Saratoga Union School District

# Distance Learning Survey Results

## October 15, 2020

# Parent Distance Learning Surveys

**2 separate parent survey links sent via ParentSquare on Thursday, October 1.**

- 1 survey for TK-5
- 1 survey for 6-8
- questions differed slightly on the 2 surveys

Reminder sent as part of Superintendents Update message October 2.

Survey closed end of day Sunday, October 5.

Responses are anonymous.

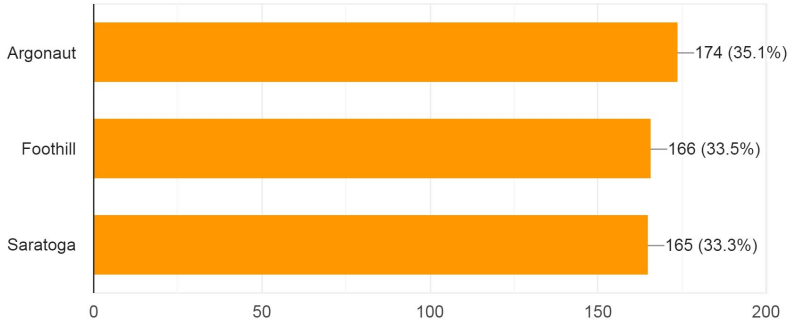
Response rate:

- TK-5: 494 / 705 families (approximately 70% participation)
- 6-8: 398 / 652 families (approximately 61% participation)

# TK-5 Distance Learning Survey Results

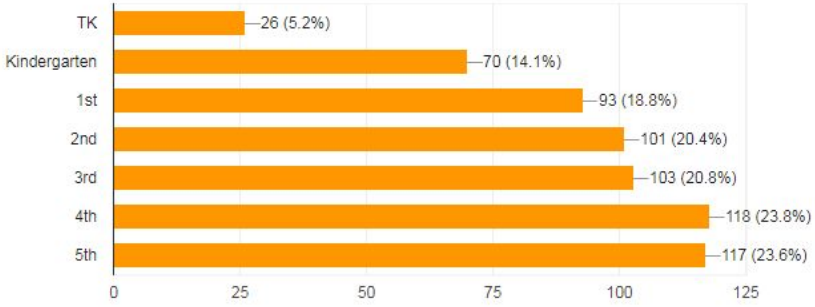
What school does your child attend?

496 responses




What grade level is/are your student(s)?

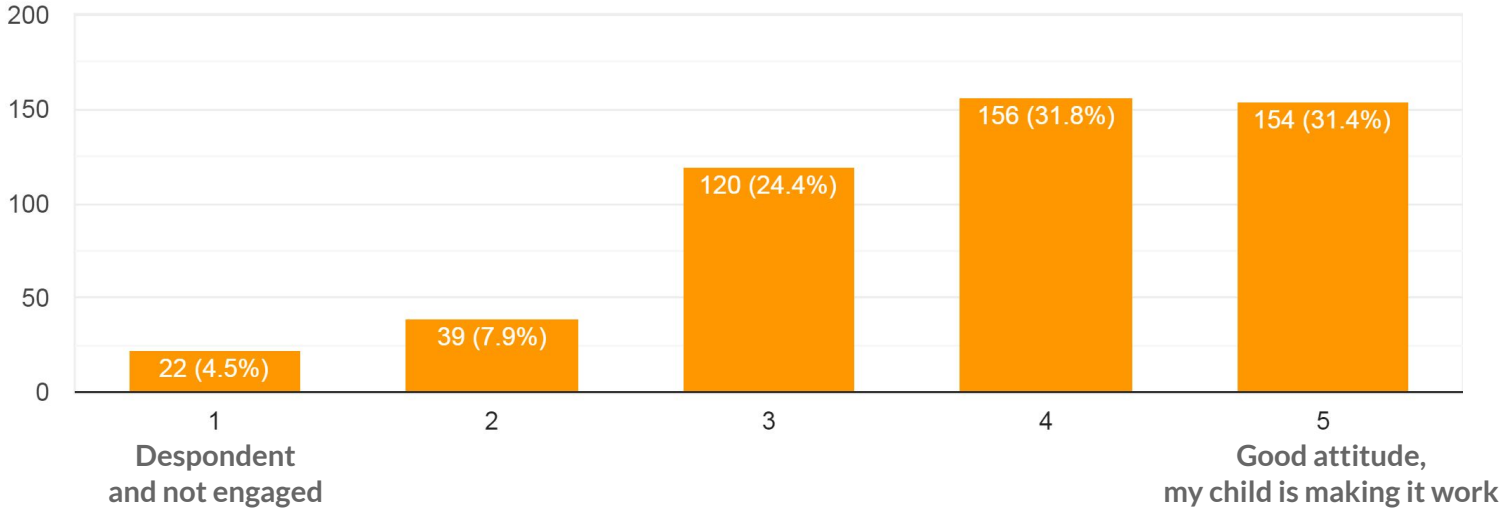
496 responses



# TK-5 DL Survey: Attitude

On a scale of 1 to 5, what is your child's attitude towards distance learning?

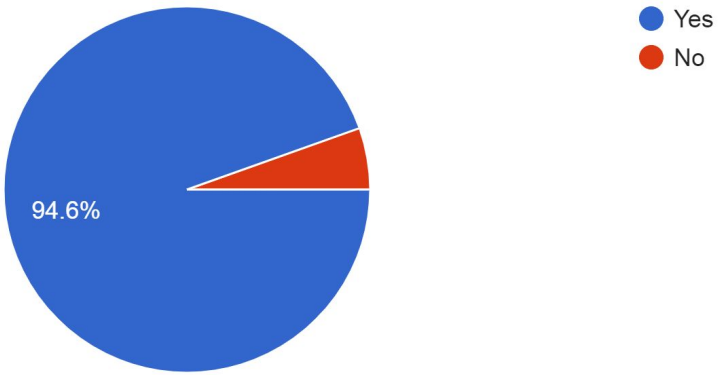
491 responses



# TK-5 DL Survey: Quiet Place

Does your student have a quiet place to sit during class time?

