How The Pandemic
Affected Elementary Students

Introduction:

The pandemic has been a big part of all of our lives for the past two years. As an elementary school student, I would like to better understand the pandemic's impact on other students.
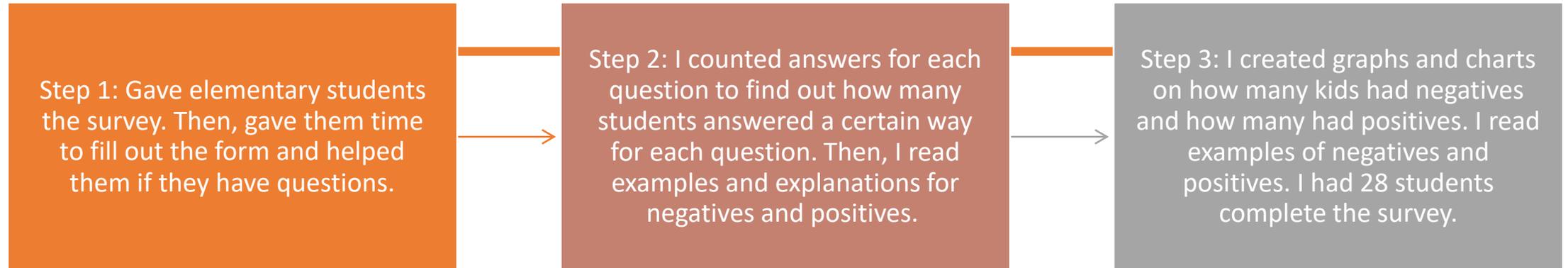
Research Questions:
What were the effects of the pandemic on elementary school students? How did the pandemic affect students at school and at home? What percent of students felt mostly positive about the effects of the pandemic? What were the positive effects? What percent of students felt mostly negative about the effects of the pandemic? What were the negative effects?

Predictions:
My hypothesis is that many kids feel positively about the pandemic because they liked online school. I think kids will say that they liked staying at home, with more freedom to watch devices and use screens. They also had more abilities and advantages, such as eating during class, cheating on a test, and faking on getting kicked out. They could also play video games during class, with their computers. Today, when were in in-person school, kids always want to go home, or pretend to be sick.

Procedure

Step 1: Gave elementary students the survey. Then, gave them time to fill out the form and helped them if they have questions.

Step 2: I counted answers for each question to find out how many students answered a certain way for each question. Then, I read examples and explanations for negatives and positives.

Step 3: I created graphs and charts on how many kids had negatives and how many had positives. I read examples of negatives and positives. I had 28 students complete the survey.

Materials

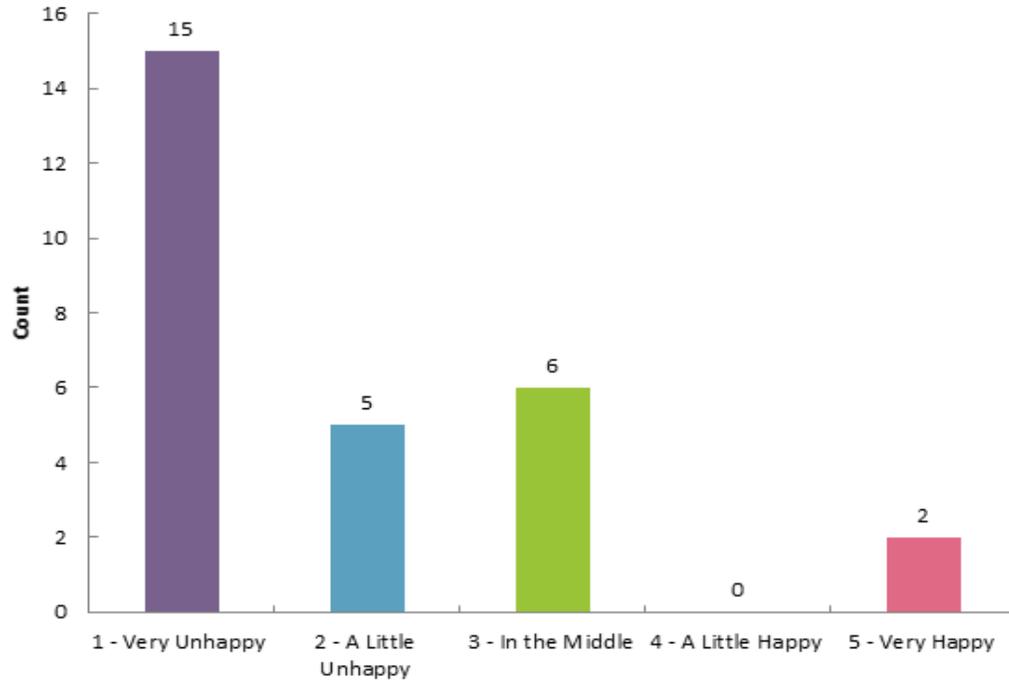Pencil: Write down answers, and research from what we hear.

