School Parents’ Social Networks During Pandemic Education

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My Story

- Often not just the students online, but also parents, grandparents, cousins, and neighbors.
“Building the plane as we fly it.”
Student Achievement/Experience

- Income
- Housing
- Family Education
- Race
- Teachers
Pandemic?

- Family Education
- Income
- Housing
- Race
- Teachers

Student Achievement/Experience
How did parents use their social networks to support their children’s education?
March 16: Schools close indefinitely, instruction ceases.

April 19: Vaccines available for all adults.

April 20: Instruction resumes virtually.

September 2: School year begins remotely, hybrid option in second term.

Fall 19
Pre-pandemic.

Spring 20
Schools closed in March, then remote.

Fall 20
Remote start, opt-in hybrid.

Spring 21
Many schools hybrid, A-B schedule.

Fall 21
In person.

Spring 22
In person.
Literature Review

- Grade level
- Parental involvement
  - Social networks
- Housing
- Technology
Housing

- Homeownership
  - Civic engagement
  - Physical upkeep

- Tenure, stability, and mobility
  - Stress, mental health
  - Educational attainment

- Crowding
  - Ability for children to focus
What are parents up to?

Figure 1. Percentage of children ages 3-5 and not yet in kindergarten whose parents reported participating in home activities with child three or more times in the past week (N=954)

Jung and Barnett, 2021
What are parents up to?

Figure 1-1. Parental support for Early Learning by Race/Ethnicity, Spring 2021 (N = 954)

- Read to the child: 71% (White), 58% (Black), 46% (Hispanic), 47% (Other)
- Told a story: 80% (White), 67% (Black), 44% (Hispanic), 51% (Other)
- Sang songs: 67% (White), 64% (Black), 63% (Hispanic), 64% (Other)
- Taught letters, words, numbers: 70% (White), 63% (Black), 64% (Hispanic), 59% (Other)
- Worked on arts and crafts: 84% (White), 67% (Black), 67% (Hispanic), 48% (Other)

Jung and Barnett, 2021
What are parents up to?

Figure 1-2. Parental support for Early Learning by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 (N = 954)

Jung and Barnett, 2021
Social Isolation

Figure 5. Coefficients from regression of engagement outcomes on instructional strategies and social capital.

Domina et al., 2021
View from Walnut St

Source: School District of Philadelphia
SDP Catchment

- 385 students at Sayre.
- 2,826 students in the catchment.
“Building the plane as we fly it.”
Findings

• Semi-structured interview.
• Stay at home mom, immigrant family.
• Two children.
• Extended family, modest living area.
• Contrary to literature, did not seem to struggle with isolation.
ClassDojo
So what?

• Measures of connection to the school community might obscure other networks.
• More research on parents’ experience.
• More research on social platforms like ClassDojo.
Thank you.

Q&A