

Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Schools Distance Learning Parent Survey Data

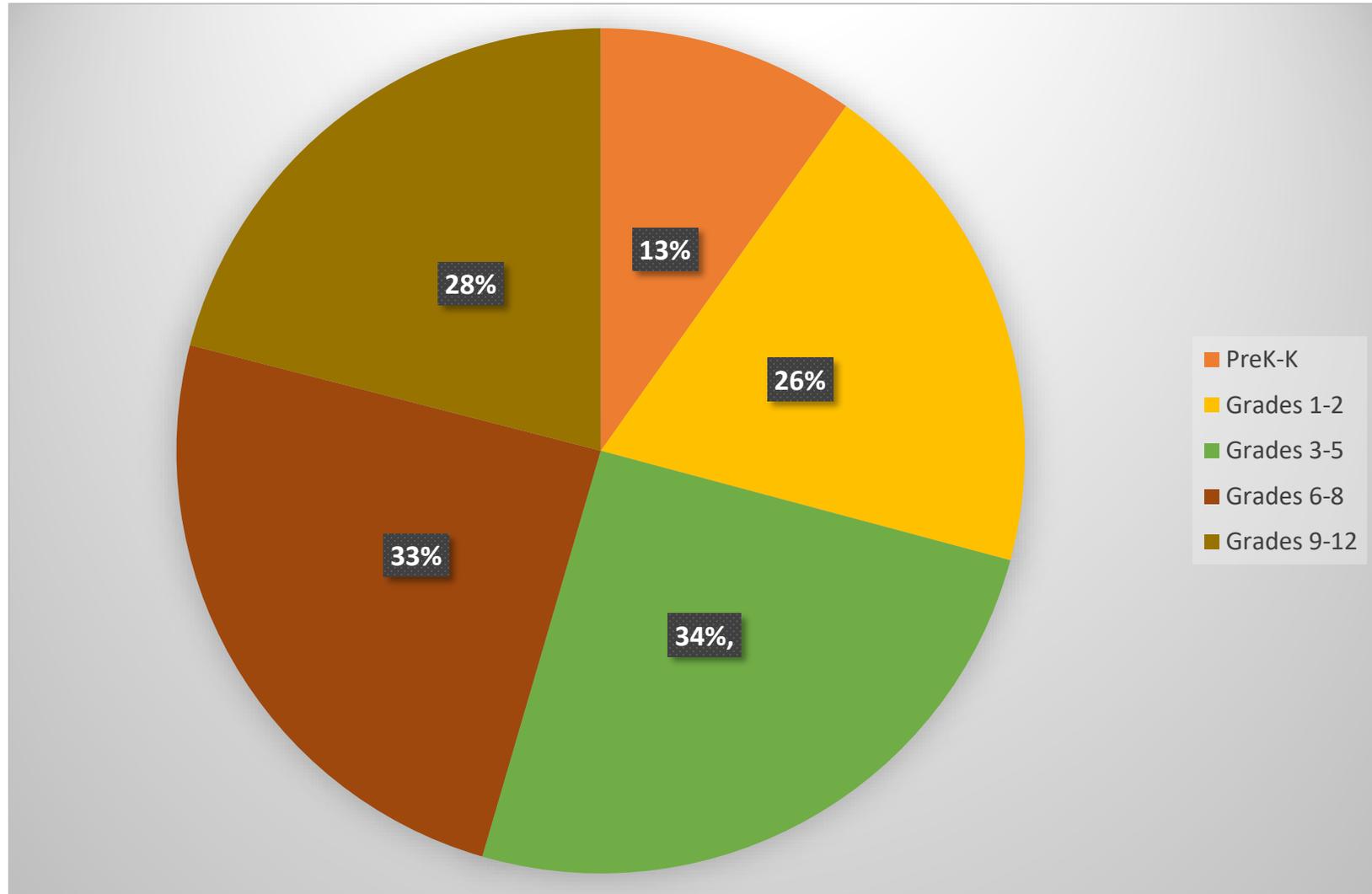
April 2020

1327 Responses

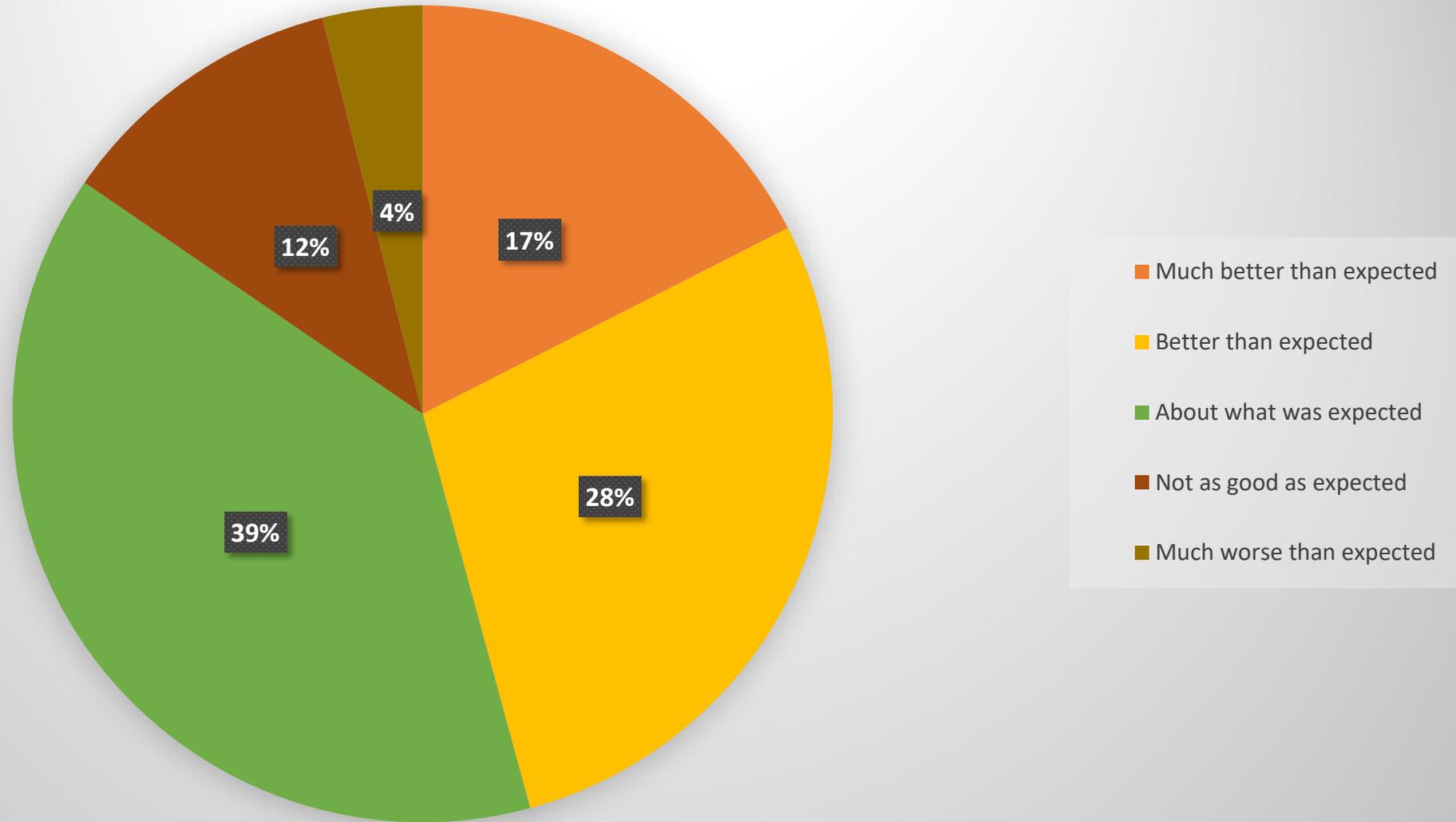
The purpose of this survey was to understand areas needing attention as we continue Distance Learning for several more weeks. Therefore, this presentation does not focus on the many accolades our teachers received. Here's a sampling of what parents had to say!

- I plan on sending an additional letter; our teacher is engaging, understanding and very available she is incredible!
- Excellent! All teachers principal ect have gone above and beyond! We are so happy and impressed! Thank you so much for continuing to engage our son in learning remotely!
- Appreciate the hardwork and dedication of the teachers.
- Thank you 🙏 teachers for all the hard work you are doing for students.
- Teachers are very cooperative and have very well organized the classes.
- Distance Learning has been great and I feel supported by the school and teachers. I am very happy with Distance Learning as it keeps my child safe.
- Appreciate all the efforts taken by teachers/school district to make this possible.
- The teachers are doing a great job figuring out what the students need.
- Lot of good instructions; really appreciate teachers' effort for this 😊.