496 responses




If not, why? (edited for brevity or to remove identifying information)

*We have kids, our house is never quiet.*

*There are several children and adults all trying to work online. It is impossible.*

*I have to take my child to work with me.*

*New baby and toddler in the house.*

*We are both essential workers so our child goes to a learning center. Though the learning center tries their best, there are other children there so it's not a quiet place.*

*Lots of street noise from construction, and leaf blowers.*

*My child is easily distracted.*

# TK-5 DL Survey: SEF Classes

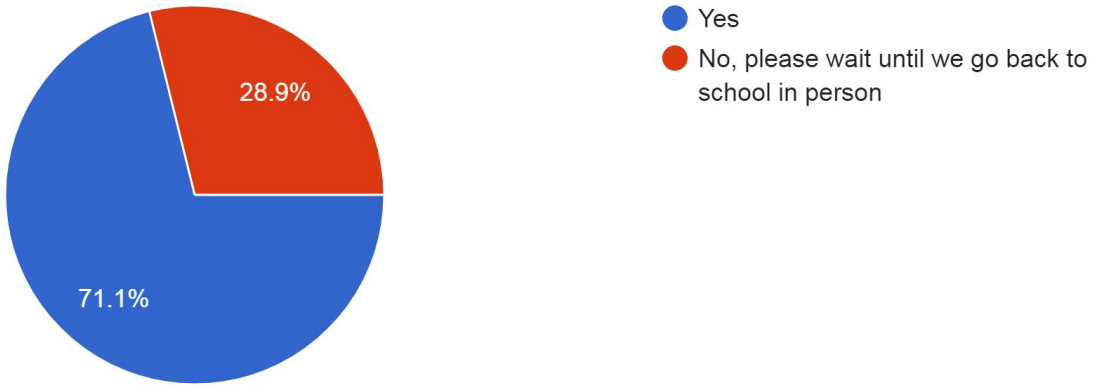
Do you find the SEF offerings during the afternoon beneficial to your child?  These include Rhythm & Moves PE and music.

483 responses

# TK-5 DL Survey: SEF Art Addition

Would you like to see Art class added to the distance learning school day?  Art would be provided through  Community School of Music & Arts (CSMA) and would include 20-30 minutes of synchronous instruction along with a PDF that could be accessed afterward.

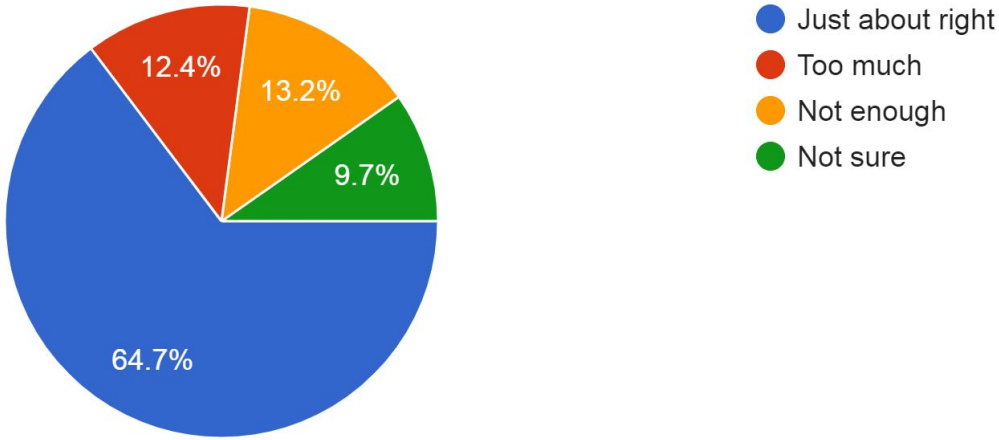
492 responses



# TK-5 DL Survey: Amount of Schoolwork

Is the amount of schoolwork appropriate for your elementary school student?

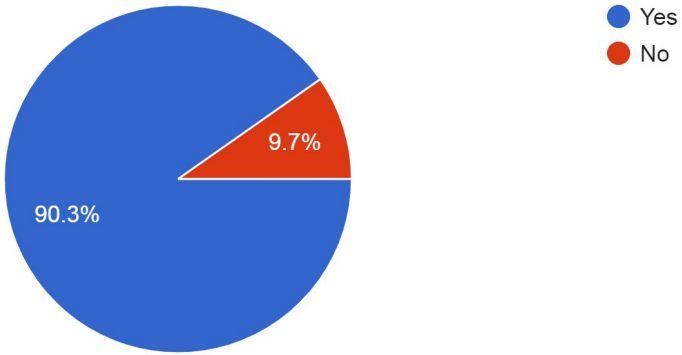
493 responses



# TK-5 DL Survey: Materials Drop Off

Is the materials drop-off/pick-up working for you?

493 responses




## If not, why? (edited for brevity and themes)

*Hard to take time off work. Hard for working parents.*

*Too many people driving through at same time*

*Air quality*

*1/x per month would be better. Reduce frequency.*

*Please leave materials out for us to pick up on our own time.*

*Can't we do email or online, print at home? Submit homework online?*

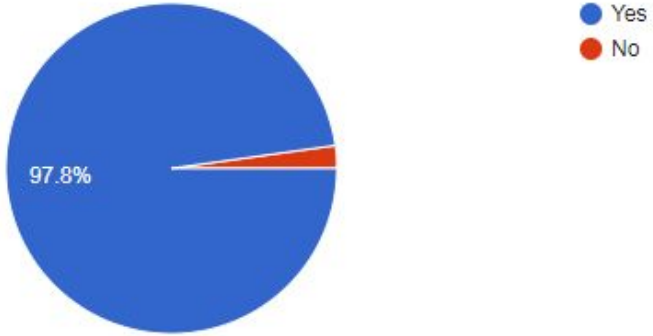
*Pick up happens when my child is still in class*

*Not seeing the value some weeks.*

# TK-5 DL Survey: Google Classroom & SeeSaw

Is your child able to access the assignments they have to complete through Google Classroom or SeeSaw?

