



A National Survey of Parents For the Walton Family Foundation

August 2021



About the Survey

Mode	Online
Sample	2,017 parents of children in grades K-12
Dates	August 6-10, 2021
Weighting	Sample was weighted to known demographics of K-12 parents by race, ethnicity, and region.
Margin of error	+/-1.9%
Note	Some data may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Key Findings

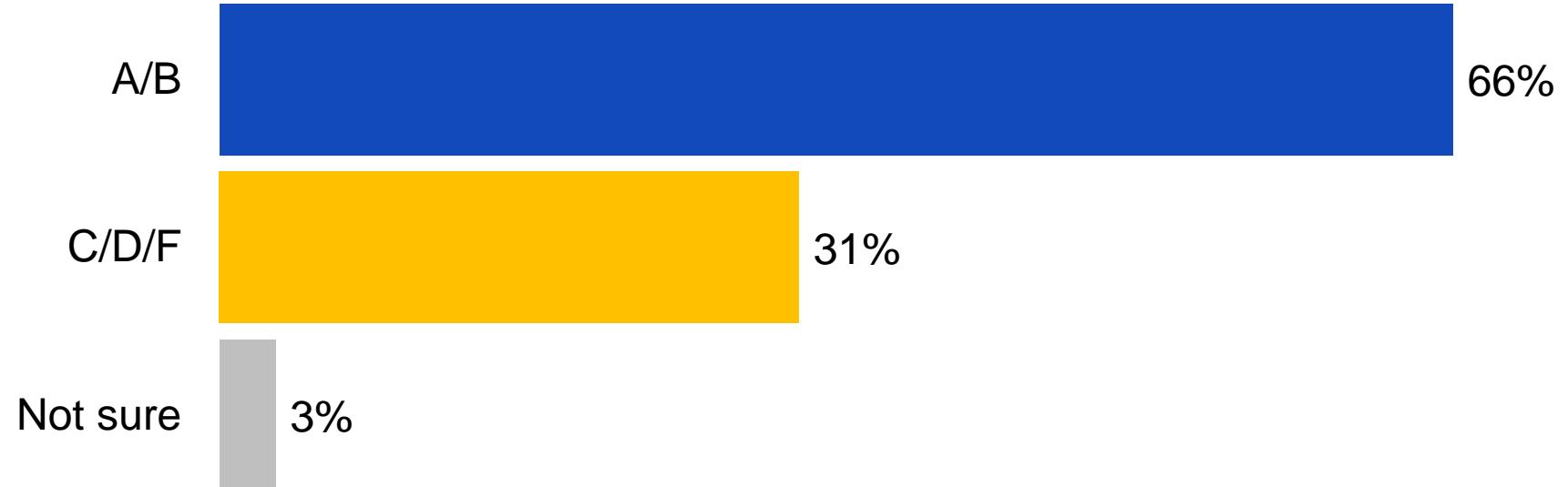


- A majority of parents want schools to rethink how they educate students and come up with new ways to teach children amid the ongoing Covid crisis.
- 76% of all parents express at least some frustration with the way their child's school dealt with the pandemic.
- 67% believe their child's school needs to make changes to recover from the pandemic and get students back on track.
- 40% of parents wish there were more or different options for where to send their child to school.
- 4-in-5 believe parents should have the option to decide whether their child attends school in-person, remotely, or a mix of both.



Majority Give Own Child's School Positive Grade

Students are often given grades of A, B, C, D and F to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the schools themselves were graded the same way. What grade would you give the school your own child/children attend(s):





