

Homeschooling Experiences and Opinions During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020 Schooling in America

Wave 1 (May 22–June 2, 2020)



KEY FINDINGS

HOMESCHOOLING IN AMERICA
PANDEMIC CONTEXT, IMPACTS
RACE/ETHNICITY
SURVEY PROFILE

KEY FINDINGS

- **So far, the pandemic is changing views on homeschooling in a more positive direction.**
 - Parents not homeschooling before the pandemic are more likely to be favorable now (43% more vs. 28% less). Those homeschooling in February were even more likely to be favorable based on a bigger margin (+23 points).
 - More than half of black parents (53%) said they have a more favorable opinion of homeschooling as a result of the pandemic.
- **Well more than half of parents who were not homeschooling before the onset of the pandemic now are considering it at least part time in the coming school year.**
 - Nearly one-fourth of parents (23%) who were not homeschooling before the pandemic indicated they are “very likely” to do so full time or part time on their own. An additional 35 percent said “somewhat likely.”
 - Of the parents not homeschooling in February, more than one-fourth (26%) were at least somewhat likely to homeschool full time next school year. One-third (33%) indicated at least somewhat likely to do so part time.
 - More than two-thirds (69%) of those homeschooling right before the pandemic said they were at least somewhat likely to homeschool full time next school year.
 - Black and Hispanic parents appear more likely than white parents to want to homeschool their child(ren) next school year.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Pluralities of parents said a safe learning environment was a key reason for why they are—or would like to be—homeschooling their children.**
 - More than one-fourth of parents who did not homeschool their children pre-pandemic (28%) had considered doing so; most of them cited safety concerns or bullying as reasons.
 - Among those who have ever homeschooled, the desire to find a safe learning environment is a common response across Black, Hispanic and white parents.
 - Disruptions and socialization appear to be the most common themes why parents have not yet homeschooled a child.
- **Satisfaction with homeschooling is greatest among those who were homeschooling in February (83% satisfied), compared to those who had tried homeschooling previously (68%). Those with children in other learning environments in February were most satisfied with private school experiences (83%).**

