



## Preliminary 2021 PAYS Data Highlights: State of Pennsylvania

This PAYS Data Highlights Report provides preliminary results from the 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) on key measures related to substance use, mental health, school climate and safety (including bullying data), COVID-19 impacts, and remote learning perceptions and experiences. PAYS sponsors -- the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and Department of Education -- are supplying these preliminary highlights with the hope of aiding in mid-school-year prevention and wellness planning.

### Notes to consider before jumping into the findings below:

- This report shares data from the 2021 PAYS only. While the COVID-19 and remote learning data are brand new to the 2021 PAYS, all other data points in this highlights report can be compared to the PAYS data you've received in the past. Your full profile report (to be released April 30) will show data from 2017, 2019, and 2021 when available.
- Studies indicate that most young people are truthful in answering anonymous prevention-centered surveys such as PAYS. To ensure valid survey results, **the data here have made use of the same validity/honesty checks used in PAYS profile reports.** Preliminary data are displayed here when there are a minimum number of 25 responses. Since preliminary results are being presented before final post-survey data cleaning, final results (reported in profile reports, to be distributed on April 30, 2022) may differ slightly from these preliminary results.
- Most items in this report display data of ALL students by grade. Occasionally, you will find that **some data are reported of a subgroup of respondents** -- for example, remote learning items are only asked of students who indicated some form of remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take the time to read the description for each item to better understand the data as reported.
- The data reported here are displayed at the grade level. Note that your final profile reports (to be released April 30, 2022) will include grade-level and all-grades-combined data. Those profile reports have the same look and feel to other profiles generated and distributed and will include extensive data across many topics -- substance use, antisocial behaviors, mental health, school climate and safety, student wellness, risk and protective factors, and more!
- If you find that there appears to be a bar in your chart that is missing, please note that it is due to 0 students marking that particular item.
- The font size for this report's text has been set at 14. If you find that the font appears too small for your review, please adjust the font size on your personal screen by holding down the Control/Ctrl key while pressing the "+/= " key.
- If you need help reading, interpreting, or applying these data, **please contact your local county drug and alcohol office or reach out to the Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support Center (EPISCenter):** (814) 867-3160 | Submit a question at: <https://www.episcenter.psu.edu/index.php/paysquestion> | [www.episcenter.psu.edu](http://www.episcenter.psu.edu)

## Participation

Date Data Collection Ended: 12-14-2021

District Name: State of Pennsylvania

# COVID-19 Impacts

The 2021 PAYS included a question designed to assess student impacts (both negative and positive) to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students were asked the following: "COVID-19 has impacted our lives in different ways. These questions ask about your COVID-19 related experiences. Select all of the following that you experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic."

