

The impact of the coronavirus on the new school year

Research findings among parents of children in New Jersey public schools



Methodology

New Jersey Parents

Global Strategy Group conducted a statewide survey of **600 parents in New Jersey** from October 7th -16th 2020.

Margin of error

The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 4.0%.

The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.

Key Findings

- **For New Jersey parents, there is mixed overall satisfaction when it comes to remote learning.** However, lower satisfaction rates around remote learning is largely driven by low-income households, particularly low-income Black and Latinx families. Weeks into the new year, parents are looking for more support and assistance from their child's school.
- **Low-income parents, especially low-income parents of color, are hit hardest by the low success of remote learning.** Parents of color and parents from low-income backgrounds are more likely to say their child is remote learning compared to their white and higher-income counterparts. Low-income parents of color and low-income parents overall are also more likely to say they that their child needs additional support this school year. Higher-income parents are more likely to be using outside resources to enhance their child's education.
- **Parents want information on how their child is progressing academically and are concerned about the well-being of their child.** Parents are concerned about two main things: ensuring that their child does not fall behind and ensuring the health and well-being of their child. As such, many parents are wary of schools reopening and the potential effects it will have on their child but are lacking access to their child's teachers and information on their child's progress.
- **Parents of color and low-income families, who tend to be remote learners, are struggling financially as a result of the pandemic.** Two-thirds of low-income parents say they are uneasy about their financial situation, including more than half of parents who say they have reduced or missed work as a result of the pandemic. This is especially dire for low-income parents of color, who are especially likely to say they changed their work schedule or they/their spouse will take time off or leave their job to stay at home with their child.

Areas for Improvement

Based on the results of this survey, there are several areas where parents identify the need for improvement or assistance, particularly for remote learners in the state:

- **Parent access to their child's teachers and regular live remote instruction**
- **Feedback on academic progress and assignments**
- **Additional academic support**
- **Access to devices**
- **Technological assistance**
- **Access to reliable internet**
- **Meals for school-aged children**

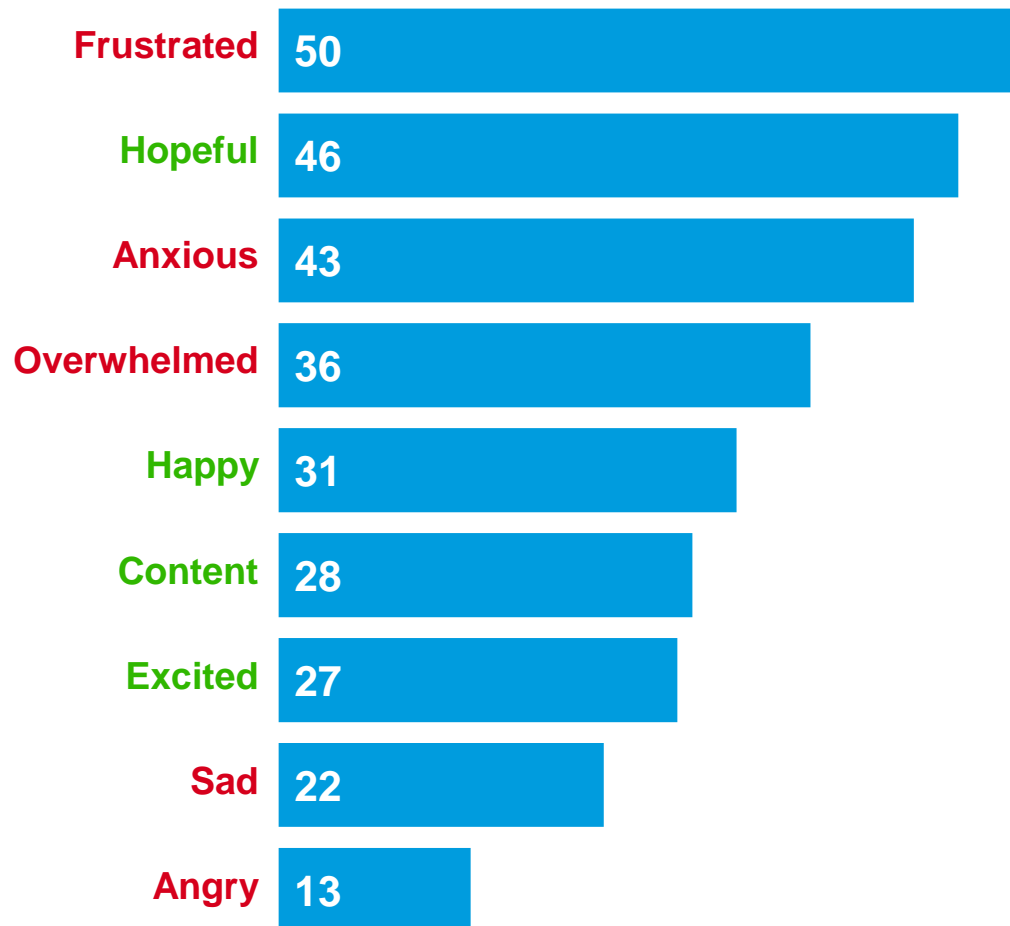
More than three in four parents in the state rate the job their child's school is doing handling the coronavirus as positive

How would you rate the job your child's school is doing handling coronavirus?

