This school year has begun differently than most parents envisioned given the unexpected challenges and disruptions that continue to be caused by COVID-19. Given the realities many parents are facing with another uncertain year, Varsity Tutors conducted a survey of nearly 1,200 parents of K-12 students to better understand their feelings heading into fall.

35% of students remain in an online-only or hybrid learning environment. For those that started the year in-person, 53% have already had to quarantine due to COVID exposure.

Online or hybrid learning continues to tax parents’ time. 81% are spending 4+ hours per week assisting their children’s academics, and over 15% are spending 10+ hours per week.

More parents than ever are weighing homeschooling as an option. 55% of parents have recently considered homeschooling and an additional 18% of parents might consider homeschooling in the future.

87% of parents would be willing to spend additional money in the event of school closures and disruptions this school year. 41% would spend over $500 to help their children, while 17% would be willing to spend over $1,000.
COVID’s effects on schooling have weighed heavily:

90% of parents are concerned the current crisis will have long term education impacts, up from 63% in 2020. 34% of parents are very concerned, the highest percentage among five answer choices.

76% of parents are worried about their kids keeping up with their grade level and 64% are worried about college admissions and standardized test scores.

The most common words many parents used to describe their feelings about starting this new school year were: “Nervous”, “Anxious” and “Scared”.

But, “Optimistic” was another word used frequently and 55% of parents are feeling more optimistic about the upcoming school year compared to last year.
Parents' worries extend beyond academics. Parents expressed concerns about extracurriculars, which had been facing cuts pre-COVID, but are now accelerating.

50% of parents say that their children's schools either don't have or could have better extracurricular activities for their children's interests.

75% say their children's school has cut or will soon cut extracurricular programs.

78% of parents worry about cuts to extracurricular activities this school year.
Parents are feeling the stress as their work and family lives remain intertwined.

66% worry that supporting their children academically has had / will have negative impacts on their and/or their spouse's career(s).

69% of parents say that remote learning is disruptive to their ability to fulfill work duties.

70% worry about the impacts on their home life and family dynamics.

Impact of School Disruptions on Parents

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80% of parents are likely to use supplemental learning resources like tutoring and classes this school year, up from 74% in 2020.

79% are likely to seek online 1:1 tutoring.

76% are likely to seek online after school classes.

Parents are prepared: 37% have already made plans for supplemental learning for their children this school year with an additional 32% knowing what they will be seeking out when the need arises.

Online survey conducted by Survey Monkey and LUCID Marketplace to 1,158 nationally representative American parents of K-12 students, with a margin of error of +/- 3 percent.