



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Most teachers struggling to do their job properly amidst distance learning

USA Today/Ipsos poll finds that teachers believe parents are struggling to help; nearly one in five won't return if schools reopen in the fall

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, May 26, 2020 – Though K-12 teachers report having the physical tools they need to be successful at remote teaching, according to a new USA Today/Ipsos poll, most did not feel well-trained for the task and feel as if they cannot properly do their job. Supermajorities also believe online or distance learning is causing their students to fall behind and that parents have struggled to help support these efforts. Teachers are much more likely to report these concerns than parents of school-aged children, according to a similar survey among the general public that fielded at the same time.

Detailed Findings

1. Less than half of teachers agree their school district trained them well for online or distance learning. Most report working more than usual and that they cannot properly do their job. There are also widespread concerns about parental support.
 - While many acknowledge they have reliable internet access at home (93%) and that it is easy to use the technology needed for remote learning (80%), nearly two-thirds admit they are working more than usual (63%) and that they cannot do their job properly (62%) since starting to teach remotely.
 - Just four in ten (42%) believe their school district trained them well for online or distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, while 55% disagree. However, nearly three-quarters (73%) feel their district's distance learning effort is headed in the right direction.
 - Right now, just 24% believe public school teachers are paid fairly, down seven percentage points from January 2019.
 - Though many teachers are in contact with and feel connected to their students (62%), a vast majority (86%) are worried about their students. Eighty-five percent of teachers feel that parents have struggled to help support online or distance learning. At the same time, fewer parents with kids who are learning at home feel the same about teachers (52%), according to the parallel study among the general public.
2. Though some proposals regarding how to return to school in the fall receive majority support, fewer are in favor of returning to school before there is a coronavirus vaccine.
 - Fifty-seven percent would support a plan for their school district to return for 5 days a week in the fall, and a similar number (69%) would support returning for 2-3 in-person days with distance learning filling in the gaps. Most are also favorable toward low risk teachers returning in person while high-risk individuals...
 - Far fewer support a plan to lengthen the school calendar by starting earlier in the summer (34%) or to return to school before there is a vaccine (49%).





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3. Nearly nine in ten teachers believe it would be hard to enforce social distancing guidelines at school. One in five say it is likely they would not return to teaching if their school was to reopen.
 - Eighty-seven percent of teachers say it is likely they would have difficulty enforcing social distancing among their students, including 48% who say it is very likely.
 - More than three-quarters (78%) would wear a mask while teaching if their school was to reopen.
 - One in five (18%) say they would leave their job if their school was to reopen, including 25% of teachers over age 55. Generally, almost half (48%) have thought about leaving their job as a teacher.

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between May 18-21, 2020 on behalf of USA Today. For this survey, a sample of 505 teachers of grades K-12 age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.0 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:



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Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. Do you currently work as an educator in:

	Total (N=505)	<i>Jan 2019 (N=504)</i>
Pre-K programs	3%	-
Kindergarten	18%	17%
1-6 grade	39%	40%
7-8 grade	12%	12%
9-10 grade	30%	27%
11-12 grade	31%	32%

2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Total Agree Summary

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
I love being a teacher	90%	92%
I am having a harder time doing my job right now	83%	-
If I could pick a career all over again, I would still decide to be a teacher	77%	73%
I have thought about leaving my job as a teacher	48%	54%
Public school teachers are paid fairly	24%	31%

a. I love being a teacher

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
Strongly agree	59%	55%
Somewhat agree	31%	37%
Somewhat disagree	5%	4%
Strongly disagree	3%	3%
Don't know	2%	2%
Agree (Net)	90%	92%
Disagree (Net)	8%	7%

b. I have thought about leaving my job as a teacher

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
Strongly agree	14%	26%
Somewhat agree	34%	28%
Somewhat disagree	23%	21%
Strongly disagree	26%	22%
Don't know	3%	2%
Agree (Net)	48%	54%
Disagree (Net)	49%	44%





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c. Public school teachers are paid fairly

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
Strongly agree	3%	15%
Somewhat agree	21%	16%
Somewhat disagree	39%	27%
Strongly disagree	36%	39%
Don't know	1%	3%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>31%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>66%</i>

d. If I could pick a career all over again, I would still decide to be a teacher

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
Strongly agree	47%	45%
Somewhat agree	30%	28%
Somewhat disagree	13%	14%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%
Don't know	4%	7%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>73%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>20%</i>

e. I am having a harder time doing my job right now

	Total
Strongly agree	43%
Somewhat agree	40%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	6%
Don't know	2%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>83%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>15%</i>

3. **[If selected “Strongly agree” or “Somewhat agree” with “I have thought about leaving my job as a teacher” in Q1]** In your words, please describe the reasons why you have thought about leaving your job as a teacher.

