

Distance Learning at Yinghua Academy

May 8, 2020

Introduction

During the third week of the 2020 school closure due to Covid-19, we asked our families to send us feedback about distance learning, and we were pleased to receive 453 responses.

The survey instrument was compiled by Yinghua staff with guidance from the Executive Director and assistance from volunteers including survey-design professionals and board and committee members. We used the school's database, Infinite Campus, to administer the survey which was sent to the parents and guardians¹ of the school's 820 currently enrolled students on April 15, 2020. Parents had one week to complete the survey which closed on April 22.

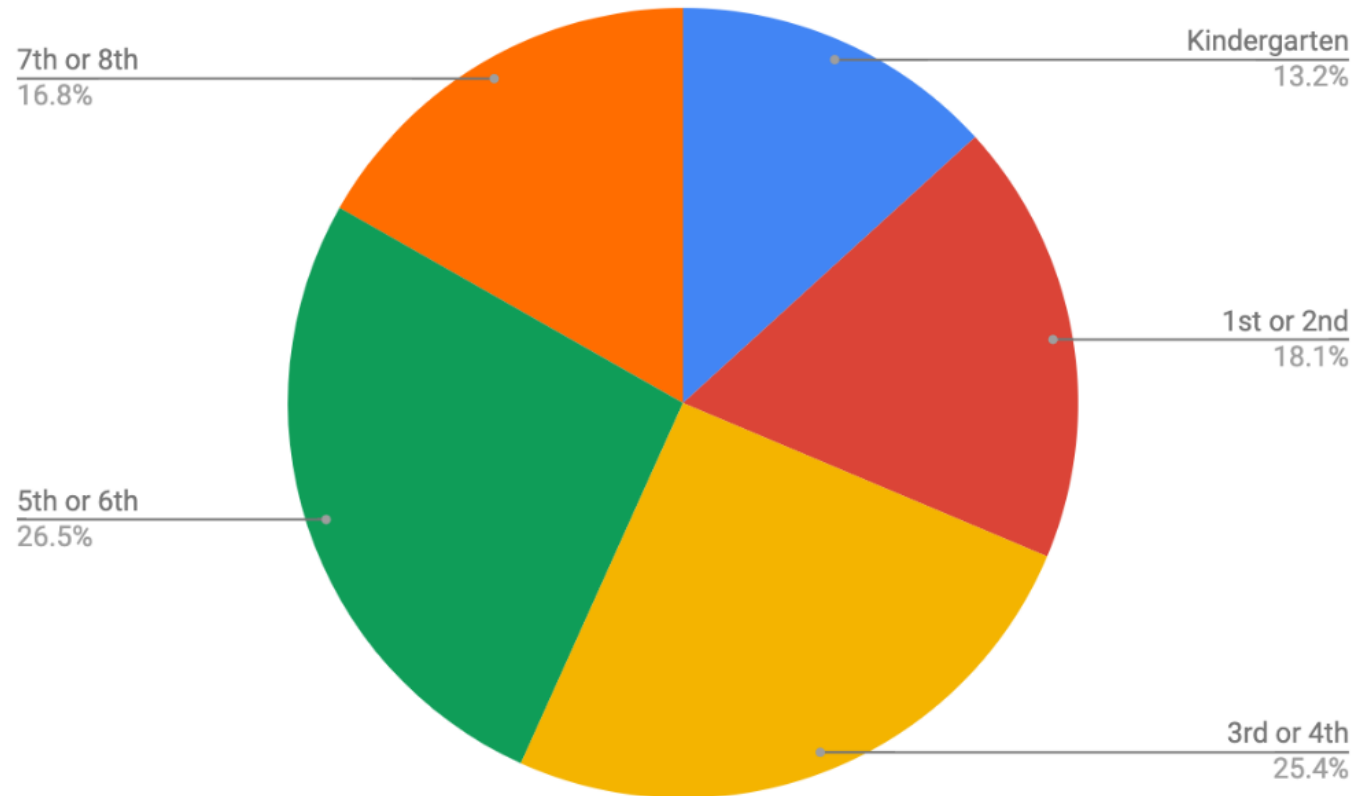
Most of these pages are devoted to charts and tables showing responses to the multiple-choice questions. In most cases we share both overall responses and responses sorted by age group. In a few instances, we provide context or notes where there may have been confusion due to the wording of a question. On the last page, we share summarized responses to the open-ended question and updates to our distance learning plan that have been made or are under consideration.

¹ After this, we'll refer to parents and guardians as parents.

Question 1: What grade is your child in? N=453.²

We asked parents to complete one survey per child. This chart shows the distribution among the five age groupings we designated. Blue, the smallest slice, represents respondents with a kindergarten student; there were 60 survey participants in this single-grade group. Green, the largest slice, represents the fifth/sixth grade group which has more students than any other group and includes 120 survey participants.

Table 1 Participation by grade



² N represents the number of survey respondents who gave a response to the question. Some respondents did not answer all questions.

Question 2: How engaged do you feel your child is with distance learning? Please rank it on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not at all engaged" and 5 is "Highly engaged." N=445.

The survey offers wording to define 1 and 5 but does not provide definitions for 2, 3, and 4. Those who reported engagement of 5 and 4 (together) represent the majority, 66%, of respondents.

Table 2.1 Engagement, all grades.

Q. How engaged do you feel your child is with distance learning? Please rank it on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not at all engaged" and 5 is "Highly engaged." N=445