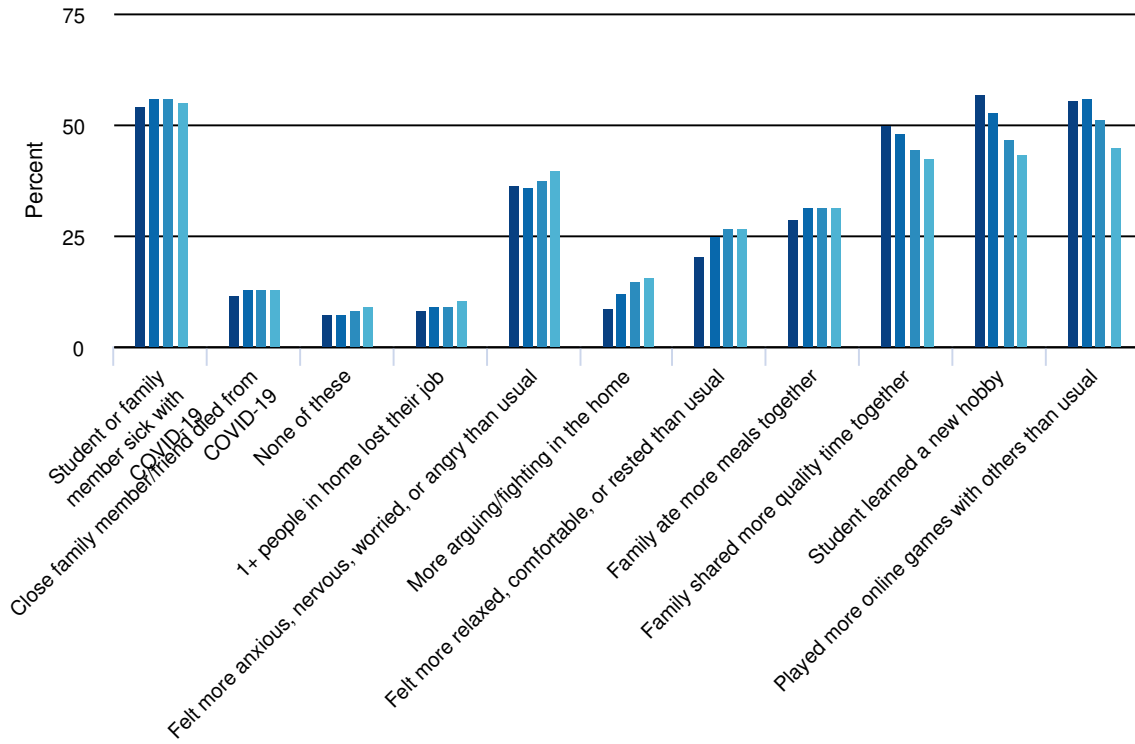
The following were response options, of which students could mark all that applied:

- I or someone in my family was sick with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms
- A family member or friend close to me died from COVID-19
- One or more people living in my home lost their job
- I felt more anxious, nervous, worried, or angry than usual
- I felt more relaxed, comfortable, or rested than usual
- People in my home were arguing or physically fighting more than usual
- My family ate more meals together than usual
- My family shared more quality time together than usual (such as playing games, exercising, talking, watching movies/tv)
- I learned a new hobby or skill (such as cooking, crafts, gardening, physical activities, outdoor activities, puzzles, new language)
- I played more online games with others than usual
- None of these

The data in this section are of ALL students taking the survey online.

## 20. COVID-19 IMPACTS

The chart below displays data for the question: "COVID-19 has impacted our lives in different ways. These questions ask about your COVID-19 related experiences. Select all of the following that you experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic." Please note that participants could mark all impacts that applied to them. To review the data, hover over each chart bar to show by grade.



## 21. COVID-19 Impacts

Segment	Value	Percent	% of Total	Responses	
6th	I or someone in my family was sick with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms	54.5%	12.5%	22,876	
	A family member or friend close to me died from COVID-19	12%	2.8%	5,034	
	One or more people living in my home lost their job	8.2%	1.9%	3,425	
	I felt more anxious, nervous, worried, or angry than usual	36.2%	8.3%	15,211	
	I felt more relaxed, comfortable, or rested than usual	20.4%	4.7%	8,581	
	People in my home were arguing or physically fighting more than usual	8.8%	2%	3,685	
	My family ate more meals together than usual	28.9%	6.7%	12,138	
	My family shared more quality time together than usual (such as playing games, exercising, talking, watching movies/tv)	50%	11.5%	21,007	
	I learned a new hobby or skill (such as cooking, crafts, gardening, physical activities, outdoor activities, puzzles, new language)	57.2%	13.2%	24,025	
	I played more online games with others than usual	55.6%	12.8%	23,341	
	None of these	7.3%	1.7%	3,074	
		Total Responses		78.1%	41,977
	8th	I or someone in my family was sick with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms	56.3%	16.9%	30,767
		A family member or friend close to me died from COVID-19	13%	3.9%	7,099
One or more people living in my home lost their job		9%	2.7%	4,918	
I felt more anxious, nervous, worried, or angry than usual		36%	10.8%	19,695	
I felt more relaxed, comfortable, or rested than usual		24.9%	7.5%	13,614	
People in my home were arguing or physically fighting more than usual		12.2%	3.7%	6,681	
My family ate more meals together than usual		31.5%	9.4%	17,221	
My family shared more quality time together than usual (such as playing games, exercising, talking, watching movies/tv)		48.3%	14.5%	26,394	
I learned a new hobby or skill (such as cooking, crafts, gardening, physical activities, outdoor activities, puzzles, new language)		53.1%	15.9%	29,028	
I played more online games with others than usual		56.1%	16.8%	30,684	