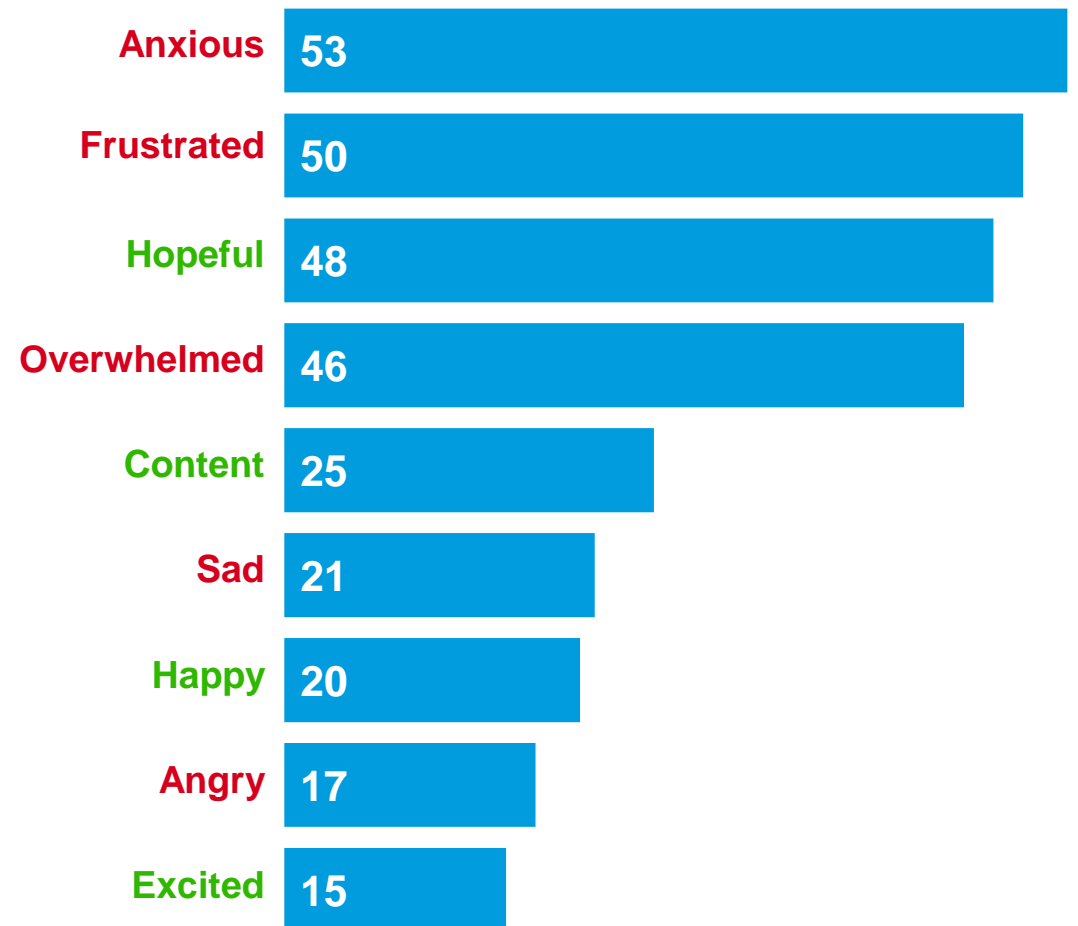


Despite positive ratings of schools, parents and their children generally describe this school year negatively – though many are hopeful

Top 3 Words: How your child/children feel about the current school year?

