

With my work schedule, I needed that one thing in common with him

Loved having him give me pointers, teach me

Building connection

Lost productivity

Frustration, as I try to work and keep him close to me

Thwarted my high expectations of him (he's in G & T classes)

Develops into a personality change, defined by bad habits

I and his father were already his world

Anger, even knowing everyone was going through this; directed at my child - he knows what he should have been doing

I had to assert dominance, control over him

If this continues into adulthood, we're talking criminal activity

Helpless - I want to be able to help, but we were confined / limited to the options given to us

I was busy working

All I could do is send him into room and have him figure out what to do

No other options for our family

Child reluctant to show face on camera

Hated being watched by teachers and students

Add one more obstacle to the list
Becky M.
Female, 45-54
Independent
Mod. - Right

- Anti-School Closures
  - Curricular cut by 50%
  - Isolation
  - Fear-based decisions
  - School made decisions without even notifying us
  - I wrote emails pushing back
  - Crucial time for school transitions
  - Kids need to learn how to write - this can't be sacrificed
  - Forced to put kid in remedial English
  - Fear I'll never get the old version back, since this was a crucial point
  - I didn't realize they were really in fear of COVID
  - Causing me not to know my own children
  - Should be making decisions based on fact as we learn them
  - We can all assess our own risk, make our own decisions
  - "I'm smarter than you" decisions by school
  - School didn't honor its promise to us
  - Sense of relief that school is justifying decisions now; won't be arbitrary
  - Glad community (which can't be flexible like me) will be affected for the better

- This is our chance, we can't waste time, waste opportunities
- I want to find the joy for them, their joyful expression of themselves
- Lose out on opportunities
- I want them to discover "their thing": that's my job
- Regret if I don't make this possible

- Reflect American values
- But, we've all been reading the same articles
- Truth
Zeynep E.  
Female, 45-54  
Independent  
Mod. - Right

"My family is from Turkey but my daughter was born in America. Being in school allows her to learn about American culture in a way that I cannot do. She will have more friends and be less isolated and lonely."
Norma D.
Female, 55-70
Republican
Mod. - Right

Anti-School Closures

Teacher instruction needs to be in person for daughter
Teacher checks in on her, can’t goof off, will ask questions
Get better grades
Learn to problem solve
Learn to build relationship w/ someone of authority
Learn to respect and understand them, reasons for work being given
Proud I did something right

I wasn’t popular in high school, but developed lifelong friendships
Want that for daughter
Friends, sports, social experience
Forced to interact w/ people, get over her anxiety / ADD
Find ways other than meds to learn to focus
Continue that into college
I could relax, exhale that she has friends and less anxiety problems

Don’t allow kids to just fade away onto their cell phones all day
Keep them engaged, physically being with people
Learn to read body language, not misinterpret friends communications
Father is very combative, compulsive, trying to get her away from that behavior
Don’t want her to fight w/o seeing friend - misunderstandings via text messaging
Feel “Thank God” I did something right

Could cause a fight w/o seeing friend - misunderstandings via text messaging
Remind myself to keep teaching her that way
Lisa W.  
Female, 35-44  
Republican  
Mod. - Right

"You can't develop a personal relationship with your teacher over Zoom. The teachers of my childhood were my mentors, and I want that for my kids and family as well."

Anti-School Closures

- Couldn't go back to work, had to take care of my nephew and niece next door
- Son lacked progress w/ speech therapy remotely
- Need more resources than just Zoom to help son
- Very limiting
- Be on same level academically as friends
- Plays everything to a 3rd grader

- Worked my entire life, to not work was hard adjustment
- Hurt my family financially
- Bills, mortgage to pay, added to credit card debt
- Wants son to communicate with friends, w/ out limitation
- Friends can understand him, affects overall social relationships
- Be a part of the group

- My niece and nephew did remote learning, no connection to teacher on zoom
- I remember teachers who had positive impact on me
- Showed warmth, kindness, want that for my niece and nephew
- Helped shape who I am today, learned life lessons from them
- They will have mentors like that
- Learned kindness and patience from them
- I have admiration for those teachers
- Affection and appreciation for loving teachers
- Feels good to help my family financially, i'm naturally a working mom
- Want to provide for my family, not put burden all on husband
- Everything a mom wants to see, her son happy
- Assures me I'm doing a good job as his mom
Pina R.
Female, 55-70
Republican
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

Concerned about social aspect of closures

Grandson already developing anti-social behavior w/ gaming and computers

Remote learning adds to that concern, computer all day

Before closures at least he would sometimes see friends, laugh, have conversations

