

➤ Story #1 (Secondary):

This year my student total is up to 231 students (so far.) That's 231 students to take attendance for every day and keep track of in each period. If you were to divide 231 by 6 periods, it would be 39 students per class. I couldn't even fit 39 kids in my room! Teachers are being taken advantage of because we are virtual. We are being handed more and more students like we don't still have to grade each child's papers and also work with each child to learn the material online. They are expecting us to not only switch our hands on the project based teaching we worked so hard on last year, but we are supposed to transform to completely virtual lessons and do it with rosters so full it takes me an entire period just to take attendance! Not to mention cleaning desks between each period and the late-night recording of my daily lessons. I am overwhelmed and stressed everyday with attendance and the burden of so many students assigned to me. It's too much!

➤ Story #2 (Secondary):

In addition to larger (40+) virtual only sections, our school has students scheduled in more than one virtual class during the same period. For instance, I have a student who is in biology and English the exact same period. Teachers have been told to 'work things out' with the students and colleagues affected. The students are frustrated, and, on the teacher's end, we are marking them absent. This is not okay as each teacher needs to see/teach each student for the time allotted in the schedule. Furthermore, there are students who have incomplete schedules. For example, a student could have two 3rd periods may not have a 7th period. I don't know how I am supposed to teach a student at the same time they are in another class, nor do I feel like it is fair to any student to have to choose one class over another on a daily basis.

➤ Story #3 (Elementary):

I was someone who did not feel that we should have reopened our schools. The Allen County positivity rate is too high at this time to reopen, and we were not prepared to reopen. That being said, most of my concerns have to do with the daily work environment and the expectations being put on us now that we have reopened. We were told at the new teacher orientation that there would be virtual teachers as well as traditional teachers. This ended up not being the case as we are all having to do both at the same time. We are receiving no compensation or extra time to work to prepare these lessons, so the preparation comes after school, AFTER contract time. I know my teammates and I have spent every night working thus far because there was hardly any guidance from the corporation on how they wanted virtual learning to go. My previous district began eLearning last year. They had a set format they wanted EVERY teacher to use. Now every teacher is doing something different, which is not helping anyone. This includes parents who have multiple children doing totally different things. If you call the technology department for help, it takes an hour and a half to get someone due to the high call volume. This is not normal. On top of that, we are receiving email after email with change after change. We cannot keep up. The workload is TOO much. It HAS to change. I dread getting up and going to work every day. I wake up in the night with a stomachache because of anxiety from going to work. I have contemplated quitting every day because the stress is too much. I feel like I have been beaten physically after going every day. I have high blood pressure. I cannot imagine how high that has been this week. This is not healthy. I know that I am not alone. I have watched at least one of my teammates cry because they are so overwhelmed nearly every day. I know of people in my building who aren't eating like they should and not sleeping. We are desperate for something to change. Teachers will quit if this continues.

I could go on and on about the issues we are facing and the things we want to be changed. I'm not sure what the answer is. Teachers voice concerns every year, but this year it is more important than ever. We don't want to wait to vote in November or wear red on Wednesdays. This is about safety and well-being. Right now we are struggling. This cannot continue. I know personally I will not make it in these circumstances. I will have to quit, and I don't want to have to leave the great kids I have in my room.