

Views on Education in California During the Coronavirus Pandemic

An EdSource Poll

From August 29-September 7, 2020, FM3 completed 834 online interviews with California voters on behalf of EdSource. The sample included 634 voters statewide and an oversample of 200 voters who are parents or guardians of a child under age 19. The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.

These first questions are to ensure that this survey captures a representative sample of California voters.

1. Do you have any children in the following age groups living at home? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)

	Parents	All
	<u>Only</u>	Voters
No, no children	0%	65%
Under 5 years old	17%	6%
Ages 5 to 12	43%	15%
Ages 13 to 18	39%	14%
19 or older	34%	12%

(IN PARENT OVERSAMPLE ONLY, TERMINATE ALL WHO ARE CODE 1 OR 6 IN QX. PARENT SAMPLE IN REST OF SURVEY IS Q1 CODES 2-5)

(ASK Q2 IF CODES 2-5 IN Q1)

2. What grade are your children in? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

Pre-K	-8%
K-32	23%
Grades 4-5 1	8%
Grades 6-82	24%
Grades 9-12 (high school)3	35%
College3	34%
Kids not in school yet 1	1%

(ASK Q3 IF CODES 2-5)

3. What kind of school do your children attend? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

Public school82%
Charter school9%
Private or parochial school14%
Another kind of school5%

4. Which of the following best describes the type of college your child attends? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

Community college/junior college 29%
Public 4-year college/university 45%
Private 4-year college/university 24%
Another type of college 11%

(ASK Q5-6 IF CODES 2-5 IN Q1)

5. Do you have a child with special needs?

Yes	15%
No	83%
Prefer not to say	-2%

6. Has your child's 2020-2021 academic year started yet?

Started75%
Not started yet 18%
Don't know/Prefer not to say7%

These next questions are about some issues facing California's education system.

7. First, what is the biggest issue facing California's education system right now? (OPEN-ENDED)

	Parents	All
	<u>Only</u>	Voters
Funding/Budget/Lack of supplies	20%	22%
Teacher pay	5%	7%
COVID-19/School closures/Getting students		
back on campus	31%	33%
Poor education quality/Teachers unions/		
Lack of quality teachers	15%	13%
Challenge of distant learning/Kids being		
at home/Toll on working parents		
Overcrowded classrooms		
Regional inequality/Underserved districts	5%	10%
Partisan/Liberal indoctrination in schools/		
Political agendas being taught	7%	6%
Other	-	
Don't know/Not sure		
Refused/NA/Nothing	0%	0%

CA EDUCATION ISSUES SURVEY

8. Next, here are some different public organizations and individuals who are involved in public education. For each one, please indicate whether you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of how they have handled education issues during the coronavirus pandemic. (RANDOMIZE)

	,	STR	SMWT	SMWT	STR DISAR	DV	TOTAL	TOTAL DIS 4 D
		<u>APPR</u>	<u>APPR</u>	<u>DISAP</u>	<u>DISAP</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>APPR</u>	<u>DISAP</u>
[]a.	Governor Gavin Newson							
	All voters	26%	27%	8%		7%	54%	39%
	Parents only	22%	27%	7%	40%	4%	49%	47%
[]b.	Your local school board							
	All voters	12%	30%	13%	17%	-27%	43%	30%
	Parents only	12%	35%	13%	20%	- 19%	48%	33%
[]c.	Your local school district's							
	superintendents							
	All voters	12%	30%	11%	18%	-29%	42%	29%
	Parents only	13%	35%	13%		- 18%	48%	34%
[]d.	College and university leaders							
	All voters	9%	31%	17%		-21%	41%	38%
[]e.	Parents only	7%	28%	15%	21%	- 28%	36%	36%

Here is a bit more information. Last spring nearly all California schools moved to distance learning to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Distance learning means that students and teachers are in different locations, and it often requires students to access instruction through video, online applications, or other methods rather than going into school in person.

9. Next, in mid-July Governor Newsom issued an executive order requiring distance learning in schools that are located in counties that are on the State's COVID-19 monitoring list. The majority of counties are on that list. Do you support or oppose this decision?