496 responses




If not, why? (edited for brevity)

*My child needs parent support to navigate.*

*Too many teachers and assignments on separate accounts. It's too complicated for a 3rd grader.*

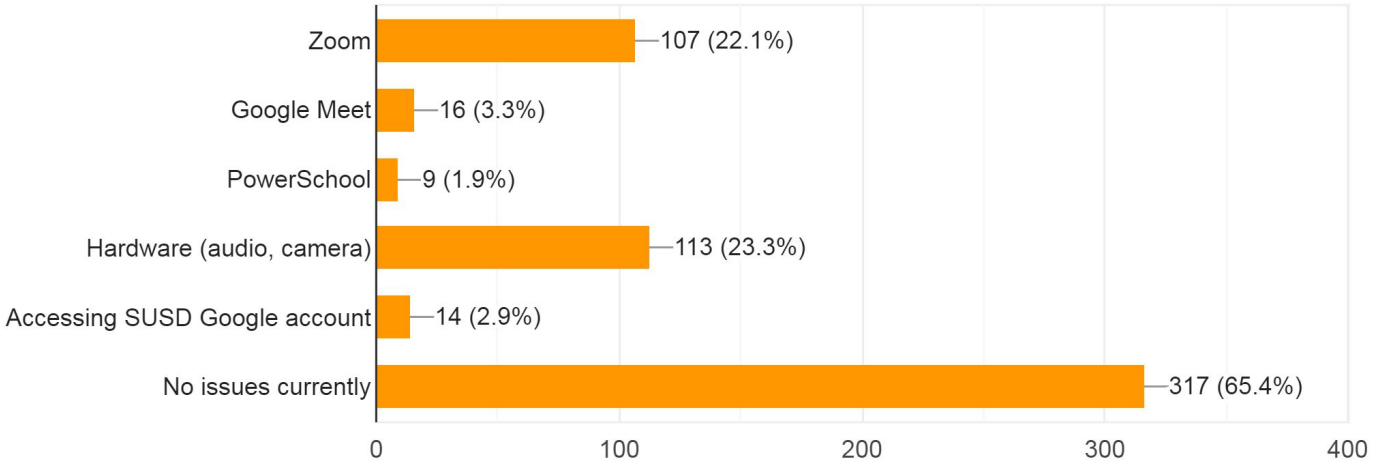
*Connection glitches.*

*My younger student needs help. My older student is fine.*

# TK-5 DL Survey: Technical Issues

Has your student experienced significant technical issues with the following tools? Check all that apply.

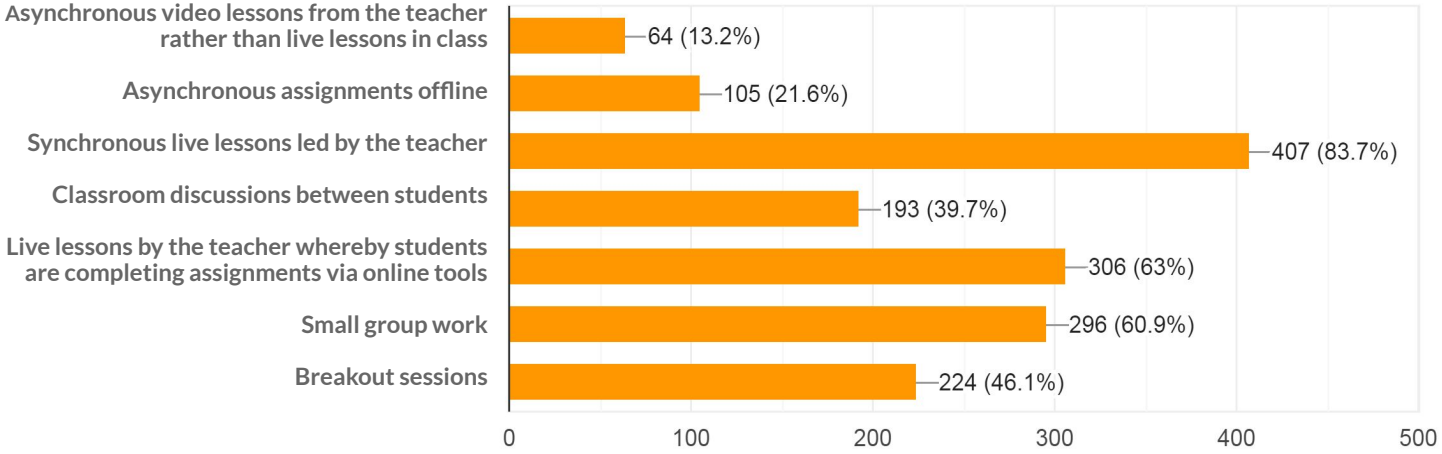
485 responses



# TK-5 DL Survey: Teaching Techniques, What's Working?

What distance learning teaching techniques does your student find to be most effective in terms of learning? Check all that apply.

