



PARENTS' AND TEACHERS' VIEWS ON REOPENING SCHOOLS

*Key findings from nationwide surveys among U.S. parents
and teachers, conducted August/September 2020
for AFT, AROS, LULAC, NAACP*

Methodology



- Online survey among 1,001 parents of public school K-12 students across the U.S., including 228 Latino parents and 200 Black parents, conducted August 26 to September 6, 2020
 - 65% school year has started
 - 35% school year will start later
- Online survey among 816 public school teachers across the U.S., conducted August 26 to September 1, 2020
 - 63% school year has started
 - 37% school year will start later

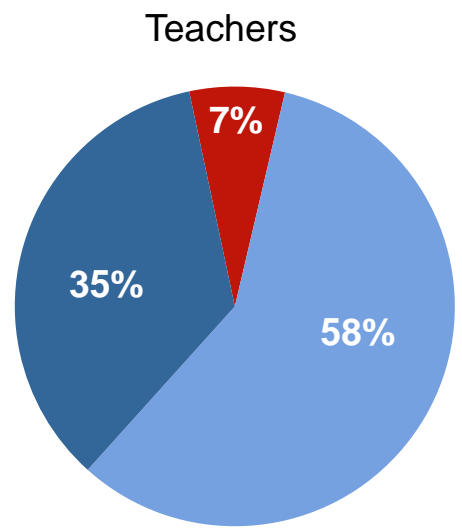
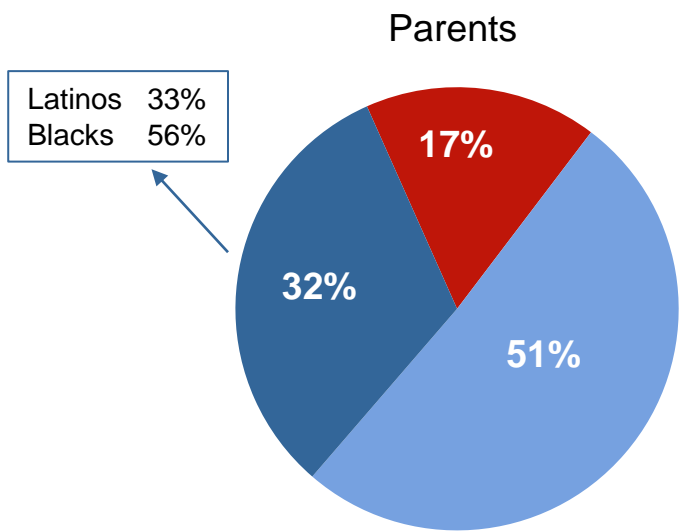


IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS ON PARENTS AND TEACHERS

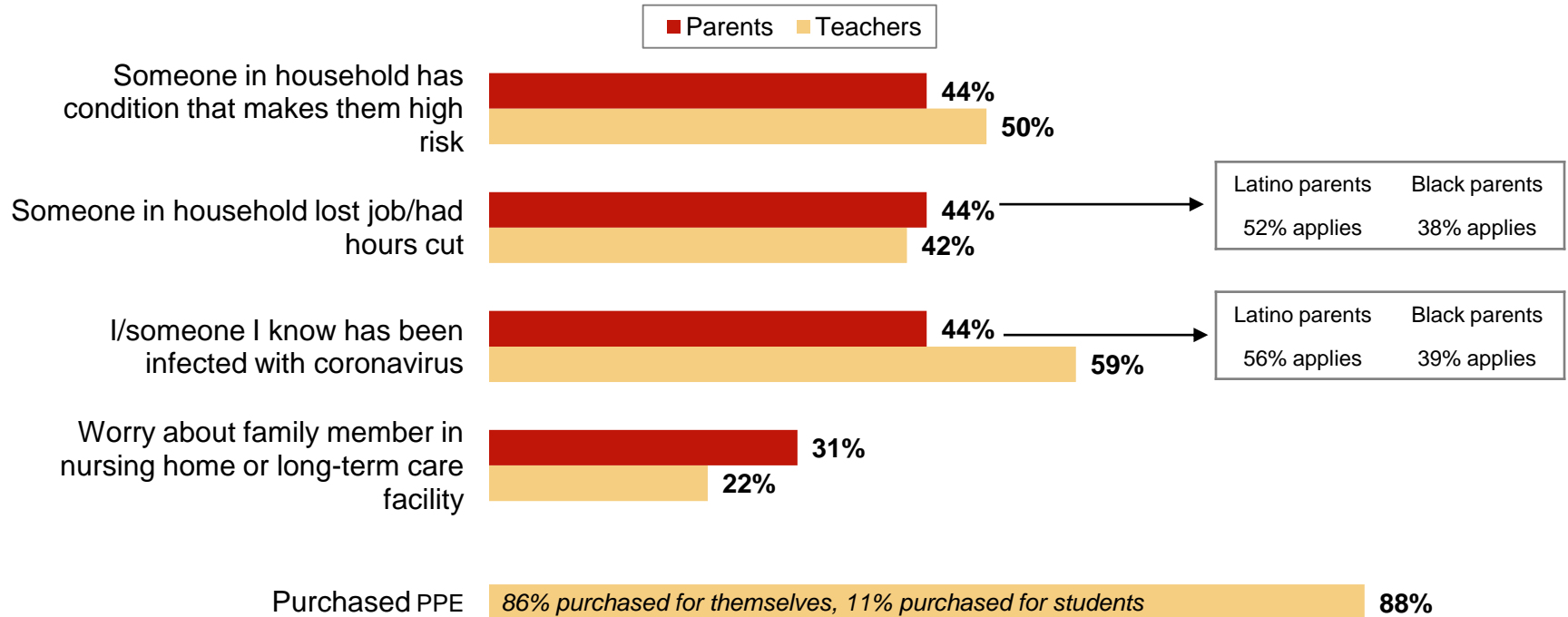
Parents and teachers think the coronavirus is still a serious problem, but most expect that the worst is behind us.

