



Community Needs Assessment | 2020

Following the Spring 2020 closures, the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) conducted a phone survey that revealed how education, digital and health inequities were being exacerbated by the pandemic impacting families in unprecedented ways. Six months after the initial survey, PIQE conducted a Fall 2020 phone survey in Spanish to better assess how parents and families adapted and where critical areas of need remain as the pandemic continues to evolve. The Fall 2020 survey found continuing disparities in equitable access to educational instruction time and marked increases in student and familial stress.

Method

In the Fall of 2020, 1,323 respondents participated in a phone survey. Participants were Spanish-speaking PIQE parents, 14% of whom also participated in the phone survey conducted in Spring 2020 and had participated in the PIQE Parent Engagement seminars.

The Fall 2020 respondents are from three PIQE regions: 15% from Northern California residing in Marin, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Sacramento, Solano, and San Joaquin counties; 33% from Central California residing in Merced, Madera, Tulare, Fresno, Kings, and Kern counties; and 51% Southern California residing in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties.



16% NORTHERN
33% CENTRAL
51% SOUTHERN

OUR RESPONDENTS



FALL 1,323 PIQE PARENTS

35% Elementary
24% Middle School
41% High School

Questions

The Fall 2020 phone survey was collected from October 9, 2020 to October 26, 2020 and include 26 questions. This report highlights 12 responses. The Fall 2020 phone survey was divided into four sections focused on 1) distance learning 2) digital divide 3) mental health 4) essential needs. Questions in the survey include:

- *Do you have your own email address?*
- *Are you concerned about your student's emotional needs?*
- *If the answer is yes, is the school providing resources to address the impact of Coronavirus?*
- *Do you know how to receive medical services online or by phone?*
- *Do you believe you will need to move from your home in the next three months?*

FALL 2020 RESULTS

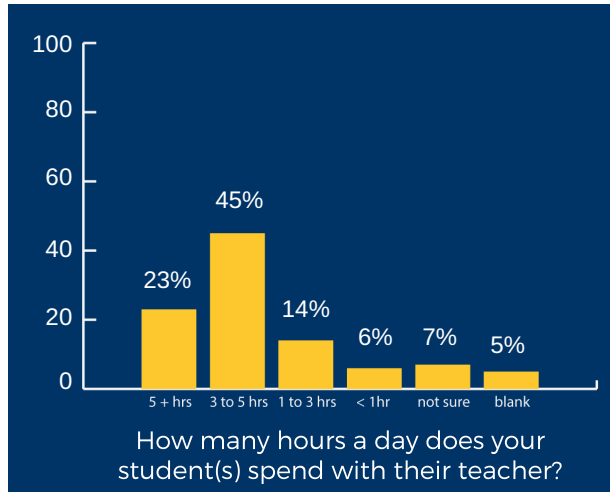


Figure 1

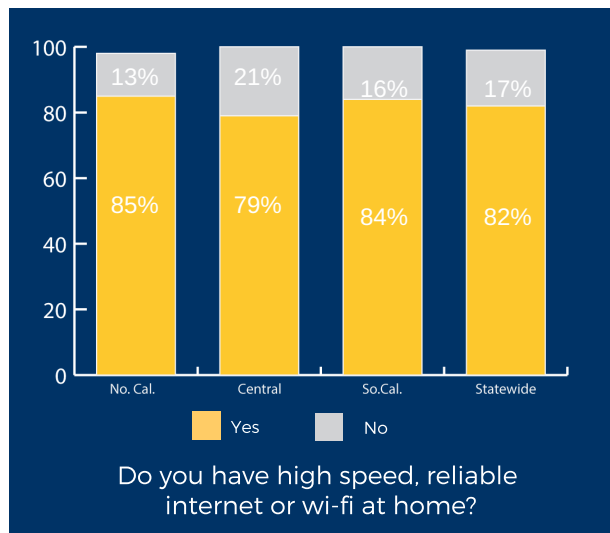


Figure 2

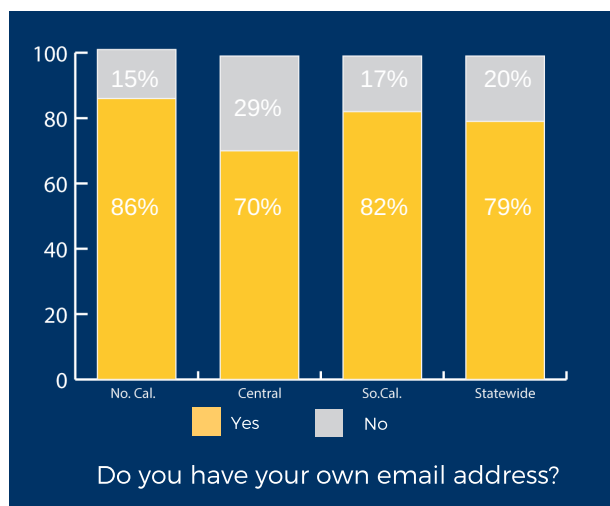


Figure 3

DISTANCE LEARNING

The new school year began online with families learning new vocabulary and new technology so children could access distance learning.