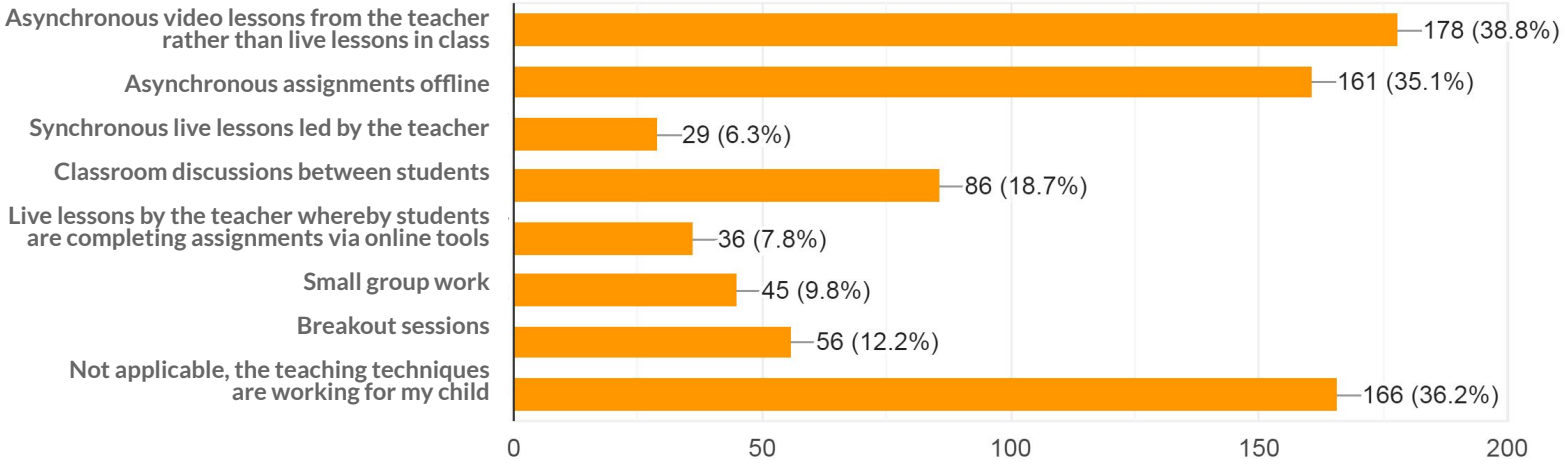
486 responses



# TK-5 DL Survey: Teaching Techniques, What's Not Working?

What teaching techniques do NOT work for your child? Check all that apply.

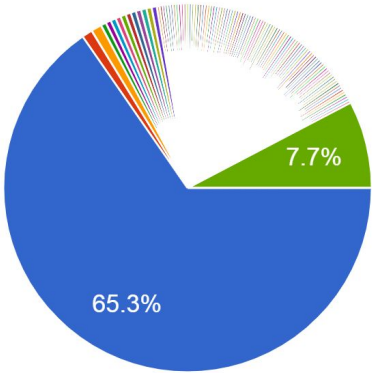
459 responses



# TK-5 DL Survey: Additional Supports

What additional supports or materials are needed

430 responses




None

“Other” or filled in responses
Themes:

*Need to be back in person*

*Better chromebooks, or MacBooks*

*More 1:1 time or check ins*

*My child is struggling*

*English and grammar support, math*

*Socializing with other kids*

*Homework help*

*Reading lists, hard copy worksheets*

*Art and other fun activities*

*More exercise and movement*

# TK-5 DL Survey: Open Responses

What is the most effective thing you have seen or heard about in your child's class?

| Themes | Quotes |
|---|---|
| *Live lessons followed by break out, small groups, or asynchronous lessons* | *"I'm really impressed by the high level of organization the teacher"* |
| *Teacher check ins and office hours* | *"I am very impressed by my child's improvement in writing and her reading ability. She has improved on her spelling. Our teacher provides word bank and some strategies to encourage them to read and write. "* |
| *Friday swaps, see the teacher and get feedback* | *"Live lessons are just fantastic. I can understand how much effort it takes for a teacher to control so many kids."* |
| *Small group time with the teacher* | *"The teachers are extremely engaged and putting in a lot of effort."* |
| *Online social interactions with classmates* | *"The amount of online tools have been very helpful and makes learning fun."* |
| *Flexibility by the teacher is appreciated* | *"Children getting into small groups for discussion, helps them socially, hoping they can go back to school soon. Kids miss the school structure."* |
| *Active classroom discussions* | |
| *Reading and stories* | |
| *Blend of live and asynchronous instruction* | |

# TK-5 DL Survey: Open Responses

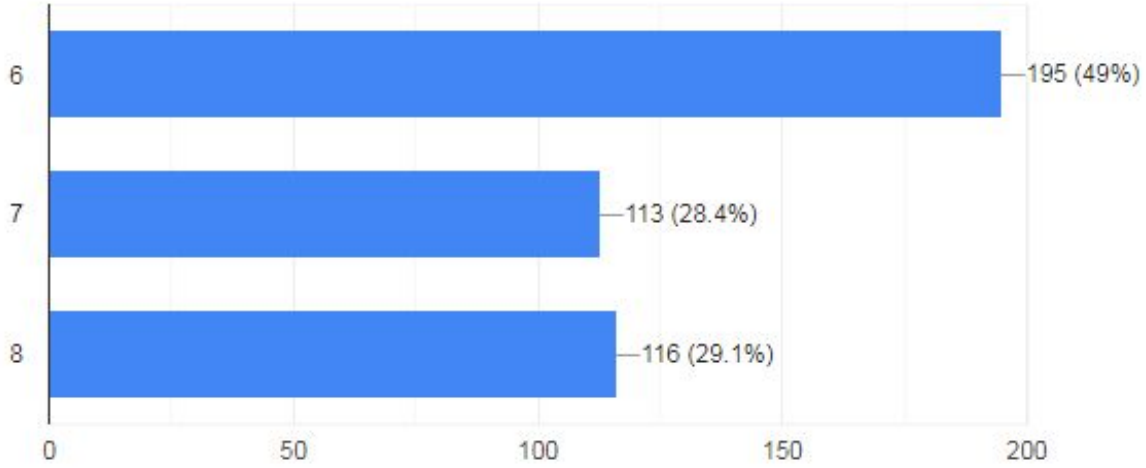
Provide an example of a learning activity or lesson that your child has enjoyed this year.

| Themes | Quotes |
| --- | --- |
| *Science experiments. Hands on learning.*<br>*Fun Fridays*<br>*Math sessions and discussion*<br>*Art and drawing activities*<br>*Project Cornerstone activities*<br>*Live story time*<br>*Movement and breathing mindfulness breaks*<br>*Music, PE, Art*<br>*Writing and Math* | *"2nd Grader: My child loves homework connections, writer's workshop, and sharing stories on Seesaw… Kinder: Loves learning the letter sounds through song, small group reading, science lessons.... Both kids really look forward to music and PE each week… All the teachers are doing an amazing job! "*<br><br>*"PE: fun and brilliant idea to drive kids to pay attention to the class and enjoy. It provide the fresh air to kids. Love it."*<br><br>*"My daughter loves projects.....making brochures, vision boards, google slides, videos...."*<br><br>*"My children really enjoy using different materials with their hands - ten frame blocks, a deck of cards for math games, play-doh, water color paints, crayons and markers."* |

# Redwood 6-8 Distance Learning Survey Results

What grade level is/are your student(s)?

