

# DELAWARE PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

# ABOUT THE DELAWARE PARENT SURVEY

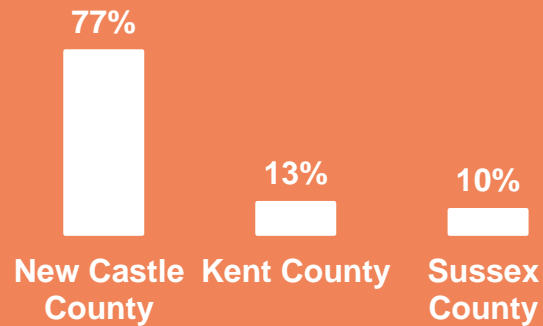
- Parents, caregivers and families are dealing with a lot during the COVID-19 crisis, and many questions remain about the summer and fall.
- More than 1,000 Delaware parents shared their thoughts on COVID-19, including appraisals of the just-concluded spring semester, as well as their concerns about returning to classrooms in the fall. Parents weighed in on topics ranging from childcare to health screenings to economic stress.
- This non-scientific survey was distributed through email and social media between May 26 and June 22. Governor Carney's initial Declaration of a State of Emergency was March 12.
- The survey aimed to gather information from parents so Rodel, the Delaware Readiness Teams, and our partners can better serve families during and after the crisis.

# DELAWARE PARENT SURVEY FINDINGS SUMMARY

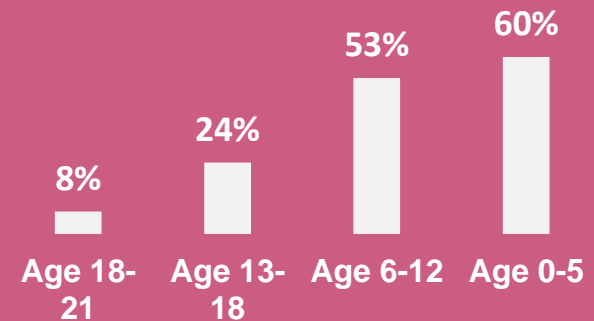
- As Delaware and the nation inch closer to back-to-school time, local parents say they're **concerned for the health and safety of their children due to the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- COVID-19, which forced Delaware to close its school buildings in March, has already left a **stressful and disruptive spring semester** in its wake.
- The COVID-19 crisis has **significantly changed parents' childcare arrangements** and other parenting duties.
- While parents **want children to return to school** for socialization, education, and childcare (so they can work); there are **major concerns about health and safety**—especially for young children and those with disabilities.

# SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

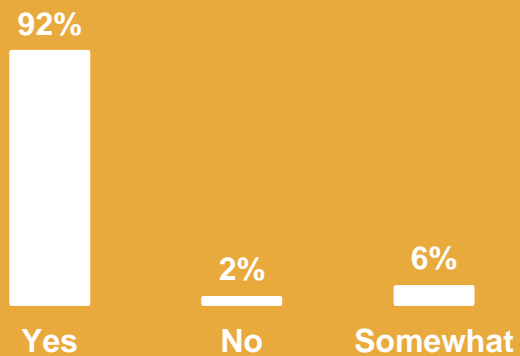
## COUNTY BREAKDOWN



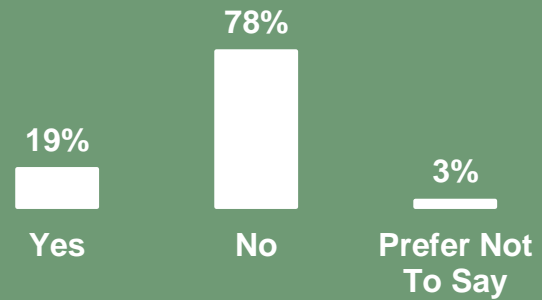
## DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN AGES...



## ACCESS TO RELIABLE WI-FI IN HOME?



## DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A PHYSICAL/COGNITIVE DISABILITY?

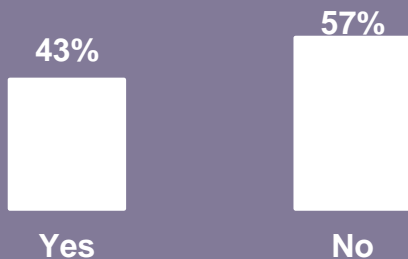




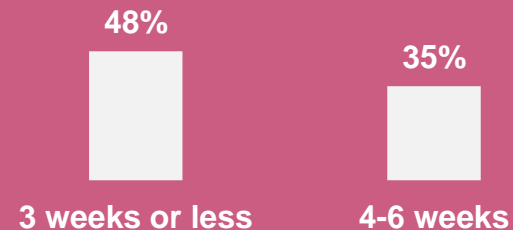
# **EMPLOYMENT AND CHILDCARE**

# WORKING DURING COVID-19

**DID YOUR EMPLOYER GIVE TIME OFF DURING COVID-19 TO SUPPORT FAMILY?**



**ANNUAL PAID TIME OFF?**



**HALF OF RESPONDENTS WERE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL DURING CLOSURES THAT STARTED IN MARCH.**

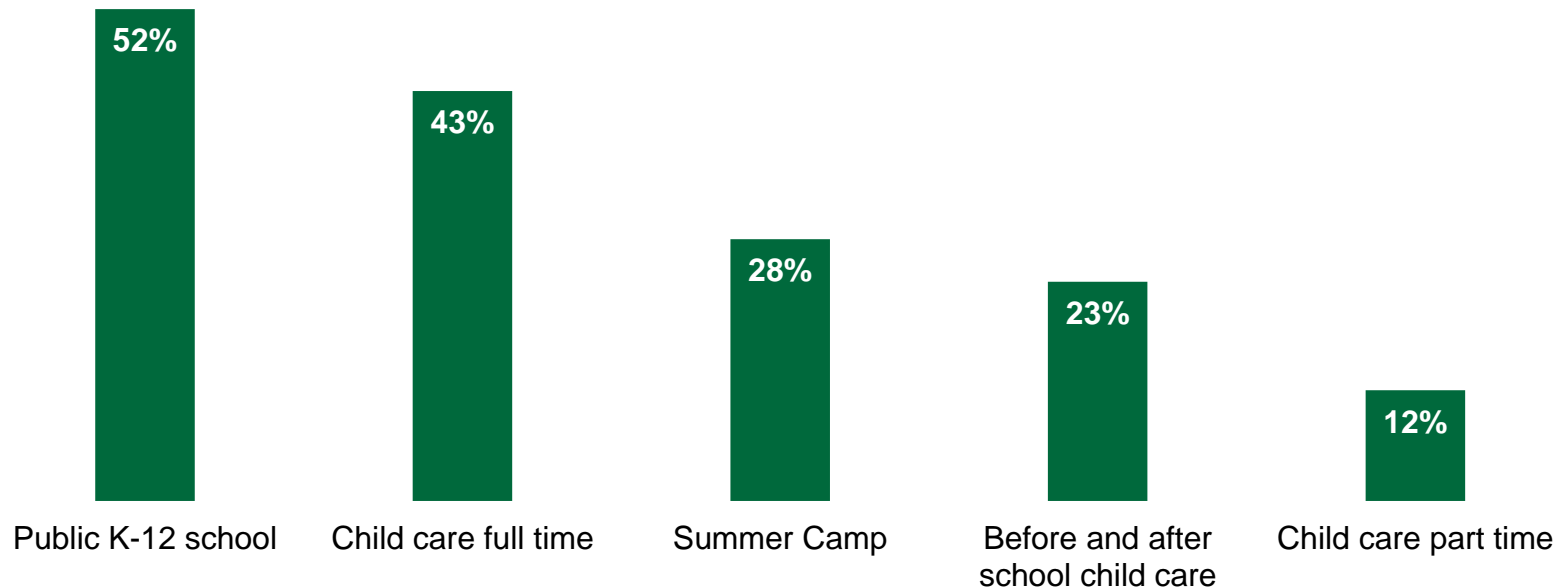
**67% SAID THAT SOMEONE IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD IS WORKING REMOTELY OR HOME AS RESULT OF COVID-19.**