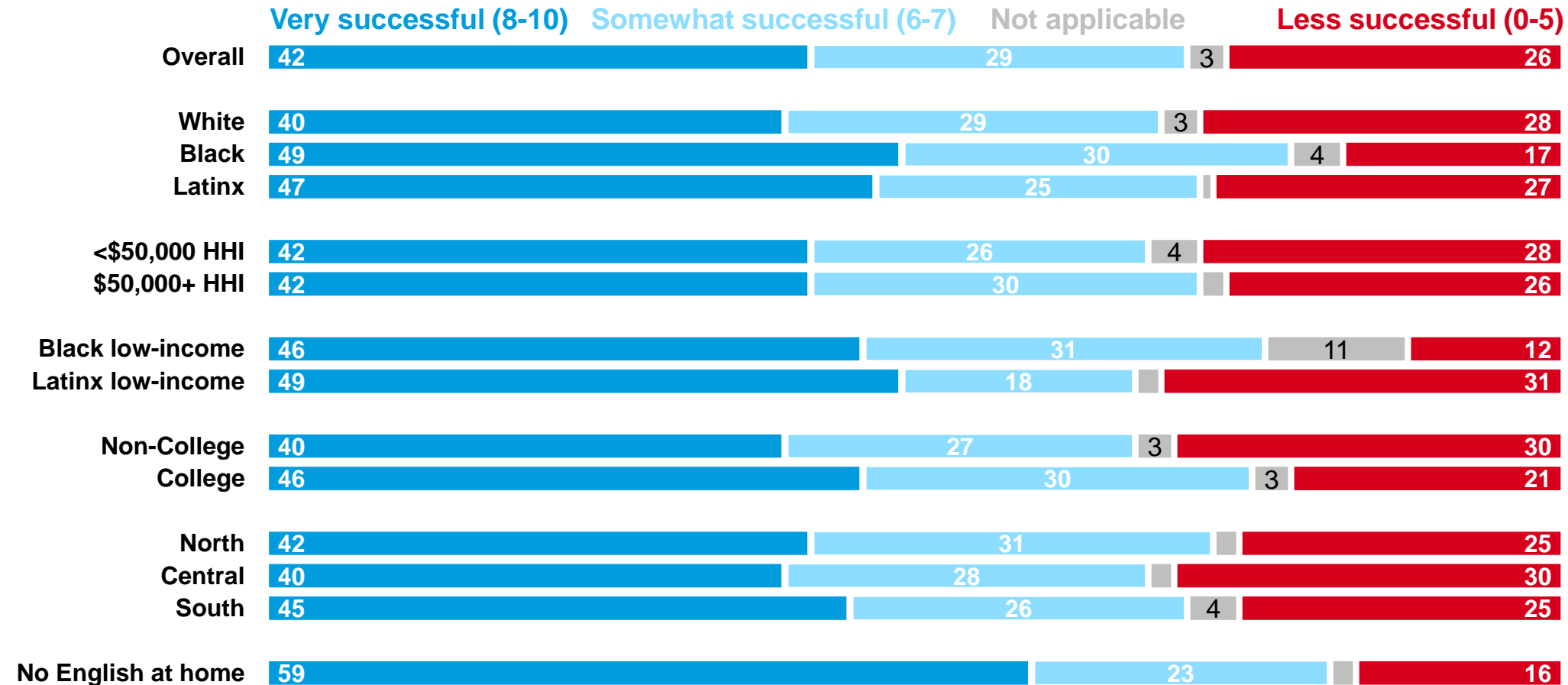


Top 3 Words: How you feel about the current school year?



At the root of many parents' dissatisfaction is remote learning, where there are mixed reviews on its success

On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being extremely unsuccessful and 10 being extremely successful, how successful has remote or distance learning been for you and your child so far this fall?



Parents of color and low-income parents are more likely to have a child that is remote learning than white or more affluent parents

For your child that is in K-12 grade, what options are currently available to you and your child?

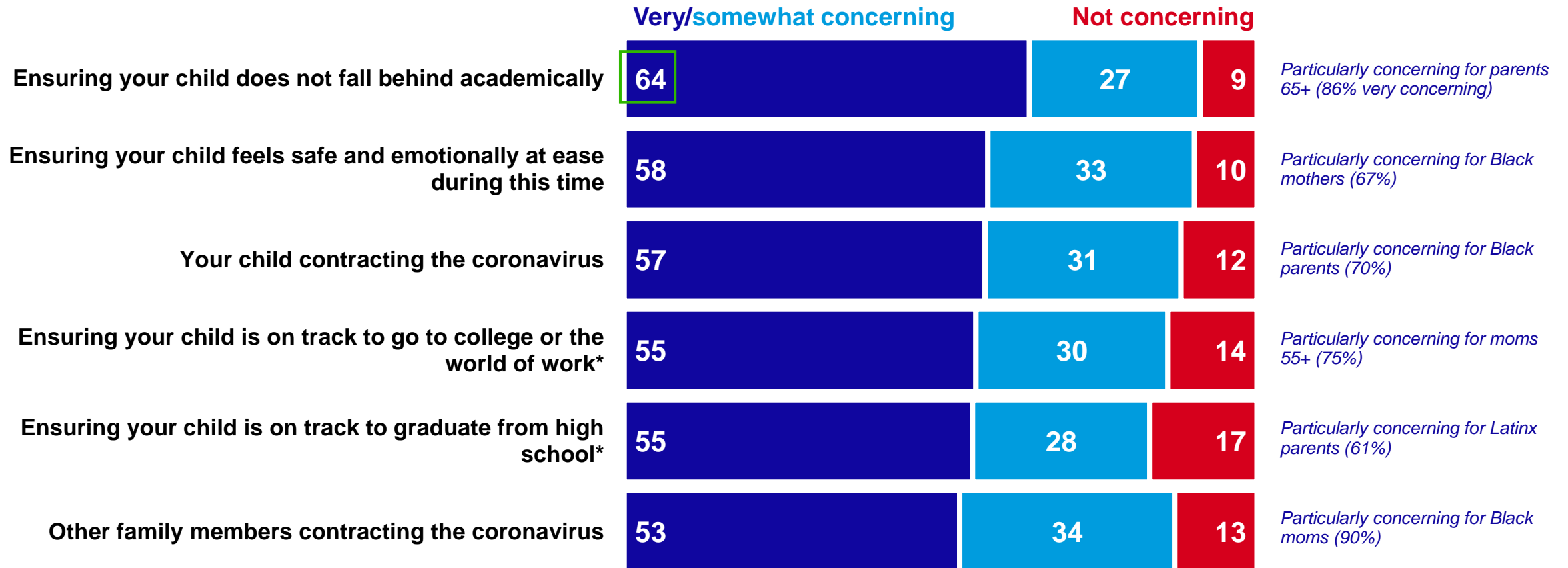
	% Total	< \$50k	\$50k +	White	Black	Latinx
My child's school is offering the option of attending school in person full-time	18	17	19	19	18	18
My child's school is offering the option of remote learning part-time and attending school part-time	68	56	73	76	49	55
My child's school is offering the option of remote learning full-time	53	58	51	49	63	99

Which of the following best captures how your child that is in K-12 grade, is currently participating in school?