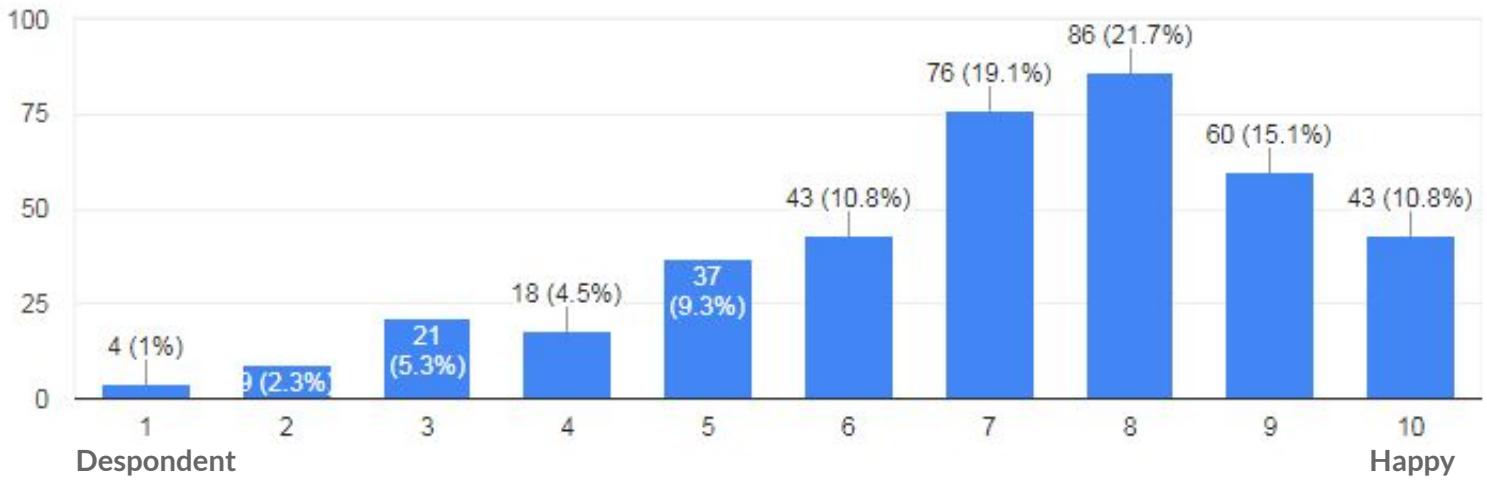
398 responses



# 6-8 DL Survey: How Are Students Doing Emotionally?

On a scale of 1 to 10 how is your student(s) doing emotionally?

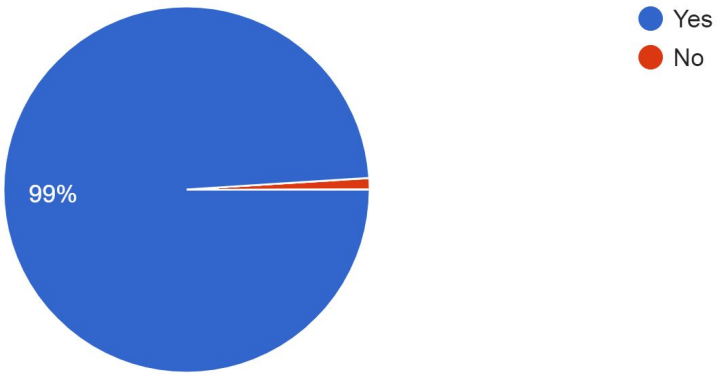
397 responses



# 6-8 DL Survey: Quiet Place

Does your student have a quiet place to sit during class time?

398 responses




If not, why? (edited for brevity or to remove identifying information)

*Many people, few rooms. My child is stationed in a closet to have some quiet.*

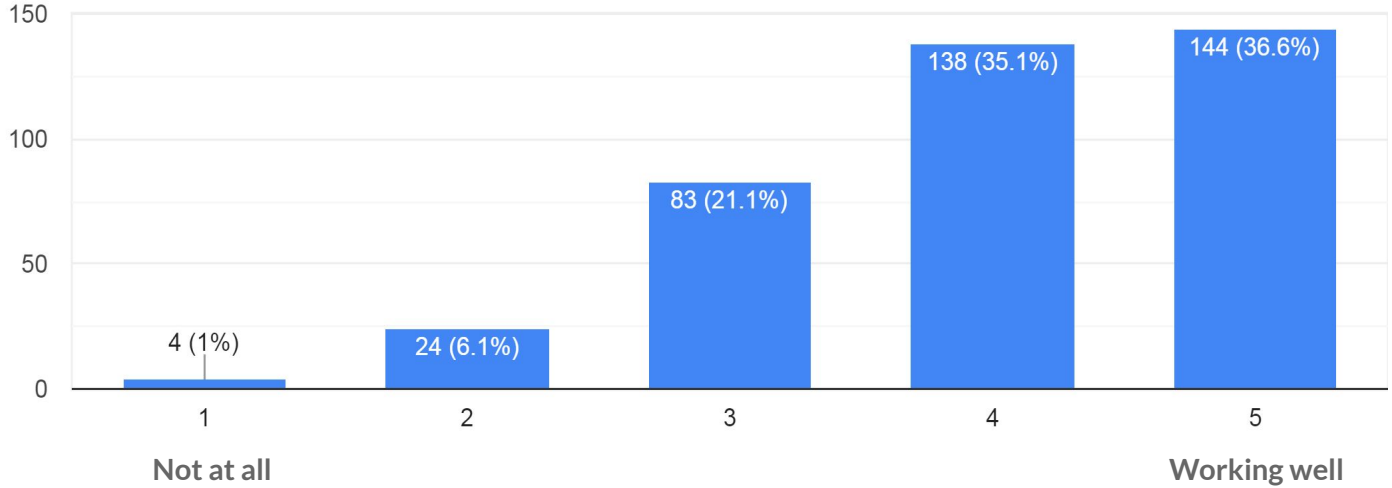
*6 of us in a house trying to work or do online learning.*

