



Speak UP Fall Reopening Survey

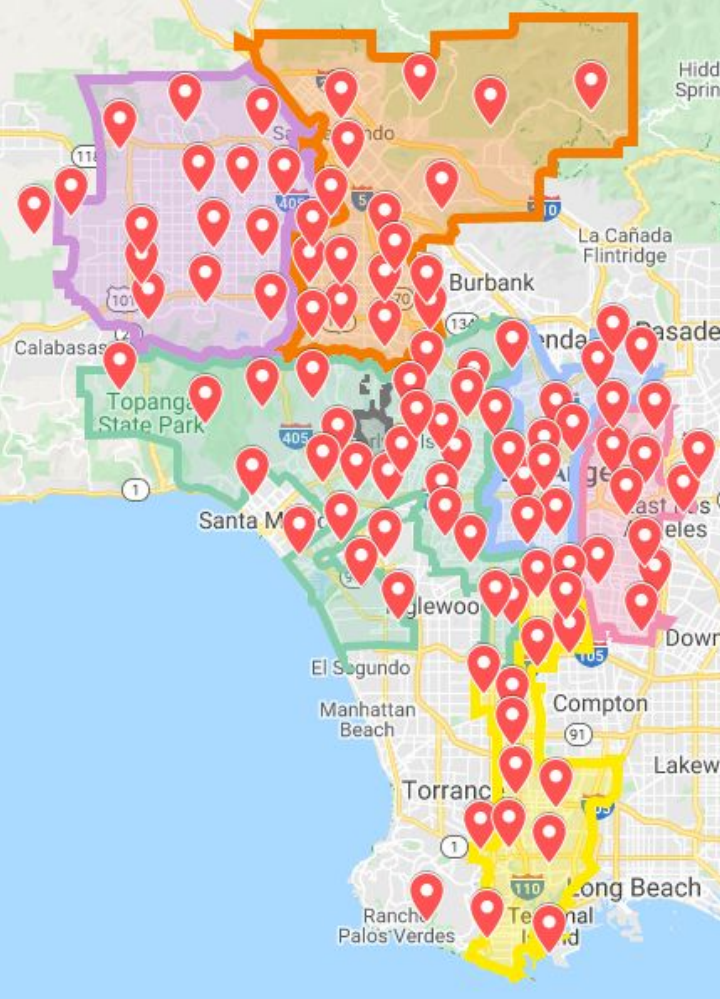
LAST UPDATED December 14, 2020 @ 5:30PM

435 RESPONSES

In an effort to keep our data legible while being more transparent, we have included footnotes (below) to indicate where the responses of specific subgroups varied from the overall survey population. “Slightly more likely” is defined as a range between 1.5–2.0 times more likely – not significant or worth quantifying, but a noticeable trend.

Respondent Demographics

We heard from parents all over LA



→ **435 responses**

↳ 703 students

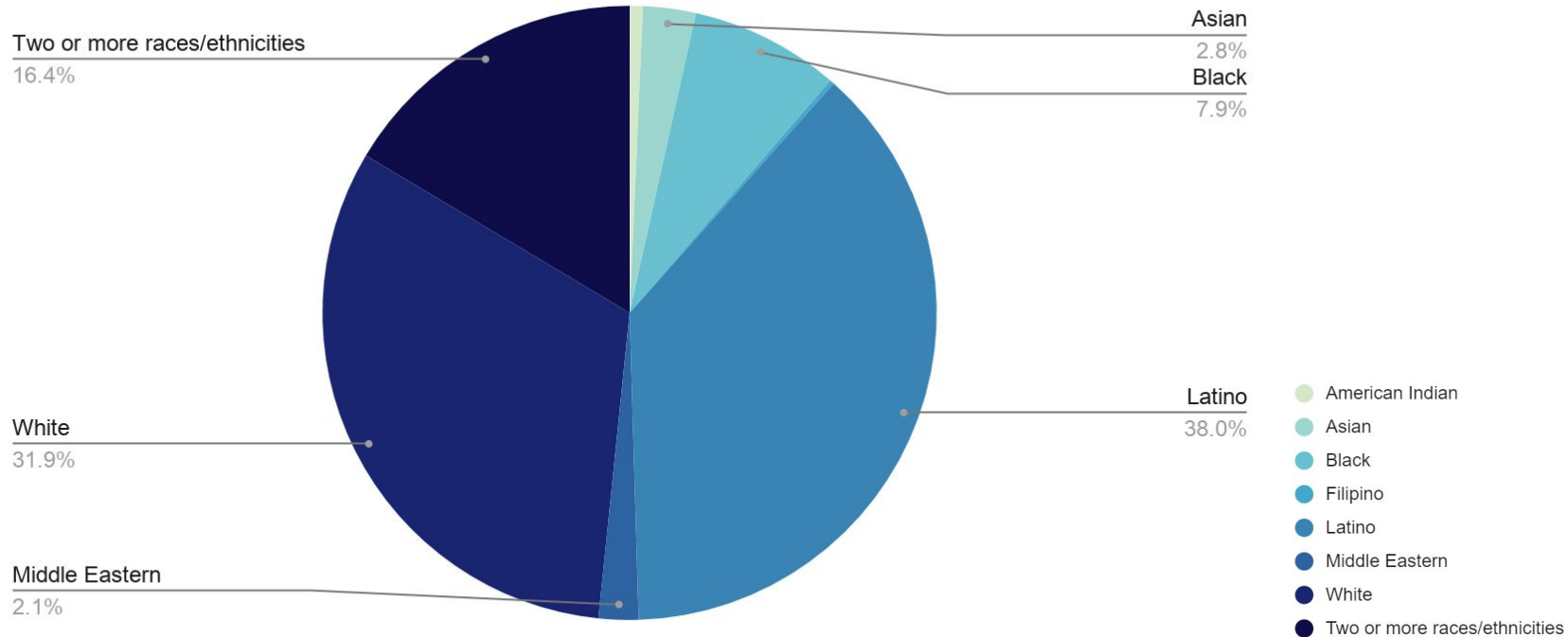
↳ 271 schools

↳ 100 ZIP codes

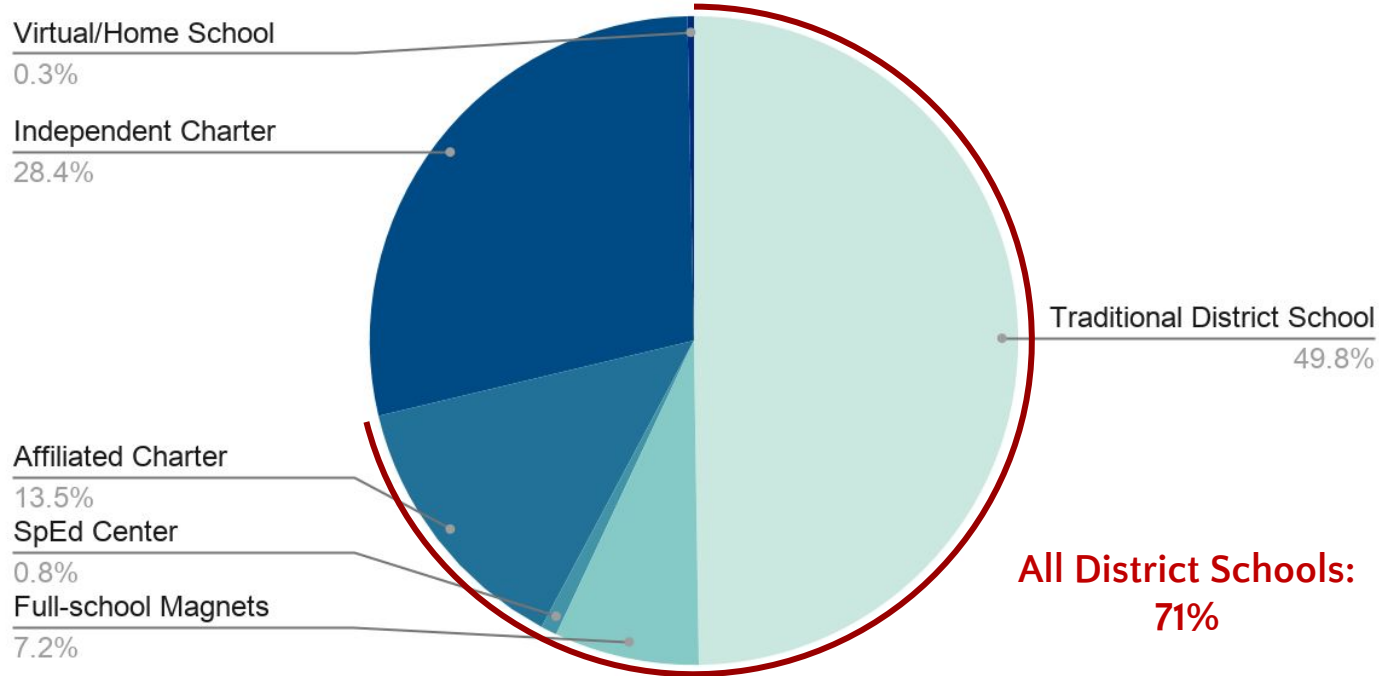
Survey dates:

