Sample: 599 parents of young children in Massachusetts
Interviewing dates: August 13-26, 2020

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS
FINAL TOPLINE RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-29</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburbs</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of children...</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 6</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 6-12</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Involved in making decisions about childcare arrangements...</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you – you’ve qualified for this survey which is primarily about childcare in Massachusetts.

6. Prior to March 2020 and the coronavirus pandemic, were you using childcare of any kind, for example a center-based program, family childcare in a home, or through family or friends, or were you not utilizing childcare at all? [IF YES: Was it full-time Monday through Friday or for a limited number of hours or days?]

Yes, full-time 46%
Yes, limited days or hours 30
Not utilizing childcare 23
(Not sure / Refused) 2

7. This fall, do you anticipate utilizing childcare full-time Monday through Friday, for a limited number of hours or days, or not at all?

Yes, full-time 32%
Yes, limited days or hours 30
Not utilizing childcare 32
(Not sure / Refused) 6

[IF YES TO Q7, N=369]

8. What type or types of childcare do you anticipate using this fall? [ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

Center-Based Programs of any kind, such as Head Start, the YMCA, or faith-based programs, such as at a church or synagogue 40%
Family Child Care, such as a licensed home-based provider 29
Public School Preschool Programs or Pre-K 31
Using small groups, such as “learning pods” with other families 13
In-Home Child Care, such as a Nanny 22
A Family Member or Friend 30
(Other) 3
(Not sure / Refused) 1
[IF YES TO Q7, N=369]
Thinking now about deciding on childcare for the fall, please tell me if each item is, or was, a major factor, minor factor, not much of a factor, or not a factor at all when deciding on childcare arrangements for the fall. [RANDOMIZE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Major factor</th>
<th>Minor factor</th>
<th>Not much of a factor</th>
<th>Not a factor at all</th>
<th>(Not sure / Refused)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Close to work or home</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Flexible hours</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The reputation of the provider</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Cleaning and sanitation procedures</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Availability of outdoor space and outdoor time</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Curriculum or learning approach</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>The way you were treated (feeling welcome or respected)</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Already knowing and trusting the provider</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>My child’s health</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Small group sizes</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Teachers’ education, training, and experience</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Among those with children 6-12, N=172</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School schedule and format (remote, in-person, hybrid) for my school-age children</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22. What would you say is the most important factor for you when deciding on childcare arrangements for the fall? [RECORD VERBATIM]

- Safety: 27%
- Coronavirus/health concerns: 25
- Affordability cost: 10
- Curriculum/quality education: 10
- Schedule/meeting my schedule needs: 8
- Trust: 7
- Cleanliness/sanitary: 7
- Availability: 7
- Child is comfortable/likes it: 4
- Reputation of daycare/facility: 4
- Quality of teachers/staff: 3
- Size of class/number of kids: 3
- Convenient location: 3
- Flexibility: 3
- Depends on need/whether schools or work reopen: 3
- Nothing/no arrangements needed: 7
- Other: 3
- Not sure/refused: 4
23. How much, if at all, are your childcare arrangements for your young children dependent on what schools do for your older children in the fall?

- Entirely dependent: 23%
- Mostly dependent: 29%
- Somewhat dependent: 21%
- Not very dependent: 7%
- Not dependent at all: 19%
- (Not sure / Refused): 1%

24. Keeping your young children and school-age children at home, while working from home

- Would consider: 70%
- Would not consider: 26%
- (Not sure / Refused): 5%

25. Keeping your young children and school-age children at home, while working outside the home

- Would consider: 44%
- Would not consider: 51%
- (Not sure / Refused): 5%

26. Using small groups, such as “learning pods” with educators

- Would consider: 67%
- Would not consider: 24%
- (Not sure / Refused): 9%

27. Using a private Nanny or babysitter

- Would consider: 57%
- Would not consider: 35%
- (Not sure / Refused): 8%

28. Using out-of-home childcare for your young children and an after-school program for your school-age children

- Would consider: 49%
- Would not consider: 43%
- (Not sure / Refused): 8%

29. Using childcare for your young children and keeping school-age children at home

- Would consider: 53%
- Would not consider: 39%
- (Not sure / Refused): 8%

30. Having an older child watch a younger child, while you’re working outside the home

- Would consider: 29%
- Would not consider: 66%
- (Not sure / Refused): 6%

31. Minimizing coronavirus exposure risk

- Major factor: 66%
- Minor factor: 16
- Not much of a factor: 6
- Not a factor at all: 9
- (Not sure / Refused): 2