*Internet connection only work in common rooms of the house so family members are passing by during class.*

# 6-8 DL Survey: School Schedule

How is the school schedule working for your student?

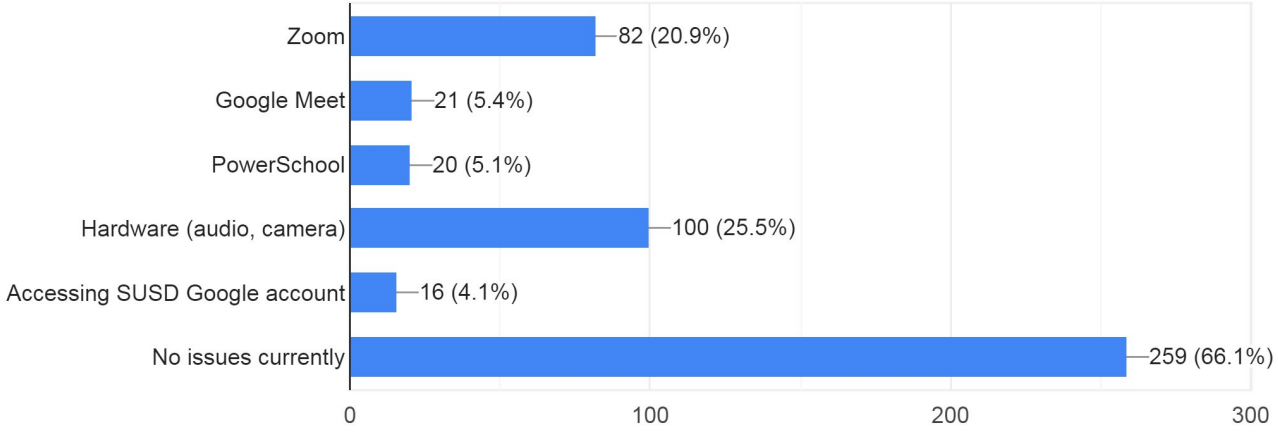
393 responses



# 6-8 DL Survey: Technical Issues

Has your student experienced significant technical issues with the following tools? Check all that apply.

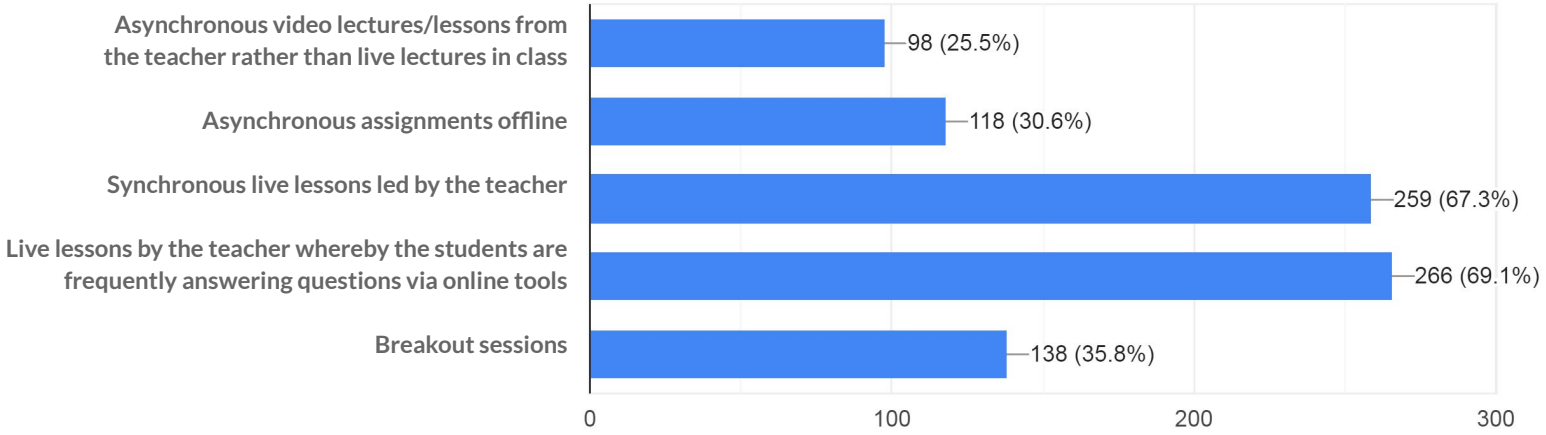
392 responses



# 6-8 DL Survey: Effective Teaching Techniques

What distance learning teaching techniques does your student find to be most effective in terms of learning? Check all that apply.

