

CORONAVIRUS & EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA'S COLLEGE STUDENTS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

The results of our national and statewide survey on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on college students

KEY FINDINGS

1

The coronavirus pandemic has been an extremely disruptive force in students' lives, and students of color have been disproportionately affected.

2

Real financial insecurity is settling in for many students, particularly students from low-income backgrounds.

3

The damage to students' mental health from the coronavirus crisis is deep and pervasive.

4

Students are generally supportive of their school's response to the pandemic, but they identify key areas of improvement moving forward.

5

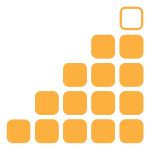
Most students say they plan to return to school this upcoming fall, but they will need more support than before.

6

Students nationwide face widespread uncertainty and a profound sense of disconnection from their usual supports as they look to their futures.

THREE IN FOUR CA COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT BEING ON TRACK TO GRADUATE, WITH CONCERNS EVEN HIGHER FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR

75%



of students are concerned about being on track to graduate from their program

95%



of students have had their classes canceled for the semester

85%



of students say most or all of their classes are now being held virtually

CA COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE FACING SEVERE FINANCIAL INSECURITY AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC

33%



of students report skipping a meal or reducing how much they are eating as a result of the pandemic

34%



of students report their colleges have provided food support, like access to food pantries.

54%



of students are uneasy about their personal finances over the coming few months

49%



of students think they will be able to afford basic expenses like food, housing, and tuition if the crisis persists for two more months

THE PANDEMIC IS A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FOR CA STUDENTS

67%



of students report higher stress than usual

66%



of students say they are concerned about experiencing anxiety, depression, or other mental health issues when they return in the fall

36%



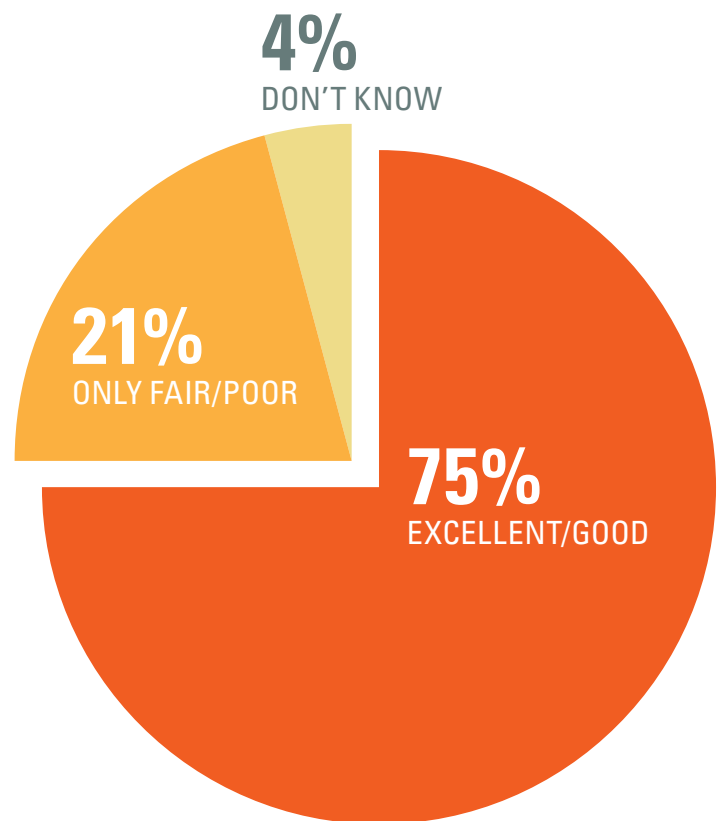
of students say they are concerned about their risk of developing substance abuse or addiction during the pandemic

"My anxiety has gotten so bad that I have gotten severe panic attacks and I'm depressed"

"I miss not living in constant fear"