32. A household member is high-risk for coronavirus

- Major factor: 40%
- Minor factor: 18
- Not much of a factor: 11
- Not a factor at all: 28
- (Not sure / Refused): 3

33. The childcare facility I would use does not have the physical space to operate safely during coronavirus

- Major factor: 32%
- Minor factor: 15
- Not much of a factor: 12
- Not a factor at all: 36
- (Not sure / Refused): 4

34. Childcare programs are unaffordable for our family

- Major factor: 36%
- Minor factor: 24
- Not much of a factor: 16
- Not a factor at all: 23
- (Not sure / Refused): 2
35. We are on a waiting list for a childcare subsidy
   
   Not much of a factor Not a factor at all (Not sure / Refused)
   Major factor Minor factor
   14% 9 10 61 5

36. Our preferred childcare program is full
   
   Not much of a factor Not a factor at all (Not sure / Refused)
   Major factor Minor factor
   20% 15 14 47 4

37. Our preferred childcare program has not yet reopened
   
   Not much of a factor Not a factor at all (Not sure / Refused)
   Major factor Minor factor
   27% 15 9 44 4

38. Our preferred childcare program has closed permanently
   
   Not much of a factor Not a factor at all (Not sure / Refused)
   Major factor Minor factor
   22% 10 9 51 8

39. We prefer having family or friends provide childcare
   
   Not much of a factor Not a factor at all (Not sure / Refused)
   Major factor Minor factor
   47% 25 12 13 3

[IF AT LEAST ONE CHILD UNDER 6 AND ONE CHILD 6-12, N=294]

40. What challenges are you facing this year regarding schooling and after-school care for your school-age children and childcare options for your younger children, and what are you planning to do in the fall? [RECORD VERBATIM]

### CHALLENGES
- Remote learning/home school: 27%
- Coronavirus/health concerns: 11
- Working while child is remote learning: 11
- Hybrid plan: 9
- Quality of education/student engagement: 8
- Working from home: 8
- Schedule/meeting my schedule needs: 6
- Affordability/cost: 5
- Availability: 4
- Home school for older kids while providing care for younger kids: 3
- Safety: 3
- Socialization for children: 3
- Finding a convenient location: 1
- Flexibility: 1

### PLANS
- Unsure what to do/no plan from schools yet: 11
- Finding daycare: 7
- Forced to quit job or reduce hours to care for kids: 5
- Want to send kids to school full-time: 5
- Family/friends watch kids: 5
- Finding a babysitter/nanny: 5
- Don't want to send children to school: 3
- Hiring a teacher, tutor or forming a pod: 2
- Other: 7
- None/no challenges: 7
- Not sure/ refused: 5
I’m going to read a list of concerns that have been raised about keeping young children at home instead of going to childcare because of the pandemic. Please rate if you think each is a major concern, minor concern, not much of a concern, or not a concern at all. [RANDOMIZE]

### Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Major concern</th>
<th>Minor concern</th>
<th>Not much of a concern</th>
<th>Not a concern at all</th>
<th>(Not sure / Refused)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41. Young children will not have opportunity for socialization</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Young children will fall behind in their learning</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Parents’ mental health will suffer</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Parents will not be able to work</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. Parents’ quality of work will decrease</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Children’s mental health will suffer</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[IF PLAN TO USE FORMAL CHILDCARE (1-3 IN Q8), N=270]

47. Do you pay for childcare:

- Out-of-pocket, through a private payment (full price): 66%
- Out-of-pocket, through a private payment (discounted price): 16
- Through a subsidy or voucher, with no parent fee: 9
- Through a subsidy or voucher with a parent fee: 3
- (Other): 4
- (Not sure / Refused): 2

How much would you trust what each of the following people and organizations have to say when it comes to making decisions regarding childcare for your children? [RANDOMIZE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trust a great deal</th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Not very much</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>(Not sure / Refused)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48. Governor Charlie Baker</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. Your child’s pediatrician</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. Parents in your community</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. Your child’s childcare provider</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Your superintendent of schools</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53. Friends or relatives</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. The Center for Disease Control, or the CDC</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