Overall Assessment of the Spread of the Coronavirus

■ Worst is behind us, no longer serious problem
 ■ Worst is behind us, still serious problem
 ■ Worst ahead of us

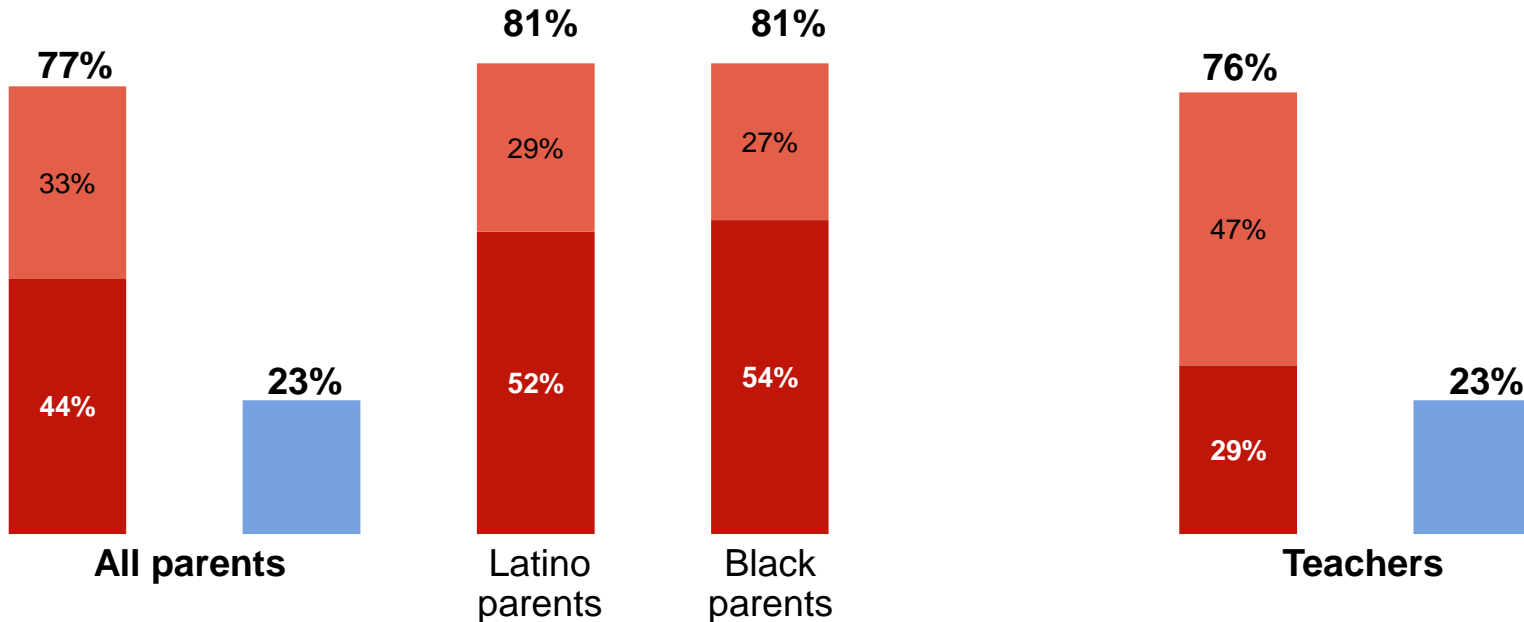


The coronavirus has impacted parents and teachers in similar ways.



Large majorities of both parents and teachers voice high levels of concern about risks of coronavirus infection.

How worried are you that your child/you might get infected with the coronavirus at school?

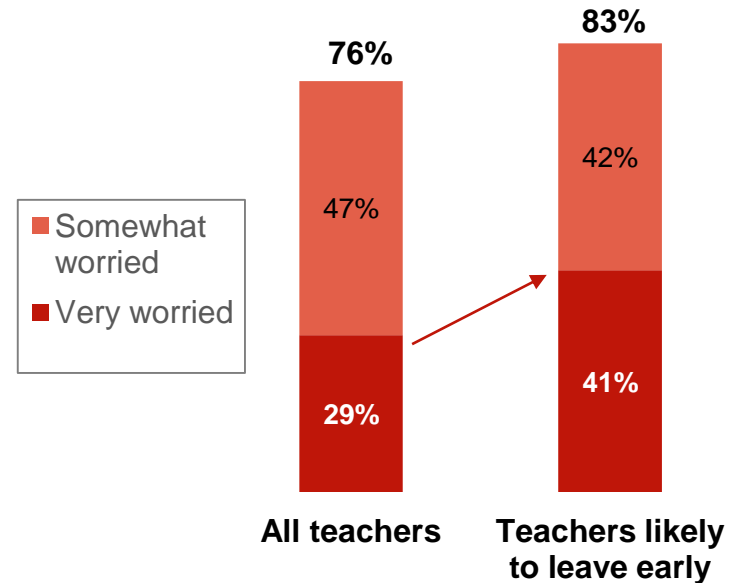


One in three teachers say the pandemic has made them more likely to leave teaching earlier than they planned.



- **33% of teachers** are more likely to leave teaching or retire early.
- Notably more likely to say they will leave/retire early:
 - Over age 50 (45% more likely)
 - Have over 20 years' tenure (44%)
 - Live in the South (42%)

- They are more intensely worried about becoming infected at work:





ATTITUDES ABOUT REOPENING SCHOOLS

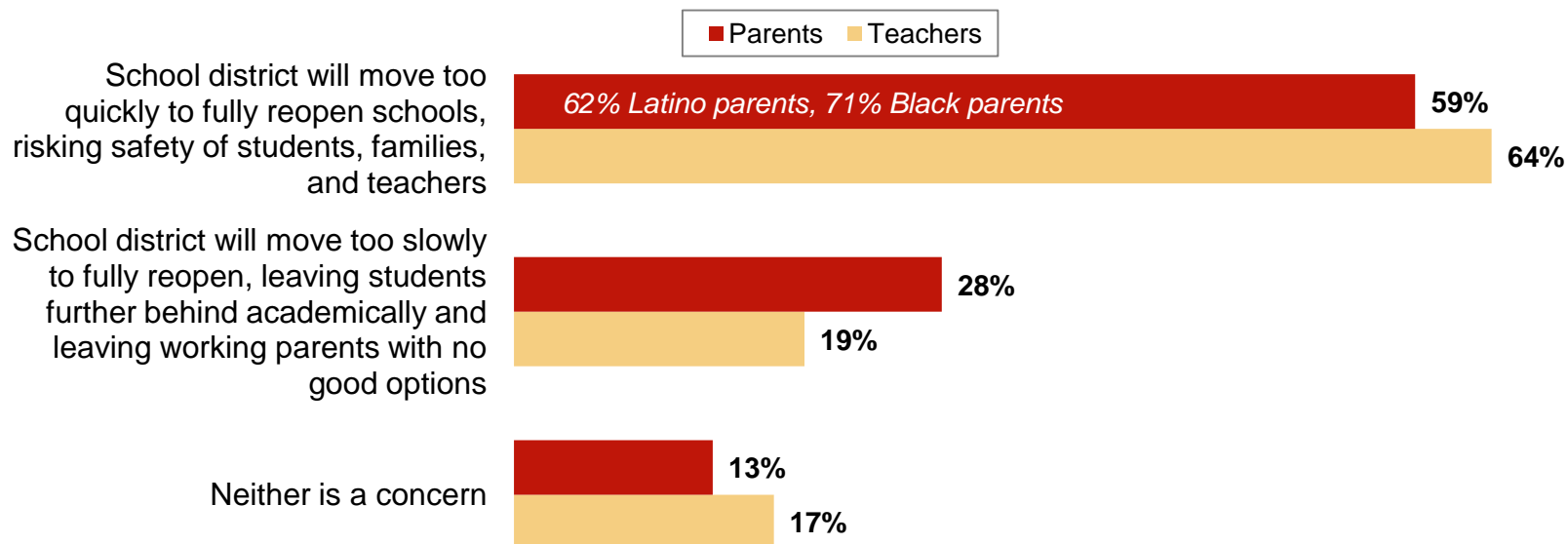
Safety concerns dominate as parents and teachers reflect on start of new school year.

