The Barr Foundation
Education Issues Survey Wave 2
Topline Results
Statewide Survey of 1,528 K-12 Parents in Massachusetts
Field Dates: February 8 – March 2, 2021

Which of the following best describes the school where your child(ren) are enrolled this year? [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

- A public school run by a school district: 76%
- A public charter school: 7%
- A parochial or Catholic school: 4%
- A non-Catholic private or independent school: 7%
- Home schooling: 9%
- Another format: 1%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 1%

As of today, which best describes the school format for your child(ren)? [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

- Only attending class in person: 12%
- Attending only remote, online classes: 43%
- Attending a mix of online classes and in-person classes: 46%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 1%

Over the last month or so, how easy or difficult has it been for your household to...READ ITEM? PROBE: And is that very or somewhat (easy/difficult)? What about READ NEXT ITEM?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROTATE ORDER</th>
<th>Very easy</th>
<th>Somewhat easy</th>
<th>Somewhat difficult</th>
<th>Very Difficult</th>
<th>Don’t Know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(DSCH) Manage your child(ren)’s school schedule(s)</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DWCH) Balance work and child care</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(DACT) Find safe activities for your child(ren) to do outside of school</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

START TARGET CHILD SECTION

IF HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHILD READ THE FOLLOWING. OTHERWISE SKIP THIS DIRECTION AND DO NOT SPECIFY GRADE LEVEL IN FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. You mentioned you had a child in SELECT GRADE LEVEL FOR RANDOM CHILD FROM EARLIER QUESTION. The next several questions will be about this child’s experience during the coronavirus crisis.

IF ONLY ONE CHILD, SKIP AND RECORD ANSWERS FOR NEXT 2 QUESTIONS FROM EARLIER ANSWERS
First, which of the following best describes the school where your GRADE LEVEL child is enrolled this year?

- A public school run by a school district: 74%
- A public charter school: 6%
- A parochial or Catholic school: 3%
- A non-Catholic private or independent school: 6%
- Home school: 8%
- Another format: 1%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 1%

As of today, which best describes the school format for your GRADE LEVEL child?

- Only attending class in person: 11%
- Attending only remote, online classes: 44%
- Attending a mix of online classes and in-person classes: 44%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 1%

Does your GRADE LEVEL child have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

- Yes: 30%
- No: 65%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 6%

Does your GRADE LEVEL child receive services for English Language Learners (ELL)?

- Yes: 20%
- No: 76%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 3%

**ASK ONLINE RESPONDENTS ONLY**

What, if anything, do you think your GRADE LEVEL child’s school or teacher could be doing better during this school year? OPEN END RESPONSES RECODED INTO CATEGORIES:

- General satisfaction: 32%
- Meeting individual needs (academic, mental/emotional): 12%
- More time in school / back in-person: 12%
- Better academic engagement: 11%
- Communicating / updating / supporting parents: 9%
- Improve remote learning: 4%
- Extra time / IEP support: 4%
- Make school more challenging: 4%
- Social opportunities: 3%
- Safety concerns: 3%
- Make more manageable workload: 2%
- Less screen time: 2%
- Other / no comment: 15%
ASK ALL

Prior to the coronavirus crisis, do you think your GRADE LEVEL child’s academics were at grade level, behind grade level, or ahead of grade level? How about now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior to coronavirus</th>
<th>Now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At grade level</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behind grade level</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ahead of grade level</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know / Refused</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would you say the changes to school this year have had a positive or negative impact on your GRADE LEVEL child’s READ FIRST ITEM, or has it made no difference? PROBE: And is that a major or minor positive/negative impact?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROTATE ORDER</th>
<th>Major positive impact</th>
<th>Minor positive impact</th>
<th>Minor negative impact</th>
<th>Major negative impact</th>
<th>No difference</th>
<th>Don’t know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental or emotional health</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day-to-day behavior</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to form or maintain friendships</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic learning</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How informed or uninformed do you feel about your GRADE LEVEL child’s academic progress this year? Would you say you are very informed, somewhat informed, not too informed, or not informed at all?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Very informed</th>
<th>Somewhat informed</th>
<th>Not too informed</th>
<th>Not informed at all</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
<th>Don’t know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you feel well-informed about how your GRADE LEVEL child’s academic progress compares with other students...READ FIRST ITEM? How about other students READ NEXT ITEM?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes, feel well-informed</th>
<th>No, do not feel well-informed</th>
<th>Don’t Know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In their class</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In their grade at school</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In their grade statewide</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where have you gotten information about your GRADE LEVEL child’s academic progress so far this year? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emails from the teacher or school</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online platforms or dashboards</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent-teacher conferences</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone calls or text messages from the teacher or school</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check-ins with your child</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhere else (record): _________</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above EXCLUSIVE OPTION</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have you found each of the following helpful or not helpful in tracking your GRADE LEVEL child’s academic progress this year? If you have not received one of these, please say so. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