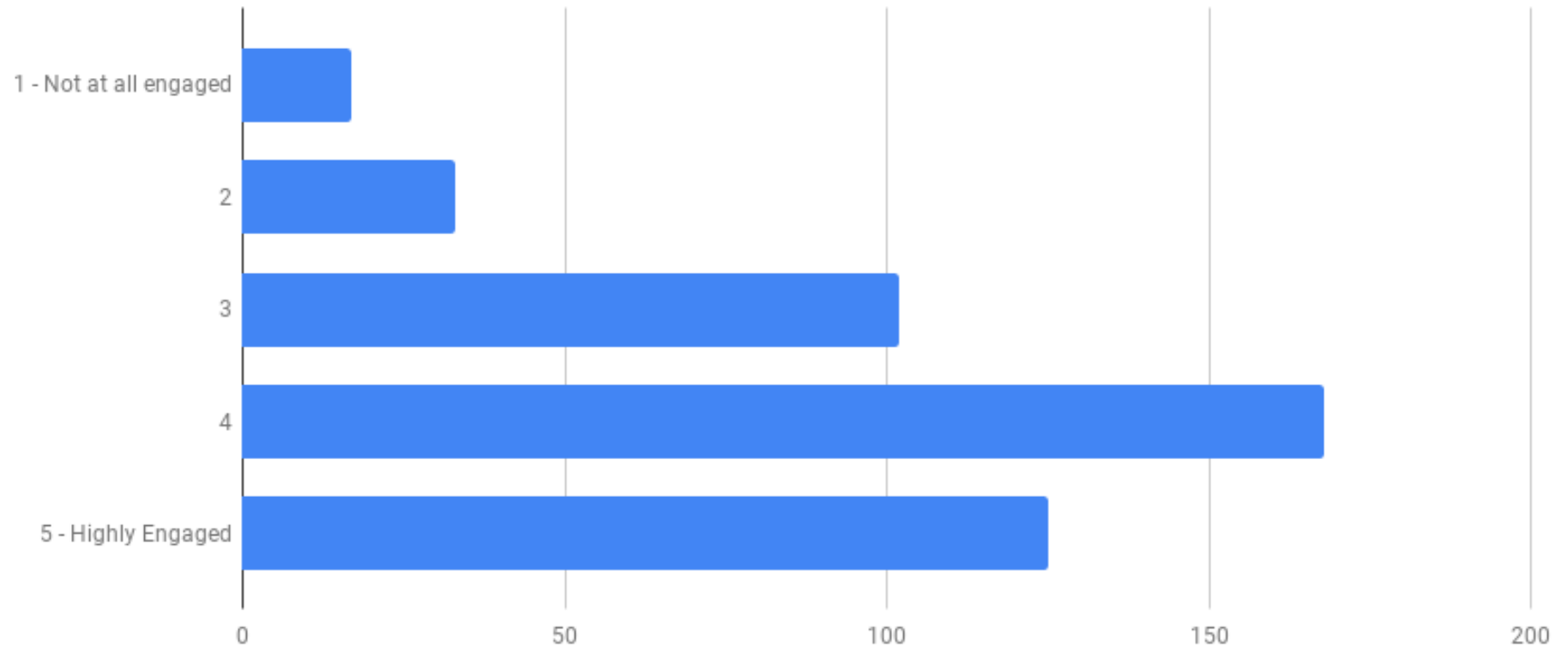
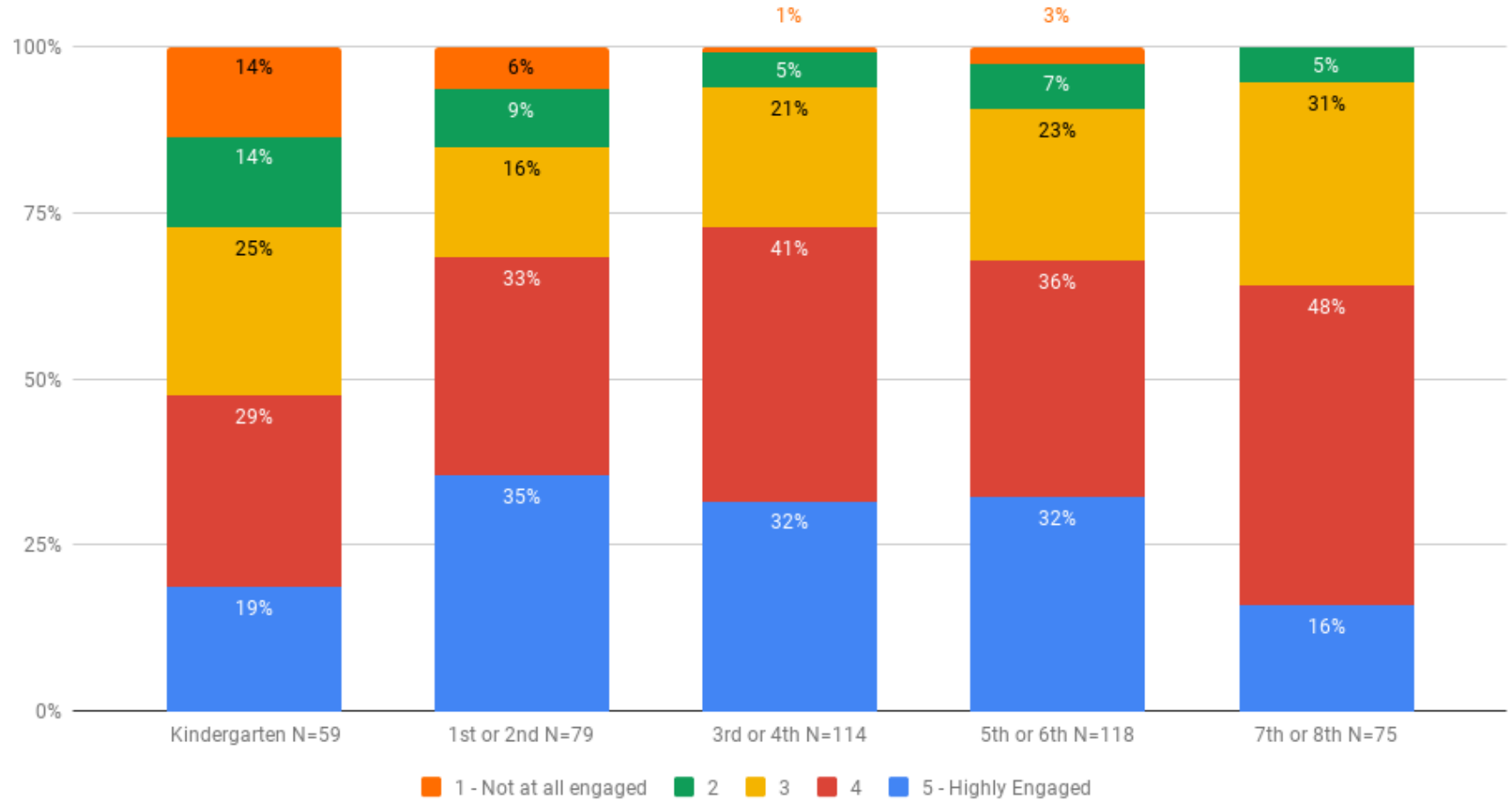


Table 2.2 Engagement by grade

Q. How engaged do you feel your child is with distance learning? Please rank it on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not at all engaged" and 5 is "Highly engaged."



Question 3: Compared to in-school instruction, how much do you feel your child is learning? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not nearly as much as at school", 3 is "As much as at school" and 5 is "Much more than at school." N=435

Table 3.1 Learning compared to in-school

Q. Compared to in-school instruction, how much do you feel your child is learning? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not nearly as much as at school", 3 is "As much as at school" and 5 is "Much more than at school."