Kids don't know how to act socially these days

Learn to be around co-workers in the workplace

Feel worthwhile his upbringing best it can be

Otherwise feel I failed

Other children may be in abusive homes

Not being looked after, not being fed - need school for meals

Breaks my heart

Get left behind academically if not monitored

Hurt them psychologically

Kids w/ potential will have a bad future

Can't get great jobs

I care about them, empathetic and good human being

Sometimes I care too much, there is only so much I can do, focus on my grandson
Meredith M.  
Female, 45-54  
Republican  
Mod. - Right
Nicole D.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Mod. - Right

Anti-School Closures

- Not good for kids mental health to lack social interaction
- Should have friends, feel comfortable in school
- Older daughter is shy
- Become more open to talking w/ peers through practice
- Become less lonely
- More comfortable, confident within herself
- Was worried she wasn't talking to other kids
- Proud she stepped out of comfort zone
- W/out worry, relieved
- More opportunity in life, be able to take care of themselves
- Go to college, education gives you power
- Be happy in life
- Proud that with hard work they achieved their goals
- Not worried about them, comfortable they can take care of themselves
- Good for entire community

- Concerned about inner city / single family children
- Lacking supervision, sad to see kids left behind
- Not fair to those kids
- Give everyone a fair shot, good education leads to better jobs
- Education is power, more career choices
- Kids are innocent, want them to have more power
- Would feel proud of that change in society

- Loss of learning and academic achievement
- Long term negative effects
- School system has high standards, don't want them to fall behind
- Covid is spread more in the home than at a regimented and safe school setting
- Safer for community as a whole
Tristan S.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Conservative

"My daughter has always been the perky and happy type of child. Remote learning has caused her to become isolated and withdrawn. I'm very concerned this could lead to depression."

Anti-School Closures

- She's a teenager
  - Get in routine, prepare for adulthood
    - She doesn't care about herself as much, nobody notices her if she's home
  - Daughter not motivated to get out of bed
- Socialization important for youth / adolescents
  - Didn't choose to homeschool child b/c she's only child
  - Daughter learns from interaction, feedback and dialogue w/ peers and teachers
- Students not challenged w/ remote learning, can't accelerate academically
  - No feedback from teacher, no incentive to learn
- Daughter very bright, likes to help other kids in school
  - Gives her a sense of purpose
  - Don't want her to lose her drive, work hard and see pay off, thrive
- Can grow up as a normal teenager, compare "notes" w/ peers
  - She doesn't like being an only child
  - Want her to have lots of friends like I did growing up
- Gives her a sense of purpose
  - She's a "people pleaser", shows her capabilities
  - As her mom, want to see her do good for others and see my daughter be happy
- Make her happy
  - Helps her grow, mature
  - Allow her to make mistakes
  - Trust I raised her to make best decisions

Pick out outfits, excited to show friends
  - Want to see her smile like she used to
- Heartbreaking to see her withdrawn
  - Would celebrate any piece of normalcy, be ecstatic
  - I took her happy times for granted
  - Hope she'll be excited to go to high school when re-opened
Khizran F.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

Teachers overwhelmed
Both children in transition points in school
In-person interactions necessary

Laziness too easy when kids at home
Doing just enough to get by
They won't be able to face the world, which never stops turning

College application process affected, and move from elementary to middle school

As firstborn in immigrant family, he will be first college-goer in the US

His success sets the tone for our future, and validates our struggles moving from Pakistan

Growing up in big house, I am who I am because of that upbringing

I need to know they're giving their best shot when young, to prevent struggle down the line

Blindsided by counselor comments like "we gave him enough chances already"

Couldn't get accountability from any teachers

Overwhelming for me to guide his college application process

I'm not taking a back seat as a parent; I'm building my child's future together with teachers

Need that support, guiding me through process

Knowing nothing about American schools, I NEED help from mentors

Forging relationships; constant communication

Pride - we never had this chance until now

Blessed, thankful because of how much my family struggled to get us here

I want them to be like my husband, meeting family expectations

Passing on family ethic
"I know many of the teachers that work at my grandson's school. Some are losing their jobs from the closures for not being vaccinated. These are hardworking teachers who deserve a lot of credit for what they do. I really feel for them right now."
Ana Marie W.  
Female, 35-44  
Republican  
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

- Kids get no human interaction
- Not preparing them for real life (unless everyone just stays in their chairs)
- The social people push the envelope, not the nerds with good grades
- More potential with social skills
- Our world needs a mix of everything, or else we'll be an idiocracy

- I pay high taxes for education
- I want to get what I paid for
- I want to feel a sense of commitment, that we're all investing in our children
- I don't want my kids to pass down a new culture

- Teachers have the wrong attitude about Covid
- They're afraid to get close to kids; makes interactions awkward
- Kids will become robots; depressed robots
- Belies my cultural upbringing as an immigrant, how I was taught to enjoy learning
- Unqualified

- I have no teaching credentials
- As engineer, I can only teach the subjects I'm an expert in
- I'm not qualified to teach my kids, in general
- I don't want to not be able to answer their questions
- USA has so many opportunities to learn new skills; we all need a broad perspective comparing us to the rest of the world