Thursday, November 19th – Sunday, December 13th

Distribution of responses by race/ethnicity

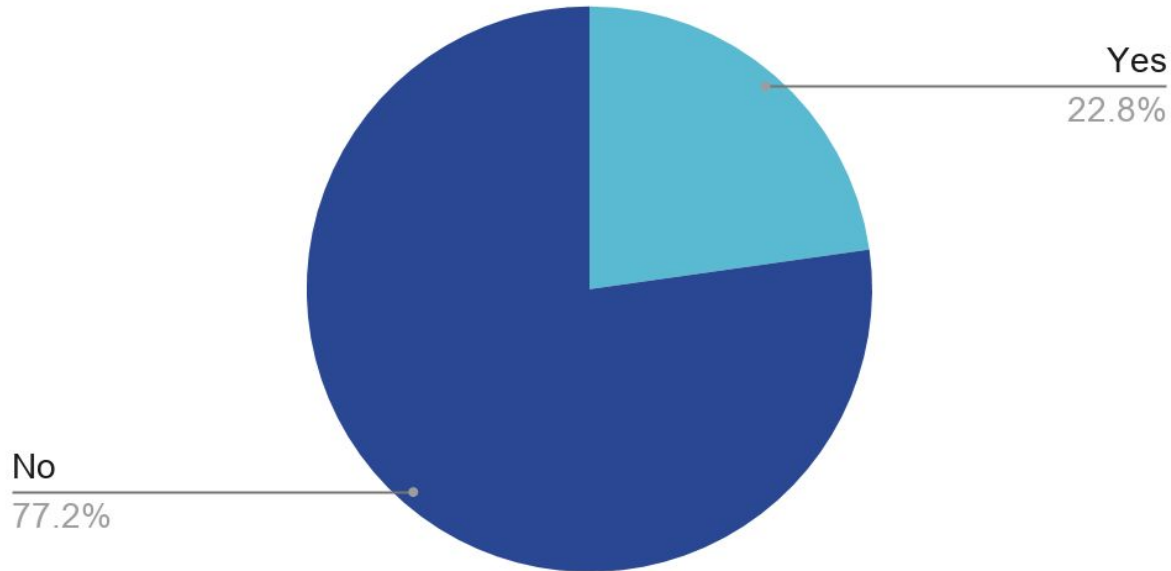


Most of their students attend LAUSD district schools.



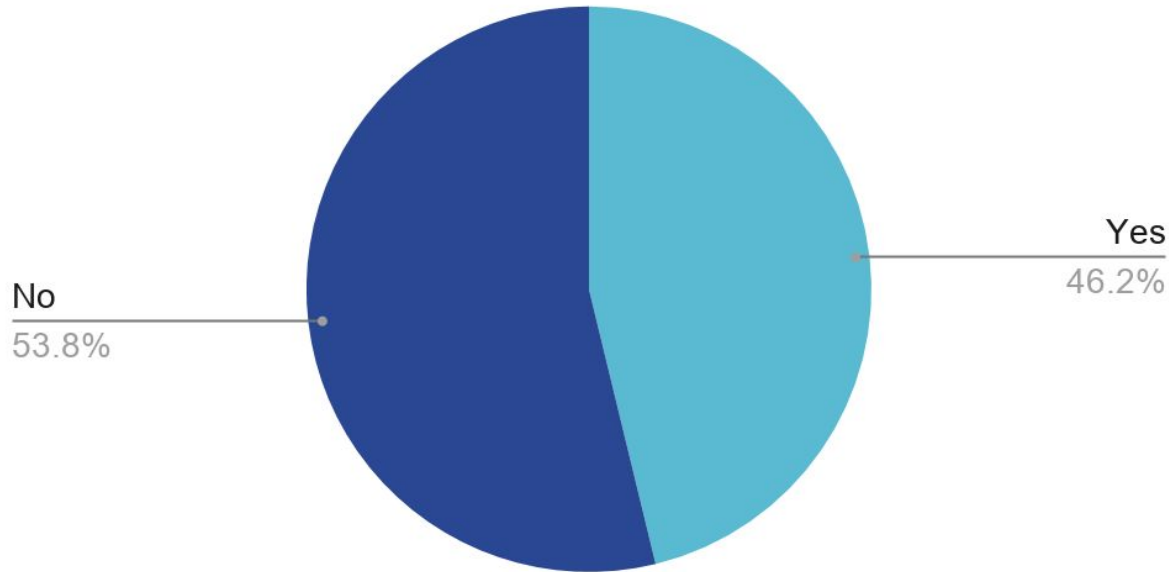
Over 20% of their students **have or need an IEP or 504 plan.**

Does your child have or need an IEP or 504 Plan?



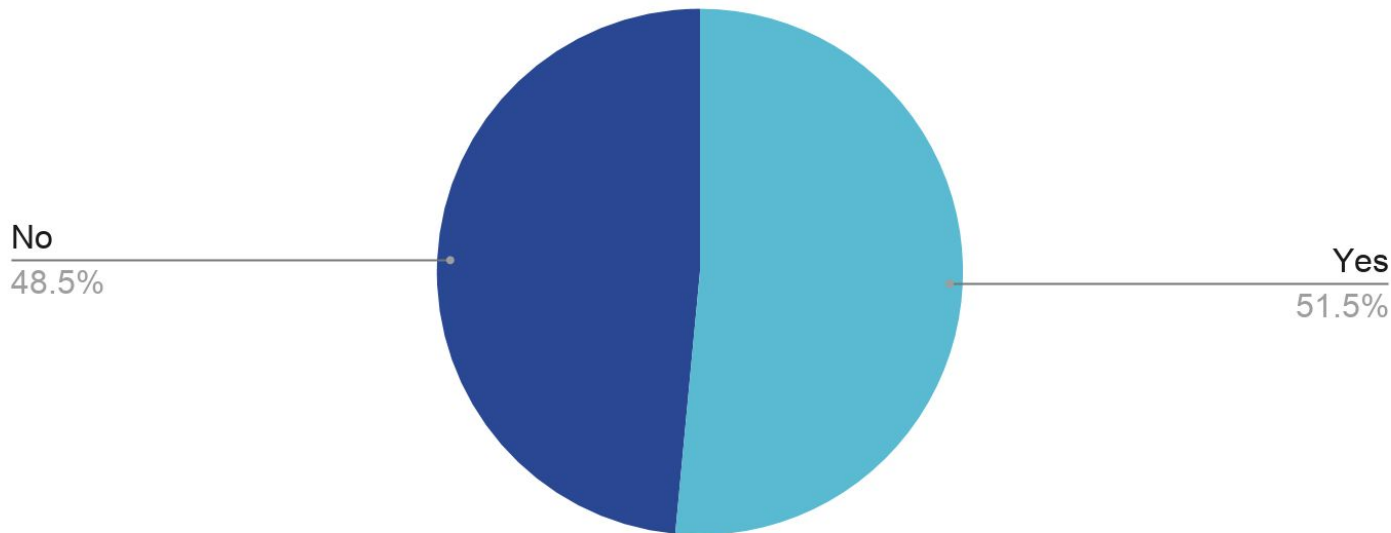
Almost half of families surveyed qualify for free or reduced lunch...