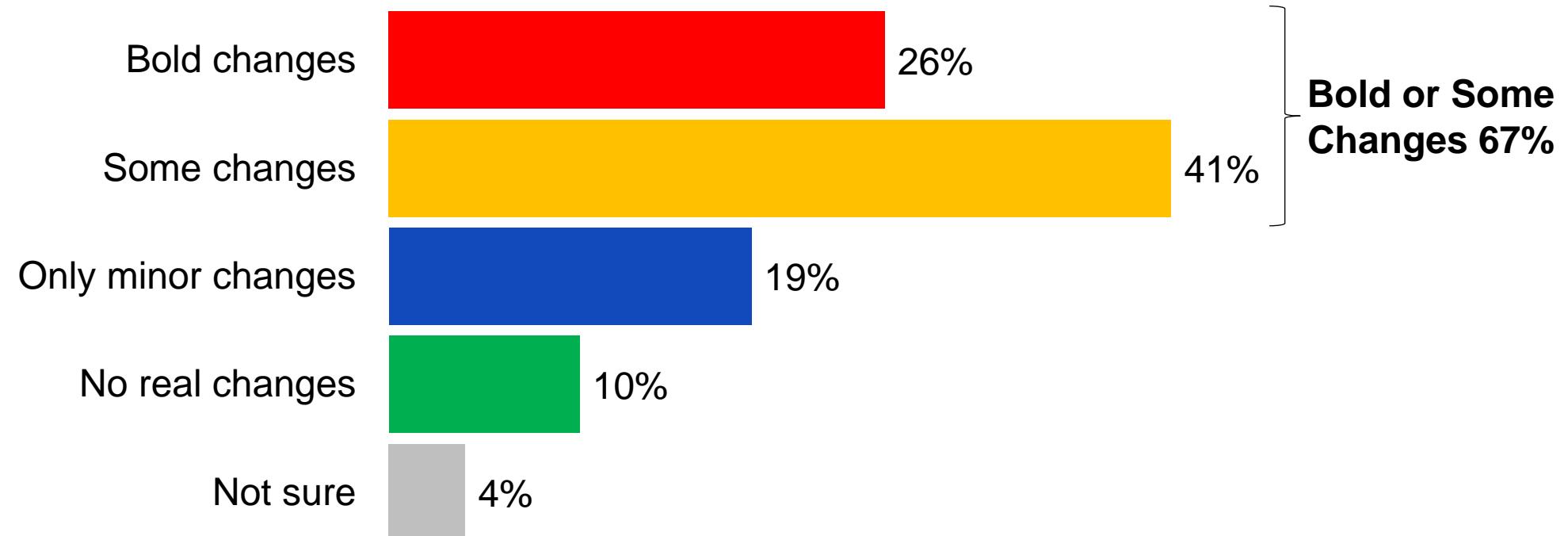
Rural, Non-Married Parents Give Own Schools Lower Marks

Give School Grade of C/D/F		Give School Grade of C/D/F		Give School Grade of C/D/F	
<u>Area</u>		<u>HH income</u>		<u>Ethnicity</u>	
Marital Status		School type		Asian	18
Urban	30%	Under \$50K	33%	White	31%
Suburban	27	\$50K-\$100K	33	Latino	32
Small Town/Rural	39	\$100K+	24	Black	31
Married	28	Public	33		
Non-married	35	Private	23		



2-in-3 Parents Say Their Child's School Needs to Make Changes

In order to recover from the pandemic and get students back on track, do you think the school(s) your own child(ren) attend: need to make bold changes and adopt new ways of doing things; need to make some changes; need to make only minor changes; or don't need to make any real changes?





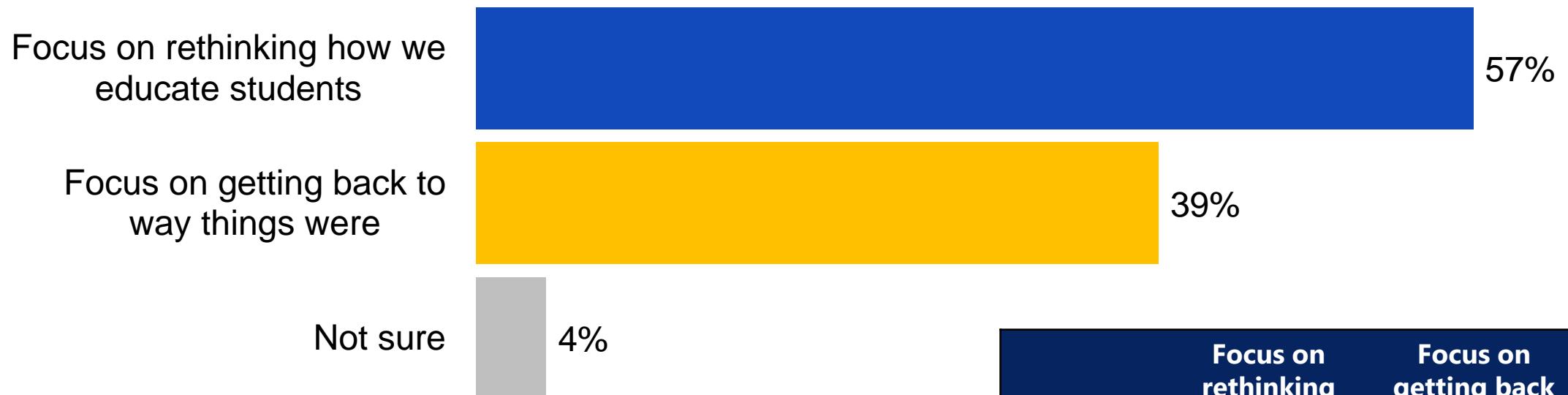
Desire for Change Higher Among Black, Latino Parents