	Parents	All
	<u>Only</u>	Voters
TOTAL SUPPORT	59%	67%
Strongly support	48%	53%
Somewhat support		14%
TOTAL OPPOSE	39%	29%
Somewhat oppose	8%	5%
Strongly oppose	30%	24%
(DON'T READ) DK/NA	3%	4%

FM3 **CA EDUCATION ISSUES SURVEY** 10. Next, which of the following statements comes closest to your personal opinion: [] To effectively fight the pandemic, local school districts in consultation with local health officials, should be the ones to decide if schools will offer in-person instruction or adopt distance learning All Voters------49% Parents only ------51% OR [] To effectively combat the pandemic, the state government in consultation with state health officials, should establish rules for when schools will be allowed to offer in-person instruction All voters ------ 43% Parents only ------ 38% Don't know All voters ------8% Parents only ------ 12%

Next, how much additional funding do schools need to be able to offer high-quality distance learning: a 11. great deal, some, a little, or no additional funding?

	Parents	All
	<u>Only</u>	Voters
GREAT/SOME NEED	68%	67%
Great need	48%	50%
Some need	20%	17%
LITTLE/NO REAL NEED	25%	23%
A little need	6%	6%
No need	20%	17%
DK	7%	10%

12. How much additional funding do schools need to be able follow all the health practices recommended by local and state guidelines for in-person instruction such as social distancing and temperature checks: a great deal, some, a little, or no additional funding?

	Parents Only	
GREAT/SOME NEED		
Great need	54%	52%
Some need	20%	20%
LITTLE/NO REAL NEED A little need No need	6%	8%
DK	6%	9%

13. Next, in May, the House of Representatives approved the Heroes Act which includes an additional \$100 billion in aid for public schools nationally, but the President has opposed this aid. How important is it that the federal government provide additional funds to assist schools and colleges get through the coronavirus pandemic?

	Parents Only	All Voters
EXT/VERY IMPORTANT		
Extremely important		
Very important	13%	13%
SMWT/NOT IMPORTANT - Somewhat important Not important	11%	9%
Don't know	4%	3%

14. Next, do you think public schools are more or less likely to receive additional funding if in November Joe Biden wins the Presidential election or do you think who wins the Presidential election will not make a difference for school funding?

	Parents <u>Only</u>	
TOTAL MORE LIKELY	- 57%	63%
Much more likely	41%	41%
Somewhat more likely	16%	22%
No difference		18%
TOTAL LESS LIKELY	- 12%	10%
Somewhat less likely	1%	2%
Much less likely		
Don't know		

15. While downplaying the health risks students and staff face, President Trump says all children should quickly return to school for in-person instruction. How much do you support or oppose this position?

TOTAL SUPPORT Strongly support Somewhat support	45%	<u>Voters</u> 34%
TOTAL OPPOSE Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose	8%	7%
DK	1%	2%

16. This year, in order to receive state funds, public schools are required-to keep attendance and cover the academic content that as rigorous as what is normally required. How fair or unfair do you think it is <u>for</u> <u>schools</u> to be held to the same standards right now as they were pre-pandemic?

	Parents	
	<u>Only</u>	<u>Voters</u>
TOTAL FAIR	53%	46%
Very fair	36%	27%
Somewhat fair	17%	19%
TOTAL UNFAIR	45%	50%
Somewhat unfair	17%	20%
Very unfair	27%	31%

Don't know ------ 2%------4%

17. How fair or unfair do you think it is to hold <u>students</u> to the same academic standards right now as they were pre-pandemic?

	Parents	All
	<u>Only</u>	Voters
TOTAL FAIR	50%	46%
Very fair	30%	26%
Somewhat fair	20%	20%
TOTAL UNFAIR	48%	51%
Somewhat unfair	23%	24%
Very unfair	25%	27%
Don't know	2%	3%

The next questions are about distance learning. As mentioned earlier, distance learning is when students and teachers are in different locations, and students to access instruction through video, online applications, or other methods rather than going into school in person.

18. **(T-PPIC)** How would you rate the job being done by public schools in your area to adjust school operations and instruction in response to the pandemic?

	Parents	All
	<u>Only</u>	Voters
EXCELLENT/GOOD	45%	40%
Excellent	15%	12%
Good	29%	29%
FAIR/POOR	43%	36%
Fair	25%	22%
Poor	18%	14%
Don't know	12%	24%

19. Next, most schools will offer distance learning for at least a part of this year. How prepared do you think most schools in the state generally are to offer high-quality education through distance learning?