Grade Level of Children



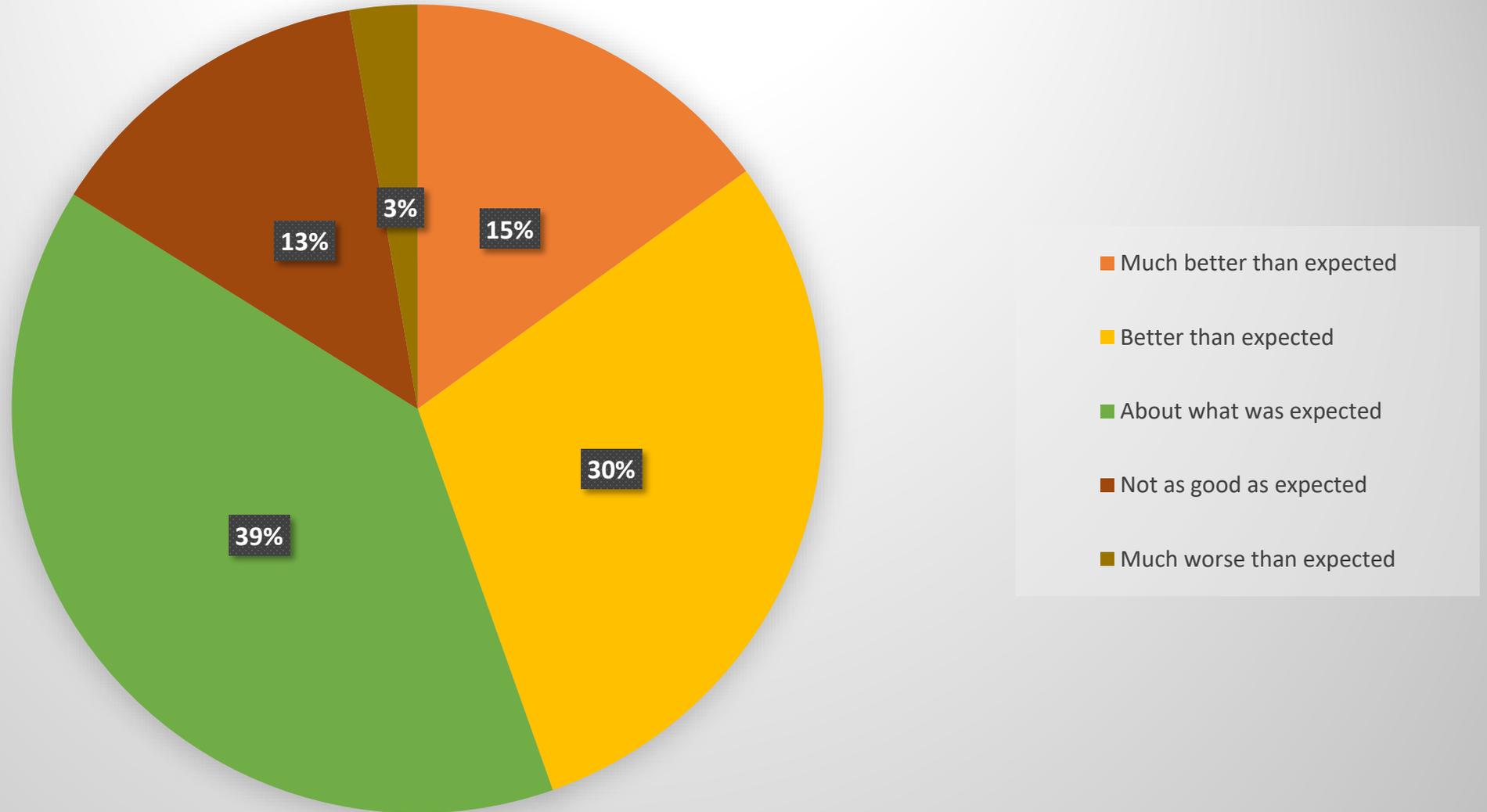
Overall, how is Distance Learning going for you as a parent?



Comments

- The most difficult part for me is trying to engage my two younger children. They are both special needs, in preschool disabled classes. They just are not working as well at home as they do at school.
- It is hard finding a balance between working from home, schooling from home, and have free time.
- Need to use consistent tools (e.g., some teachers are using Zoom while others are using Google Hangouts.) Consistency is king when you have multiple children at home.
- We're finding a routine that allows her the flexibility to get work done with reasonable breaks from the screen.
- Things are going well. My daughter is doing great with all of her work. She loves being home with her sister and me.
- Teachers are very prepared and providing amazing assistance to kids and parents.
- It is challenging to still be working from home and homeschooling with other small children home as well.
- Too many different sites used. Between Google Class, Clever and then ALL of the apps on there-it is a lot. My son's kindergarten teacher only utilizes 1 site (seesaw) and it is MUCH easier to handle.
- There was a bit of a learning curve in the beginning as to how assignments were to be accessed and completed, but didn't take long to get the hang of it.
- My son is very independent so it has been easier than expected.

