

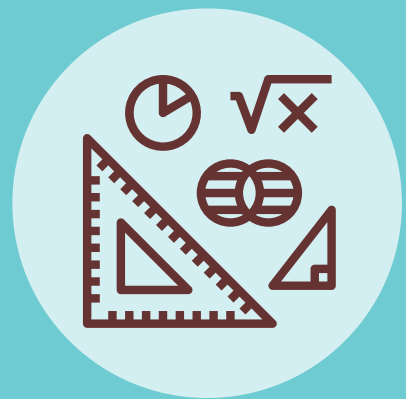
MARCH 2021



The Education Trust–New York

KEEPING OUR EYE ON EQUITY

ONE YEAR INTO THE CORONAVIRUS
PANDEMIC, ACADEMIC CONCERNS
REMAIN TOP OF MIND FOR PARENTS



A year after the start of the coronavirus pandemic forced school closures across New York State, one concern remains top of mind for parents – how the loss of instructional time in the classroom will affect their children both now and in the future.

Our latest poll found that academic concerns remain at the forefront for parents, from whether their children will be prepared to move to the next grade level to whether high school seniors have the skills they need to enter college or the workforce.

The results of our poll underscore the critical need for state and education leaders to act with unprecedented urgency and direct resources and support to students and families that need it most, helping ensure that New York’s students and families do not continue to pay the toll for pandemic-related school closures.

KEY POLL FINDINGS

- 1** Parents continue to be concerned about the academic, health, and social-emotional development of their children — with heightened concern among parents of color and parents from low-income households.
- 2** Parents, particularly parents of color and parents from low-income households, are increasingly concerned about high school students’ transition to college and careers, and how the pandemic will affect their futures.
- 3** Despite a year of distance learning, families continue to struggle with remote instruction.
- 4** Parents said that they would find many resources helpful that schools are still not providing, including access to their child’s teacher, feedback on assignments, and technology support for remote learning.
- 5** Some students and families face greater challenges than others and inequities in how families are experiencing the pandemic reach beyond their educational experiences, particularly for parents of color and parents from low-income households.
- 6** A majority of parents support summer learning or enrichment experiences.
- 7** Parents report state assessments would provide important information on whether their child is meeting state academic standards and on track for college and careers.

FINDING 1: Parents continue to be concerned about the academic, health, and social-emotional development of their children — with heightened concern among parents of color and parents from low-income backgrounds.

Academic issues remain top of mind for parents, and they also worry about their child's health and social-emotional development. Here are some of the concerns parents have about their child one year into the pandemic:

Parents who expressed they are somewhat or very concerned

86%



Ensuring your child does not fall behind academically

84%



Ensuring your child is ready for the next grade level

83%



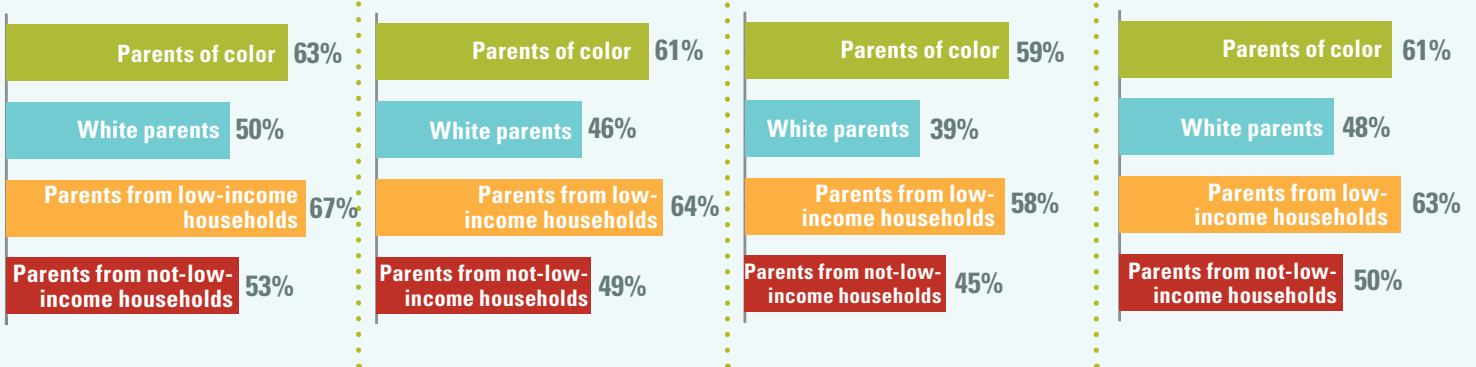
Ensuring your child is meeting state academic standards