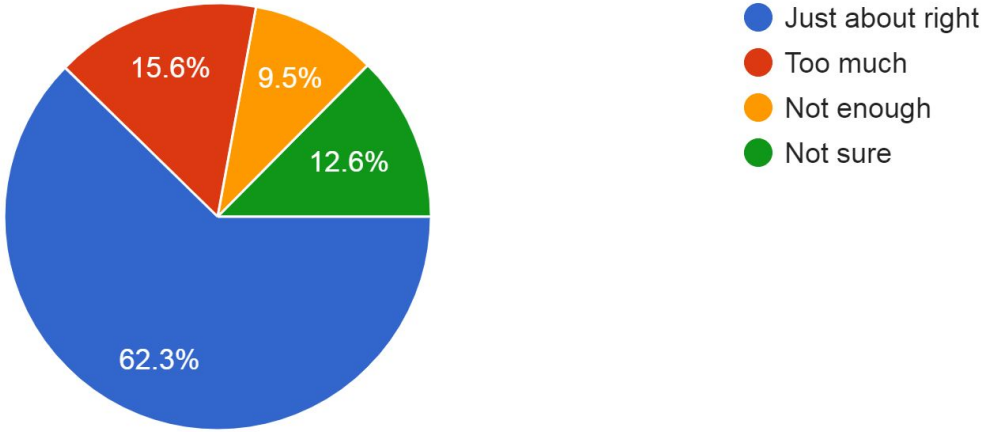
385 responses



# 6-8 DL Survey: Amount of Schoolwork

Is the amount of work appropriate for your middle school student?

398 responses



# 6-8 DL Survey: Open Response

Explain any answers you would like to elaborate on from above or anything you would like to share?

| Themes | Quotes |
|---|---|
| *Kids need to back in school! When will we reopen?*<br><br>*Distance learning is better than spring and working well.*<br>*Distance learning is not working, please reopen school.*<br><br>*More flexibility needed with deadlines.*<br><br>*Too many tools to check. Need centralized place for assignments.*<br><br>*Need better chromebooks or upgrade to Macbooks. Chromebooks are slow, freeze, and sound doesn't always work.*<br><br>*More small group instruction needed.*<br><br>*Breakout sessions effectiveness varies. Some groups engaged, others are not.*<br><br>*School day is too short.*<br>*School day is too long.* | *"The scheduled social time where kids were allowed to chat in breakout rooms were appreciated to build friendships."*<br><br>*"We have a dedicated and hardworking student who consistently does well in school. Distance learning is hard. Being online for most of the day is exhausting. These are not normal circumstances. Please consider this when assigning excess homework. "*<br><br>*"So much better than the spring… we feel supported by the school."*<br><br>*"My son doesn't mind distance learning but he misses the physical friendship and social aspect of his friends onsite at school."*<br><br>*"We appreciate very much the efforts of SUSD and all the teachers in doing your best for our kids in these challenging times."*<br><br>*"There needs to be a significant increase in small group instruction to check in and guide student learning...There needs to be a healthy balance between whole group and small group instruction to support varying levels of understanding."* |

# Teacher Distance Learning Survey

Survey links sent via ParentSquare on Thursday, October 1.  Survey closed end of day Sunday, October 5.

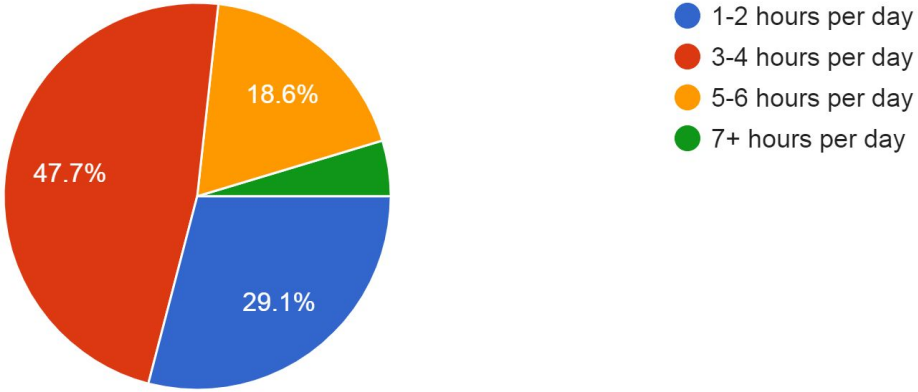
Survey was anonymous.

Responses: 86 / 112 certificated teachers (76%)

# Teacher DL Survey: Weekday Hours

How many WEEKDAY hours are you spending apart from 8:30-3:30 pm daily, preparing, checking work, communicating with students/parents, etc.?

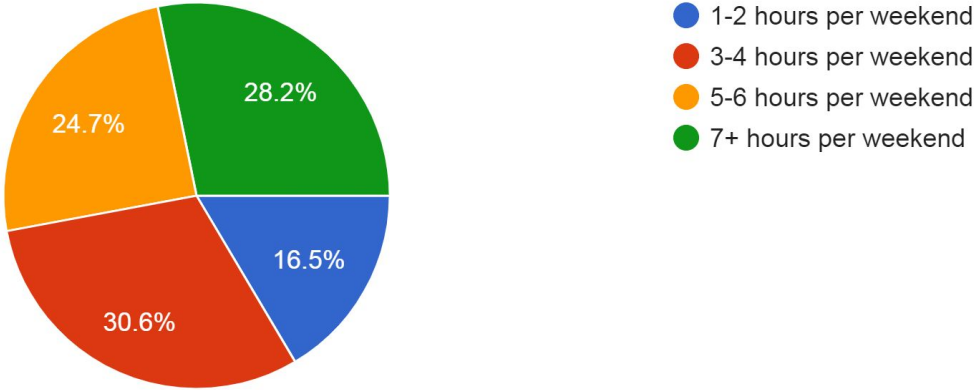
86 responses



# Teacher DL Survey: Weekend Hours

How many WEEKEND hours total are you spending preparing, checking work, communicating with students/parents, etc.?