Survey paper: Let the kids write their answers on the survey.

Calculator: Find the average of the survey papers.
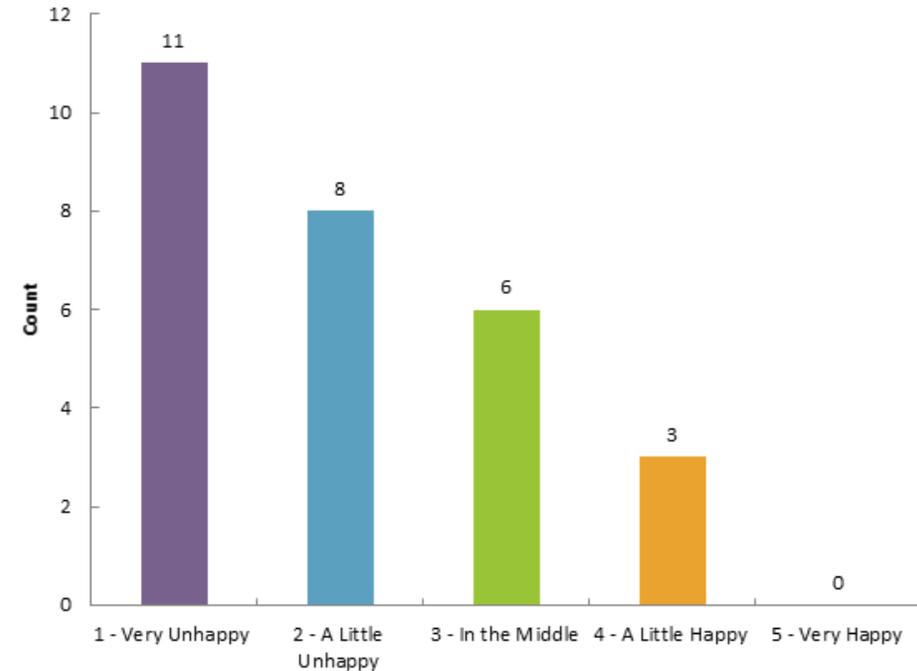
Computer: Make charts

Results

1.How did you feel when COVID first started?

Conclusion: We found out that most students were very unhappy when COVID first started. This was kind of unexpected because I didn't think kids would care too much about COVID when it first started.