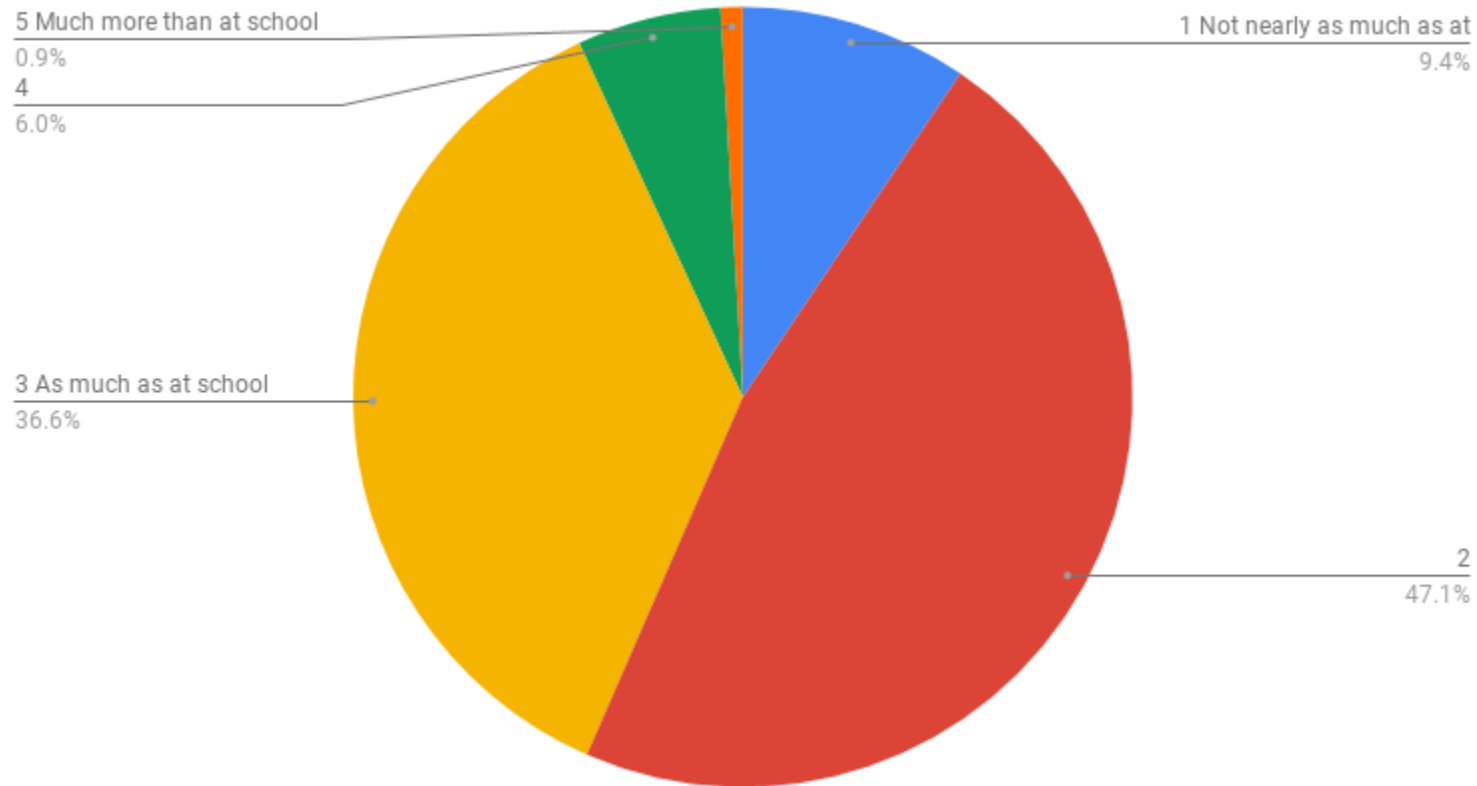
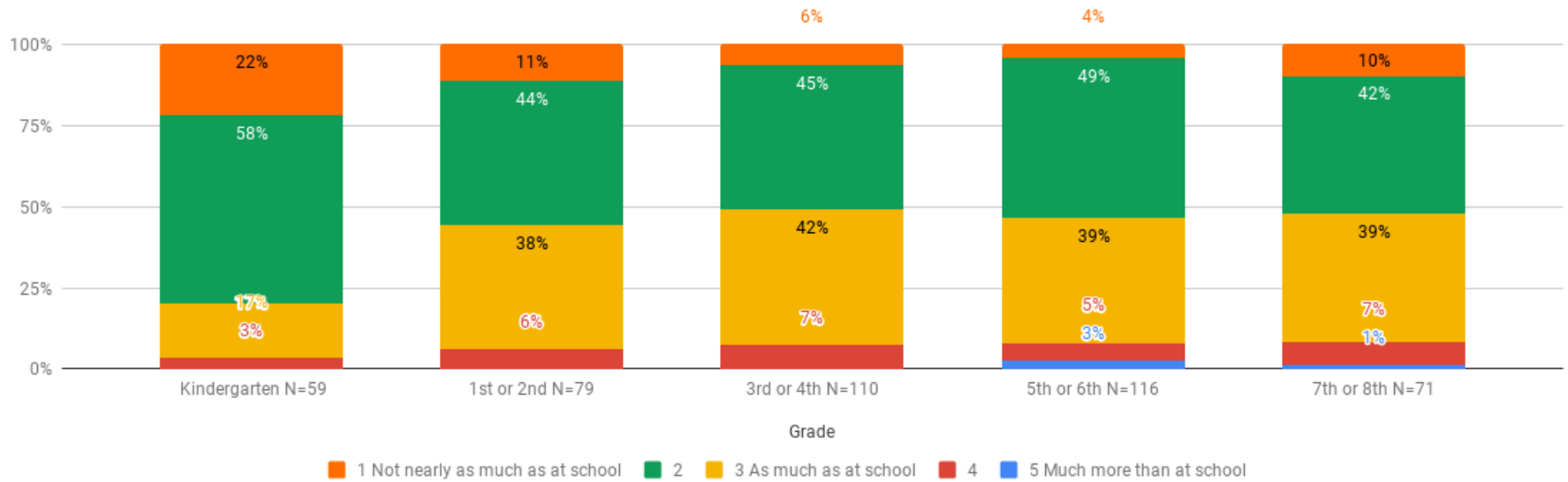


Table 3.2: Learning compared to in-school, by grade

Q. Compared to in-school instruction, how much do you feel your child is learning? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not nearly as much as at school", 3 is "As much as at school" and 5 is "Much more than at school."



Question 4: How well does your child participate in online classroom meetings? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "Needs constant assistance" and 5 means "Needs no assistance." N=434.

Table 4.1 Need for assistance to participate

Q. How well does your child participate in online classroom meetings? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "Needs constant assistance" and 5 means "Needs no assistance."