Does your family qualify for free or reduced lunch?



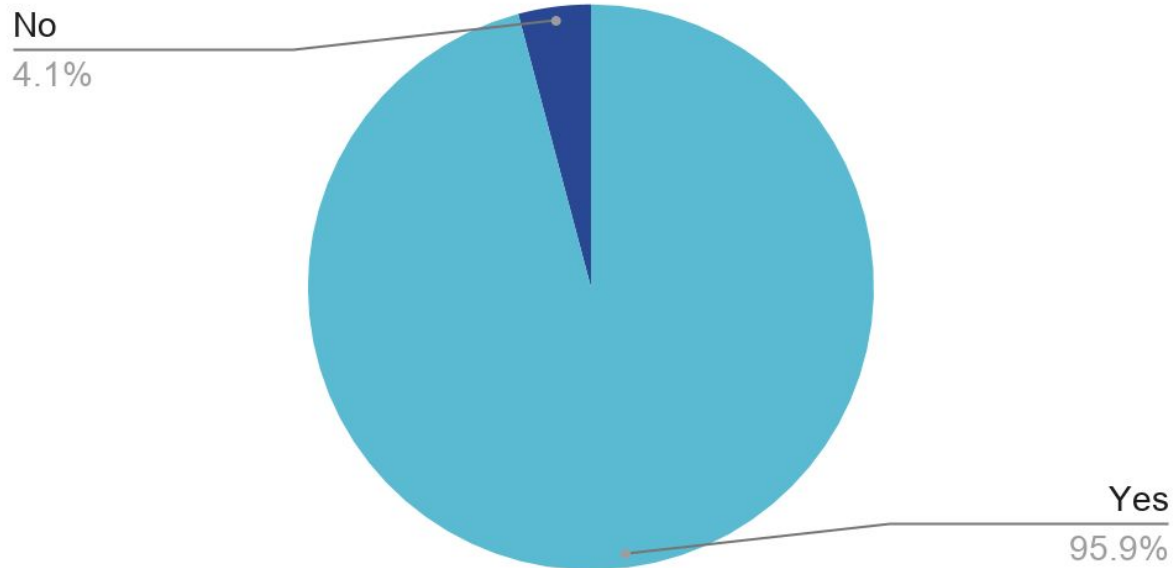
...and caring for children all day is further interfering with parents' ability to work.

Has your family faced loss of income or job productivity as a result of the need to monitor and care for children while learning at home?



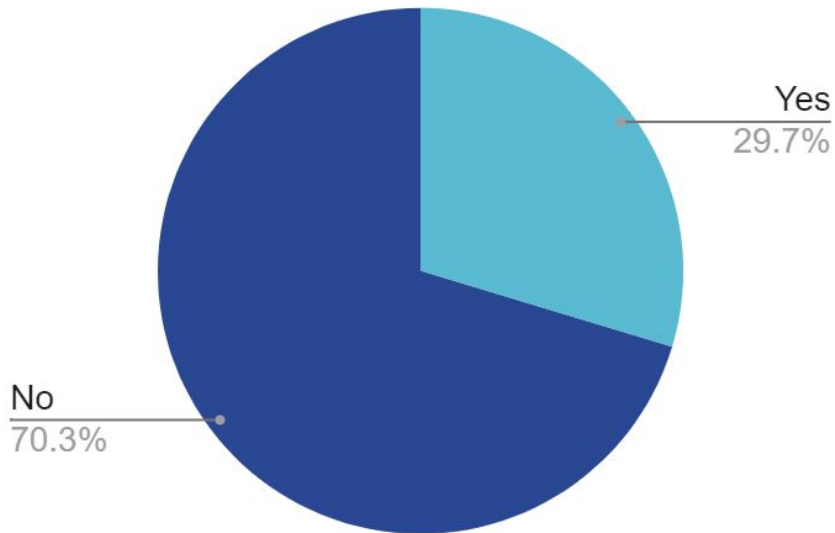
Nearly every family we heard from has Wi-Fi...

Do you have Wi-Fi in your home?

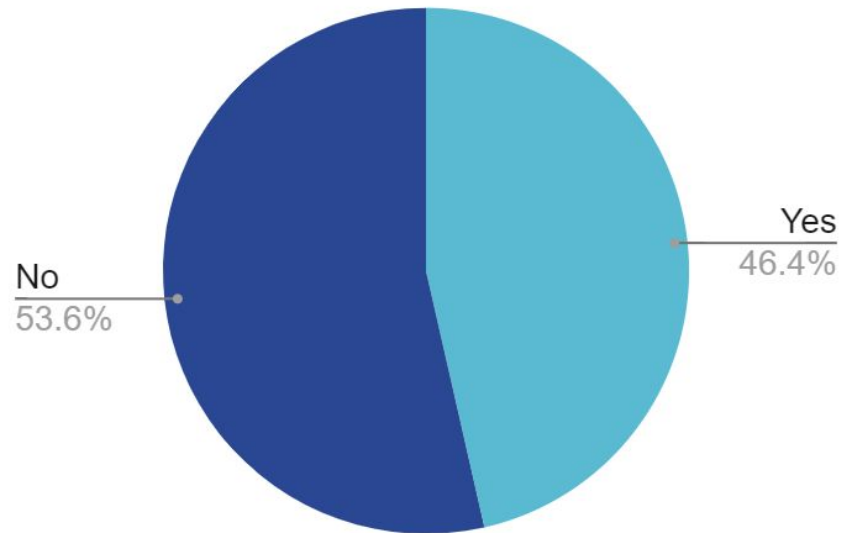


...but their connections are **expensive** and **often inadequate**.

Does your family struggle with the **COST** of your Internet plan?



Does your family struggle with the **QUALITY** of your Wi-Fi connection?

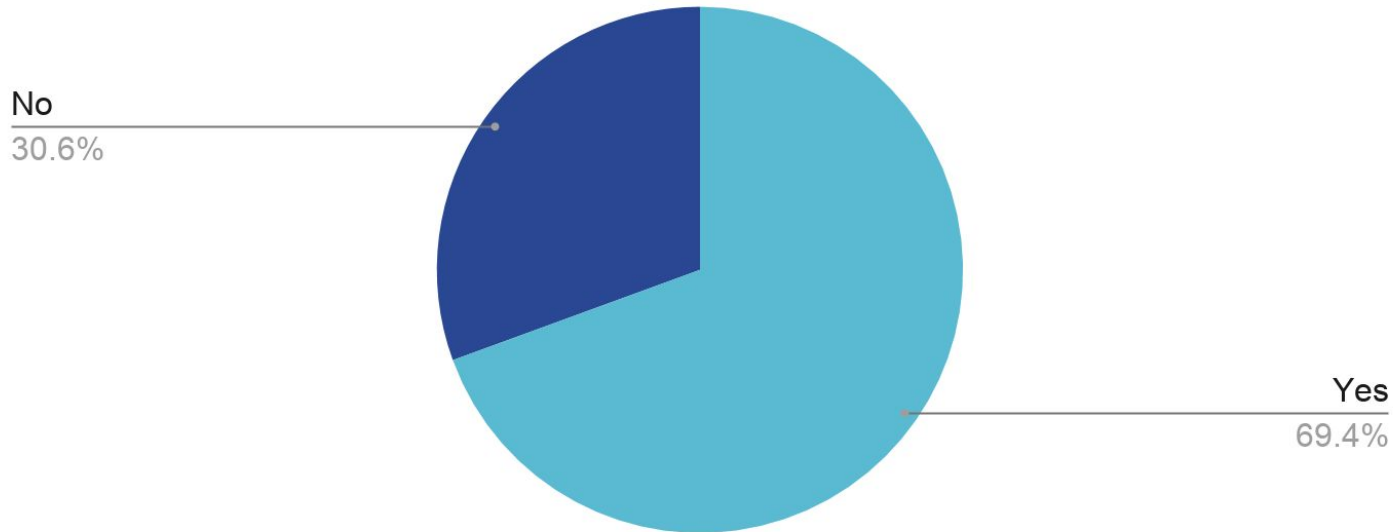




The kids are not OK.