Volunteered Thoughts/Feelings about the Reopening of Schools for the Coming Year

<i>Parents</i>		<i>Teachers</i>	
Schools should not open, it is not necessary to open school	19%	Should keep doing remote learning, must be virtual, no person to person contact	24%
Should keep doing remote learning, should start online	13%	Schools are not ready, not prepared to open, plans to reopen are unrealistic	13%
Coronavirus is still a threat, concerns it will get worse	10%	Coronavirus is still a threat, will continue to spread, things will get worse	8%
Nervous, anxious, concerned, worried, stressed, not a good idea	8%	Schools should reopen, teaching in person is far better	6%
We need to protect our children; precautions need to be taken	8%	Kids should be wearing masks, gloves, shield, should be mandatory	6%
Schools should reopen, schools are essential, let kids go back	7%	Important to keep kids/students safe, schools should provide more safety measures	6%
		Social distancing is imperative, a must	5%

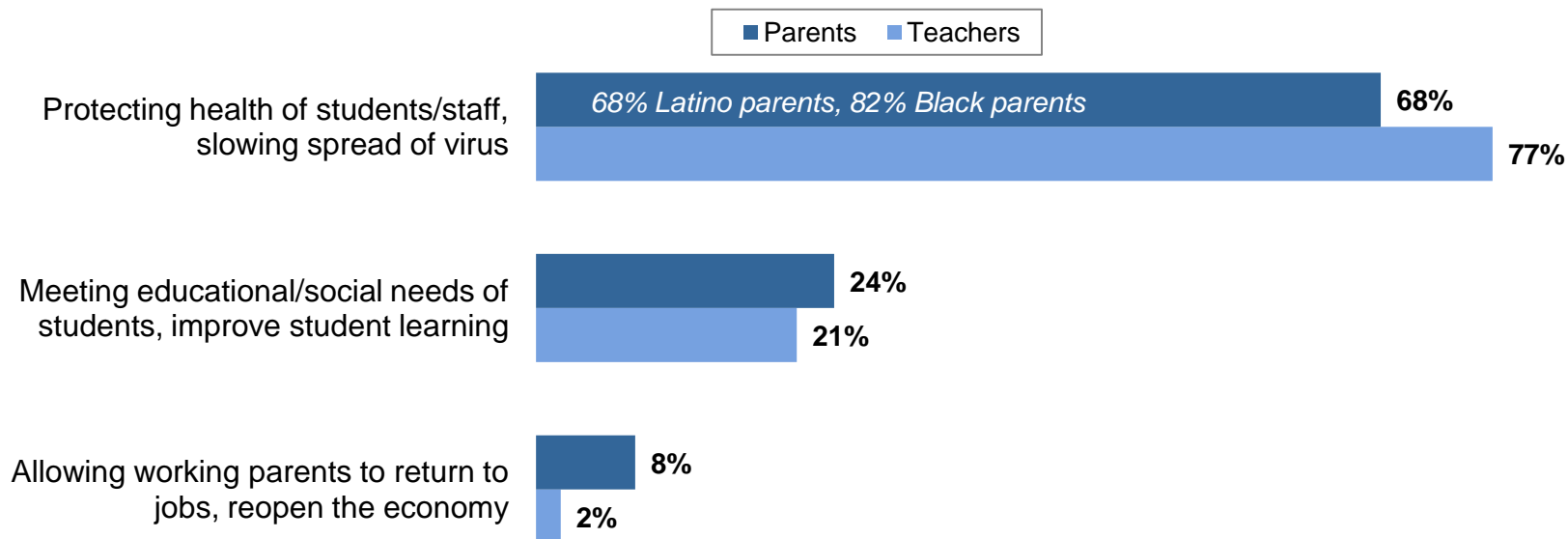
Parents and teachers both worry more that their districts will move too quickly to fully reopen schools than move too slowly.

Which worries you more about the reopening of schools this fall?



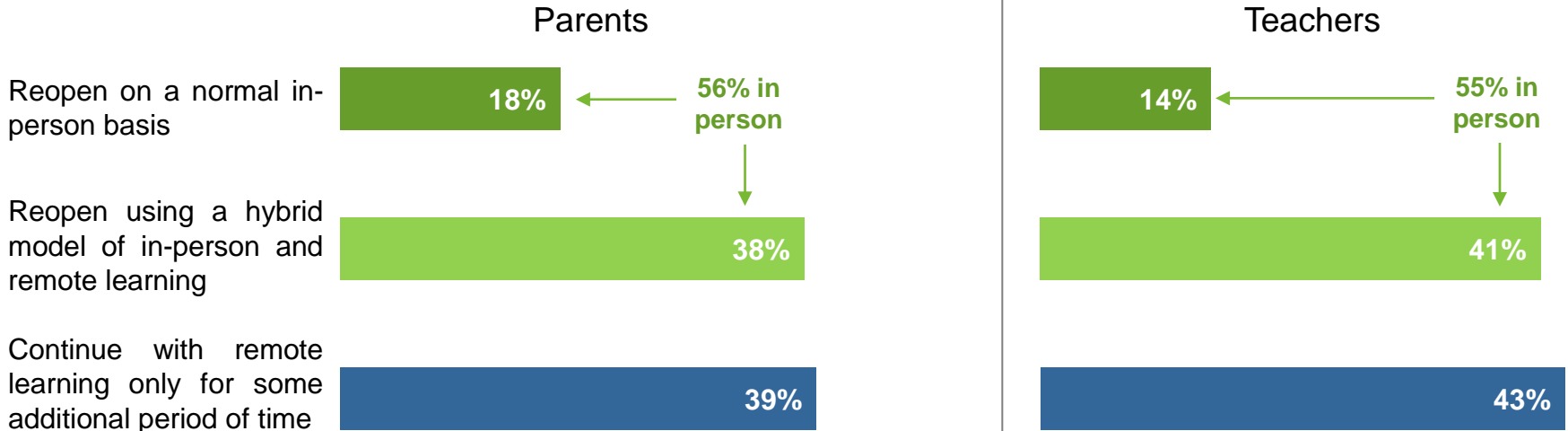
Parents and teachers agree: protecting the health of students and staff should be the primary factor in school reopening decisions.

Which should be the biggest factor in deciding whether, how, when schools should reopen?



Over half of parents and teachers say their schools are opening with at least some in-person instruction, two in five are opening remotely.

