



COVID-19 SPECIAL REPORT

Back to School & Childcare for the Hourly Workforce

A look at the unique challenges parents
who work hourly face this fall.





Introduction

Even before COVID-19, working Americans were struggling. The average hourly worker has been living paycheck to paycheck for quite some time—and the current economic climate has only exacerbated this insecurity. It's hard enough dealing with potential hour reductions or furloughs, but when you're a working parent you have additional economic pressure to face.

Both salaried and hourly working parents have already undergone so much this year with remote learning in the spring and continue to navigate the challenges and uncertainties around back to school this fall. But hourly workers are typically offered fewer benefits and resources through their place of work. They're also at a greater risk of losing income due to closures or lost hours.

To better understand how back to school has impacted parents within the hourly workforce, we conducted a survey of over 2,000 parents who are hourly workers and the unique burdens they're experiencing at this moment in time. Having to forego daycare or switch to remote learning for kids has meant many parents face the choice of looking after their children or keeping their job.

Methodology

The survey was conducted through the Branch app from August to September 2020 featuring more than 2,000 responses from hourly employees across industries ranging from retail, food service, to healthcare. Participation in this survey was completely voluntary and all responses were anonymized.

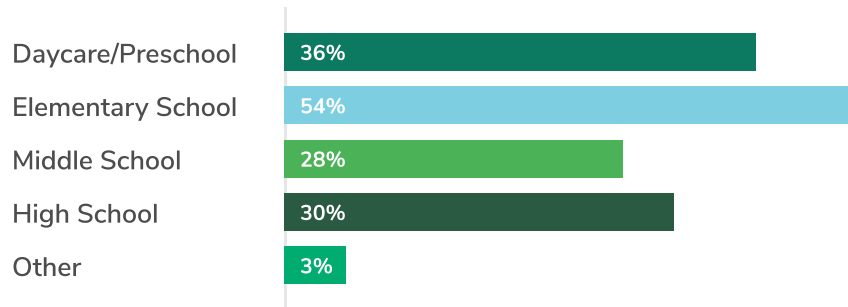
Survey questions were authored by Megan Leonhardt and Branch. For more information or questions, please contact research@branchapp.com

Background

How many children does your household have/support?



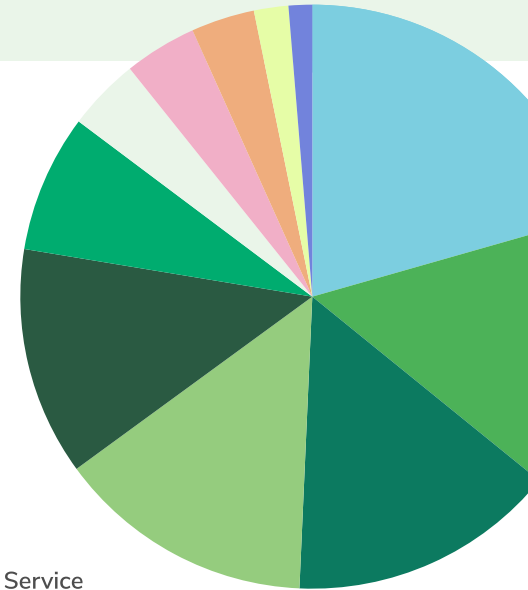
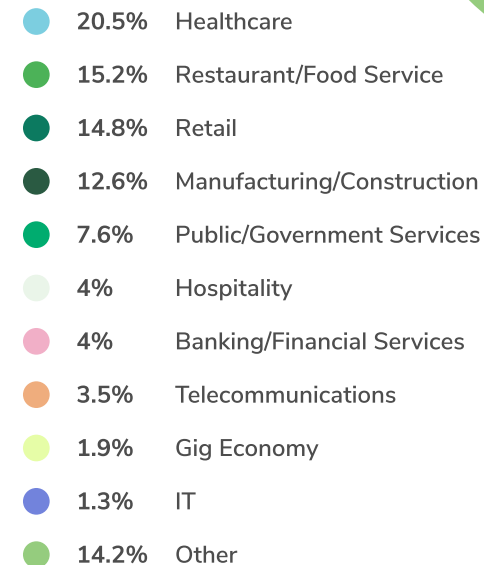
What type of schooling will your child(ren) participate in?



Do you live in a household where you rely on two or more incomes to make ends' meet?