2. How did you feel about going to school online instead of in person?

Conclusion: We found out that more kids were very unhappy about going online. My hypothesis was that more kids would like online school because they had freedom to take breaks, eat, and be at home. I was surprised that very few were happy about going to school online.
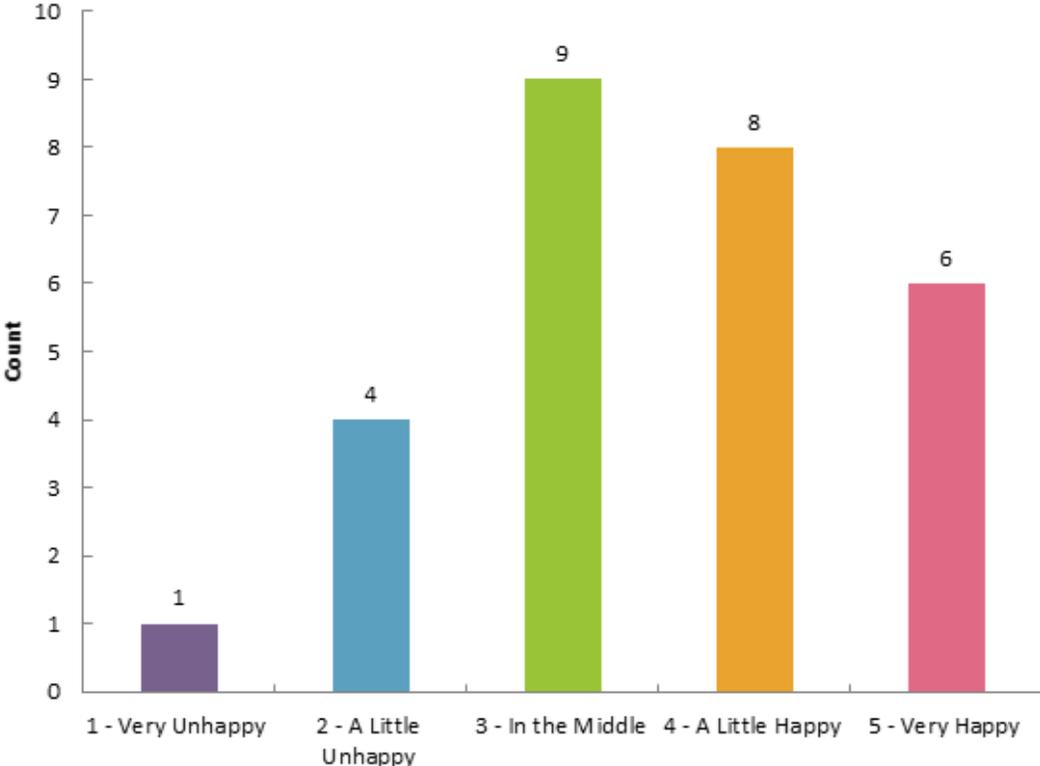
Results

3. How did you feel about returning to school in person?
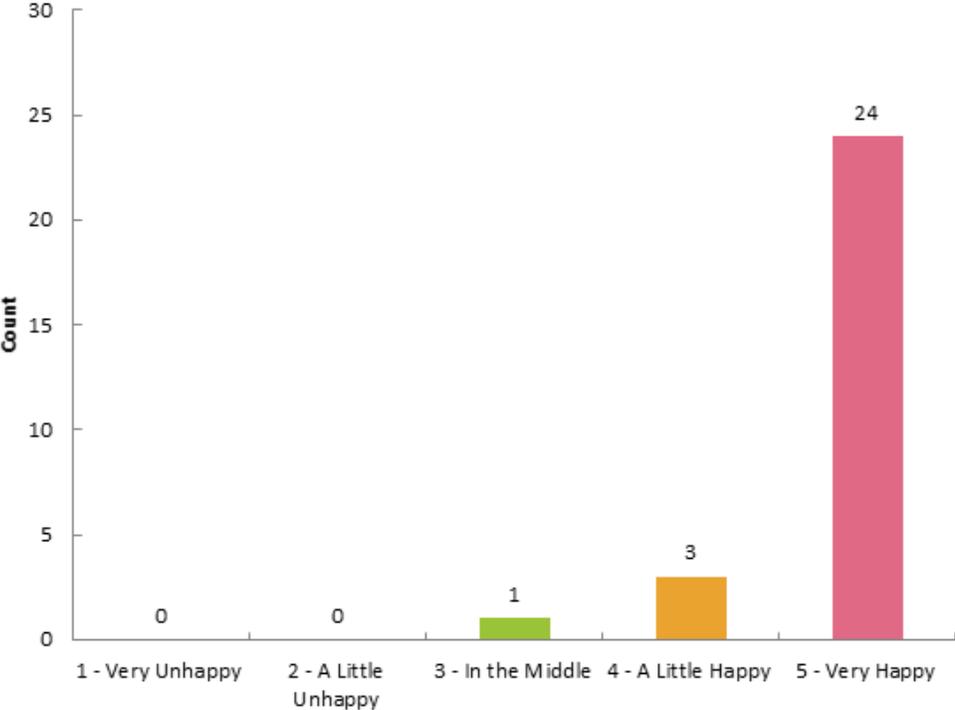
Conclusion: Almost all kids were very happy to go back in-person. I expected this because after a year of online school, we all missed our friends, eating lunch together and did not want to be on a screen all day.
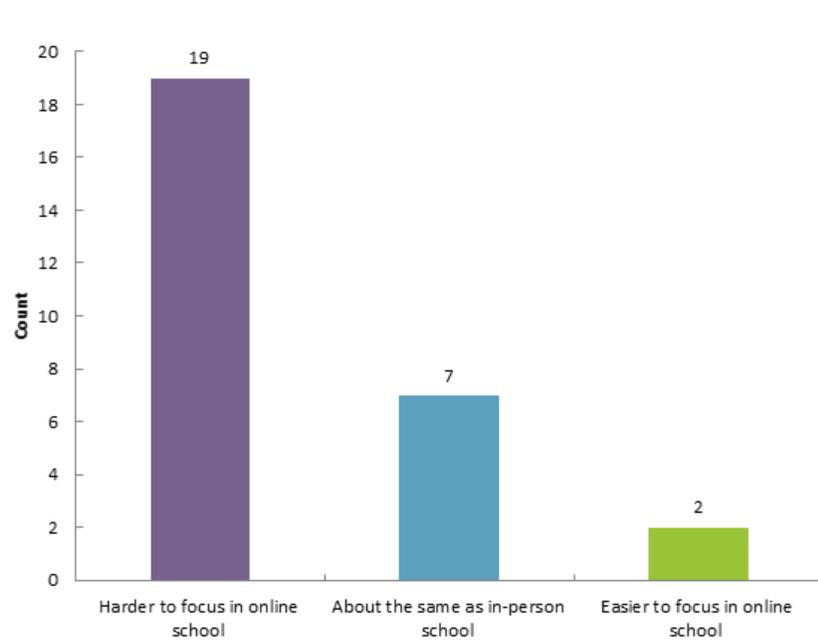
4. How did you feel about spending more time at home?