- Promoting sedentary lifestyle
- Promotes a welfare mentality
- Kids don't realize how good we have it here
- They have sense of entitlement, will be expecting handouts
Amalia L.
Female, 45-54
Republican
Mod. - Right

My son loves cheating on virtual tests

Entering high school with bad, bad habits

Kids have it so easy now

Learning a M.O. that belies how you live life

Feel like I need to be there 24/7 to prevent cheating

This isn't how I grew up - I took studying seriously

Son provides fake assurances

Want to instill the values I learned: especially gratefulness

Want my kids to appreciate hard work; nobody gives you anything

As immigrant from Italy, I want to teach kids to value their privilege

I had to assert control, enforce new expectations

My freedom comes first

I let go of all inhibitions; thought, it's a gamble but it is what it is

I need to go back to normality

Want to go back to normality

Anti-School Closures

Too much screen time

Isolation

School's communication

Bullying me, telling me to "stay safe"

Try to talk with principal, tell him where I stand

Clear no one taking responsibility, but implicitly forcing us to act

Felt like I was being watched by administration

Making me exhaust myself with all the fears by myself

Kid already had enough screen time before Covid (PS2, FaceTiming, etc.)

Kids lose motivation to do anything away from a screen; apathy

Overwhelming trying not to put fears on my children

Can't stress over something forever

Decided, I can't feel guilty about this forever; I can't be intimidated by people anymore

Felt compelled to take a chance, have their friends over

Conflict with my son

Want to instill the values I learned: especially gratefulness
Sylvia E.
Female, 35-44
Independent
Mod. - Right

Anti-School Closures

- No quality in son's education
- Need solid foundation for future
- Solid teachers should be in it for the kids
- Teachers spend lots of time w/ child
- Make a difference and touch a child's life
- Example for my son, years later will remember those teachers
- Hopeful my son will give back to his own community and make a difference in the future

- He's lagging behind b/c he's not being pushed or challenged
- He's type of student needs to be pushed w/ encouragement
- Will see others want him to succeed besides parents, he feels supported
- Boost his self-esteem and motivation
- Feel proud, encouraged I'm doing ok job as his mom

- Effect on son academically
- Healthy routine, being well balanced
- My kids thrive on that
- Perform better in school, bring up his grades
- He's the next generation, so important he succeeds now
- Set himself up for successful future, get a good job
- Feel proud (but wouldn't take credit)

- Open school gives glimpse of normalcy
- If struggling, son can reach out to teachers, classmates or counselors
Stacey M.  
Female, 45-54  
Republican  
Mod. - Right

- Anti-School Closures
- Remote learning not an effective learning tool for children
- Kids lose social skills to develop and grow
- What makes humans able to collaborate with others
- Wholistic development, become and engaged citizen
- Separates successful kids from those who aren’t
- Want kids to have a good life, pride in themselves
- Would feel excited about their learning
- Strong work ethic

- Won’t be interested in lessons, can slack off with zoom, get distracted
- Won’t have foundation, get behind as classes advance next year
- Affect their knowledge of future concepts
- College best equalizer for success
- My kids become stronger citizens, have self worth, contribute to society instead of taking away from it
- Proud I did a good job to prepare my kids for success
- Won’t do as well, won’t be prepared for college
Elyse R.
Female, 25-34

"Remote learning was causing my 5 yr old daughter to have tantrums and fall behind her classmates. It's very important for her self confidence to stay at the same level as her peers in school."

Anti-School Closures

- Noticed decrease in way my child was learning remotely
- 5 yr. old daughter having tantrums due to remote learning
- Usually good kid, very obedient
- Would normally look forward to school
- I was getting sick of that
- I have to do more work as a "teacher" for her
- Would take closures more seriously if there was a death threat to my daughter
- Not the right move to close schools
- Ends up holding kids back, getting "left back"
- Still not sure I have the time and energy to teach as a "teacher"
- Kids could get permanently "stumped" mentally
- Less development, esp. at younger ages
- Affects self-confidence
- W/out it could lead to anxiety, mental issues
- Confidence goes hand in hand w/ success
- Brought daughter into world to be happy
- Makes life more enjoyable
- Wants her to be excited to learn
- Want her to return to private school asap
- Cognitive development at pace, be her best self
- Covid not as big of threat to kids as older adults
- Not the right move to close schools
- Less development, esp. at younger ages
- Society overall become more stupid
- Next generation of adults
- If improved, would feel sense of relief, maybe have more kids one day

Doing my part as her mother
My ultimate goal to see my child happy
Proud and excited for her
Proud of myself for picking right program at private school
Makes my life easier, less work, less stressful
Already so many problems, inflation, unemployment, homelessness
Tina A.
Female, 45-54
Democrat
Mod. - Right

