

# COVID-19

## MILITARY SUPPORT INITIATIVE

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# Pain Points Poll Qualitative Report: K-12 EDUCATION

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## **PLEASE TELL US MORE ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY YOUR SCHOOL HAS USED TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD THROUGH THIS CRISIS.**

Question fielded May 6 - 26, 2020 || All respondents, regardless of military affiliation, received this question; however, 77% of those who responded were military spouses.

Nearly half of all respondents indicated that their child(ren)'s school effectively used technology to facilitate virtual learning during the crisis. The most commonly reported successful strategy was virtual one-on-one check-ins or group classes with teachers and school counselors (44%). Sixteen percent of respondents reported their child(ren)'s school had adjusted their schedule to some level of virtual instruction. Some respondents reported receiving loaned laptops from their child(ren)'s school, which was greatly appreciated, particularly for families where both parents needed access to their computers for telework.

Twenty-nine percent of respondents expressed appreciation for the communication they received from their child(ren)'s school regarding assignments, deadlines, and grades. Many respondents identified consistency in the delivery and timing of this information as critical to ensuring their child(ren) met expectations. Twenty-seven percent of respondents expressed that having supportive teachers/schools contributed to their child(ren)'s success. Still, respondents whose child(ren) transitioned to a new school due to a PCS and those with multiple children reported struggling to adapt to virtual instruction. Eleven percent of respondents reported feeling that their school had implemented no successful strategies to support their children during the crisis.

*“My son has weekly Zoom meetings with each of his classes at the same time every week. He is able to talk to his teachers and other students so that they can keep the connection open. With him being in a special needs program, routines and the ability to reach out to others is incredibly important.”*

- Spouse of a Veteran

*“They would tell you they are awesome because they require us to use Google classroom 3x a week to interact and “teach” a class. Have you ever been in a telemeeting with 15 screaming kindergarteners trying to sing ‘if you’re happy and you know it’ while the teacher plays a guitar? Our school has beautiful programs and curriculums on paper but is SO out of touch with the reality for moms/dads who have never homeschooled and who never had any intent on homeschool because we can recognize our own strengths and weaknesses when raising our children.”*

- National Guard Service Member

*“None. My children have all only been assigned continued work via online methods. Even my IEP child was offered no [accommodation] of services. I have decided to register him, and possibly my other two, as a homeschooler for the rest of the academic year.”* - Navy Spouse

*“We do what we can when we can. We focus on core subjects for young children – math and reading. With 3 kids, we have 6 Zoom meeting[s] and 30 minutes of additional online learning daily. Most days I teach my kids the math lessons in order to streamline our day. Our Zoom class meetings begin at 0745 and the last one ends at 1845 – it is unfair to make our kids spend the entire day transitioning back and forth to school, so we don’t. Our kids are young, and we are not concerned.”* - Marine Corps Spouse

TOP CODES		
PERCENT	COUNT	CODE
44%	93	Effective use of technology platforms
44%	91	Virtual meetings
29%	61	Good communication with parents
27%	56	Supportive teachers/school
16%	34	Adjusted schedules/virtual instruction
11%	18	Nothing
	<b>Total: 209</b>	

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## A SELECTED SAMPLE OF WRITE-IN “OTHER” RESPONSES WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL CLOSURES ON THEIR FAMILY AND CHILD.

Question fielded March 18 - April 14, 2020 || All respondents, regardless of military affiliation, received this question; however, those who indicated the question did not apply to them were excluded from the analysis. Included below are examples of the range of “other” responses not accounted for in the original question.

*“Our daughter is a senior and all senior events including prom are cancelled. She can’t see any of her friends and we are moving from NC to WA immediately after graduation. She has attended 11 schools and 3 high schools so my social butterfly is struggling with this crisis. My son is in his Sophomore year and taking Algebra 2. So to have such a big gap for this super important math class that he was getting intensive tutoring for is setting him back. My youngest daughter is in 6th grade and she will be fine. Both my younger kids were wrapping up busy travel hockey seasons where they practiced 3 days a week with their teams and had 2-3 games every weekend to being completely alone with only their siblings. The first 1.5 weeks [were] super tough. Lots of tears and frustration. We started an online course called Total Mind Development and it has made a huge difference this week. It teaches them to control their thoughts, attract positive and grateful thinking and mindfulness. Best \$20 I’ve spent in a long time. I worry greatly about our kids’ mental health. After a long deployment in 2019, our area [...] has had 4 teen boys with deployed [...] fathers die by suicide in the past 6 months. I feel like this total mind development has even helped me get away from parenting with fear. Sigh! The school closures have impacted my children immensely.” - Army Spouse*

*“I cannot properly supervise or homeschool my children because my spouse is deployed and I work in healthcare.” - Navy Spouse*

*“We had to send our children out-of-state because schools have closed and we are both required to be at work.” - Army Spouse*

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This report was prepared by Carrie Carter (Applied Research Generalist - Consultant, Blue Star Families) with support from Jennifer Akin, MPA (Co-Director of Applied Research, Blue Star Families).