

**Flint Community Schools
 Clear Backpack Policy Survey
 Survey Open from February 27, 2023, to March 13, 2023
 Results Finalized on March 15, 2023**

Survey Overview

Demographic Information:

What is your role? (Please only select the role that you identify most strongly with)	Percent	Count
FCS scholar	9.2%	16
FCS parent or guardian	42.8%	74
FCS educator, staff member, or administrator	31.2%	54
Other	16.8%	29
Total Count	100.0%	173

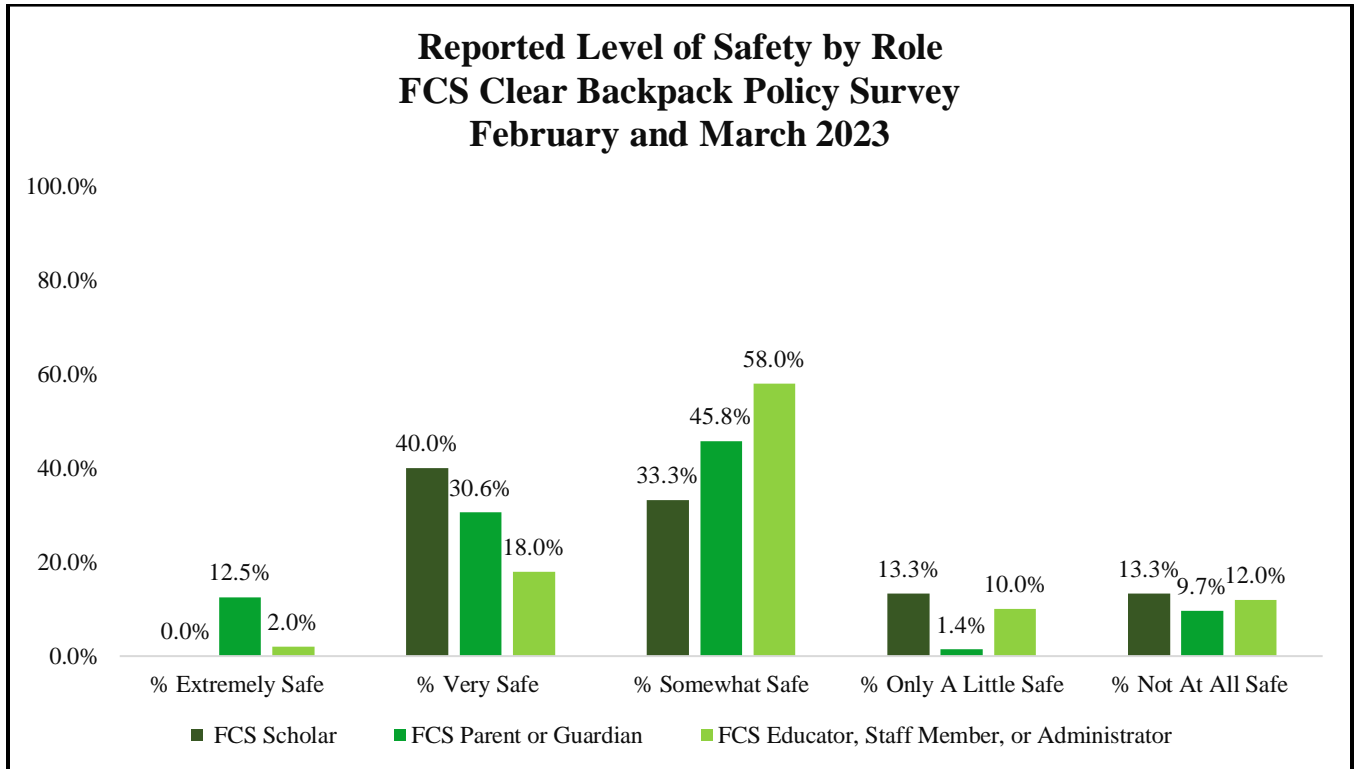
*Entries may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Perceived Safety – All Considered Roles – Table:

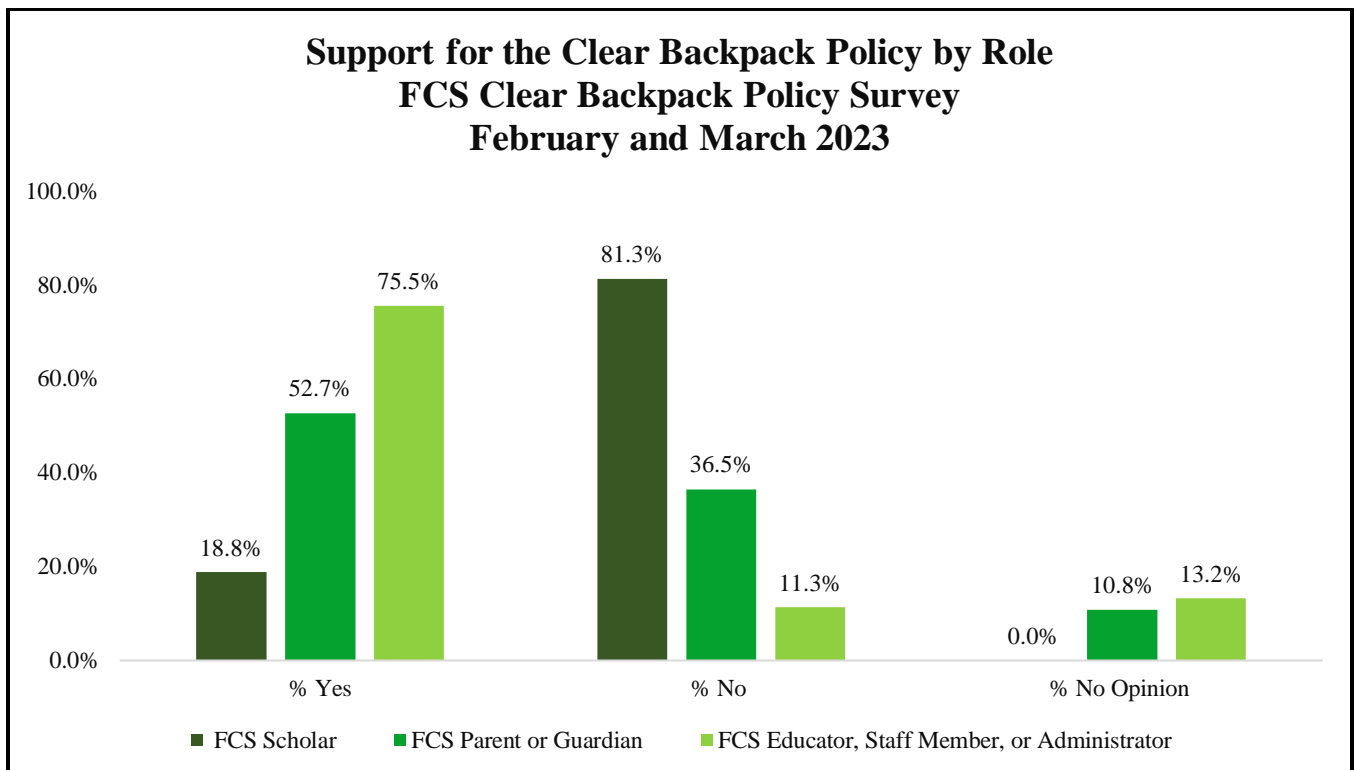
How safe do you feel in and on Flint Community Schools' buildings and properties?	% Extremely safe (N)	% Very safe (N)	% Somewhat safe (N)	% Only a little safe (N)	% Not safe at all (N)	Total N
FCS scholar responses:	0.0% (0)	40.0% (6)	33.3% (5)	13.3% (2)	13.3% (2)	15
FCS parent or guardian responses:	12.5% (9)	30.6% (22)	45.8% (33)	1.4% (1)	9.7% (7)	72
FCS educator, staff member, or administrator responses:	2.0% (1)	18.0% (9)	58.0% (29)	10.0% (5)	12.0% (6)	50
All responses combined:	7.3% (10)	27.0% (37)	48.9% (67)	5.8% (8)	10.9% (15)	137

*Entries may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Perceived Safety – All Considered Roles – Visualization:



Overall Clear Backpack Policy Support – All Considered Roles – Visualization:



FCS Scholar Responses

Opinion of the Clear Backpack Policy – Scholars:

Assuming that backpacks are given to families for free, would you support a policy allowing scholars to only carry clear, district-provided backpacks in and on all FCS schools and properties?	
% Yes (N)	18.8% (3)
% No (N)	81.3% (13)
% No opinion (N)	0.0% (0)
Total N	16

*Entries may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Additional Comments – Scholars:

Of the 18.8% of scholars supporting the policy, they had the following open-ended response:

Is there anything else you would like to let us know?
- I don't want to be searched if my backpack is clear. I don't want people stealing my stuff bc they see it in my bag.

*Written responses were left unedited.

