

Bilingual Parents and Caregivers Highest Priorities for their Children’s Well-being

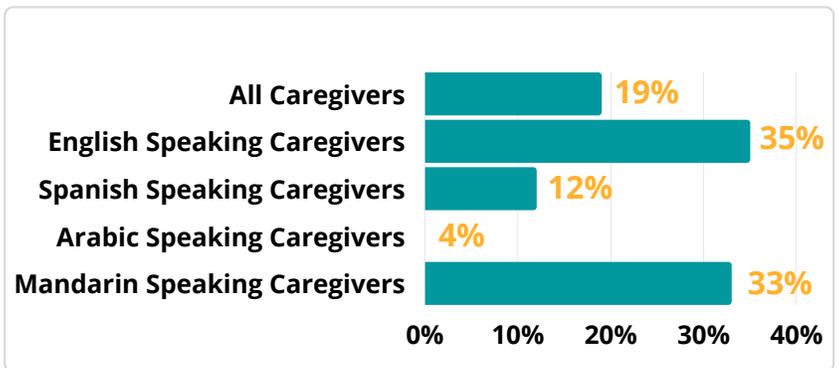
Poll conducted from April 5th-9th, 2021 among Chicago Public Schools Bilingual Parent Advisory Committees (BPACs) in Chicago

The Latino Policy Forum partnered with Chicago Public Schools to disseminate a survey to 140 parents and primary caregivers to understand how children and young people desire to spend summer and out-of-school time. The survey was shared via Bilingual Parent Advisory Committees (BPACs). The poll explored parents’ attitudes about out-of-school time activities, perspectives on in-person versus remote activities, preferred summer opportunities for their children, and explored where they get their information about out-of-school time options. The survey was conducted in English, Spanish, Arabic and Mandarin. The grand majority of poll respondents were Latina Spanish-speaking (85%). Key findings from the poll:

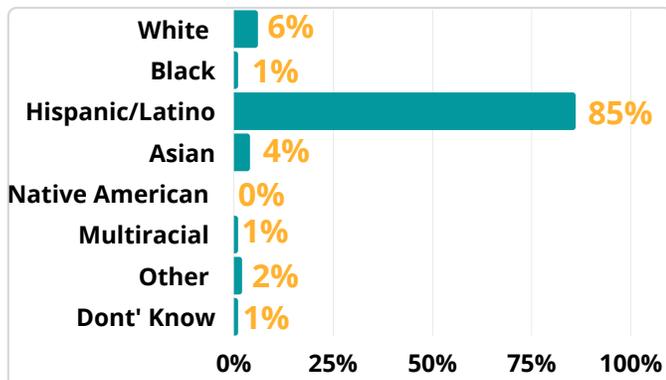


Survey Respondent Demographics

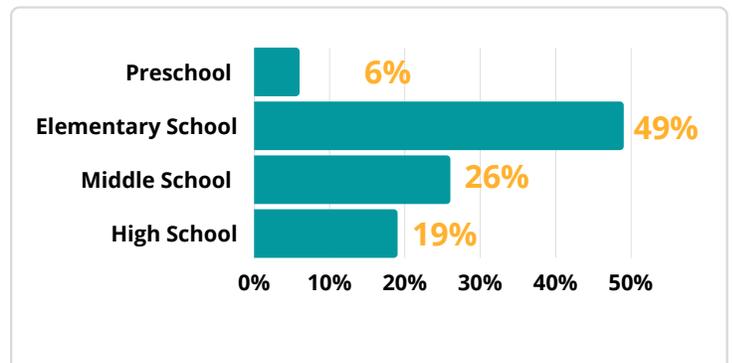
Bilingual Parents Who Reported Their Children Were Attending School In-Person



Race



Grade Level(s) of Children



Poll Results

Caregivers are calling for social-emotional supports, extended academic learning, and paid youth opportunities to support their children’s well-being. They also shared insight on where they get their information about out-of-school time options in the time of the pandemic.



Improve access to trauma-informed support

Caregivers identified these as very high priorities.