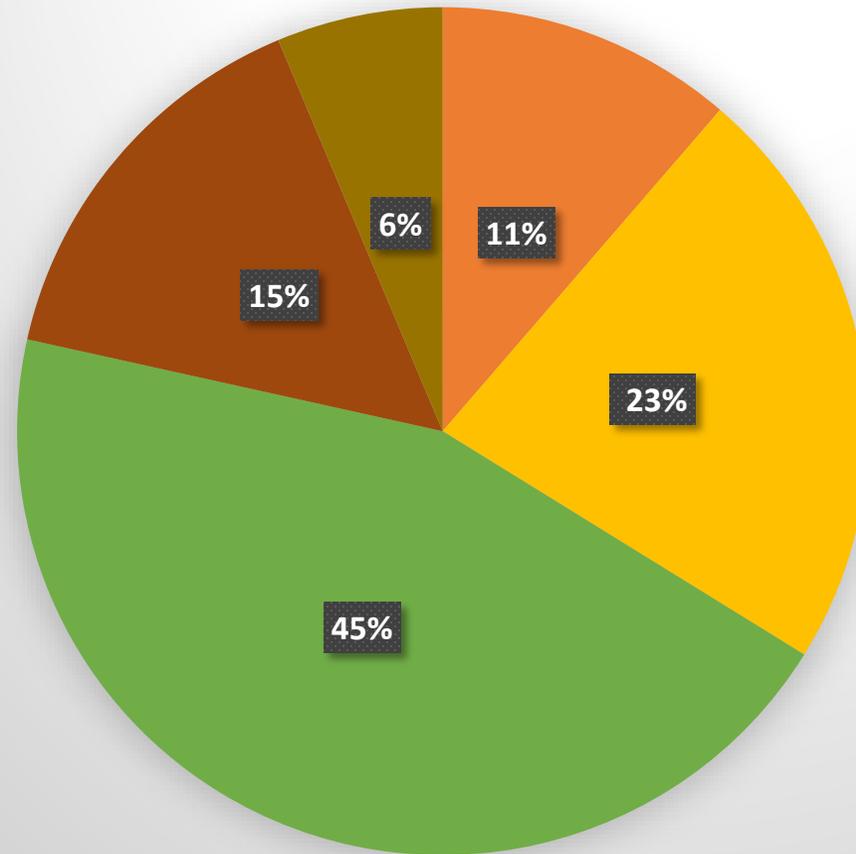
Overall, how is Distance Learning going for your child?



Comments

- She looks forward to her morning zoom meeting and loves to 'turn in' assignments.
- My son is totally enjoying distant learning.
- They are doing better than I expected but we do have some meltdowns, but I believe its due to missing the way their teacher does things.
- He is enthusiastic of completing the assignments and interact on a daily basis with the teachers which is really amazing.
- My 4th grader seems a bit overwhelmed with the work load.
- My kids seem to be more self-sufficient than I expected.
- My children are taking it seriously and look forward to seeing their teachers and friends online.
- The workload seems to have increased; most of the teachers are giving a lot of work and they all expect it to be completed within the same time period.
- I was concerned about how teachers would manage timing of meetings but they have found a good solution.
- I wish the teachers would schedule more zoom meetings so the children would still feel like they're part of a class. They miss seeing their friends and teachers every day.
- My child is a learning how to prioritize her work load and some multi-tasking skills :)

How would you describe the stress level in your home related to Distance Learning?