KEY FINDINGS

HOMESCHOOLING IN AMERICA

PANDEMIC CONTEXT, IMPACTS

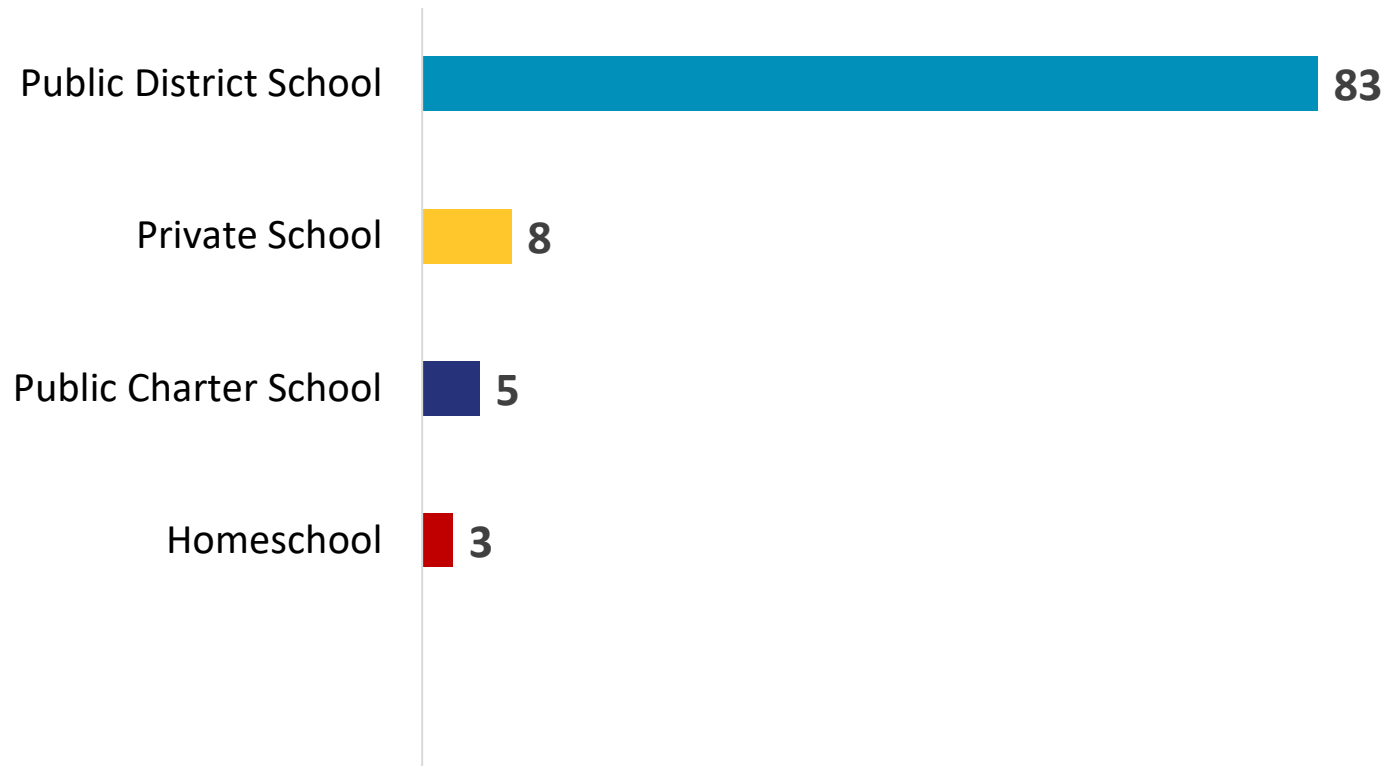
RACE/ETHNICITY

SURVEY PROFILE

K-12 ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL TYPE

About 3 percent of U.S. children are homeschooled, based on the most recent available federal data.

% of K-12 Students

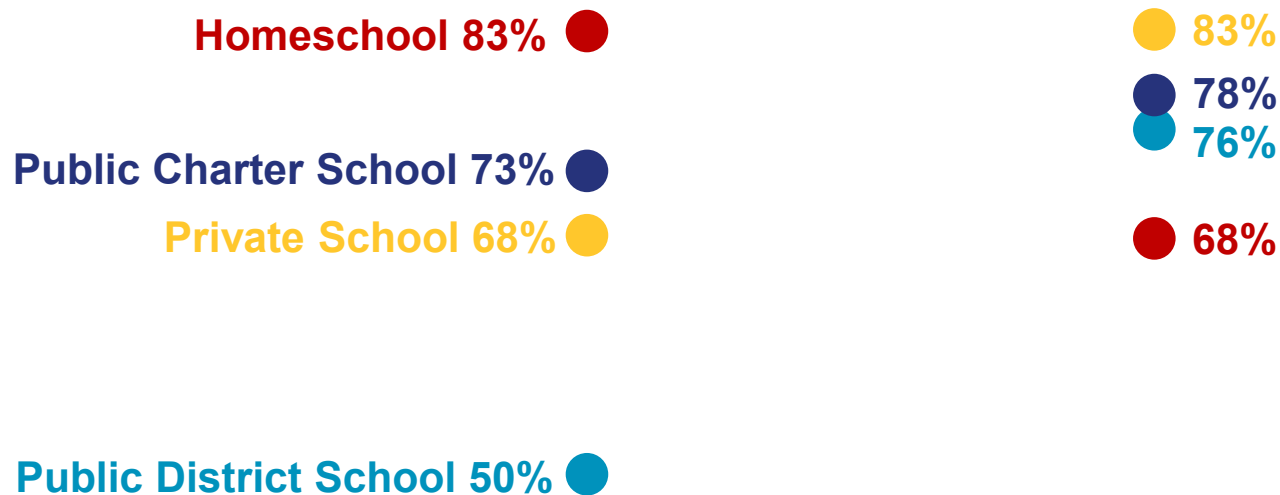


Source: Authors' calculations; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

SATISFACTION BY SCHOOL TYPE

To what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your child(ren)'s [current or previous] experiences with the following types of schooling?

% of Current School Parents Who Have Ever Had Experience With Given School Type



Note: Sample sizes vary by school type. Results reflect those who say they are “very” or “somewhat” satisfied.

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22–June 2, 2020), Q4

REASONS FOR HOMESCHOOLING

Parents with homeschooling experience said safety was a high-priority reason for choosing that learning environment for their child.

% of Current School Parents Who Have Experience Homeschooling

LOW-HIGH

Factors	School Parents (N=413)
Safe Environment	50%
Individual/One-on-One Attention	35%
Morals/Character/Values Instruction	26%
Discipline	25%
Location/Close to Home or Work	24%
Academic Reputation	18%
Religious Environment/Instruction	15%
Class Size	16%
Test Scores	14%
Extracurricular Activities	14%
Socialization/Peers/Other Kids	14%
Assigned District/Neighborhood School	14%
Diversity	12%
School Size	9%

Notes: All percentages reflect the count of responses divided by the total number of weighted interviews. Unweighted N's are provided so the reader can roughly assess the reliability of reported percentages.