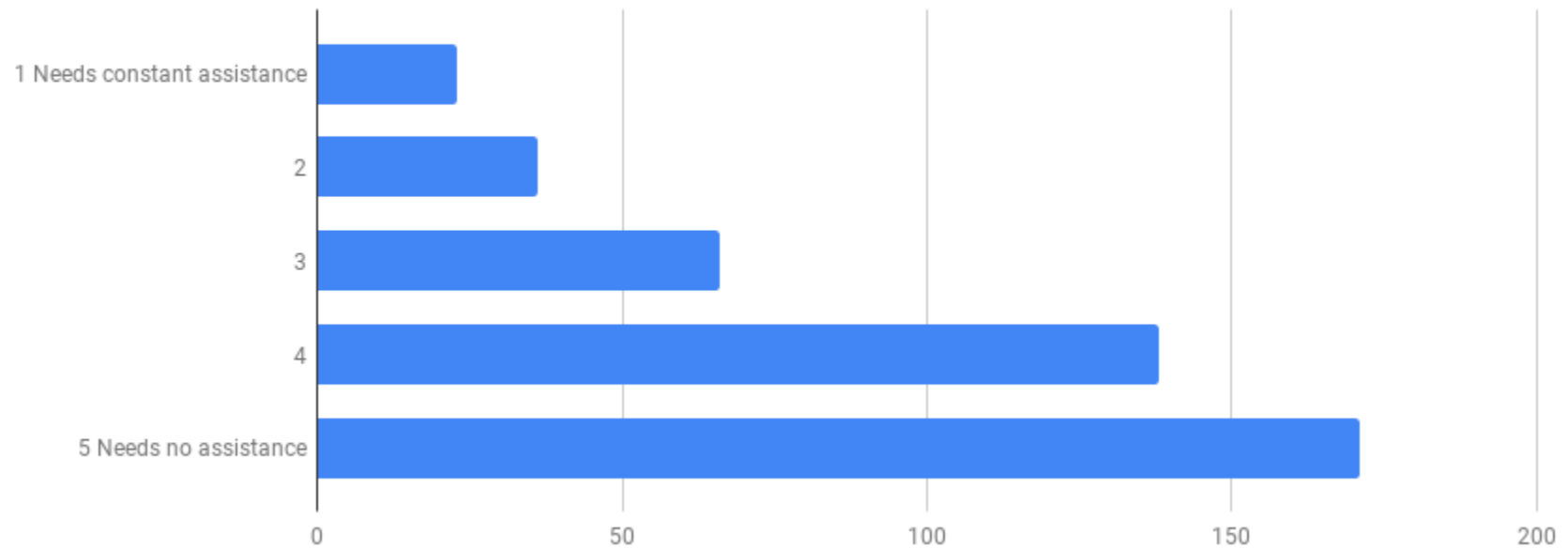
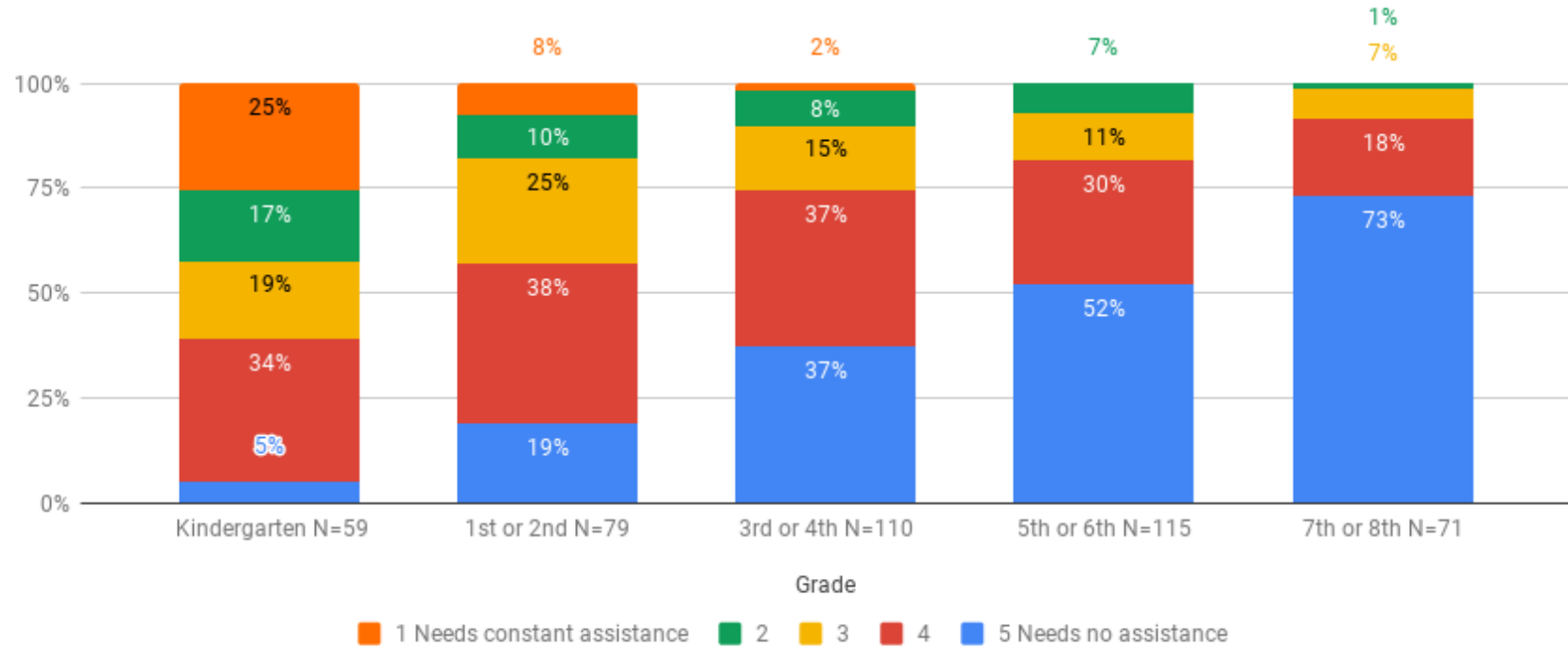


Table 4.2 Need for assistance to participate, by grade

Q. How well does your child participate in online classroom meetings? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "Needs constant assistance" and 5 means "Needs no assistance."



Question 5: How well is your child adapting to completing work assigned in online classes? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "Needs constant assistance" and 5 means "Needs no supervision." N=431.

Table 5.1 Assistance to complete work

Q. How well is your child adapting to completing work assigned in online classes? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "Needs constant assistance" and 5 means "Needs no supervision or assistance."