Mental health services and counseling



Social-emotional learning

Immigrant and communities of color have been hard-hit by the pandemic. Research is clear: chronic toxic stress threatens the future development of young children in the early years. For high school students, the added roles and responsibilities during the pandemic have been overwhelming for many. Trauma-informed supports are critical for healing and building a brighter future.

Increase the number of paid opportunities for Chicago youth



Caregivers with high-school-aged youth ranked paid opportunities as a very important summer need

This includes summer jobs, paid internships, and other opportunities. The benefits of youth employment offer opportunities to learn job skills applicable to the future, mentorship, and network connections that can help with future employment. When youth are offered paid job opportunities, research shows this can reduce crime and violence in communities. Programs like One Summer Chicago have helped shape young people’s development and have created opportunities for growth. These opportunities are greatly desired by bilingual families.

Provide safe and joyful spaces for Chicago's youth



Less than half of bilingual parents reported that they consider outdoor, in-person programming at parks, libraries, and other locations “somewhat safe” or “very safe” as of March and April 2021.



Parents perceive indoor activities safer

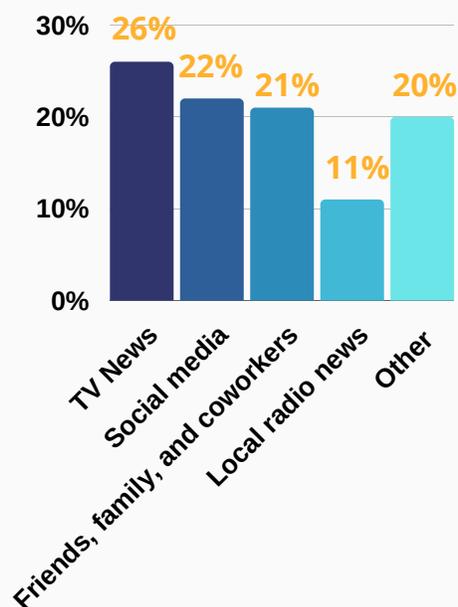


Parents have a clear interest in opportunities for their children that are focused on learning and personal success over more free time.

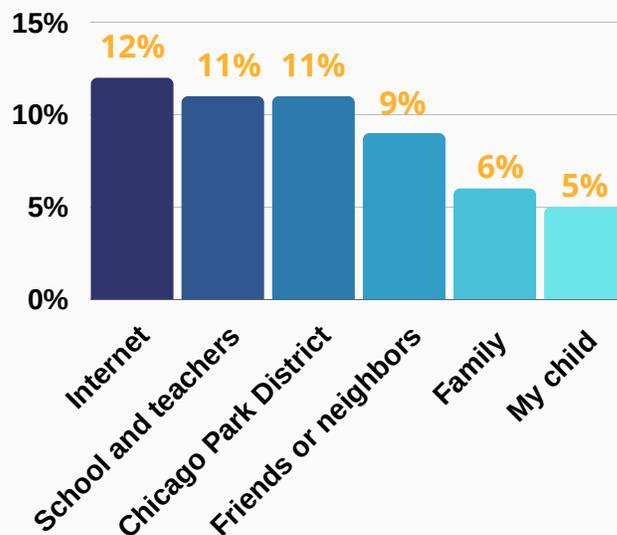
Caregivers have minimal interest in having their children participate in virtual opportunities, suggesting they would like their children to have a break from screen time.

Share Information with Families About Available Activities for Children Through Varied Sources

Parents receive news and information from a variety of sources



Parents have distinct views on trusted resources. Top 6 resources noted by parents:



Conclusion

Bilingual parents view extracurricular programs as crucial to helping their children and youth thrive post-pandemic. Parents overwhelmingly believe out-of-school activities can benefit their children in many ways. However, bilingual caregivers' concerns about COVID-19 and safety for in-person meetings remain. Garnering the participation of bilingual families in varied summer- and out-of-school activities calls for a wide array of opportunities and tailored outreach strategies. Overall, bilingual parents value summer and out-of-school time as tremendously rich opportunities to accelerate student learning and a critical avenue to provide the enrichment necessary for a bright and vibrant future for all of Chicago's children and youth.