Segment	Value	Percent	% of Total	Responses
	None of these	7.5%	2.2%	4,078
		Total Responses	104.3%	54,694
10th	I or someone in my family was sick with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms	56.2%	14.7%	26,741
	A family member or friend close to me died from COVID-19	13.2%	3.4%	6,289
	One or more people living in my home lost their job	9.3%	2.4%	4,421
	I felt more anxious, nervous, worried, or angry than usual	37.9%	9.9%	18,033
	I felt more relaxed, comfortable, or rested than usual	26.8%	7%	12,767
	People in my home were arguing or physically fighting more than usual	14.9%	3.9%	7,076
	My family ate more meals together than usual	31.5%	8.2%	15,002
	My family shared more quality time together than usual (such as playing games, exercising, talking, watching movies/tv)	44.9%	11.7%	21,346
	I learned a new hobby or skill (such as cooking, crafts, gardening, physical activities, outdoor activities, puzzles, new language)	46.8%	12.2%	22,280
	I played more online games with others than usual	51.1%	13.3%	24,290
	None of these	8.4%	2.2%	3,979
		Total Responses	88.9%	47,561
12th	I or someone in my family was sick with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms	55.2%	11.5%	21,026
	A family member or friend close to me died from COVID-19	13.3%	2.8%	5,064
	One or more people living in my home lost their job	10.7%	2.2%	4,074
	I felt more anxious, nervous, worried, or angry than usual	40.1%	8.4%	15,275
	I felt more relaxed, comfortable, or rested than usual	26.6%	5.6%	10,127
	People in my home were arguing or physically fighting more than usual	15.6%	3.3%	5,952
	My family ate more meals together than usual	31.6%	6.6%	12,044
	My family shared more quality time together than usual (such as playing games, exercising, talking, watching movies/tv)	42.6%	8.9%	16,224
	I learned a new hobby or skill (such as cooking, crafts, gardening, physical activities, outdoor activities, puzzles, new language)	43.6%	9.1%	16,610

Segment	Value	Percent	% of Total	Responses
	I played more online games with others than usual	45.2%	9.4%	17,220
	None of these	9.1%	1.9%	3,466
		Total Responses	69.7%	38,087

# Remote Learning Perceptions and Experiences (Of students reporting any remote learning in the 2020-2021 school year)

The 2021 PAYS included several questions designed to gather information on students' perceptions and experiences with remote learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Only students taking the survey in the PAYS online version were asked these questions.

Students were first asked, "During the 2020-2021 school year, I attended classes: Online all year, Online most of the year or most of each week, In-person at school most of the year or most of each week, or In-person at school all year."