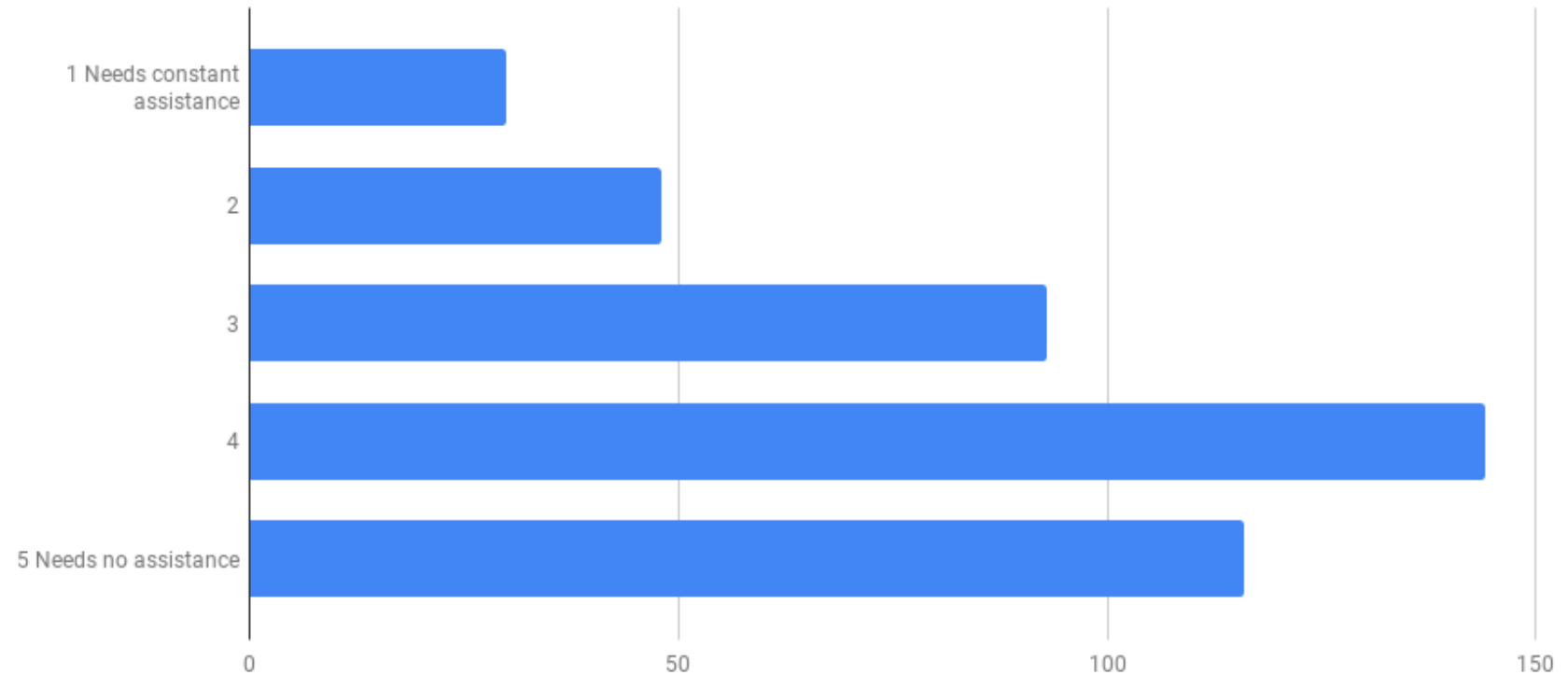
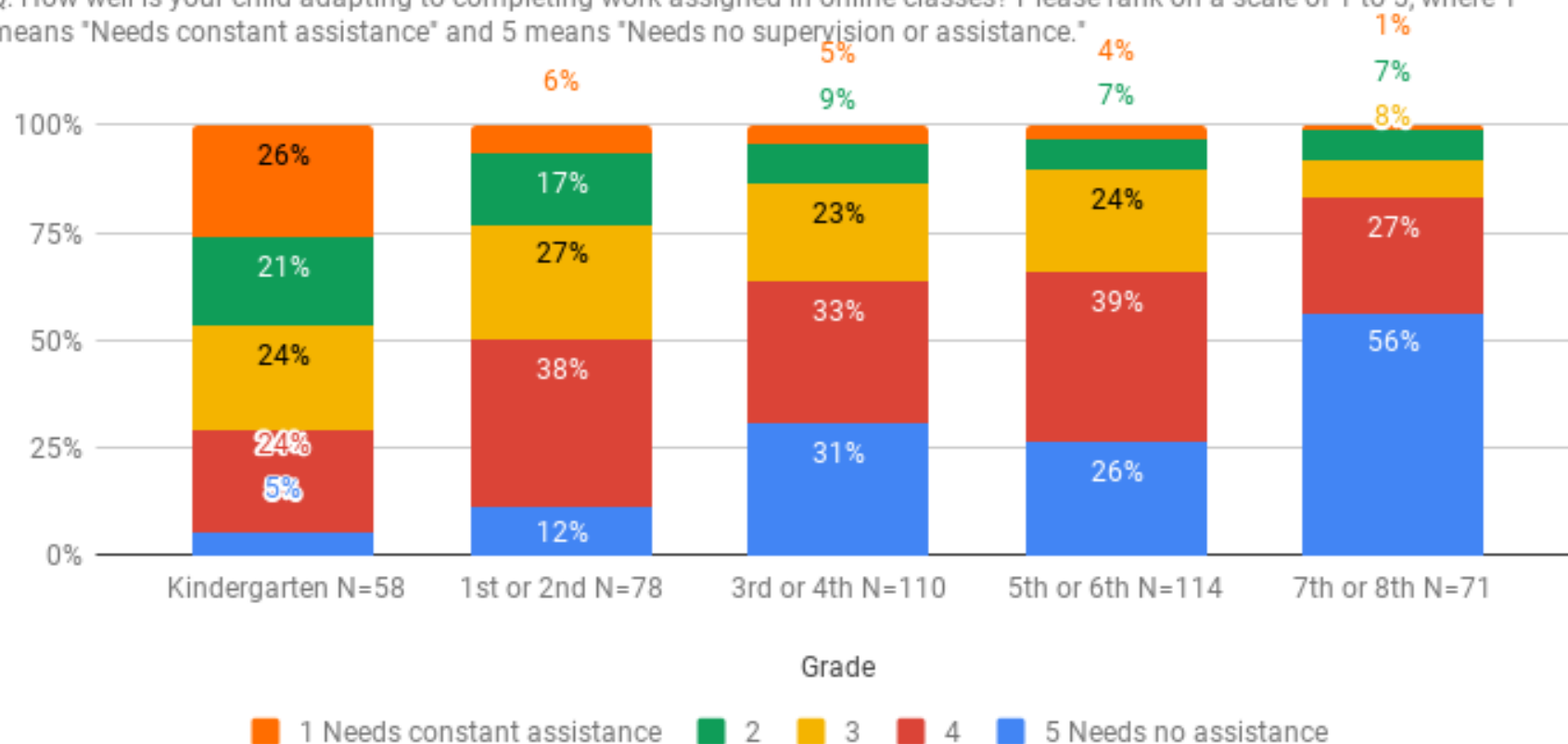


Table 5.2 Assistance to complete work, by grade

Q. How well is your child adapting to completing work assigned in online classes? Please rank on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means "Needs constant assistance" and 5 means "Needs no supervision or assistance."



Question 6: Last week, did your child spend time, outside of the school day, to complete Math, Chinese, English, Science, or Social Studies classroom tasks? N=431

This question was meant to yield a one-week tally of the minutes spent outside of class to complete core work. We are pleased to see that more than half (56.9%) report 60 minutes or less, and our hope is that this will continue to decrease. You may recall that our intention with the design of our distance learning plan was that students would spend little to no time outside of class to complete tasks when learning synchronously. The wording of this question may have led to confusion, however. You also may recall that we *encourage* students to take advantage of the fact that all lessons are recorded, and all assignments are posted online—if students prefer to work asynchronously, they are welcome to do so. The question does not take into account this learning preference.

Table 6.1 Time out of class to complete work last week

Q. Last week, did your child spend time, outside of the school day, to complete Math, Chinese, English, Science, or Social Studies classroom tasks?

