



## COVID-19 Causing Disruptions in Education for Over 75% of High School and College Households Nationwide

*71% of disrupted students are feeling increased stress*

**April 20, 2020 (Seattle, WA)** - According to a new survey by BestColleges, an overwhelming majority of households with a college or high school student (78%) report that they, or a member of their household, are experiencing a disruption to their education due to COVID-19. Click below for more information:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/coronavirus-survey/>

College and high school students (71%) are experiencing increased stress due to educational disruptions stemming from COVID-19. This includes 81% of current adult students who said they are feeling increased stress and 66% who said a student in their household is increasingly stressed. Among those households, 35% report that campus closures and the shift to online learning are having a negative impact on students. Additionally, 44% of respondents experiencing some form of disruption worry that it will negatively impact their or the students in their household's ability to enroll or stay enrolled in college.

The survey also indicates that some minorities and underserved student populations are experiencing even greater impacts. For example, only around 36% of white respondents facing some level of educational disruption say that COVID-19 will impact students' ability to enroll or re-enroll in college, compared to 50% or more of respondents who identify as black, Hispanic, or other.

"The potential for a more negative impact on some minorities and underserved populations is daunting," said Melissa Venable, Ph.D., an online education advisor for BestColleges. "Colleges will need to be sensitive and proactive about reaching vulnerable students who need additional support in terms of technology, housing, or even healthcare."

Overall, survey respondents whose education has been disrupted due to COVID-19 agree that schools are providing enough support to students during the transition from on-campus to online learning (69%). However, according to BestColleges' [2020 Online Education Trends Report](#), school administrators who also teach online courses report challenges when it comes to developing a meaningful learning community at a distance (33%).

"Developing an online community can be difficult, but is essential," Venable noted. "This is particularly true now, as students used to the vibrant community of a campus-based program are experiencing increased stress and isolation."

The Trends Report also lists finances (35%), managing unexpected circumstances and life events (20%), and staying on track with classes to graduate on time (17%) as student's biggest roadblocks to graduation. "These were already roadblocks for college students," Venable explained.

“But now, with coronavirus and the switch to online learning, these roadblocks may seem even more insurmountable.”

As campus closures are extended, online learning may extend beyond the spring academic term. While it may be too early to tell whether COVID-19 disruptions will impact higher education enrollment, colleges need to proactively address the challenges of student anxiety and isolation, particularly among underserved populations.

## **Methodology**

BestColleges commissioned YouGov Plc to conduct the survey. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. The total sample size was 745 adults who report themselves or someone in their family unit are experiencing a disruption in their education due to the coronavirus.

Fieldwork was undertaken March 25, 2020. The survey was carried out online and meets rigorous quality standards. It employed a non-probability-based sample using both quotas upfront during collection and then a weighting scheme on the back end designed and proven to provide nationally representative results.

BestColleges’ annual Online Education Trends Report Data was collected through two separate surveys. BestColleges directly contacted schools offering online courses as reported by IPEDS to gather feedback from administrators. This year the sample size was 398 participants. A second survey commissioned through Pollfish gathered feedback provided by 1500 current, prospective, and former online students. This data collection was conducted October 2019 through December 2019.

## **About BestColleges**

BestColleges empowers students to make smarter educational decisions and find schools that best fit their needs through proprietary research, user-friendly guides, and hundreds of unique college rankings. As a trusted education advisor, they also provide a wide array of college planning, financial aid, and career resources to help students realize life goals and overcome educational challenges as they prepare for careers after college.