Conclusion: Kids were in the middle about spending more time at home. I thought more kids would want to be at home, playing video games, or spending more time with their family. However, it also could get boring being at home too much.
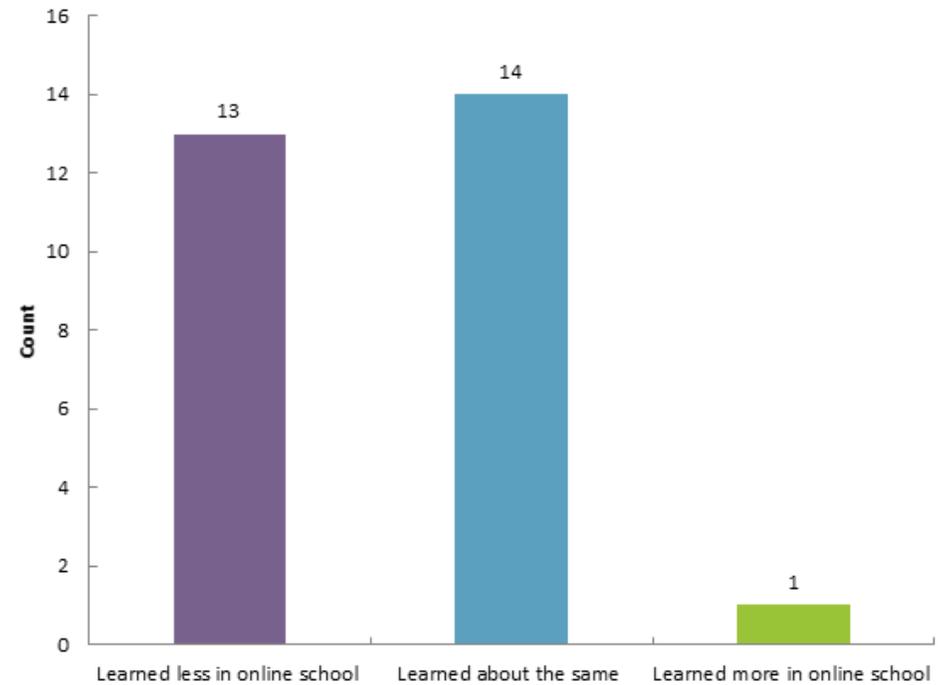
Results

5. How easy was it to focus in online school?

Conclusion: Most kids had a harder time to focusing in online school. I expected this because at home there are many distractions such as siblings, tvs or toys.