Yes, more than 120 minutes.
10.0%

Yes, 60-120 minutes.
14.2%

Yes, 30-60 minutes.
26.0%

No, no extra time was
19.0%

Yes, less than 30 minutes.
30.9%

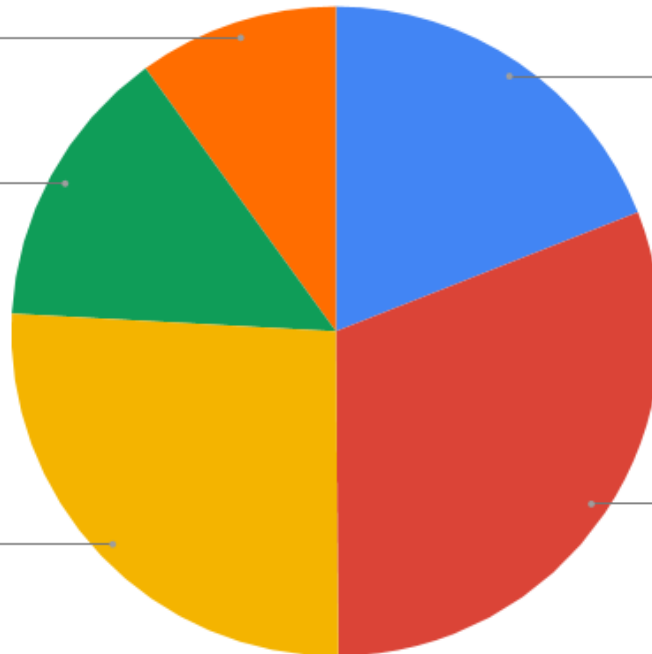
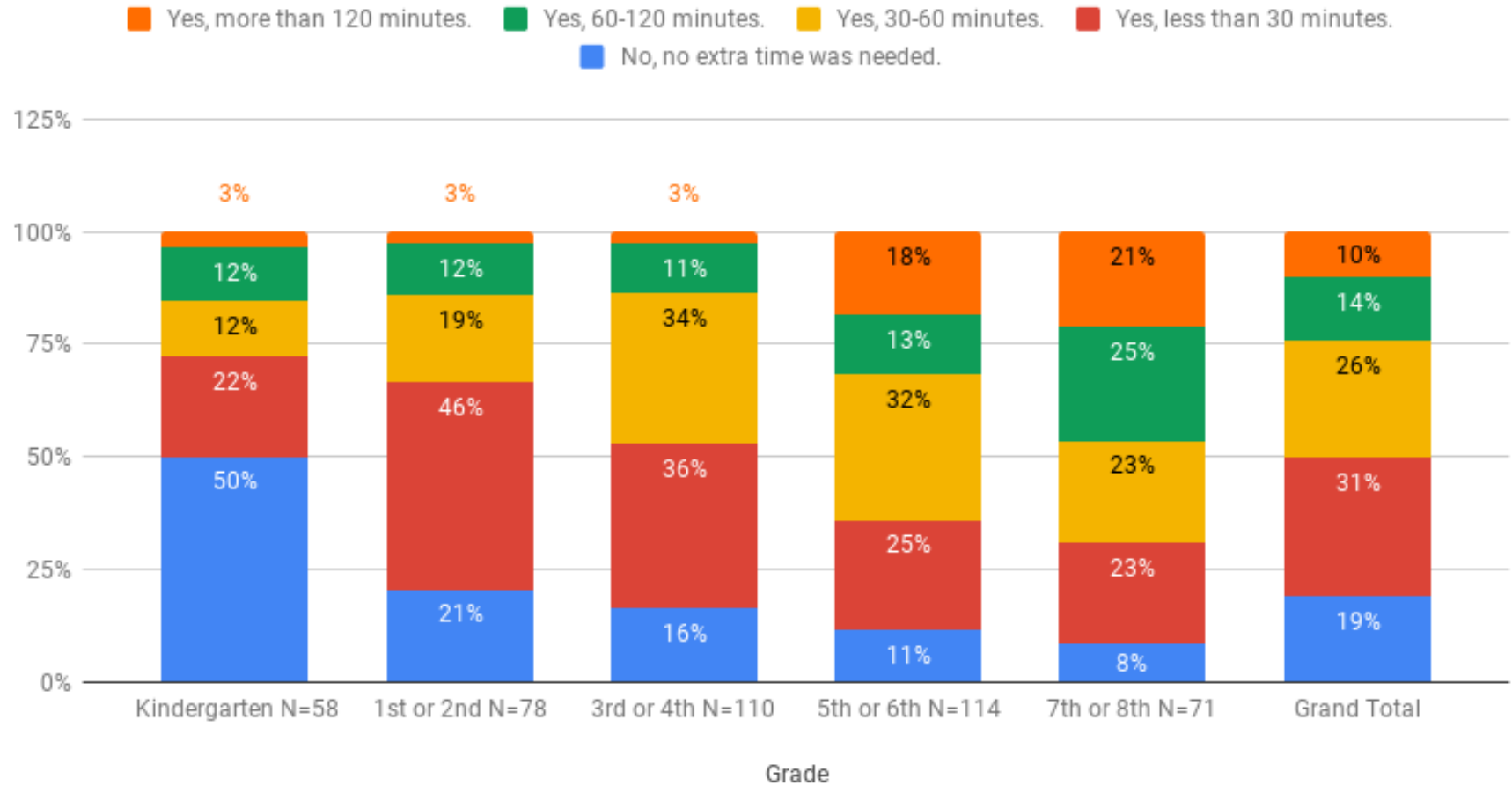


Table 6.2 Time out of class to complete work last week, by grade

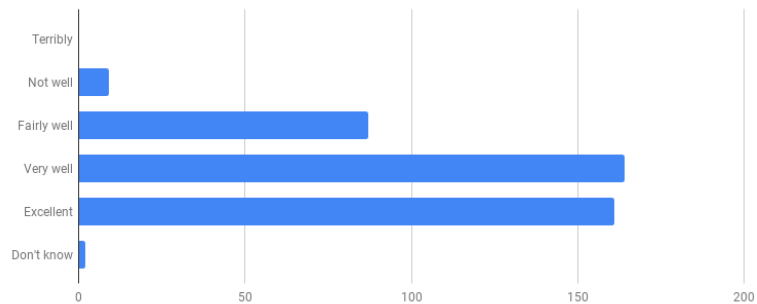
Q. Last week, did your child spend time, outside of the school day, to complete Math, Chinese, English, Science, or Social Studies classroom tasks?



Question 7: The following are technological tools Yinghua uses for online classes. How well have they performed for your child? (Only respond to those tools that your child has used.) Respondents were asked to rate Zoom, SeeSaw, and Google Classroom.

Table 7.1 Zoom rating, all grades, and Table 7.2 Zoom rating, by grade, N=423

Q. Zoom - The following are technological tools Yinghua uses for online classes. How well have they performed for your child? (Only respond to those tools that your child has used)



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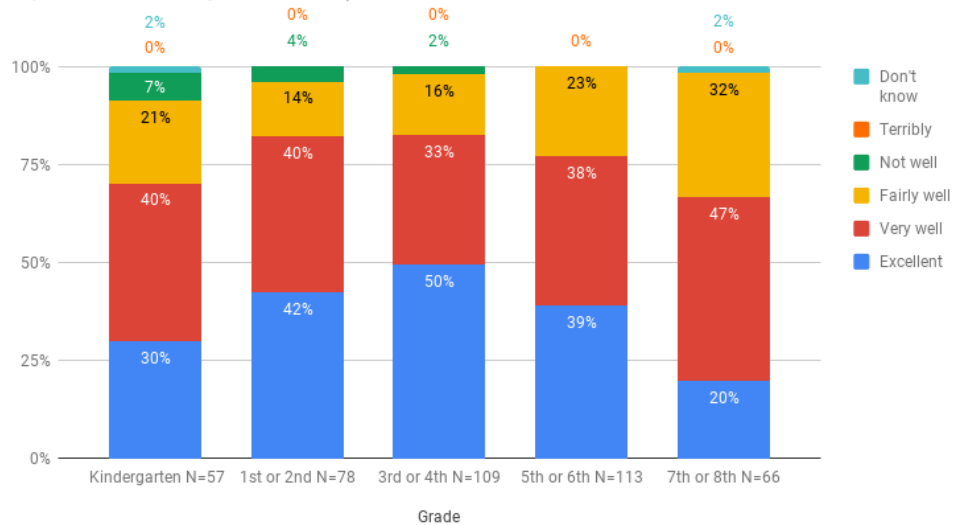
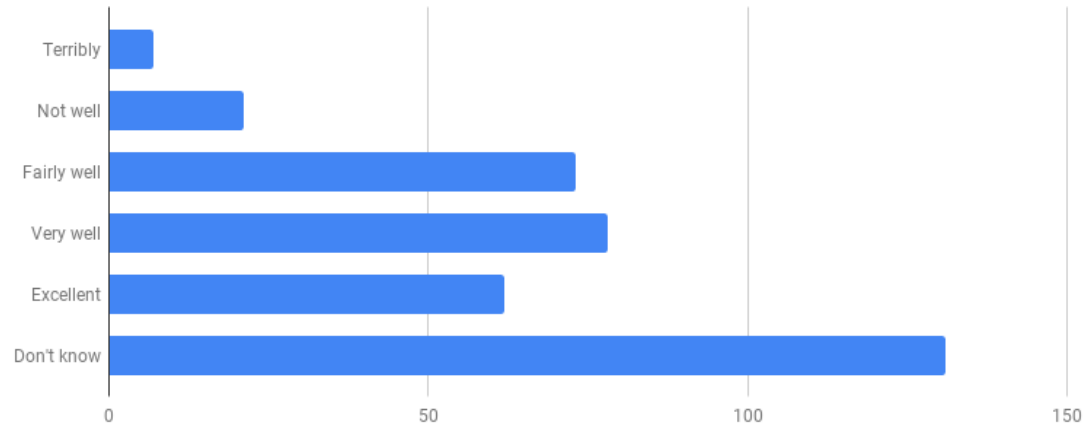


Table 7.3 SeeSaw rating, all grades, and Table 7.4 SeeSaw rating, by grade, N=372

Q. SeeSaw- The following are technological tools Yinghua uses for online classes. How well have they performed for your child? (Only respond to those tools that your child has used)



