

2020 Fall Parent Survey Results

This is a follow-up to our previous survey, conducted in July of 2020. With parents and students facing so many challenges and disruptions this year, we wanted to hear from Tennessee parents about their child’s experiences returning to school in the 2020-21 school year. We also asked parents to weigh in on their child’s learning experience, as well as **concerns around learning loss**.

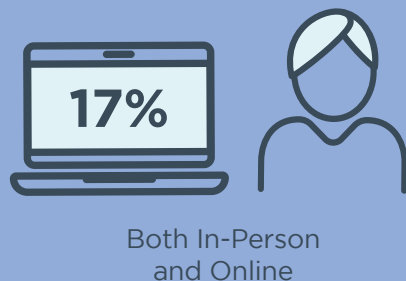
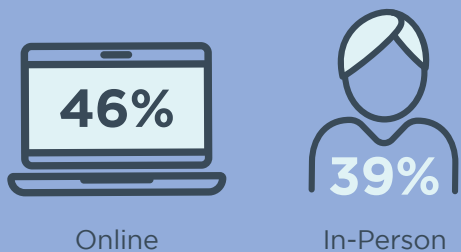
In November and December, we surveyed nearly 200 parents of school-age children from all three Grand Divisions across the Volunteer State. This is a follow-up to an additional survey we conducted in July.

Here is what we found:

Survey Dates: Nov. 9 - Dec. 14, 2020

193 respondents from all three Grand Divisions of the state.

The majority of Tennessee’s students are still learning mostly online.



The quality of learning is parents’ biggest concern.

Parents are most concerned about:

- **The quality of learning** 65%
- **Learning loss (ie. students falling behind)** 59%
- **Safety** 29%
- Equitable access to technology and the internet 25%
- Addressing needs of special student populations, such as Special Ed, ESL, etc. 24%
- School funding 11%
- **Other** 26%

1/3 of parents considered enrolling their child in a different school than they were enrolled in last year as a result of the pandemic.

*Most additional comments center around mental health and instruction time.



Parental concern for the quality of learning increased **by 20%** since our survey in July, while safety has decreased by around 30%.

More than 60% of parents are concerned that their child is behind academically since the end of the 2019-20 school year. This is an increase of almost 10% since July.



The majority of parents (78%) support a unified enrollment system, allowing them to easily be made aware of all the public school options available - in-person, virtual and hybrid - when enrolling their child in school.

Access to technology continues to be an issue. 45% of families still do not have a dedicated computer or in-home internet access for online learning. Almost 30% are using a school supplied computer.



Almost one-third

(31%) of parents did not get to provide feedback on their child's school reopening plans for the fall of 2020.

43% of parents

report their child's school did not measure his or her academic progress at the beginning of the school year, whether through an assessment, checkpoint or other means.

50% plus

After testing was cancelled at the end of the 2019-20 school year, **more than half** of parents believe it is important to test students from grades 3-12 in the current school year to know if they are on-track.



One in five students is assisting more with childcare or other household duties that interfere with their own studies since the beginning of the school year.

Parents still have a lot to say.

- Read parents' comments on their child's learning experience this school year [here](#).
- Read about parents' requests for additional resources for their children's education needs [here](#).
- Survey respondents left additional comments they wanted to share with state leaders about their education concerns. [Click here to read more.](#)