6. How was your learning affected by online school?

Conclusion: Here, we found out that kids felt they either learned less or about the same in online school. This is what I expected. Even though we did learn things online, I felt it was less than in-person school because it was harder to focus.

Results

6. How much stress did you feel about staying healthy and safe during COVID?
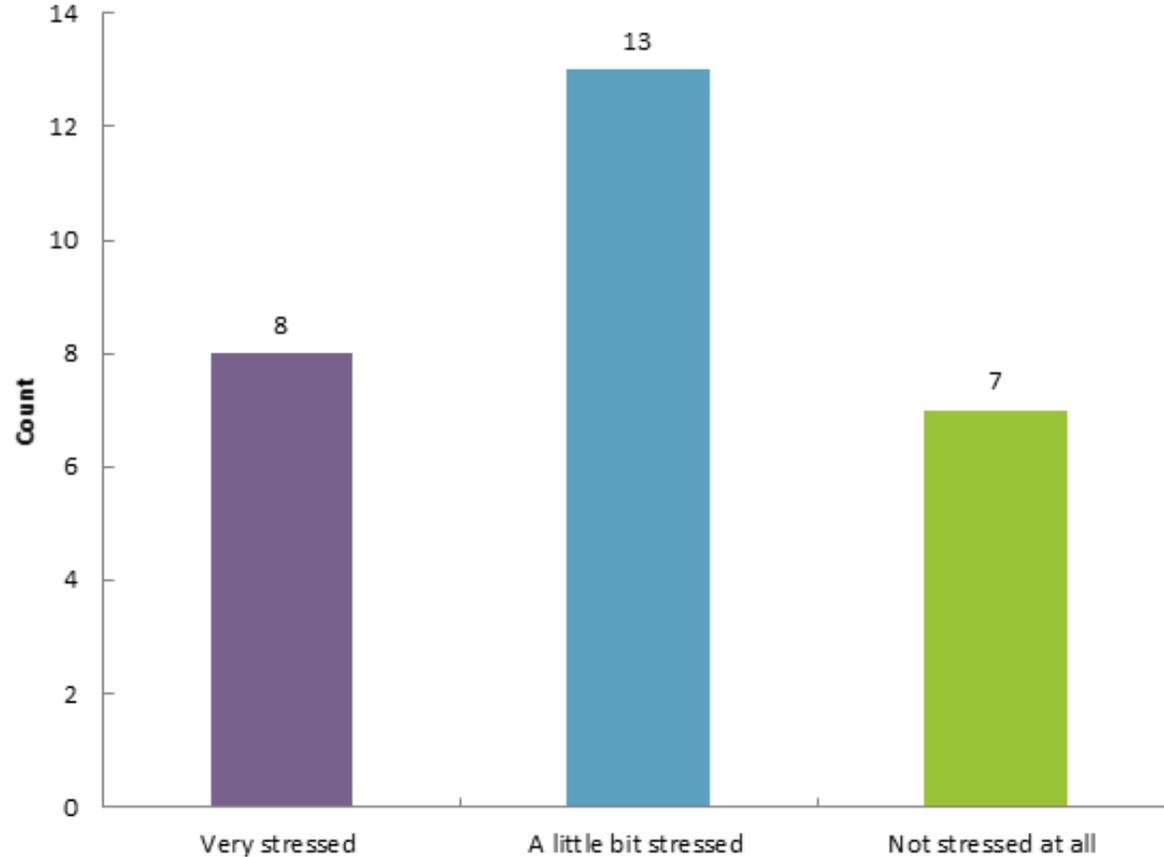
Conclusion: I found out that kids felt different ways about staying healthy and safe during COVID, with most of them being a little bit stressed.

