

2021 COVID-19 Grades 4 and 8 Student, Teacher, and School Contextual Questionnaires

The NAEP 2021 COVID-19 questionnaires are uniquely situated to help policy-makers and stakeholders evaluate the experiences of students, teachers, and school administrators during the pandemic, especially in relation to four themes that have traditionally informed the development of NAEP survey questionnaires: *Technology Use and Access, Resources for Learning and Instruction, Organization of Instruction,* and *Teacher Preparation*. Item development focused on these four themes, and *Self-Efficacy*, with a focus on educational experiences both during and after the pandemic (please see Table 1 below).

Table 1. High-level Overview of Item Development Themes.

Theme	General Areas of Focus
Technology Use and Access	 Technology use in remote teaching/learning Challenges with accessing and using digital technologies How challenges with access/use were addressed
Resources for Learning and Instruction	 Strategies used to deliver instruction Methods used to assess student learning Accommodations for students who had difficulty participating in the instructional plan implemented by teachers/school Support provided to at-risk learners or those with special needs
Organization of Instruction	 Teacher planning Curriculum changes to account for remote teaching Role of parents in providing instructional support and help with assignments
Teacher Preparation	 Training and guidance provided to teachers to prepare for remote teaching Training and guidance provided to teachers to support students in a remote learning environment
Self-Efficacy	Confidence with tasks that are important in a remote learning environment

While reducing student burden continues to be a priority, administering the COVID-19 education-related items seems critical given this unprecedented time. Furthermore, this one-time data collection is needed to help contextualize the 2021 NAEP student achievement results. To ensure the COVID-19 items do not impact other parts of the assessment and to ensure we maintain trend for the core and subject-specific items, students will be administered a separately timed 5-minute block after the regular survey questionnaire items (i.e., at the end of the assessment). Teachers and school administrators will



also be administered the COVID-19 block after the regular survey questionnaire items; while the teacher and school administrator assessments are not timed the COVID-19 block is intended to take no longer than 5 minutes.

The COVID-19 item development cycle was expedited and condensed to three months to ensure the items could be administered as part of the 2021 administration (note, a typical NAEP item development cycle is 3 ½ to 4 years). These items were developed, approved by OMB for pretesting, and then pretested with students, teachers, and school administrators. Student items were pretested via cognitive interviews, and teacher and school administrator items were independently reviewed by teacher and principal expert panels.

Overall, the student, teacher, and school administrator items performed well in pretesting. Students understood the item content as intended, found the items easy to answer, were sure about their responses, and felt comfortable providing responses. When students noted being confused, revisions were made based on their feedback. For example, the sub-item "access to high-speed internet" originally included examples (i.e., DSL, cable, and fiber optic), however grade 4 students noted they did not understand the examples and that they were not helpful, therefore the examples were removed. When students noted not feeling comfortable providing a response, the item was dropped (note two items regarding parental employment during the time of COVID-19 were deemed insensitive to ask). Moreover, teachers and school administrators rated the items as moderately important, important, or very important to include in the questionnaires, and rated the majority of items as low in burden. When an item was rated as high in burden, the item was dropped or revised. For example, school administrators noted that a free response item pertaining to student attendance in distance learning activities was high in burden, therefore the item was revised to include response options. In addition, teachers identified several terms that should be further defined to ensure they are understood uniformly across all teachers (e.g., "mastery" was revised to "should have learned last year" given that mastery could be interpreted differently). Furthermore, school administrators noted items regarding the structure of instruction in the 2020-2021 school year were important. While the items may not capture all scenarios given the current uncertainty about the upcoming school year, the school administrators noted they should still be included.

Throughout the student, teacher, and school administrator items the term "coronavirus pandemic" is used per an OMB directive. However, the preferred terminology is "COVID-19" based on evidence that

- some grade 4 students found the phrase "coronavirus pandemic" confusing or preferred "COVID";
- that teachers and school administrators in the expert panels noted using "COVID-19" across their school communications; and
- that state-level communications indicated that "COVID-19" was the most commonly used phrase by many state departments of education.

The use of the term "COVID-19" is currently being reviewed by OMB. NCES will notify the Governing Board once OMB has made a decision.