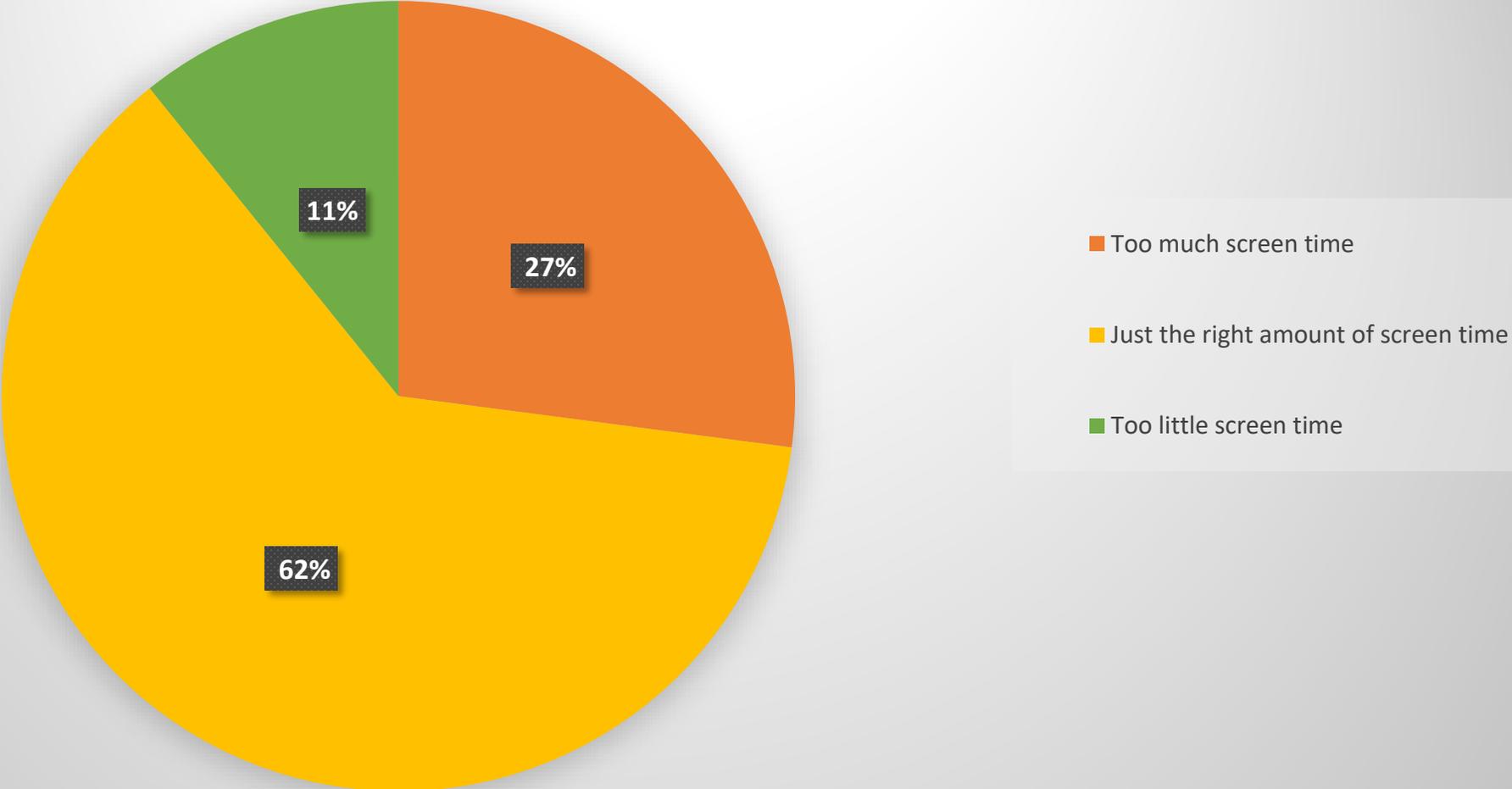


- Much better than expected
- Better than expected
- About what was expected
- Not as good as expected
- Worse than expected

Comments

- Having to manage their work and our own, I expected some chaos!
- In the beginning my stress level was through the roof, but with speaking to the teachers, I am managing expectations better.
- As a teacher and a parent, I have been impressed with the level of education and overall support the teachers have given my children. They love connecting with their peers and teachers through zoom and I feel that the workload has been manageable and appropriate.
- Like I said above, it's hard to work full time with an "essential employee" as a spouse and also try to home school. We are managing.
- It's horrible.
- Zero stress - it's been a very simple transition.
- Difficult with both parents working from home, but we are managing it
- It is kind of stressful but we are coping.
- It's getting better but first week was rough.
- Kids and parents quickly came to understand where to look for assignments and how to do them and turn them in. Teachers are doing a GREAT job. There is face time and consistency and variety. I have been very impressed with the teachers and the kids!

