Appendix: QUESTIONNAIRE

Note: Following is the text of the questionnaire, excluding screener and demographics.

INTRODUCTION

My name is _____ and I'm calling from SSRS to conduct a study on behalf of Rutgers University. This is a research study about children, families, and technology. Your participation is voluntary, and your responses will be confidential. Eligible participants will be mailed $10 at the end of the survey.

SCHOOL-RELATED SCREENING: ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS WITH ELIGIBLE INCOME AND CHILD

S1. During this current school year, is your child participating in school—whether in person or remotely—or are they NOT participating in school?
   1   Participating in school
   2   Not participating in school
   3   (DO NOT READ) Home schooled
   4   (DO NOT READ) Day care
   8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know   THANK AND TERM
   9   (DO NOT READ) Refused THANK AND TERM

(If child is participating in school)
S2. What grade is your child currently in?

(If child is in preschool or kindergarten)
S3. Thinking back to last school year, in September 2019, before the pandemic, was your child enrolled in preschool, or not?
   1   Yes, was in pre-school (include pre-K, or T-K)
   2   No, was not in pre-school
   8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know   THANK AND TERM
   9   (DO NOT READ) Refused THANK AND TERM

(If child is not currently participating in school)
S4. What is the reason your child is not currently enrolled in or participating in school? Are they [IF child age is 3, 4 or 5: too young for school], home schooled, skipping this year due to the pandemic, or some other reason?
   1   [ASK IF CHILDAGE IS 3, 4, 5] Too young for school/go to day care
   2   Home-schooled
   3   Skipped this year due to the pandemic
   4   Other [Specify]   [OTHER SPECIFY #1]
   8   Don't know   THANK AND TERM
   9   Refused THANK AND TERM

(If child is home schooled)

S5. Is your child being home-schooled due to the pandemic, or are they normally home-schooled anyway?

    1   Due to the pandemic
    2   Normally home schooled   THANK AND TERM
    8   Don't know   THANK AND TERM
    9   Refused THANK AND TERM

(If child isn't in school this year—daycare, child is too young, skipped this year due to the pandemic, or is temporarily home schooled)

S6. Thinking ahead to next fall, assuming schools are open, are you planning to send your child to school in-person, or not?

    1   Yes planning to go to school in-person next year
    2   No, not going to school in person next year   THANK AND TERM
    8   Don't know   THANK AND TERM
    9   Refused THANK AND TERM

(If child will be going to school next year)

S7. What grade will your child be in when they go to school NEXT fall? [INTERVIEWER: September 2021]

DIGITAL EQUITY

First, we would like to ask you some questions about technology in your home.

(ALL ELIGIBLE RESPONDENTS)

1. **Please tell me whether or not you have the following items in your home. Do you have (INSERT ITEM) in your home?**

        1   Yes
        2   No
        8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
        9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

   a.   a laptop computer
   b.   a desktop computer
   c.   a smartphone
   d.   a tablet device

2. **Do you use the internet, or email, at least occasionally?**

        1   Yes
        2   No
        8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
        9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

(If have a mobile device)
3. **Other than the data plan on your mobile device, do you have any other type of internet access at your home?**
      1   Yes
      2   No
      3   (DO NOT READ) Don't have a data plan on my mobile device
      8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
      9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

(If have a computer but no mobile device)
4. **Do you have internet access at your home?**
      1   Yes
      2   No
      8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
      9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

(If have home internet access other than through phone data plan)
5. **At home, do you connect to the internet through a dial-up telephone line, or do you have some other type of connection, such as broadband? [Interviewer notes: Fios, cable, modem, satellite, fiber optic, broadband, Wi-Fi, mobile hot spot, and respondents who have more than one method all go in "other."]**
      1   Dial up
      2   Other
      8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
      9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

(If do not have internet access at home)
6. **You said that you don't have internet access at home. What is the <u>main reason</u> why you don't have internet access at home? You can just tell me briefly in your own words. [OPEN END]**

7. Now I'm going to read a list of issues people sometimes encounter with technology. **For each one, please let me know whether this is an issue you have encountered in the past 12 months, or not. First/How about (INSERT FIRST/NEXT ITEM)? Is this an issue you encountered in the past 12 months, or not?**
      1   Yes
      2   No
      8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
      9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

      a.   [If have a smartphone or tablet] Too many people were sharing the smartphone or tablet so it was hard for everyone to get enough time on it
      b.   [If have a smartphone] Your cell phone service got cut off because it was hard to pay for
      c.   [If have a smartphone] You reached the limit on your data plan for a mobile device, and couldn't go online for a while
      d.   [If have a computer] Your computer ran too slowly or didn't work properly
      e.   [If have a computer] Too many people were sharing the computer so it was hard for everyone to get enough time on it
      f.   [If have home internet service] Your internet service got cut off at home because it was hard to pay for
      g.   [If have home internet service] Your internet service was too slow

(If have home internet service)

8. Have you been without internet access at any point in the past 12 months because you had to move homes?

  1 Yes

  2 No

  8 (DO NOT READ) Don't know

  9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

LEARNING EXPERIENCES DURING THE PANDEMIC

Now I have a few more questions about your child's education.