	% Total	< \$50k	\$50k +	White	Black	Latinx
My child is attending school in-person full-time	11	7	13	12	2	10
My child is remote learning part time and attending school part-time	45	28	52	53	33	37
My child is remote learning full-time	52	72	45	44	70	61

Academic concerns are top of mind for parents, along with ensuring the health and well-being of their child

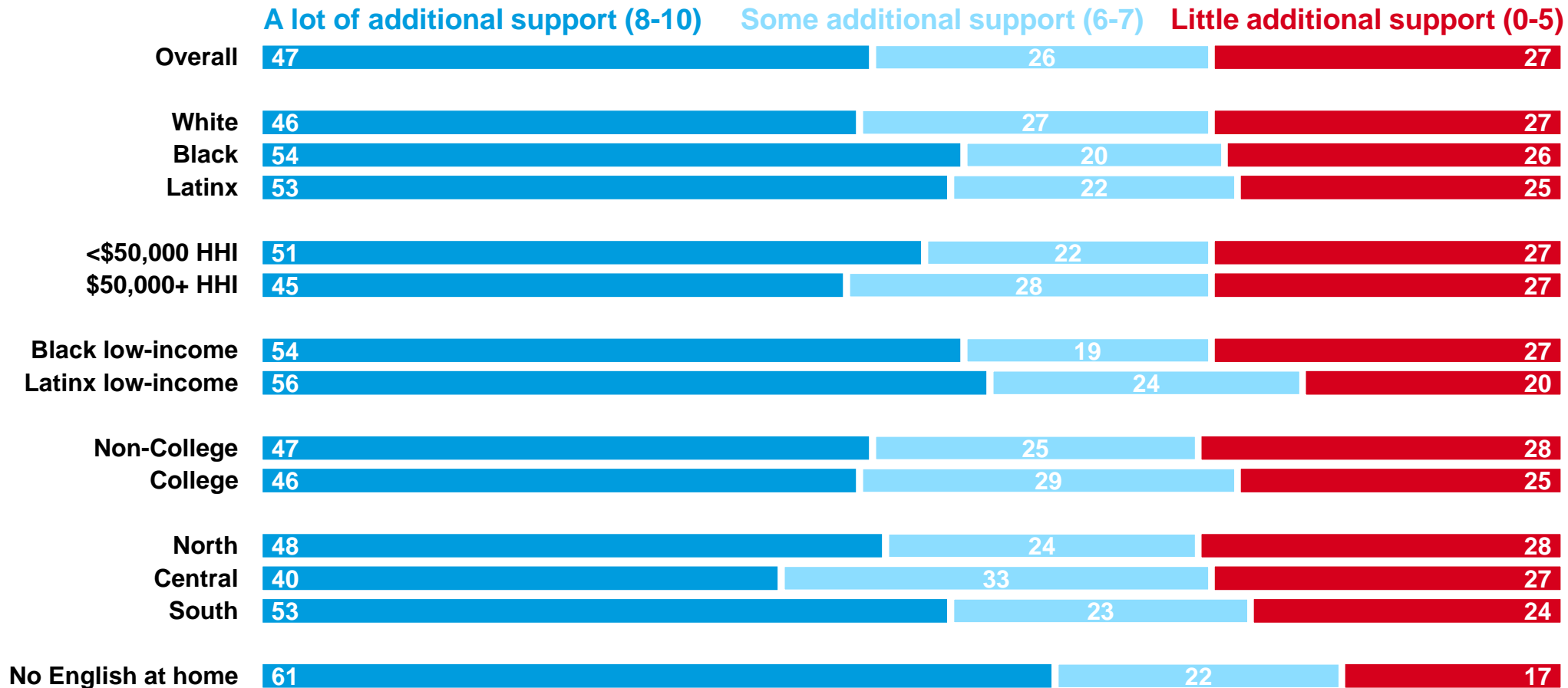
Below are some concerns parents have raised about the impact of coronavirus. For each one, please indicate how concerning it is to you personally.



*Only asked of parents of high school students

Low-income parents and parents of color are more likely to say their child needs a lot of additional support

On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being no additional support and 10 a lot of additional support, how much support do you think your child needs to be successful this school year?



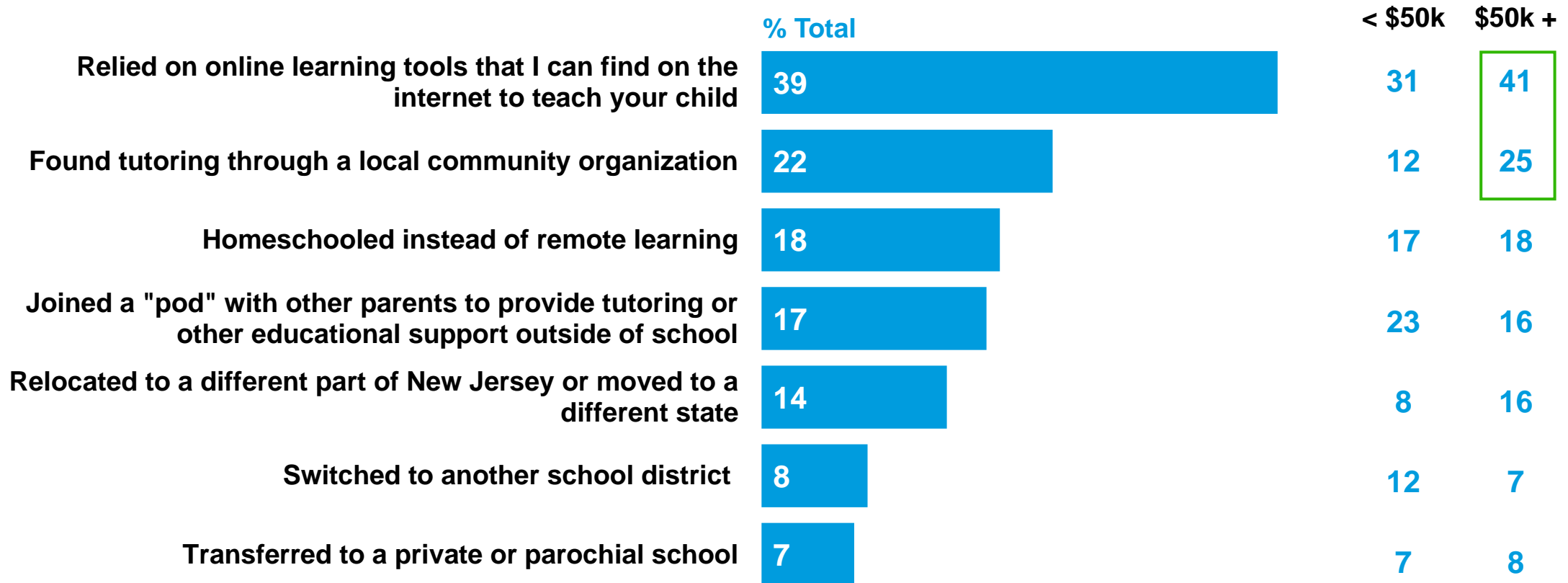
For parents in New Jersey, there is a “needs gap” that schools are currently not addressing