<u>Ethnicity</u>	Need to make bold/some changes	Need to make bold/some changes	
	<u>Grade own school</u>	A/B	C/D/F
White	64%	A/B	61%
Latino	73	C/D/F	79
Black	74		
Asian	65		



Majority Favors Rethinking How Students Are Educated

Which of these two statements are you more inclined to agree with: schools should be focused on rethinking how we educate students and coming up with new ways to teach children moving forward as a result of the Covid crisis OR schools should be focused on trying to get back to the way things were before the Covid crisis as soon as it is safe to do so.

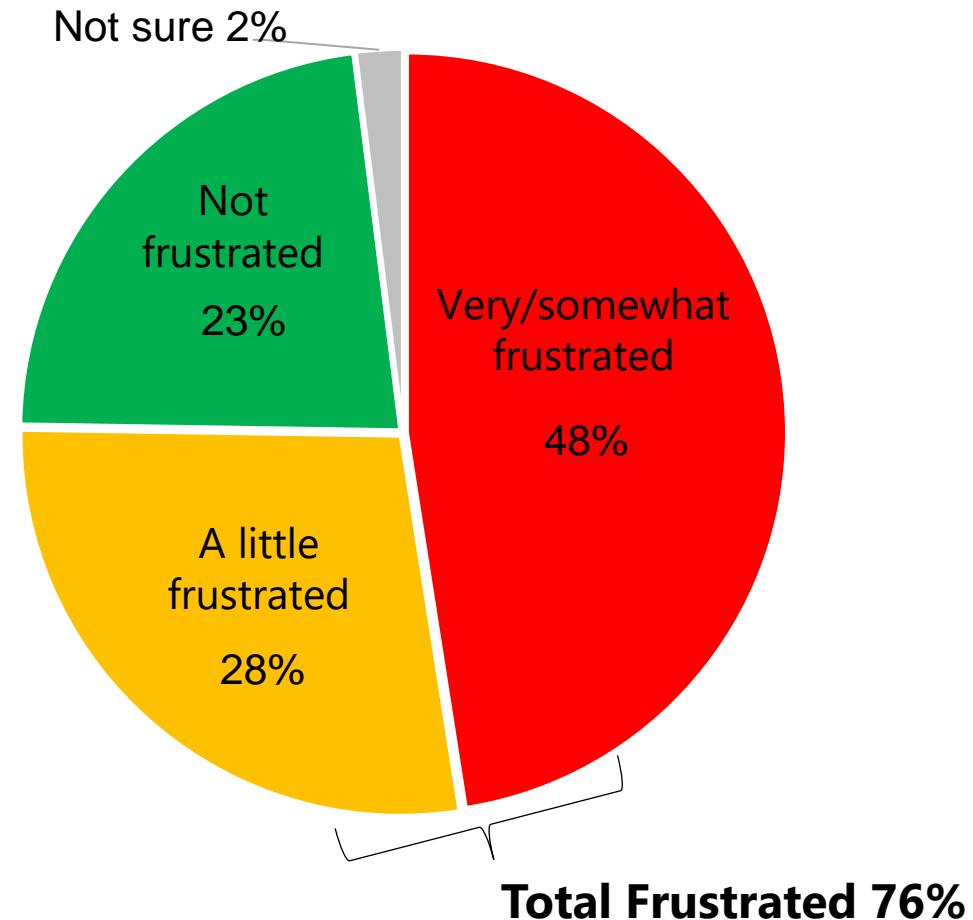


	Focus on rethinking	Focus on getting back
White	53%	43%
Latino	63	34
Black	69	28
Asian	57	40

76% of Parents Frustrated With How School Handled Covid



How frustrated were you, if at all, with the way the school(s) your child(ren) attend handled the Covid crisis last year: very frustrated, somewhat frustrated, only a little frustrated, or not frustrated at all?