(If child is in preschool)

9. Since the first shelter-in-place orders took effect in March 2020, which of the following best describes how your child has attended preschool:

  1 In person

  2 Remote

  3 Or a mix of in person and remote

  8 (DO NOT READ) Don't know

  9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

(If child is in kindergarten or higher)

10. Since the first shelter-in-place orders took effect in March 2020, which of the following best describes how your child has attended school:

  1 In person

  2 Remote

  3 Or a mix of in person and remote

  8 (DO NOT READ) Don't know

  9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

(If mix of in-person and remote)

11. Since March 2020, Would you say your child's schooling has been MOSTLY in-person, MOSTLY remote, or an equal mix of the two?

  1 Mostly in person

  2 Mostly remote (or online)

  3 An equal mix of in-person and remote/online

  8 (DO NOT READ) Don't know

  9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

The next questions concern your child's experiences with remote learning over the past 12 months, from March 2020 until now.

(If preschool child with any remote learning)
12. Please tell me whether or not your child has ever had any of the following experiences during remote learning:
  1 Yes
  2 No
  8 (DO NOT READ) Don't know
  9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

   a. Was your child ever unable to participate in their preschool activities because they didn't have a computer or tablet to use?
   b. Was your child ever unable to participate in their preschool activities because they didn't have internet access?
   c. Did your child ever have to participate in their preschool activities on a cellphone?

(If kindergarten or higher and remote learning]
13. Please tell me whether or not your child had any of the following experiences during remote learning:
  1 Yes
  2 No
  8 (DO NOT READ) Don't know
  9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

   a. Was your child ever unable to attend class or do schoolwork because they didn't have access to a computer?
   b. Was you child ever unable to attend class or do schoolwork because they didn't have an internet connection?
   c. Did your child ever have to attend class or do schoolwork on a cellphone?

(If kindergarten or higher and remote learning]
14. In the past 12 months, has your child had to miss two or more weeks of school for any reason? [IF NECESSARY, CLARIFY: this could be two+ weeks in a row, or days missed that total two weeks or more]
  1 Yes
  2 No
  8 (DO NOT READ) Don't know
  9 (DO NOT READ) Refused

[If in remote learning; only ask of preschoolers or kindergarteners in remote learning who went to school the previous year]
15. For this next set of questions, I'd like you to think back to before the pandemic and remote learning, and to compare how you feel about your child's education now to how you felt about it then.

  First statement is, "[INSERT 1ST STATEMENT]." Would you say that you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with that statement?
  How about "[INSERT STATEMENT]." Would you say that you strongly agree, somewhat agree, neither agree nor disagree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree?
   5 Strongly agree
   4 Somewhat agree
   3 Neither agree nor disagree

2	Somewhat disagree
1	Strongly disagree
8	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
9	(DO NOT READ) Refused

a. I am more comfortable communicating with my child's teachers now than I was then
b. I know my child's strengths and weaknesses as a learner better now than I did then
c. I know more about what my child is learning in school now than I did then
d. I feel more confident helping my child with their schoolwork now than I did then

[All ages, if any remote learning]
16. Can you give me an example of any specific apps or online programs your child used for school this year that helped their learning a lot? [OPEN END]

PRIORITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

[If going to preschool or kindergarten next year]
17. After all the educational disruptions the pandemic has caused this past year, what do you think will be MOST important for your [INSTERT CHILDAGE year-old] child when HE/SHE/THEY go[es] to school next year? Would it be:

1	Starting to learn how to read
2	Learning their numbers
3	Being physically active
4	Learning how to manage and express their emotions
5	Spending time with other kids
8	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
9	(DO NOT READ) Refused

[If will be in 1st grade or higher next year]
18. After all the educational disruptions the pandemic has caused this past year, what do you think will be MOST important for your [INSTERT CHILDAGE year-old] child when HE/SHE/THEY starts school again next fall? Would it be:

1	Reading and writing
2	Math and science
3	Social and emotional well being
4	Being physically active
5	Spending time with other kids
8	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
9	(DO NOT READ) Refused

(ASK ALL)
19. Is there anything else that I haven't mentioned that is a very important educational priority for your child next fall? [OPEN END]

FAMILY ASSISTANCE WITH TECHNOLOGY

Still thinking about your [INSERT CHILDAGE] year-old child,

(If parent ever uses the internet and child age = 6 or older)
20. **How often, if ever, do you help your child with devices such as computers, smartphones or tablets?**
        4   Often
        3   Sometimes
        2   Hardly ever, or
        1   Never
        8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
        9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