Industry

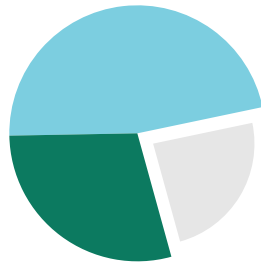


Returning to School

Remote Learning Is a Given

Vast majority of hourly workers (76.6%) expect their children to participate in some sort of remote learning experience this fall

- 47.2%** Full-time remote learning
- 29.4%** A blend of part-time classroom instruction and remote learning
- 18%** Less than a fifth will return to full-time learning



Relying on Family Members

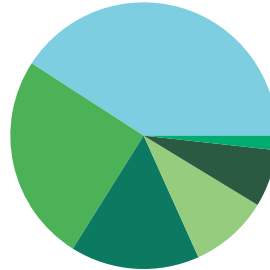
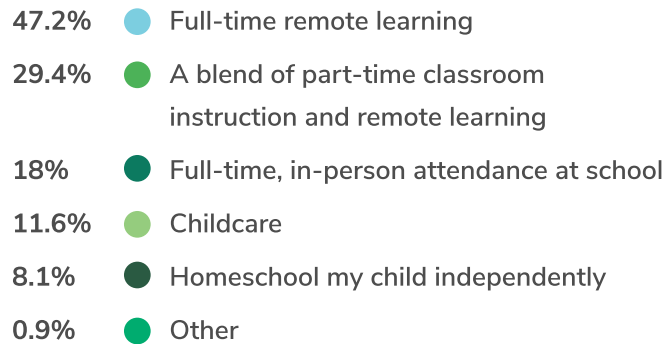
Nearly half (47%) will rely on a family member or friend and/or reduce their work hours to support their children this fall

About one-third (31.8%) expect to spend additional money to hire an outside child care provider (16.7%) or tutor (13.4%)

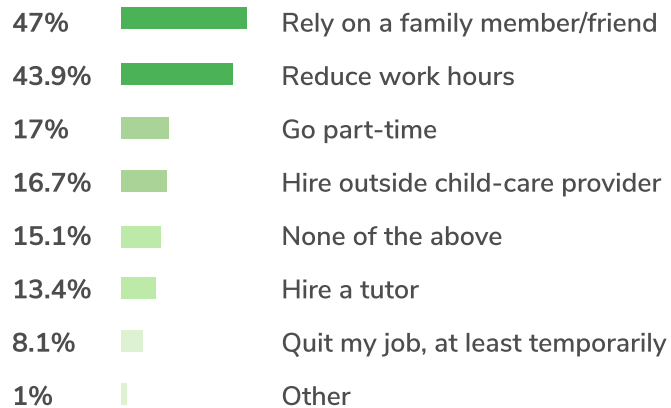
Most workers don't have any employer benefits supporting childcare (66.3%), but at least a quarter have flexible hours (25.6%)

Returning to School RESULTS

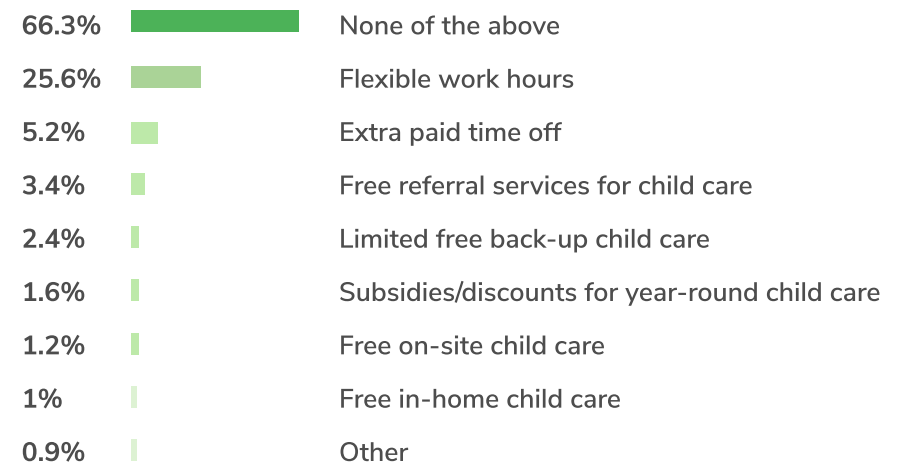
How will your child(ren) participate in school this fall?



Do you anticipate needing to do any of the following this fall to support your child(ren)?