Appendices I, II, and III include the final student, teacher, and school administrator COVID-19 items recommended for the 2021 administration. The items in the appendices reflect the final item wording after analyzing pretesting data and implementing changes based on student, teacher, and school administrator feedback. A summary of the content coverage as it relates to the aforementioned themes is presented in Table 2 (please see below).

Table 2. Item Counts Summarizing the Content Coverage for the 2021 COVID-19 Grades 4 and 8 Student, Teacher, and School Contextual Questionnaires.

Module/Topic/Issue	Student	Teacher	School
Demographic	1	0	0
Technology Use and Access	5	0	2
Resources for Learning and Instruction	19	0	15
Organization of Instruction	0	16	12
Teacher Preparation	0	4	0
Self-Efficacy	6	6	0
Total Items (counts at sub-item level)	31*	26	29**

Notes: * The total student item count accounts for grade 8 specific and subject-specific items. A grade 4 student will not be administered more than 20 items, and a grade 8 student will not be administered more than 25 items.

The main objective of this review is to evaluate the items proposed for the 2021 COVID-19 grades 4 and 8 survey questionnaires. Similar to other items being prepared for operational administration, at this stage possible revisions include:

- Dropping items or sub-items from the pool, and
- Providing general comments about the content covered (Note: No new development can occur post-pretesting. However, if there is a glaring omission related to a construct, an item could be added if it has been previously piloted or operationally administered in another survey).

^{**}The total school item count accounts for grade 8 specific items. Grade 4 school administrators will not be administered more than 28 item and a grade 8 school administrator will not be administered more than 29 items.



Appendix I

2021 COVID-19 Grades 4 and 8 Student Items

Grades 4 and 8 cross-grade items

- 1. Was your school building closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic?
 - Yes
 - No
 - © I do not remember.

Note: For this question, the likelihood of a student's school building not being closed because of COVID-19 is remote. The question's purpose is on if students can remember. This question was developed because of concern some students may not be able to recall something that happened almost a year ago. This allows NCES to maintain data quality by routing students who say "No" or "I do not remember" to questions not related to their education experiences in the 2019-2020 school year.

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- 2. During the last school year, did you attend this school or did you attend a different school?
 - This school
 - Different school



3. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, did you have the following things available to you to complete your schoolwork or online classes? Select one answer choice on each row.

	Yes, available all the time	Yes, available some of the time	No	I do not remember.	
a. Access to high-speed internet	(A)	®	0	0	VR233416
b. A desktop computer, a laptop computer, or tablet	(A)	®	0	0	VR233417
c. A smartphone (for example, iPhone, Samsung Galaxy, HTC One)	0	®	0	0	VR233418
d. A printer	(A)	®	0	0	VR233419
e. School supplies (for example, paper and pencil)	(A)	®	0	0	VR233420
f. A quiet place to work	(A)	®	0	0	VR233421



5. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, how often did the following things happen? Select one answer choice on each row.

	Never or hardly ever	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	I do not remember.	
a. My math teacher was available when I needed help with schoolwork (for example, through virtual office hours, phone, e-mail, chat).	0	©	Θ	Θ	©	VR233431
b. My math teacher asked me to work online with my classmates in small groups to complete assignments.	0	©	Θ	Θ	©	VR233432
c. My math teacher asked me to take quizzes and tests online.	(9)	®	0	Θ	©.	VR233433

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5. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, how often did the following things happen? Select one answer choice on each row.

	Never or hardly ever	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	I do not remember.	
a. My English/language arts teacher was available when I needed help with schoolwork (for example, through virtual office hours, phone, e-mail, chat).	0	6	Θ	Θ	©	VR233428
b. My English/language arts teacher asked me to work online with my classmates in small groups to complete assignments.	Θ	6	Θ	Θ	©	VR233429
c. My English/language arts teacher asked me to take quizzes and tests online.	(9)	®	0	Θ	©.	VR233430

Note: Students taking the math assessment will receive the math version of this item, and students taking the reading assessment will receive the ELA version of this item.



- 6. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, how difficult or easy did you find distance learning compared to learning at school?
 - A lot more difficult than learning at school
 - Somewhat more difficult than learning at school
 - Somewhat easier than learning at school
 - A lot easier than learning at school

VR249405

- 7. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, how often did someone help you with your schoolwork?
 - Never or hardly ever
 - About once or twice a month
 - About once or twice a week
 - Every day or almost every day
 - I do not remember.

