

This Washington Post-Schar School poll conducted by Ipsos was completed online July 24-31, 2020, among a random national sample of 1,185 U.S. parents with children in school and a separate poll of 1,018 U.S. adults overall was completed July 24-26, 2020. The samples were drawn through the Ipsos KnowledgePanel, an ongoing survey panel recruited through random sampling of U.S. households. Results among the sample of parents have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points; the error margin among the U.S. adult sample is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling, field work and data processing were conducted by Ipsos of Washington, D.C.

(Full methodological details at the end of this document.)

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. (IF PARENT) What grade of school [is your child/are each of your children] scheduled to enter this fall?

	Pre-K through grade 2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
7/31/20	38	34	35	42

2. (IF PARENT WITH CHILD IN SCHOOL) Thinking back to February, which of the following types of schools did your children attend? (Select all that apply)

	Public school	Private school	Charter/Public charter school	Home school
7/31/20	81	10	7	7

Questions 3-4 held for release.

5. (IF PARENT WHO HAS ANY CHILD ENTERING 1ST THROUGH 12TH GRADE THIS FALL) Thinking about the [school your child/schools your children] attended earlier this year, how would you rate the way your [child's school/children's schools] handled education during the coronavirus outbreak?

	Positive			Negative			Differs	No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	by school	opinion
7/31/20	79	26	53	18	15	4	2	*

6. Given the coronavirus situation, how safe do you think it would be to send children back to schools in your community for in-person classes this fall?

	Safe			Not safe			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
7/31/20 Parents	44	11	33	56	27	28	*
7/26/20 U.S. adults	35	11	23	65	27	37	1

7. How would you describe the coronavirus situation in your community at this time?

	Safe	Not safe	No
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	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
7/31/20 Parents	55	10	46	45	30	15	0
7/26/20 U.S. adults	53	12	41	47	33	14	*

8. (IF PARENT WHO SAY IT IS SOMEWHAT SAFE OR LESS TO SEND CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL)
When do you expect the coronavirus outbreak to be controlled enough that it will be safe to send children to school for in-person classes in your community?

	In September or earlier	In October	In November or December	In January 2021	It will be longer than that	No op.
7/31/20	16	5	7	27	44	1

6/8 NET Table among U.S. parents overall for sending children back to school

	Very safe	NET	--- Somewhat/Less safe to send children to school --- Sept./ earlier	Oct.	Nov. Dec.	In Jan. 2021	Longer	No op.	No opinion
7/31/20	11	88	14	5	7	24	39	1	0

9. (IF PARENT) How much information has your [child's current school/children's current schools] provided you family about its plans to offer in-person classes or online instruction this fall? IF DIFFERS BY SCHOOL: Thinking about your child with the most recent birthday, how much...

	NET	Great deal/Good amount A great deal	NET	Little/Nothing A little	NET	Little/Nothing Nothing at all	No op.
7/31/20	61	25	36	39	31	7	*

10. (IF PARENT) Which of the following best describes what you think your [child's school/children's schools] will offer for students this fall? IF DIFFERS BY SCHOOL: Thinking about your child with the most recent birthday, which of the following...

	All in-person classes	Mix of in-person classes and online instruction	All online instruction	Not sure at this point	No op.
7/31/20	7	53	26	14	*

11. (IF PARENT) And in your opinion, what do you think your [child's school/children's schools] should offer students this fall? IF DIFFERS BY SCHOOL: Thinking about your child with the most recent birthday, what do you think...

	All in-person classes	Mix of in-person classes and online instruction	All online instruction	No opinion
7/31/20	16	44	39	1

12. (Among U.S. adults) In your opinion, what do you think public schools in your community should offer students this fall?

	All in-person classes	Mix of in-person classes and online instruction	All online instruction	No opinion
7/26/20	14	49	36	1

13. (IF PARENT) If your [child's school offers/children's schools offer] in-person classes at some point this fall, how confident are you that school officials will take appropriate precautions to limit the spread of the coronavirus?

----- Confident ----- ----- Less confident ----- No

	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
7/31/20	65	27	38	34	23	11	1

14. (IF PARENT) [Does your child/Do your children] ever ride a bus to get to school, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
7/31/20	40	60	0

15. (IF PARENT) Given the coronavirus situation, how would you feel about your children doing each of the following this fall?

7/31/20 -- Summary table

	NET	Comfortable Very	Somewhat	NET	Uncomfortable Somewhat	Very	No opinion
a. Learning in <u>full</u> classrooms	29	13	15	71	24	48	*
b. Learning in <u>half-full</u> classrooms	50	18	31	49	24	25	1
c. Participating in a school sports team	36	14	23	63	23	40	*
d. (IF KIDS EVER RIDE BUS TO SCHOOL) Riding a bus to school	36	14	22	64	24	40	*

16. (IF PARENT) If in-person classes are held by your [child's school/children's schools], would you support or oppose requiring each of the following to wear masks while at schools in your community this fall?

7/31/20 -- Summary table

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
a. Children	78	21	1
b. Teachers	85	14	1

Questions 17-18 held for release.