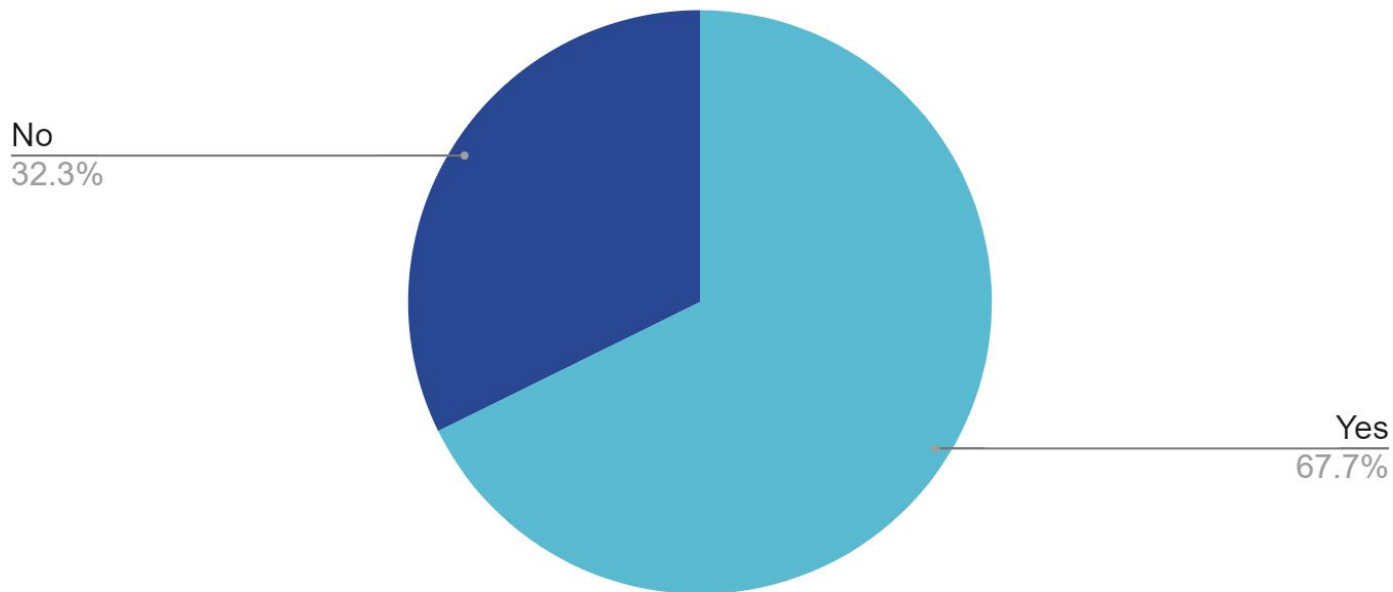
Approx. 70% of families are struggling to keep their children focused on school.

Have you had issues keeping your student(s) engaged and motivated while learning virtually?



Parents are worried about **learning loss** for **about 70%** of their children.

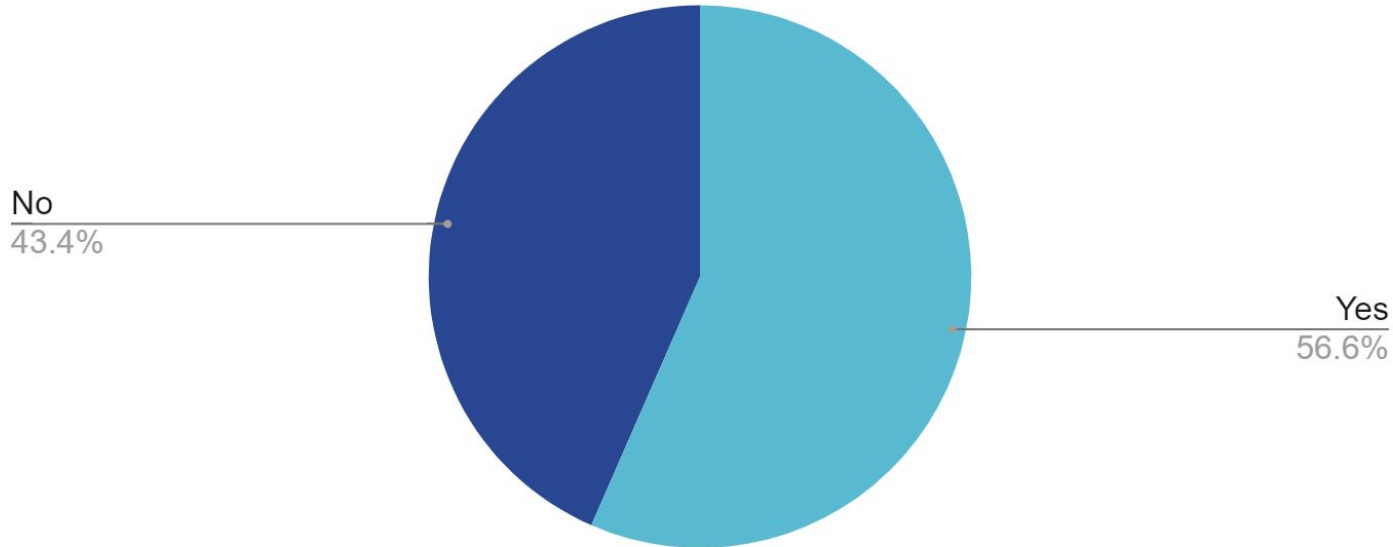
Are you worried about learning loss for your child during distance learning?





Depression and social-emotional issues are impacting **nearly 60%** of families.

Have your kid(s) struggled with depression or other social-emotional issues because of isolation during distance learning?



We heard **first-hand** from parents about **kids' mental health crises:**

- “My daughter cries everyday. My daughter fights me when I tell her it’s time for Zoom. My daughter screams, ‘I hate Zoom! I can’t deal with this anymore!’ and tantrums for hours! She has said, ‘I wish I could sleep all day.’ She’s only 7!”
- “Can’t make any connection with class and teacher no matter how hard we try. He’s often misunderstood and gets so depressed and gives up...He started hitting screaming and losing appetite. He needs to engage in play and be around other kids.”
- “Child is totally disconnected from her school. Previously loved school. She is so lonely.”
- “Child is suffering from depression, starting shortly after school abruptly closed in March. Used to be a good student. Now, no longer interested in school.”
- “Seen a lot of regression (social-emotionally, behaviorally, academically) as well as a total lack of motivation to attend class and participate; increase in depression and suicidal ideation during school closures; eloping and escape behavior has increased.”
- “My teenage son is depressed and anxious. He desperately needs the structure and social interaction that only come with physically going to school.”

Almost half of students are earning lower grades while learning from home.

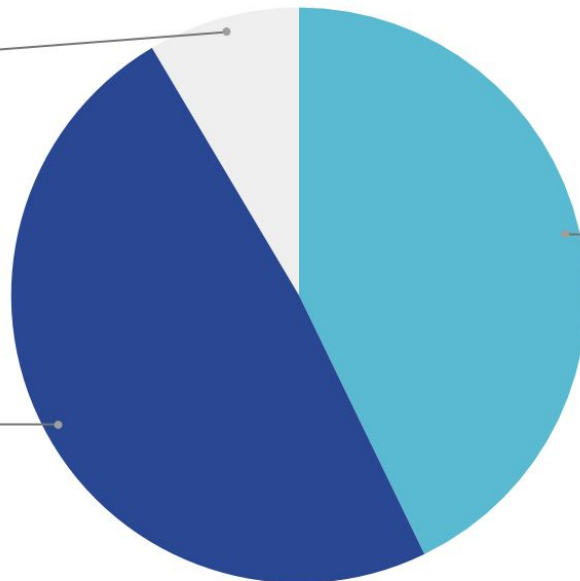
Have your child's grades suffered during distance learning?