**33% SAID THEY OR SOMEONE IN THEIR HOUSEHOLDS HAVE BEEN WORKING LESS OR BEEN LAID-OFF OR FURLOUGHED**

# CHILDCARE BEFORE THE CRISIS

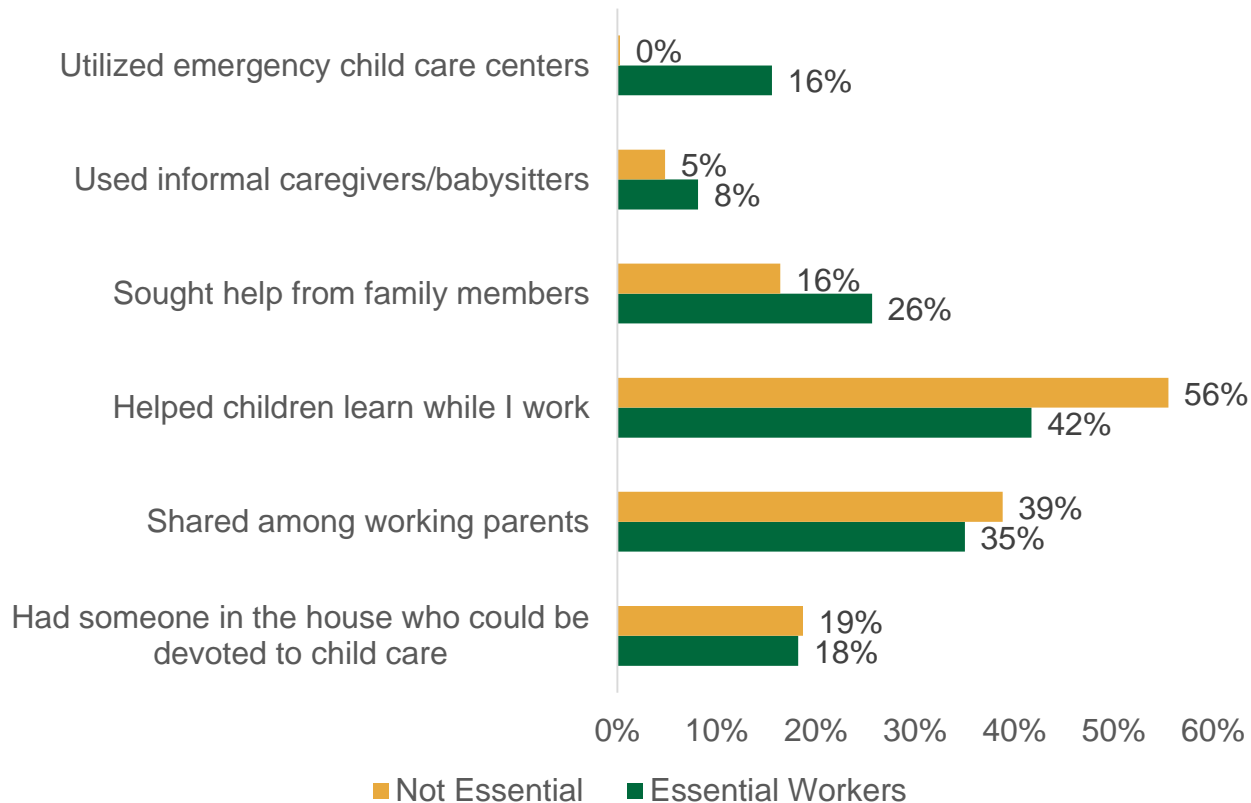
About half of respondents said their children attended public K-12 school, while 43% used full-time childcare. Fewer than one-third used summer camp, before and after school care, or part-time childcare.

Before the crisis, did your children typically attend...  
(select all that apply)



## HOW HAVE YOU MANAGED CARING FOR YOUR CHILDREN SINCE COVID-19?

Both essential workers and non-essential workers were common answer was to help children learn themselves, though parents who were non-essential were 33% more likely to perform this role. Parents whose jobs were considered essential were 60% more likely to seek help from family members for childcare than those considered non-essential. They were also more likely to use informal caregivers.