Of the 81.3% of scholars opposed to the policy, they had the following open-ended responses:

Is there anything else you would like to let us know?
- Good Afternoon, I personally feel like if you make everyone wear a clear backpack that would get rid of our privacy. It would also be unnecessary, we already get our bags checked why would we all need clear back packs. Most people don't even wear backpacks!
- It's a ridiculous choice and an invasion of privacy. kids stand in 40 minute lines going through metal detectors and getting back check. maybe the good choice would be better metal detectors and not ones that's been there for 12 years.
- jus keep the troublemakers out of school, don't punish everybody thats lame
- make southwestern better

*Written responses were left unedited.

No scholars had no opinion on the policy, meaning there were no associated open-ended responses

FCS Parent or Guardian Responses

Opinion of the Clear Backpack Policy – Parents/Guardians:

Assuming that backpacks are given to families for free, would you support a policy allowing scholars to only carry clear, district-provided backpacks in and on all FCS schools and properties?	
% Yes (N)	52.7% (39)
% No (N)	36.5% (27)
% No opinion (N)	10.8% (8)
Total N	74

*Entries may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Additional Comments – Parents/Guardians:

Of the 52.7% of parents or guardians supporting the policy, they had the following open-ended responses:

Is there anything else you would like to let us know?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All backpacks should be checked before allowing students in the building - all would have to use them and security would have to enforce the rule - I think it was very selfish and board members that voted against the backpack which was already purchase to reject and it should had been asked of the parent in the first place what they believed was best for our children. Board member quit playing political games when it comes to our children. Do your job you claim you want to do. - I think it’s an awesome idea. It should be school policy everywhere - I wish you all will allow the superintendent to do his job and understand that the complainers doesn't speak for the whole. We love this district. - I'll support any and all efforts to keeping our kids safe! - If the clear back pack policy were to pass, I would advise to allow students who menstruate to bring with them a personal small bag/backpack to either keep in their lockers or inside the clear bags themselves. These small bags should be self-policed by the students and parents and be exempt from searches to ensure privacy and sensitivity/awareness of the situation. Another solution would be to provide tampons/pads/wipes inside the bathrooms for free use. This could be implemented on a trial basis and re-assess the logistics based on custodial staff, parents and student surveys. Another policy should be implemented for children who bring their own lunch bags and be exempt from following a clear bag policy unless such are provided by the school. - If you don't go with the clear backpacks then there should be no backpacks.

- If you feel it would be safer for clear backpacks and are able to provide them because some family's can not afford new back packs im all for it. With everything going on in the world you can never be to safe.
- I'm for anything to keep our children safe.
- Needs better entry protocols. Buzzing & letting anybody into buildings is not safe at all. Need metal detectors like tsa has at airports for person & bags. Should have a extended outdoor booth added to buildings for parents with concerns & etc like a walk up window. Only allowed in if they are willing to get patted down bags checked & has Appt with personal. Only school with metal detector and bag check is Beecher that's horrible every school should. I would love clear bags piece of mind semi. Need better lockdown equipment like the door stopper that keeps intruders out of the room they can budge as much as they won't it won't move a different county around here has it & it's been used in a incident and put to Test. It's a high tech security safety company of some sort specializing in lockdown equipment.
- no
- The only argument I would have had would be my daughter will be starting her menstrual cycle and I wouldn't want her embarrassed with those things being exposed but a 5 minute conversation with my mom and we concluded would could put it in a pencil box or change purse of some sort and still be just as discreet.

*Written responses were left unedited.

Of the 36.5% of parents or guardians opposed to the policy, they had the following open-ended responses:

- | Is there anything else you would like to let us know? |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow teachers to be armed - Clear backpacks invade privacy. There has to be some trust I'm our kids. Clear backpacks allow for bullying.. I will always vote NO to clear backpack. - Clear backpacks won't stop people from bringing harmful substances in. If they want to bring stuff in they will find a way to sneak it in. - Give our kids their privacy back get rid of the metal detectors have the schools do their jobs my child should be able to take his cell phone to school in case of emergency after 10 Middle School sucks after some high school sucks let my kid take its phone back to school. - I don't think there should be clear backpacks some females don't want people knowing they are on they cycle I feel its an invasion of privacy metal detectors n the scanners to put the backpacks through will be just fine - I feel that scholars should be allowed to bring there own backpacks there bags are being check by security guards that you hired I'm strongly against there many schools had incidents happen and they never came up with students must have clear bags I feel like it sho happen at all with clear bags - My kids get all the stuff stolen monthly as it is !!! And let me tell ya miss Gibson and miss porters Brown from Nethercott have done nothing to make me feel as if my kids were safe I had to pull my 9 year from the school because of bullying and the bully's were never accountable. It was to the point where my nine year old wanted to commit suicide daily. - Some students have personal items being carried such as female items that don't need to be exposed. Next - no purses. - Spend some money on the parking lots!!!! People are going to bring weapons to school in clear back packs or their pockets. We need real security to protect our kids. - The parking lots need to be fixed |