(If ever help child)
21. **Have you ever helped your child with the following? How about: (INSERT ITEM)?**
        1   Yes
        2   No
        8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
        9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

    a.   Learning how a computer or mobile device works
    b.   Finding information they are looking for online
    c.   [If survey is taken in Spanish] Translating content from the internet into another language for them
    d.   Downloading things, such as apps, software, music or movies

(If parent ever uses the internet and if CHILD is age 6+)
22. **How often, if ever, does your child help <u>you</u> with devices such as computers, smartphones or tablets?**
        4   Often
        3   Sometimes
        2   Hardly ever, or
        1   Never
        8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
        9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

(If child ever helps parent, and if child is ages 10–13)
23. **Has your child ever helped you with the following?**
        1   Yes
        2   No
        8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
        9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

    a.   Learning how a computer or mobile device works
    b.   Finding the information you're looking for online
    c.   [IF survey is taken in Spanish] Translating content from the internet into another language for you
    d.   Downloading things, such as apps, software, music or movies

MEDIA AND INFORMAL LEARNING

For this next set of questions please continue to think about your (INSERT CHILDAGE) year old child.

(ASK ALL)
24. **This question is about the types of media your child uses. Thinking only about the time [he/she/they] spend[s] using media that's NOT for school, how often, if ever, does [he/she/they] do each of the following?**

      4   Often
      3   Sometimes
      2   Hardly ever, or
      1   Never
      8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
      9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

    a.   Watch educational TV shows
    b.   Watch educational videos online
    c.   Play educational games on a phone, tablet, or computer
    d.   Make art or music or do other creative things using a phone, tablet, or computer

[If child often uses type of media]
25. **How helpful have each of the following been in keeping your child learning and growing during the past year? How about: [INSERT ITEM]. Would you say this has been very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not helpful at all?**

      4   Very helpful
      3   Somewhat helpful
      2   Not too helpful
      1   Not helpful at all
      8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
      9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

    a.   Watching educational TV shows
    b.   Watching educational videos online
    c.Playing educational games on a phone, tablet, or computer
    d.   Making art or music or doing other creative things using a tablet, phone, or computer

[If educational TV shows or videos were "very" helpful"]
26. **Can you give me an example of an educational TV show or video that was very helpful in keeping your child learning and growing during this past year? [OPEN END]**

[If child is age 6 or older]
27. **During this past year, did your child watch any TV shows or videos designed to help explain the coronavirus pandemic to children?**

      1   Yes
      2   No
      8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
      9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

[If watched COVID content]

28. How helpful were the TV shows or videos your child watched about the pandemic?

    1   Very helpful
    2   Somewhat helpful
    3   Not too helpful
    4   Not at all helpful
    8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
    9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

READING

(ASK ALL ELIGIBLE)

29. During COVID-19, has it been harder to get print books for your child to read, or not? [INTERVIEWER NOTE IF NEEDED: Meaning physical books, not digital]

    1   Yes
    2   No
    4   (DO NOT READ) Don't use print books
    5   (DO NOT READ) Child doesn't read / read much
    6   (DO NOT READ) Child didn't read before pandemic
    8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
    9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

(ASK ALL ELIGIBLE)

30. During COVID-19, has your child used e-books MORE than they did before, or not? [INTERVIEWER NOTE IF NEEDED: e-books meaning digital books]

    1   Yes
    2   No
    4   (DO NOT READ) Don't use e-books
    8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
    9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

(If child ages 3-9)

31. Thinking about how often you read with your child, would you say you read with them more than you did before the pandemic, less than you did before the pandemic, or about the same amount?

    1   More than before
    2   Less than before
    3   About the same as before
    4   (DO NOT READ) Didn't read with them before and don't now
    8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
    9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

(ASK ALL ELIGIBLE)

32. **Does your child have any special needs, such as attention deficit, autism, dyslexia (DIS-LECK-SEE-AH), or any other conditions requiring special educational services?**

    1   Yes
    2   No
    8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
    9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

[If more than 1 child aged 3–13 in the home]

33. **For a moment, please think about [both/all] of your children. How often, if ever, do your children do the following activities <u>TOGETHER</u>? How about (INSERT ITEM)? Do your children do this together often, sometimes, hardly ever or never?**

    4   Often
    3   Sometimes
    2   Hardly ever, or
    1   Never
    8   (DO NOT READ) Don't know
    9   (DO NOT READ) Refused

    a.   Help each other learn how to use a computer or a mobile device
    b.   Watch TV shows or videos together to learn something new
    c.   Help each other with their schoolwork
    d.   Read together or read to each other
    e.   Do art or science projects together