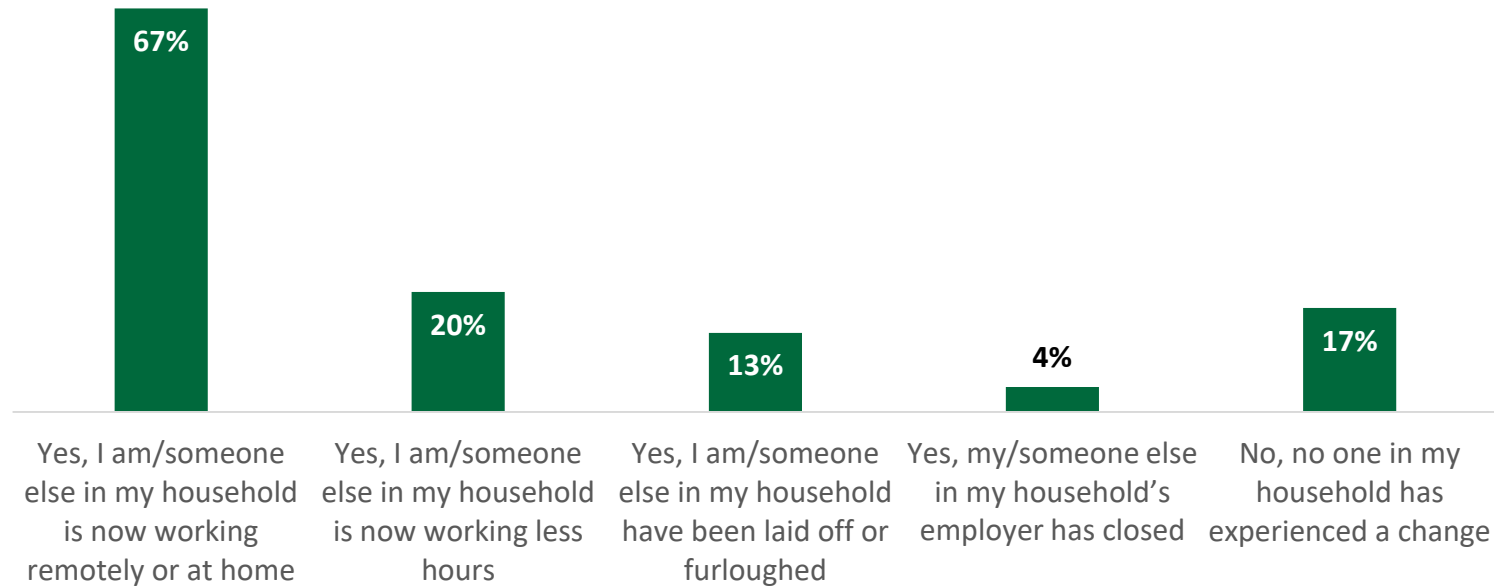


## CHANGES TO WORK

67% of respondents said that they or someone in their household is working remotely or home as result of COVID-19.

33% of respondents said they or someone in their households have been working less or been laid-off or furloughed

Has anyone in your household experienced a change in their work situation as a direct result of COVID-19 or coronavirus?  
(Please select all that apply )



## WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPACT ON YOUR HOUSEHOLD IF YOUR MOST RECENT CHILDCARE PROVIDER WERE NOT OPEN WHEN YOU WERE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO WORK?

"I wouldn't be able to work. I do need reliable childcare to keep my job."

"Children not being able to play and have attention devoted to social interaction with other children."

"Devastating."

"Would need to scramble to find a new arrangement. Unfortunately my perception is that high quality affordable childcare availability was already limited."

"My husband and I would continue to work from home and struggle to keep our children active and supported throughout the day."

"Son would be sitting home all school day being unproductive."