- They are not useful. They just create false security and then something happens and no one was expecting it cause they had clear bags. Then the school has a way to be not held accountable cause they tried the bare minimum and had instituted clear bags
- Unless the backpacks are bulletproof the color doesn't matter
- What about kids bringing change clothes personal items such pad tampons for girls this takes kids privacy away if worried bout weapons put in metal detectors and search the ones that set it off
- What is wrong with children's carry a regular book bag I see no problem with it hell we carry book bags when we was children the school system is trying to change everything for these children that is really sad Wow. but if they are saying for there safety reasons why cause some kids are carrying thing to school with out the parents knowing. That's the parent fault. The teachers and staff can't do everything.

*Written responses were left unedited.

Of the 10.8% of parents or guardians who had no opinion on the policy, they had the following open-ended responses:

- | Is there anything else you would like to let us know? |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I understand the motivation for this policy, I do. But I'm wondering would clear backpacks really have prevented those incidents this past year? What about female hygiene products? What about things that need to be kept private that are no threat to safety? I question the effectiveness of this move. - I would rather see the parking lot at Holmes repaired. Backpacks are given away free all over the city. Who came up with this nonsense. - take into consideration if a child loses or damages a back pack....will they be able to get a new one? or go without? How frequently would they be able to get one?
 In some of the upper grade schools I feel as if this may be a beneficial program. Currently the flint school that I am most familiar with is a K-6 grade (with pre k recently added), and I don't feel that this is necessary in MY environment but at another school ie. Southwestern, Holmes, IAF, this may be beneficial there. - We aren't really for nor against the clear bookbags. We are worried however about the lack of privacy for girls who are of age for menstrual cycles. We are worried males and even females will make fun of a student after seeing their belongings...
 If someone wants to do harm to another, we believe they will do so no matter the bookbag color |

*Written responses were left unedited.

FCS Educator, Staff Member, or Administrator Responses

Opinion of the Clear Backpack Policy – FCS Educators/Staff/Administrators:

Assuming that backpacks are given to families for free, would you support a policy allowing scholars to only carry clear, district-provided backpacks in and on all FCS schools and properties?	
% Yes (N)	75.5% (40)
% No (N)	11.3% (6)
% No opinion (N)	13.2% (7)
Total N	53

*Entries may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Additional Comments – FCS Educators/Staff/Administrators:

Of the 75.5% of educators, staff members, or administrators supporting the policy, they had the following open-ended responses:

Is there anything else you would like to let us know?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As an educator at a school that has been threatened, what are we waiting for? Distribute them or ban backpacks all together, this is a no brainer? Are we about protecting our community of scholars, educators, and administrators or are we about protecting the rights of a would be criminal.????!! - As long as it's consistent and applied to all. - As with ANY initiative-- the solution is only as good as the consistency in carrying it out. Clear backpacks will only be effective if their use is uniformly required across buildings. - Backpacks need to be thoroughly checked upon arrival. - For elementary schools, there are no metal detectors so yes I think backpacks would help - Here our voice - Looking at it from an employee perspective, I would love to see every student carry a clear backpack for safety reasons. While it may not solve every safety issue, it will definitely help. Looking at carrying a clear backpack from a grandparent's perspective. Being able to see through it reminds the adults to check for homework, permission, slips, report cards, etc. My 2nd grade granddaughter carries one now and it reminds her mother to check it daily. - Make sure that they aren't going to fall apart quickly. Seems to me that see through vinyl would not hold up as well as the heavy duty material that backpacks are normally made of. Another thought is that some of our younger or special medical needs scholars have pullups/briefs/diapers in their backpacks which may embarrass them if everyone can see what is in their pack pack. The same thing if a female scholar has supplies for her menstrual cycle in her backpack. - No - No

- We need to hire and provide appropriate security guards (age appropriate, physically able to move quickly and fast, one on each floor of a building) at our main entrances and throughout the buildings to keep us all safe. We need to provide either metal detectors or something to scan students, parents, visitors, staff as they arrive at the building. We need to invest in specialty door locks (like the ones seen in ALICE training videos) to help protect us more. Possibly separate older students from younger students during arrival and dismissal (using different doors) for easier monitoring of students and families. Add another layer of protection once you enter a building (another wall with a door that locks from the outside) that you must enter AFTER you originally enter the building at the security post.
- We need to put other policies in place to check students such as metal detectors. I think it would be a good thing to have students carry clear bag; however, the statement said for free; who is going to provide them and if it is the district; why do we need to provide them with them?
- When there are no security guards at the door it is difficult to see how they keep us safe.
- Zero tolerance for bad language and behavior. Persons need to be held accountable

*Written responses were left unedited.