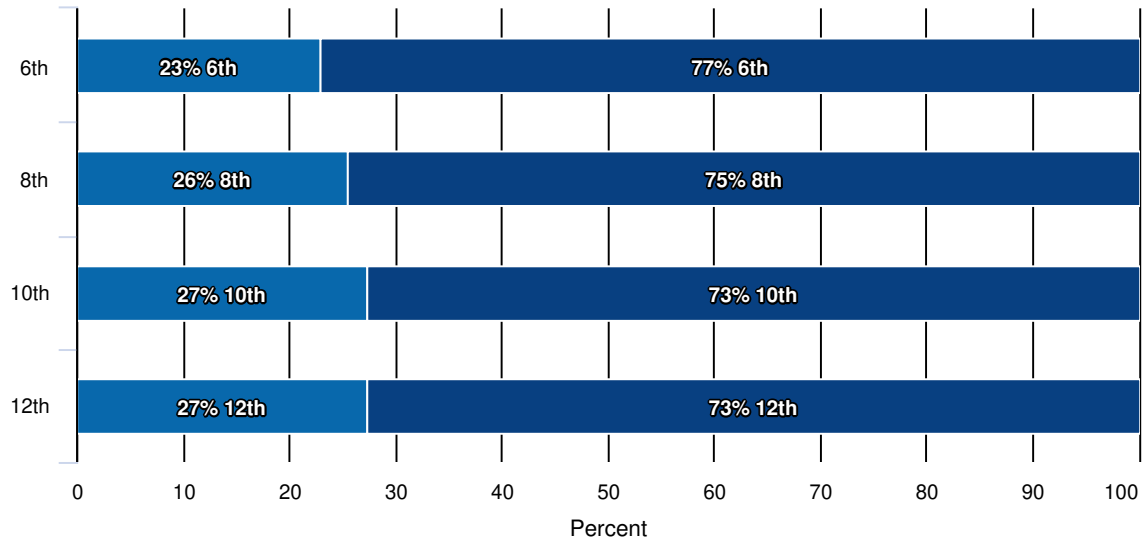
**Students who marked "In-person at school all year" were NOT given the following remote learning item; therefore, these data are only of students indicating any remote learning experience in the previous school year. If no students in your district indicate they were learning remotely (in any capacity for the full year), you will likely find no data in this section.** Likewise, the data reported here are dependent on how students marked the survey and do not reflect any school-reported remote learning information.

Students who reported any remote learning in the 2020-2021 school year were asked to respond with "YES!", "yes," "no," or "NO!" to each of the following items:

- I missed spending time at school, learning with other students in person.
- I missed spending time at school, learning with my teachers in person.
- When learning online, I understood my teacher's instructions.
- I stayed focused when doing online school work.
- My learning improved when my classes were taught online due to COVID-19.
- I had a quiet space that I was able to use when doing online school work.
- It was easy to use the online learning platform or website my school used for online classes.
- I had access to an internet connection in my home to participate in online learning.
- I had my own laptop, desktop computer, or other device for use for schoolwork.

## 22. REMOTE LEARNING PERCEPTIONS/EXPERIENCES: MISSED LEARNING WITH OTHER STUDENTS IN PERSON

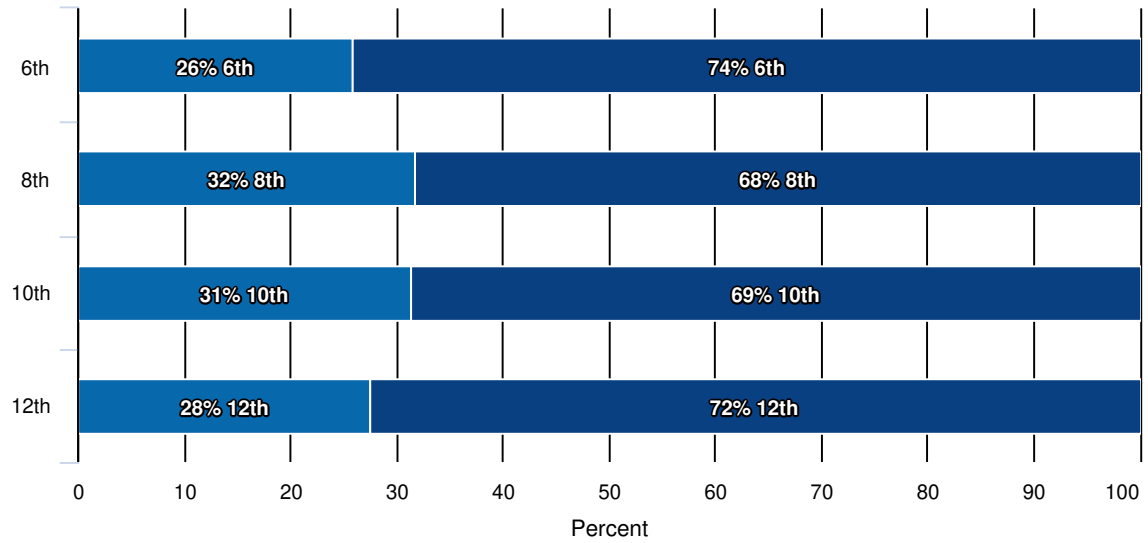
The chart below displays data for the question: "I missed spending time at school, learning with other students in person." The chart presents data for two groups -- students who marked "NO!" or "no" to the item (light blue bar) and students who marked "YES!" or "yes" to the item (dark blue bar).