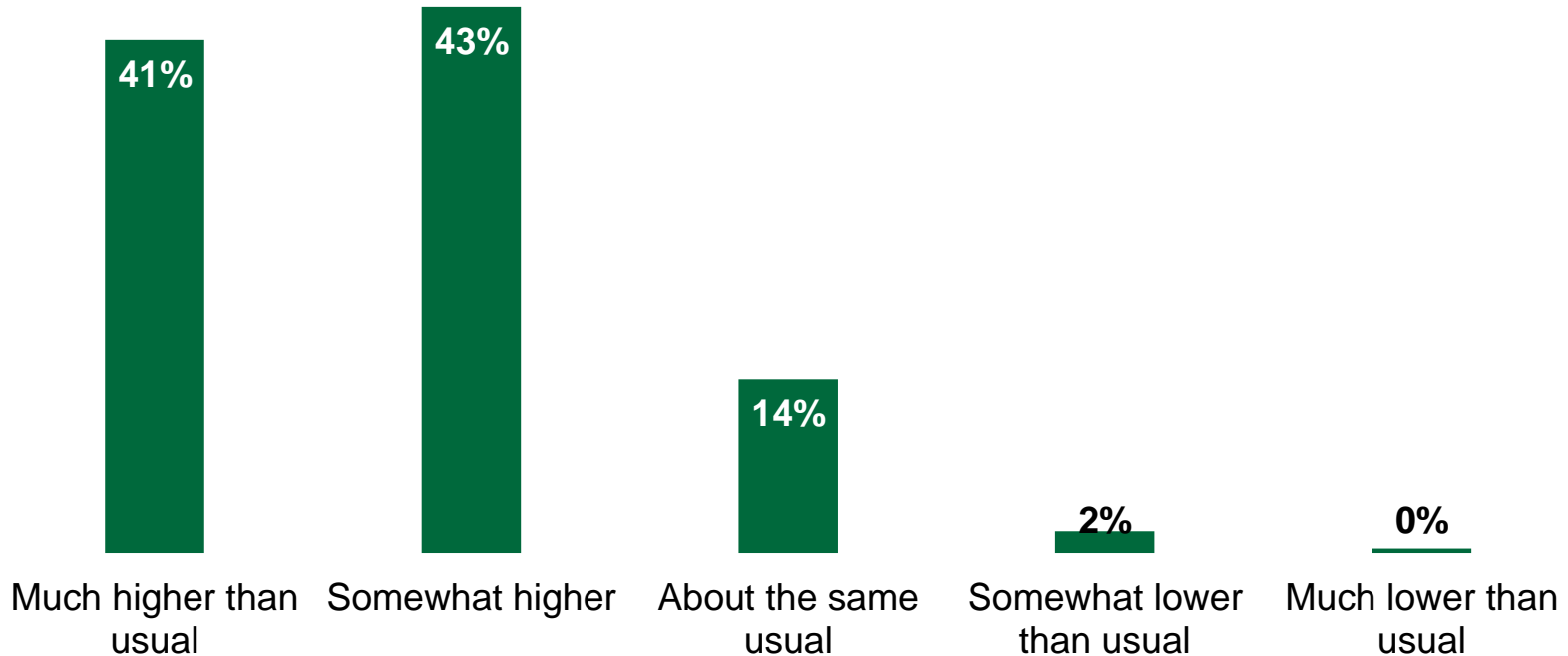


# **COVID-19'S IMPACT ON FAMILIES**

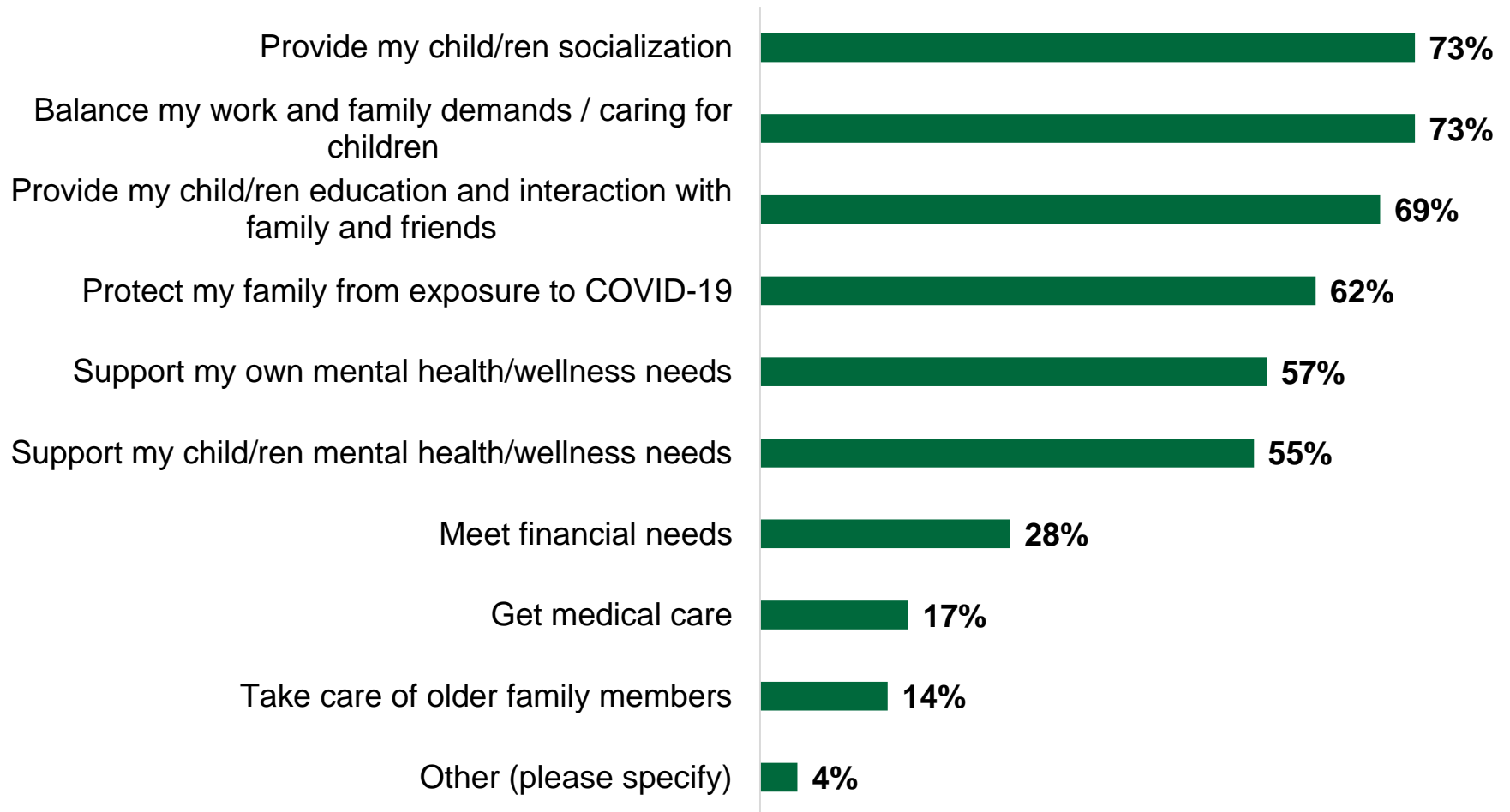
# PARENT STRESS

More than 8 out of 10 parents say their stress level is somewhat or much higher than usual.

Would you say your level of stress as a parent is.....