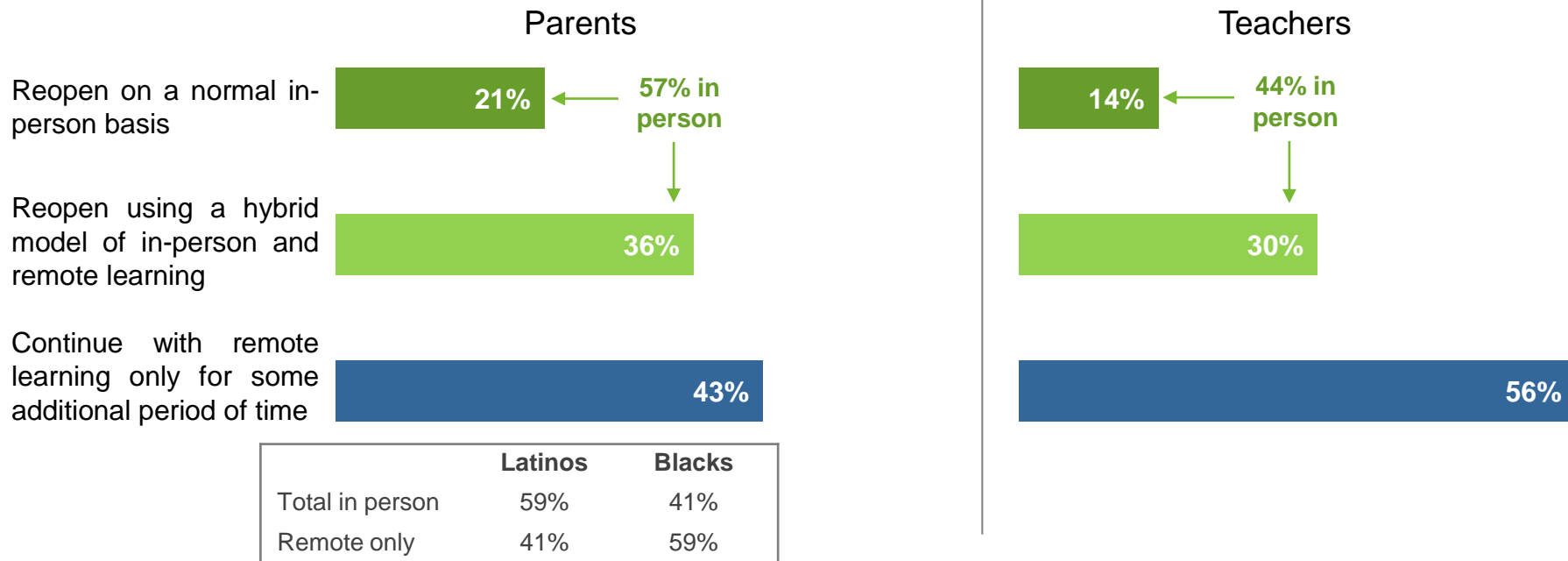
Which best describes how your school is operating, or plans to operate, at the beginning of this school year?



	Latinos	Blacks
Total in person	55%	46%
Remote only	39%	46%

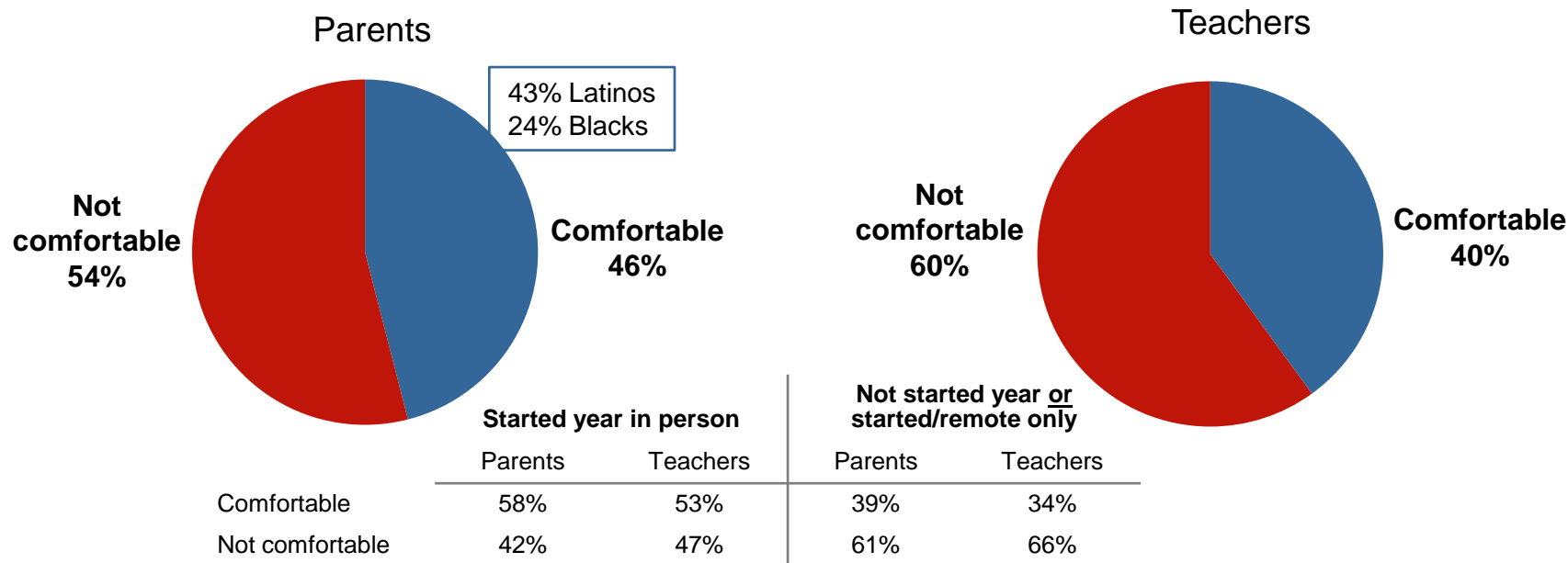
Few think schools should reopen on a normal in-person basis, but parents are somewhat more open to in-person instruction.

Which best describes how you think your school SHOULD operate at the beginning of this school year?



A majority of both parents and teachers are not comfortable starting the school year in person; but those who have already started in-person are relatively more comfortable.

Are you comfortable with your child returning to school/with returning to work in person at the beginning of this school year?