Of the 11.3% of educators, staff members, or administrators opposed to the policy, they had the following open-ended responses:

Is there anything else you would like to let us know?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear backpacks for middle and high school is appropriate. Elementary students do not need clear backpacks. True security measures should be implemented at all school levels. - I feel this should be a school by school basis. some schools who serve older children may feel the need to have clear backpacks and others which have lower grades only may not feel there is a need for that as a safety concern (at my school I do not feel it is a need). also if a student loses their bag or its damaged, will we replace it or will it be the guardians responsibility? - It should be a shared mission to keep students safe. Parents need to be understanding they are not to be roaming the buildings freely without an escort. Each building has a designated door where parents are greeted by security- other doors are not acceptable for parents to sneak through for their convenience. How do I know you're safe? Meetings with staff should be made by an appointment. Driving in the parking lot should be done at a safe speed and guidelines followed.

*Written responses were left unedited.

Of the 13.2% of educators, staff members, or administrators who had no opinion on the policy, they had the following open-ended responses:

Is there anything else you would like to let us know?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I feel that this isnt an issue that should be address at this time, with so MANY other issues facing or students that are more important then whether they have clear backpacks provided for them or not. - Would this be a one time purchase?

*Written responses were left unedited.

Other Responses

Additional Comments – Other Responses:

If a survey respondent did not identify as an FCS scholar, parent or guardian, or educator, staff member, or administrator, they were not asked to respond to the full survey. However, we allowed space for them to comment about the proposed clear backpack policy.

What would you like to let us know about the proposed clear backpack policy?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any safety measure would be beneficial. clear or no backpacks is one way to move towards more secure buildings. - As a Flint resident, I support the clear backpack policy based on the public comments of FCS teachers, staff, & faculty. Please prioritize the well-being of all persons who enter FCS school buildings. - Clear backpacks do not solve the problem, it simply puts a band aid on a bullet wound. Teach students coping skills and how to deescalate conflict without violence. Kids deserve better - Good idea to try and see what they're carrying into school - Good idea, workplaces do the same for loss prevention purposes. - How much it will cost. - I believe that clear backpacks would help students, faculty, and staff have the feeling of a little more security. The students should not be carrying around anything that would be an issue if other people saw. For young women who may be embarrassed to carry feminine hygiene products in full view, that could be remedied by having the vending machines that are actually stocked in the bathrooms. Another option that could be implemented would be to increase passage time in between classes so the children actually had enough time to go to their lockers and the restroom if needed. With this option, no backpacks would be allowed except before and after school. They would need to keep them in their locker. - I don't care. - I think it can't be more than an ineffective gesture. Better to pursue a more effective strategy that considers children as protective eyes and ears rather than as potential threats. - I think it's a great idea! - I think it's a great idea especially in regards to safety for all students. - I think the district needs to consider the psychological affect this may have on othering our school children. When their friends in other districts will be able to go to a store or a backpack giveaway and get any bag they want, our students won't. What message does that send to a parent or a child that, because you live in Flint, you can't get a spiderman backpack? You can't get a cool bag that your friend has? It seems that it will stand as just another small, daily reminder to our kids that they are treated as less than others. Additionally, the security value of this seems very suspect. While backpacks may be more visible, this doesn't change what a child may carry in a coat pocket, or even in a bag placed within a clear backpack. To put such a scarlet letter on our kids without realizing much if any safety benefit is shortsighted. School safety should be paramount, but to adopt such a highly visible policy that will mark students in our district as different than any other district while delivering negligible safety benefits is shortsighted. I'd encourage the administration to consider alternative proposals. Let's look to other urban districts and apply proven methods of success.

- If asking scholars than should also include everyone that enters the building, ie teachers, staff, partners, to set the example. As a partner I do not want to carry my items, some personal, in clear bags.
- Invasion of privacy for females that time of the month.
- It takes anyway any privacy the students may have an be doesn't deter any potential threats. If a student is determined enough, they'll hide a weapon on their person instead of in a backpack.
- It's needed! It's better to have provisions in placed !
- Nothing
- Sounds like it could be safer to have this in place you can see what are in their backpacks and it might reduce violence
- When I was in school we carried more books then the kids do now, and we never had backpacks. I don't believe that any of the kids need to be using backpacks, they have hands use them.
- Will replacements be provided for the backpacks lost?

*Written responses were left unedited.