Open-ended responses provided separately

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the following?

Total Approve Summary

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
Your local teachers' union	72%	62%
The U.S. Department of Education leadership	38%	41%





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a. Your local teachers' union

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
Strongly approve	18%	24%
Somewhat approve	29%	21%
Lean toward approve	25%	17%
Lean toward disapprove	8%	10%
Somewhat disapprove	4%	5%
Strongly disapprove	3%	5%
Don't know	14%	18%
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	72%	62%
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	15%	21%

b. The U.S. Department of Education leadership

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
Strongly approve	4%	13%
Somewhat approve	13%	14%
Lean toward approve	21%	14%
Lean toward disapprove	16%	16%
Somewhat disapprove	15%	13%
Strongly disapprove	26%	24%
Don't know	5%	6%
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	38%	41%
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	58%	52%

5. Which of the following best describes how your school district has adapted to the coronavirus pandemic?

	Total
Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement, like distance learning or virtual classes	93%
Canceled in-person classes and did not provide students with anything to do for the rest of the year	3%
Canceled in-person classes, but they have since resumed	2%
Continued in-person instruction in school buildings throughout March, April, and May	2%
Other	1%



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6. [If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q4] How did your school district provide alternative teaching arrangements? Select all that apply.

	Total (N=472)
Instructors teaching students live, in real-time, through a video platform	74%
Students using software or watching pre-recorded videos	71%
Students using paper packets or worksheets	51%
Something else	2%

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Total Agree Summary

	Total
I have access to reliable internet in my home that allows me to work	N=472 93%
I am worried about my students right now	86%
Parents have struggled to help support online or distance learning	N=472 85%
It is easy for me to use the technology needed for remote teaching	N=472 80%
I had sufficient software and equipment already, or my school provided it, for remote teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic	N=472 76%
Online or distance learning is causing my students to fall behind	N=472 76%
I think my school district’s online or distance learning effort is headed in the right direction	N=472 73%
Students will eventually be able to make up any lost ground	64%
I am working more than usual since starting to teach remotely	N=472 63%
I cannot properly do my job since starting to teach remotely	N=472 62%
I am in contact with and feel connected to most of my students	62%
My school district trained me well for online or distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic	N=472 42%



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- a. **[If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q5]**
My school district trained me well for online or distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic

	Total (N=472)
Strongly agree	11%
Somewhat agree	32%
Somewhat disagree	34%
Strongly disagree	22%
Don't know	2%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>42%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>55%</i>

- b. **[If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q5]** I had sufficient software and equipment already, or my school provided it, for remote teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic

	Total (N=472)
Strongly agree	32%
Somewhat agree	45%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	5%
Don't know	1%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>76%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>22%</i>

- c. **[If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q5]** It is easy for me to use the technology needed for remote teaching

	Total (N=472)
Strongly agree	32%
Somewhat agree	48%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	5%
Don't know	1%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>80%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>19%</i>



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- d. **[If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q5]**
Online or distance learning is causing my students to fall behind

	Total (N=472)
Strongly agree	26%
Somewhat agree	50%
Somewhat disagree	16%
Strongly disagree	3%
Don't know	5%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	76%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	19%

- e. **[If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q5]** I am working more than usual since starting to teach remotely

	Total (N=472)
Strongly agree	29%
Somewhat agree	33%
Somewhat disagree	28%
Strongly disagree	7%
Don't know	2%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	63%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	35%

- f. **[If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q5]** I cannot properly do my job since starting to teach remotely

	Total (N=472)
Strongly agree	20%
Somewhat agree	43%
Somewhat disagree	27%
Strongly disagree	8%
Don't know	3%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	62%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	35%



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- g. **[If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q5]**
Parents have struggled to help support online or distance learning

	Total (N=472)
Strongly agree	42%
Somewhat agree	43%
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	2%
Don't know	2%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>85%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>13%</i>

- h. **[If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q5]** I think my school district's online or distance learning effort is headed in the right direction

	Total (N=472)
Strongly agree	21%
Somewhat agree	52%
Somewhat disagree	18%
Strongly disagree	4%
Don't know	5%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>73%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>22%</i>

- i. **[If selected “Developed some type of alternative teaching arrangement...” in Q5]** I have access to reliable internet in my home that allows me to work

	Total (N=472)
Strongly agree	65%
Somewhat agree	28%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	1%
Don't know	*
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>93%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>6%</i>

- j. I am in contact with and feel connected to most of my students

	Total
Strongly agree	17%
Somewhat agree	45%
Somewhat disagree	27%
Strongly disagree	10%
Don't know	1%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>62%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>37%</i>