Results

What things about the pandemic were positive?

Spending time with family, being home more often and having time to do things like play games or eat anytime were positive things about the pandemic.

- I got to eat snacks for lunch. I would get yummy stuff and tv.
- I like to play games.
- I got to eat snacks for lunch. I got yummy stuff and tv.
- I liked hanging out with my family and not riding back home.
- I like being home with my dog and I liked staying at home with my parents.
- If you were cold you could cover your face with a mask to keep you warm.
- I think it helped us get healthier.
- I got to spend time with my family.
- Got to play with my friend.
- Being Lazy.
- staying home.
- being at home.
- Playing Roblox on break and having fun.
- Got to eat whenever.

- I could stay home.
- I liked spending time with my family.
- you can still eat ice cream.
- I didn't like anything
- I can be in school also go outside.
- Spending more time with family.
- I liked that we got to stay home.
- I didn't have to wear outside and then stopped social distancing. Plus coming back to school.
- nothing
- Eating all the time.
- I got to spend more time with my dogs and family.
- Staying home.

Results

What things about the pandemic were negative?

- I did not get to play with friends
- I don't like being at home.
- I did not get to play with friends
- I did not like wearing a mask and social distancing and not going to places.
- I did not like going to school and I did not like online school.
- People getting very sick and people losing their jobs.
- I could not see my friends at school and I was bored at home.
- People kept getting Covid everywhere.
- I got Covid-19
- Not seeing my friends or family.
- Online school
- I did not like i did not like going to school with a mask.

- Not seeing my friends and wearing a mask.
- Not going anywhere and not meeting anyone.
- You can't see your best friend.
- I did not like places closing.
- You cant play with friends.
- I did not like that we had wear masks.
- What i did not like be home all the time also cant go to school.
- Being unhealthy.
- I did not like that we had to wear masks.
- We had to wear masks and social distance. It was so frustrating.
- No in person school, masks, closed stores, and people dying.
- My mom and dad fought.
- You were not really allowed to go anywhere.
- Wearing a mask.

Discussion and Interpretation

I found out that my hypothesis was wrong. It turns out that more kids had a negative effect from COVID. Most of the negative effects were when covid started, being at home a lot, wearing masks, being stressed out about being sick, and a lot more.

Most of the kids did not like being on zoom because it was harder to focus in online school and many thought that they learned less. Everyone was very happy to go back to school in person. Though kids felt mostly negative about COVID, there were some positive things as well, such as going back in-person, playing video games, eating snacks, spending time with their family, and being lazy.

I had fun seeing the negative and positive effects of COVID. It was kind of surprising that more kids had a negative effect on COVID. I honestly felt in the middle about COVID. I had some negative and positive effects. Some negative effects were, not seeing my family, a family member passing away from COVID, and me being on zoom for a while. Some positive effects was that Getting to be home more with my brothers, we got to play more family games, I got to play with my neighbors outside ,and we were able to travel to Texas to see our family while on zoom. I had a lot of fun making a serve and seeing how kids felt during COVID.

Next Steps/Future Research

If I did a new project, I would also see how COVID effected parents and their jobs. And maybe see what their levels of stress was, another interesting thing would be to compare students grades from online school to this year when they are back in school.

Research & References

- Online learning was hard for some kids. Many students who did online school had lower scores on testing than normal, especially in math. Students were about 5 months behind in math and 4 months behind in reading at the end of the year.

- Negative effects of the pandemic are that kids spent more time alone without other kids, got less exercise and had stress about getting sick or family members getting sick.

- Positive effects of the pandemic were that there were less cars and pollution, kids got to spend more time at home with their families, and they learned more about technology.

- Effects of the pandemic were different because some kids did not do online school all year, and it was harder for kids if their parents worked and could not be home to help them with school.

- https://storage.trailstowellness.org/trails-2/covid-19-resources/tips-for-supporting-student-wellness-during-covid-19-with-mi-and-national-resources.pdf

- https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/education/our-insights/covid-19-and-education-the-lingering-effects-of-unfinished-learning

- https://lighthouse.mq.edu.au/article/april-2020/seven-positive-outcomes-of-covid-19