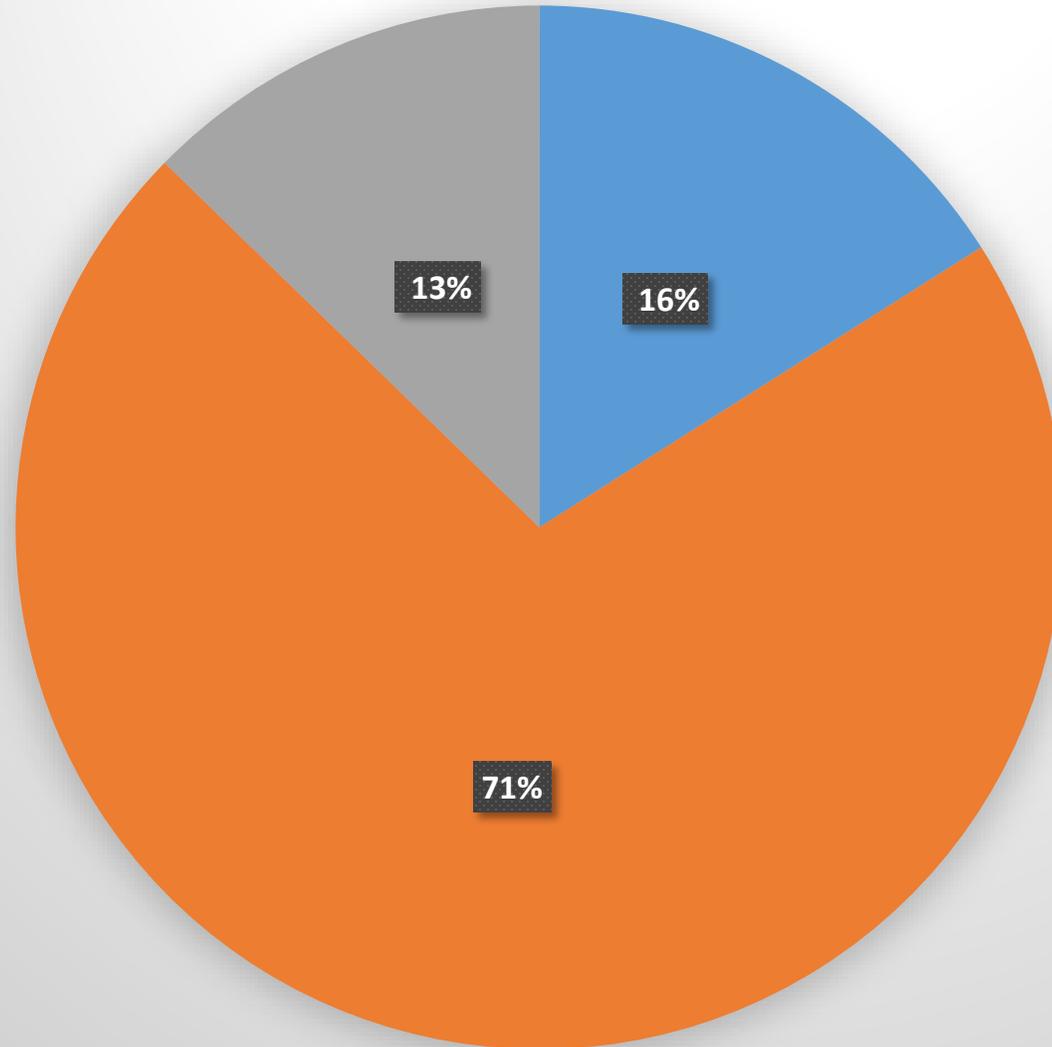
In regard to academic "screen time" for your child, do you think it has been...



Comments

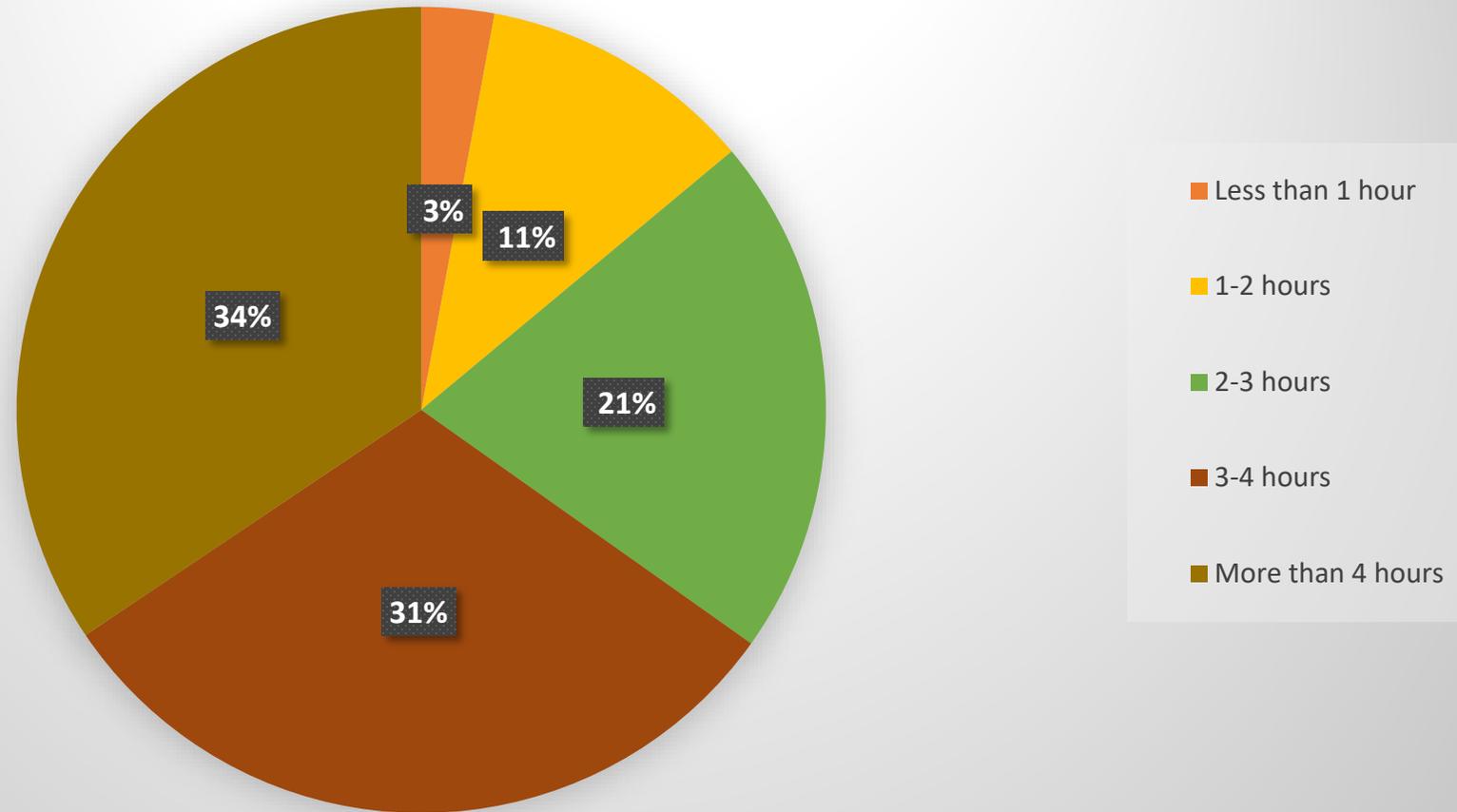
- I would like a little more “meeting” time.
- A lot for my high school student. Too little for my 6th grader.
- I think the amount of work is really well balanced.
- Everything is a video or tutorial and it's all online. Plus numerous videos to just watch. We monitor the best we can.
- The amount of screen time is causing my children to have daily headaches.
- I'm glad he has a few physical workbooks to reduce some of his screen time.
- Would like more "screen time" with their teachers in the way of online video chats and meetings.
- Appropriate amount considering it is online learning.
- Although screen time has been significantly more than normal, under the current circumstances I think it is fine.
- My child is spending more time doing the assignments, but screen time is appropriate for the type of interactions needed each day.
- Would like to see more live sessions rather than just assignments. More live interaction via video and chat.