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k. Students will eventually be able to make up any lost ground

	Total
Strongly agree	18%
Somewhat agree	46%
Somewhat disagree	23%
Strongly disagree	6%
Don't know	7%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>64%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>29%</i>

l. I am worried about my students right now

	Total
Strongly agree	50%
Somewhat agree	35%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	4%
Don't know	1%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>86%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>14%</i>

8. How likely do you think it is that schools in your area will reopen in the fall?

	Total
Very likely	15%
Somewhat likely	50%
Not very likely	26%
Not at all likely	3%
Don't know	6%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	<i>65%</i>
<i>Not likely (Net)</i>	<i>29%</i>

9. Would you support or oppose the following measures if schools in your area implemented them this fall?

Total Support Summary

	Total
Students and teachers returning to school 2-3 days a week, with distance learning on the other days	69%
Teachers considered high risk for severe illness continuing to teach online, while low-risk teachers teach in person	65%
Students and teachers returning to school 5 days a week	57%
Students and teachers returning to school before there is a coronavirus vaccine	49%
Schools adjusting their calendars to begin earlier in the summer and continue into the following summer	34%



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- a. Students and teachers returning to school 5 days a week

	Total
Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	33%
Somewhat oppose	24%
Strongly oppose	11%
Don't know	8%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>35%</i>

- b. Students and teachers returning to school 2-3 days a week, with distance learning on the other days

	Total
Strongly support	20%
Somewhat support	49%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	10%
Don't know	3%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>69%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>27%</i>

- c. Teachers considered high risk for severe illness continuing to teach online, while low-risk teachers teach in person

	Total
Strongly support	20%
Somewhat support	44%
Somewhat oppose	18%
Strongly oppose	8%
Don't know	10%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>65%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>26%</i>

- d. Schools adjusting their calendars to begin earlier in the summer and continue into the following summer

	Total
Strongly support	8%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	25%
Strongly oppose	32%
Don't know	8%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>34%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>57%</i>



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e. Students and teachers returning to school before there is a coronavirus vaccine

	Total
Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	36%
Somewhat oppose	26%
Strongly oppose	14%
Don't know	10%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>49%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>41%</i>

10. If your school was to reopen and implement social distancing guidelines, how likely are the following?

Total Likely Summary

	Total
I would have difficulty enforcing social distancing among my students	87%
I would wear a mask while teaching	78%
I would have to work longer hours	58%
I would not return to teaching	18%

a. I would have to work longer hours

	Total
Very likely	21%
Somewhat likely	37%
Not very likely	24%
Not at all likely	8%
Don't know	10%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Not likely (Net)</i>	<i>31%</i>

b. I would have difficulty enforcing social distancing among my students

	Total
Very likely	48%
Somewhat likely	39%
Not very likely	8%
Not at all likely	3%
Don't know	2%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	<i>87%</i>
<i>Not likely (Net)</i>	<i>11%</i>



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c. I would wear a mask while teaching

	Total
Very likely	41%
Somewhat likely	37%
Not very likely	12%
Not at all likely	4%
Don't know	6%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	78%
<i>Not likely (Net)</i>	16%

d. I would not return to teaching

	Total
Very likely	6%
Somewhat likely	13%
Not very likely	26%
Not at all likely	43%
Don't know	12%
<i>Likely (Net)</i>	18%
<i>Not likely (Net)</i>	69%

11. How many years have you taught K-12 students?

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
1-9 years	43%	51%
10-19 years	33%	30%
20-29 years	19%	13%
30-39 years	4%	4%
40-49 years	1%	*
50-55 years	*	*
Mean	12.7	11.6

12. Is the school where you do most of your teaching...

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
Public school	84%	77%
Private school – non-religious	7%	9%
Private school – religious or parochial	6%	9%
Charter school	2%	5%

13. Do you primarily teach...

	Total
Elementary school students (Approximately kindergarten-5 th grade)	44%
Middle school students (Approximately 6 th -8 th grade)	17%
High school students (Approximately 9 th -12 th grade)	39%





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14. Do you belong to a teachers' union?

	Total	<i>Jan 2019</i>
Yes	46%	46%
No	45%	45%
Don't know	3%	3%
Prefer not to say	7%	6%



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About the Study

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between May 18-21, 2020, on behalf of USA Today. For this survey, a sample of 505 teachers of grades K-12 age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. Partial findings from an USA Today/Ipsos poll conducted January 11-17, 2019, among roughly 504 teachers of grades K-12 18+ are included as well.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.0 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=505, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-6.5 percentage points).

Additionally, the USA Today/Ipsos poll conducted January 11-17, 2019 has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.0 percentage points for all respondents.

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