

Microschools & Pandemic Pods

JASON BEDRICK

Director of Policy



What Is a Microschool?

Micros and Hybrids and Pods, Oh My!

- 21st Century Reimagining of the One-Room Schoolhouse
- Small clusters of families that pool resources and collaborate to educate their children
- Usually: 5 to 15 students (can vary)
- Microschools: tend to be affiliated with an official network and have paid, in-person instructor
- Pods: tend to be independently parent-led

2020: The Pandemic and the Pod People

What Parents Want – Why Pods Deliver

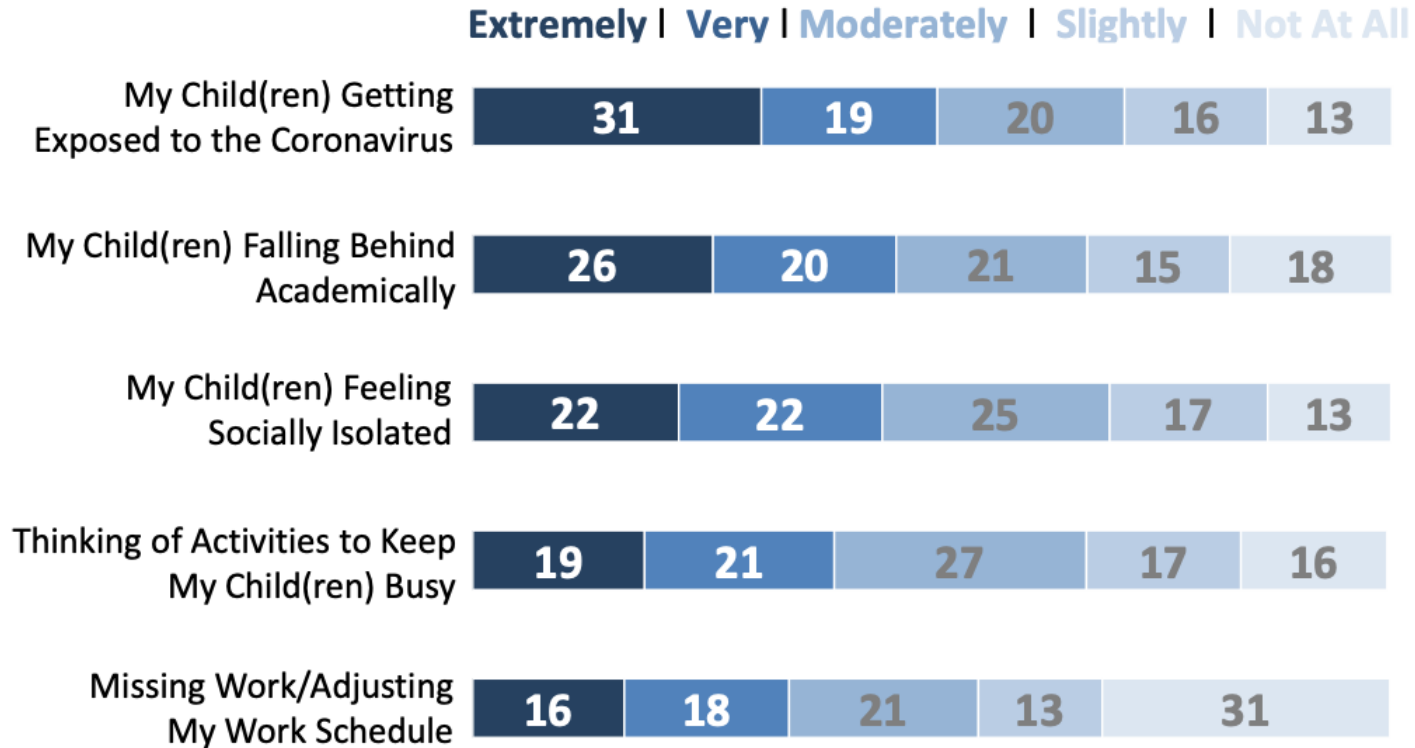
- Spring school shutdowns: national experiment with emergency distance learning
- Summer of uncertainty
- Parents face tough choices, conflicting concerns

2020: The Pandemic and the Pod People

What Parents Want – Why Pods Deliver

PARENT CONCERNS

% of Current School Parents by Concern Level

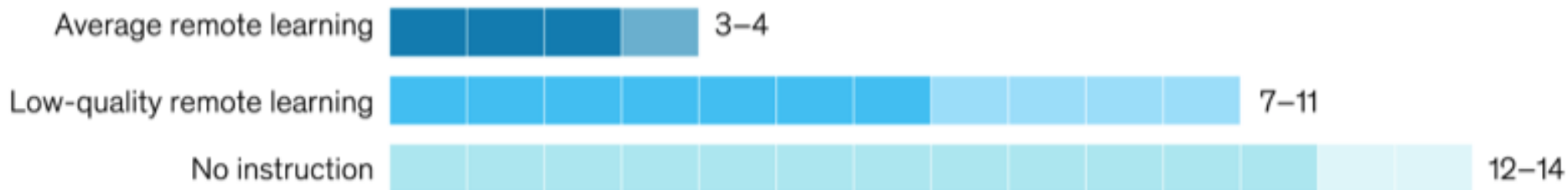


Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22–June 2, 2020), QCP5

2020: The Pandemic and the Pod People

What Parents Want – Why Pods Deliver

Average months of learning lost in scenario 2 compared with typical in-classroom learning



¹NWEA is a K-12 assessment provider serving over 9,500 schools across the US; their RIT scores are a standardized scaled score that measures student performance and progress.