Anti-School Closures

- Kids can learn in pajamas, eat lunch in rooms
- Breaking house rules becomes a norm
- They're afraid of everything now
- They've forgotten all the basics (algebra)
- I'm an older mom
- Kids are affected by school Covid restrictions
- I didn't sign up to be homeschooler
- I've forgotten all the basics (algebra)
- They become overly compliant
- They're helping usher in Marxism
- The kids are all "up in my space"
- I can't help h.s. kids with AP course material

- Online learning only at 50% clip
- Teachers' gave out less work/homework
- Disgusted that value of education was sacrificed
- Dumb's down that year's education goals
- I have to deal with teachers upset that homework wasn't completed

- Kids access to endless devices
- Any one device can distract from task at hand
- Hopeless cause for teenager; I gave up enforcing
- Might not become productive citizens

- Now when kids are home, I'm constantly worrying what they're getting into
- Creates discord with my husband, who allows everything
- This is not the America I know
- Strong need to relax when they leave house, time alone
- Overwhelmed, no time

- I'm too busy to devote time to teaching myself to teach them
- Helplessness when kids ask questions
- I value education; this is what parents do - I'm a "Tiger Mom"
- I work for my kids' education; if they learn, "I did my job"
Kristina C.
Female, 35-44
Independent
Mod. - Right

"My kids have had to miss important school experiences like graduation and prom due to school closures."

- Lack of socialization for student
- Virtual learning adds to that negative impact
- Need to be able to have a conversation, show empathy
- Forcing them to overcome this, getting better
- Necessary for survival

Anti-School Closures

- Keep teachers and students in a routine
- Studies have shown that kids do better in a routine, in a learning environment
- Teachers are working from their own personal spaces at home
- Learning at home becomes a distraction
- No separation btw work and home life
- Puts stress on their own families
- 2 years have been stolen from my kids education

- Hard to get ahead in life, need to be competitive as they begin to apply for colleges / jobs
- Leads to all kinds of negative issues
- Cycle that leads to trouble, kids get bored, get involved with criminal activity
- Should be in school, around positive influences
- Affects all of us, more crime, kids end up in prison system

- I helped with census, saw first hand a 3 & 5 yr. old left alone in a stairwell in their bldg.
- Cycle that leads to trouble, kids get bored, get involved with criminal activity
- I value human life, we are all connected as a society

- Would feel relieved if they aren't that negatively impacted
- As a parent, wanted to take them to a safe place
- Feel relieved they have a place to go
- Proud of them if they can succeed on their own merit

Generally bad for students, esp. those in low income bracket

Need to be supervised, be in safe space, get meals

Lack of communication due to time spent on cell phones, social media

Seen how my son and niece have become more withdrawn
Ruth R.
Female, 55-70
Republican
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

I don't thrive off fear

I know I'm in control of my body through diet and working out

I don't rely on TV and "experts" to decide how schools should be run

They won't find what resonates with them, what they love

I'm a vocal parent, with a group of others

I'm not run by fear

I won't be able to expose them to new things

I want to support them no matter what they love, try

I need to see them thrive

I want them to find what drives them, gets them up in the morning

I want to see that smile on their face, just like they did as a young child doing something they loved

Frustration as a parent, because this was preventable (not like a tornado keeping kids out of school)

Missing out on extra-curriculars

Kids have nothing to look forward to after school

They won't be able to find their passions

I want them to

Quality of education suffers

Not engaged when not challenged

Rewarded for just taking the cakewalk

Older h.s. kid isn't dialed into the college search

Benefits of physical presence of friends, teachers, admin

All these people can "stay on top of" my son, who isn't all about school

I am ensuring my kids can have normal conversations in public

I want to hear from others that my boys are good boys, good young adults

Less social interaction

I'm forced to encourage kids to stay in touch with friends

I'm taking over responsibility for their social lives

Pat myself on the back, what I instilled in the beginning is paying dividends
Gina L.
Female, 45-54
Republican
Mod. - Right

"Closures are causing many kids to be left home alone because some parents can’t afford child care. This can lead to more crime and hurts society overall."

- Anti-School Closures
  - Quality of education in person is beneficial
  - Will help my daughter succeed in college
  - Lead to a good career and be successful
  - Will be a self & financially rewarding experience
  - I can take a deep breath and say “I did a good job” as her mother
  - Enjoy my ‘empty nest years’
  - Feel relieved she’ll have good mental attitude and succeed
  - Mental & better for her
  - Not healthy to sit home alone all day on computer
  - Learn social skills
  - She can ‘laugh it out’ with friends to vent about day’s problems
  - Healthier emotionally
  - Many families can’t afford child care
  - Some kids not being taken care of, watched over
  - Increased crime, kids getting into trouble
  - Less problem in school with kids misbehaving, esp. in my daughters class
  - Improves school experience for her
  - Less crime
  - I know people who had to work during day, leaving kids at home alone
  - Used to be more afterschool programs for kids
  - Our society improves when kids have places to go
  - Less secure
  - Less problem in school with kids misbehaving, esp. in my daughters class
  - Improves school experience for her
  - Feel more secure
  - Improves school experience for her
  - Feel more secure
  - Improves school experience for her
  - Feel more secure
Kanicka V.  
Female, 35-44  
Republican  
Conservative