55. Which of the following best describes your employment status?

- Employed full-time 64%
- Employed part-time 16
- Not currently employed 19
- (Not sure / Refused) 1

[IF NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED, N=111]

56. Which of the following best describes your situation?

- Furloughed, or on temporary leave by my employers 10%
- Unemployed and looking for work 15
- Unemployed and not looking for work 11
- Stay-at-home parent or caregiver 58
- Retired 1
- Full-time student 4
- (Not sure / Refused) 2

[IF EMPLOYED, N=480]

57. Since the coronavirus crisis began, have you been working:

- All from home 41%
- Mostly from home 20
- Mostly outside the home 13
- All outside the home 23
- (Not sure / Refused) 3

[IF EMPLOYED, N=480]

58. How concerned are you that your job performance will suffer based on your childcare plans for the fall?

- Very concerned 36%
- Somewhat concerned 34
- Not very concerned 14
- Not concerned at all 15
- (Not sure / Refused) 1

[IF WORKING MOSTLY OR ALL FROM HOME, N=293]

59. Do you expect that you will continue to work remotely for the next three months?

- Yes 82%
- No 12
- (Not sure / Refused) 6
[IF EMPLOYED, N=480]

60. Are you considered an essential employee as defined by Governor Baker?

Yes 52%
No 40
(Not sure / Refused) 8

[IF EMPLOYED, N=480]

61. How well do you think your employer understands your childcare challenges?

Very well 41%
Somewhat well 38
Not very well 12
Not well at all 6
(Not sure / Refused) 3

[IF EMPLOYED, N=480]

62. Which, if any, of the following is your employer offering for parents?  [ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

Flexible working hours 50%
Flexible working days 33
Reduced working hours 21
Help finding childcare 14
Help paying for childcare 10
Paid leave to take time to care for children 16
Remote work / work from home 42
Paid maternity or paternity leave 18
(Other) 6
(Not sure / Refused) 15

[IF YES TO ANSWER OPTION 4 OR 5, N=93]

63. Does your employer offer any of the following childcare options?  [ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

On-site childcare 30%
Partnerships with offsite providers 47
Backup childcare 37
(Other) 2
(Doesn’t offer anything) 20
(Not sure / Refused) 2
[IF FURLOUGHED / UNEMPLOYED AND LOOKING FOR WORK, N=28]

64. How concerned are you that you will not be able to find a job due to your childcare arrangements?

- Very concerned 46%
- Somewhat concerned 21
- Not very concerned 18
- Not concerned at all 14
- (Not sure / Refused) -

DEMOGRAPHICS
The last few questions are just for statistical purposes and to ensure we have a representative sample of Massachusetts parents.

65. What was the last grade you completed in school? [DO NOT READ LIST]

- (Less than high school (1-11)) 2%
- (Graduated high school) 14
- (Some college/ Tech./ Voc.) 19
- (Graduated college) 34
- (Graduate/professional school) 30
- (Other) 1
- (Not sure / Refused) *

66. Are you of Latino or Hispanic descent?

- Yes 16%
- No 83
- (Not sure / Refused) 1

67. What is your race and/or ethnicity? [ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES]

- White 73%
- African-American, Black 10
- Asian 6
- Latinx or Hispanic 10
- (Other) 3
- (Refused) 2

68. Do you have a child with special needs?

- Yes 18%
- No 81
- (Not sure / Refused) 1
69. And just for statistical purposes, could you please tell me if your total household income is above or below $60,000 dollars a year? [IF REFUSED: This information will be kept strictly confidential and will be used for analytical purposes only.]
   [IF BELOW $60,000: Is it below $30,000, or between $30,000 and $60,000?]
   [IF ABOVE $60,000: Is it between $60,000 and $100,000, or is it over $100,000?]

   Below $30,000  12%
   $30,000–$60,000  20
   $60,000–$100,000  25
   Above $100,000  38
   (Don’t know)  1
   (Refused)  4

70. Do you identify as...

   Female  64%
   Male  34
   Non-binary  2
   (Other)  -
   (Refused)  *

71. Thank you very much for your time. This survey was sponsored by Strategies for Children and a report will be released publicly in early fall. Would you like to receive a report on the results?

   Yes  40%
   No  59
   (Not sure / Refused)  1