TOTAL PREPARED		<u>Voters</u>
Very prepared	6%	4%
Somewhat prepared		
TOTAL UNPREPARED	54%	54%
Somewhat unprepared	21%	25%
Very unprepared	32%	28%

Don't know ------8%

20. And how prepared do you think public schools in <u>your</u> school district are to offer high-quality education through distance learning?

Parents	All
<u>Only</u>	<u>Voters</u>

TOTAL PREPARED	- 50%	42%
Very prepared		9%
Somewhat prepared		33%
TOTAL UNPREPARED	- 40%	42%
Somewhat unprepared	17%	21%
Very unprepared		21%
Don't know		16%

21. How do you think distance learning compares to in-class learning? Is it (**ROTATE:** [] better, [] worse, **OR** [] the same)?

	Parents Only	
TOTAL BETTER		2%
Much better	2%	1%
Somewhat better	1%	1%
The same	11%	8%
TOTAL WORSE	75%	75%
Somewhat worse	27%	31%
Much worse	48%	44%
Don't know	11%	15%

(ASK Q22-Q32 OF PARENTS WITH KIDS IN PRE-K-12 ONLY)

22. Next, here are some activities your child may do during distance learning. For each one, please indicate if during distance learning you would like them to spend most of their time this way, some of their time, a little of their time, or none of their time this way. (**RANDOMIZE**)

		A <u>MOST SOME LITTLE NONE DK</u>
[]a. []b.	Being taught by a teacher in real time Interacting with peers in discussions or on group projects	
[]c.	Receiving one-on-one tutoring or other help from a teacher or school staff member	27% 45% 18% 8% 2%
[]d. []e.	Completing assignments Working on independent projects	

23. How many days each week would you like to be contacted by your child's teacher via email, telephone or another form of communication?

4-5 days per week17%
2-3 days per week21%
Once a week 49%
Less than once a week10%
Don't know3%

24. Did your child participate in distance learning last spring? If so, how effective was distance learning for your child last spring: Very, somewhat, not too, or not at all effective?

VERY/SMWT EFFECTIVE34%
Very effective7%
Somewhat effective27%
NOT TOO/AT ALL EFFECTIVE55%
Not too effective 27%
Not at all effective 27%
Did not participate 10%
Don't know1%

25. Did your school provide you with any of the following in the summer or fall? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

26. Next, here are some challenges you and your family may face with distance learning. For each one, please indicate if this was a major challenge, a minor challenge, or not a challenge for you. (RANDOMIZE)

		MAJOR <u>CHALL</u>	MINOR <u>CHALL</u>	NOT A <u>CHALL</u>	<u>DK</u>	TOTAL <u>CHALL</u>
[]a.	A space for your child to focus and learn without interruptions	22%	31%	46%	1%	53%
(SPLI	T SAMPLE A ONLY)					
[]b.	Unreliable internet access	11%	31%	57%	1%	42%
[]c.	Your child had difficulty logging on	17%	35%	46%	2%	52%
[]d.	Poor quality of instruction	23%	31%	39%	7%	54%
[]e.	Your child had difficulty finding assignments					
	online	17%	33%	47%	3%	50%
[]f.	Hard for your child to work on their own	38%	28%	33%	1%	66%

MAJOR	MINOR	NOT A		TOTAL
<u>CHALL</u>	<u>CHALL</u>	<u>CHALL</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>CHALL</u>

(SPLIT SAMPLE B ONLY)

[]g.	Inadequate device	- 11%	19%	- 69%	2%	29%
[]h.	Not enough instructional time with a teacher	- 39%	35%	-23%	3%	74%
[]i.	Your child had difficulty understanding					
	assignments	- 28%	38%	- 31%	3%	66%
[]j.	Your child was not motivated	- 48%	32%	-21%	0%	79%
[]k.	Hard for your child to sustain interest	- 52%	27%	- 19%	2%	79%

(RESUME ASKING ALL PARENTS WITH KIDS IN PRE-K-12 ONLY)

27. How easy or difficult will it be for you to manage distance learning for your child this year?

TOTAL EASY39% Very easy13% Somewhat easy27%
TOTAL DIFFICULT58% Somewhat difficult
Don't know3%

28. What do you see as the <u>biggest</u> challenge to successful distance learning experience for you and your child?

Poor quality of instruction 14% Child too young to benefit substantially from
distance learning15%
A lack of other educational supports your child
receives in school15%
A lack of childcare3%
A lack of interaction with other children 30%
Other (Specify)17%
Don't know7%

