



Fall 2020 Distance Learning Survey

November 12, 2020



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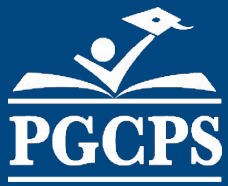
Monica E. Goldson, Ed.D., *Secretary/Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer*



Distance Learning Survey Background

To gauge how families are handling distance learning and how they feel about returning to school buildings next semester, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) conducted a Distance Learning Survey with parents and students.

- Students in grades three through twelve received a link to the survey via their PGCPS email accounts.
- The Office of Communications invited parents to participate by sending a link to subscribers of the emergency alert list, as well as posting the link on social media, the PGCPS Distance Learning webpage and in the weekly PGCPS Express Newsletter.
- The parent survey was available in English, Spanish and French.
- The survey administration window opened on October 5th and closed on October 18th.



Distance Learning Survey Participation

Participation Rates by Stakeholder Group

	Possible # of Responses	Actual # of Responses	Response Rate
<i>Students</i>	100,483	4,672	5.6%
Elementary School (grades 3 – 5)	30,769	1,211	3.9%
Middle School (grades 6 – 8)	31,274	2,036	6.5%
High School (grades 9 – 12)	38,440	2,394	6.2%
<i>Parents</i>	89,043	10,972	12.3%



Distance Learning Survey Participation

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents

	<i>Parents (n = 8,072)</i>	<i>ES Students (n = 744)</i>	<i>MS/HS Students (n = 3,022)</i>
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	0.4%	.3%
Asian/Native Hawaiian/OPI	3.4%	4.6%	3.6%
Black or African American	66.0%	58.6%	55.0%
Hispanic	21.4%	31.7%	37.0%
White	8.9%	4.7%	4.0%



Communication

Families rely on effective communication from the district to learn how to access the services and supplies their students need to fully participate in their education. Overall, parent respondents believe the district is doing a good or excellent job communicating important information to them.

Communication Effectiveness

	# of Respondents	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Plans for distance learning	9,870	6.3%	17.2%	42.6%	33.9%
How to access technology for your student (device or mobile hotspot)	9,535	6.7%	16.7%	42.6%	34.0%
How to access special education services for your student	4,625	15.7%	23.8%	40.7%	19.8%
How to access meals for your student	6,621	6.9%	13.3%	40.2%	39.6%
How to access extra academic help for your student	8,544	18.2%	25.9%	36.8%	19.1%

To make distance learning successful, students and families need technology in the form of devices and digital communication capabilities in their homes.

- 71% of respondents (parents and students) reported using a district issued-device for their student to use during distance learning.
- Of those that did not have a district-issued device, more than 90% have a family-owned computer, laptop or tablet.
- More than 90% of families say their student has their own device; less than 10% need to share devices
- Among students who report sharing a device with other family members, about one-fourth say they sometimes miss face-to-face class time as a result.
- Virtually all (more than 99%) respondents say they have a home-based internet connection
- More than three-fourths of parents report having a reliable internet connection in their homes; about one-half of student respondents say their internet connection is reliable.
- Those without an internet connection at home say they have either a district-issued mobile hotspot or go to someone else's home.



Distance Learning Experiences, Parents

Overall, nearly 70% of parent respondents believe the distance learning services their students are receiving are at least good with more than one-quarter rating them as excellent.

	# of Respondents	Somewhat or Strongly agree		# of Respondents	Somewhat or Strongly agree
My student's teacher has effectively communicated learning expectations.	9,180	87.5%	I believe my student is fully engaged in the learning process.	9,318	80.8%
I understand how my student's work will be graded.	9,092	84.5%	My student has the support s/he needs at home to complete the assigned work.	9,289	87.6%
I understand how my student's attendance will be recorded.	9,182	88.4%	I or another adult in the home is able to supervise my student as needed during class time.	9,232	81.3%
My student participates in live (face-to-face) distance learning sessions with teachers each day school is in session.	9,275	92.2%	My student has a dedicated space in our home, without distractions, to focus on learning.	9,322	90.6%



Distance Learning Experiences, Students

	Elementary Students		Middle/High School Students	
	# of Respondents	Agree	# of Respondents	Agree
I can do my schoolwork without much help from my teachers or parents.	1,078	66.0%	3,880	73.4%
I am learning just as well from online teaching as I was before school closed	1,082	50.2%	3,892	31.2%
I have the support I need at home to complete my assignments.	1,064	85.4%	3,756	77.3%
I have a parent or another adult at home with me while I am in my online classes.	1,093	84.1%	3,835	77.0%
I have a parent or another adult at home to make sure I logon to school each day.	1,098	90.5%	3,831	82.9%
I have my own space at home to focus on learning.	1,113	84.7%	3,934	82.0%