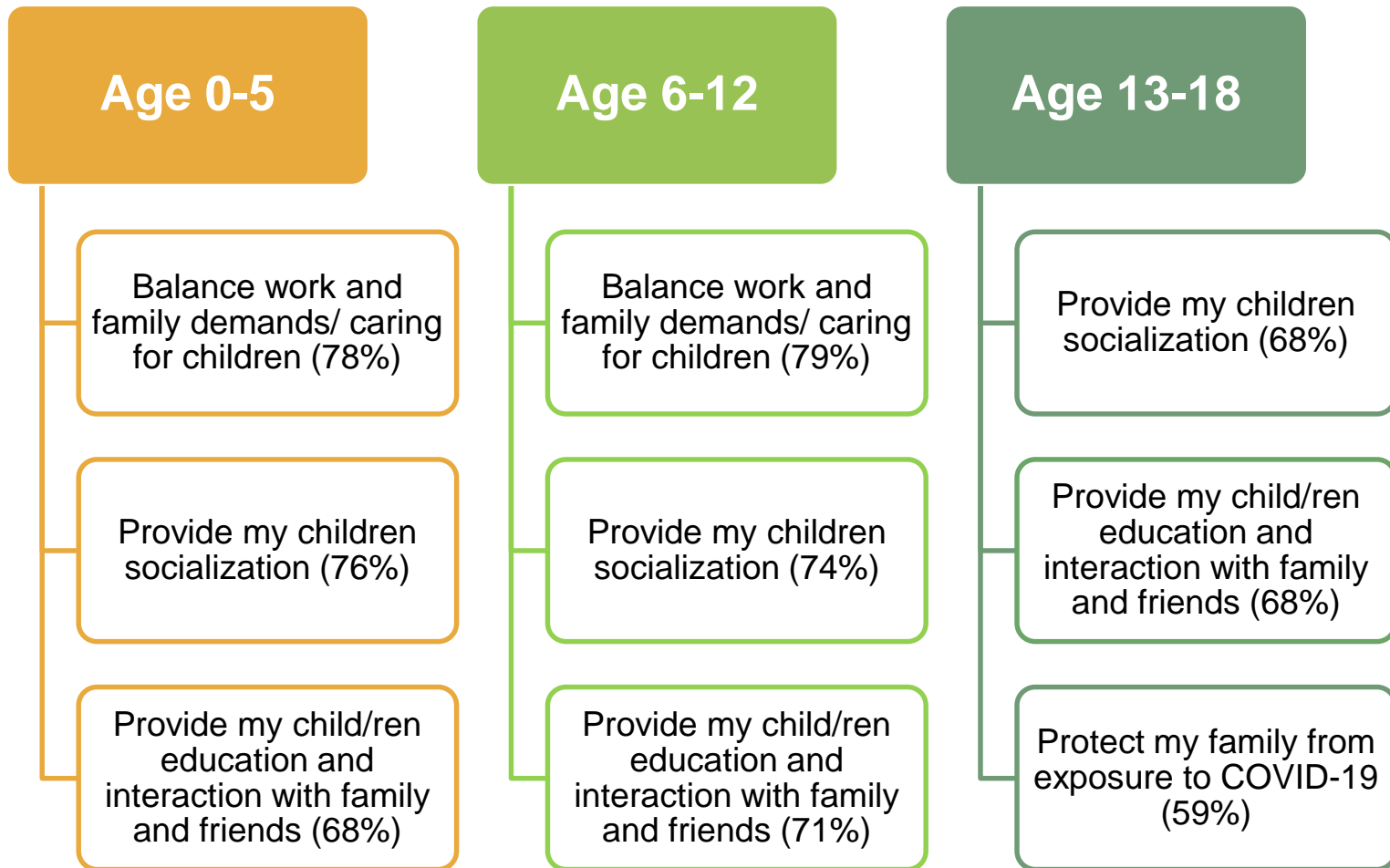


# TOP PARENT CONCERNS: NOT BEING ABLE TO....



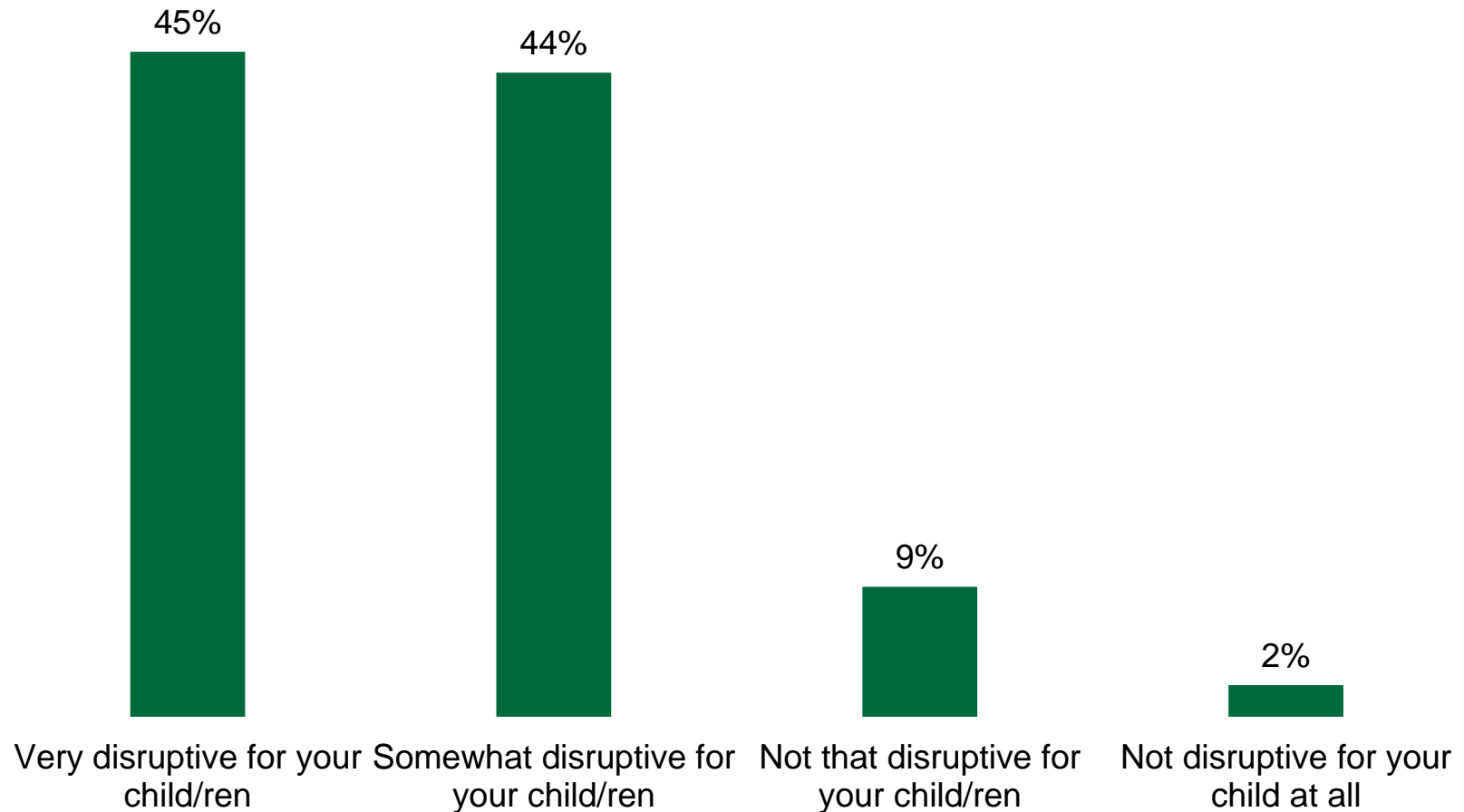
# TOP PARENT CONCERNS BROKEN DOWN BY AGE OF CHILD(REN)

All parents worried about socialization, and parents of younger children are more likely to be worried about balancing work and family demands.



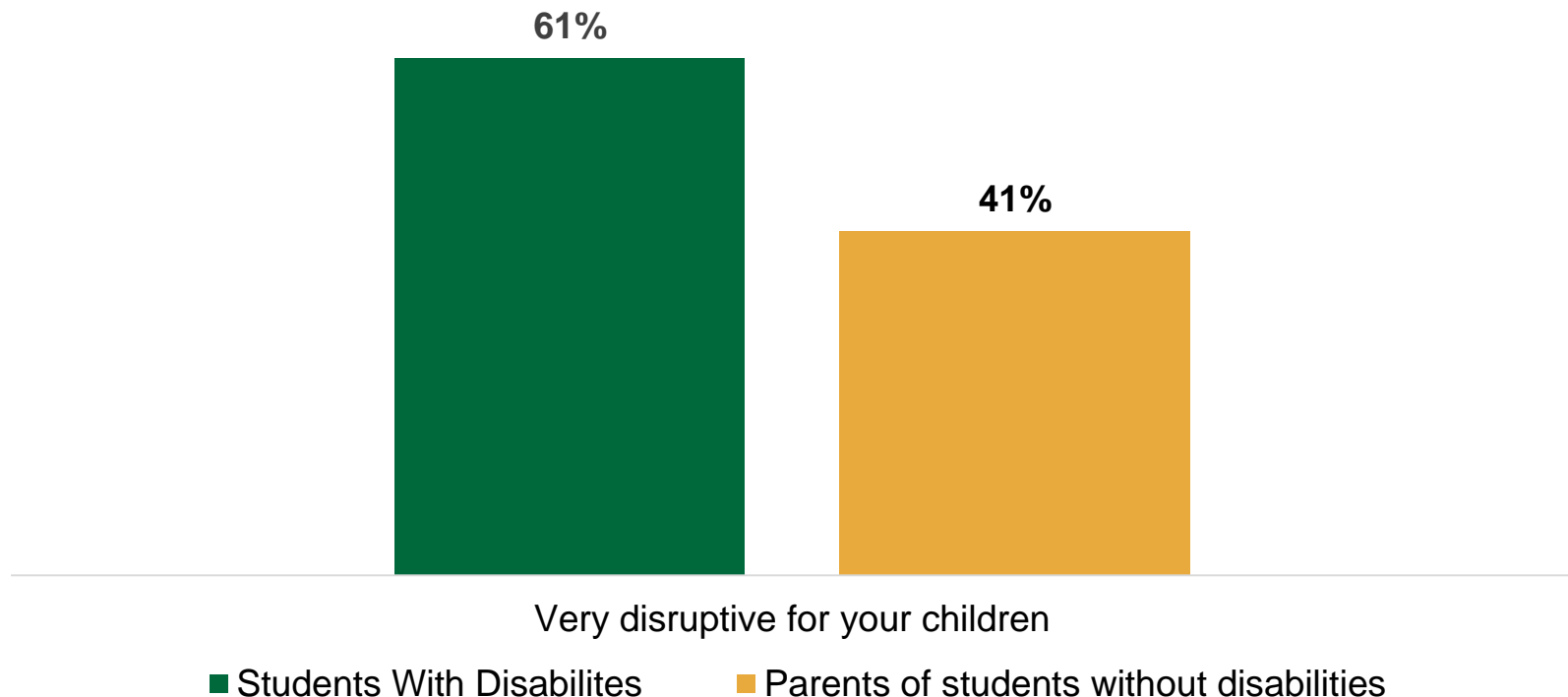
# CHANGES TO ROUTINE

99% of parents reported that the COVID-19 crisis was somewhat or very disruptive



# CHANGES TO ROUTINE: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Parents of students with disabilities were 50% more likely than parents of students without disabilities to report that changes to their routine were very disruptive for their children.





# DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF YOUR CHILD/REN'S EDUCATION

**68%**

I want to know what material my child is missing at the end of this year and how their school plans to make up that material.

**65%**

I am satisfied with the communication to support learning from my child's/children's school.

**60%**

I am more concerned with my child's day-to-day education now more than ever before.

**58%**

My child/children will be prepared for school in the next school year.

**39%**

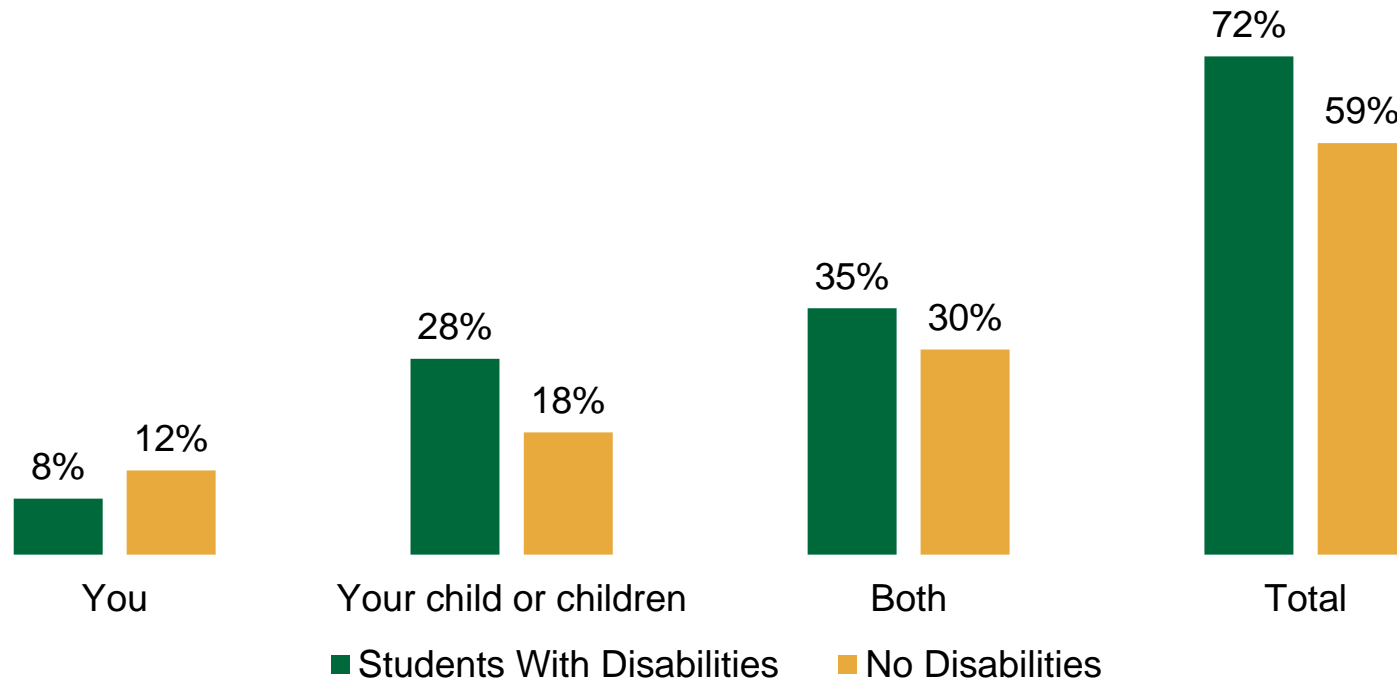
My child should receive support based on an individual learning plan.

**30%**

My child/ren has received appropriate and sufficient specialized needs to accommodations.

## MISSED HEALTH CHECK UPS, MEDICAL SERVICES, MEDICATIONS, OR HOME VISITING SERVICES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Parents of students with disabilities were more than 50% more likely to report that their child(ren) missed health check ups, medical services, or medications or home visiting services during the pandemic.



## PARENT QUOTES: REMOTE LEARNING

"Our district's **plan of "no new learning" at the elementary level was unacceptable.** The district learning materials were well below grade level."

"There seems to be **really different approaches to virtual learning:** district to district, and even between schools in same district."

"My experience was that **academic expectations were continually lowered** as the end of the school year approached."

