



March 10, 2022

To: Interested Parties

Fr: Brian Stryker (Impact Research), Robert Blizzard (Public Opinion Strategies)

Re: Learning Loss and Education Disruptions

Our new, bi-partisan national survey shows parents believe their kids have been set back by COVID-19, including through missing weeks of school this school year through school closures and quarantines. Two-thirds of parents say their children are behind academically because of the pandemic. Further, many parents also report their children did not have access to their full-time teachers this year.

As a result, voters and parents across the country are concerned about learning loss. They want schools to measure that learning loss through testing and address it by: ensuring every child is learning at grade level, addressing teacher shortages, and providing more mental health services to students.

Key Findings

- **Parents report their kids have missed a full month of in-person instruction this school year.** While it's generally accepted that children missed months of in-person school in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, parents report their kids missing on average 26 days of school this year (despite rhetoric about schools being open).
 - On average, parents say their children missed 15 days of school this school year due to COVID-19 quarantines. This is higher among Black parents (17 days) and Midwestern parents (17 days).
 - On average, parents say their kids missed 11 days of school this year due to school closures related to COVID-19.
- **A majority of parents continue to worry their schools will close again.** Most parents (59%) say they are very or somewhat worried that “your child’s school could pause in-person learning at some point in the remaining school year because of COVID-19”. This includes majorities of Democrats (59%), Independents (58%), and Republicans (60%).

These findings are based on the results of a national survey of n=800 registered voters conducted by Public Opinion Strategies and Impact Research conducted Feb 1-7, 2022. The 95% confidence interval for these results is + 3.5%.

- **Many parents say their kid often does not see their assigned, regular teacher.** More than a quarter of parents (28%) say their child isn't seeing their assigned, full time teacher regularly. Nine percent say their child "rarely" sees their full time teacher and 19% say their child only has "some days" where they see their full time teacher.
- **Two-thirds of parents say their kids have lost learning.** Most parents agree that "as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, my child or children are academically behind" (67% yes). This is true of both Democratic (69%) and Republican (68%) parents.
- **Parents support addressing learning loss with policies that are measurable and will have a real impact, including:**
 - Testing students to measure the extent of learning loss (51% very important / 87% total important)
 - Ensuring every child is reading at grade level by improving curriculum, teacher training, and measurement (50% top priority / 89% total priority)
 - Addressing teacher shortages by hiring and retaining more high-quality teachers (49% top priority / 87% total priority)
 - Ensuring students have full access to broadband internet in school and at home (45% top priority / 81% total priority)
 - Providing more counseling and mental health services for any student who needs it (43% top priority / 82% total priority)