Student Supports and Relationships

Elementary Students	# of Respondents	Yes/Always	Middle/High School Students	# of Respondents	Agree a lot
I can always ask my teachers questions if I don't understand something.	1,049	58.8%	I can connect with my teachers if I have questions about what they are teaching.	3,556	44.9%
I know how to contact my school counselor if needed.	962	51.6%	I know how to contact my school counselor if needed.	3,488	52.7%
I know how to get help from school if my computer doesn't work.	947	47.4%	I know how to get help from school if my computer doesn't work.	3,324	37.0%
There is at least one grown-up I know who I can talk to about my feelings and problems.	1,015	73.8%	There is at least one adult in my life who I can talk to about my feelings and problems.	3,438	54.0%
I know my teachers care about me.	946	78.8%	I know my teachers care about me.	3,127	38.8%
I am able to see kids my age to have fun.	991	47.5%	I find ways <u>to safely interact</u> with my friends.	3,348	58.3%

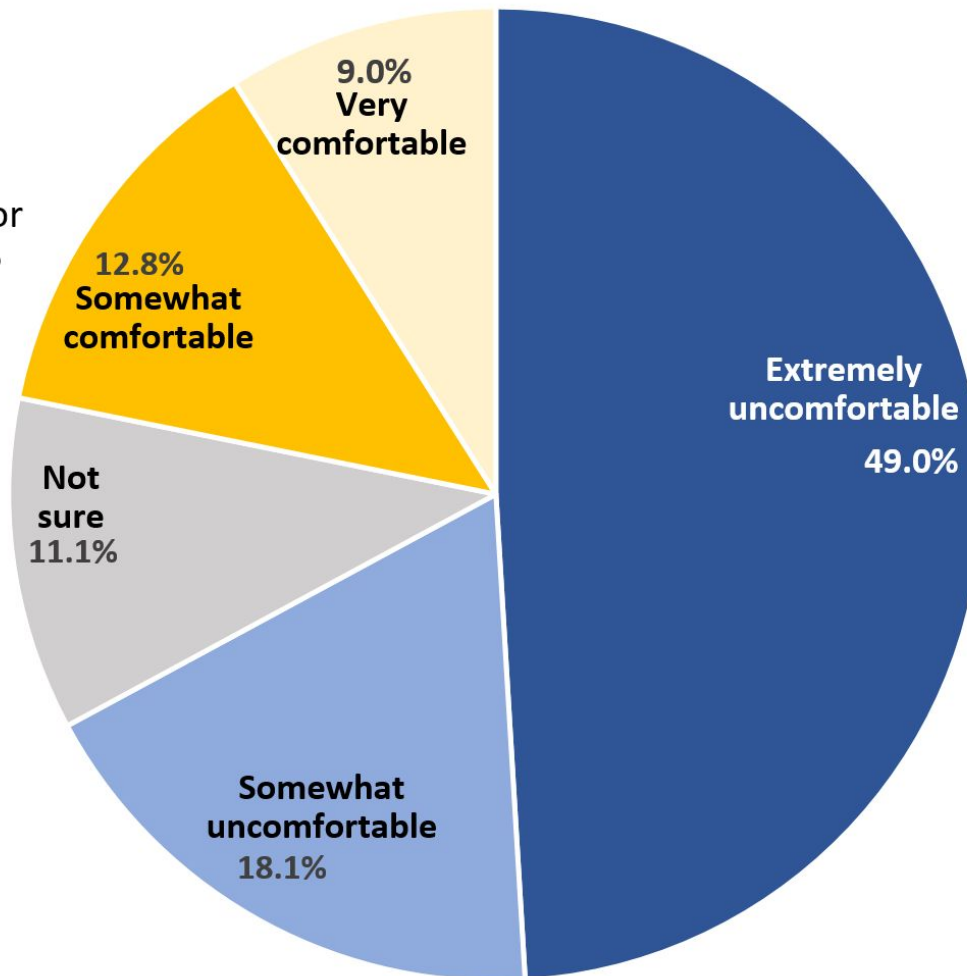


Students' Emotional Well-being

Elementary Students	# of Respondents	Yes/Always	Middle/High School Students	# of Respondents	Yes/Always
I feel happy learning while at home.	1,044	58.8%	I feel happy learning while at home.	3,556	44.9%
I feel sad that I cannot see my friends as much.	1,045	51.6%	I feel sad that I cannot see my friends as much.	3,488	52.7%
I feel lonely.	991	47.4%	I feel lonely.	3,324	37.0%
I feel stressed or anxious being at home all the time.	1,041	73.8%	I feel stressed or anxious being at home all the time.	3,438	54.0%

Comfort Level of In-person Instruction

How comfortable are you returning your student(s) to school for in-person instruction?
N = 9,227



Parent Concerns Include:

- Keeping a medically vulnerable student or family member safe
- The ability for the district to keep up with cleaning and sanitizing surfaces and poor air ventilation in school buildings, especially older ones
- The ability for students to adhere to safety protocols such as mask-wearing

- Parents indicated that they would need to see a transparent and comprehensive safety plan before they could decide whether to send their student back to school.
- Additionally, many expressed a desire to have the option to continue with all distance learning when schools begin to re-open.



Importance of Safety Measures for In-person Instruction