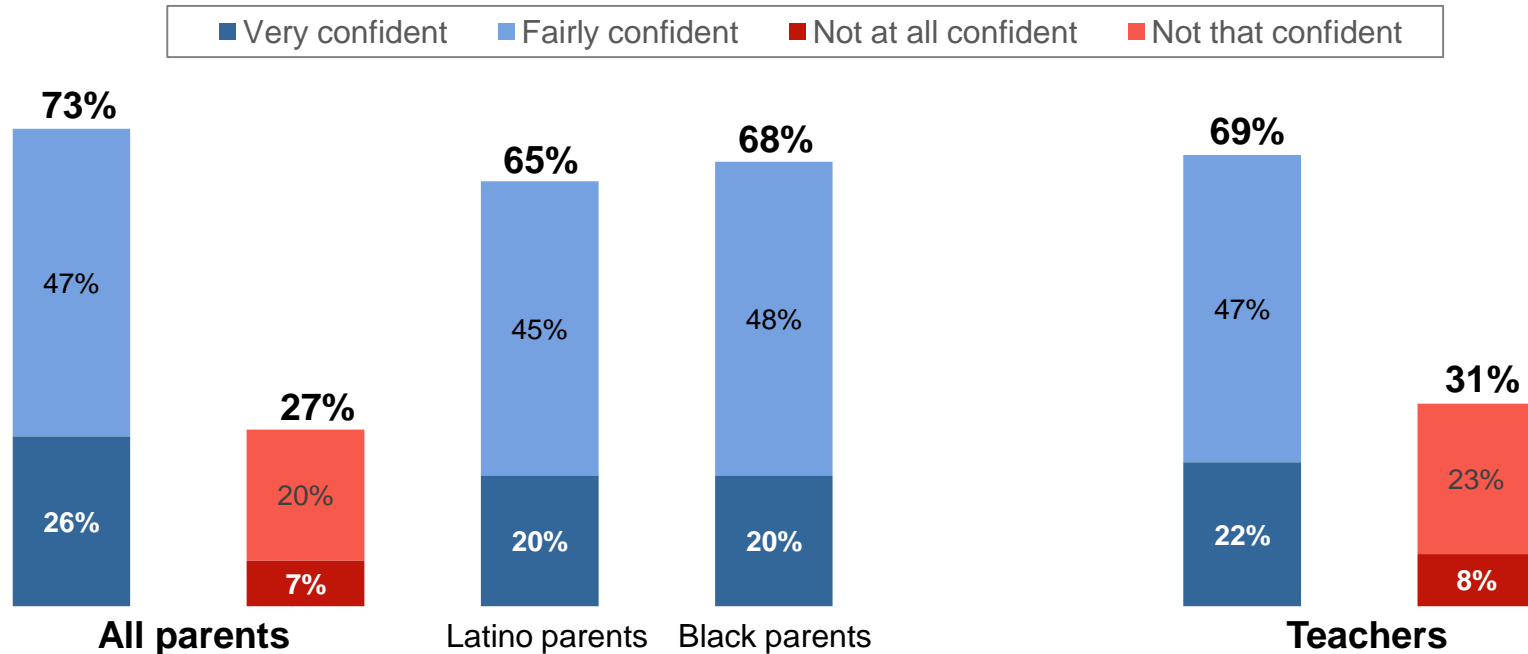
Concern for personal safety is the top reason parents and teachers are not comfortable with schools reopening in person.

Why are you NOT comfortable with your child returning to school/with returning to work in person at the beginning of this school year? (among those not comfortable)

	Parents	Teachers
General concern for child's/personal safety	75%	82%
Concern for safety of teachers, staff, colleagues	50%	63%
Concerned for other students/students' safety	48%	79%
Household member has health concern	29%	36%
Household member is in high-risk age category	28%	34%
School does not have proper safeguards	24%	43%
My child/students not ready to transition to in-person	18%	23%
My child has/I have underlying health concern	16%	25%
My child is/I am in a high-risk category	13%	20%
No childcare available for my own child/children	N/A	8%

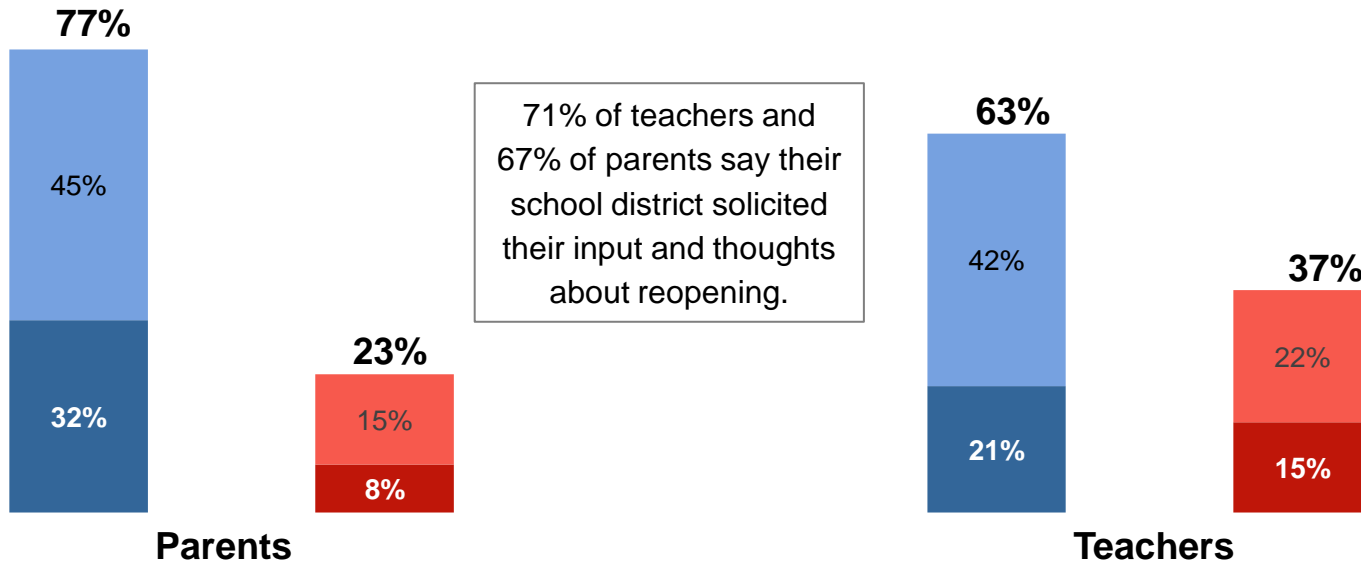
Three in four parents are confident their district will take necessary steps to keep students safe; teachers are nearly as confident when it comes to staff safety.

How confident are you that your school will take the steps necessary to keep students/staff safe this fall?