Source: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2, 2020), Q6

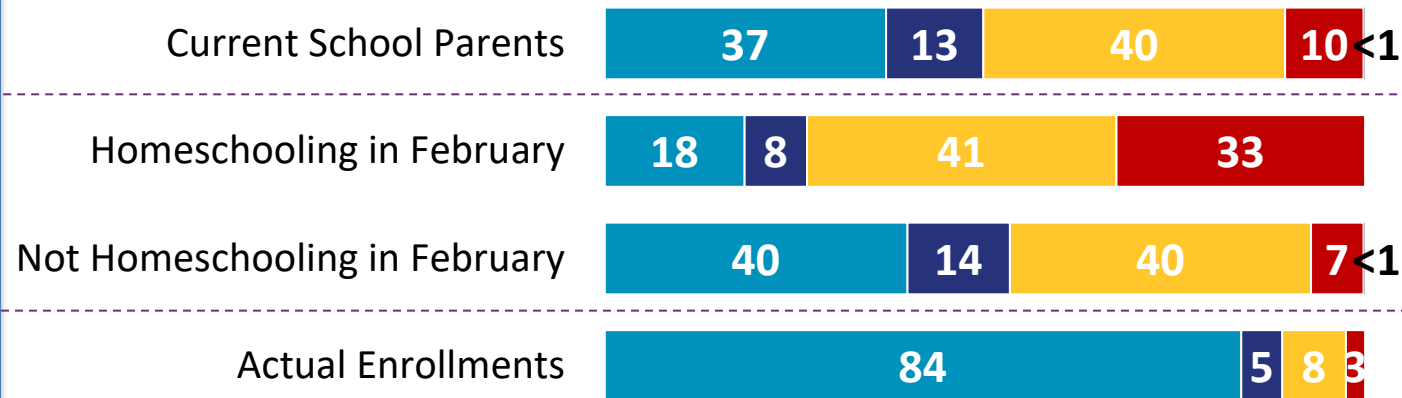
PARENTS' PREFERENCES BY SCHOOL TYPE

Question Wording A *If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?*

Question Wording B *If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, **and financial costs and transportation were of no concern**, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?*

% of Current School Parents (Composite of Responses to A and B)

Public District School Public Charter School
Private School Homeschool



Notes: The percentages in this chart reflect a composite that averages split samples' responses to two slightly different versions of this question. Responses within parentheses were volunteered: "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question. Sources: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22– June 2, 2020), Q12

More than one-fourth of parents who say they prefer homeschooling do so for safety-related reasons.

% of Current School Parents Who Prefer Homeschooling (N=80)

Safety / Less Drugs, Violence / Bullying	28%
Individual Attention / One-on-One / Customized	17%
Parental Involvement	8%
Less Political Influences	6%
Morals / Values / Ethics	5%
Prefer / Positive Mentions of Homeschooling	5%
Teachers / Teaching / Way They Teach	5%
Discipline / Structure / Consistency	5%
Academics / Curriculum / Standards / Results	4%
Better Education / Quality	3%

TOP REASONS FOR WANTING TO HOMESCHOOL

We advise caution on interpreting the polling results for any population sample size having less than 100 respondents.

Notes: Lists cite the total number of unweighted interviews (N) per school type grouping. However, all percentages reflect the count of coded responses divided by the total number of weighted interviews. Unweighted N's are provided so the reader can roughly assess the reliability of reported percentages.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22– June 2, 2020), Q13_2

