

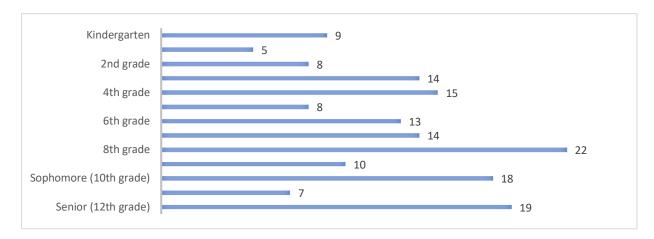
The Advocate Fall 2020

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NCHPAD Surveys Parental Needs

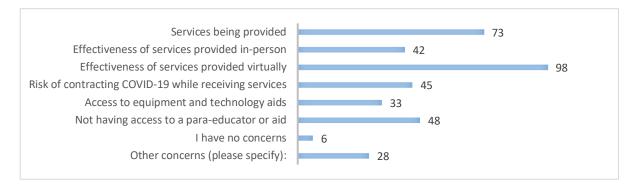
The National Center on Health, Physical Activity, and Disability conducted a survey to gather information about the needs of parents of students with disabilities during the current COVID-19 health situation. Findings from the national online survey data the needs and concerns of parents of students with disabilities who receive services through schools. Over a five-week period, 129 parents responded to the survey representing 162 students. All survey questions were self-report.

Respondents of this survey represented 162 students ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade. The number of students in each grade is shown in below.



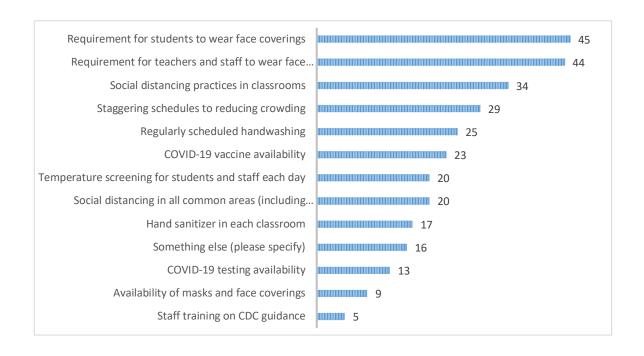
Of 129 responses, 122 parents reported that their child is served through and IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan. When asked about their concerns regarding continuation of services, the most reported concern was the effectiveness of the services provided virtually followed by concerns about services being provided.





At the time of the survey, 69% of respondents indicated that their child had already returned to school for the 2020-21 school year. Most students were attending school either through virtual education only or through a mix of in person classes and virtual education.

Parents were asked to select their top 3 priorities regarding health and safety practices for in-person classes. Requirements for students, teachers, and staff to wear face coverings was identified as the highest priorities. Other priorities can be seen in the graph below.





Parents were asked a series of questions regarding their comfort levels, concerns, and supports for the 2020-21 school year. All responses were based on a scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree.

- 54% agreed (somewhat agree or strongly agreed) that they were comfortable with their child returning to school. 26% strongly disagreed with this statement.
- 70% agreed (somewhat agree or strongly agreed) that they were worried about their child being exposed to the virus while attending school in person
- 42% agreed (somewhat agree or strongly agreed) that they would prefer remote or virtual learning in the fall. 48% disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement.
- 32% agreed (somewhat agree or strongly agreed) that they do not want their children returning to school until there is a vaccine available. 54% disagreed (somewhat or strongly disagree) with this statement.
- 31% agreed (somewhat agree or strongly agreed) that they will have to send their child to school regardless of their worries because of work or childcare needs. 50% disagreed (somewhat or strongly disagree) with this statement.
- 35% agreed (somewhat agree or strongly agreed) that they have the supports they need to continue remote or virtual learning if the schools remain closed. 46% disagreed with this statement (either somewhat or strongly disagree)
- 82% agreed (somewhat agree or strongly agreed) agreed that they have the supports they need to ensure safe transportation to school.
- 60% agreed (somewhat agree or strongly agreed) think the school staff has the proper training and skill needed to work with their children and other students with disabilities.