Below are some things schools could be doing to help parents during this crisis. For each one, please indicate how helpful you think it would be for families like yours navigating the coronavirus pandemic.

Overall % would be helpful	Overall % child's school is doing this	
97%	57%	Providing students with regular live access to their teacher, such as live online lessons or phone/video calls
96%	50%	Providing parents with regular contact with or access to their child's teacher
95%	26%	Providing information for parents about whether their child has learned what they are supposed to by the end of their current grade
95%	35%	Providing information about how my child will be evaluated during this time
94%	34%	Providing resources and/or assistance to help with completing assignments and assessment tests online
93%	24%	Providing information about what areas of learning parents should focus on with their child to be ready for success next school year
92%	37%	Providing technical assistance to help families get set up for remote/distance learning
91%	37%	Providing parents or students with regular contact with or access to a school counselor
89%	25%	Sharing examples of resources to help parents teach their children during the day
89%	50%	Providing mobile technology devices like iPads to families
87%	21%	Providing free internet access to families
84%	21%	Providing instructional materials and other resources to support students with disabilities
82%	29%	Connecting parents to resources that can help with food, housing, employment, health, and other emergency needs
80%	20%	Providing instructional materials for English learners
66%	20%	Providing information for parents in languages other than English

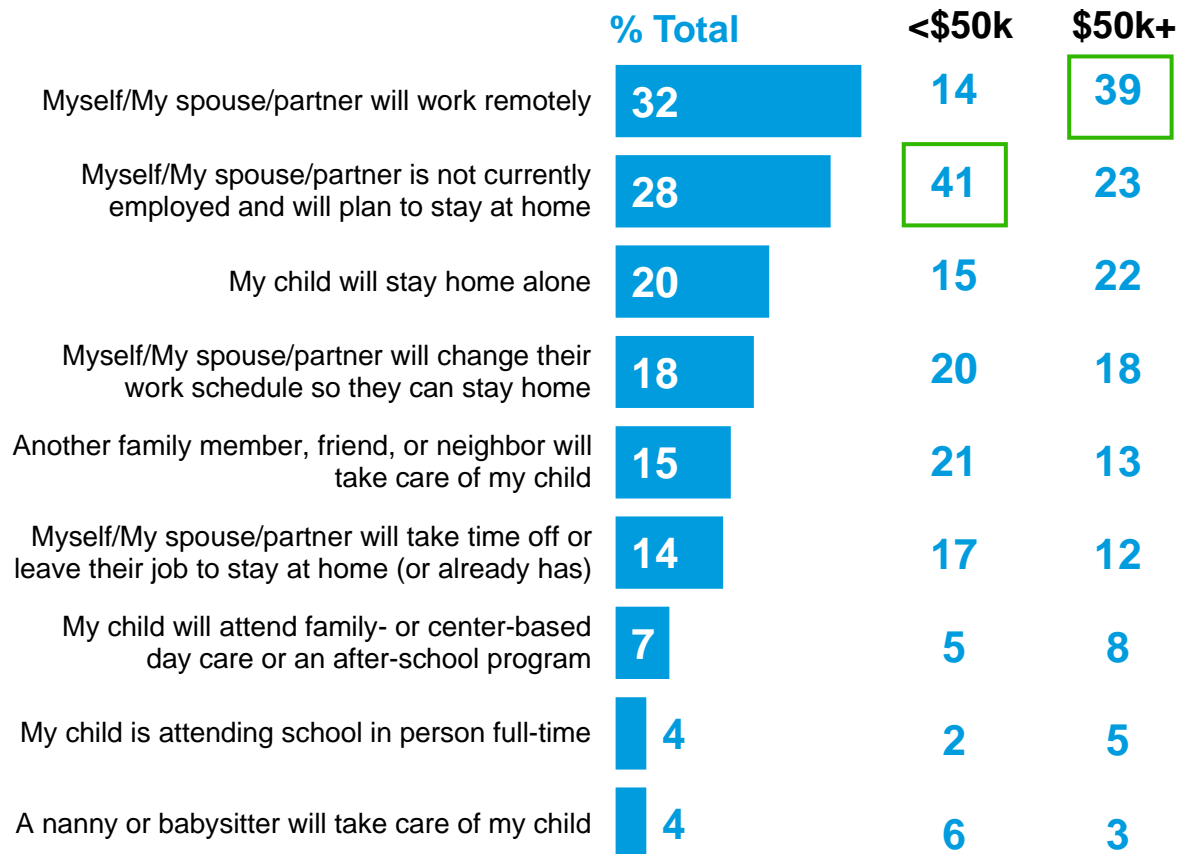
Higher income parents are more likely to be supplementing their child's education outside of school

Of the following options, please select any that you are currently doing this fall semester.