KEY FINDINGS

HOMESCHOOLING IN AMERICA

PANDEMIC CONTEXT, IMPACTS

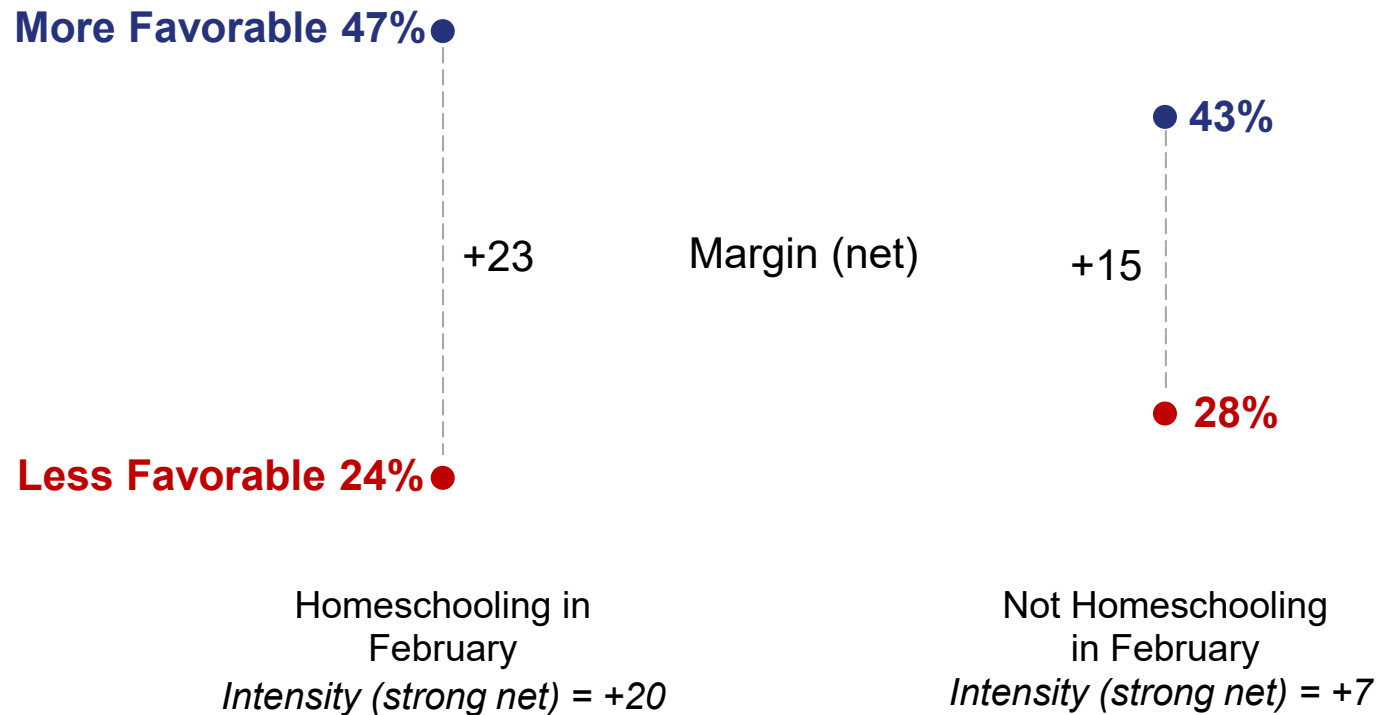
RACE/ETHNICITY

SURVEY PROFILE

FAVORABILITY OF HOMESCHOOLING BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic is changing views on homeschooling. Parents not homeschooling before the pandemic are more likely to be favorable now. Those already homeschooling in February are even more likely to be favorable.

% of Current School Parents



Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22– June 2, 2020), QCP22

LIKELIHOOD OF HOMESCHOOLING IN COMING SCHOOL YEAR

Nearly one-fourth of parents—who were not already homeschooling before the pandemic— indicated they are “very likely” to do so full time or part time on their own next school year.

% of Current School Parents

Very Likely - Full Time | Very Likely - Part Time | Somewhat Likely - Full Time | Somewhat Likely - Part Time | Not At All Likely

Homeschooling in February



Not Homeschooling in February

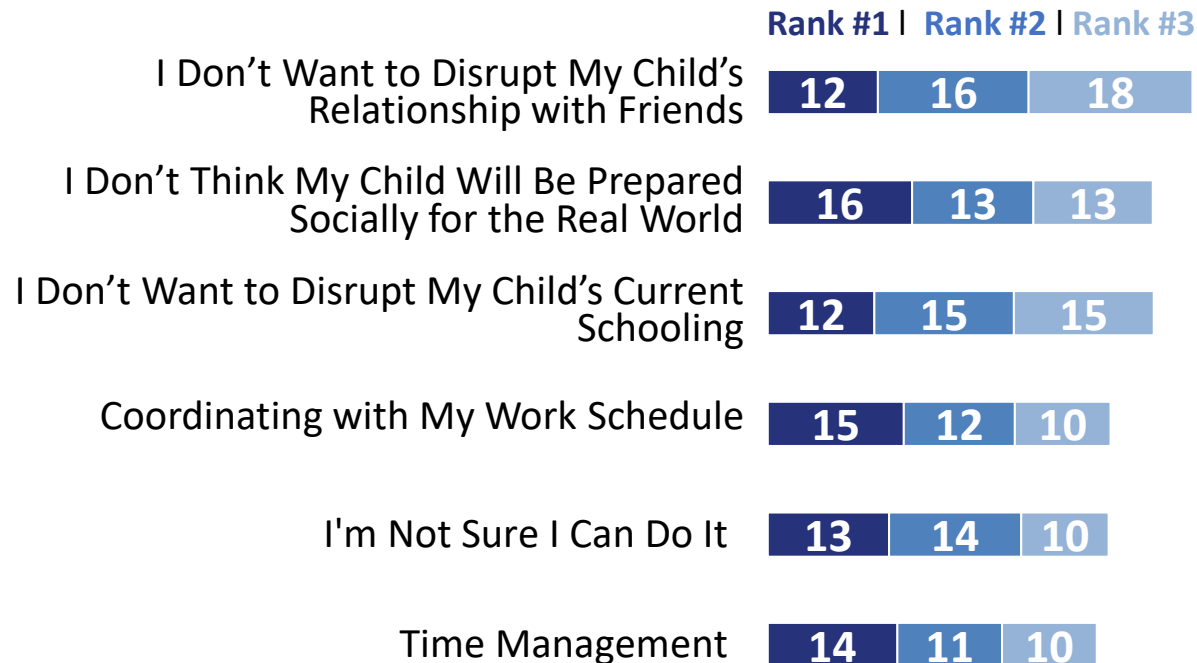


Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22– June 2, 2020), QCP23

Disruptions and socialization appear to be the most common reasons why parents have not yet homeschooled a child.