²Normal school year growth rates estimated using NWEA data.

³52% assumed growth for high-quality instruction.

⁴0% assumed average growth for low-quality instruction. Rates of learning loss may differ by student groups.

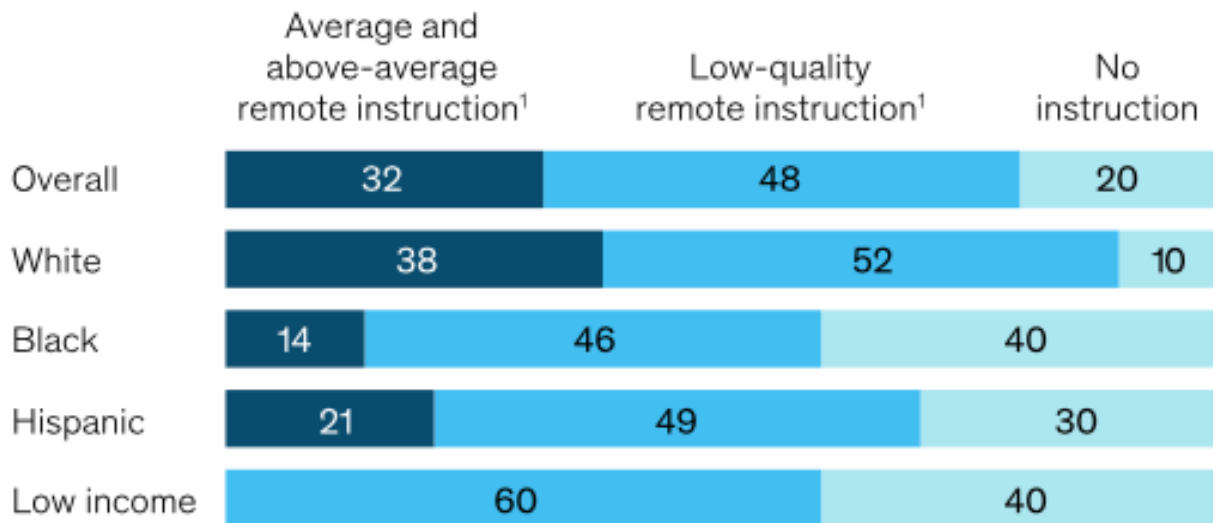
Source: Megan Kuhfeld, Dennis Condron, and Doug Downey, *When does inequality grow?*, 2019; Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Online Charter Schools Study, 2015

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What Parents Want – Why Pods Deliver

Learning loss will probably be greater for low-income, black, and Hispanic students.

Quality level of remote instruction, % of K–12 students



Black, Hispanic, and low-income students are at higher risk of not receiving remote instruction of average or above-average quality ...

2020: The Pandemic and the Pod People

What Parents Want – Why Pods Deliver

- In-person instruction
 - Higher quality
 - Parents can work
 - Children can socialize
- Small “pod” sizes
 - Reduced risk of exposure to coronavirus

Pandemic Pods - Main

Private group

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About This Group

Placeholder text for the 'About This Group' section.



HISTORY

- Group created on July 7, 2020
 - Name last changed on July 23, 2020
- [See More](#)

Members · 40,686



GROUP BY



Examples of Microschools



Beyond COVID: Why Parents Love Pods

- Flexibility & Customization
 - Smaller classes make it easier to adjust
 - Individual pacing: competency vs. seat time
 - Student-centered learning
 - Field trips / out-of-classroom learning
- Access & Affordability
 - Bellwether survey: 60% under \$10,000/year (vs. national district school avg. of \$15,000/year)

Ensuring Equity

A Pod for Every Child

- Education Savings Accounts
- Vouchers / Tax-Credit Scholarships
- Charter Schools
- District Schools
- Private Scholarships

Ensuring Equity

A Pod for Every Child

- **Community Learning Sites by the Mind Trust (Indianapolis, Indiana):** Provides “e-learning support and supervision for students of working families at ten locations across Central Indianapolis” during weekdays at no charge to families.
- **Homeschool Pod Grants from the National Parents Union:** Offered grants to “parents, families, parent-led parent advocacy organizations and community organizations serving parents and families in amounts ranging from \$5,000 – \$25,000,” to provide learning environments for low-income and other disadvantaged kids during the pandemic.
- **Learning Pods (New York and San Francisco):** In addition to serving as a hub for forming pods, Learning Pods provides scholarships and partners with foundations and schools to make the pods as accessible as possible.
- **Oakland REACH City-Wide Virtual Hub:** Provides families a variety of “research-based, effective instruction and learning resources” at no charge via its Literacy Liberation Center (grades K-2) and the National Summer School Initiative (grades 3-8).
- **Southern Nevada Urban Micro Academy (North Las Vegas):** City initiative with pods (up to 18 kids) for \$2/day.
- **Stronger Together ATX (Austin, Texas):** An initiative to connect low-income families who cannot afford microschooled pods that are willing to accept students at little or no charge. They’re also raising money to support disadvantaged podding families and working with local businesses to provide free space for pods or to offset childcare costs for their employees.
- **Umi-verse (New Jersey):** An online hub that connects families looking for microschooled instructors/tutors with individuals willing to provide online or in-person instruction or tutoring.

Thank you!

Feel free to ask questions and
reach out for more info!

jason@edchoice.org