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8. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, did any of the following people help you with your schoolwork or online classes? Select one answer choice on each row.

	Yes	No	
a. Mother, stepmother, foster mother or other female legal guardian	0	®	VR233460
b. Father, stepfather, foster father or other male legal guardian	0	®	VR233463
c. Brother or sister	®	®	VR233466
d. Other person	0	®	VR233467



9. Thinking about distance learning, do you think you would be able to do each of the following things in your math class? Select one answer choice on each row.

	I definitely can't	I probably can't	Maybe	I probably can	I definitely can	
a. Recognize when you don't understand something you are learning	®	(B)	0	0	Œ)	VR233447
b. Ask for help when you need it	(A)	®	0	0	Œ	VR233448
c. Find learning resources online to learn more about something you don't understand	(A)	®	0	Θ	Œ	VR233449

VR233358

Thinking about distance learning, do you think you would be able to do each of the following things in your English/language arts class? Select one answer choice on each row.

	I definitely can't	I probably can't	Maybe	I probably can	I definitely can	
a. Recognize when you don't understand something you are learning	0	®	0	Θ	<u>(i)</u>	VR233442
b. Ask for help when you need it	<u> </u>	®	0	0	(E)	VR233443
c. Find learning resources online to learn more about something you don't understand	0	(9)	0	Θ	(VR233444

Note: Students taking the math assessment will receive the math version of this item, and students taking the reading assessment will receive the ELA version of this item.



Grade 8 only items

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4. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, how often did you do the following things for school? Select one answer choice on each row.

		Never or hardly ever	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	I do not remember.	
a.	Use paper textbooks, workbooks, or worksheets	8	B	0	0	Œ	VR233422
b.	Use online textbooks, workbooks, or worksheets	8	®	0	0	(L)	VR233423
c.	Participate in real-time video lessons with your teacher (for example, on Google Meet, Skype, or Zoom)	Θ	®	Θ	Θ	©	VR233425
d.	Watch recorded lessons prepared by your teacher	8	®	0	0	©.	VR233426
e.	Watch instructional videos from other sources	8	®	0	0	©	VR233427



Appendix II

2021 COVID-19 Grades 4 and 8 Teacher Items

Grades 4 and 8 cross-grade items

- 1. Were you working as a teacher at this school during the 2019-2020 school year?
 - Yes
 - No

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4. So far this school year, how often have you taken the following measures to address gaps in learning that may have occurred due to the coronavirus pandemic school closures? Select one circle in each row.

		Not applicable	Never	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	
a.	Diagnostic assessments to evaluate gaps between students' knowledge/ skills and achievement standards	Θ	•	Θ	Φ	©.	VR239641
b.	Remedial measures to reduce gaps between students' knowledge/ skills and achievement standards	0	(9)	0	Θ	©	VR239642
c.	Remedial measures with a special focus on students with disabilities	0	(6)	0	Θ	(VR239644
d.	Remedial measures with a special focus on English language learners	0	®	0	Θ	Œ	VR239645



5. So far this school year, how often have you done the following things to address gaps in learning that may have occurred due to the coronavirus pandemic school closures? Select one circle in each row.

		Never	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	
	Reviewed content that students should have learned last year	0	®	0	0	VR239646
b.	Provided individualized support to students based on their specific learning gaps	0	(9)	0	Θ	VR239647
c.	Offered additional learning time or sessions to students outside of their regular instruction	0	(8)	0	0	VR239648
d.	Collaborated with other teachers and staff to review content that students should have learned last year	0	(9)	Θ	0	VR239649
e.	Provided parents or guardians with at-home learning materials or activities to review content that students should have learned last year	0	®	0	0	VR239650



7. So far this school year, how often have you done the following things to prepare you for teaching in a distance learning format? Select one circle in each row.

	Never	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	This is not available to me.	
a. Participated in regularly scheduled meetings to collaborate with otteachers (e.g., teach teaching the same grade level or the sacontent area)	ers	(1)	0	Θ	©	VR239651
b. Used tools that hely teachers share knowledge with the peers (e.g., online forums, discussion boards, professional communities)	ir 🐵	(1)	0	Θ	©	VR239652
c. Used tools or resources that help teachers develop distance learning please. digital lesson planners, compiled resources and guide offered by organizations)	(A)	(1)	0	Θ	Θ	VR239653
d. Participated in professional development or professional learning center activities to acquire additional training in distance learning	g 💿	(1)	0	Φ	©	VR248997



9. Teaching in a distance learning format, do you think that you would be able to do each of the following things? Select one circle in each row.