How many hours a day does your student spend with their teacher?

Thirty-two percent (32%) of respondents indicated their students spend less than three hours with teachers with 45% spending between three to five hours per school day (figure 1).

DIGITAL DIVIDE

PIQE continues to support families during the pandemic by providing digital skills training and bridging families to vital community and mental health resources. **Digital literacy** is a key component of the adapted curriculum to assist families' efforts to support their students with distance learning as well as accessing basic needs services.

Do you have high speed, reliable internet or wi-fi at home?

Making equipment available for students and having reliable and stable internet are essential elements to online learning. While the majority (94%) of Fall 2020 respondents said the school provided the appropriate equipment for online learning, 17% still do not have reliable internet/Wi-Fi at home with Central California showing the largest disparity at 21% (figure 2).

Do you have your own email address?

Beyond the need to access reliable internet, having an email address is essential for families to engage and connect. Statewide, 1 in 5 do not have an email address; and in Central California, nearly 30% do not (figure 3).

FALL 2020 RESULTS

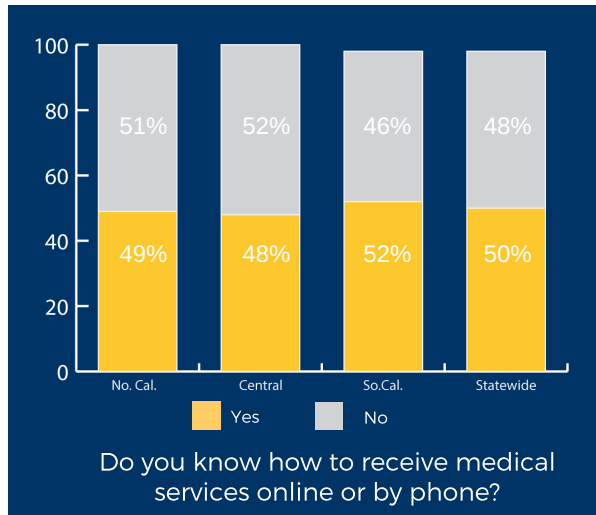


Figure 4

Do you know how to receive medical services online or by phone?

Nearly 50% of respondents stated that they do not know how to receive medical services on-line or by phone with the greatest disparity in Central California at 52% (figure 4).

The Spring 2020 phone survey asked a similar question, "Do you know where to go for medical assistance?" Eighty-six percent (86%) of respondents in Spring 2020 said yes.

MENTAL HEALTH

The sustained and evolving crisis has impacted the mental health of both adults and children. Continued economic stressors, restrictions on social gathering, increased infection rates and limited access to COVID testing added increased stress that has been documented through multiple studies. The following questions address the social-emotional needs of children, and the child and parental stress.

Are you concerned about your child(ren)'s emotional needs?

A majority (63%) of respondents indicated that they were concerned about their children's emotional needs (figure 5).

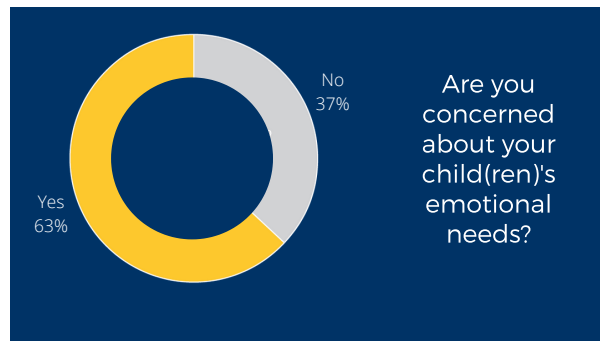


Figure 5

If yes, is the school providing resources?

Respondents were then asked about resources. Thirty-six percent (36%) indicated that their children's schools were providing resources, while, 35% said they were not provided resources (figure 6).

