



To: Interested Parties
From: Stephen Clermont, Change Research in partnership with Project Ready
Date: April 1, 2022
Re: Newark Survey Results

As the COVID-19 pandemic enters its third year, parents face a number of challenges in the education and health of their children. For a closer look at how parents are faring, Project Ready commissioned a survey of Newark, New Jersey with Change Research.

The following are highlights from a poll of 383 parents of school-aged children:

How Schools and Public Officials Are Doing:

- **Parents are generally positive about the way their children’s schools are handling the pandemic, less so on preparing young people for success.** Substantial majorities of parents rate positively the job their child’s school has done to support their child’s learning during the pandemic, managing the ups and down of in-person learning this year, helping their child catch up from missed time, and supporting their social well-being. Parents of children in public charter schools give more positive ratings on all of these measures than parents of children in traditional public schools.
- **Overall, parents are split on the ability of local schools to prepare young people for success after high school.** Parents of children in traditional public schools rate this negatively while those in public charter schools rate this positively.

School Job Ratings (% Excellent-Good - % Not So Good-Poor)

	All Parents	Traditional Public School Parents	Public Charter Parents
The job my child’s school has done to support my child’s learning during the pandemic	72-26	66-31	77-22
The job my child’s school did managing in-person learning with the ups and downs of the pandemic this year	67-29	62-35	73-23
The job my child’s school has done to help my child catch up on learning time that was missed during the pandemic	64-32	55-40	72-27
The job my child’s school has done to support my child’s social wellbeing during the pandemic	61-34	51-44	73-24
Ability of local schools to prepare young people for success after high school	44-43	38-48	49-37

- Parents give generally positive ratings to the public and public charter schools in Newark.** Both Newark public schools and public charter schools in Newark receive positive ratings from all parents. Three-fourths (77%) of public charter school parents rate Newark’s charter schools positively.

Overall Job Ratings (% Excellent-Good - % Not So Good-Poor)

	All Parents	Traditional Public School Parents	Public Charter Parents
Public charter schools in Newark	55-23	38-26	77-17
Newark Public Schools	54-36	55-38	55-30

- Among all parents, public charter schools are viewed as the schools providing the best quality education in the city.** There is less overall familiarity with private and parochial schools. As many parents of public school children view the quality of education positively as negatively.
- Public charter school parents rate educational quality overwhelmingly positively.** Solid majorities believe that when it comes to quality education, public schools in Newark need either a great deal of change (59%) or a moderate amount (30%). Parents of children in traditional public schools (56% great deal, 31% moderate amount) and in public charter schools (61% great deal, 30% moderate amount) feel similarly about this.

Ratings of the Quality of Education (% Excellent-Good - % Not So Good-Poor)

	All Parents	Traditional Public School Parents	Public Charter Parents
Public charter schools	57-17	42-18	79-15
Private schools	43-11	37-10	45-14
Traditional public schools	40-47	47-47	34-44
Parochial schools	32-10	29-10	35-11

The Continuing Pandemic:

- When it comes to COVID-19, parents are still being cautious.** They split nearly evenly between saying they are still being cautious, and taking precautions like wearing a mask, avoiding crowded indoor spaces, and social distancing (53%) as they are ready to get back to normal (47%). They are even more careful when it comes to their children. Three-fifths (62%) believe we need to remain cautious when it comes to kids in schools and should keep school mask mandates and testing protocols in place while 38% believe

we should be doing whatever it takes to get things back to normal in schools, which means removing mask mandates.

- **Just under half (42%) of parents say their children have been vaccinated against COVID-19.** Another 14% say they haven't yet but plan to. A quarter (26%) say their children have not been vaccinated and do not offer that they plan for them to be while 17% did not give an answer to this.
- **Majorities support mask requirements in schools and mandatory teacher vaccinations but 51% oppose mandatory child vaccines.** Two-thirds (65%) support students wearing masks in schools despite Governor Murphy rolling back the mandate while 28% oppose this. Teacher requirements garner 54% support while 38% oppose these. Requirements for children are opposed by 51% of parents. Just 43% support them. Black parents narrowly favor this requirement (48% support-42% oppose) while Hispanic parents oppose them (41% support-56% oppose). Parents of teenagers support this policy (51% support-42% oppose) while parents of children under four (30% support-64% oppose) and between five and 12 (36% support-59% oppose) oppose it.
- **Parents are particularly concerned about the mental health of children during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Three-fifths (60%) believe it has gotten worse during the pandemic while just 16% say it has gotten better. Another quarter say it has either stayed the same (13%) or are unsure (11%). Three-fourths (73%) believe treating the mental health of school aged children in Newark should be top priority.
- **Most parents are deeply worried about the after-effects of COVID-19.** Three-fourths are worried about their child's social and emotional well-being due to COVID-19 (75% worried) and their child being behind on their learning due to COVID-19 (74%). Another 66% are worried about their child contracting COVID-19. Worry is highest among parents of children under five.

Methodology

Polling was conducted online from March 18-25, 2022. Using its Dynamic Online Sampling technology to attain a sample reflective of adults, Change Research polled 383 parents of school age children in the city of Newark. Post-stratification weights were made on age, gender, zip code, education, and race and ethnicity to reflect the distribution of parents. All polls are subject to errors caused by interviewing a sample of persons, rather than the entire population. In 95 cases out of 100, the responses to this survey should be within plus or minus 6.0 percentage points of those that would have been obtained from interviewing the entire population of parents. The sampling error for subgroups of the survey will be greater.