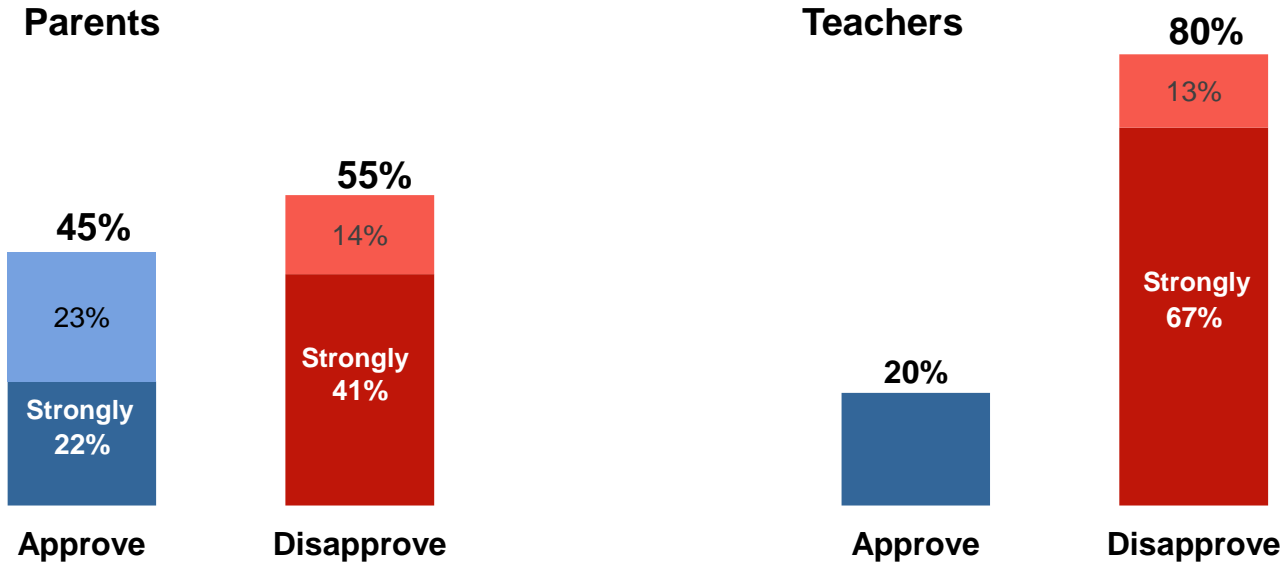
Parents are largely satisfied with the way schools have communicated about reopening plans, teachers somewhat less so.

How satisfied have you been with the way your school district has communicated with you about plans for reopening schools this fall?



Parents and teachers both disapprove of the Trump/DeVos plan to withhold federal aid to schools that do not fully reopen.

President Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos have said that all public schools should fully reopen when school resumes this fall, and have said they will withhold federal aid to any schools that do not reopen. Do you approve or disapprove of their actions?



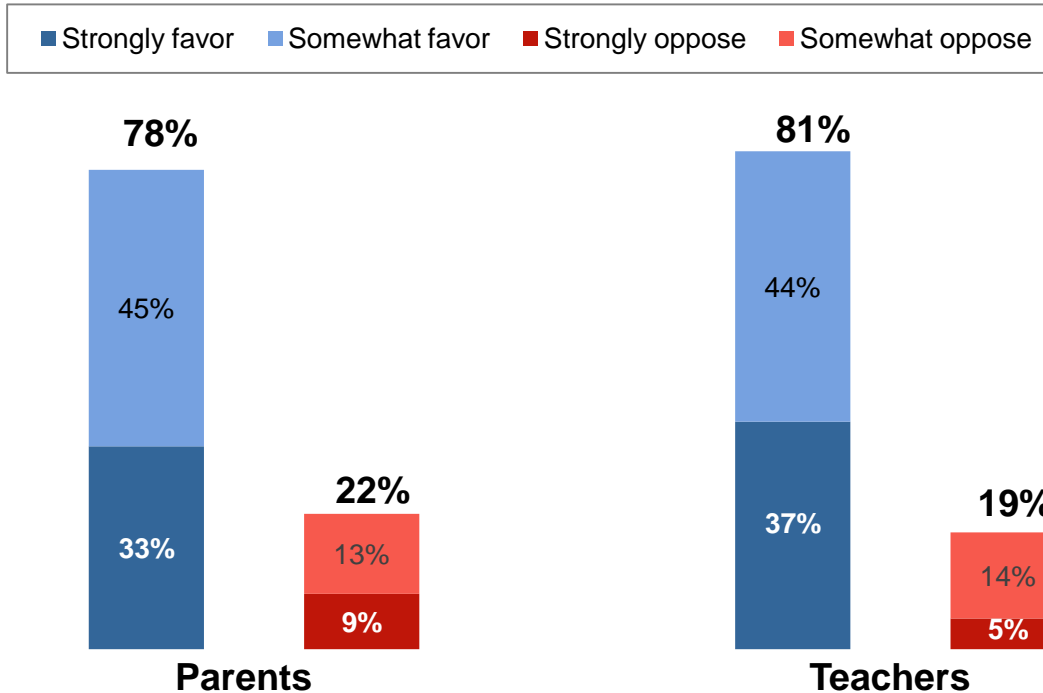
60% of parents and 78% of teachers believe Trump is doing so mainly to improve the economy and help him politically, rather than to meet educational needs of students.



VIEWS ON HOW TO REOPEN SCHOOLS

Eight in 10 parents and teachers favor their district adopting a phased plan for reopening.

*Would you favor or oppose your school district adopting this plan for reopening?**



*Schools will begin with remote learning only for all students. Reopening for any in-person learning will be phased in and will be tied to decreasing infection rates for the coronavirus and ensuring the necessary health and safety measures are in place. Students with higher learning needs will be the first to be able to begin learning under a hybrid model that includes both in-person and remote learning, and other students will be allowed to start hybrid learning in phases. The change to full in-person learning with physical distancing and the proper health and safety measures will only happen when infection rates fall below a level health experts deem safe.

Many public health safeguards are viewed as important for safely reopening schools.

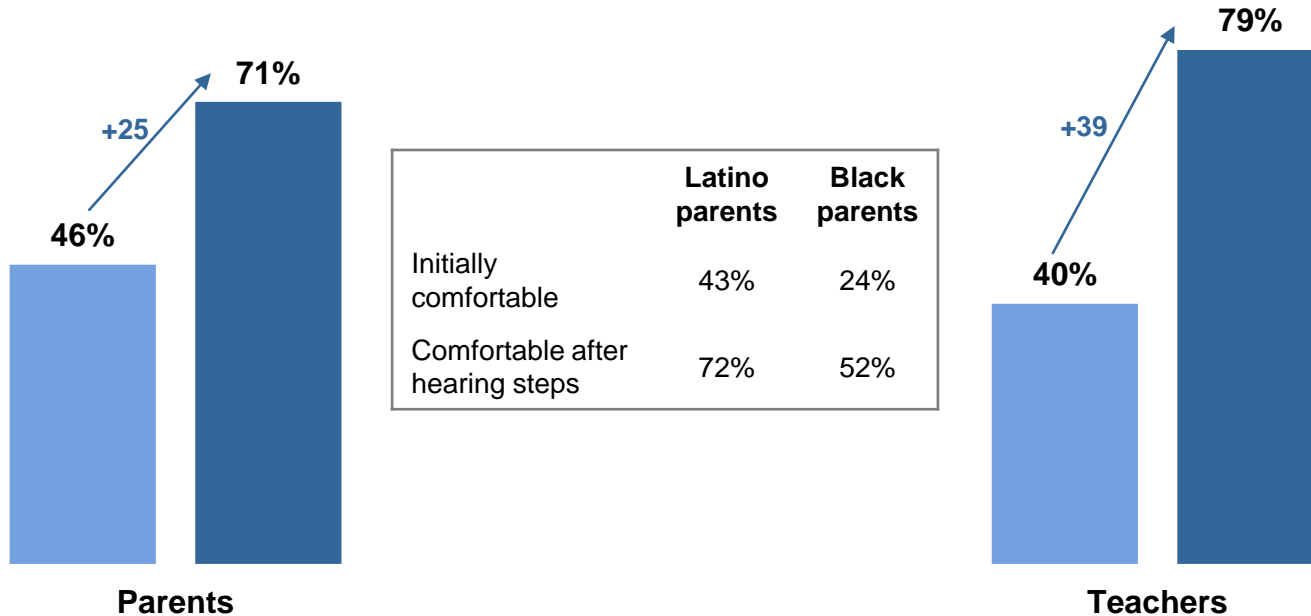
<i>Proportions saying each is essential/very important to reopen schools safely</i>	Parents	Teachers
Daily deep cleaning and sanitizing of school facilities	84%	90%
Make full-time remote learning available for students in high-risk medical categories	80%	92%
Provide additional protections for at-risk staff and students	77%	89%
Ensure ventilation systems operate properly, increase outdoor air/open windows	77%	88%
Provide personal protective equipment and training for staff and students	77%	85%
Allow teachers and other staff in high-risk medical categories to stay at home	76%	84%
Require staff/students maintain physical distancing to maximum degree feasible in classrooms, hallways, buses, and other common areas	75%	84%