% saying 'frustrated'	
Rate own school A/B	70%
Rate own school C/D/F	90



What Potential Changes Do Parents See as Most Effective?

Of 12 possible changes tested, parents see these as most effective:

1. Providing more flexible options for students to access learning through different places, like virtual learning, part-time home schooling, or other options outside the classroom.
2. Providing every child with a personalized education that fits their unique learning style.
3. Providing teachers with better instructional materials, including digital resources, that are aligned to state learning standards.
4. Providing better and more up-to-date technology to use in school and at home.
5. Providing more real-world learning opportunities, such as internships or apprenticeships.
6. Providing more counseling and mental health services for any student who needs it.



Parents' Likelihood of Using New/Expanded Programs

<i>Which of the following programs or services, if offered, would you use or take advantage of for your own child/children:</i>	Definitely/possibly use	Definitely use
Better information about your child's academic progress	93%	60%
Better and more up-to-date technology	92	62
Personalized education tailored to each student	91	55
Real-world learning opportunities, such as internships or apprenticeships	89	54
Flexible learning options for students	84	45
High-quality tutoring programs	83	46
Vocational classes	81	36
Counseling and mental health services	74	38
School options like charter schools or learning pods	66	31
Free pre-K or childcare options	55	32



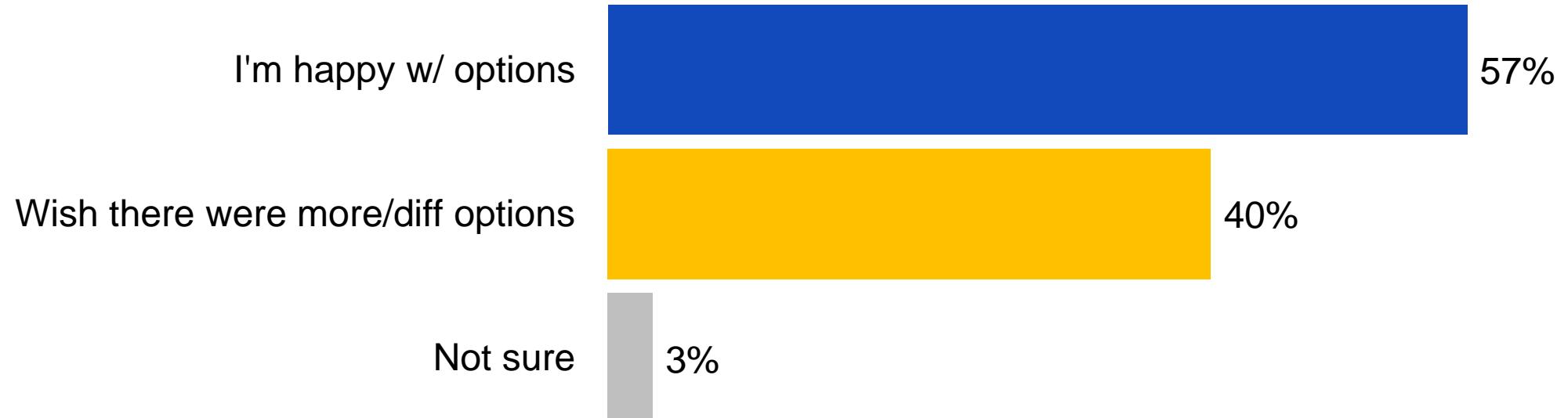
New/Expanded Program Preferences, by Race

<i>% saying definitely use</i>	Black parents	Latino parents	White parents
Better info about your child's academic progress	66%	60%	59%
Better and more up-to-date technology	64	67	62
Personalized educ. tailored to each student	63	53	54
Real-world learning opportunities, e.g., internships	58	57	52
Flexible learning options for students	53	53	43
High-quality tutoring programs	57	57	41
Vocational classes	40	41	36
Counseling and mental health services	46	43	37
School options like charter schools/learning pods	39	44	28
Free pre-K or childcare options	44	36	30



40% Wish They Had Better Options for Child's Education

Thinking about the different school options available to you in terms of where you are able to send your child/children to school and what programs and services are offered at those schools, would you say: I'm happy with the options I have for my child/children OR I wish there were more or different options available for at least one of my children?





