

COVID Constituency

Engaging Public Voices to Shape Tomorrow's Schools



“Normal was familiar, but not great. There were many shortcomings (in education) before COVID-19. COVID-19 highlighted those difficulties in education and how pervasive those problems are.”

Keith is a father of three boys from Ohio. Like many parents, Keith found it challenging to manage his children’s educational experiences when schools were closed for in-person learning, noting difficulties navigating multiple online learning systems for homework and assignments.

But Keith found that at least one of his sons had a positive experience learning virtually at his STEM magnet school, noting that the positive experience came from the school already having experience delivering virtual learning before schools closed.

On the other hand, he noted that when moving his children to different schools, one of his sons, who has an individualized education plan (IEP), was not being served properly at a high-achieving school. To Keith, it showed that highly resourced schools do not always mean that those resources will be leveraged effectively.

Looking ahead, Keith would like for his boys’ education to teach them to become self-sufficient. Additionally, he would like to see an increase in the availability of vocational training at the secondary and postsecondary levels, noting that college should not be painted as the “end all be all” for students.