Many public health safeguards are viewed as important for safely reopening schools. *(continued)*

<i>Proportions saying each is essential/very important to reopen schools safely</i>	Parents	Teachers
Consult with parents, workers, unions, communities in determining reopening plans	75%	76%
Require face masks to be worn by students/teachers at all times when they are indoors	74%	84%
Provide bus transportation to school for students who need it	74%	84%
Provide training for staff/students in physical distancing and protective equipment	74%	83%
Expand mental health and other social and emotional services for students and staff	70%	78%
Provide additional funding for reopening to schools that serve large proportions of students of color, who face a higher risk of contracting COVID-19	64%	78%
Only reopen schools where the community has low infection rates and adequate levels of testing	63%	75%

Large majorities of parents and teachers would be comfortable returning to in-person learning if their district had these safeguards and schools had adequate funding.

■ Initially comfortable with schools reopening
■ Comfortable after hearing public health steps/there is adequate funding to reopen



	Latino parents	Black parents
Initially comfortable	43%	24%
Comfortable after hearing steps	72%	52%

Parents are confident that their school system will take these steps before reopening; teachers are somewhat less confident in some areas.

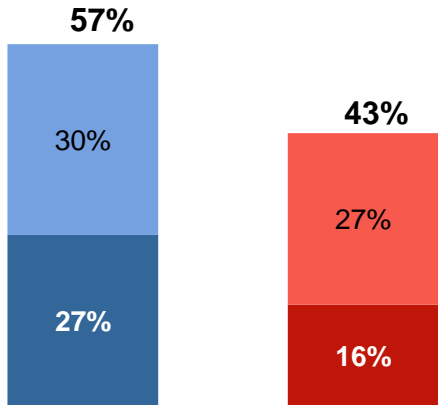
Proportions saying they are confident their school will take each action	Parents	Teachers
Require face masks be worn by students and teachers at all times when they are indoors	76%	76%
Make full-time remote learning available for students in high-risk medical categories	78%	74%
Provide bus transportation to school for students who need it	78%	74%
Daily deep cleaning and sanitizing of school facilities	76%	65%
Provide personal protective equipment and training for staff and students	74%	64%
Require staff and students to maintain physical distancing to the maximum degree feasible	73%	64%
Provide training for staff and students in physical distancing and use of protective equipment	74%	64%
Only reopen schools where the community has low infection rates and adequate levels of testing	70%	63%
Consult with parents, workers, unions, and communities in determining reopening plans	71%	61%
Provide additional protections for at-risk staff and students	73%	61%
Allow teachers and other staff in high-risk medical categories to stay at home	72%	53%
Expand mental health and other social and emotional services for students and staff	65%	50%
Ensure ventilation systems operate properly/increase outdoor air by opening windows	69%	47%
Additional funding to schools with more students of color, who face a higher risk of COVID-19	60%	41%



ASSESSMENT OF REMOTE LEARNING

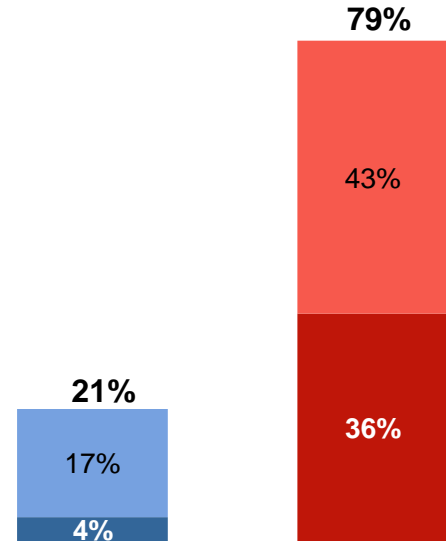
Parents assess spring remote learning experience more positively than teachers do.

In the spring, most districts adopted some form of remote, distance, or online learning. In terms of student learning, how well do you think remote learning has worked compared with traditional in-person teaching?



Parents of child who has participated

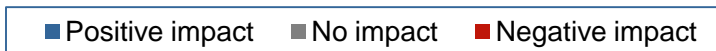
- 90% say their child has participated in remote learning (66% in spring, 54% currently).
- 59% of parents say remote learning has been easy for their child, 41% say it has been difficult.
- 83% of parents are confident their children's schools will effectively support remote learning in the fall.



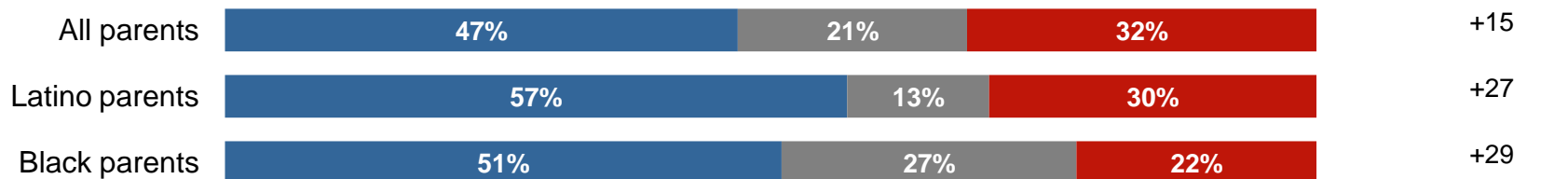
Teachers

Parents think remote learning has had a more negative impact on their children’s social-emotional health than on their academic progress.

