

**The Barr Foundation
Education Issues Survey Wave 3**

Topline Results
Statewide Survey of 1,619 K-12 Parents in Massachusetts
Field Dates: April 23 – May 14, 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	9%
A parochial or Catholic school	8%
A non-Catholic private or independent school	8%
Home schooling	3%
Another format	2%
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	45%
Attending only remote, online classes	19%
Attending a mix of online classes and in-person classes	37%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

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 THE NEXT TWO QUESTIONS AND RECORD ANSWERS FROM PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

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	8%
A parochial or Catholic school	6%
A non-Catholic private or independent school	8%
Home school	2%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

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

Only attending class in person	45%
Attending only remote, online classes	19%
Attending a mix of online classes and in-person classes	34%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

ASK ALL

If you could choose how your **GRADE LEVEL** child attends class next year, would you choose **READ AND ROTATE OPTIONS**?

All in-person, going to school each day	69%
All remote, attending only online classes	9%
Hybrid, with a mix of online classes and in-person classes	19%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child have an Individualized Education Plan, sometimes called an IEP?

Yes	33%
No	60%
Don't Know / Refused	7%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child receive services for English Language Learners, sometimes called ELL?

Yes	23%
No	73%
Don't Know / Refused	4%

What has been the most effective way for you to receive information and updates from your **GRADE LEVEL** child's school or teachers this past year?

Emails	60%
Text messages	10%
Phone calls	12%
Online learning platforms like Google Classroom	11%
Conversations with my child	5%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

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?

	Prior to coronavirus	Now
At grade level	57%	48%
Behind grade level	16%	29%
Ahead of grade level	25%	20%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	3%

Do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child will need to catch up academically after this year? **IF YES:** And do you think they will have a lot, some, or just a little catching up to do?

Yes, a lot	15%
Yes, some	21%
Yes, a little	19%
No	42%
Unsure	4%

ASK IF NEED TO CATCH UP OR UNSURE

How helpful do you think each of the following would be in helping your **GRADE LEVEL** child catch up academically? Would it be very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not at all helpful?

	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not too helpful	Not at all helpful	Don't know / Refused
ROTATE ORDER					
ASK REMOTE/HYBRID					
PARENTS: Being back in the classroom full-time in-person	64%	25%	9%	1%	1%
Receiving additional one-on-one or small-group instruction	60%	30%	6%	3%	1%
Having online instruction as an option	30%	37%	17%	13%	3%
Access to mental or emotional health support from school	42%	35%	12%	7%	4%
Smaller class sizes	56%	30%	7%	3%	3%
Having your child attend summer school	30%	31%	20%	14%	5%
Providing academic activities to do with your child at home	36%	38%	14%	10%	1%
Providing frequent updates of how your child is doing academically	63%	29%	5%	2%	1%
Creating an individualized learning plan for my child	48%	36%	8%	6%	3%

ASK ALL

Are you planning to send your **GRADE LEVEL** child to summer school?

Yes	25%
No	66%
Unsure	9%

ASK IF NOT SENDING TO SUMMER SCHOOL OR UNSURE

Why aren't you currently planning to send your **GRADE LEVEL** child to summer school? **OPEN END, CODE INTO CATEGORIES**

Child does not need it	58%
School not offering it	11%
Child has other activities planned	11%
Child needs a break	6%
Travelling	5%
Inconvenient for work / family schedule	4%
COVID / safety concerns	3%
Unaffordable	2%
Child is graduating high school	2%
Other / Unsure	4%

What changes from this year, if any, do you think schools should keep in place for next year? **OPEN END, CODE INTO CATEGORIES**

Nothing / go back to normal	43%
Nothing / none / NA	22%
Happy with things before COVID	21%
Keep remote learning as an option	21%
School safety / COVID protocols	10%
Personalization / 1:1 learning	5%
Keep technology resources	4%
Mental health resources / personal care	4%
Small class sizes	4%
Increased communication from teachers / school	3%
Miscellaneous suggested changes	5%
Other	8%

As you may know, schools are expected to receive major additional funding through the American Rescue Plan to spend over the next few years. Regarding your child(ren)'s school district, how much of a priority should each of the following be for using the new funds?

	Major priority	Minor priority	Not a priority	Don't know / Refused
ROTATE ORDER				
Tutoring and extra academic support for students who need it	72%	21%	6%	2%
Additional mental and emotional health resources	61%	29%	8%	2%
Expanding early education programs like pre-K to more families	57%	28%	11%	4%
Updating school buildings and facilities	49%	37%	12%	3%
Offering summer school and after-school programs to more students	54%	34%	9%	4%
Hiring more teachers and school staff	61%	26%	9%	4%
Additional resources for families like grocery assistance or extra school supplies	54%	31%	12%	2%
Providing devices or internet access to families who need them	66%	24%	7%	2%
Modifying the school curriculum to better reflect the experiences and accomplishments of people of color	53%	27%	14%	6%
ASK IF ANY CHILD IN HIGH SCHOOL Offering more advanced courses, like AP or early college courses	53%	32%	12%	3%
ASK IF ANY CHILD IN HIGH SCHOOL Providing more help for students to plan for college or work	68%	23%	6%	3%
ASK IF ANY CHILD IN HIGH SCHOOL Providing more support with college financial aid applications	56%	32%	9%	3%
ASK IF ANY CHILD IN HIGH SCHOOL Expanding vocational and technical education programs	63%	27%	8%	1%

Thinking about disciplinary actions like being sent to the principal's office, detentions, or suspensions, how often was your **GRADE LEVEL** child disciplined **READ FIRST ITEM?** Was that frequently, sometimes, rarely, or never?

	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	DK / Refused
In previous years	6%	10%	18%	63%	2%
This year	4%	9%	12%	73%	3%

Do you think your **GRADE LEVEL** child has ever been treated unfairly at school because of their race or ethnicity? **PROBE IF YES:** Would you say it occurred frequently, sometimes, or rarely?

Yes, frequently	4%
Yes, sometimes	10%
Yes, rarely	9%
No, never	73%
Unsure	4%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

18 to 34 years old	16%
35 to 39 years old	19%
40 to 44 years old	24%
45 to 49 years old	22%
50+	19%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Gender

Man	44%
Woman	55%
All other	<1%
Prefer not to say	<1%

Race

White	70%
Black / African-American	6%
Hispanic / Latino	13%
Asian	8%
Mixed race / Other	3%
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 1,619 parents of K-12 students in Massachusetts. Live telephone interviews and online interviewing were conducted in English and Spanish April 23 – May 14, 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.