Not receiving grades

8.5%

No

48.6%



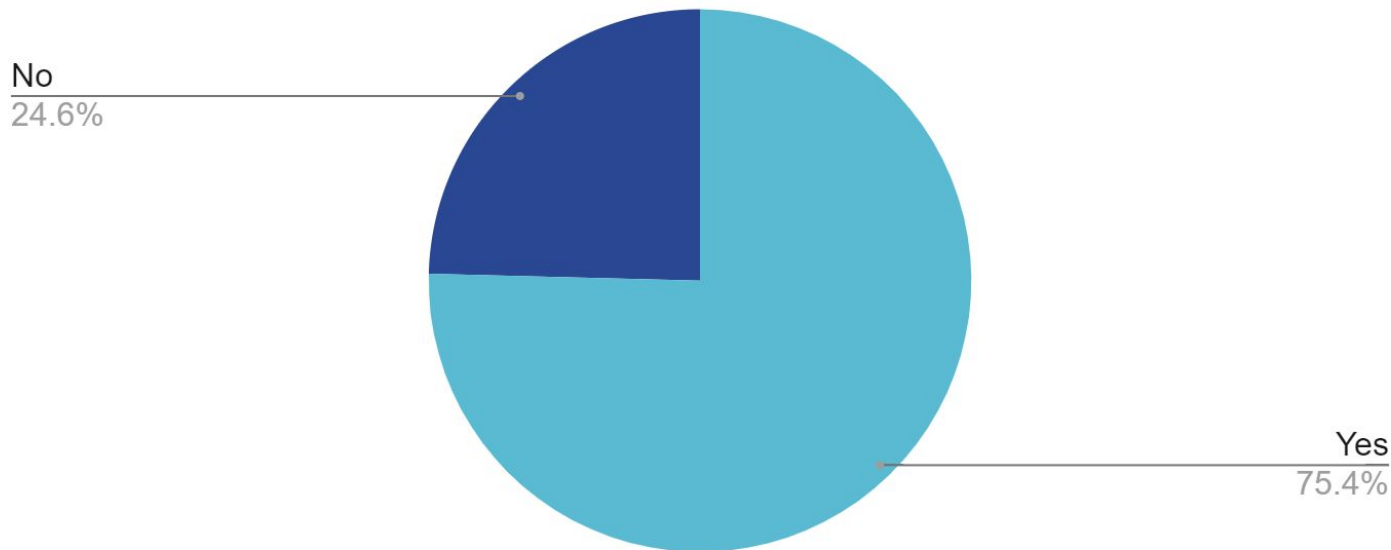
Yes
42.8%



A **safe** reopening option
needs to be our **top priority**.

Approx. **75%** of parents believe **all families deserve a safe reopening option.**

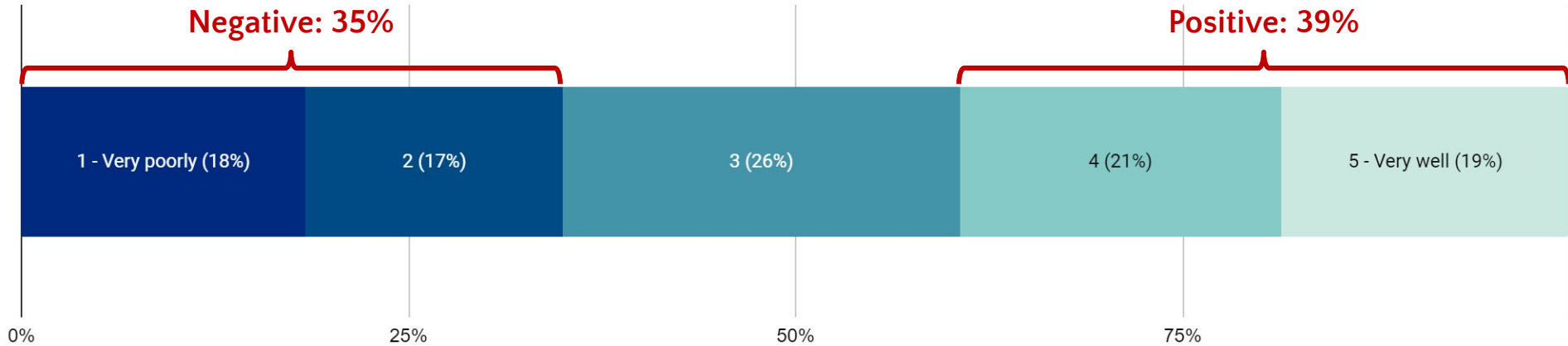
Regardless of whether you are ready to send your children back to school on campus, do you think that option should be available for all families?



Ultimately, parents are **split** when it comes to **how distance learning is working for their children.**



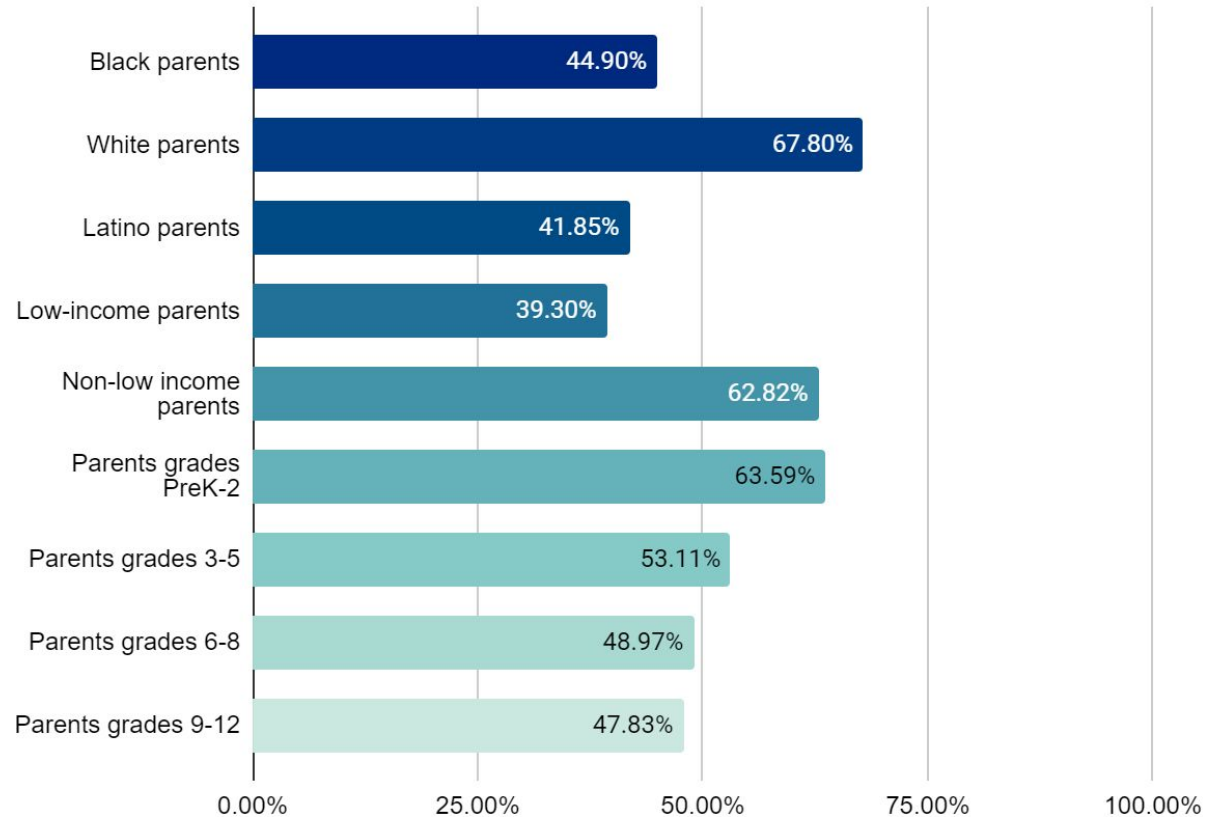
How has distance learning worked for your child this fall?



Parents are also divided around sending their children back to school in the spring.

And these divides have **clear skews:**

If schools reopen next semester with smaller classes and strict safety measures, will you send your children back? – ANSWERED YES:



In this document, all Black, White, and Latino numbers INCLUDE biracial respondents who selected Two or More Races and identified themselves with one or more of those groups.