Overall, I feel my child is being given _____ school work via the Distance Learning Plan.



- Too much
- Just the right amount
- Too little

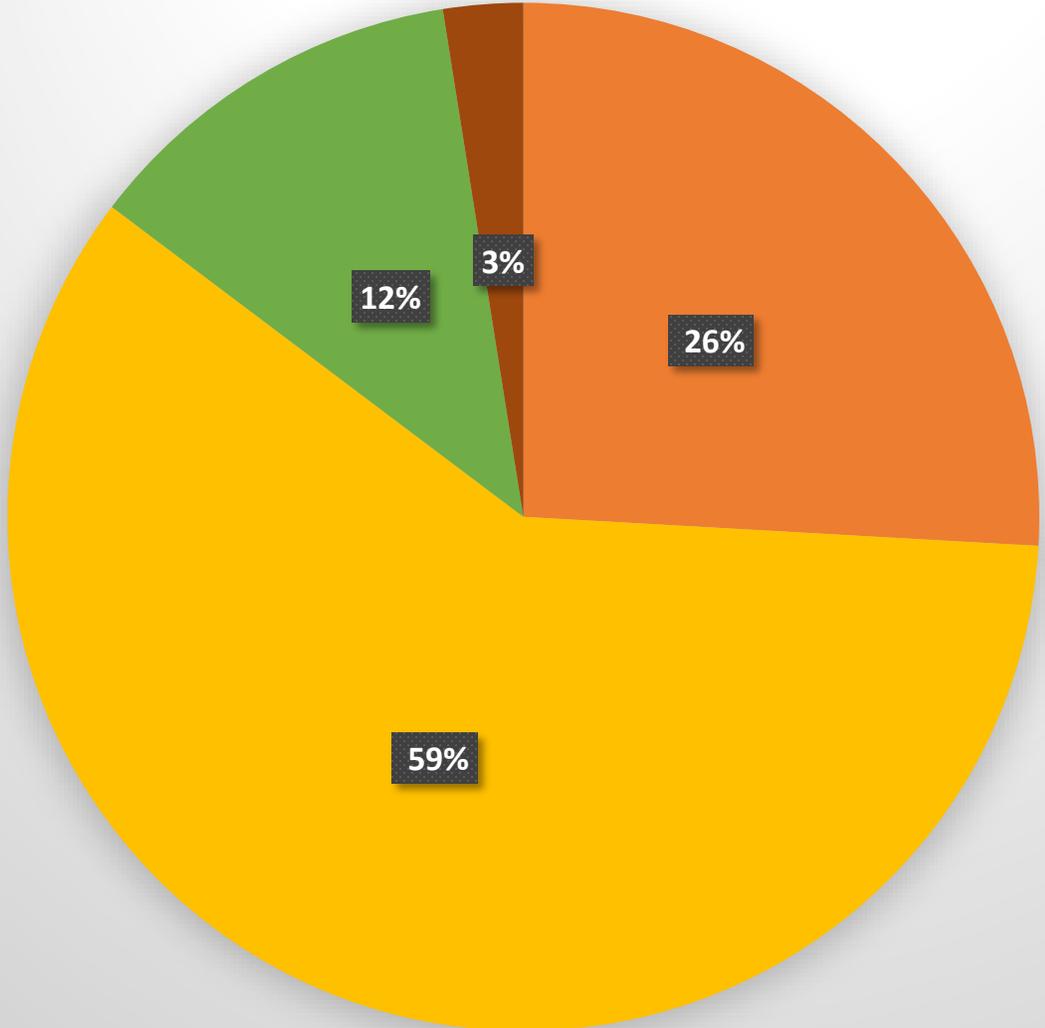
Including live Google Meet sessions, I would estimate that my child is doing school work for ____ per day.