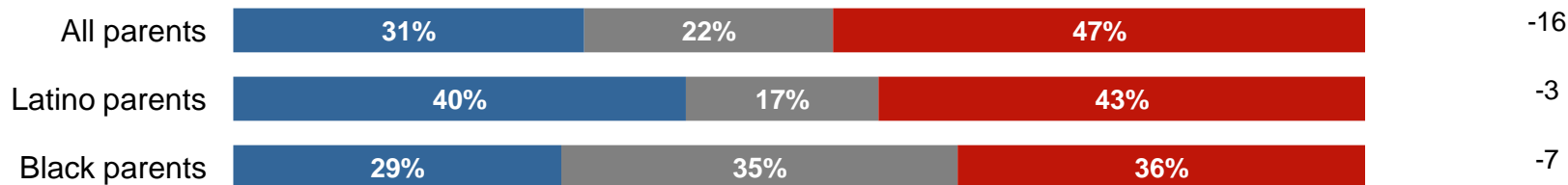
What impact did remote learning have on this?



Child staying on track academically

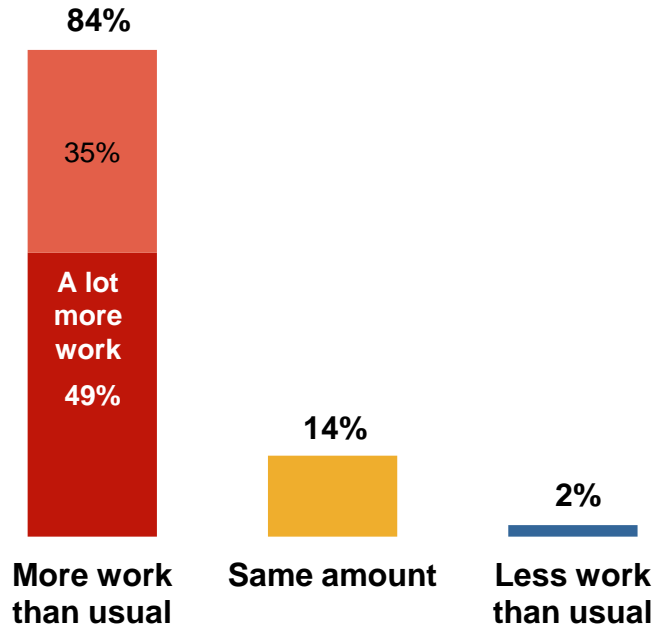


Child’s social and emotional health and well-being

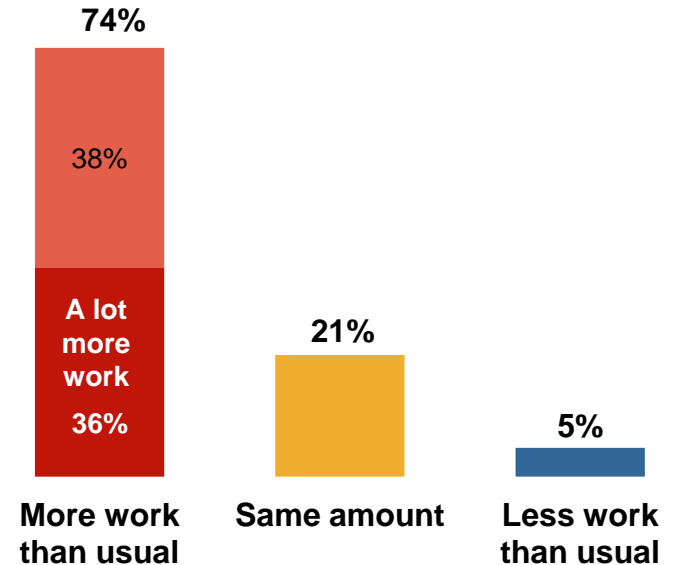


Teachers indicate that both a hybrid model and a remote-only model require them to do more work.

Amount of work for teachers in hybrid system of in-person and remote learning

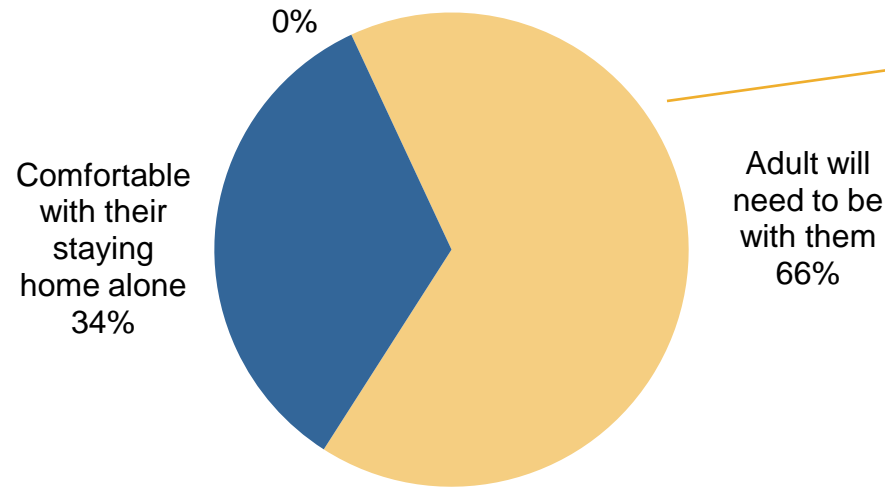


Amount of work for teachers in continuing with remote learning

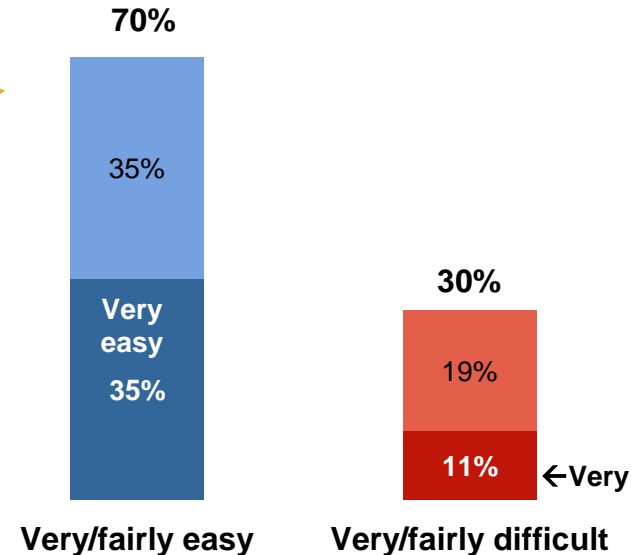


Most parents feel an adult will need to be with their child for remote learning; three in 10 of them say it will be difficult to make this happen.

If your children's school(s) employ(s) remote learning this year, will an adult need to be with them or are you comfortable with their staying at home without an adult?



How easy or difficult will it be for you to have an adult stay with your child or find childcare?



Parents indicate that schools can do many helpful things to support students and their parents with remote learning.

Very/somewhat helpful things schools and school districts could do to support students and their parents with remote learning

