THE CASE FOR AN ACCURATE PICTURE
Trends in Parent Mindsets
2016-2019
VISION
Every parent is a learning hero, advocating effectively on behalf of their children’s success in school, driving school improvement.

MISSION
With a complete and accurate picture of their children’s academic and developmental success, parents are their children’s most effective education advocate.
Parents: A False Sense of Security

Perception

90% of parents, regardless of race, income, and education level, believe their child is at or above grade level in reading and math.

35% of students nationally perform at or above grade-level work.

2019 NAEP Data
(4th grade reading)

39% of teachers report their students come prepared for grade-level work at the beginning of the year.

Scholastic 2016 Principal and Teacher Survey
Methodology

2016 - 2019
NATIONAL ONLINE PARENT SURVEYS

• Nationwide samples of parents and guardians with children in public school, spanning grades K-12, including: Oversamples: African Americans, Hispanics
• Offered in both English and Spanish
• Data were weighted to be representative of public school parents in the U.S.

2018 - 2019
NATIONAL ONLINE TEACHER SURVEYS

• Nationwide sample of K-12 public school teachers
• Quotas set so representative by key demographics

WITH ADDITIONAL DATA FROM:

• 64 Learning Heroes 2018 Qualitative Sessions in 6 locations among parents, their children, teachers, principals, and guidance counselors
• Conducted in English and Spanish
Parent Aspirations = College

Percent of high school parents who think it is extremely/very likely their child will get a 2–4 year degree

79%

Percent of 25–64 year olds with a bachelor’s degree

21.1%

Percent of 25–64 year olds with an associate’s degree

19.2%

A Stronger Nation, Lumina Foundation
Increasing Confidence

Percent of K-8 parents who are confident that their child will be prepared for college

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>63%</td>
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</table>

AA: African American
H: Hispanic
W: White
Percent of high school parents who rate how their child is doing academically

- 77% Child is excelling academically
- 17% Child is performing well academically
- 3% Child is struggling academically
- 2% Child is barely passing academically

And Excelling in High School
What Keeps Parents Up at Night? Not Academics

Percent of K-8 parents who worry about the following

- **Happiness & Emotional Well-being**
  - 2018: 64%
  - 2019: 60%

- **Peer Pressure**
  - 2018: 63%
  - 2019: 55%

- **Gaining Knowledge & Skills to Be Ready for College**
  - 2018: 63%
  - 2019: 42%

- **Whether Child Is on Track Academically**
  - 2018: 50%
  - 2019: 38%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of K-8 parents who attend parent-teacher conferences</th>
<th>Percent of K-8 parents who communicated with the teacher outside of a parent-teacher conference</th>
<th>Percent of K-8 parents who help with homework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017</strong></td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2019</strong></td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>74%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Responsibility? A Total Flip

Percent of K-8 parents who place responsibility for in-school success on the...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reflections and Q & A
Report Cards Drive Perceptions
Parents and teachers rank the most important ways to know how a child is achieving

**Teachers**
- **#1** Regular communication with the teacher(s)
- **#2** Graded work and tests/quizzes from the teacher
- **#3** Report card grades
- **#4** Whether or not child struggles on homework
- **#5** Parent-Teacher conferences

**Parents**
- **#1** Report card grades
- **#2** Whether or not child struggles on homework
- **#3** Graded work and tests/quizzes from the teacher
- **#4** Child’s mood/body language
- **#5** Regular communication with the teacher(s)
Grades are the “It”

Percent of parents who *rely* on report card grades to know whether or not their child is achieving at his or her grade level

- **2017**: 86%
- **2019**: 89%

85% of parents report that their children get A’s and B’s*

*2019 Data
Percent of parents who believe report cards are an accurate reflection of academic achievement

- **88%** Elementary School
- **89%** Middle School
- **92%** High School
Teachers: Report Cards are More Than Grade-Level Achievement

48% of teachers agree report card grades measure effort more than achievement.
88% of parents think their child is at or above grade level in math.

61% of parents think their child is at or above grade level in math when told...
- Their child received a B in math
- Their child did not meet expectations on the state test

52% of parents think their child is at or above grade level in math when told...
- Their child received a B in math
- Their child did not meet expectations on the state test
- Their child’s school received an overall performance rating of C
When it Comes to Supporting Their Children, Parents Need Help

Percent of K-12 parents who say these resources would be very/extremely helpful

- 77% A simple explanation of what your child is expected to learn this year
- 70% A simple way to determine whether your child is ready for the current grade or the next grade
- 69% A simple tool that helps you, the teacher, and your child reflect on grade level progress to help you create an action plan for the year
Reflections and Q & A
Parents who attend parent-teacher conferences

77% 2017
62% 2019

PARENT PERCEPTION

90% of parents, regardless of race, income, and education level, believe their child is at or above grade level in reading and math.

THE REALITY

37% of students nationally perform at or above grade-level work.

FIND OUT MORE AT BEALEARNINGHERO.ORG/RESEARCH
Thank You to Our Funders and Partners for Five Years of Learning
Thank you!

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