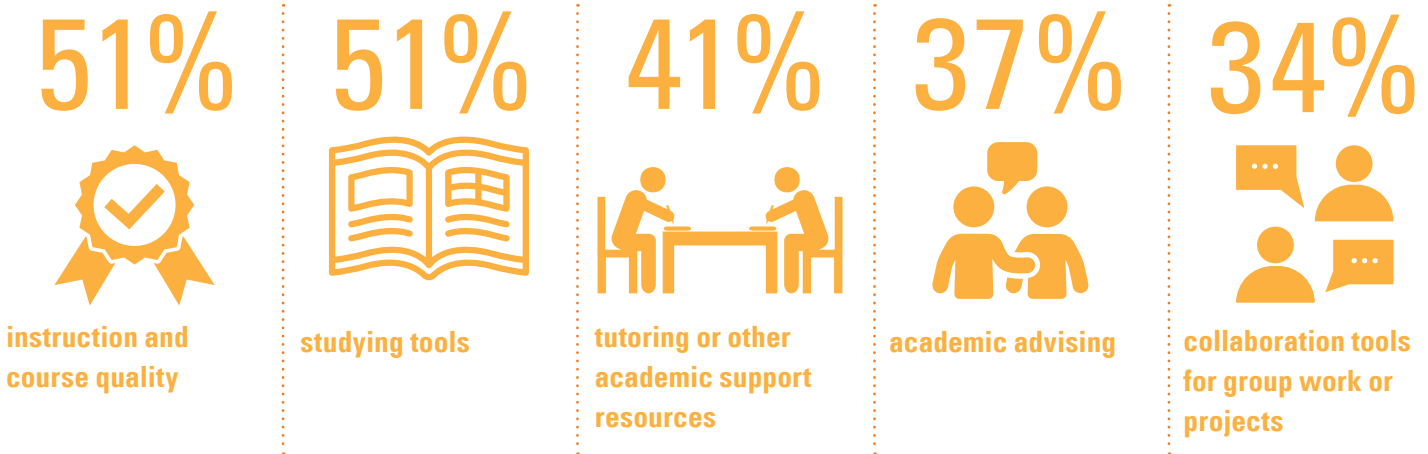
STUDENTS ARE GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THEIR SCHOOL'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

How would you rate your college or university's response and handling of coronavirus?



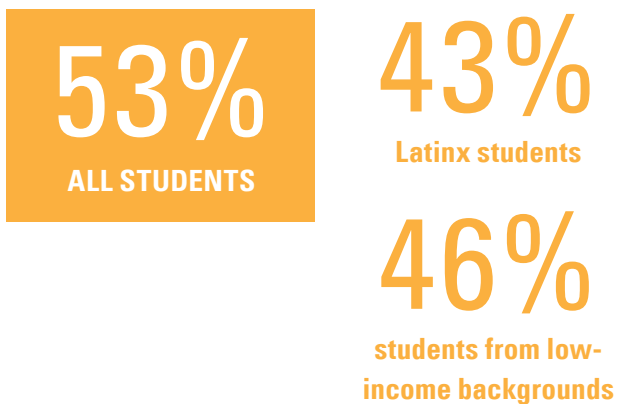
CA STUDENTS CALL FOR IMPROVEMENTS IF REMOTE LEARNING CONTINUES INTO THE FALL

If your college or university only offered online classes this fall, which of the following aspects of the experience will faculty and administrators need to improve upon? Top 5 responses...

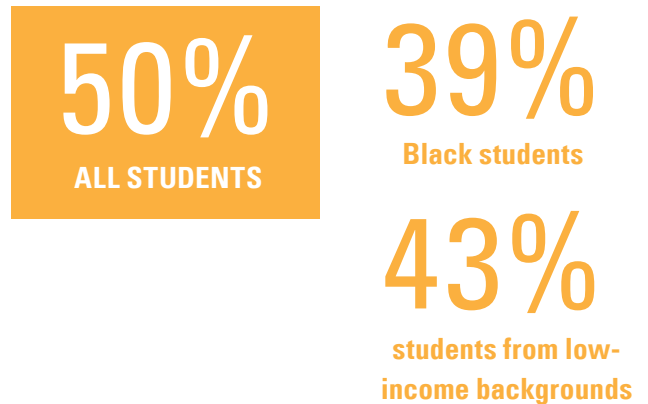


NATIONWIDE, STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME BACKGROUNDS REPORT LOWER LEVELS OF SUPPORT

Share of students who say their school has provided virtual office hours or other ways to connect with **faculty**



Share of students who say their school has provided virtual office hours or ways to connect with **academic advisors**



CA STUDENTS SAY THEY WILL NEED MORE SUPPORT WHEN THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL THIS FALL

Share of students who say they will need more of the following (top responses):



CA STUDENTS REPORT MAJOR GAPS BETWEEN THEIR NEEDS AND EXISTING SUPPORTS

WOULD BE HELPFUL	SCHOOL IS DOING THIS	
87%	48%	Virtual office hours or other ways to connect with faculty
86%	47%	Virtual office hours or other ways to connect with academic or career advisors
85%	31%	Emergency financial aid or other financial support
85%	31%	Tutoring, advising, or other academic support
85%	24%	Career advising and job preparation
83%	46%	Virtual office hours or other ways to connect with administrators
78%	34%	Food support, like access to food pantries
76%	35%	Mental health services, counseling, and emotional or psychological support
75%	47%	Coronavirus safety and risk reduction information
75%	26%	Forums, portals, or other ways to connect socially with other students
74%	25%	Well-being services, like mindfulness and meditation services
66%	11%	Alternative housing arrangements

STUDENTS REPORT FEELING DISCONNECTED FROM KEY CAMPUS SUPPORTS

Which of the following have been the most challenging aspects of being enrolled in school during the coronavirus pandemic for you personally?