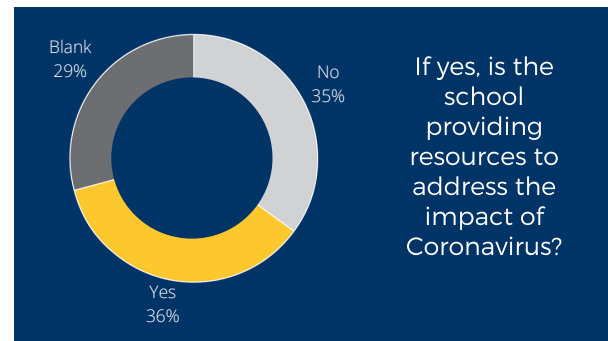
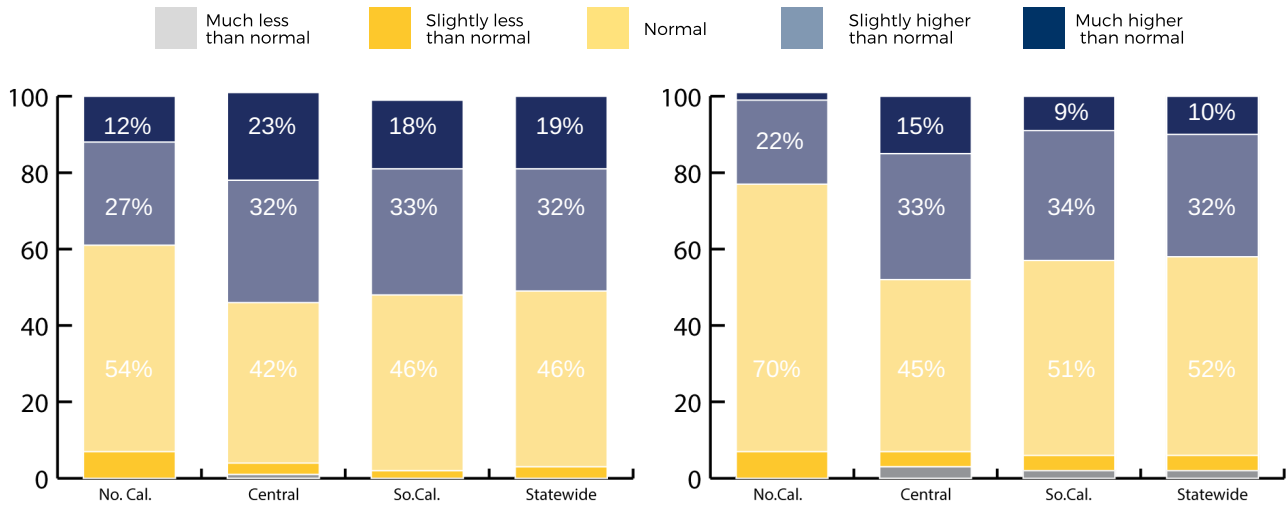


Figure 6

FALL 2020 RESULTS



What would you say is your stress level?

What would you say is your student's stress level?

Figure 7

What would you say is your student's stress level?

What would you say is your stress level?

More than 50% of respondents indicated their own stress levels were slightly higher or much higher than normal. When asked about their child(ren), 42% of respondents indicated that their children's stress levels were slightly higher or much higher than normal with regional differences noted as in Central California (48%), Southern California (43%) and Northern California (24%) (figure 7).

ESSENTIAL NEEDS

Throughout the pandemic, meeting basic needs, especially food and housing, has been challenging for many families. Schools have often been critical to providing a consistent place for children and families to access food during the pandemic.

Respondents were asked about their children's food access. A majority (93%) of respondents said their families received information from the school about accessing breakfast or lunch. Nearly 30% of respondents said their children were required to show identification to pick up breakfast or lunch (figure 8).

