



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

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS FINAL TOPLINE RESULTS

Age

16-29	18%
30-44	72
45-54	7
55-64	3
65+	1

Region

South	20%
North	13
West	25
Suburbs	30
Boston	12

Age of children...

Under 6	100%
Age 6-12	49

Involved in making decisions about childcare arrangements...

Yes	100%
No	-

Please note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100% and "total" columns may be one point more or less than the sum of their parts.

BR #9504

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]**

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



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

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

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

I'm going to mention some items that families are considering for childcare if schools implement remote or hybrid learning in the fall. Please tell me if you would or would not consider each one.

[RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Would consider</u>	<u>Would not consider</u>	<u>(Not sure / Refused)</u>
24. Keeping your young children and school-age children at home, while working from home	70%	26	5
25. Keeping your young children and school-age children at home, while working outside the home	44%	51	5
26. Using small groups, such as "learning pods" with educators	67%	24	9
27. Using a private Nanny or babysitter	57%	35	8
28. Using out-of-home childcare for your young children and an after-school program for your school-age children	49%	43	8
29. Using childcare for your young children and keeping school-age children at home	53%	39	8
30. Having an older child watch a younger child, while you're working outside the home	29%	66	6

[IF NO TO Q7 (NOT USING CHILDCARE IN FALL) OR 4-6 IN Q8 (NOT IN PROGRAM FOR FALL), N=358]

I am going to mention some reasons why families might not use childcare programs this fall. Please tell me if each one is a major factor for not using a childcare program this fall, a minor factor, not much of a factor, or not a factor at all. **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Major factor</u>	<u>Minor factor</u>	<u>Not much of a factor</u>	<u>Not a factor at all</u>	<u>(Not sure / Refused)</u>
31. Minimizing coronavirus exposure risk	66%	16	6	9	2
32. A household member is high-risk for coronavirus	40%	18	11	28	3
33. The childcare facility I would use does not have the physical space to operate safely during coronavirus	32%	15	12	36	4
34. Childcare programs are unaffordable for our family	36%	24	16	23	2



		<u>Major factor</u>	<u>Minor factor</u>	<u>Not much of a factor</u>	<u>Not a factor at all</u>	<u>(Not sure / Refused)</u>
35.	We are on a waiting list for a childcare subsidy	14%	9	10	61	5
36.	Our preferred childcare program is full	20%	15	14	47	4
37.	Our preferred childcare program has not yet reopened	27%	15	9	44	4
38.	Our preferred childcare program has closed permanently	22%	10	9	51	8
39.	We prefer having family or friends provide childcare	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]**

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

[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]**

	<u>Trust a great deal</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not very much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>(Not sure / Refused)</u>
48. Governor Charlie Baker	26%	43	16	12	3
49. Your child's pediatrician	59%	30	6	4	1
50. Parents in your community	23%	41	23	11	2
51. Your child's childcare provider	40%	37	11	9	3
52. Your superintendent of schools	24%	43	18	12	4
53. Friends or relatives	32%	40	18	8	2
54. The Center for Disease Control, or the CDC	43%	35	12	8	2



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