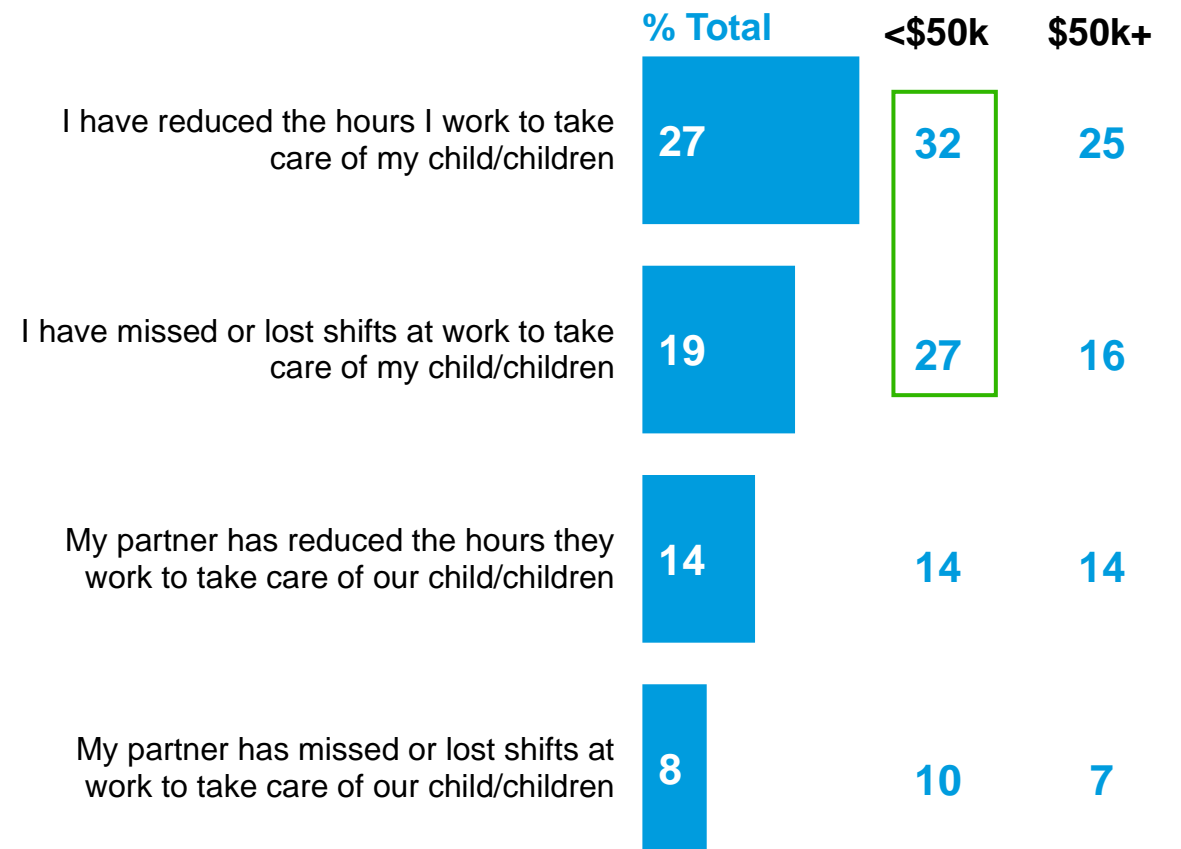


High-income families are less likely to have had the pandemic impact their professional lives as they have more flexibility with remote work

What are you doing for child care when your child is not in school during remote learning this fall?

