



Office of African American Affairs

SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION

Increases in Homeschooling

While many families are eager for a return to in-person learning this fall, others are not: Surveys show that some families are reluctant to return — and, that Black and Asian families are the most likely to feel this way.

Co-founder, Zakiya Sankara-Jabar of the education activism coalition Racial Justice NOW!, predicts “a sharp decline” in enrollment when schools fully reopen. “Before the pandemic, working-class parents, particularly Black working-class parents, were not served well in the schools,” she said, citing lack of communication between schools and parents as a top source of frustration. “I’m fearing that since the pandemic has happened, those lines of communication that barely existed before don’t exist at all now.”

Being underserved in schools isn’t the only reason families aren’t returning. Because people of color have been impacted more than whites by the virus, COVID-related health concerns is another reason some are hesitant to return.

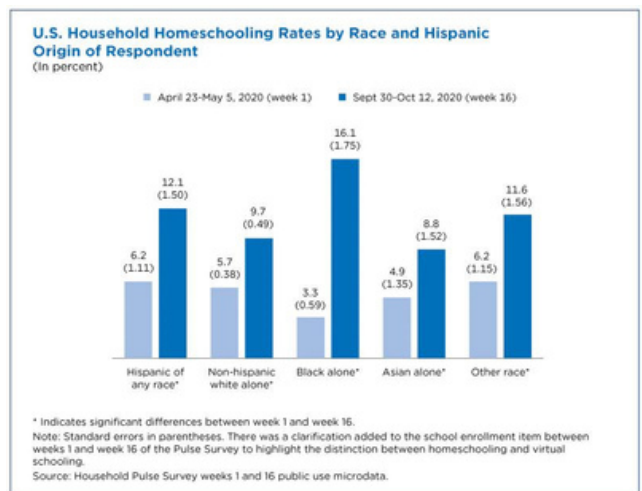
Black families homeschooling data was rising before the pandemic but has since increased even more. According to [census Bureau data](#), black homeschoolers has increased times five since 2018. Many of those families cited anti-Black racism in schools as the reason for the switch. As numerous studies have shown, Black students are not only more likely to be disciplined, but also more harshly and for lesser offenses, than their white peers.

Homeschooling may not be a realistic option for many in our community but we can relate to these issues that lead others to this decision.

Although each of us have unique family dynamics, our children face the same issues as Blacks students in schools. We want to hear from you. Are you considering homeschooling? Let us know your thoughts on Facebook. Use hashtag #blackfamilieshomeschooling. Also, Take our poll on FB by clicking [here](#).



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