83%



Ensuring your child feels safe and emotionally at ease during this time

Parents who are very concerned



FINDING 2: Parents, particularly parents of color and parents from low-income households, are increasingly concerned about high school students' transition to college and careers, and how the pandemic will affect their futures.

Parents are concerned about the long-term impact of the pandemic on their children and families. Here are some of the concerns parents of high school students have for their children one year into the pandemic:

Parents of high school students who expressed they are somewhat or very concerned

86%



Ensuring that your child is emotionally and socially prepared to go to college

85%



Ensuring your child is on track to go to college

83%



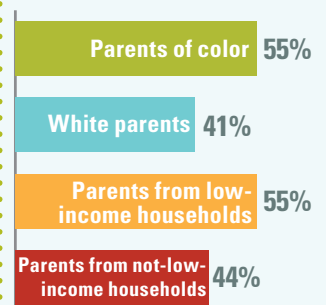
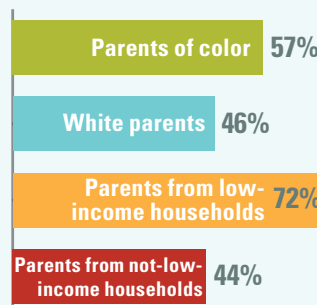
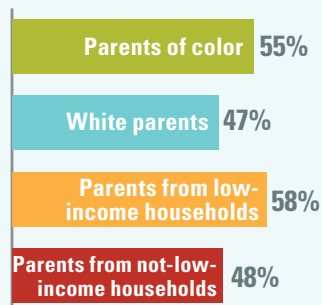
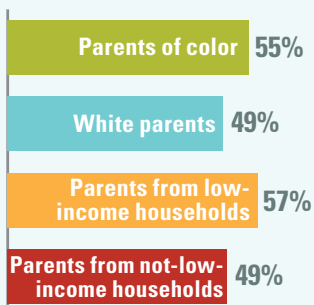
Ensuring your child is on track to graduate from high school

82%



Ensuring that your child is taking the courses to prepare them for college

Parents of high school students who are very concerned



Parents are concerned about the long-term impact of the pandemic on their children. Here are some of the concerns parents of high school students have for their children one year into the pandemic:

Parents who think the coronavirus pandemic has made it less likely their child will graduate high school

12%

Parents from low-income households



4%

Parents from not-low-income households



Parents who think the coronavirus pandemic has made it less likely their child will graduate from college

13%

Parents from low-income households



6%

Parents from not-low-income households



Parents who think the coronavirus pandemic has made it less likely their child will attend college

23%

Parents from low-income households



8%

Parents from not-low-income households



Parents who think the coronavirus pandemic has made it less likely their child will find a job that pays well after graduating from high school