"When I raise my kids, I'm living the experience that I never had because of my helicopter, overly strict parents; now, I let my kids out on their own, and I'm the super-mom at sports games and extracurriculars, screaming and supporting. I'm that kind of parent now, and I'm not going to act like other helicopter parents, living in fear and forcing the schools to do the same."
Irina V.
Female, 55-70
Independent
Conservative

"I've seen a huge difference in my son's psyche when it comes to virtual vs. in person education. He is much happier being back at school.

Anti-School Closures

Bad education, kids not learning or taking it seriously

This is school, you need to learn for your future

This is where it starts, first step to adulthood (son is in high school)

Don't want son to struggle - make friends and learn how to treat people

Form good habits, have a good life

I'm in my son's corner, I got his back

Would feel proud, this is "my product", I did this as his parent

In person education is important for my son, esp. seeing his friends

Important for kid's psyche

Seen a huge difference in how it affected him before and after closures

He participates more, can laugh with teachers

Learning, thinking

I want the best education possible for my son, would feel ecstatic

Believe many teachers don't support closures

Seen their posts on social media expressing difficulties

Their are ways to keep schools open and keep kids safe

They need to learn how to study, become disciplined

Kids will learn better values, be a good person and influence others

Become educated, learn to research on their own

Many teachers really care about their kids

Teach them basics, prepare them for future

SATs, get ready for college / jobs

Be less spoiled - This is a problem with the current generation

This is how I raise my son
Gabriella S.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

- School schedules changed on whim
- Half days announced, I have to turn my schedule upside down
- I just want to understand how school admin makes decisions
- I couldn’t go to my restaurant to work
- Forced to hire others
- Normally split roles with husband, but couldn’t
- Stress

Need to socialize

- Young kids can learn effectively through eye contact
- They can determine real intent of teachers via emotions and mood

Internet issues

- Everyone in family forced to use same connection at same time
- Computers freezing
- Husband can’t help because he’s working

Cheating too easy for other kids (my kids don’t cheat)

- They’re learning while others fall behind
- Re-teaching others wastes my children’s time
- My anxiety skyrockets when everyone looks for me to fix

Proud because I was a straight-A student, never cheated; and my kids are the same

I’m supporting my family without the requisite skills
Anna S.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

- Never believed in home-schooling
- Kids develop anxiety
- Need social interaction, they're human
- I always wanted to be a lawyer, more successful, want that for her
- Happy they're becoming more knowledgeable

Young kids get distracted, less motivated
Less effective studying
Need to want to learn and explore new things
Love when my kids learn
Sleeping too much, playing video games
Don't want my daughter to think badly of herself
She should be an extrovert
Not be afraid to speak up in class
Want her to be well-rounded & self sufficient

I show them the world
Raise them to be hard working like my parents did for me
Proud I'm doing a good job, give them everything
Feel proud of her
Less concerned about my daughter, less worried

Better to be present, more interaction, kids will open up, be more comfortable
Learning on computer creates a barrier
Teacher can smile and say "good job"
Create a connection between student & teacher

Languages can be learned at home but not the same
Happy they're becoming more knowledgeable
Kathleen T.
Female, 25-34
Republican
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

- "Safety" is over-prioritized
- Real safety can be achieved without shutdowns
- Vaccines, masks, should be enough
- Kids (and parents) should be able to just get on with their lives
- Exasperated, I'm just over it

- My job isn't flexible
- Difficulty to pay my bills
- Decision is on me, because husband's job isn't flexible
- Can't afford a nanny (would need a new job for that cost)
- I'm being pigeonholed into finding new work
- Feels like I'm "starting over," esp. when my resume is so strong
- I need to be ready with remote job opportunities, just in case kids are sent home again

- I'm not a teacher
- Impossible to teach effectively, much less get kids caught up from time lost
- Have to rely on educational software (ABCMouse)
- Makes me appreciate certified teachers
- I'd do anything to make sure my kids don't end up dumb (even hire a tutor)

- Virtual is a poor substitute for in-person
- It's just a pacifier for attending school
- Need to come to terms that kids need to be face-to-face
- My drive to be a good mother; when it matters, I step up
- We can expose kids' best and worst traits around teachers and other kids
- We can't interrupt these life experiences; too difficult to reprogram after the fact
Deb B.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