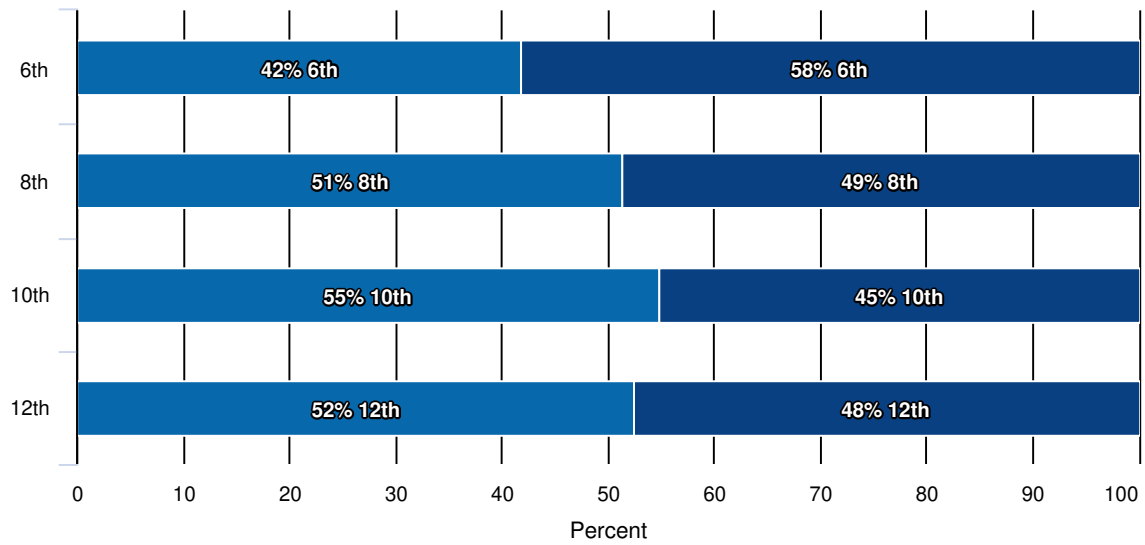
### 23. REMOTE LEARNING PERCEPTIONS/EXPERIENCES: MISSED LEARNING WITH MY TEACHERS IN PERSON

The chart below displays data for the question: "I missed spending time at school, learning with my teachers in person." The chart presents data for two groups -- students who marked "NO!" or "no" to the item (light blue bar) and students who marked "YES!" or "yes" to the item (dark blue bar).