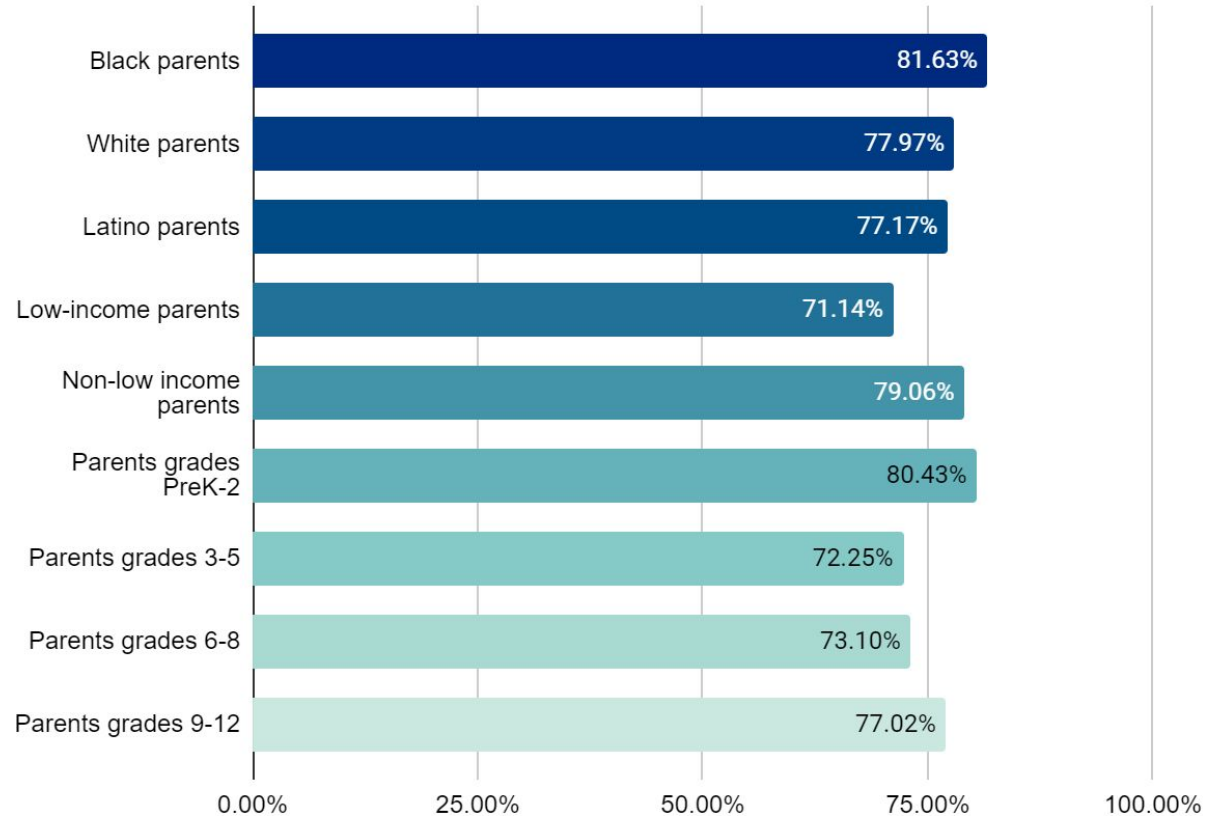
These divides are a sign that there is **no single experience** common to all parents:

- Parents of students in **grades PreK-2** were on average **4 times more likely** to want **100% in-person learning** instead of 100% distance learning.
 - ↳ Parents of older students tended more towards distance learning.
- **Black and Latino parents** were **twice as likely** to want **100% distance learning** when compared to White parents.
- **White parents** were **three times more likely** to **send their children back in person this spring** when compared to Black and Latino parents.
- **Non-low income parents** were **2.5 times more likely** to **send their children back in person this spring** when compared to low-income parents.

However, parents believe strongly that **all kids deserve a safe in-person option.**

And there is a **consensus across demographics:**

Regardless of whether you are ready to send your children back to school on campus, do you think that option should be available for all families? – ANSWERED YES:



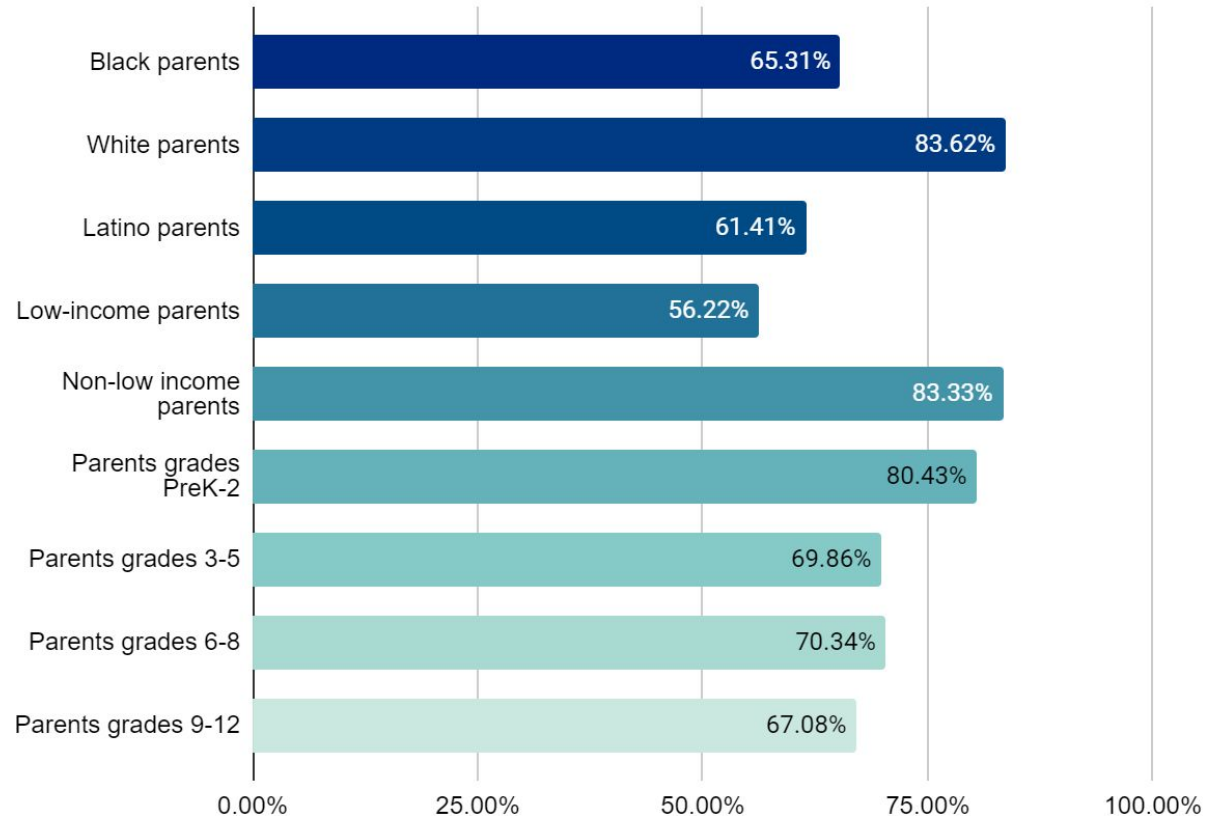
The majority of parents in every subgroup also agrees that high-needs kids deserve an in-person option when it is safe.

Parents of students in grades PreK-2 were slightly more likely than parents of older students to want schools to reopen for high-needs students.

Non-Low Income parents were 4 times more likely than Low-Income parents to want schools to reopen for high-needs students.

White parents were 3 times more likely than Black and Latino parents to want schools to reopen for high-needs students.

