

CORONAVIRUS & EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

SUPPORTING NEW YORK'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

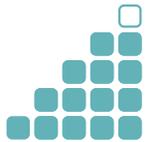
Most students say they plan to return to school this upcoming fall, but they will need more support than before.

6

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

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

81%



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

97%



of students have had their classes canceled for the semester

81%



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

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

34%



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

56%



of students from **low-income backgrounds** report skipping a meal or reducing how much they are eating

73%



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

32%



of students from **low-income backgrounds** 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 NY STUDENTS

81%



of students report higher stress than usual

81%



of students say they are concerned about their risk of developing or worsening depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues

40%



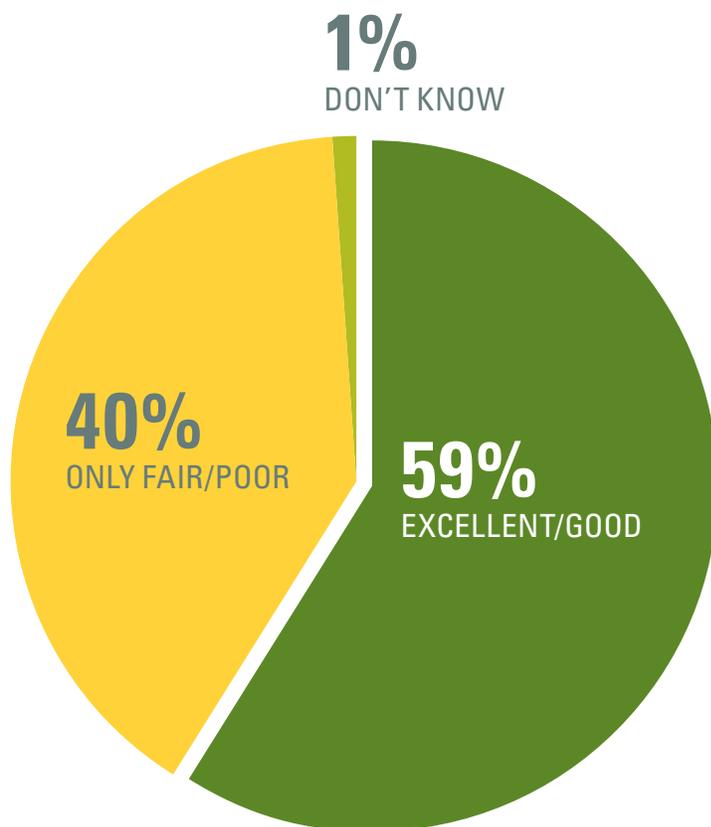
of students say they are concerned about their risk of developing substance abuse or addiction during the pandemic

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

"I miss not living in constant fear"

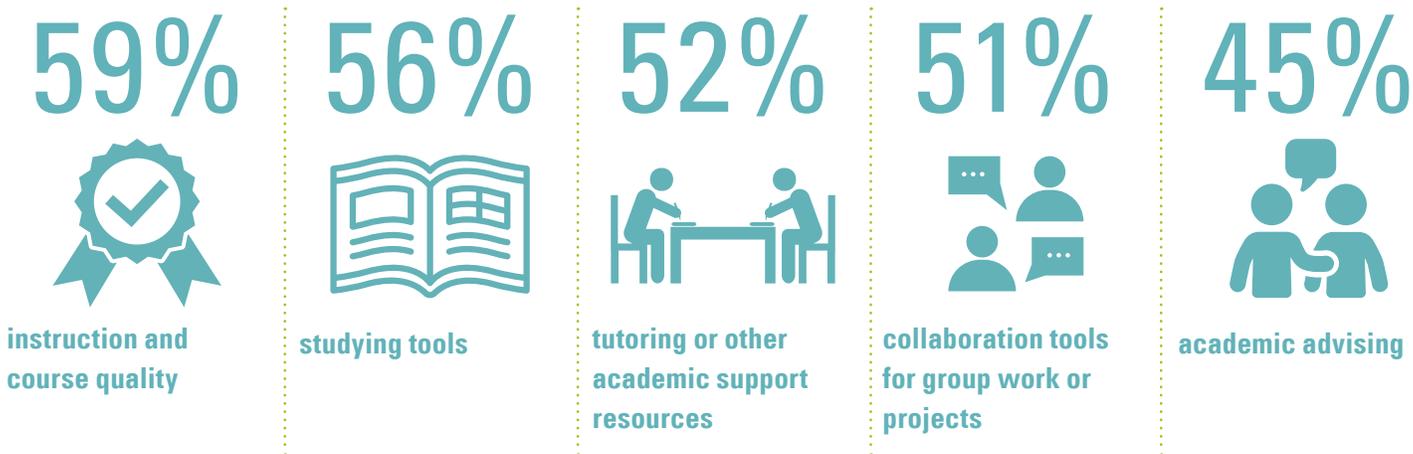
STUDENTS ARE GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THEIR SCHOOL'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