29. Was there anything that worked really well in distance learning last spring? (OPEN-ENDED)

Accessible teachers & staff (Status updates, contact via email, etc.)	
Great teachers (Organized, accommodating, great effort, etc.)	
Flexibility/Schedule	4%
Eliminates commute/Always on time	4%
Small zoom classroom size/1 on 1 sessions	4%
Comfortable & safe learning environment/More time w/family	7%
Breakout rooms (for student socializing)	2%
Assignments/Test/Home-based projects	
General support distant learning1	1%
Negative feedback1	5%
Nothing/None/No3	1%
Other	5%
Don't know/Not sure/Unsure	2%
Refused/NA/No opinion	5%

30. Here are some consequences that people have said may follow if students are required to spend most of the school year in distance learning. How concerned are you about each one: extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned? (**RANDOMIZE**)

		EXT <u>CONC</u>	VERY <u>CONC</u>	SMWT <u>CONC</u>	NOT <u>CONC</u>	(<u>DK/NA)</u>	EXT/ <u>VERY</u>
[]a. []b.	Learning loss for all or most students Learning loss for more vulnerable children, including those experiencing	51%	- 21%	17%	9%	1%	73%
	homelessness, hunger, or home instability	57%	- 22%		7%	3%	80%
[]c. []d.	Lack of social interaction for children Children's mental health will be negatively	47%	- 23%	21%	8%	1%	70%
	affected	41%	- 21%		15%	2%	62%
[]e.	Teachers and staff will be laid off	31%	- 21%	23%	22%	2%	52%
[]f. []g.	Parents won't be able to go back to work Parents' mental health will be negatively	35%	- 26%	19%	18%	1%	62%
	affected	24%	- 20%	30%	25%	1%	44%

31. Next here are some steps that could be taken to make schools safer for in-person instruction before a vaccine is available. How important is it to you that each step be taken at your child's school: extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important? (**RANDOMIZE**)

		EXT <u>IMP</u>	VERY <u>IMP</u>	SMWT <u>IMP</u>	NOT <u>IMP</u>	<u>DK</u>	EXT/ <u>VERY</u>
[]a.	Providing classes outdoors	20%	18%	26%	30%	6%	38%
[]b.	Daily temperature checks for teachers, staff, and kids	37%	18%	19%	25%	1%	55%
[]c.	Option to switch back to distance learning if necessary	40%	23%	16%	21%	1%	62%
[]d.	Reduced schedule with your child only going to school in-person part-time	26%	17%	25%	30%	3%	43%
[]e.	Smaller class sizes	43%	19%	19%	18%	1%	62%
[]f.	Fewer children on the bus through social distancing	27%	19%	10%	31%	- 12%	46%
[]g.	Fewer children in the cafeteria						54%
[]h. []i.	Temporary elimination of music classes Temporary elimination of contact sports						16% 38%

32. What strategies does your family intend to use to help manage distance learning this year? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES)

Band together with other parents to form learning pods or groups 15% Hire a tutor or teacher to supplement learning15%
Enroll child in a supplemental tutoring program 11%
Enroll child in a program or center to supervise distance learning3%
Hire a caregiver to supervise distance learning7%
Enlist the help of other family members to
supervise distance learning 33%
Don't know 43%

(ASK Q33 OF ALL RESPONDENTS)

33. Next, some people have raised concerns that some of strategies to help manage distance learning, like forming learning pods and hiring tutors, are easier for higher-income families to do and could widen achievement gaps between higher-income and lower-income students. How concerned are you about learning pods widening achievement gaps?

	Parents	All
	<u>Only</u>	Voters
EXT/VERY CONCERNED-	51%	51%
Extremely concerned	31%	29%
Very concerned	20%	23%
•		
SMWT/NOT CONCERNED	- 45%	43%
Somewhat concerned	17%	21%
Not concerned	28%	23%
Don't know	4%	5%

34. Are you considering moving your child from a public school to a private school, a parochial school or charter school, as a result of pandemic related issues?

Yes 24%	6
No 58%	6
Child doesn't attend public school 10%	6
Child not school age1%	6
Don't know7%	6

35. Are you considering moving your family to access different school options for your child?

Yes 22%
No 65%
Child doesn't attend public school7%
Child not school age1%
Don't know5%

(ASK Q36-Q43 IF PARENT OF CHILD IN COLLEGE)

36. If you have college age children, are they returning or have they returned to campus this fall for in-person classes?