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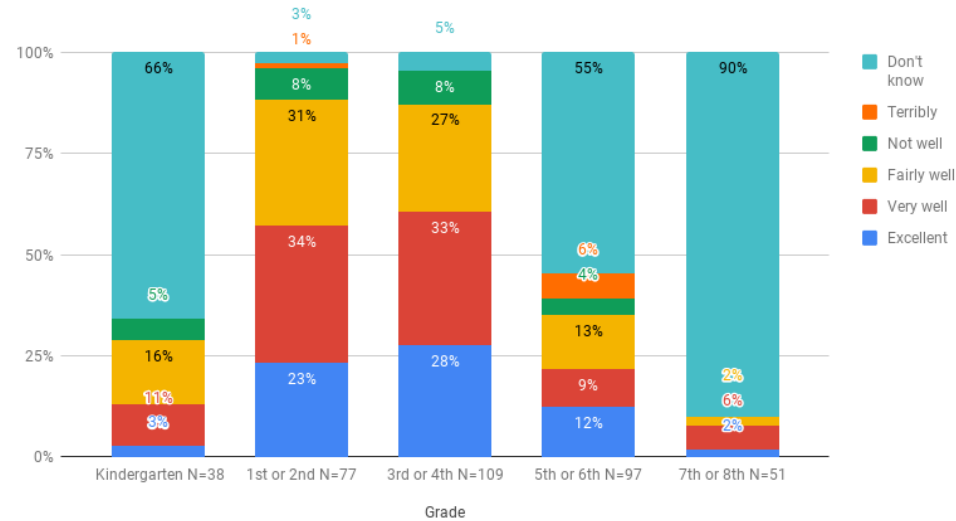
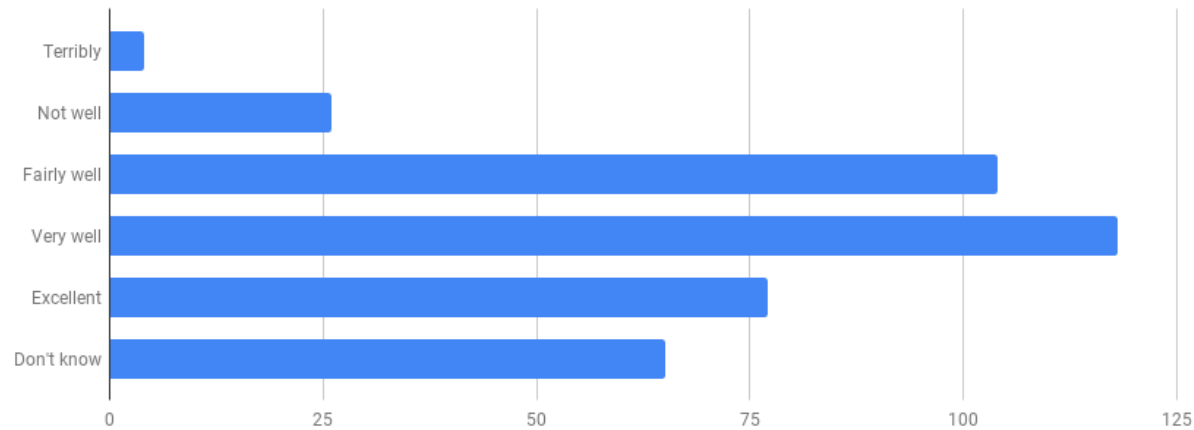
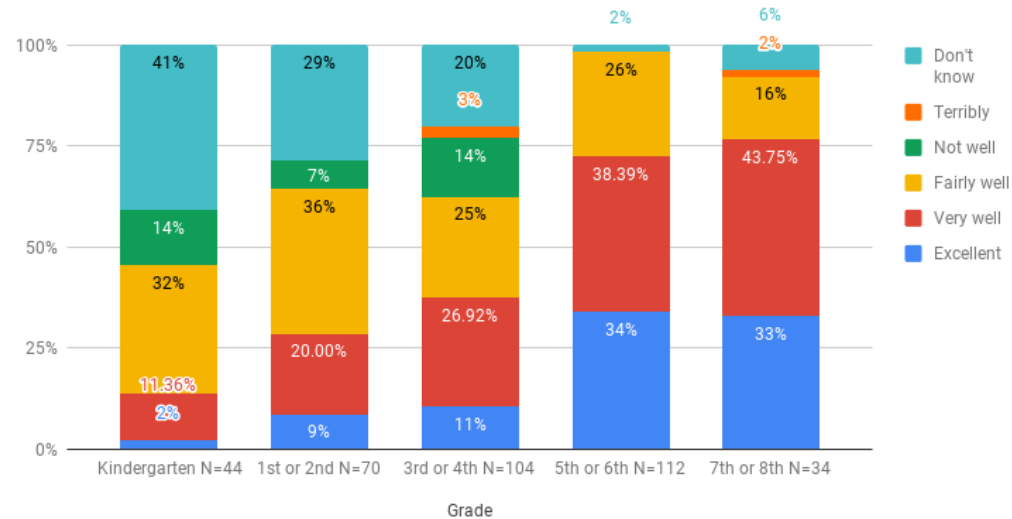


Table 7.5 Google Classroom rating, all grades, and Table 7.6 Google Classroom rating, by grade N=394

Q. Google Classroom - The following are technological tools Yinghua uses for online classes. How well have they performed for your child? (Only respond to those tools that your child has used)

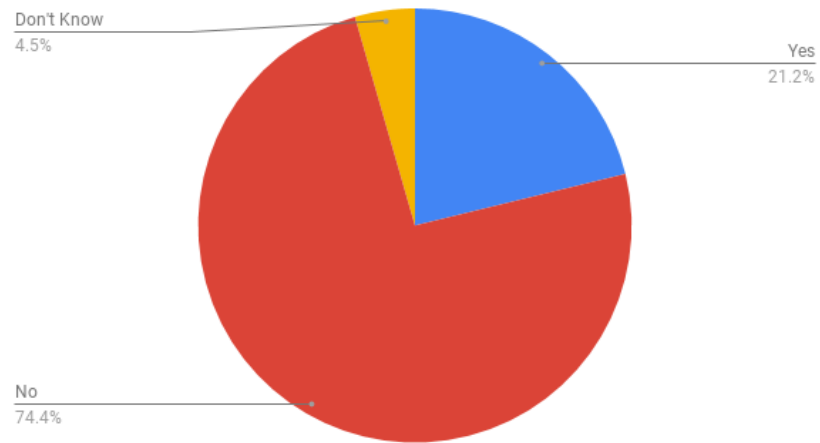


Q. Google Classroom - The following are technological tools Yinghua uses for online classes. How well have they performed for your child? (Only respond to those tools that your child has used)