Comments

- It is about a normal school day, which is how it should be.
- My HS has more than 4 hrs and middle school has about 3-4hrs.
- Depends on the day.
- HS has way more than 6th grader.
- We take breaks between subjects. So we do work throughout the day. By Friday, it's tough.
- Most days are 3-4. Some days are more than 4 hours.
- It depends on the day, but we have at least 2 solid hours of work to do most days.
- Quite a light load, to be honest.
- They could use a little more work.
- Since the high school is on the rotating drop schedule, some days he has more work than others - but that is the same as during live instruction. There are days he had study hall and phys ed. It has been nice that he is able to complete his most of his work during the school day resulting in less "homework".
- He does extra things so that's why it takes longer. He absolutely loves it.
- I would say the time varies greatly based on my child. It usually is anywhere from 2-4 hours.

The assigned work has been clearly explained and easy for my child to follow.



Comments

- Our teacher does a daily slide show for the class; starts with google meet with announcements and reviews the slides with them. They regroup every few hours and she is always available for questions or concerns. It is wonderful.
- Easy for me to understand but a lot more involvement in my end than I anticipated.
- Her teacher did a fantastic job clearly spelling out what the assignment is.
- Well explained and organized.
- Our daughters teacher has been very thorough with instructions on assignments and is quick to answer any questions our daughter has.
- They should have had more experience with online before this occurred.
- The high school subjects are not easy for students to learn without the teachers being more available to answer questions.
- He has been managing OK for the most part with directions, but if there's ever been some confusion, I've urged him to contact his teacher(s) for clarification.
- If my child has any questions, she reaches out to the teacher and receives appropriate guidance.
- If they have questions teachers have been emailed and they respond.

Understanding that Distance Learning is very new to all of us, please share any suggestions that may help us to better serve your child(ren) in the coming weeks:

- For Zoom meetings, smaller groups less times a week. Full classes take too long for participation and the child loses interest if it is too often.
- Maybe have some small group sessions to check in from time to time.
- I know it's more work for the teachers and I don't want to add to their already full plates, but maybe a weekly email from them to the parents informing them of how the week has gone, if any major tests or projects are coming up, etc.
- More work or projects to keep students busy and creative.
- I've been pleased with the distance learning so far.
- Mandatory Daily meetings online with the teacher to explain each day to the children what the tasks of the day are and how to do them.
- Please understand that there may be days where the work cannot get done due to having no back-up at home. As long as that understanding is there, everything else is fine :)
- Have a little better explanation of math for the parents we're doing the best that we can as are the teachers.
- Clear, concise instructions and assignments that have some sort of video accompaniment are most helpful.
- Develop a better program from pre-k so that parents do not have to sacrifice work time to teach their children.

Key Takeaways and Mid-Course Corrections

- Parents of young children and special needs children report having the most challenges. Consider how to utilize paraprofessionals and other professionals to assist.
- New PreK Instructional Guidelines have been established for teachers to address some of the issues noted.
- Try to consolidate the platforms/programs being used at the elementary level.
- Face to face time is preferable through daily Google Meets or Zoom.
- More 'live teaching' preferred.
- Make sure that the start of next year isn't full-speed ahead. There's no way these months could duplicate the regular education. Kids will be behind. Some farther than others. Next year, teachers will need to slow down and review as much as possible.
- Reminders that every family dynamic is different. Flexibility and adaptability are critical for teachers to remember.

Overall I am focused on my child's mental health from this crisis. We keep a schedule but I don't push it. We meet as a family in the morning 9AM, say the Pledge of Allegiance, then schoolwork begins. We wrap up by 3PM and do a family walk. Again our emphasis is on our children's mental health and keeping as much normalcy and reassurance to them.