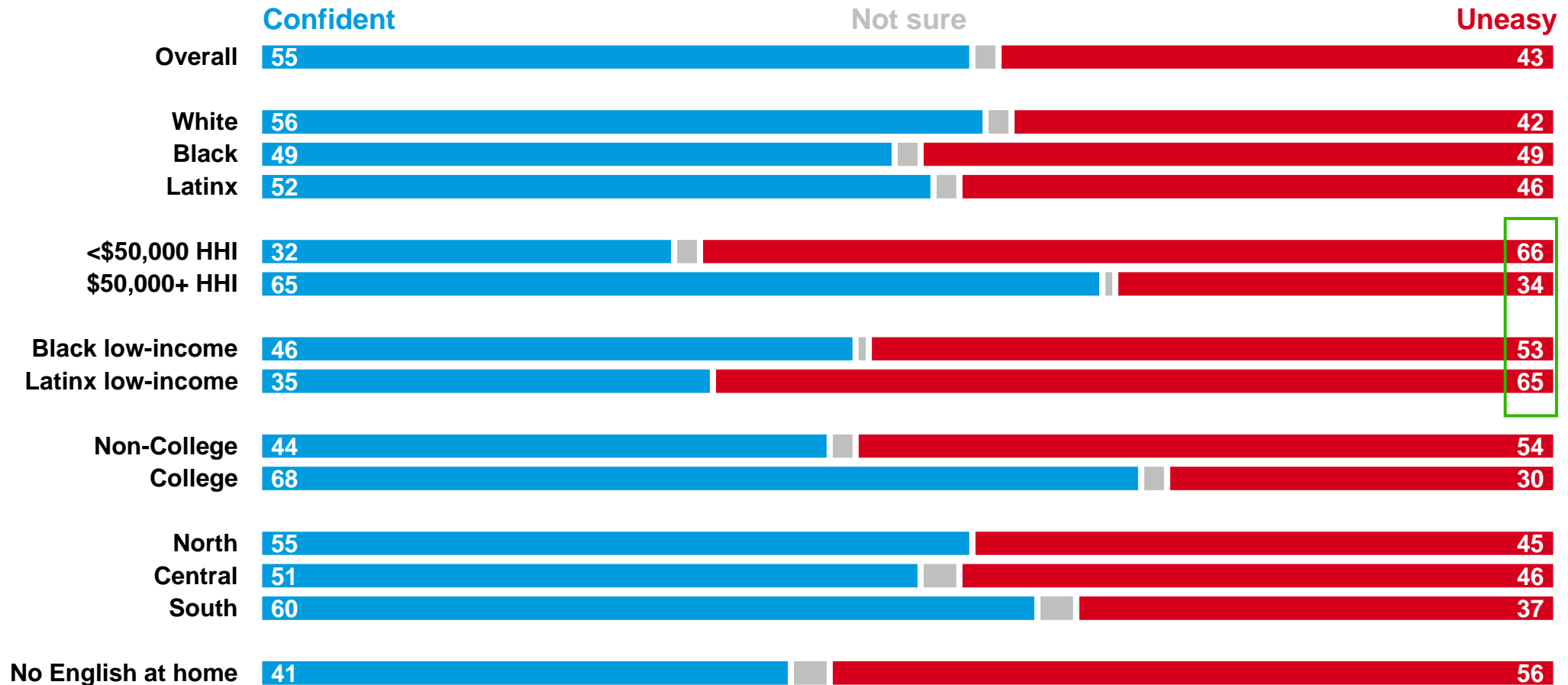


Have you or your partner done any of the following as a result of the coronavirus crisis?



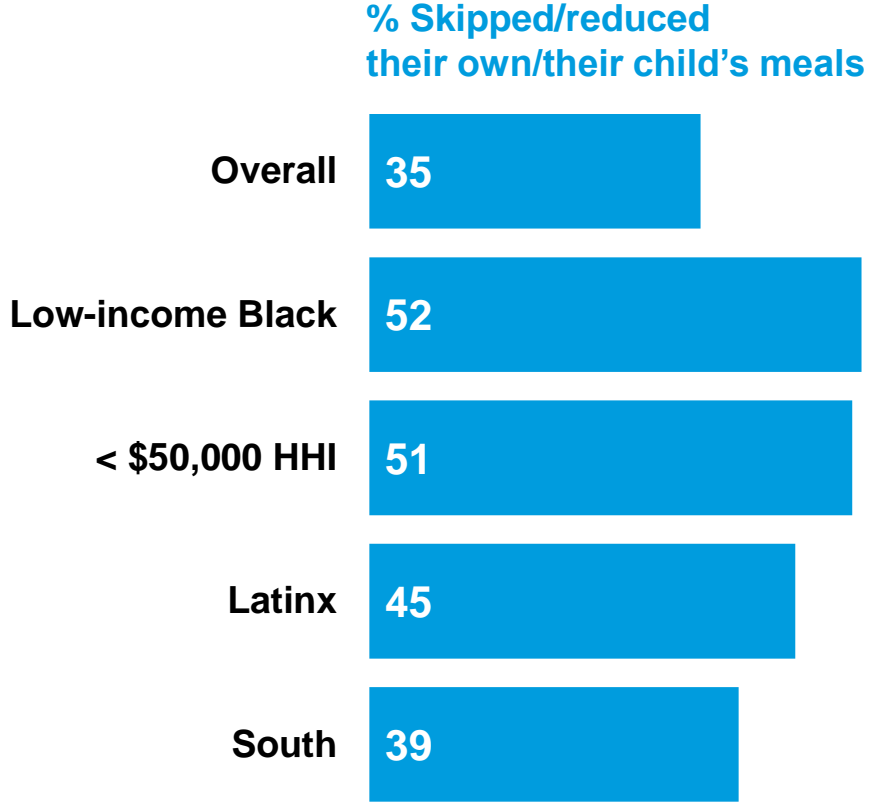
Low-income families, particularly low-income families of color, are uneasy about their financial situation over the coming months

Thinking about your family's personal financial situation over the next few months, do you feel confident or uneasy?