Desire for Better Options Higher Among Parents of Color

Wish they had better options		Wish they had better options	
<u>Region</u>		<u>Race/ethnicity</u>	
Northeast	43%	White	38%
Midwest	37	Latino	42
South	40	Black	44
West	41	Asian	46
<u>Gender</u>		<u>Household income</u>	
Men	37	Under \$50K	38
Women	42	\$50K-\$100K	45
<u>Grade own school</u>		\$100K+	
A/B	30	<u>School Covid response</u>	
C/D/F	62	Very/SW/a little frustrated	47
		Not frustrated	20

1-in-6 Parents Changed Child's School During Last Year



- 1-in-6 parents (16%) report having changed the school(s) their child(ren) attend since the start of the pandemic.
- 62% of parents who switched were 'very' or 'somewhat frustrated' with how their child(ren)'s school(s) handled Covid last year, compared to 45% of parents who did not change schools.
- 81% of parents who switched schools are 'very satisfied' (49%) or 'fairly satisfied' (32%) with the change.
- Two-thirds (66%) plan to stay with the change for the 2021-22 school year, while 26% say they are going back to what they did before, and 4% say they will look for something different.
- Parents who switched to private schools are the most likely to stay with the change for the upcoming school year (80% stay), followed by parents who switched to traditional public schools (70%), charter schools (69%), and home schooling (56%).



Top Reasons for Switching Schools, by School Type

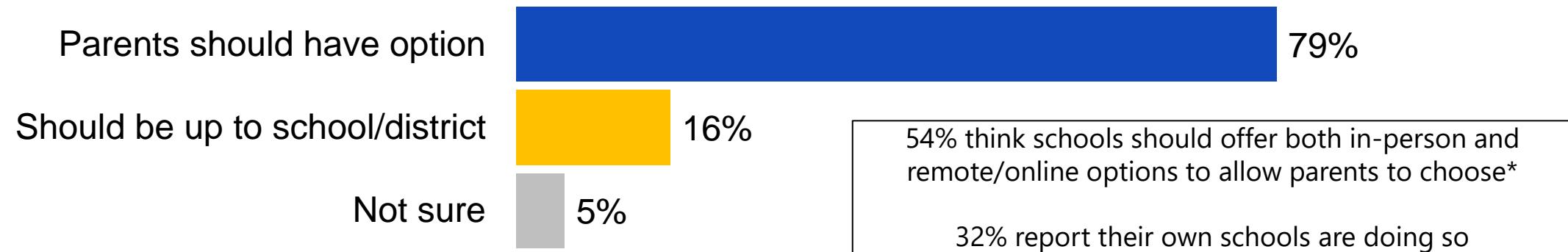
<i>Which of these reasons influenced your decision to change your child's school*:</i>				
Rank	Traditional Public School	Home School	Private School	Charter School
1	Had academic focus that was better fit (36%)	More convenient in terms of scheduling/proximity (34%)	Offered more personalized instruction (58%)	Had academic focus that was better fit (60%)
2	More convenient in terms of scheduling/proximity (35%)	Had stricter Covid safety measures (32%)	Had academic focus that was better fit (47%)	Offered more personalized instruction (51%)
3	Offered more personalized instruction (26%)	Had academic focus that was better fit (29%)	More convenient in terms of scheduling/proximity (38%)	Offered programs/classes unavailable at old school (44%)
4	Had stricter Covid safety measures (26%)	Offered more personalized instruction (27%)	Offered programs/classes unavailable at old school (37%)	More convenient in terms of scheduling/proximity (37%)
5	Offered programs/classes unavailable at old school (24%)	Offered programs/classes unavailable at old school (14%)	Had stricter Covid safety measures (32%)	Had stricter Covid safety measures (21%)

*Asked of parents who **switched their child(ren) to each school type** since the start of the Covid pandemic.

