

To: Appalachian State University Faculty Senate
From: The Faculty Welfare and Morale Committee
Re: Child care Survey Report

April 10, 2017

Please find enclosed a brief report of the most significant findings from the child care survey developed by the Faculty Senate Welfare and Morale Committee.

Based on the enclosed report, the Welfare and Morale Committee concludes that a significant population of faculty and staff are affected by a lack of child-care options, and therefore recommends that the faculty, staff, and administration work together to address child care and snow day-related issues.

In March 2017, the Appalachian State University Faculty Senate Welfare and Morale Committee surveyed all faculty and staff (non-students) on their perceptions of issues resulting from availability of child care on a regular basis and on snow days for school age children. The main outcomes are summarized below. The members of this committee agree that a significant problem exists. The default Qualtrics survey report can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8b0SR8K02A_U3MxLXIWMUh2LW8/view

We emphasize that a large number of those who responded appear to have a vested interest in the topic (as parents of school age children); however, the lack of child care services for parent and guardian employees at Appalachian has a wide ranging effect on the productivity and morale of all faculty and staff in the institution, as well as on the larger community. Specifically, two-thirds of respondents indicated that challenges with child care and snow day availability interfered with their job performance as ASU employees. Though not part of the survey, if a faculty or staff member cannot work because of the lack of availability of child care or snow day care, it may result that their non-affected colleagues will compensate, making this an issue for a majority of faculty and staff.

67% agree with the statement: “child care availability in the Boone area has prevented me from accomplishing my job to the best of my ability.”

72% agree with the statement: “child care availability in the Boone area has affected my family in a negative way.”

30% agree with the statement: “child care availability in the Boone area will affect my decision to keep my family in the Boone area and remain in my current position at Appalachian.”

92% agree they had moderate or more difficulty in finding snow day care.

80% agree with the statement “snow day option availability in the Boone area has preventing me from accomplishing my job to the best of my ability.”

76% agree with the statement “snow day option availability in the Boone area has affected my family in a negative way.”

28% agree with the statement “snow day option availability in the Boone area will affect my decision to keep my family in the Boone area and remain in my current position at Appalachian.”

62% responded no to the question “was your child placed in a facility by the time of needed care?”

55% responded that the average wait time for being placed in a facility by the time of needed care exceeded two semesters.

3,279 faculty and staff (non-students) were invited to take the survey resulting in 541 responses. Demographical information was collected and can be found in the default Qualtrics report. It is worth noting that of the respondents who expressed need for child care since 2000, roughly half (153) took the time to write about their child care and snow day experiences in the general feedback textbox.