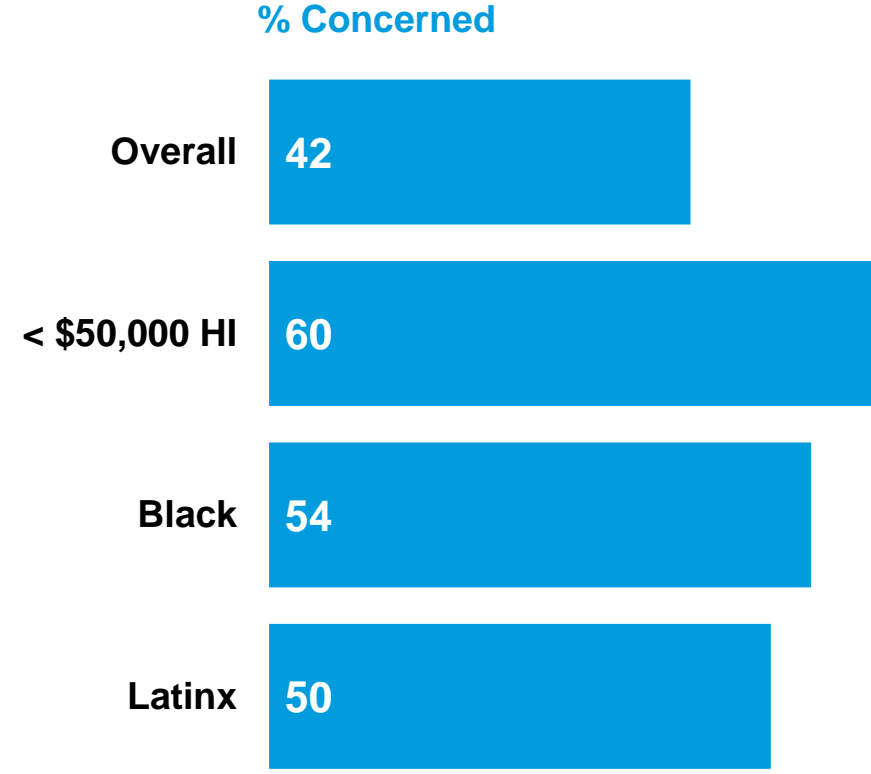


Food insecurity is a top concern for parents in New Jersey, especially among families of color and low-income families

Have you done any of the following as a result of the coronavirus crisis?

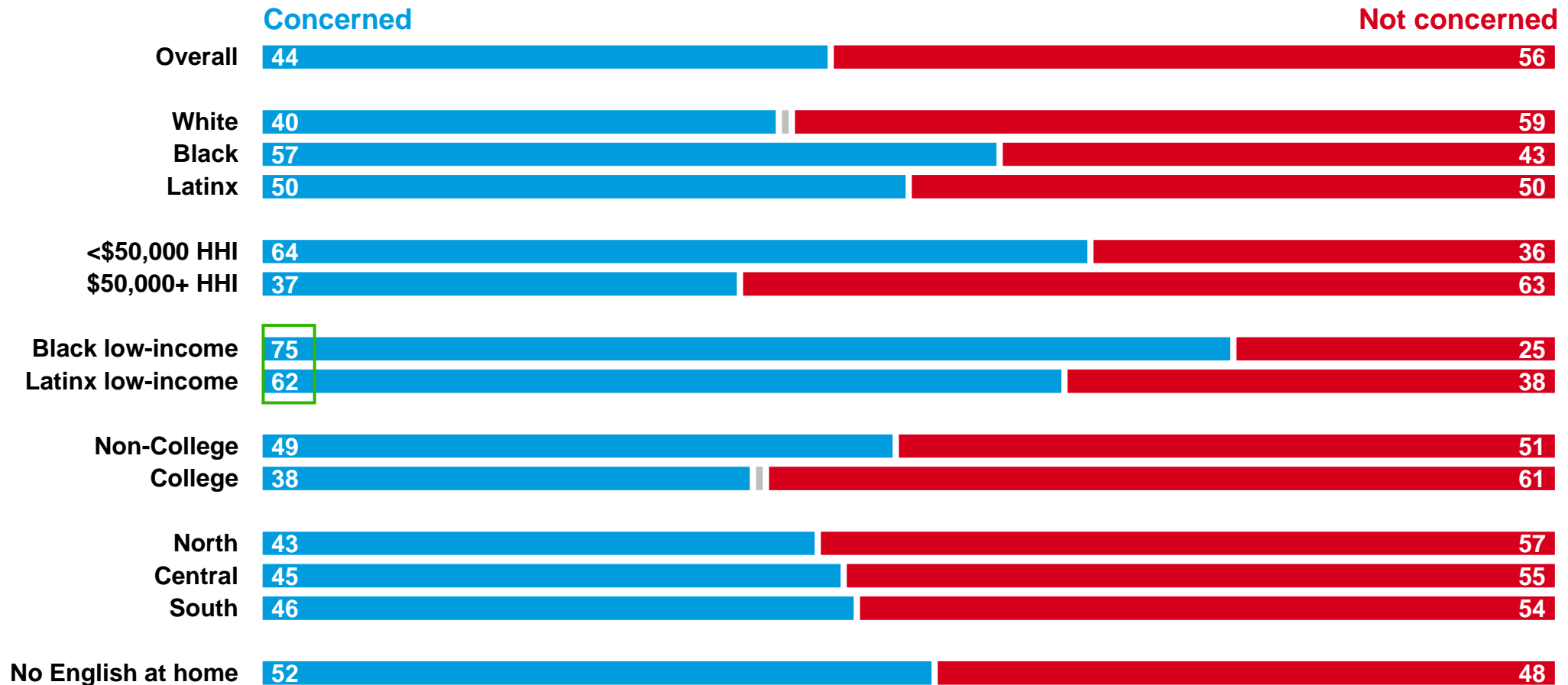


How concerned are you about access to meals and food for your child this fall?



Low-income families, particularly Latinx and Black families, are concerned about being able to afford or losing their internet access

How concerned are you about being able to afford internet access in the fall or losing your internet access?



Thank You

New York

Washington, DC

Hartford

Chicago

Denver

Seattle