Yes	20%
No	68%
Still unsure	-5%
Prefer not to say	-7%

37. Have your child's college studies for the coming semester been interrupted or affected by the coronavirus pandemic?

Yes 68	%
No 21	%
Not in college last spring6	%
Prefer not to say6	%

38. Were your child's college studies interrupted in any way last spring by the coronavirus pandemic?

Yes 639	%
No 15%	%
Not in college last spring 179	%
Don't know/Prefer not to say5%	%

39. Was your child originally planning to live on or near the campus this fall? If so, are they now going to live on or near campus this fall?

Planning to live on campus/
not doing it 23%
Planning to live on campus/doing it 14%
No, not planning to live on campus 32%
Still unsure5%
Not applicable/commutes to school 17%
Prefer not to say9%

40. How do you think distance learning compares to in-class learning for college students? Is it **(ROTATE:** [] better, [] worse, **OR** [] the same)?

TOTAL BETTER7% Much better6%Somewhat better1%	6
The same 28%	6
TOTAL WORSE 56% Much worse 25% Somewhat worse 32%	6

41. If college campuses continue to have to use distance learning for the next year, would you want your child to attend/transfer to a more affordable alternative institution?

Yes	30%
No	43%
Don't know	27%

- 42. Has the economic crisis caused by the pandemic impacted your or your child's ability to pay for college? Yes -------39% No ------47% Don't know/Prefer not to say------13%
- 43. Next, some people have suggested that if colleges are offering classes remotely, students should be given a tuition discount, while others say that colleges continue to face high costs to maintain technology and facilities and pay staff and cannot afford to provide discounted tuition. Do you think students taking classes remotely should be given a discount on tuition, or should they pay full tuition like they normally would for in-person classes?

Discounted tuition 80%
Full tuition 17%
Don't know3%

These last questions are for statistical purposes only.

THE FOLLOW SECTION CONTAINS DEMOGRAPHICS FOR THE FULL VOTER AND PARENT SAMPLE COMBINED.

44. Are you, or is anyone in your household, currently or formerly employed as a teacher or an employee in California public schools?

Yes, self only 10%
Yes, household member only8%
Yes, both self and household member3%
No 76%
Prefer not to say3%

45. Are you or is anyone in your household a member of a labor union or an employee association?

Yes, self only 10%
Yes, household member only 10%
Yes, both self and household member3%
No 74%
Prefer not to say3%

46. How would you describe yourself politically: Are you very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 20%
Somewhat liberal21%
Moderate 26%
Somewhat conservative 14%
Very conservative 12%
Prefer not to say7%

47. Do you live in a city, a suburban area, a small town or a rural area?

A city 38%)
A suburban area 41%)
A small town11%)
A rural area8%)
Prefer not to say3%)

48. What was the last level of school you completed?

High school graduate or less8%
Community college/technical college 14%
Less than 4 years of college 12%
College graduate (4 year college) 31%
Post-graduate/Professional school 31%
Prefer not to say4%

49. With which ethnic group do you identify yourself: Hispanic or Latino, White or Caucasian, Black or African American, Asian or Pacific Islander, or some other ethnic or racial background?

Hispanic/Latino ----- 24%

White/Caucasian 46%	
Black/African American6%	
Asian/Pacific Islander8%	
Other (SPECIFY) 4%	
Prefer not to say 12%	

50. Please select the category indicating the total combined income for all the people in your household before taxes in 2019:

\$30,000 and under7%
\$30,001 - \$60,00015%
\$60,001 - \$90,000 17%
\$90,001 - \$150,000 21%
More than \$150,000 25%
Prefer not to say 14%

51. What is your gender?

Male	- 45%
Female	- 48%
Non-binary	2%
Prefer not to say	

THANK AND TERMINATE

REGISTRATION:

Democrat	45%
Republican	25%
No Party Preference	20%
Other	10%

REGION

LA27%
LA Area 21%
Bay Area 21%
San Diego9%
Sac'to/North 10%
Central Valley 12%

AGE 18-24 9% 25-29 7% 30-34 6% 35-39 10% 40-44 7% 45-49 9% 50-54 11% 55-59 6% 60-64 9% 65-74 18% 75+ 8% Blank 0%