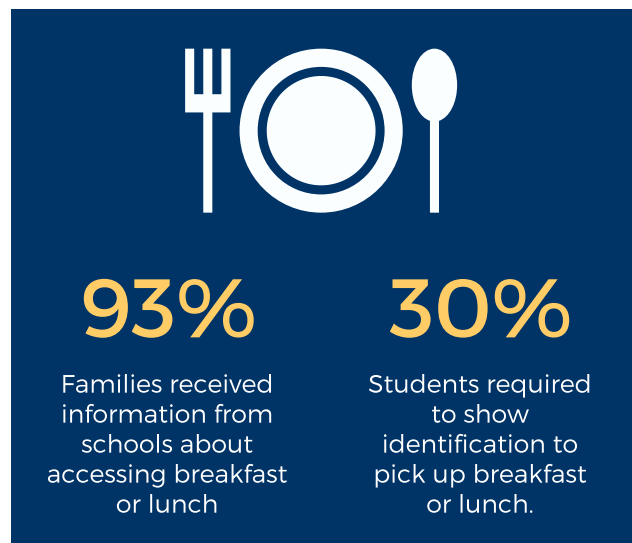
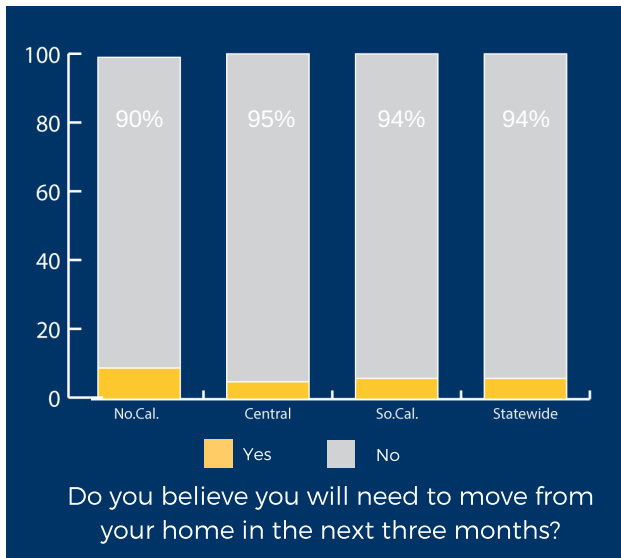


Figure 8

FALL 2020 RESULTS



Since the pandemic began in March have you moved from your home?

Statewide, 5% of families had moved since March 2020 with a higher percentage (12%) of Northern California respondents indicating they had moved.

Do you believe you will need to move from your home in the next three months?

Statewide 6% of respondents believed they will need to move from their home in the next three months, with 9% from Northern California (figure 9).

Figure 9

In addressing the respondent's most pressing areas of concern, respondents were asked to rank their highest priority among **Access to Nutritious Food, Paying Rent or Mortgage, Threat from ICE, Losing A Job, Health, Mental Health, and Education of My Student.**

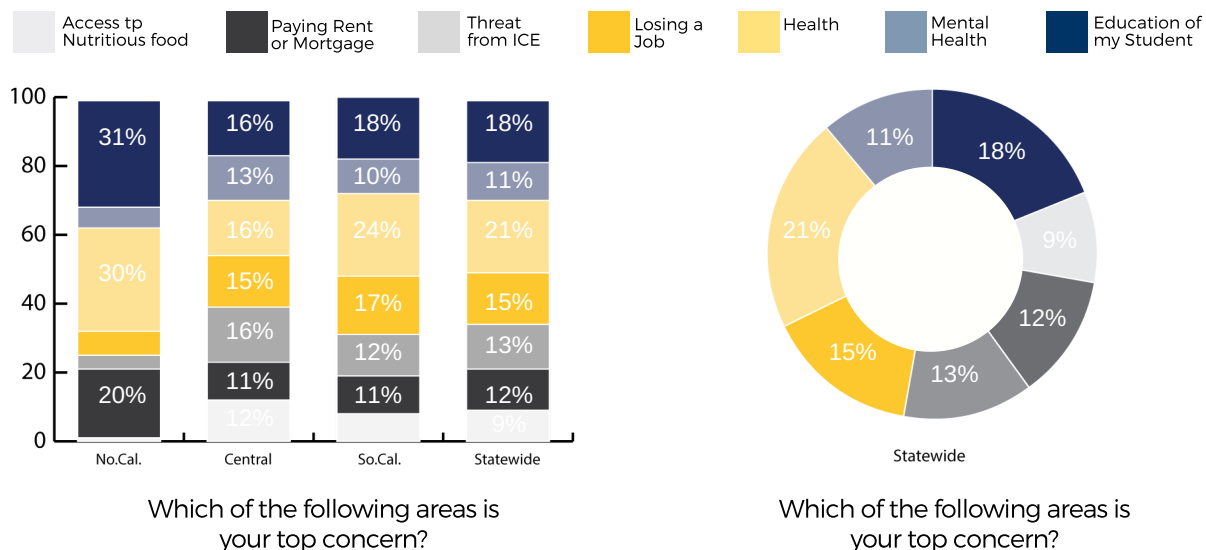


Figure 10

Which of the following areas is your top concern at the moment?