		I definitely can't	I probably can't	Maybe	I probably can	I definitely can	
a.	Create materials to engage students in distance learning (e.g., prepare daily or weekly instructional packets, record videos or screencasts)	Θ	(9)	Θ	Θ	©	VR239656
b.	Conduct a distance learning lesson with students in real-time (e.g., via phone, video conferencing, online chat, online learning platforms)	0	(6)	Θ	Θ	©	VR239657
c.	Provide feedback to students in a distance learning format (e.g., via phone, email, virtual office hours)	0	®	0	Θ	Œ	VR239659
d.	Develop strategies to help students who are having difficulties mastering content in their distance learning	0	(G)	0	0	Œ	VR239661

Grade 4 only items

VR248907

- 2. During the 2019-2020 school year, did you provide distance learning to fourth-grade students because of the coronavirus pandemic?
 - Yes
 - ® No



3. So far this school year, has your fourth-grade class instruction been organized in the following ways? Select one circle in each row.

	Yes	No	
Students have participated in distance learning.	@	®	VR239666
b. Students have participated in classroom-based instruction.	@	®	VR239667
c. School attendance has been scheduled in shifts (e.g., attendance for half days or every other day).	®	®	VR239668
d. Teachers received training from the school or district for instruction in a distance learning format before the school year started.	®	®	VR239669

- 6. This school year, what are the grading policies and practices in your fourth-grade class? Select all squares that apply.
 - Students receive letter grades.
 - ® Students receive pass/fail grades.
 - Students receive credit.
 - Students choose how they will be graded.

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8. So far this school year, how confident do you feel in doing the following things? Select one circle in each row.

	Not at all confident	Not confident	Somewhat confident	Quite confident	Extremely confident	
a. Teaching your fourth-grade students	(A)	®	0	0	Œ	VR239663
b. Addressing gaps between students' knowledge/skills and achievement standards that may have occurred due to the coronavirus pandemic related school closures	(A)	(9)	Θ	Θ	⊕	VR239665



Grade 8 only items

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2.	During the 2019-2020 school year, did you provide distance learning to
	eighth-grade students because of the coronavirus pandemic?

- Yes
- ® No

3. So far this school year, has your eighth-grade class instruction been organized in the following ways? Select one circle in each row.

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VR248908

	Yes	No	
Students have participated in distance learning.	0	®	VR239671
b. Students have participated in classroom-based instruction.	0	®	VR239672
c. School attendance has been scheduled in shifts (e.g., attendance for half days or every other day).	0	(6)	VR239673
d. Teachers received training from the school or district for instruction in a distance learning format before the school year started.	0	®	VR239674

VR239628

6.	This school year, what are the grading policies and practices in your eighth	-grade
	class? Select all squares that apply.	

- Students receive letter grades.
- Students receive pass/fail grades.
- Students receive credit.
- Students choose how they will be graded.
- Other (Please specify):



8. So far this school year, how confident do you feel in doing the following things? Select one circle in each row.

	Not at all confident	Not confident	Somewhat confident	Quite confident	Extremely confident	
a. Teaching your eighth-grade students	0	®	0	0	Œ	VR239664
b. Addressing gaps between students' knowledge/skills and achievement standards that may have occurred due to the coronavirus pandemic related school closures	©	(9)	0	Θ	©	VR239665



Appendix III

2021 COVID-19 Grades 4 and 8 School Items

Please note all items with the exception of one sub-item are cross-grade.

VR239677

- 1. Were you working as an administrator (e.g., school principal, head of school, assistant principal) at this school during the 2019-2020 school year?
 - Yes
 - ® No



2. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, were the following actions taken to prepare for teaching in a distance learning format? Select one circle in each row.