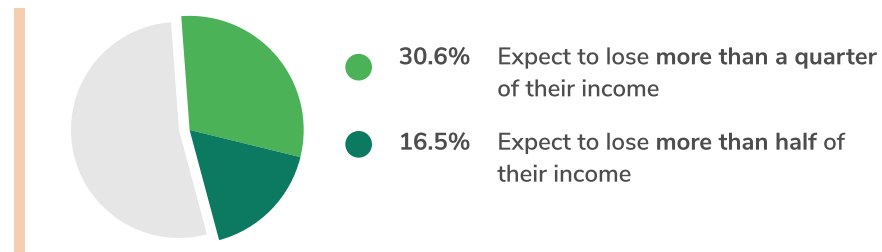
What type of support has your employer extended for your child care needs since the pandemic started?



School's Impact on Work

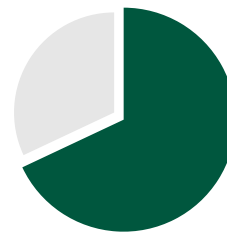
Anticipated Loss of Income

Over 80 percent of hourly workers expect to lose income due to lack of childcare or in-person learning.



Anticipated Decrease in Hours, Performance:

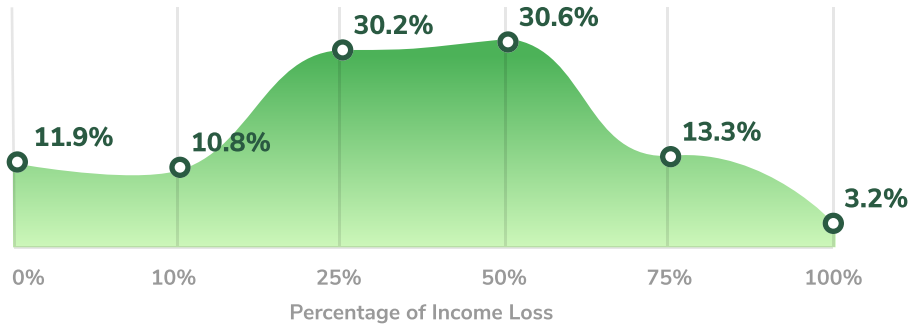
73.7% anticipate that remote learning will or may impact their performance at work, with nearly half (48.4%) anticipating it definitely will.



Over two-thirds (67.6%) believe that it will impact their ability to maintain the same number of hours

School's Impact on Work RESULTS

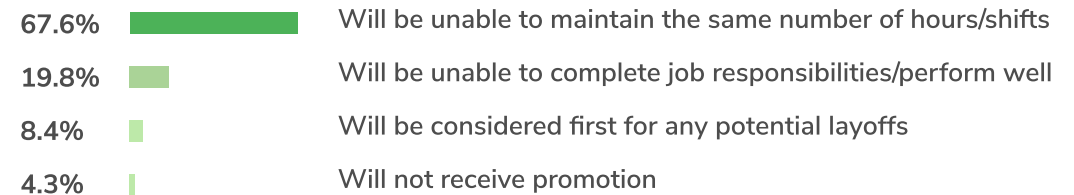
How much of your household income do you expect to lose this fall specifically because of a lack of childcare or in-person learning?



Do you feel like your performance at work will be negatively affected if your school district is forced to rely on remote learning?



How so?

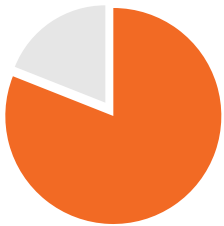


Managing Remote Learning

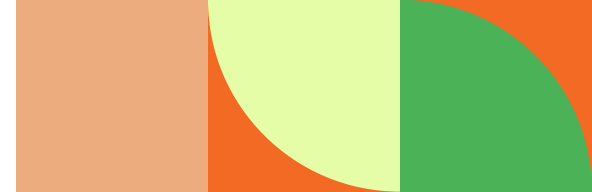
Mothers Most Impacted

Most hourly workers **expect the mother (61.5%)** in their households to bear the responsibilities around remote learning.

Only 16.7% expect the father in their household to be responsible.

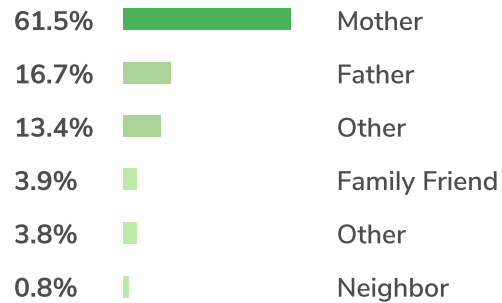


If they had to, **over 80% of female hourly workers** expect to quit their jobs to supervise their children.



Managing Remote Learning RESULTS

Who will be primarily responsible for handling teaching your child(ren) if your school district has remote learning?



If one guardian/parent is forced to quit their job and supervise your child(ren), which guardian/parent will that be?