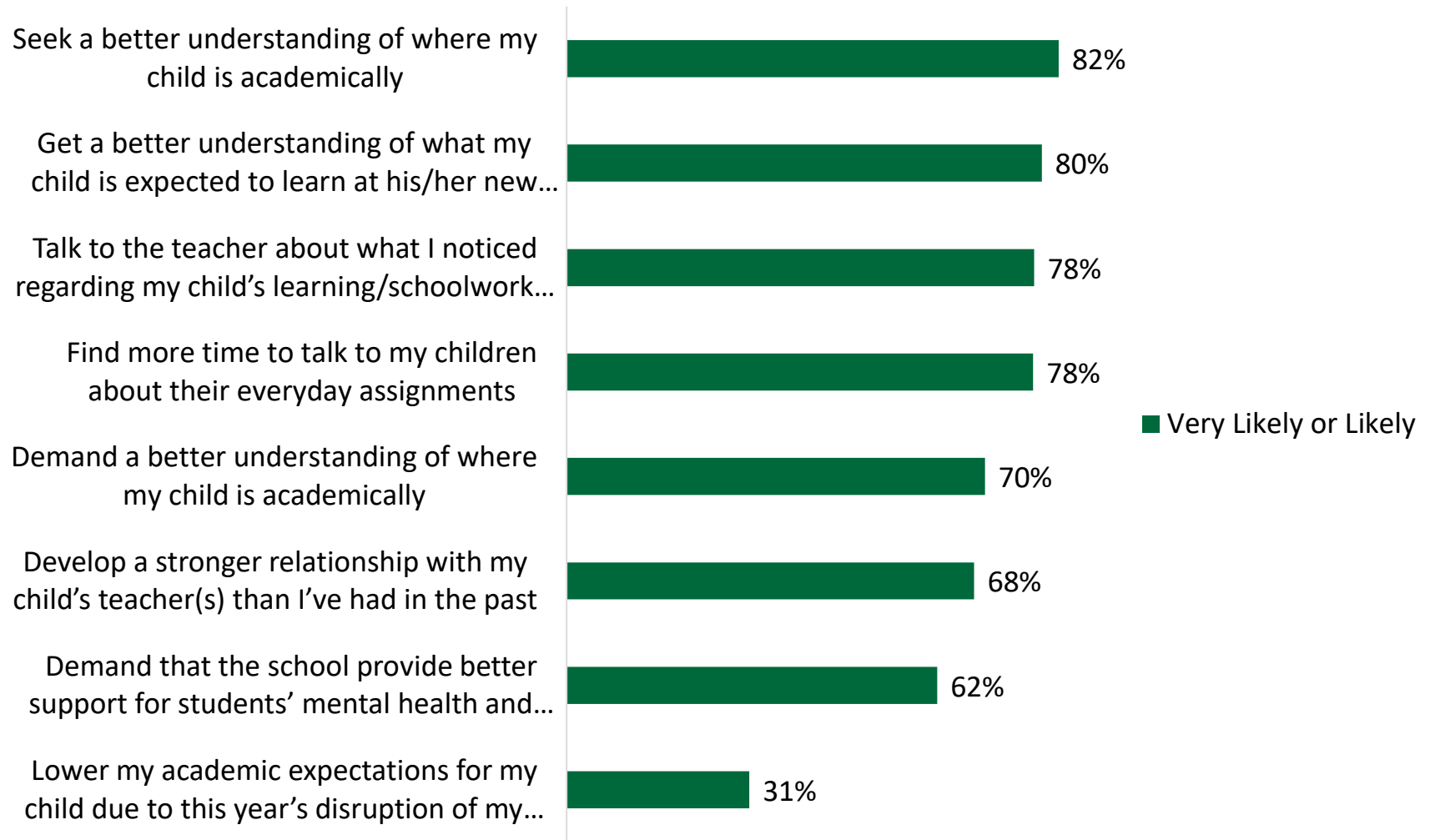
"I wish my kids could have been **exposed to more interactive learning with their teachers** as opposed to links to learning."





