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**Should K-12 Students in The United States Be Taught ¹In-Person During The 2021-2022
School Year?**

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Should K-12 Students in The United States Be Taught ¹In-Person During The 2021-2022 School Year?

The coronavirus pandemic has shaken the world and the education system; however, technological advancement has paved many institutions. Similarly, the education administration is in a dilemma whether to use tradition education in the 2021-2022 K-12 institution calendar. COVID-19 has affected education delivery worldwide, which is not exempt in the United States K-12 schools. K-12 schools hold students from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Therefore, while in-person learning would be good in fostering socialization, online learning will also aid in reducing the spread of the virus to students. In-person learning can be used during the 2021-2022 school year in K-12 students because it fosters equality in education; studies have shown 94% of parents and women have a negative experience in online learning, and in-person increases social interaction among students. However, online learning was also adopted during the pandemic to ensure education continues since it was first implemented in 1991. It encourages varied social interactions among scholars and schools to ensure required technologies are available to improve the learning experience.

The United States should use in-person to teach K-12 students during the 2021-2022 school year. Most K-12 schools have already implemented rigorous prevention methods that will enable them to open the institutions for in-person learning. In-person learning enhances equality in the education system because all students will attend the class physically regardless of their economic status, limiting their access to computers and the internet. Tueros (2021) every nation worldwide works to ensure all students get equal educational opportunities; however, many K-12 schools moved their learning process online with the coronavirus pandemic. Online learning requires students to have essential technical skills and equipment needed to facilitate the learning

process. Tueros (2021) emphasized that moving from traditional and in-person learning has caused an increase in inequality among students; therefore, it will be vital for all K-12 schools to address all the necessary technologies for students. The transition from in-person was abrupt, and many parents who do not have access to the internet and virtual devices will make their children not access the same learning as others.

Moreover, although many school administrations are confused on whether to use traditional education in K-12 students, the center for disease control and prevention has directed how the k-12 schools should continue with their education. CDC (2021) emphasized that students obtain more help from in-person learning; therefore, it would be a priority to allow schools to use it in the 2021-2022 academic year. Some of the benefits comprise forming an essential part of community infrastructure and enhancing the student's mental health status through connection with friends, such as the interactions through physical activity. Moreover, CDC (2021) claims that schools should implement health prevention strategies that will help protect students from getting infected with the virus. For instance, one of the best methods of preventing the spread of the disease is through vaccination. When the K-12 schools encourage vaccination, they can easily use in-person learning and resume other extracurricular events. Another essential method the school can implement is to ensure there is worldwide indoor masking. Students will have to wear their masks while in class as well as their teachers. Similarly, students will need to maintain a minimum of three feet of physical distance while in the class to decrease transmission risk (CDC, 2021). Other methods the school can use to guarantee safety while using in-person learning include screen testing, washing hands, isolation or staying home when sick, cleaning and disinfection, and ensuring that the school staff and learners have signs of the disease remain at home.

Also, parents and teachers involved in online learning stated a negative experience when used to K-12 students. The negative response of online education is observed when Tueros (2021) said that "ninety-four percent of the participants specified the problems faced online, and the experience was negative." Moreover, in-person learning increases students' social interactions, hence improving their interactions psychological and physiological needs. The K-12 students should be taught in person because physical interactions among students enhance children and youths' well-being and overall development. Childhood is a critical time for students; therefore, K-12 schools have more chance of learning and experimenting with new things. Similarly, through socialization with other students, the learners can quickly progress their friendships which assist them in understanding themselves and aids in developing empathy and deal with stress. "Distance learning does not offer similar range of interaction as traditional learning and leads to high education gaps" (Matter, n.d). This indicates how education will have adverse effects on socialization and children's psychological and physiological needs.

The United States should not use in-person to teach K-12 students during the 2021-2022 school year. The coronavirus disease has caused increased fear to schools and parents, and thus for a safe education to the K-12 students, proper protection methods need to be implemented. Therefore, online learning provides efficient protections to students and a continuous learning process. According to Barbour (2018), K-12 schools introduced distance learning early in 1991 by a private institution called Laurell Spring School. This makes it an existing practice in K-12 schools. In the past K-12 schools concentrated on in-person learning because of certain factors such as geographic location (Barbour,2018). This made most of the students attend the institutions that are within their regions which may not have obtained the plans, provisions, or safety components required for efficient academic development. Nevertheless, online learning

has transformed the K-12 education experience and increase the chances for personalized education and growth. Online learning ensures that students can obtain quality education to enhance their productivity and general academic achievement.

Moreover, online learning encourages varied social interactions because intellectuals can apply the lessons outside the classroom. Therefore, increased road trips result in more social participation, making students interact more with other people and enhancing the students' learning experience. Barbour (2018) stated that distance learning allows students of all ages to be involved in numerous field trips every month to view their educational lessons being implemented. Consequently, these activities can act as a social opportunity for students to interact with each other and with individuals of every age and background. The interaction will make the students acknowledge and recognize diversity. Moreover, online learning also improves the quality of interaction among the teachers and students; for instance, since the teacher is not physically available to the learner, they will thus provide more support through emails and phone calls. In the same way, virtual classrooms make teachers create more time for the students, especially being available and accessible to deliver students' support. For instance, K-12 schools may use Adobe Connect, which allows them to share their computer screens and video chat to guarantee evocative education. Yan et al. (2021) added that online learning improves social interaction by providing them with a space to observe and integrate the cultural facets of the information and the varying views. Through online discussions, they can easily associate, oppose, challenge and back up each other's perceptions.

Despite the institution providing adequate technical support, they had to customize the online pedagogy for learners in different school years. Yan et al. (2021) stated, "online learning has several challenges, but the implementation will assist in comprehending students' difficulties

and enhance their experience." Some of the challenges of using online learning occur when the students transform from traditional education; therefore, to improve their experience, the schools will need to introduce them to the platform. For instance, immediately the students register the platform, they can view the guide video to show them the varying features in the system. Also, online learning allows the school to review the learning results regularly (Yan et al., 2021).

Likewise, through online learning, personalized learning can occur because it will enable the learners to select from various tools and features to consider every student's learning style and improve their learning experience. K-12 students will have more selections over the step of their education according to their strengths. Using virtual classrooms in K-12 students is also vital because it allows students to select their learning environment. The virtual classrooms concentrate more on valuable content since the lessons are recorded to enable the students to revisit them when they require it. Therefore, all these selections develop a productive and personalized learning experience.

In summation, the coronavirus pandemic has caused immense challenges to the education system, especially the K-12 schools. School administrators are stranded on whether to use in-person learning in the United States 2021-2022 K-12 schools. In-person learning ensures equality in education and promotes social interaction; parents have stated negative concerns about online learning. At the same time, distance learning was introduced several years ago in K-12 schools, encourages varied social interaction, and schools are working to improve students' experience on it because of the high flexibility the learning method offers. However, the school administrators have more to do to cater for the 2021-2022 school academic year for K-12 students because, despite the in-person learning providing more physical interactions among learners, there is a need to review the healthy strategies that will safeguard all students.

Similarly, although online learning is also an alternative, schools need to offer practical sustenance to ensure all learners learn efficiently.

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