19. (IF CHILD'S CLASSES WILL BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY ONLINE THIS FALL) Do you expect your [child's/children's] online instruction this year to be (better) than in-person classes, (worse) than in-person classes, or about the same quality?

	NET	Better Much	Somewhat	About the same	NET	Worse Somewhat	Much	No opinion
7/31/20	12	3	8	34	54	41	13	*

20. (IF PARENT) If students return to a full schedule of in-person classes at some point this fall, how concerned are you that this will...

7/31/20 -- Summary table among parents

	NET	Concerned Very	Somewhat	NET	Less concerned Not too	Not at all	No op.
a. Increase the spread of the coronavirus in your community	79	46	33	21	15	6	*
b. Lead to your child or							

your family getting sick	77	42	34	23	16	7	*
c. Lead to teachers or their families getting sick	80	45	35	20	15	5	*

21. (IF PARENT) If your [child's school only provides/children's schools only provide] online instruction this fall with no in-person classes, how concerned are you about each of the following?

7/31/20 -- Summary table

	----- Concerned -----			----- Less concerned -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	op.
a. Your child/children will fall behind in their education	68	33	35	32	18	14	*
b. Your family will struggle to find child care	26	11	15	73	20	54	1
c. Your child/children's friendships will suffer	62	27	35	37	24	14	1
d. You child/children will get depressed	57	21	36	42	24	18	*
e. Your child/children will not receive meals provided by their school	17	6	10	83	20	63	1

22. (IF PARENT WHO IS EMPLOYED FULL-TIME, PART-TIME OR SELF-EMPLOYED) At this time, are you...

	Mainly working from home	Mainly leaving home to work	No opinion
7/31/20	42	57	1

23. (IF PARENT IS NOT RETIRED) If your [child's school only provides/children's schools only provide] online instruction this fall with no in-person classes, how would this affect your ability to work?

	Would have no effect	Would make working harder, but not impossible	Would make work impossible	No opinion
7/31/20	49	44	7	*
7/31/20 Employed	50	44	6	*

24. (IF PARENT HAD ANY CHILD IN SCHOOL THIS PAST SPRING) This past spring semester after the coronavirus outbreak began, did your [child's school/children's schools] provide any of the following forms of distance learning instruction? (Check all that apply)

	Real-time online classes with teachers	Pre-recorded video lessons or instruction	Instructional worksheets or packets	None of these were provided
7/31/20	52	42	60	7

25. (IF PARENT HAD ANY CHILD IN SCHOOL THIS PAST SPRING) Overall, how would you rate the quality of distance learning instruction if your [child's school/children's schools] provided this spring semester? IF DIFFERS BY SCHOOL: Thinking about your child with the most recent birthday, overall, how would you rate...

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
7/31/20	61	12	49	38	28	10	1

26. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Trump administration is handling the issue of school re-openings?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/31/20 Parents	36	15	21	63	19	44	1
7/26/20 U.S. adults	35	18	18	63	14	49	1

27. (IF PARENT) Do you support or oppose requiring nearly all public schools in the U.S. to open for in-person classes five days a week?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/31/20	33	15	18	66	21	45	*

28. (IF PARENT) How do you feel about the possibility that you or someone in your immediate family might catch the coronavirus?

	----- Worried -----			----- Not worried -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
7/31/20	73	33	39	27	20	7	*

29. (IF PARENT) Have you or someone you personally know been infected by the coronavirus, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
7/31/20	50	50	*

28. (IF PARENT WITH CHILD WHO HAD ONLINE CLASSES OR PRE-RECORDED VIDEO LESSONS THIS SPRING SEMESTER) In general, was it (easy) or (difficult) for your [child/children] to use online instruction programs this spring semester?

	Easy	Difficult	No opinion
7/31/20	69	31	*

PARTYID. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...

	A Democrat	A Republican	An independent	Other party	No op.
7/31/20 Parents	31	26	33	7	2

*** END ***

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and Ipsos. The poll includes a random sample of 1,185 parents of children entering kindergarten through 12th grade this fall, as well as a separate random sample of 1,018 adults in the United States. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

The questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the

group asked. Phrases surrounded by parentheses within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

Ipsos conducted sampling, interviewing and tabulation for the survey using the KnowledgePanel, a representative panel of adults age 18 and over living in the United States. KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability sampling methods using address-based sampling. Panel members who do not have internet access are provided with a tablet and internet service.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for deviations in the survey sample from known population characteristics, which helps correct for differential survey participation and random variation in samples. The general population sample was weighted to match the demographic makeup of adults age 18 or older in the U.S. by gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, household income, Census region, and metropolitan status according to the Census Bureau's March 2019 Current Population Survey. The sample of parents was weighted to match the demographic makeup of parents ages 18 or older of children ages 4 to 18 by gender, age, race/ethnicity, Census region, education, household income, language proficiency and number of children ages 4 to 18 in the household according to the Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey. An additional adjustment for the metropolitan status of parents was made according to benchmarks from the Census Bureau's March 2019 Current Population Survey.

The margin of sampling error for the general population sample of adults in the U.S. is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, and the error margin for the sample of parents is plus or minus three percentage points. For results based on other subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.2 for the sample of parents in this survey and 1.2 for the sample of U.S. adults overall. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