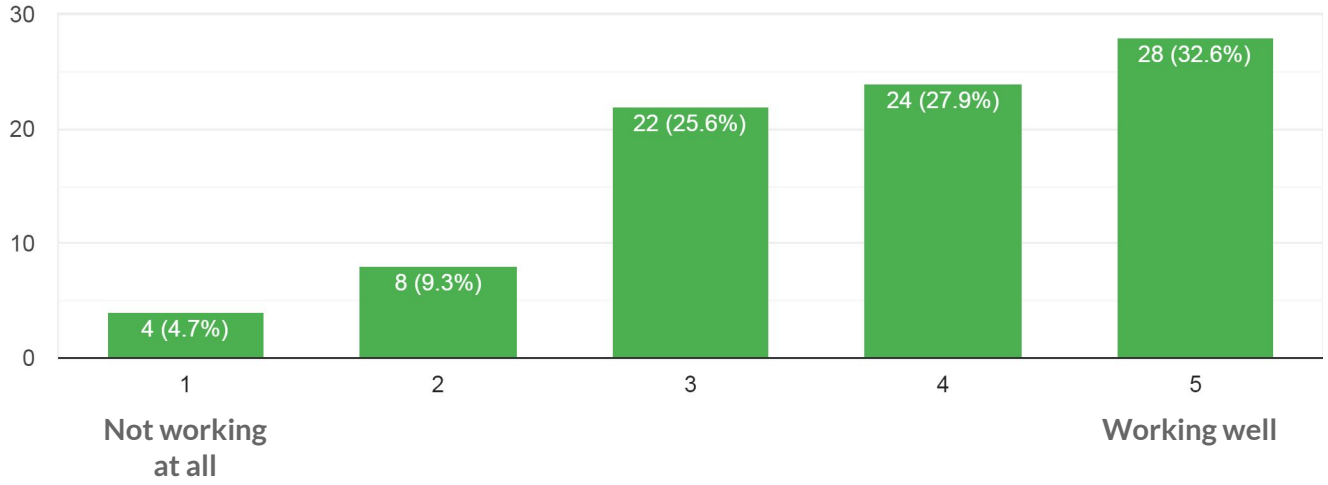
85 responses



# Teacher DL Survey: Daily Schedule

Is the daily schedule working for you and your students?

86 responses



# Teacher DL Survey: Open Response Questions

- What additional technology equipment is needed?
  - Common themes: another monitor, newer MacBooks, mouse, quality document cameras, hot spots for outages, nothing more needed, items still backordered.
  - “A time machine would be nice.”

- What training would you like?
  - Common themes: PearDeck, SEL, race and diversity, breakout rooms, engagement strategies, optimizing grading process, looking forward to Canvas training, more collaboration time or time to explore.

- Special supports during Distance Learning (OT, RSP, Speech, etc)
  - Common themes: working well, good communication, push-ins cause disruptions during live lessons, students sometimes miss out on an important part of live lessons when they suddenly leave for pull-outs.

# Teacher DL Survey: Open Response Questions

## How can the district help support you to practice adequate self-care, work-life balance?

| Themes | Quotes |
|---|---|
| *Need more time!*<br><br>*Additional time or teacher workdays. Making Wednesdays asynchronous days for prep and planning would be very helpful.*<br><br>*Aides to help prep go-home materials and grading.*<br><br>*Smaller classes.*<br><br>*More time for training and collaboration.*<br>*Less PD time, more time to do our jobs.*<br><br>*Mindfulness and self-care integrated into the instructional day.*<br><br>*Long Zoom days and Distance Learning leave little time for preparation so work flows into off time and weekends. DL preparation, redesigning lessons to something that works well online takes a lot of time.*<br><br>*Stress and worry about returning to the classroom and health safety.*<br><br>*Shorter meetings. Just need the pertinent information.*<br><br>*State mandated attendance reports are significant work/bureaucracy.* | *"I appreciate the gift of time. Time to collaborate. Time to brainstorm with coworkers. Time to problem solve tech issues, curriculum issues, behavioral issues."*<br><br>*"I don't think it is possible to have a work-life balance with Distance Learning. It is A LOT!"*<br><br>*"Honestly, I feel something has to "give" or it will be my total health that is negatively affected ..... teachers need time embedded in our day to handle the intense workload of Distance Learning. Many school districts have one day a week with no teaching. This time is used for grading and curriculum development/DL adjustments… It is not uncommon to be texting or zooming with another teacher at 11 p.m. or 6 a.m. to go over curriculum, provide tech support, etc. I feel I'd do so much better if we had the block schedule of last school year."*<br><br>*"I am not sure at this time how the district can help. Right now, I'm working a lot of hours and have no balance in my life. I'm struggling to keep up with the workload."*<br><br>*"A lot of the stress and anxiety is coming from the idea of teaching in person before I feel comfortable."* |

# Teacher DL Survey: Open Response Questions

## What is working well?

| Themes | Quotes |
|---|---|
| *The kids!*<br><br>*Support, kindness, and understanding between staff. Responsiveness and support from school offices, DO and Administrative staff.*<br><br>*Support and collaboration from colleagues at all hours.*<br><br>*Communication.*<br><br>*Team time, staff collaboration time.*<br><br>*Breakout rooms.*<br><br>*Structured and predictable schedule.*<br><br>*Flexibility with small groups, synchronous/asynchronous time. Flexibility to work in the classroom or from home.*<br><br>*DRA team helped*<br><br>*Google Classroom, Zoom, ParentSquare, Lucy Calkins* | *"My kids!!! I have so many nice kids who show up and try to do their best. I'm so appreciative of them. Also, my colleagues, support staff, admin. Everyone has been really helpful. I know we are all doing what we can to make this work."*<br><br>*"Students are working hard and doing their best, as are all of us. Communication has gotten better through this process or at least it feels that way to me. Thank you for all you are doing."*<br><br>*"Thank you for working with teachers in attempting to make distance learning as meaningful as possible and balancing that with a system that intends to make each teacher feel safe and protected in their work situations. I know that this is certainly less-than-ideal and we'll be in it for the long haul, but it is comforting to know teacher concerns and needs are heard at the district level in addition to the student ones."*<br><br>*"Zoom classes are working well. I like being able to see the kids smile and laugh in class which I would not be able to do in person because of the necessity of masks."*<br><br>*"Overall, I feel I have made connections with my students which I didn't think would be possible since we did not know each other."* |