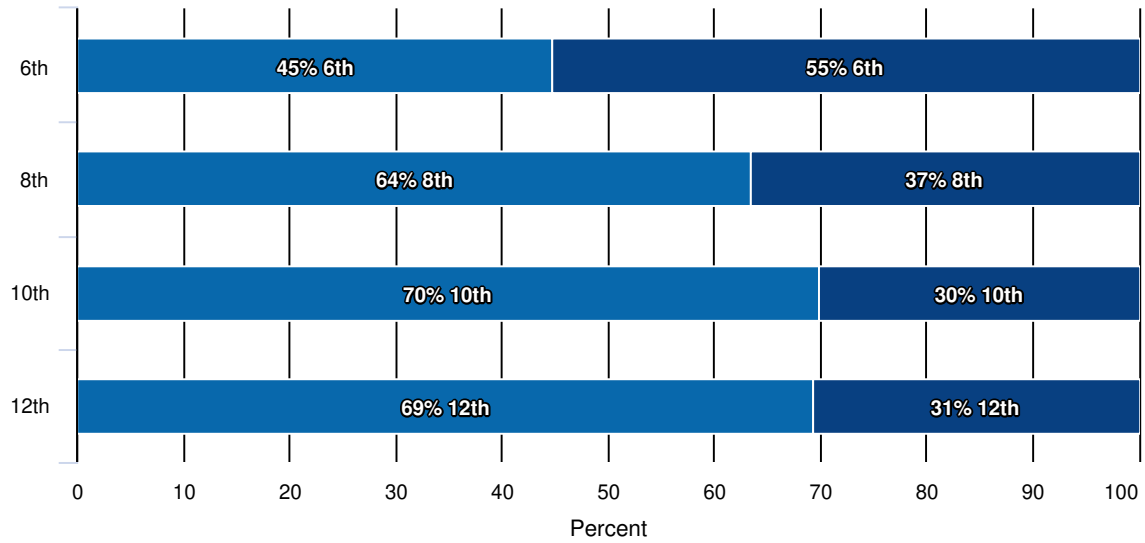
## 24. REMOTE LEARNING PERCEPTIONS/EXPERIENCES: UNDERSTOOD TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS WHEN LEARNING ONLINE

The chart below displays data for the question: "When learning online, I understood my teacher's instructions." The chart presents data for two groups -- students who marked "NO!" or "no" to the item (light blue bar) and students who marked "YES!" or "yes" to the item (dark blue bar).



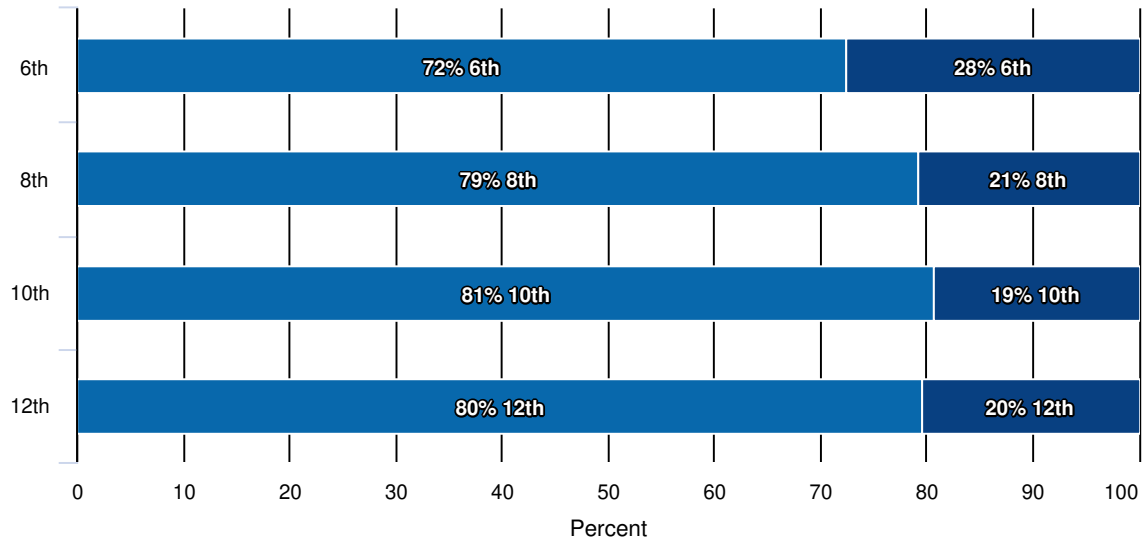
## 25. REMOTE LEARNING PERCEPTIONS/EXPERIENCES: STAYED FOCUSED WHEN LEARNING ONLINE

The chart below displays data for the question: "I stayed focused when doing online school work." The chart presents data for two groups -- students who marked "NO!" or "no" to the item (light blue bar) and students who marked "YES!" or "yes" to the item (dark blue bar).