- Listening isn't learning
  - Sports / extracurriculars cancelled
    - Hurts my son esp., who's a 3-sport athlete
- Limited wi-fi connectivity
  - Had to prioritize husband's job needs
    - Rest of family forced to be quiet while he works
    - Felt powerless to make everyone happy
- Everyone at home at the same time
  - Had to consider moving my kids to a new house
  - Chaotic feeling trying to make this happen
- Sense of missing out, time we can't get back
  - New freshmen never met their teachers
  - They can't build on a steadily increasing foundation (esp. for math)
  - They lose gifted and talented status
  - Could easily be a boy (I keep him home)
  - Gifted and talented (my kids) should be getting personalized treatment
- I want my old son back, convince him it's not his fault
  - I hear "I suck at math"; negative emotions towards self
  - Disheartening
  - I need to validate his feelings
  - I rejoice when he rejoices, mourns when he mourns
  - Another unnecessary layer of stress on my life
- Teachers can tailor their style better in real classes
  - Teachers will burn out less
  - Resorted to a different sport - gaming
  - He could never feel relaxed
  - He doesn't have the energy outlet
  - Had to prioritize husband's job needs
  - Limited wi-fi connectivity
  - Felt powerless to make everyone happy
"School shutdowns pose a greater risk to my children's overall health and well-being than Covid."

Nicki H.
Female, 35-44
Republican
Mod. - Right

Risk to kids overall well being greater than risk of Covid
Distance learning created bad habits for my kids
Sleeping late, not doing work
As there mother I can't do it all, they need activities
Become accountable, meet expectations of teachers
Prepared for the work force
Become responsible, wake up with a purpose everyday
End goal of raising kids, feel very fulfilled
Supportive and proud of them
Always worried about kids, relieved to see them this way

Anti-School Closures

 Teachers can wear protective gear

Children deserve a better quality of education

We are America, founded on principals of work ethic and high standards

Individual responsibility, accountability and freedom

Should be free to choose type of education

Empowering

Keep American values on track

So my kids can reach full potential

I leave the world a better place through them

Many kids already have depression, anxiety and other mental health issues

Become isolated, hurts society down the road

Want people to be successful, confident

Hopeful there is still a good education system

My kids had each other during closures, but many kids do not

We have plenty of resources for education

So my kids can reach full potential
Julie O.
Female, 55-64
Republican
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

- Disservice to our kids, won’t get a good education
- Kids deserve a good education
- As a community we owe it to them
- Learn about world history, become informed
- Develop good leaders for the future
- Make educated decisions

- Without a good education, kids won’t become good people
- Know how to go forward in life
- I won’t always be here for my daughter, she needs to become independent
- Raise my children this way, feel successful as a mother

- I work with troubled kids at City Mayors office
- Many live in abusive homes, get into trouble often
- School gets them out of those situations, provides food
- Reduces suicide, abusive situations

- I want to help kids, put a smile on their face
  Make a difference in their lives
  Makes my heart smile
Kirstin R.
Female, 45-54

Anti-School Closures

- Kids are always getting sick
- School cancelled on a whim
- Fake sense of security
- No grades
- Left with option: no grades with digital, or take matters into own hands (quit virtual)

Self-care is the antidote, and it would prevent crises
Exposed lack of preparation on school's part
Teachers/school saying 'we'll be there for you' was just words
Need to be vigilant, and know we have to work when the government doesn't take something into account
Avoid pathway of maximum effort with no payoff

I think back to when I homeschooled, how we studied natural cures with kids
Reflects broader culture of government and bureaucracy
I don't take the government seriously, only trust my instinct
I'm not wasting time: home schooling or sending them to college early

We can't reflexively do what we're told when government mandates something
We will determine what's essential
I make commitments based on realistic expectations
That's not how I make commitments - I do whatever it takes to fulfill them

Our government chooses a cure, discards the rest
More awareness of community, working together, not just running over others
Self-learning
Always looking deeper, questioning intentions
Empowering to take that leap, following best talents of me and kids, and running with it (I'm fed up)
Whitney T.  
Female, 35-44  
Republican  
Conservative

Anti-School Closures

My kids are very social

He needs to socialize with kids who are different

This is how he grows, how he knows he'll be in the world

Profound effect on his mental health

Worth the financial risk seeing my kid thrive, w/ confidence up

The big expense was not cheap, but worth every penny

I'm standing up; we're at our breaking point

95% of small community wanted to go in person

School admin ignores will of the people (they sent US the survey)

Decision felt like rug pulled out from under us

I had to fight back to make them inform us of decision process

We were just so unprepared for how it all went down

Felt like my voice doesn't matter to them; school did whatever it wanted

Kid got so far behind during virtual

Had to hire private tutor to make up for it

Lost so much progress

Tutor had to make up for lost time

Frustration, because it wasn't his (or my) fault

I'm standing up; we're at our breaking point

Teachers were distracted at home

Lessons were long and thin on substance

Sought help to help with my son falling behind

Community and community feedback should be leading, so this doesn't happen

Felt like my voice doesn't matter to them; school did whatever it wanted

Kids incentivized to distract themselves

Decision felt like rug pulled out from under us

I had to fight back to make them inform us of decision process

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Alicia B.  
Female, 35-44  
Independent  
Mod. - Right

"It didn't seem right to me that other school districts in our area opened while ours stayed closed. What was the difference in Covid risk between the two? None."