		Yes, before the initial school closure	Yes, during the school closure	Yes, both before and during the school closure	No	
a.	Training of teachers and staff on the use of digital applications for conducting distance learning (e.g., Google Classroom, Skype, Zoom)	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	VR239688
b.	Training of students and/or their parents/guardians on the use of digital devices and applications for distance learning (e.g., Google Classroom, Skype, Zoom)	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	VR239689
c.	Preparing digital resources for students' distance learning (e.g., curating existing resources, designing new resources)	Θ	Θ	Θ	0	VR239690
d.	Preparing paper-based resources for students' distance learning (e.g., curating existing resources, designing new resources)	Θ	Θ	Θ	Θ	VR239691
e.	Adapting existing curriculum plans and resources for distance learning	0	®	0	0	VR239692
f.	Planning additional instructional support for students with disabilities (SD)	0	®	0	0	VR239693
g.	Planning additional instructional support for English language learners (ELLs)	0	®	0	Φ	VR239694



3. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, did teachers do the following things to prepare for teaching in a distance learning format? Select one circle in each row.

		Yes	No	
a.	Participated in regularly scheduled meetings to collaborate with other teachers (e.g., teachers teaching the same grade level or the same content area)	0	®	VR239703
b.	Used tools that help them share knowledge with their peers (e.g., online forums, discussion boards, professional communities)	0	®	VR239704
c.	Used tools or resources that help them develop distance learning plans (e.g., digital lesson planners, compiled resources and guides offered by organizations)	0	®	VR239705

VR239678

- 4. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, did your school or district distribute laptop computers or tablets to students to take home?
 - The school or district already distributed laptop computers or tablets to all students at the beginning of the school year (i.e., we are a one-to-one school).
 - The school or district distributed laptop computers or tablets to all students to take home during the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The school or district distributed laptop computers or tablets only to students who did not have access to one at home during the coronavirus pandemic.
 - The school or district did not distribute laptop computers or tablets to any students.

VR239680

- 5. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, did your school or district assist students with getting Internet access at home? Select all squares that apply.
 - All of the students at this school already had Internet access at home.
 - The school or district worked with Internet providers to assist students with getting Internet access at home.
 - The school or district provided hotspots or other devices to assist students with getting Internet access at home.
 - The school or district made spaces available where students could safely access free Wi-Fi internet (e.g., in the school parking lot, parked school buses with hot spots, etc.)
 - The school or district did not assist students with getting Internet access at home.
 - Other (Please specify):

© Other (Please specify):



6. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, how was class instruction organized? Select one circle in each row.

		None of the classes	Some of the classes	About half of the classes	More than half of the classes	All or almost all of the classes	
a.	Classes normally taught in person were canceled and not replaced by distance learning.	0	®	0	Θ	©.	VR239713
b.	Classes normally taught in person moved to a distance learning format.	0	(6)	0	Θ	©.	VR239714
c.	Students completed lessons on their own (e.g., watching pre-recorded videos, working on paper packets).	0	(9)	Θ	0	©	VR239717
d.	Lessons were conducted in real-time (e.g., via phone, video conferencing, online chat, online learning platforms).	0	(B)	Θ	Φ	©	VR239718

VR239684

7. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, how often were teachers and staff required to do the following things? Select one circle in each row.

	Never or hardly ever	About once or twice a month	About once or twice a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. Communicate with students online (e.g., through email, Google Classroom, Skype, Zoom)	(®	0	Θ	VR239698
b. Conduct virtual office hours or online meetings with students	@	®	0	0	VR239699
c. Initiate phone calls to students	®	®	0	0	VR239701
d. Initiate communications with parents or guardians about their child's progress	@	®	0	0	VR239702



- 8. When your school was closed last school year because of the coronavirus pandemic, approximately what percentage of students attended distance learning activities in a typical week?
 - 0-25%
 - ® 26-50%
 - © 51-60%
 - © 61-70%
 - © 71-80%
 - © 81-90%
 - © Over 90%
 - The school did not track student attendance during this time.

VR239686

Has the structure of this school year been modified in the following ways? Select one circle in each row.

	Yes	No	
a. The school year started earlier.	0	®	VR239706
b. The school year will end later.	0	®	VR239707
c. The length of the school day has been extended to make up for learning time that was missed last school year.	(A)	(8)	VR239708
d. School attendance has been scheduled in shifts (e.g., attendance for half days or ever other day).	7 (®	VR249734
e. Additional school programs or classes have been offered to students to make up for gaps in learning.		(8)	VR239710
f. Students had the option to repeat their previous grade level.	®	(B)	VR239711
g. Students had the option to repeat a specific class or subject.	®	®	VR239712

Note: Sub-item g is grade 8 specific and will not be administered to grade 4 school administrators.