- Grades or scores on individual assignments and tests: Helpful 68%, Not helpful 12%, Have not received 16%, Don’t Know / Refused 4%
- Report cards or progress reports: Helpful 78%, Not helpful 12%, Have not received 8%, Don’t Know / Refused 3%
- Results of standardized tests other than MCAS: Helpful 30%, Not helpful 15%, Have not received 44%, Don’t Know / Refused 11%
- General feedback from teachers and staff: Helpful 73%, Not helpful 11%, Have not received 13%, Don’t Know / Refused 3%

In previous years, have you found MCAS results helpful or not helpful in tracking your GRADE LEVEL child’s academic progress? If you have not received MCAS results, please say so.

- Helpful 38%
- Not helpful 30%
- Have not received 24%
- Unsure 8%

In general, would you say your GRADE LEVEL child gets too much, the right amount, or not enough of each of the following? READ FIRST ITEM. How about READ NEXT ITEM?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROTATE ORDER</th>
<th>Too much</th>
<th>Right amount</th>
<th>Not enough</th>
<th>Don’t Know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screen time</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor time</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical activity</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleep</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thinking about your Grade Level child’s mental and emotional health this year, would you say you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- Very concerned: 19%
- Somewhat concerned: 41%
- Not too concerned: 24%
- Not at all concerned: 14%
- Unsure: 1%

Which of the following is more concerning to you? Read and rotate 1 and 2 or both equally?

- My child’s mental and emotional health this year: 34%
- My child’s academic progress this year: 19%
- Both equally: 42%
- Unsure: 5%

Overall, how satisfied are you with the mental and emotional health resources offered by your Grade Level child’s school? Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

- Very satisfied: 24%
- Somewhat satisfied: 42%
- Not too satisfied: 15%
- Not at all satisfied: 11%
- Unsure: 8%

Does your Grade Level child’s school offer each of the following or not? If you are not sure, please say so. Read first item? How about read next item?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROTATE ORDER</th>
<th>Yes, offered by school</th>
<th>No, not offered by school</th>
<th>Don’t Know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information about mental or emotional health resources</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health screeners for students</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to school-based mental health counselors</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated social time during school hours, whether virtual or in-person</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

- Schools should focus on improving remote learning for the remainder of this year: 40%
- Schools should focus on bringing back more children for in-person learning for the remainder of this year: 54%
- Don’t Know / Refused: 6%
ASK IF TARGET CHILD REMOTE OR HYBRID

Has your GRADE LEVEL child’s school or district been in touch with you to get your feedback about your preferences on re-opening school to in-person learning for all students?

- Yes 57%
- No 39%
- Don't Know / Refused 4%

ASK ALL

In order to provide extra learning opportunities and make up for lost school time this year, would you support or oppose READ FIRST for your child? How about READ NEXT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROTATE ORDER</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Don't Know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer education programs</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting the next school year earlier than usual</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making the school day longer next year</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

END TARGET CHILD SECTION

When an FDA-approved COVID vaccine is available for children, when do you think you would have your child(ren) take it?

- As soon as possible 45%
- After a few people I know have had their children take it 17%
- After many other children have taken it 19%
- Never 13%
- Don't Know / Refused 6%

Would you support or oppose the idea of requiring that FDA-approved COVID vaccines be taken by…READ FIRST ITEM? How about READ NEXT ITEM?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROTATE ORDER</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Don't Know / Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers in your child(ren)’s school</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff and administrators in your child(ren)’s school</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children attending school</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

- 18 to 34 years old: 16%
- 35 to 39 years old: 18%
- 40 to 44 years old: 24%
- 45 to 49 years old: 23%
- 50+: 19%
- Prefer not to say: <1%

Gender

- Male: 44%
- Female: 56%
- Other: <1%
- Prefer not to say: <1%

Race

- White: 69%
- Black / African-American: 6%
- Hispanic / Latino: 12%
- Asian: 8%
- Mixed race / Other: 4%
- Prefer not to say: 1%

Education

- High school or less: 26%
- Some college, no degree: 23%
- College degree: 27%
- Advanced degree: 23%
- Prefer not to say: 1%

About the Poll

These results are based on a survey of 1,528 parents of K-12 students in Massachusetts. Live telephone interviews and online interviewing were conducted in English and Spanish February 8 – March 2, 2021. Telephone respondents were reached by both landline and cell phone. Oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian American respondents were obtained to bring the total interview count up to at least 250 for each group for the base sample. Results within race and ethnicity were weighted to age, gender, geography, and education level for each group. Groups were then combined and weighted to the population parameters by race for the state as a whole. The poll was sponsored by The Barr Foundation.