- My kids learn better in a live school environment
- Held accountable for her work (not sleeping at home)
- Shaping her for adulthood
- She'll be able to navigate the real world, be self-sufficient
- Feel good I was part of the rearing of my child, did my job as a parent

- After a few months seeing other schools open while ours stayed closed
- How is their district any different than mine? "This doesn't seem right"
- Should have the option to attend class like the other schools
- Wanted my child back in school where she did better
- Makes her happier, more confident, better attitude
- Makes my home life happier in general

- Anti-School Closures

- Based on what we NOW know about Covid, schools should be open
- Enough studies out there to prove this
- Many children learn better in school
- Learn social skills, improve academically
- Parents can't be with them in real world
- Become self-sufficient adults
- Want them to think for themselves, be hard workers

- Learn to work with others
- I'll be working w/ these kids one day

- "My kids learn better in a live school environment"
Julia S.  
**Female 35-44**  
Republican  
Mod. - Left  

"I'll go to a restaurant and see kids talking on their phones and taking pictures of their food. They should be engaged with their families. Learning virtually only promotes this kind of attachment to technology."

**Anti-School Closures**

- Mental health of my kids
- As a parent, want best experience for kids
- Virtual learning had negative effects on them
- Daughter missing out on chorus, camping trips etc.
- What she enjoyed was being taken away

**Sense of normalcy for kids to be at school**

- My daughter's friend having a hard time at home, parents getting divorced
- He needs to be at school, escape that bad environment
- I feel bad for kids in those situations, with a bad home life

**Not healthy to keep kids home**

- We appreciate it more now that it's back in her life
- I'm empathetic, want kids to have a great life

**Not natural to be at home**

- Affects social and learning factors
- Learn how to ask for help, communicate with others
- Many kids these days don't know how to socialize, always on phones
- They're missing out on life

**Since the dawn of time kids learn in a school**

- Easier way to learn, benefits them down the road to adulthood
- Moving in the right direction for future of kids
- Benefit us all, improve businesses of all types

**We should be engaged in life, be problem solvers**
Liza V.
Female, 45-54
Independent
Mod. - Right

“"If kids are too sheltered and continue to stay at home, what will we do as a society? What kind of leaders will we have in the future?"
Sara Q.
Female, 45-54
Independent
Mod. - Left
Lisa K.  
Female, 45-54  
Independent  
Mod. - Right

- Anti-School Closures
  - Should be more of a choice for parents to put kids in school or not
  - Kids were low-risk to Covid-19
  - Would sign a liability form if necessary to protect school from lawsuits
  - Have a healthy family, would be responsible, take all measures necessary
  - Should be treated like the responsible adult professionals we are
  - Make educated choice that is best for my family
  - Give me more faith in the system
  - Would trust in the govt more
  - Losing trust in CA govt due to the many arbitrary shutdowns in our state
  - Learn to work with others, become a productive & functional adult
  - Find a professional career
  - I did the right thing for her, "Thank Goodness"
  - Proud of her
  - Want her to have friends, not always needing mommy
  - She'll be encouraged to be independent

- Online learning doesn't work for small kids
  - My daughter is 7
  - She needs to be able to touch, feel to help learn
  - Lots of playing in 1st grade
  - Lessons don't stick when taught on computer

- Continue daughter's education
  - Seeing teachers, peer groups
  - Keep her in a routine, traumatic to suddenly stop
  - She likes process of going to school, how she learns best
  - Progresses with being more social (normally very shy)
  - Does better without too much change in routine

- Continue daughter's education
  - She'll be encouraged to be independent
"School closures negatively affects low income families more than families like mine, who have the resources to get through the process. Not everyone has the same access to those resources and need to be able to attend school."

Anne A.
Female, 35-44
Independent
Mod. - Left

Lack of social interaction inhibits childhood development
Need to learn to be around different types of people
How to treat people, when to have boundaries, hold conversations
Able to function in society, participate in activities, i.e. music, gym class
Learn to work in a team environment
Have to rely on others sometimes to get a job done
I work in this way; gives me pride & confidence to contribute
Leadership opportunity

Anti-School Closures

My kids don’t have health conditions, we feel safe with them at school
Kids learn well in a safe environment
They will feel safe, protected by school
Not distracted, open to information being taught
Become productive members of society, successful and confident
Sense of pride
I did a good job raising kids, reassuring I did best I could
Feel supportive of them

We have enough info on Covid to keep kids safe AND go to school
i.e. Wear masks, social distancing
Leads to more positive learning and growth

Children do not learn in a vacuum, they learn in a bubble
"Virtual learning created a barrier between me and my son with all the rules I had to create to keep him on track. Now that he's back in school we have a stronger bond, I can just be his mother again."