PARENTS' TOP REASONS FOR NOT HOMESCHOOLING

% of Current School Parents Who Have Never Homeschooled

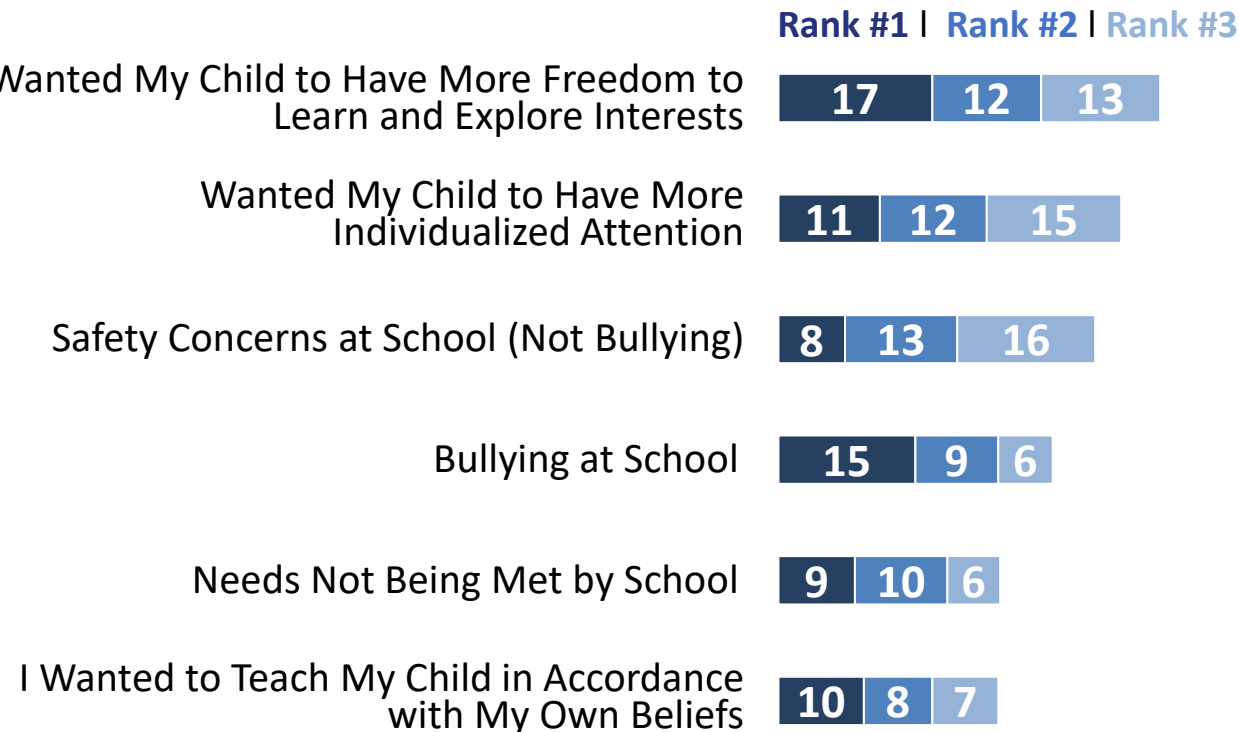


Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22– June 2, 2020), QCP19

TOP CONSIDERATIONS AMONG THOSE WHO WERE NOT HOMESCHOOLING IN FEBRUARY

More than one-fourth of parents who were not homeschooling their children right before the pandemic (28%) had considered doing so. Individualized attention and freedom to explore interests were top reasons.

% of Current School Parents Not Homeschooling in February



Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22– June 2, 2020), QCP20 and QCP21

KEY FINDINGS

HOMESCHOOLING IN AMERICA

PANDEMIC CONTEXT, IMPACTS

RACE/ETHNICITY

SURVEY PROFILE

The desire to find a safe learning environment via homeschooling is a common response across Black, Hispanic, and white parents.

% of Current School Parents by Race/Ethnicity Who Have Experience Homeschooling

LOW-HIGH

Factors	Black School Parents (N=43)	Hispanic School Parents (N=74)	White School Parents (N=272)
Safe Environment	57%	41%	53%
Individual/One-on-One Attention	42%	26%	38%
Discipline	38%	22%	24%
Location/Close to Home or Work	23%	30%	21%
Morals/Character/Values Instruction	18%	30%	25%
Academic Reputation	19%	18%	17%
Class Size	24%	18%	13%
Religious Environment/Instruction	15%	24%	13%
Test Scores	12%	15%	16%
Diversity	12%	19%	9%
Extracurricular Activities	5%	15%	15%
Our Assigned District/Neighborhood School	0%	21%	14%
Socialization/Peers/Other Kids	7%	9%	16%
School Size	16%	7%	8%

REASONS FOR HOMESCHOOLING BY RACE/ETHNICITY

We advise caution on interpreting the polling results for any population sample size having less than 100 respondents.