In Central California, the threat from ICE (16%) was identified as a priority equal to student's education (16%) and health (16%). Additionally, the survey revealed regional differences in priorities where 31% of Northern California respondents were concerned with student's education while 24% of respondents in Southern California expressed concern with health. Overall, health and student's education were the biggest factors with 40% of respondents identifying both issues at 21% and 19% respectively (figure 10).

COMPARISON | FALL 2020 AND SPRING 2020

PIQE's Spring 2020 phone survey focused on a range of questions regarding education, digital connectivity and essential needs. The Fall 2020 phone survey revisited questions to provide a comparison and reveal ongoing family struggles.

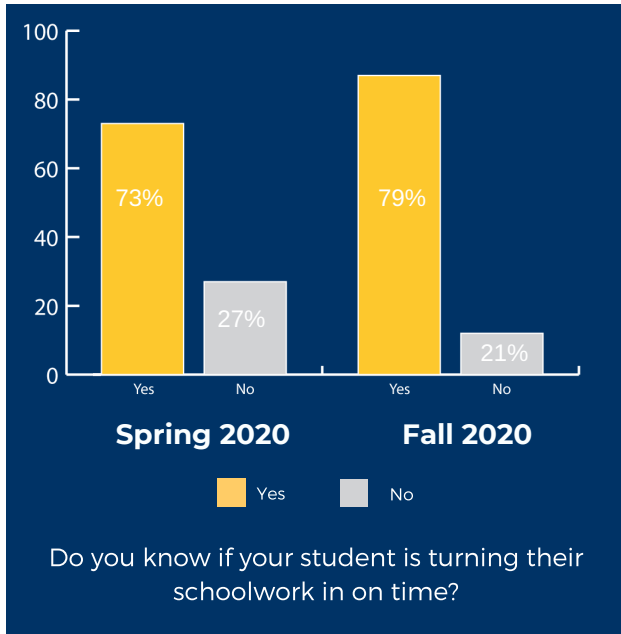


Figure 11

Do you know if your student(s) is turning their schoolwork in on time?

Fall 2020 phone survey revealed a 14% increase (87%) from Spring 2020 (73%) of respondents knowing if their student(s) turned in schoolwork on time (figure 11).

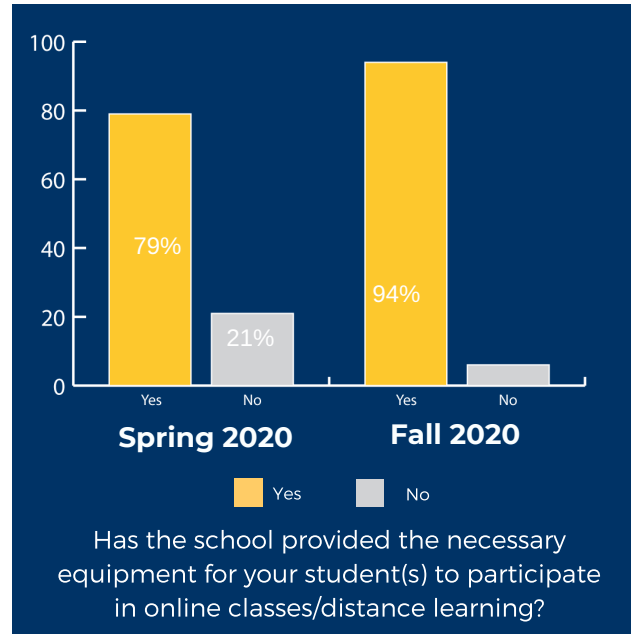


Figure 12

Has the school provided the necessary equipment for your student(s) to participate in online classes/distance learning?

A majority (94%) of respondents indicated they received the necessary equipment compared to 79% of respondents in Spring 2020 (figure 12).

Next Steps

Critical to a family's ability to support their child's learning at home is having a relationship with their teacher(s) that is based on respect and trust where two-way communication is supported, open and solution-oriented. This is true for distance learning but should also be considered as schools prepare to reopen. The PIQE's Fall 2020 survey reveals that families and their students - even when those that participated were connected to some supports through PIQE parent workshops - continue to face inequitable access to educational opportunities despite concerted efforts to provide more equipment and additional internet access. A holistic response moving forward needs to include:

- training to develop digital literacy skills for the adults supporting online learning at home
- extended school year and summer months for more learning opportunities with teachers
- access to basic needs like nutritious food, housing and employment supports
- mental health supports for both adults and children to respond to mental health needs

Special thanks to our partners for their input and collaboration: The Education Trust-West, Civil Rights Project at UCLA, Californians Together, Public Advocates, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) San Diego and Imperial Counties, and The Children's Partnership.