33%

Parents from low-income households



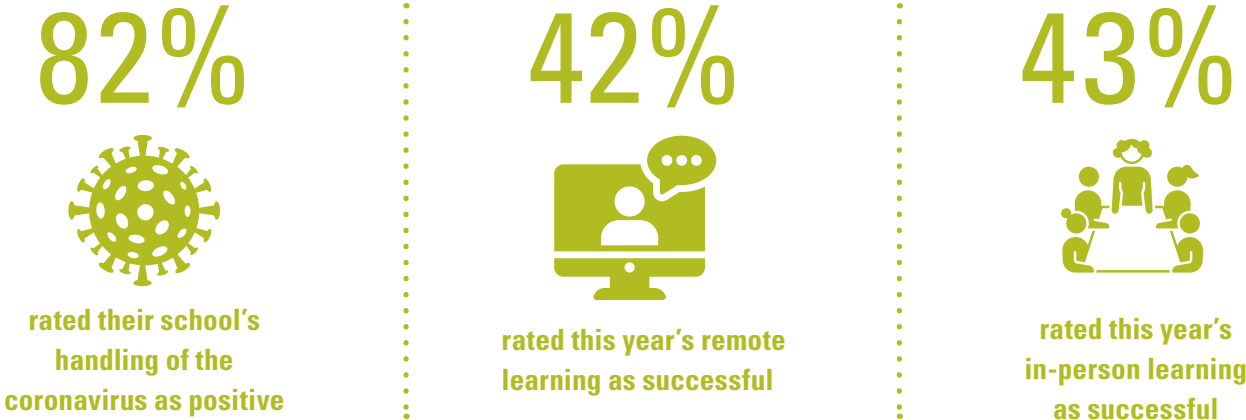
24%

Parents from not-low-income households

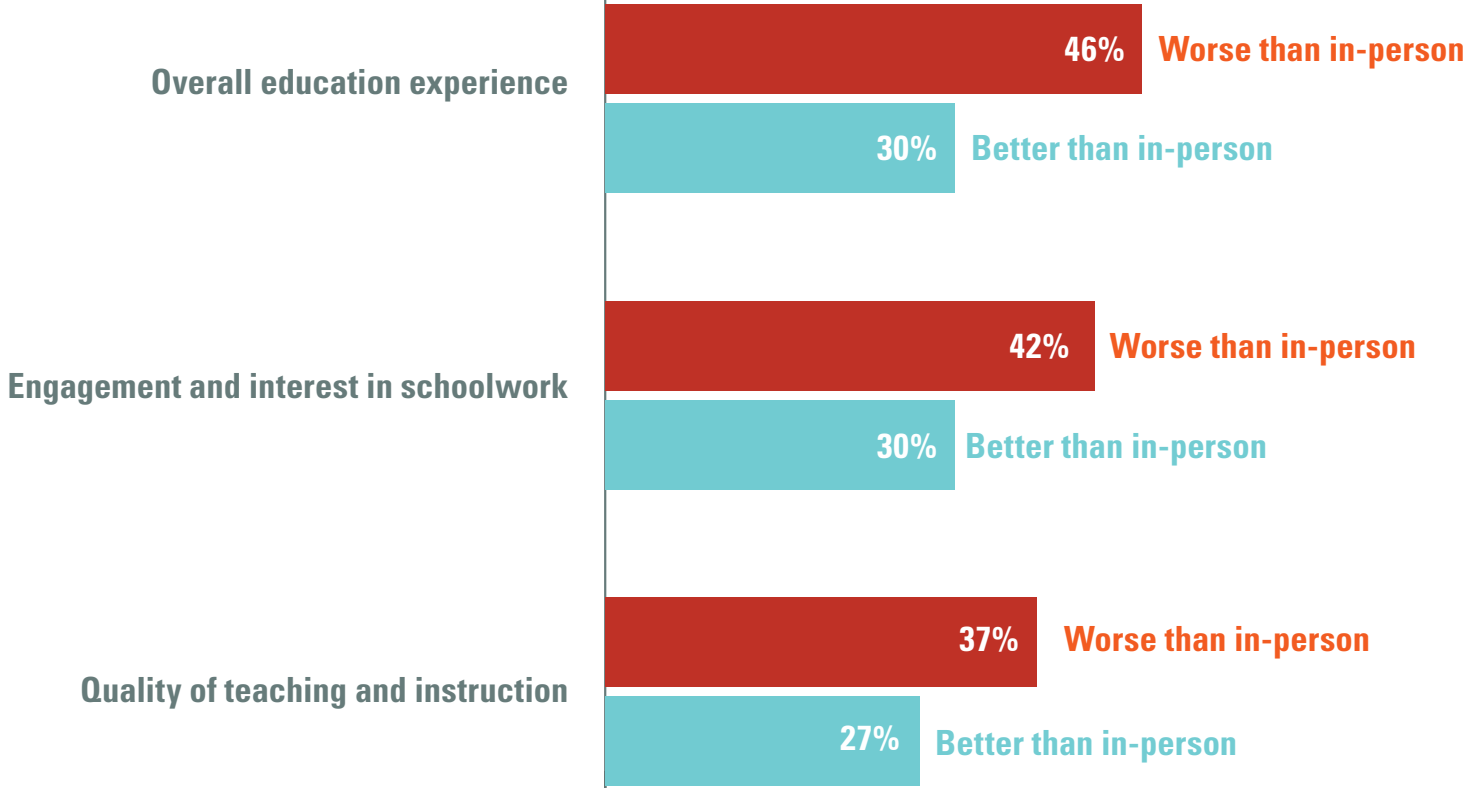


FINDING 3: Despite a year of distance learning, families continue to struggle with remote instruction.