Notes: All percentages reflect the count of responses divided by the total number of weighted interviews. Unweighted N's are provided so the reader can roughly assess the reliability of reported percentages.

Source: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2, 2020), Q6

FAVORABILITY OF HOMESCHOOLING BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC BY RACE/ETHNICITY

We advise caution on interpreting the polling results for any population sample size having less than 100 respondents.

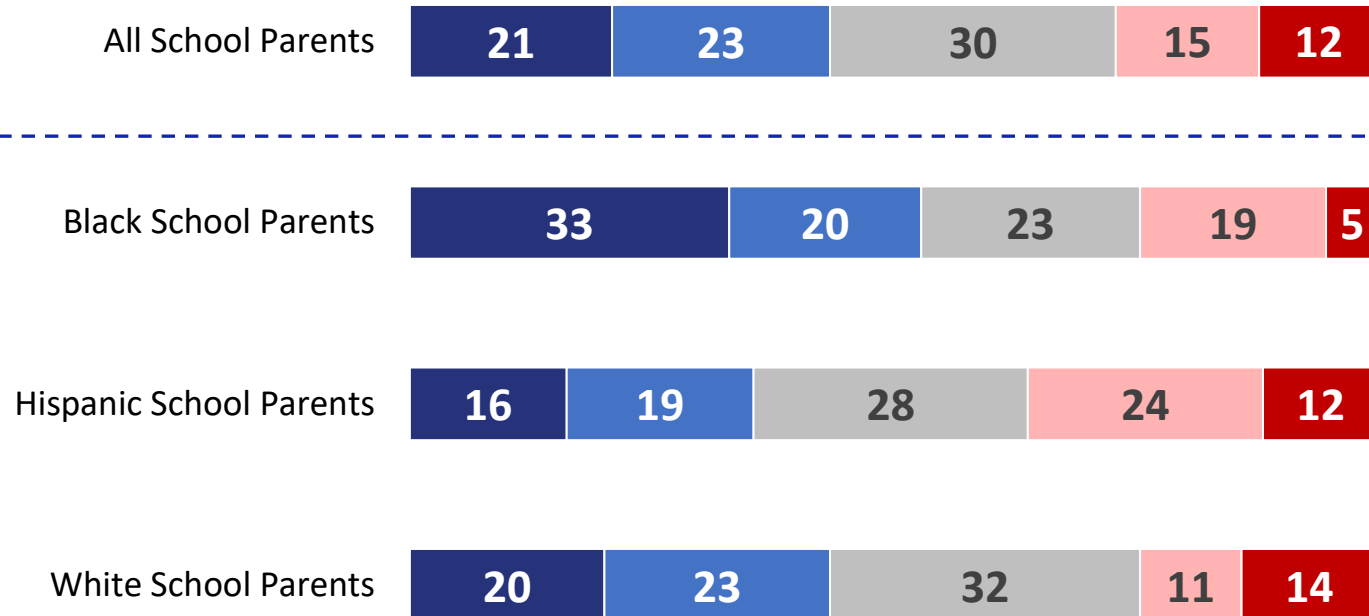
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22– June 2, 2020), QCP22

EDCHOICE.ORG

More than half of Black parents (53%) said they now have a more favorable opinion on homeschooling as a result of the pandemic. The margin (+29 points) and intensity (+28 points) are both large.

% of Current School Parents by Race/Ethnicity

Much More | Somewhat More | About the Same | Somewhat Less | Much Less



LIKELIHOOD OF HOMESCHOOLING IN COMING SCHOOL YEAR BY RACE/ETHNICITY

We advise caution on interpreting the polling results for any population sample size having less than 100 respondents.