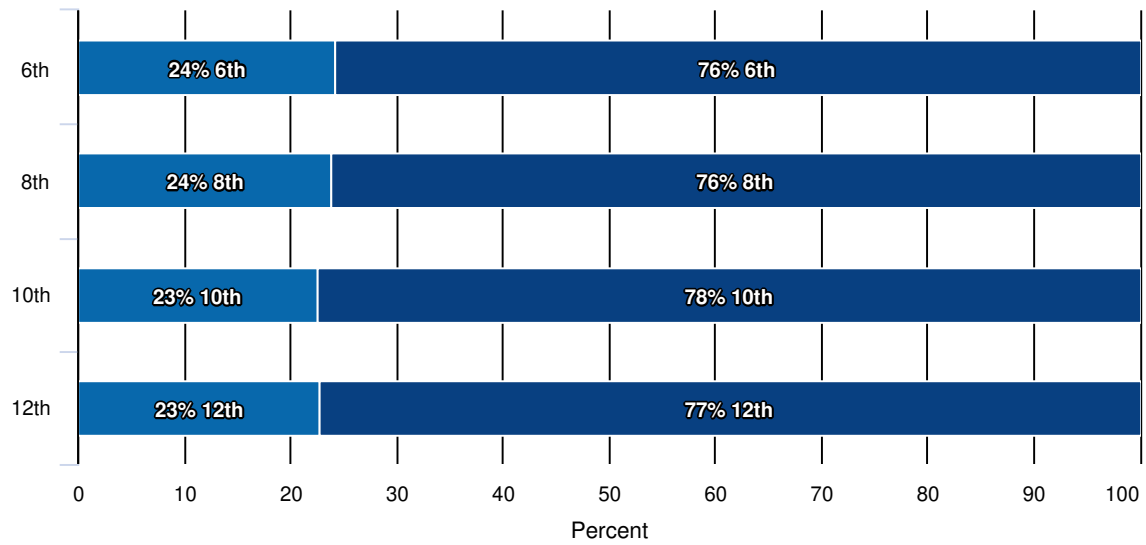
## 26. REMOTE LEARNING PERCEPTIONS/EXPERIENCES: LEARNING IMPROVED WHEN ONLINE

The chart below displays data for the question: "My learning improved when my classes were taught online due to COVID-19." The chart presents data for two groups -- students who marked "NO!" or "no" to the item (light blue bar) and students who marked "YES!" or "yes" to the item (dark blue bar).



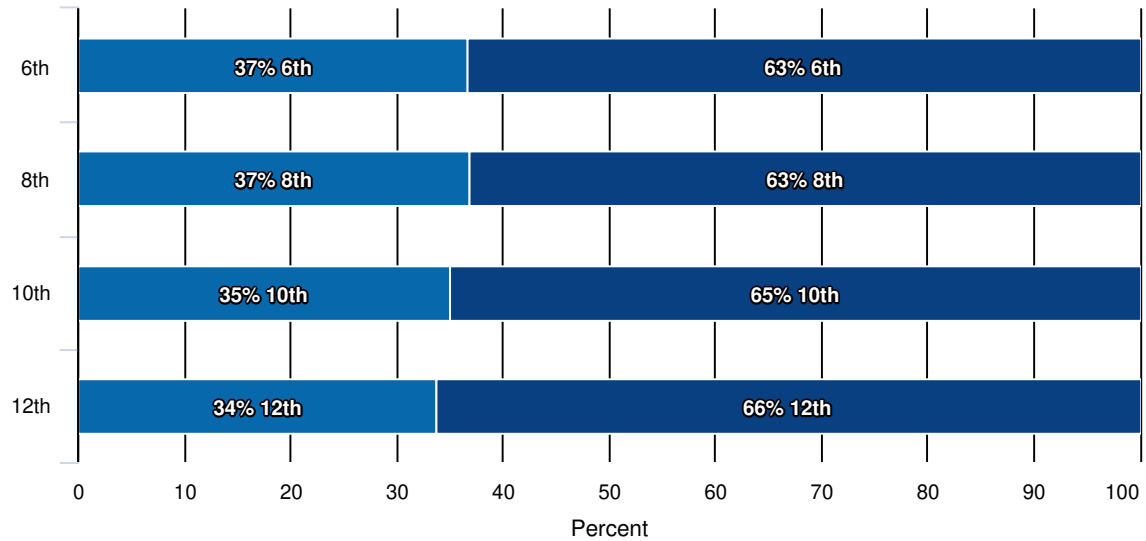
## 27. REMOTE LEARNING PERCEPTIONS/EXPERIENCES: QUIET SPACE FOR ONLINE SCHOOL WORK