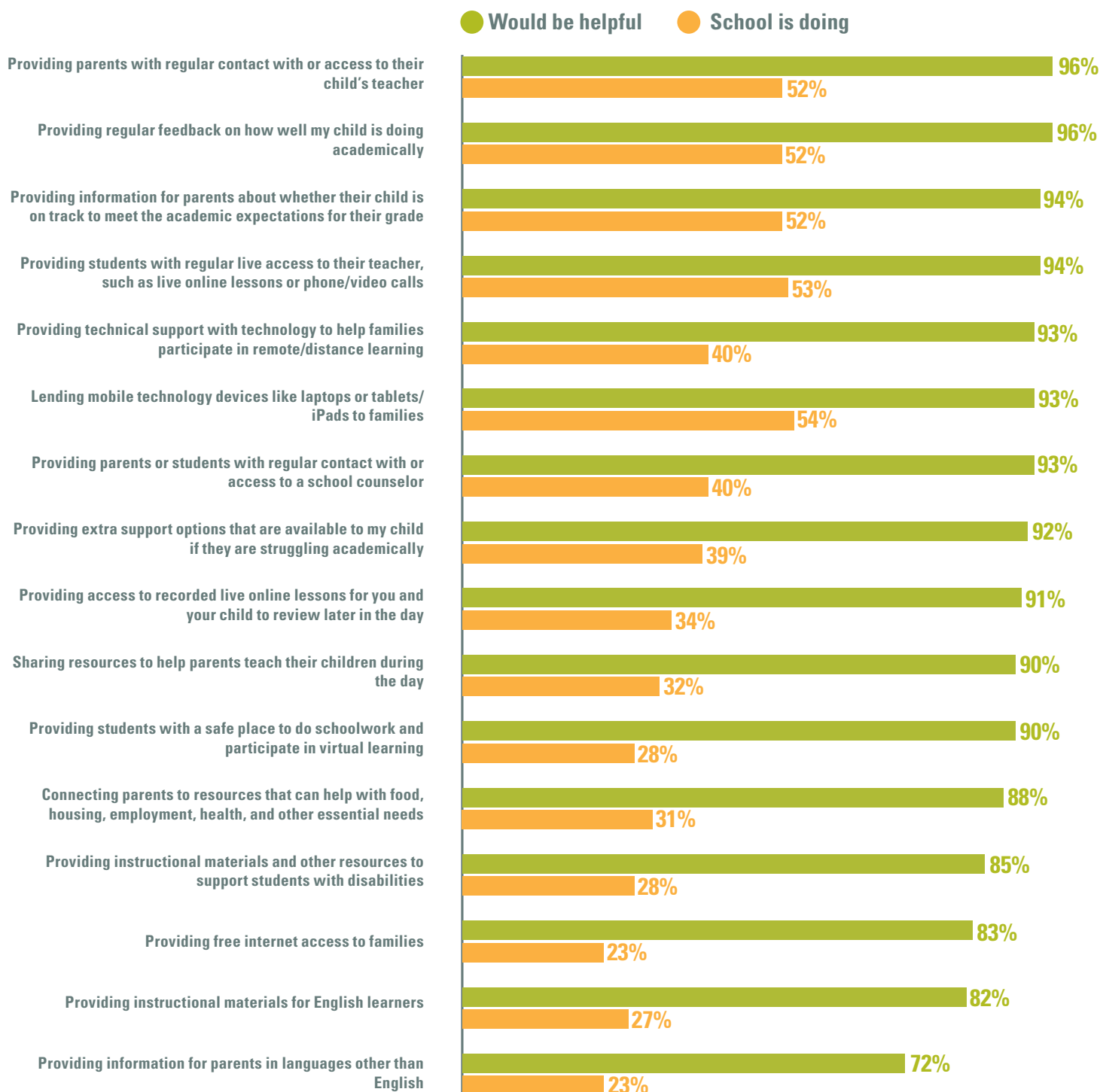
While the majority of parents rate their school’s handling of the coronavirus as positive, fewer than half rated the learning experience as a success:



A year into the pandemic, families continue to struggle with remote learning and rate different aspects of it as worse than traditional in-person instruction:

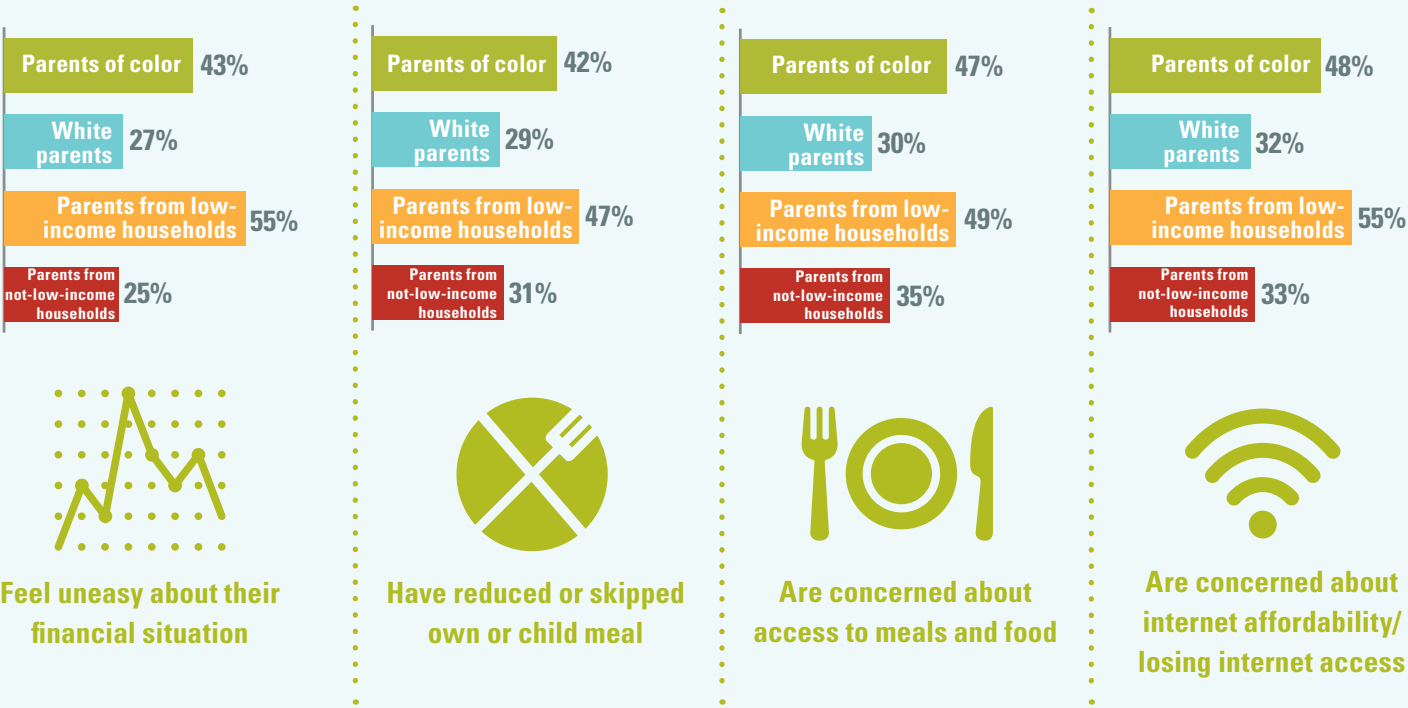


FINDING 4: Parents said that they would find many resources helpful that schools are still not providing, including access to their child's teacher, feedback on assignments, and technology support for remote learning.



FINDING 5: Some students and families face greater challenges than others and inequities in how families are experiencing the pandemic reach beyond their educational experiences, particularly for parents of color and parents from low-income households.