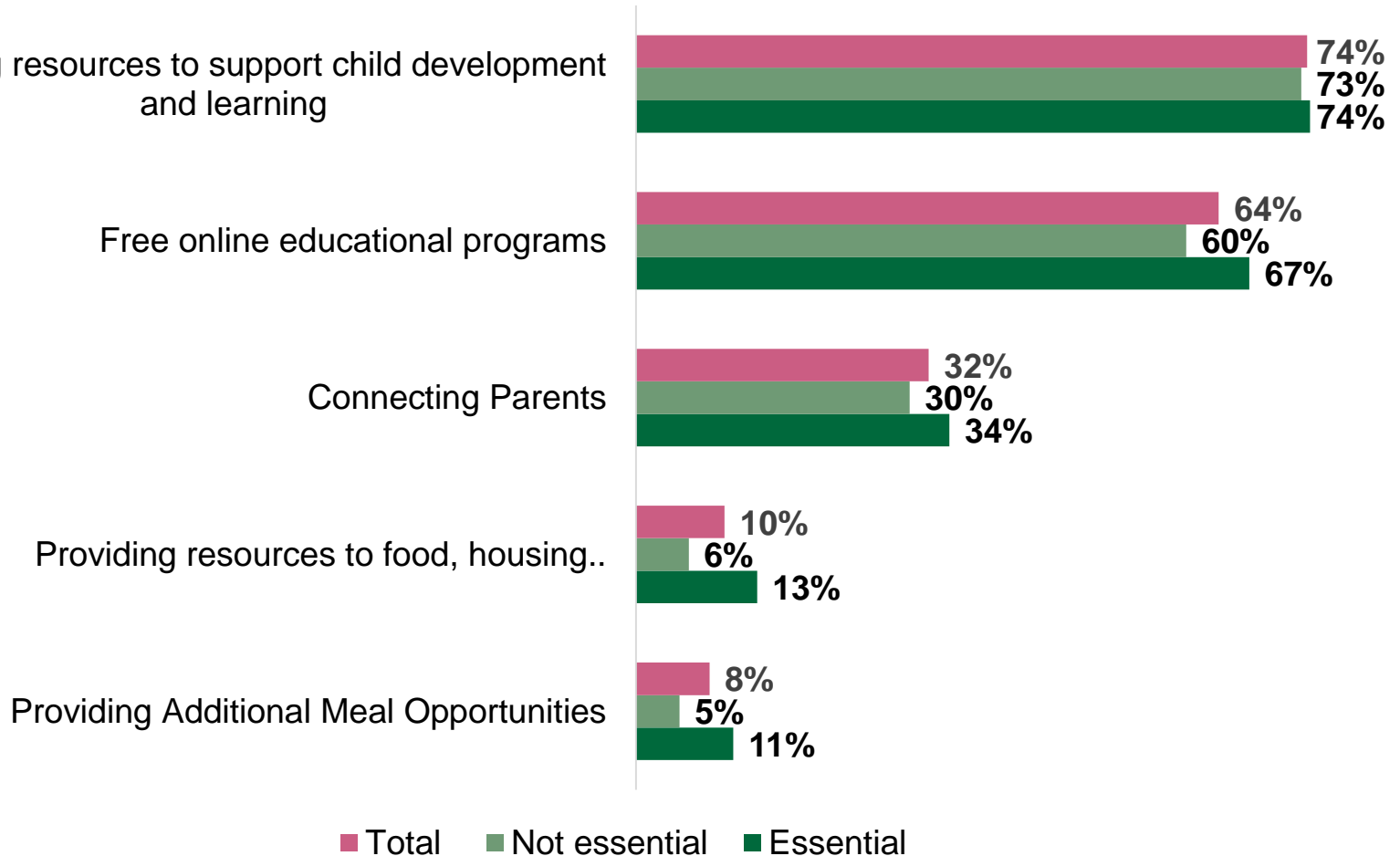
# LOOKING AHEAD

# HOW LIKELY ARE YOU IN THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR TO...

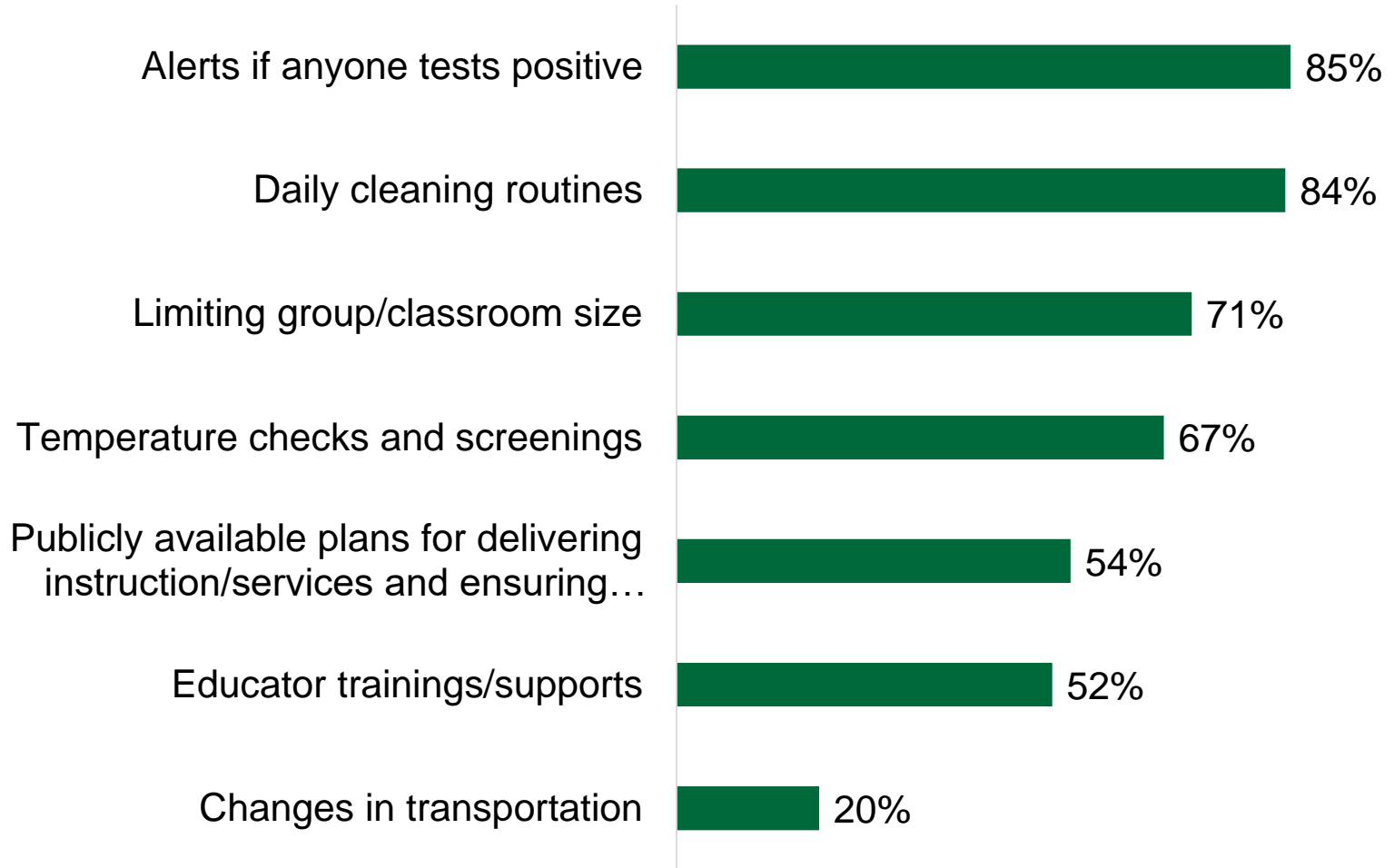


# WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT AT HOME GOING FORWARD?

All parents prioritized resources to support child development and learning. Access to meals or other resources for food and housing were the areas of biggest distinction between essential and nonessential workers: Essential workers were more than 50% more likely than nonessential workers to say these resources would be helpful



## WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE BEFORE SENDING YOUR CHILD/REN TO CHILD CARE, CAMP, OR SCHOOL? (SELECT ALL THAT APPLY)



# WE ASKED PARENTS:

What is your biggest concern  
with reopening schools in the  
fall?

**Exposure to COVID-19 and children's  
physical health was the most  
common response**



## CONCERNS ABOUT REOPENING SCHOOLS: EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

“Protecting students and staff from COVID-19. Protecting families of children who may bring COVID-19 home. Protecting childcare staff who must care for many children.”

“A spike in the virus returning jeopardizing health and closing schools again.”

“Having a child under two who can’t wear a mask. How will centers ensure kids under two are protected?”

“Resurgence or second wave of COVID-19.”



## CONCERNS ABOUT REOPENING SCHOOLS: EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING

"I have a 3.5 year old and socialization and interaction with others is crucial at this stage and I'm very concerned he won't be able to do that in a way that allows for safety but also for him and other to still be kids."

"Mental health of children."

"My biggest concern is that schools will have so many restrictions that it will not be a productive and safe space for children."

"Getting kids back onto a schedule/routine with so much free time adapting to early morning classes, sitting for 1-1/2 hr in a class will be a struggle and homework."



## CONCERNS ABOUT REOPENING SCHOOLS: TRANSITIONS

"Physical and mental safety of my children who are transitioning to not only new grades but new schools. Once the safety protocols are in place, we must teach children the "new normal" so they become comfortable with it instead of being scared of it. Only then are they capable of concentrating on their continued learning."

"We seem to just be creating more transitions for children which impedes development."

"My son will be starting kindergarten and I am very concerned that the "new" school structure will not be welcoming or inviting."

"Relationships were established when this happened in March. it would take a lot of work to build relationships within a classroom virtually and assess learners virtually."



## CONCERNS ABOUT REOPENING SCHOOLS: EARLY CHILDCARE CENTERS

“[I’m concerned] that childcare centers will not get the same attention as schools. That the children and teachers that work in early ed will be overlooked and not given the same consideration as public school employees and children. ECE teachers and centers are one of the professions where social distancing is not a option.”

“Preschoolers learn with their full bodies, and they need to be able to interact.”

“It is unrealistic to expect students, especially younger ones, to have the control to socially distance themselves from other kids.”

“How do you keep everything hygienic when it's pre-school and there are tons of kids wiping noses, sneezing, coughing, and touching everything?”



# PARENT CONCERNS

“The CDC guidelines for opening school in the fall are unrealistic. **There will be no real instruction happening**, only policing the students to keep their masks on and stay away from each other.”

“If we were able to have WiFi at home that would be a huge blessing but in our area **WiFi is not available.**”

“During this time my grandson **hasn't had any speech therapy or occupational therapy and seems to be regressing** in this area.”

“I'm concerned about daycare workers wearing masks that cover their mouths when working with infants. Babies need to see faces for language development and understanding emotions. I worry my infant will be scared or hard to console if he can't see that caregivers are smiling at him.”

“**Please send them back to school. Remote learning is incredibly difficult with multiple children.** I believe my children will thrive academically in the school building with their teachers.”

“If schools are closed but my job is not, **I worry about having to quit my job and losing my income and my family's insurance.**”

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR DELAWARE

- As part of Delaware's official framework for reopening schools, school districts and charters must each make plans for the fall school year, including contingencies for various scenarios that could unfold due to the increased spread of COVID-19.
- Many districts are conducting surveys of their own parents and families.
- Visit [www.rodelde.org](http://www.rodelde.org) for more.