The chart below displays data for the question: "I had a quiet space that I was able to use when doing online school work." The chart presents data for two groups -- students who marked "NO!" or "no" to the item (light blue bar) and students who marked "YES!" or "yes" to the item (dark blue bar).



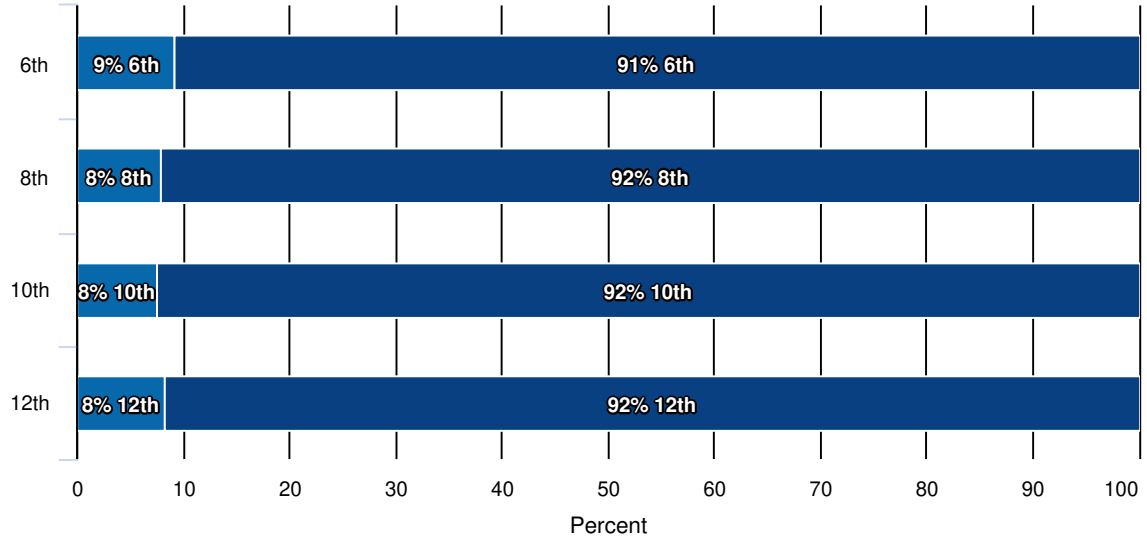
## 28. REMOTE LEARNING PERCEPTIONS/EXPERIENCES: SCHOOL'S LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WAS EASY TO USE

The chart below displays data for the question: "It was easy to use the online learning platform or website my school used for online classes." The chart presents data for two groups -- students who marked "NO!" or "no" to the item (light blue bar) and students who marked "YES!" or "yes" to the item (dark blue bar).



## 29. REMOTE LEARNING PERCEPTIONS/EXPERIENCES: INTERNET ACCESS

The chart below displays data for the question: "I had access to an internet connection in my home to participate in online learning." The chart presents data for two groups -- students who marked "NO!" or "no" to the item (light blue bar) and students who marked "YES!" or "yes" to the item (dark blue bar).



### 30. REMOTE LEARNING PERCEPTIONS/EXPERIENCES: ELECTRONIC DEVICE ACCESS FOR LEARNING

The chart below displays data for the question: "I had my own laptop, desktop computer, or other device for use for schoolwork." The chart presents data for two groups -- students who marked "NO!" or "no" to the item (light blue bar) and students who marked "YES!" or "yes" to the item (dark blue bar).