Here are some other concerns that are top of mind for parents:



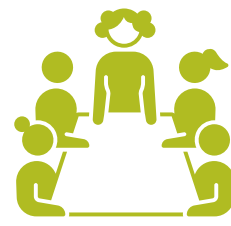
FINDING 6: A majority of parents report summer academic opportunities are important for continued educational growth.

83%

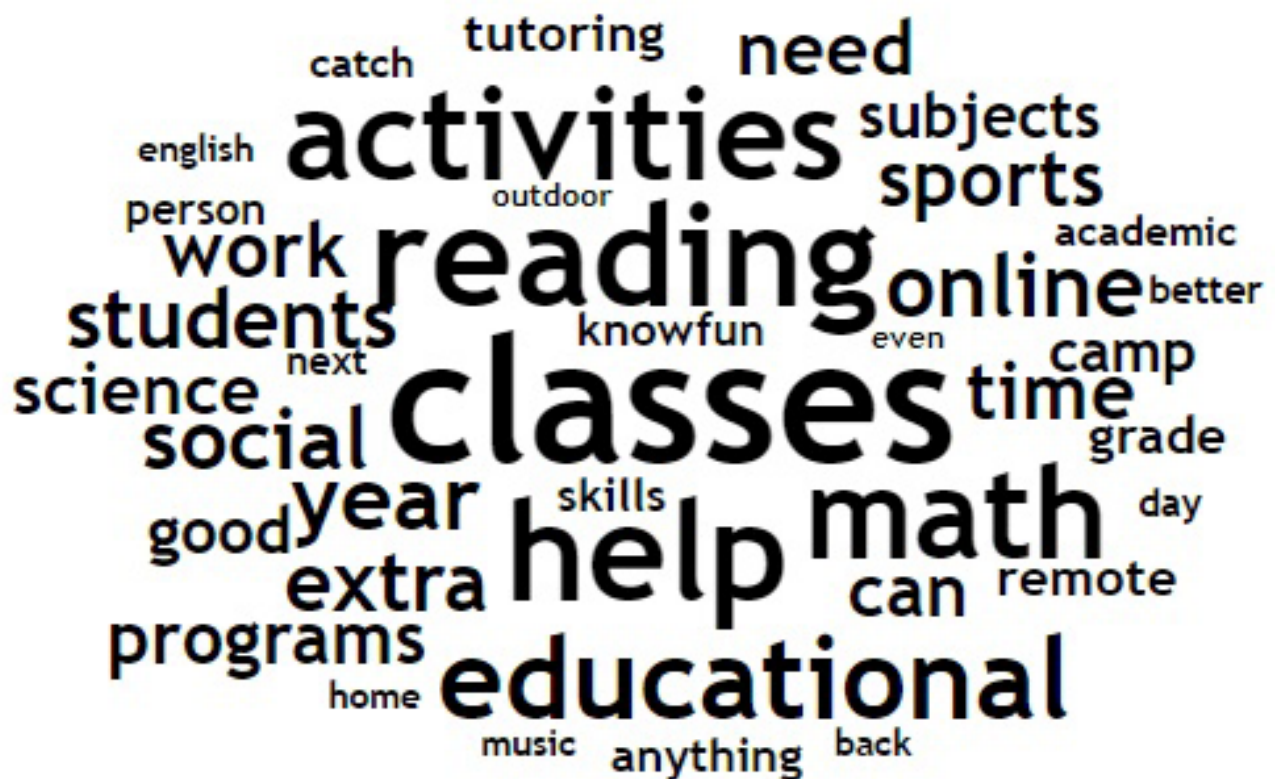
of all parents

90%

parents of color



What are some of the summer learning or enrichment experiences you would like offered this year?



FINDING 7: Parents report state assessments would provide important information on whether their child is meeting state academic standards and on track for college and careers.

Parents who report state assessments provide very or somewhat important

92% 

Information for my child's teachers about how well my child is doing

91% 

Information about whether my child is meeting state academic standards.

91% 

Information about whether my school is doing a good job teaching my child.

91% 

Information about whether my child is on track to be ready for college and a career

90% 

Information to help me make the case for more resources for my child

90% 

Information to help me make the case for more resources for my child's school or school district

This latest poll is part of our ongoing work examining the impact of the pandemic on communities historically underserved by our education system. Learn more and explore our resources at EdTrustNY.org/EyeonEquity.