

To: Interested Parties

From: GBAO

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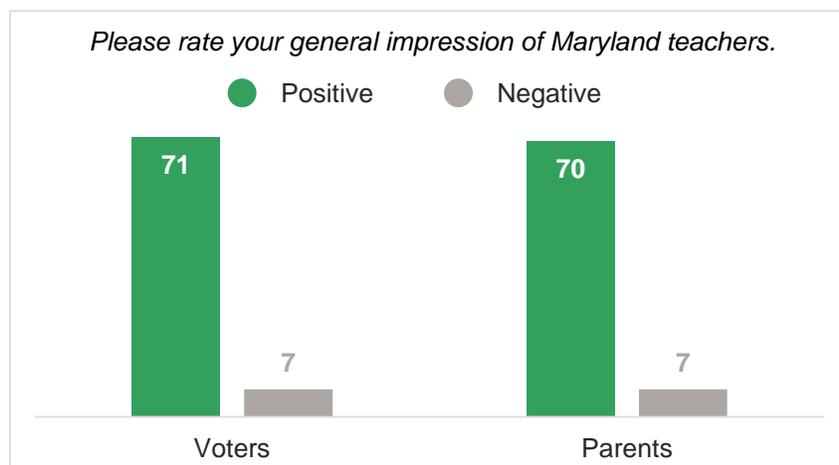
Poll Analysis: Maryland Voters And Educators On Distance Learning

Amidst the coronavirus pandemic and distance learning, our recent polling of Maryland voters¹ and educators² finds Maryland educators are well-regarded, and voters believe teachers are underpaid.

Distance learning poses many challenges for educators and families. Teachers are primarily concerned about student engagement, while parents are concerned about their children missing their school community and not having a well-rounded school experience. Increased safety measures – like requiring PPE and social distancing through reduced class size – are widely supported and seen as essential to reopening schools.

Key Survey Findings

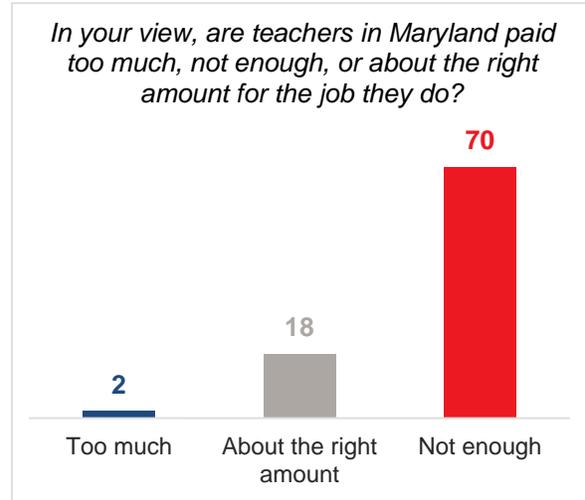
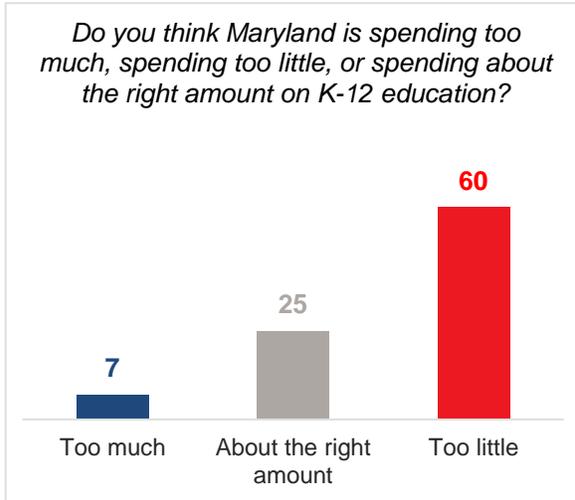
- **Maryland teachers are held in high regard.** A strong majority of voters (71 percent) and parents (70 percent) have positive impressions of teachers in the state. Just 7 percent have a negative impression.



¹ GBAO conducted a survey of 650 registered voters statewide. Results include an oversample of parents for a total on 217 parents of kids under 18. This survey, on behalf of MSEA, was conducted May 14 – 19, 2020 and reached respondents on both landlines and cell phones. Results were weighted to a sample size of 500 to reflect the regional and demographic characteristics of the state and carry a margin of error of +/- 4.4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence interval.

² GBAO conducted a survey of 800 MSEA members via landline and phones from May 14 – 18, 2020 and 2,526 MSEA members via Qualtrics from May 19 – 25, 2020. The survey results carry a margin of error +/- 3.7 and +/- 2.0 percentage points, respectively, at the 95 percent confidence interval.