The LA County Dept. of Public Health has said it is safe for schools to open for 25% of high-needs students. Should LAUSD allow that option? – ANSWERED YES:



Many parents feel **frustrated** as they see **kids being left behind:**

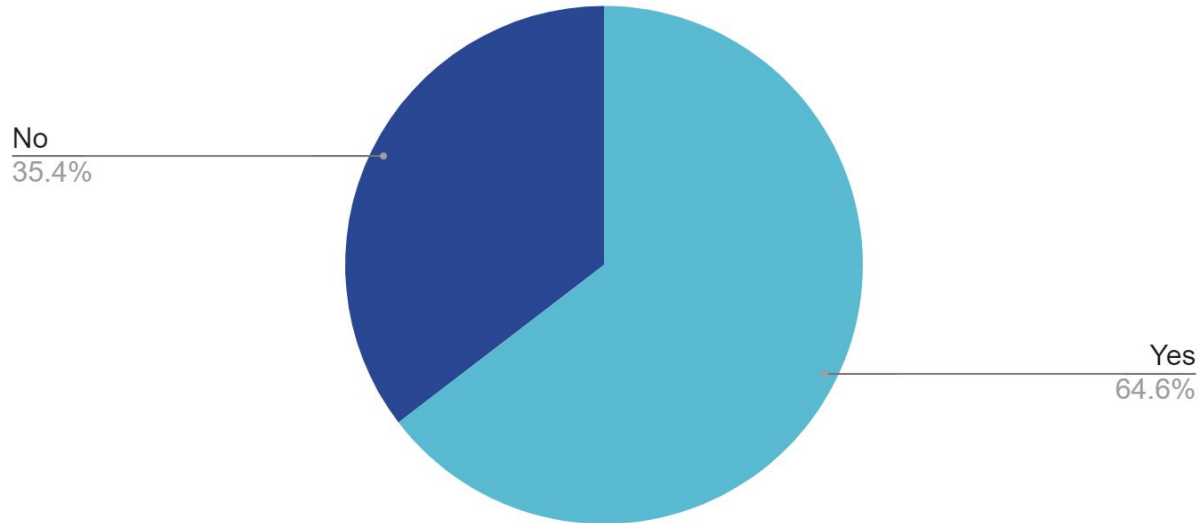
- “Should have been reading by now — and would have been if in a classroom. Teacher admits that she can only get a fraction of teaching and children are only getting a fraction of learning compared to being together in a classroom.”
- “I think that distance learning can be done right. Unfortunately, we are only focusing on trying to mimic what a normal day of in person is like instead of taking this opportunity to be innovative ... I also understand that there are some kids who really need in-person learning. We should prioritize vulnerable groups of kids and let them return first.”
- “Since classes meet for shorter times, it is difficult for the AP courses to cover the necessary content, and teachers’ hands seem to be tied by restrictions on their work hours.”
- “I would like LAUSD and the Teacher’s Union to come up with creative solutions for learning that can be implemented ASAP. It is unacceptable to say things like schools can’t reopen until all classrooms can be cleaned every day. What about outdoor options? Also, I don’t want an all or nothing approach (i.e. all schools open or no schools open).”

So how do we get to a safe
reopening strategy?

There is **majority support** for keeping **non-essential businesses closed** so schools can reopen.



Some countries are opening schools while shutting down non-essential businesses, such as bars and tattoo parlors, in order to bring down COVID rates. Do you think LA County should do the same?



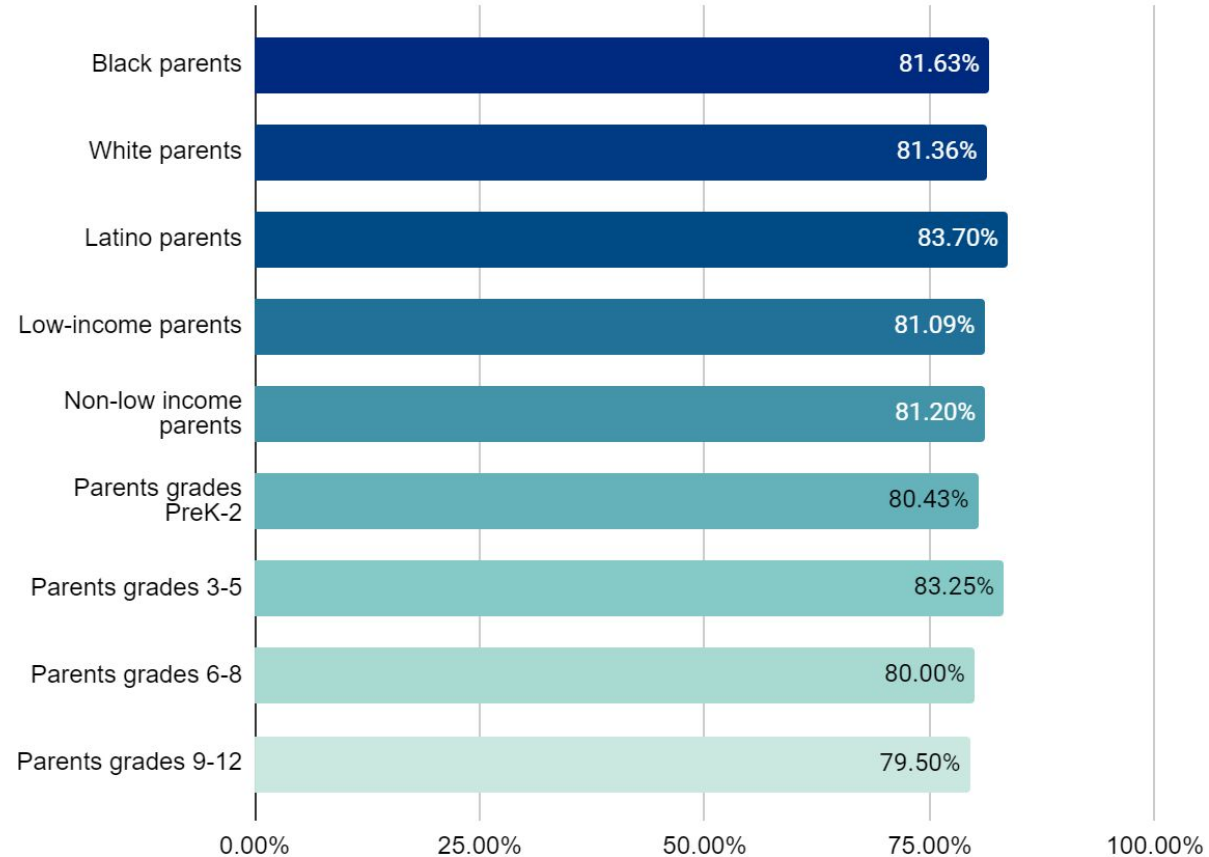
Non-Low Income parents were slightly more likely than Low-Income parents to believe schools should reopen before non-essential businesses.
White parents were twice as likely as Black parents to believe schools should reopen before non-essential businesses.

And the current reopening process has **frustrated some parents:**

- “It is frustrating to see private schools operating. The public school kids meanwhile just keep falling further behind. Just heard on the radio today that parts of Downtown Disney are open. I guess this is more important than kids' educations.”
- “Personally, I find it most upsetting that private schools are able to open while public schools are not. I want as many children as possible to be back at school, but the current situation will only continue to widen the gap between the privileged and the under-resourced. Additionally, the decision to prioritize the reopening of bars and restaurants over schools leaves me overwhelmingly disappointed in our state's values. I wrote a letter to Newsom expressing how disheartened I am by his decisions. We must do better.”
- “If businesses couldn't reopen until the schools could be reopened then everyone would be fighting for schools to open safely.”

About 80% of all parents want to see safety measures, such as masks, distancing, universal testing, and upgraded ventilation systems...