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



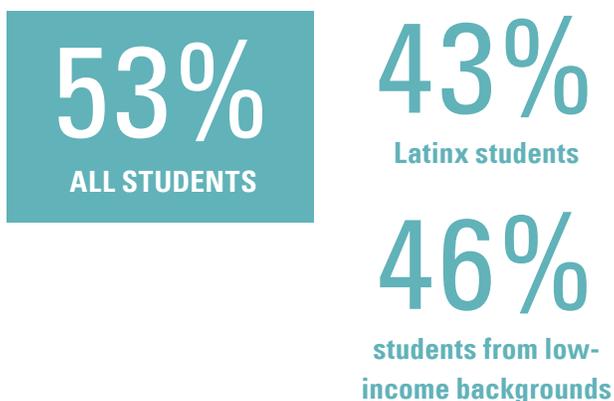
NY STUDENTS CALL FOR IMPROVEMENTS IF REMOTE LEARNING CONTINUES INTO THE FALL

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...

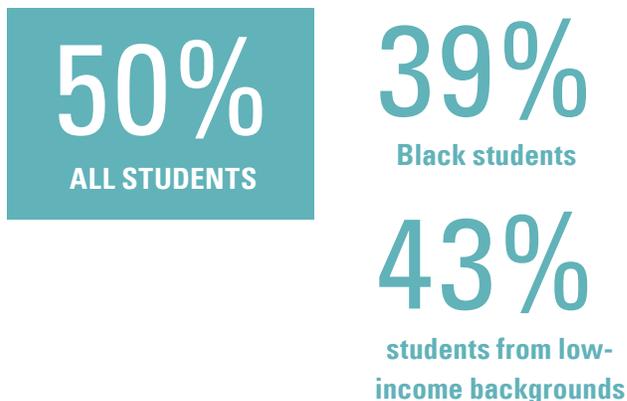


NATIONWIDE, STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME BACKGROUNDS REPORT LOWER LEVELS OF SUPPORT

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



NY 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):



NY STUDENTS REPORT MAJOR GAPS BETWEEN THEIR NEEDS AND EXISTING SUPPORTS

WOULD BE HELPFUL	SCHOOL IS DOING THIS	
86%	61%	Tutoring, advising, or other academic support
84%	48%	Virtual office hours or other ways to connect with faculty
84%	54%	Virtual office hours or other ways to connect with academic or career advisors
83%	36%	Emergency financial aid or other financial support
82%	39%	Virtual office hours or other ways to connect with administrators
78%	46%	Coronavirus safety and risk reduction information
77%	21%	Forums, portals, or other ways to connect socially with other students
75%	29%	Mental health services, counseling, and emotional or psychological support
73%	32%	Career advising and job preparation
68%	28%	Well-being services, like mindfulness and meditation services
67%	13%	Alternative housing arrangements
63%	22%	Food support, like access to food pantries

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?