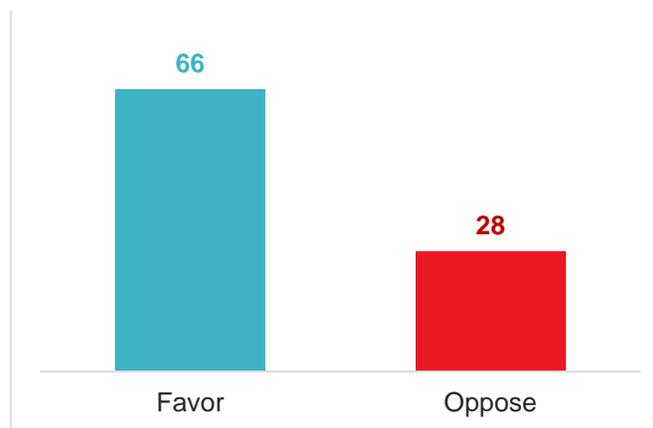
- **Current school funding and teacher pay are seen as inadequate.** A majority of voters believes Maryland is spending too little on K-12 education (60 percent) and teacher pay (70 percent).



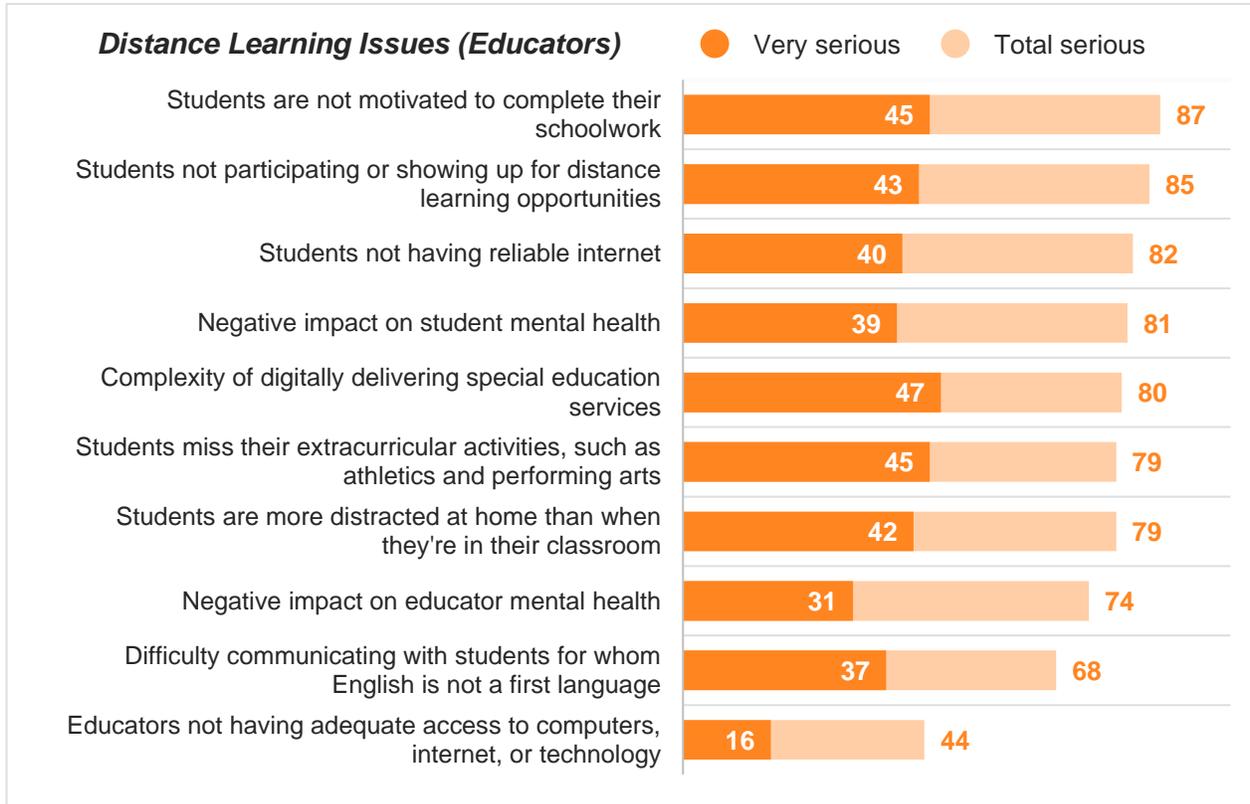
- **Majority supports the Blueprint plan after arguments from both sides by a margin of 2-to-1.** Pandemic-related economic attacks do little to dampen support. There is majority support holds across region and race. Republicans are equally divided on the plan after hearing the messaging (49 percent favor, 48 percent oppose).

Supporters say that we need these additional resources to increase teacher pay, hire more teachers, expand career and technical education programs, more equitably fund schools, and implement other research-based strategies to help students.