Michaela L.
Female, 35-44
Independent
Mod. - Left
Carla L.
Female, 45-54
Independent
Mod. - Right

Anti-School Closures

- Kids need hands-on learning approach
  - Can't fully learn on their own
- Get more from discussion w/ students and teachers
  - i.e. Reading a book, get fuller perspectives
- Collaboration enhances learning experience
- I work as a bus driver, won't work w/ closures
- I battle w/ depression, need purpose
  - W/ out it there is self-doubt
- Need to go to work everyday
- Before it becomes a bigger issue later
- Suicide is real
  - Make sure they talk about it, get help when needed
  - Become independent
  - Feel relieved, can let go, allow them to be on their own
  - Feel I'm a contributing member of society
  - I'm making a difference for students
  - They tell me how much they appreciate me as their driver, feel it's my calling
  - Relieved they will be better prepared for adulthood
  - I'm there to support them when they need me
- Kids become isolated
  - Family has history of depression, this makes it worse
  - Don't want that for my kids, teach them how to deal with it
  - I've struggled with depression
"Kids need to learn social skills from being in school that will prepare them to be working adults in the real world."
Gloria E.
Female, 45-54
Independent
Mod. - Left

"My kids need social interaction to help deal with the pressures of school. Otherwise, they may get depressed and turn to things like alcohol in order to cope. I don't want to see that happen to my children."
Summer S.
Female, 35-44
Independent
Mod. - Right

Anti-School Closures

District asks too much of working parents

As breadwinner, I couldn't be home often

We're expected to "figure it out" without any consultation with school

away from home, felt depressed and angry knowing what my husband had to sacrifice to help

District acted without parent input (need a survey - "how will this affect me? do you have support?")

I wanted to have a voice

Felt like district didn't care; I just want to know they were thinking about me and my family's needs

All my family is in Egypt

No support system here

I needed to know there was support to help with my struggles (maybe I'd had felt differently about the closures)

With support, I might have been more understanding

I'm an immigrant

she thrives in social settings

She can feel like she fits in, building self-esteem

I'm prioritizing her mental health with proper precautions

Predictability

I'm always worrying on the road

Needs routine social interaction

She'll immediately get depressed without it

I'm on same meds as she is; when she's depressed, I get depressed / anxious

Will she always suffer the impact of closures? I think it's a scar
Jamie A.
Female, 25-34
Independent
Mod. - Left

Anti-School Closures

Social problems
Children need to be with friends
Continue their development
Prevent anti-social behaviors
Prevent angst from too much time with me
Friendship enables them to be independent, esp. from their parents
It's my responsibility to let them grow up and be better adjusted adults
I feel angst if they feel it, short-term and long-term, as long as school issue is unresolved

I was a subpar teacher
Lacked patience
Hurt my relationship with them
Better that I stay just being mom, not their teacher
I'm not able to provide children the best education possible
Just as I strive to succeed, I want best for my kid
Excellence (how I was raised)

My children are already vaccinated
Even with some risk, I feel better about them going to school
At a point, benefits outweigh risks
Reflects any decision made in life
I'm weighing good and bad, assessing risk

I can't get work done
Forced to work late nights
Makes me exhausted
Everything became mediocre (my work, my teaching, my parenting)
Felt like failure as parent, employee; can't succeed at anything
Eleanor F.  
Female, 55-70  
Independent  
Mod. - Left

Anti-School Closures

- No actual teaching going on
- I have special needs student
- Poor / sparse school communication
- Youngest, most vulnerable suffered most
- Not all work from home like me
- School is no longer a refuge for these kids
- Even with my situation, I could barely get one kid organized for virtual
- Can't imagine what others went through
- I'm fortunate

- No grades, no exams
- Teachers merely upload assignments and expect students to figure it out
- Zero accountability
- I could think of many ways to do virtual; this was not adequate replacement
- Need to be flexible, able to pivot better
- I hope they learned a lesson about disaster recovery
- Speaking up and advocating for myself; I'm fighting for a worthy cause
- Heightened sense of pushing hard to get services
- Nobody looks out for my interests but me
- Others will get it if I don't fight

- Too much info would have been better than the trickle we got
- Mirrored how I felt at work w/ employer
- Being unshackled to info, I went into a panic
- Sense of access to communicate
- Dissatisfaction, even knowing schools can't be all things
- I'm an emotional empath - esp. when I see it happen to a friend
- This affects people I know; it might be a small loss, but it adds up
- I want my concerns taken seriously, to know they're listening (perception is reality)