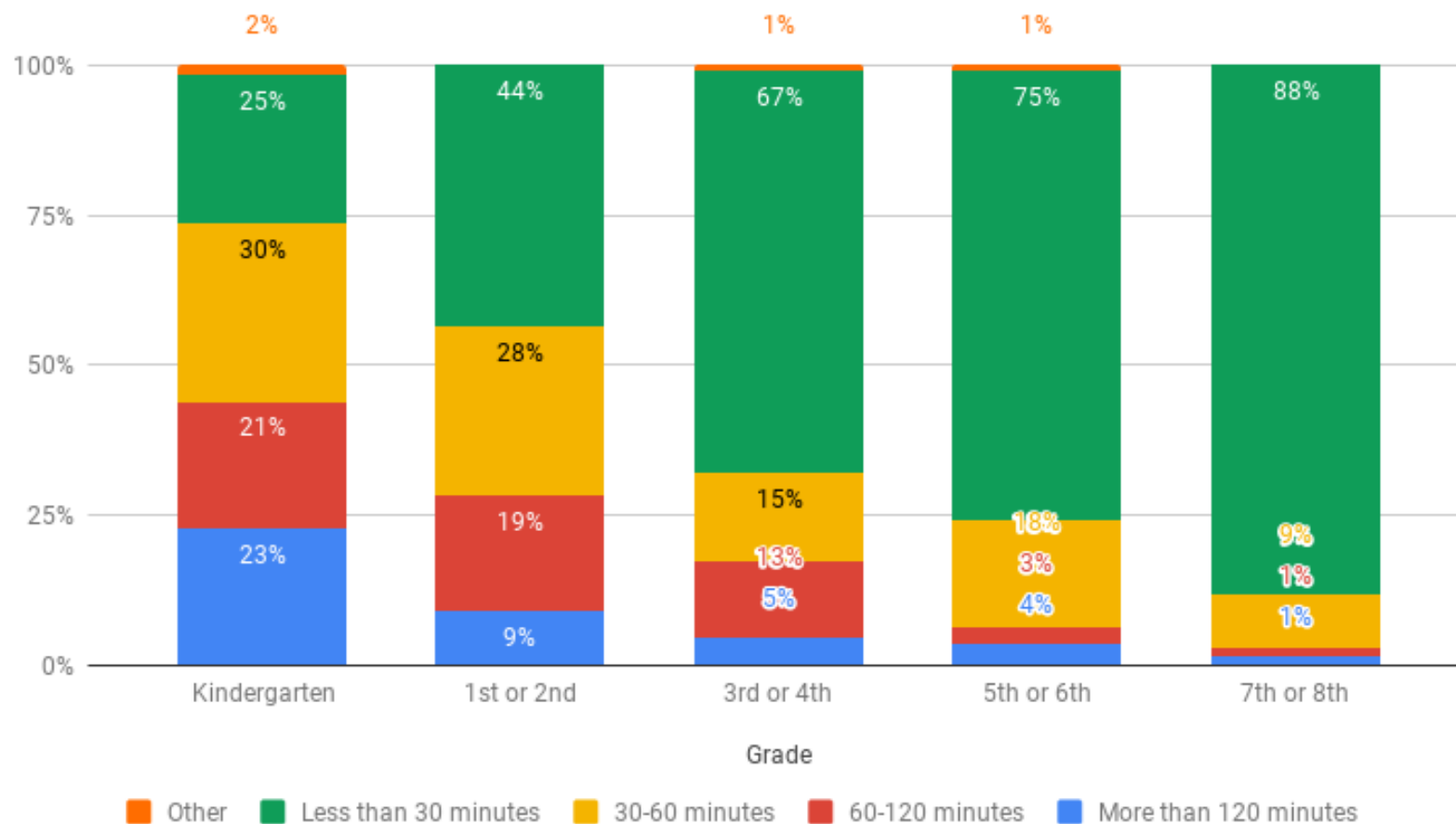
Question 8: Are you experiencing issues with Internet access or bandwidth? N=425

Q. Are you experiencing issues with Internet access or bandwidth?



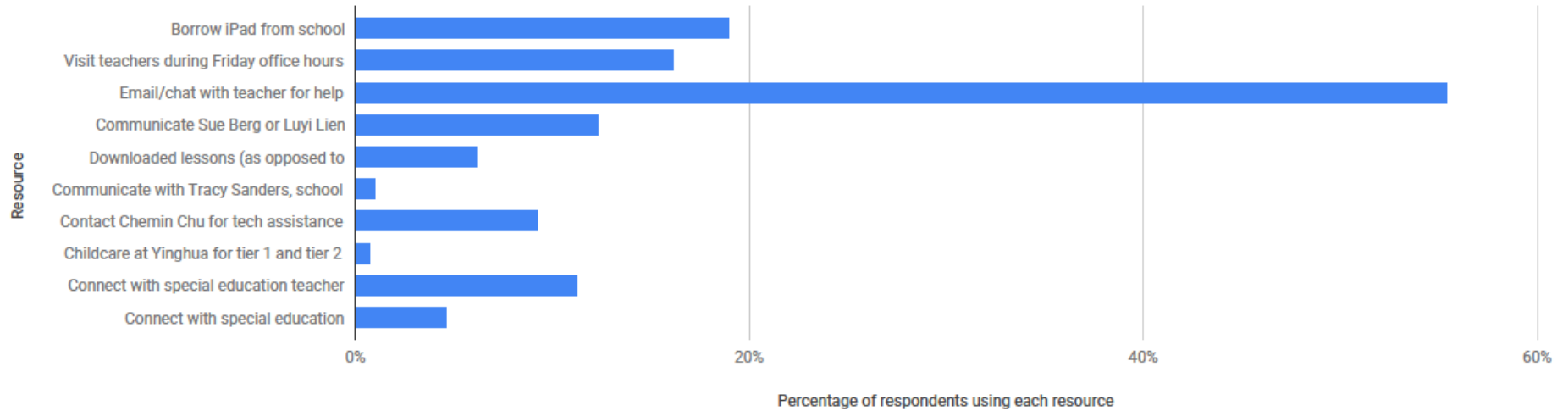
Question 9: How much assistance from you does your child need daily? N=423

Q. How much assistance from you does your child need daily?



Question 10: Yinghua provides these resources/support options. Which have you taken advantage of? N=390

Q. Yinghua provides these resources/support options. Which have you taken advantage of?



Open-ended responses

- The structure of the distance learning **school day** provides stability and predictability for many. Yinghua's distance learning is exceptional when compared with other schools. Parents perceive that the school remains mission-true despite the changes in how we do school. There are concerns about the length of the school day, length of classes, and amount of screen time.
- Yinghua parents report that their children are developing **self-management** skills. They see increasing independence in their children when it comes to doing school from home. They sense ownership of learning and increasing responsibility toward learning.
- **Communication** is strong with teachers and staff responding quickly to questions and concerns. Advice and resources from the school counselor are helpful and appreciated. Technology assistance has been strong. The one-to-one phone conversations are helping students practice speaking Chinese. Parents asked us to make better use of the breakout rooms as a learning tool, and they asked for increased student-to-student interaction. There is concern about the number of different platforms being used, particularly for younger grades. Parents wondered, if distance learning continues, could Yinghua assign all students a Yinghua email address?
- Yinghua's distance learning plan helps to sustain **relationships**. Parents see that the relationship between the child and the teacher, and between students, even though it's through screens, is valuable. There is a yearning for more social connections.
- Parents appreciate having less homework which has helped foster a **balance** between school and home. Students' learning feels better integrated with "real" life, overall. Parents value discussion about the pandemic in class with teachers including questions such as what are you doing, what are you worrying about, and what are you appreciating?

Changes and plans

Some changes have been made since the beginning of distance learning to adjust to our new way of doing things. Teaching teams are working on the three-part "**teach, practice, check for understanding**" method which we use in all grades in our classrooms when we are together at school. They are innovating ways to apply this rubric in a distance-learning environment. The **afternoon homeroom** was eliminated to shorten the school day.

The school is coordinating **Dragon Duos**, a program matching younger and older students as pen pals. Mrs. Berg prepared a **video greeting** to thank parents for their hard work to sustain distance learning in these unprecedented times. Teachers and Dragon Life leaders are working to create **online social gatherings** to help students connect with one another outside of class time. School leaders are working on a plan to safely **honor the Class of 2020** in a memorable manner.