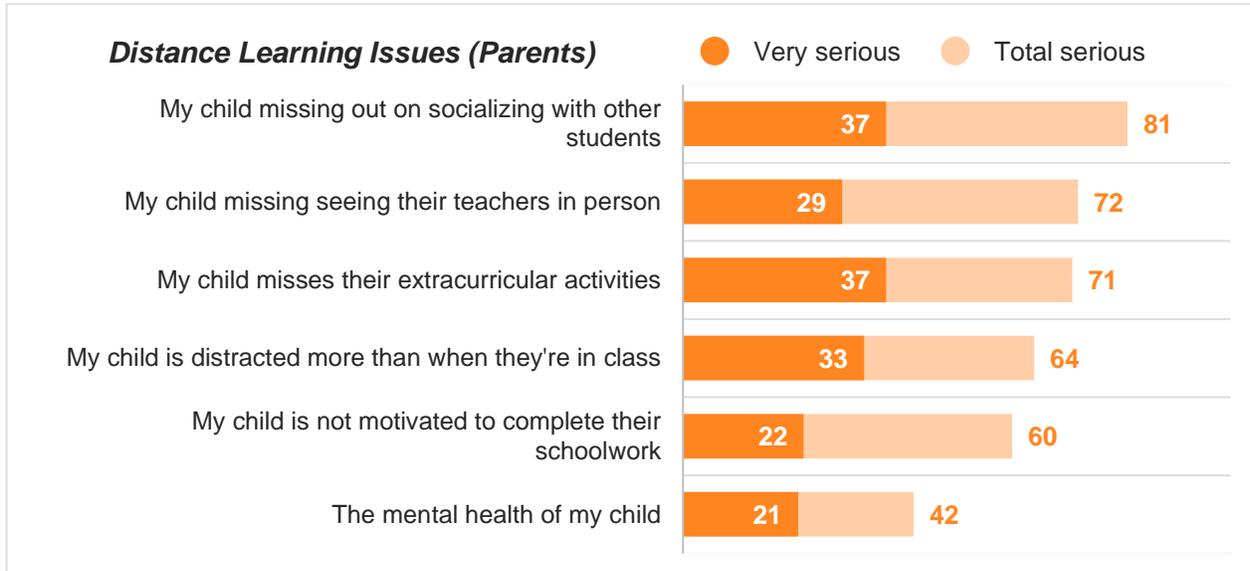
Opponents say the pandemic has sent the economy into a nose-dive and now is not the time to increase spending by billions of dollars.



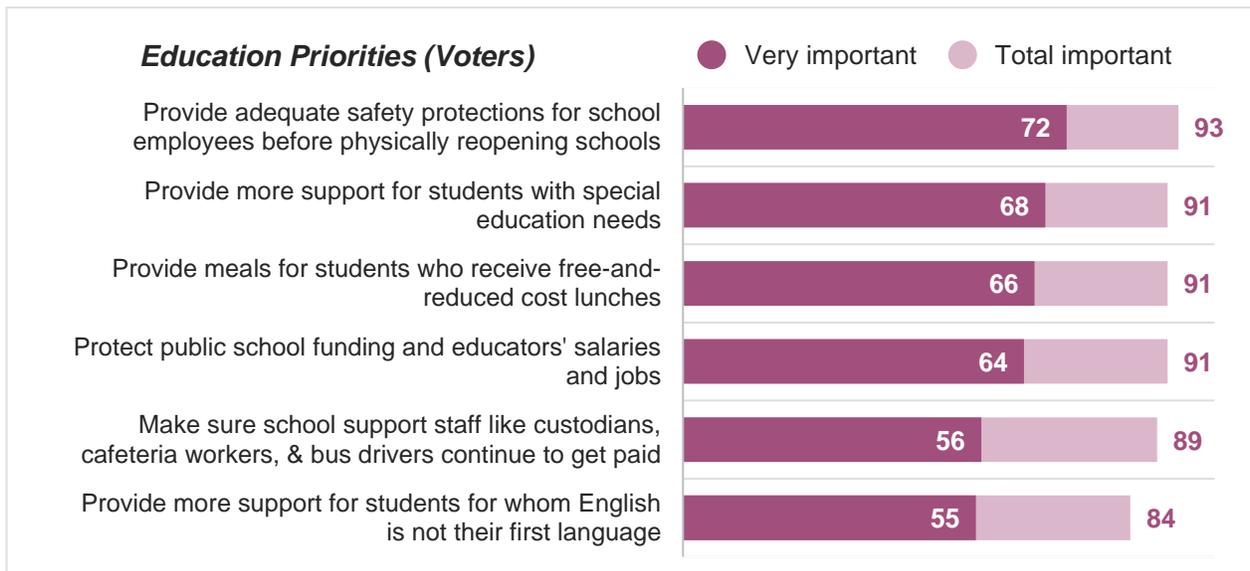
- Educators face many hurdles with distance learning.** Student participation is the biggest concern for Maryland educators. Student internet access, declining mental health, special education, lack of extracurriculars, and home distractions all pose serious challenges to virtual instruction.



- Parents worry about their children’s diminished connection with their school communities and lack of well-rounded education.** Parents’ primary concerns about distance learning center on their children’s separation from their friends and teachers and inability to participate in extracurricular activities.



- Voters support a wide range of education measures in response to the coronavirus pandemic.** Safety equipment and protections for school employees receives the strongest support. Strong support also exists for special education, access to meals for children in need, and protecting school funding and educator pay.



- Voters would like safety measures to be implemented before reopening schools.**
 Voters and educators overwhelmingly support reducing classes sizes to help with social distancing, requiring protective equipment like masks and gloves, and adding mental health staff. Educators, in particular, place strong emphasize on reduced class sizes.