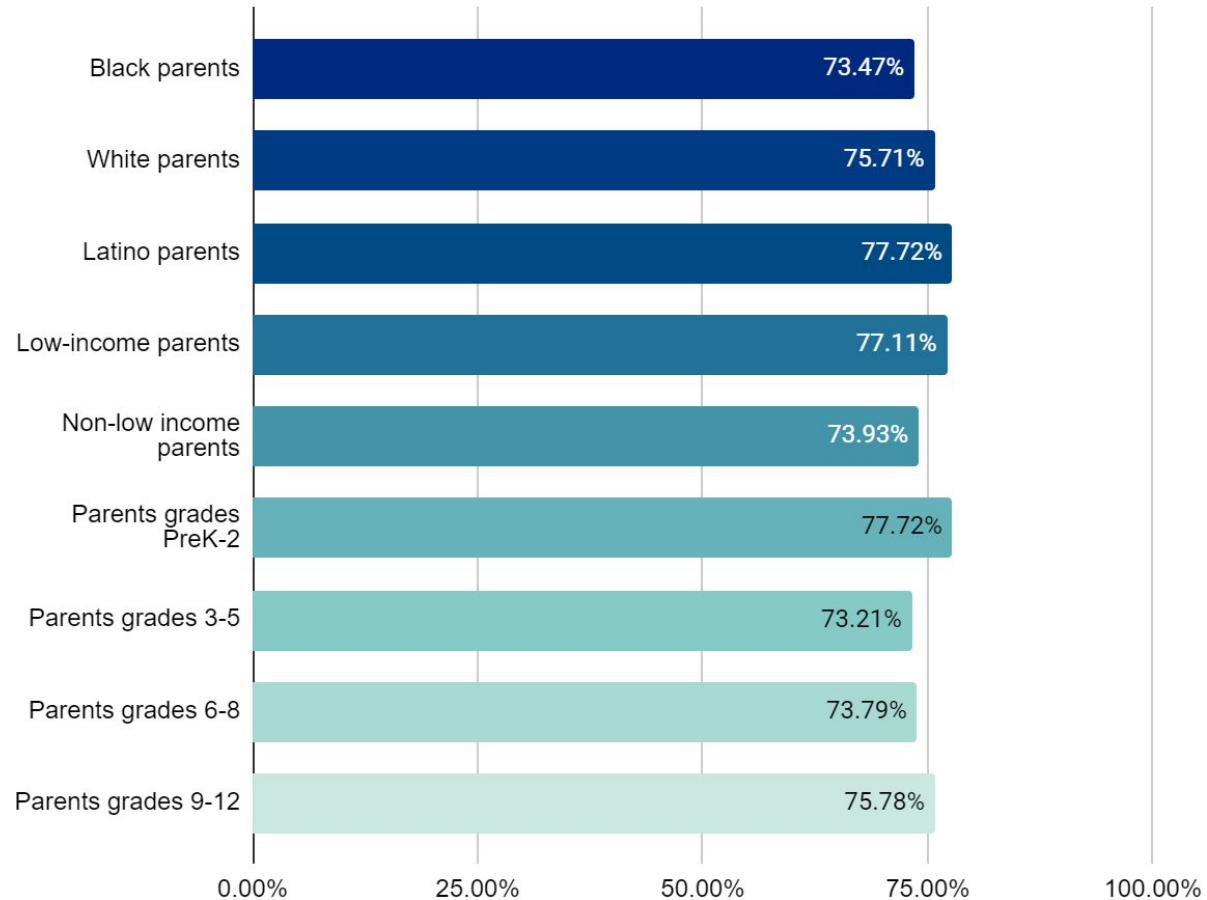
Parents who wanted Safety Measures (testing, contact tracing, masks, ventilation, sanitization, etc.):



In response to the question, "What do you feel needs to be in place before your kid(s) return to school in person? (Select all that apply)". This was one of five options + a write-in "Other".

And **over 70%** of all parents want to see smaller cohorts.

Parents who wanted Change in Class Size/Configuration:



In response to the question, "What do you feel needs to be in place before your kid(s) return to school in person? (Select all that apply)". This was one of five options + a write-in "Other".



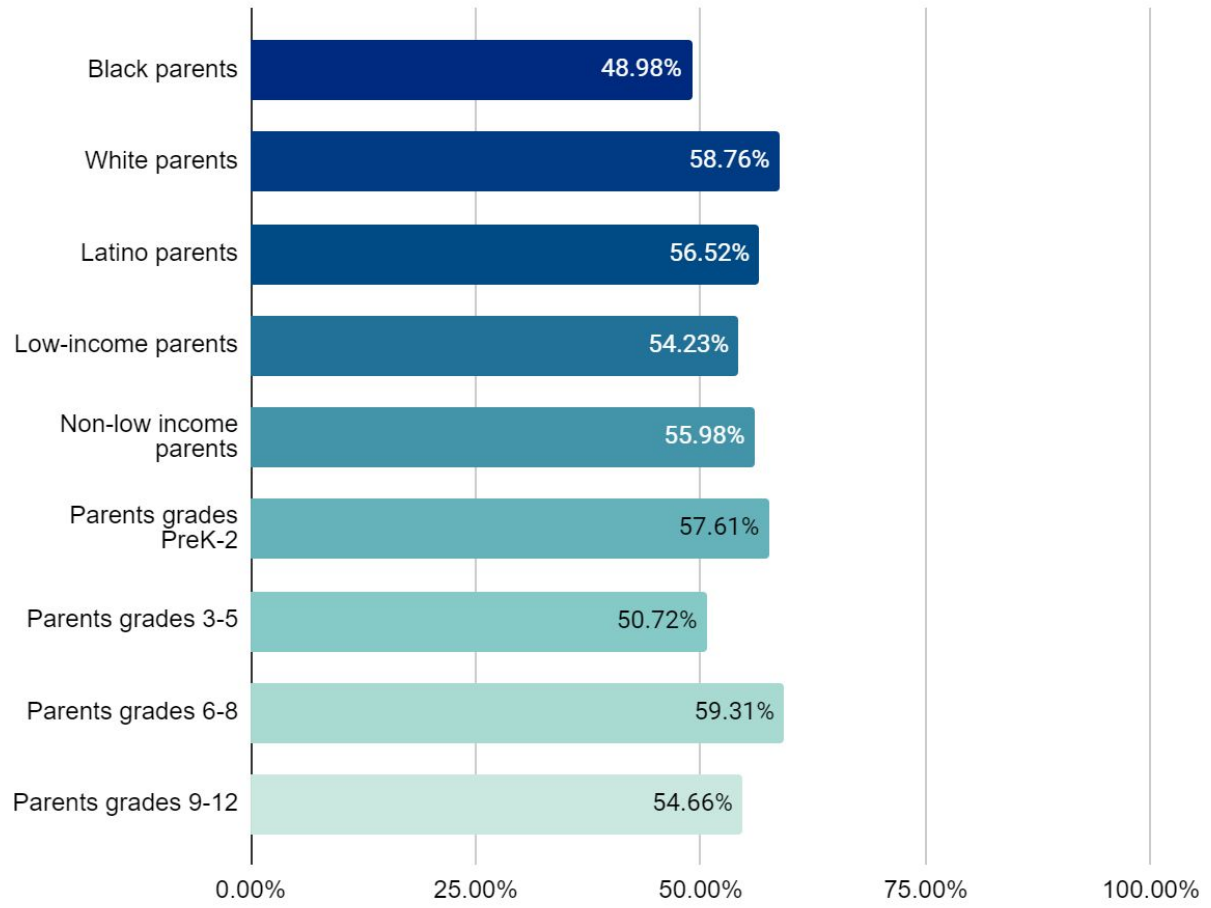
Over half of parents said they would feel safer sending kids back in person with outdoor classrooms.

With teachers in Maine holding outdoor classes throughout the winter, there is no reason we cannot prioritize outdoor learning in Southern California.



In response to the question, "What do you feel needs to be in place before your kid(s) return to school in person? (Select all that apply)". This was one of five options + a write-in "Other".

Parents who wanted Outdoor Learning:



The kids' needs have come last during this pandemic. **Parents need kids to come first.**

1. **Prioritize safely reopening schools after the surge and keeping them open ahead of non-essential businesses.** As monitoring children's learning interferes with the majority of parents' ability to work, safely reopening schools must be our community's top priority.
2. **Explore every option for safe reopening plans to the maximum extent allowed by the Health Department** (25% of high needs kids currently) with masks, distancing, upgraded ventilation systems, and COVID testing.
3. **Explore outdoor learning options** to the maximum extent feasible so that we can reopen safely sooner.
4. **Prioritize giving teachers and school staff access to the vaccine** in Phase 2.

The kids' needs have come last during this pandemic. **Parents need kids to come first.**

5. **Offer universal after-school tutoring and summer school** to address learning loss. Our successful iFamily program can serve as a model.
6. **Address the systemic racism** that has led to the disparities our survey uncovered.
7. **Address the student mental health crisis.**
8. **Innovate, expand, and improve online instruction** for families who choose 100% distance learning or hybrid options.