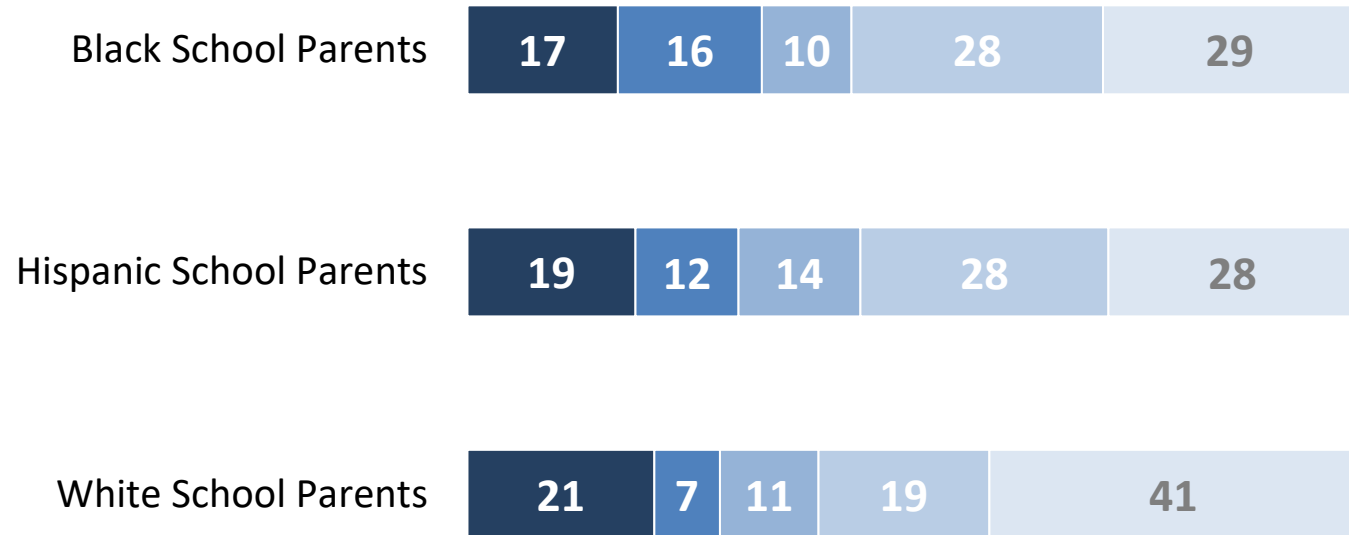
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22– June 2, 2020), QCP23

EDCHOICE.ORG

Black and Hispanic parents are more likely than white parents to say they are at least somewhat likely to homeschool their child(ren) on their own next school year. That is especially the case when considering part-time.

% of Current School Parents by Race/Ethnicity

Very Likely - Full Time | Very Likely - Part Time | Somewhat Likely - Full Time | Somewhat Likely - Part Time | Not At All Likely



PARENTS' TOP REASONS FOR NOT HOMESCHOOLING BY RACE/ETHNICITY

We advise caution on interpreting the polling results for any population sample size having less than 100 respondents.

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22– June 2, 2020), QCP19

[EDCHOICE.ORG](https://edchoice.org)

Disruption is a general reason Black, Hispanic, and white parents have not yet chosen to homeschool. Hispanic parents were most likely to say “coordinating with my work schedule” as one of their top three reasons for not homeschooling.

% of Current School Parents by Race/Ethnicity

Reasons for Not Homeschooling Child	LOW-HIGH		
	Black School Parents (N=64)	Hispanic School Parents (N=116)	White School Parents (N=399)
I Don't Want to Disrupt My Child's Relationship with Friends	44%	45%	47%
I Don't Want to Disrupt My Child's Current Schooling	39%	40%	43%
Coordinating with My Work Schedule	39%	46%	35%
I Don't Think My Child Will Be Prepared Socially for the Real World	35%	41%	43%
Time Management	40%	39%	34%
I'm Not Sure I Can Do It	33%	37%	39%
I Don't Know Anything About It	25%	24%	28%
I Don't Have Finances to Get Educational Resources	30%	12%	21%

KEY FINDINGS

HOMESCHOOLING IN AMERICA

PANDEMIC CONTEXT, IMPACTS

RACE/ETHNICITY

SURVEY PROFILE

SURVEY PROFILE

Administration/Fielding Dates	Wave1 = May 22 to June 2, 2020
Sponsor and Developer	EdChoice
Administration, Data Collection and Quality Control	Braun Research, Inc.
Population	General Population (Adults, Age 18+)
Sampling Frame	National sample of adults (age 18+) living in the United States, including D.C.
Sampling Method	<u>Mixed Method</u> Phone: Probability-based; Dual frame Online: Non-probability-based; Opt-in panel
Mode	Live Phone for General Population, N = 400 - Cell Phone = 75% - Landline = 25% Online for General Population, N = 1,205 Online for School Parents (K–12), N = 805

SURVEY PROFILE

Languages	English; Spanish option
Median Survey Time	Phone (General Population): 15.4 minutes Online (General Population, Not School Parents): 15.3 minutes Online (School Parents): 18.1 minutes
Sample Sizes	General Population, N = 1,605 School Parents (Plus Oversample), N = 805
Quota	School Parents(Plus Oversample), N ≈ 800
Weighting	<i>General Population</i> (phone and online) – Age, Census Division, Gender, Ethnicity, Race, Education, Phone Usage <i>School Parents</i> (phone and online) – Age, Census Region, Gender, Race
Questionnaire and topline results:	https://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-SIA-Questionnaire-and-Topline-Results-Wave-1.pdf
Project Contact	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

REPORTED POPULATIONS AND SAMPLE SIZES

We provide the following counts of unweighted sample sizes for the populations described in this report. The larger the sample size, the more confident we can be in the reliability of the population's result.