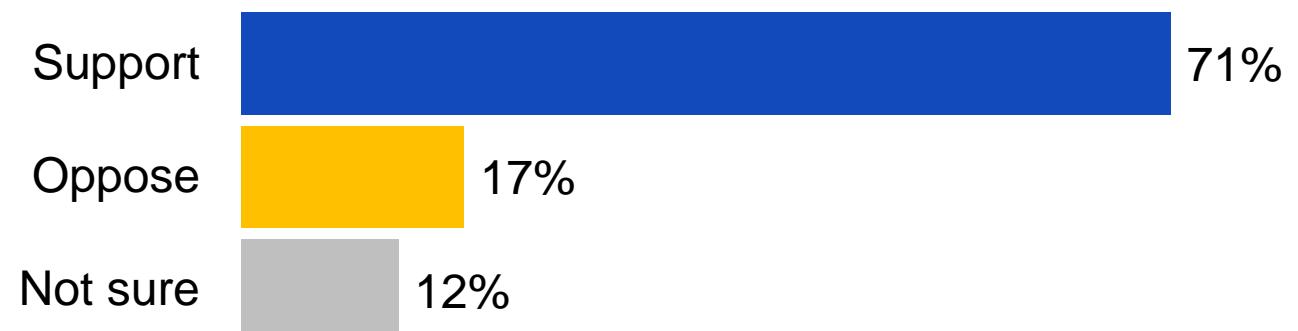


Most Parents Want Option to Choose In-Person or Remote

Do you think parents should have the option to choose whether their child attends school in-person, hybrid, or remote, or should it be up to the individual school or district to decide?



Would you support or oppose giving parents the option to send their child to school fewer than five days a week, and doing one or more days online at home?





Key Findings Among Black and Latino Parents

Black and Latino Parents Want to See Greater Changes

- 63% of Black parents and 69% of Latino parents think schools should be focused on rethinking how we educate students (vs. 57% of all parents).
- Three-quarters of Black parents (73%) and Latino parents (74%) believe their child's school needs to make changes to recover from the pandemic and get students back on track (vs. 67% of all parents).
- 78% of Black parents and 80% of Latino parents think schools in their city/town as a whole need to make at least 'some' changes (vs. 73% of all parents).

Black and Latino Parents Support More Remote Schooling Options

- Latino parents (21%) and Black parents (26%) are more likely to want remote/online learning options for their child (vs. 18% of all parents).
- Black parents (78%) are more likely to support giving parents the option to send their child to school fewer than five days a week and doing one or more days online at home (vs. 71% of all parents and 73% of Latino parents).



Key Findings Among Black and Latino Parents, Cont'd.

Black and Latino Parents Wish For Greater School Options

- When thinking about the programs and services offered at their schools, Black parents (46%) and Latino parents (44%) are more likely to say they wish that they had more or different options for where they are able to send their child (vs. 40% of all parents and 38% of White parents)

Black and Latino Parents Have Higher Demand for Additional Programs/Services

- Almost six-in-ten Black parents (57%) and Latino parents (57%) say they would 'definitely use' high-quality tutoring programs if they were offered (vs. 46% of all parents)
- Latino parents (44%) and Black parents (39%) say they would be more likely to take advantage of additional school options like charter schools or learning pods if they were available (vs. 31% of all parents)



Key Findings Among Urban Parents

Urban Parents Want to See Greater Changes

- 61% of urban parents think schools should be focused on rethinking how we educate students, compared to 57% of all parents, 56% of suburban parents, and 54% of rural parents.
- Seven-in-ten urban parents (71%) believe their child's school needs to make changes to recover from the pandemic and get students back on track, compared to 67% of all parents, 65% of suburban parents, and 66% of rural parents.
- 77% of urban parents think schools in their city/town as a whole need to make at least 'some' changes, compared to 73% of all parents, 72% of suburban parents, and 69% of rural parents.



Key Findings Among Urban Parents, Cont'd.

Urban Parents Have Higher Demand for Additional Programs/Services

- Six-in-ten (58%) urban parents say they would take advantage of real-world learning opportunities if they were available, compared to 54% of all parents, 52% of suburban parents, and 53% of rural parents.
- Over half (54%) of urban parents say they would 'definitely use' high-quality tutoring programs if they were offered, compared to 46% of all parents, 43% of suburban parents, and 42% of rural parents.
- Urban parents (37%) say they would be more likely to take advantage of additional school options like charter schools or learning pods if they were available, compared to 31% of all parents, 29% of suburban parents, and 29% of rural parents.