

Civis Analytics fielded a survey with 757 respondents in New York on May 8-10, 2020. Below are some key takeaways from this week’s research.

New York Education Highlights

- New Yorkers are most supportive of cancelling all standardized testing this year, with 63.9% of respondents supporting, 24.0% opposing, and 12.1% saying they don’t know. Nationally, 60.0% of respondents support and 25.0% of respondents oppose this measure. A majority of respondents (58.2%) in New York also support converting grades for the remainder of the year to Pass/Fail, more than 53.0% nationally.
- New Yorkers are least enthusiastic about having all students repeat their current grade (only 24.5% agree with this policy), in line with responses from other states and across the nation (18.3% agree nationally, 17.1% in FL, 19.8% in TX, and 15.9% in WA). Also in line with the rest of the country, fewer than half of New Yorkers want to promote all students to the next grade regardless of their performance.

Policy (% support)	US	FL	NY	TX	WA
Promoting all students to the next grade regardless of performance	40.7%	37.5%	40.0%	43.7%	42.2%
Determining grade placement based on March performance	57.4%	56.3%	58.5%	61.5%	57.2%
Cancelling all standardized testing this year	60.0%	57.1%	63.9%	65.9%	62.8%
Converting grades for the remainder of the year to Pass/Fail	53.0%	47.7%	58.2%	61.9%	53.5%
Cancelling grades for the remainder of the year	47.9%	42.3%	48.6%	50.5%	47.7%
Having all students repeat their current grade next year	18.3%	17.1%	24.5%	19.8%	15.9%
Providing summer school for all students if it is safe to do so	57.9%	56.9%	59.9%	61.4%	62.5%

New York State Highlights

- 53.1% of New Yorkers think the steps that the state has taken to address coronavirus are appropriate, compared to 48.8% nationally. On the other hand, 21.4% of New Yorkers wish the state would do more, compared to 25.3% nationally.

- Most New Yorkers (81%) definitely or probably intend to stay at home and avoid all non-essential contact. Most New Yorkers (83.6%) also strongly or somewhat agree that even after restrictions are lifted, they will continue to practice social distancing.

Do you intend to stay at home and avoid all non-essential contact with others to reduce the spread of COVID-19?

US MARGIN OF ERROR = 1.4%, NY MARGIN OF ERROR = 4.7%

Coronavirus Attitudes Intent Social Distancing	US	NY
Definitely	5.3%	0.5%
Probably	6.2%	0.5%
Probably not	0.1%	3.7%
Definitely not	5.0%	7.4%
I don't know	3.3%	2.9%

- Most New Yorkers (75.4%) still strongly or somewhat agree that COVID-19 will come back and get worse if we don't continue practicing social/physical distancing for the long term. 36.7% of New Yorkers want to get back to normal, even if it means risking another outbreak.
- Most children in New York (79.2%) and the US overall (83.9%) have access to dedicated household internet or wi-fi; however, slightly more children in New York (16.7%) than the US overall (12.2%) rely on a dedicated hotspot for their internet connection.

Other Notable State Differences

- New York continues to be more concerned about the coronavirus relative to the overall US, with 51.2% of NY respondents saying they're very concerned, compared to 43% in the US.

How concerned are you about Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

US MARGIN OF ERROR = 1.4%, NY MARGIN OF ERROR = 4.7%

Coronavirus Attitudes Concern Level	US	NY
Very concerned	43.0%	51.2%
Somewhat concerned	33.1%	28.0%
Slightly concerned	14.8%	13.3%
Not at all concerned	9.1%	7.5%

- Compared to the US overall (42.1%), more New Yorkers (50.9%) strongly agree that social/physical distancing and shelter-in-place orders have been successful in slowing the spread of COVID-19. New Yorkers (52.2%) more so than the US overall (45.1%) strongly agree that everybody should wear a mask in public even after restrictions are lifted.