	Unweighted Sample Size (N)
General Population (Adults 18+)	1,605
Current School Parents	805
Black	92
Hispanic	136
White	517
Homeschooling in February	105
Not Homeschooling in February	700
Have Experience Homeschooling	413
Have Never Homeschooled	392

Summary Statistics for General Population (N = 1,605), Compared to U.S. Census

	Unweighted Count (N)	Unweighted Online %	Unweighted Phone %	Weighted Total %	Census %
AGE GROUP					
18 to 34	454	29.8	24.1	30.1	30.3
35 to 54	576	39.8	24.1	33.7	35.9
55 and Over	575	30.4	52.1	36.2	35.9
EDUCATION					
< College Graduate	919	59.5	50.9	69.3	71.0
≥ College Graduate	678	40.4	47.8	30.3	29.0
GENDER					
Male	823	46.5	55.5	48.6	48.7
Female	782	53.5	45.5	51.4	51.3
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Asian/Pacific Islander	85	6.6	2.3	5.6	5.6
Black/African American	187	13.2	10.3	12.4	12.3
Hispanic/Latino	221	15.8	7.8	15.5	15.7
Native American	16	0.7	2.3	1.0	0.8
White, Not Hispanic	1,051	62.2	67.3	62.2	64.1
Two or More	79	3.8	9.3	4.9	2.3
Other	29	1.8	1.5	1.8	4.4
REGION					
Northeast	292	17.5	20.3	18.0	17.8
Midwest	332	21.1	19.5	21.1	21.0
South	634	40.0	38.0	37.6	37.7
West	347	21.4	22.3	23.3	23.5

Note: Counts for Native American, Two or More, and Other reflect weighted subsample sizes.

Sources: EdChoice, 2020 *Schooling in America* Survey (conducted May 22–June 2, 2020). 2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

Summary Statistics for General Population (N = 1,605)

	Unweighted Count (N)	Unweighted Total %	Weighted Total %
COMMUNITY TYPE (SELF ID)			
Urban	462	28.8	27.9
Suburban	659	41.1	39.8
Small Town/Rural	480	29.9	32.1
GENERATION			
Generation Z	133	8.3	10.6
Millennial	464	28.9	27.5
Generation X	465	29.0	27.5
Baby Boomer	462	28.8	28.7
Silent	79	4.9	5.5
HOUSEHOLD INCOME			
< \$40,000	623	38.8	44.3
\$40,000 to < \$80,000	486	30.3	29.4
≥ \$80,000	462	28.8	24.2
POLITICAL PARTY (SELF ID)			
Democrat	576	35.9	34.7
Republican	487	30.3	29.6
Independent	536	33.4	35.3

Note: Counts for Native American, Two or More, and Other reflect weighted subsample sizes.

Sources: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22–June 2, 2020). 2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

In the coming weeks we will release more first wave results from our 2020 Schooling in America survey. Stay tuned.

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About EdChoice

EdChoice is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing full and unencumbered educational choice as the best pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. EdChoice believes that families, not bureaucrats, are best equipped to make K–12 schooling decisions for their children. The organization works at the state level to educate diverse audiences, train advocates and engage policymakers on the benefits of high-quality school choice programs. EdChoice is the intellectual legacy of Milton and Rose D. Friedman, who founded the organization in 1996 as the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice.

About Braun Research, Inc.

The Braun Research network of companies, founded in 1995, engages in data collection via telephone, and internet for various survey research firms, government and advertising agencies, local community organizations, local and national business groups, foundations, universities and academic entities, as well as religious organizations. In 24 years Braun Research has conducted over 11,000 research projects by telephone, internet, and mail worldwide.

Nationally-known research firms have hired Braun Research, including the Gallup Organization, the Pew Research Center, the Eagleton Poll, Mathematica Policy Research, and the Washington Post. Braun Research has worked for the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services, as well as other government agencies including the United States Departments of the Treasury and Defense, and the Center for Disease Control.

Braun Research employs techniques and standards approved by various survey research associations and other affiliations including those with whom Braun has been an active member, including the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). Paul Braun is recognized as a leader in the field by colleagues and industry peers. He has served as President of the New Jersey Chapter of AAPOR.

EdChoice is committed to research that adheres to high scientific standards. Matters of methodology and transparency are taken seriously at all levels of our organization. We are dedicated to providing high-quality information in a transparent and efficient manner.

The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) welcomed EdChoice to its AAPOR Transparency Initiative (TI) in September of 2015. The TI is designed to acknowledge those organizations that pledge to practice transparency in their reporting of survey-based research findings and abide by AAPOR's disclosure standards as stated in the Code of Professional Ethics and Practices.

The contents of this publication are intended to provide empirical information and should not be construed as lobbying for any position related to any legislation.

We welcome any and all questions related to methods and findings.

