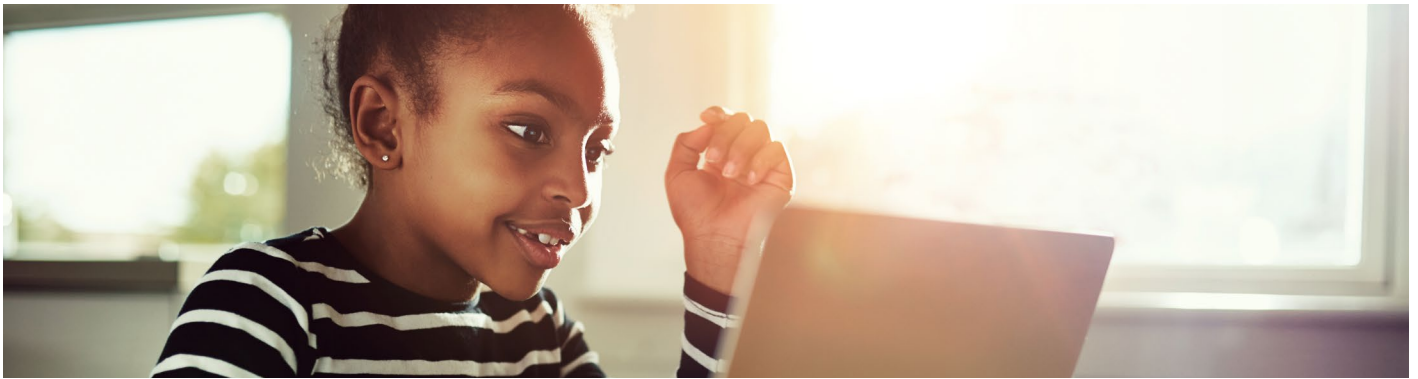# Four Perspectives of the Pandemic's Impact on Education

From K-12 to higher education, COVID-19 significantly changed the way that schools operate. These alterations impacted everyone associated with these institutions – for better or worse. As a result, many questions remain. What will the future look like? No one knows for sure. But we will examine the outlooks of teachers, students, parents, and administrative staff to better understand their barriers, the positive developments among the tragic, and emerging concerns and opportunities. Join us as we take a look at each group's changing perceptions about education, how best to understand the impact of these changes, and how to ensure that education system functions as well as possible moving forward. Let's explore what education looks like during and after the pandemic from these four integral perspectives: teacher, student, parent, educator.

> "188 countries were forced to close their institutes of education during the COVID-19 pandemic. Only half of those were ready for distance learning." unicef

The
Teachers' perspective

Teachers have had to adapt to new ways of teaching, evaluating and grading. This is how reality looks from their eyes

What worries them?

"I feel like I had to develop new subjects from scratch, quickly search for content on the Internet, and sometimes sacrifice quality for practicality."

"I have always thought that we can do things better as a team, both with my colleagues and with other teachers and at other schools in the area, but the pandemic made collaboration incredibly difficult."

"Teaching students in the classroom at the same time as teaching others virtually at home proved to be a logistical nightmare. It has been difficult to engage students and to ensure they are all paying attention."[1]

The positives

"Communication with parents improved. They are almost all now more involved in the educational experience of their children."

"I think that little by little we began delivering more interactive content while allowing students to get into a routine from home."

"I feel like we have more and better tools for evaluation."

"While we deliver more virtual learning content, we have more opportunities to give better feedback, propose different ways of working, and be more effective in guiding our students."

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The
Students' perspective

Students faced drastic changes from face-to-face learning to virtual lessons. They had to completely change the way they interact with their teachers and their fellow students as well as how they absorb their lessons.

What worries them?

"I find it difficult to concentrate and pay attention."[II]

"It is difficult to be disciplined every day and sit down and attend each virtual class from my computer."

"We are expected to complete many more tasks now compared to when we attended school in person."

"When my Internet connection fails, I lose the thread of the class. Sometimes, I can't get back on track and the whole lesson is lost to me."

"I spend less time with my friends and sometimes I feel sad."

The positives

"Fortunately, I don't have to wear a uniform!"

"I like it when we watch videos and have lots of different activities. We are not reading so many books anymore, and we can search for the answers to problems on the Internet."

"I can get up later and can do more things before and after school."

"I like that we can see the entire school program and I can organize my time to get things done with more freedom and at my own pace."

The
Parents' perspective

Parents and caregivers have had to participate more actively in the daily education of their children. Here's how they coped.

What worries them?

"I have had to spend much more time educating my children."

"I am concerned about security and the handling of personal information."

"We really depend on our Internet connection."

"I am concerned about the lack of social interaction and the increased exposure to screens, before, during, and after school."

The positives

"We save money on traveling to and from school."

"I have felt more involved in my children's learning experience."[III]

"The contact we have with both the teachers and the school is now much better and more frequent."

"I have quick and easy access to my children's progress."

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The
Coordinators and Administrators perspective

School coordinators and administrators have had to face and overcome the technical and financial challenges that have come out of the 'New Normal'. This is their experience:

What worries them?

"We have tuition concerns - some parents and students cannot pay – while also dealing with the pressure to be more flexible. This brings economic pressure to our institution."

"The number of platforms and tools we are now required to use can feel unmanageable – Teams, Kahoot, Mentimeter, Dropbox, Calendars... the list grows with every class."

"Our administrative platform has to change, the remote access is complicated, difficult to scale, and not very flexible." IV

"Managing our teachers and their classes is now a larger challenge."

The positives

"Our supervision and quality processes are better because our evaluators can attend any class at any moment."

"We have learned to reduce costs in unexpected areas."

"We have the opportunity to enroll new students from places that were previously inaccessible to us."

"Having more cloud services makes our work easier."

"The communication between teachers and the school is now much better."

"We have the opportunity to unify many tools, implement better platforms, and improve the experience of our educational community."

A Connected Education Center

Although we don't yet know what form the education of tomorrow will take, we do know it will require greater connection between the classroom and everything around it. Using technology offers schools the potential to facilitate a viable, flexible, optimized, cost effective educational experience.
A reliance on technology is expected to increase moving forward. Students will work more independently. Families will continue to take a more active role in the education of their children. Therefore, teachers will need to improve their technology skills. School administrators will need to understand what options are available to them, however, technology is not their primary focus. They will need help identifying their options and choosing the right solution.
Third party technology experts focus on technology developments 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Consequently, the right partner helps them deliver a better experience to students, parents, teachers and administrators, and coordinators, raising the bar of your education center.

I.   An instructional nightmare – Kalim Belsha

II.   Students are remaining behind – Erin Richards

III.   New forms of parent engagement – Reb Winthrop

IV.   Big Challenges of technology in Education – Lauren Glenn

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