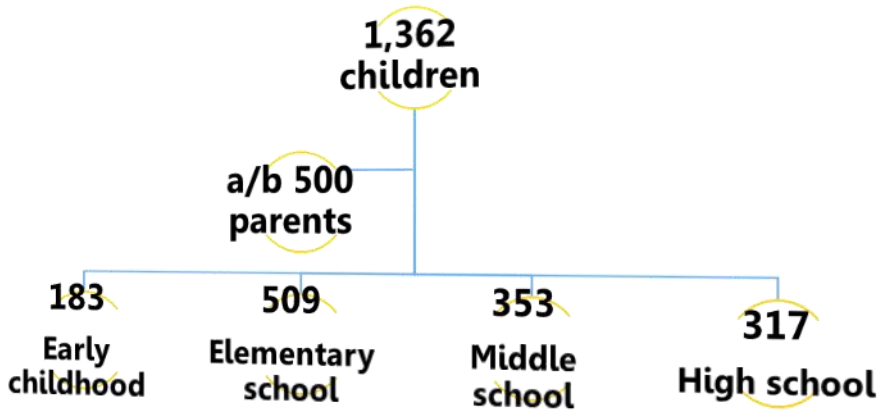
26–04–2025

Survey: The Situation of Education in the Eastern Galilee Cluster– Iron Swords War

1. Background and Population.

This survey was conducted among residents of the entire Eastern Galilee, as part of the activities of the Regional Knowledge Center of Tel-Hai College and the Eastern Galilee Cluster. Some 500 parents participated; of those, 53% were not evacuated and live in their homes, and the rest have been evacuated due to the war and now have various living arrangements. Participants represent over 1,300 children in the various educational systems, as detailed in the chart below:

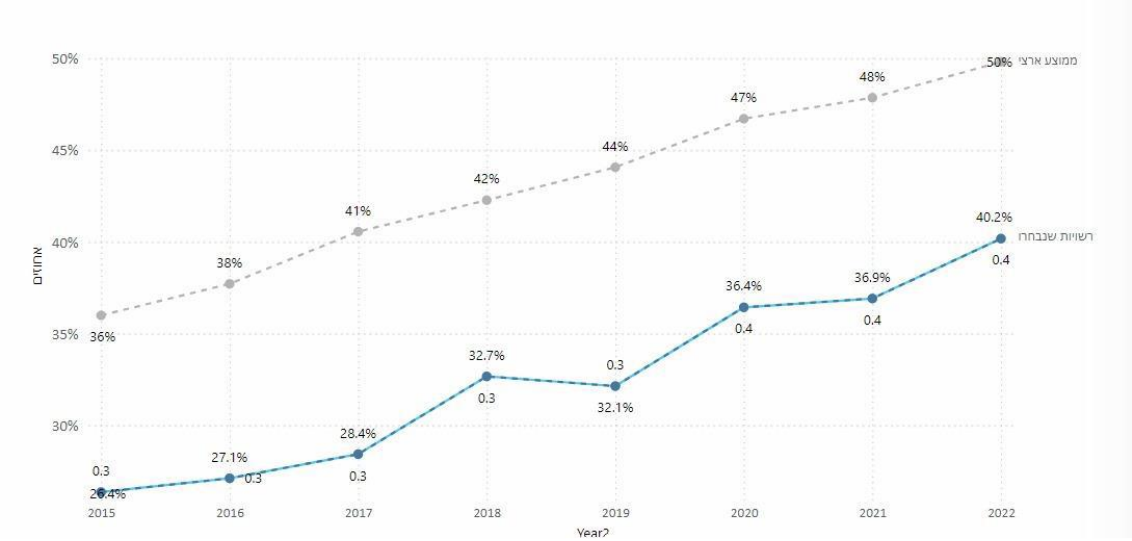


The survey was intended to identify how children are doing in their current educational frameworks in a variety of aspects, such as characteristics of the educational activities, attendance status, sc hool day structure, students' social and emotional state, and the level of satisfaction from the responses provided these days to all children of the region, both evacuees and those who stayed in their communities.

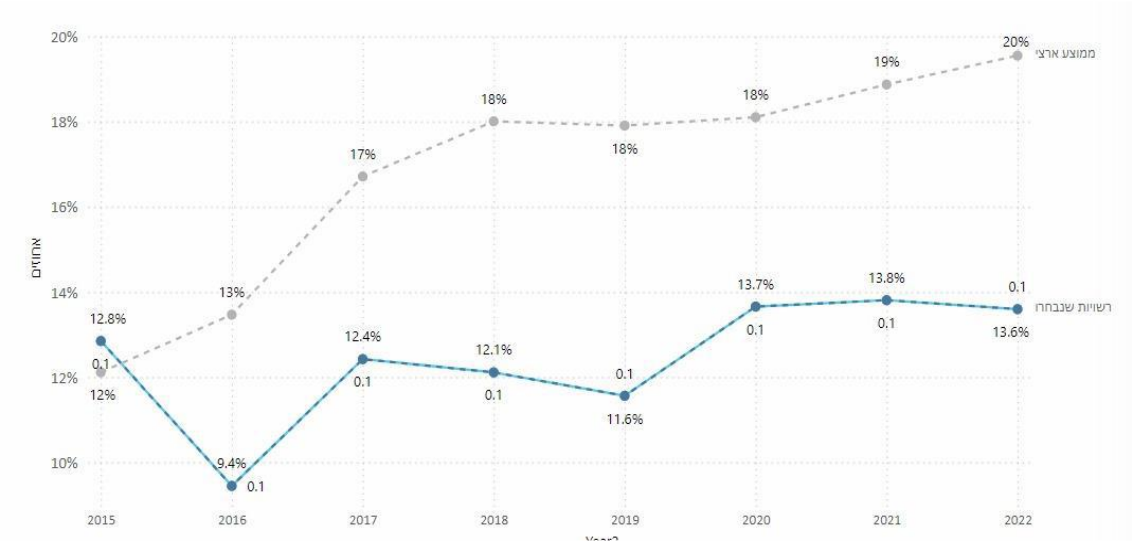
2. Current Situation – General Background and Regional Data

The educational challenges in the Eastern Galilee did not just emerge after October 7; in fact, there has been a tendency for several years, which was expressed in the scales of matriculation diploma eligibility, particularly for students who take the 5-point (highest level) exams in English and Math, as can be seen in the following charts :

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Regional tendency compared to national average in selected localities in the index of matriculation entitlement w/5 points English (%) in 2015-2022, From the Ministry of Education

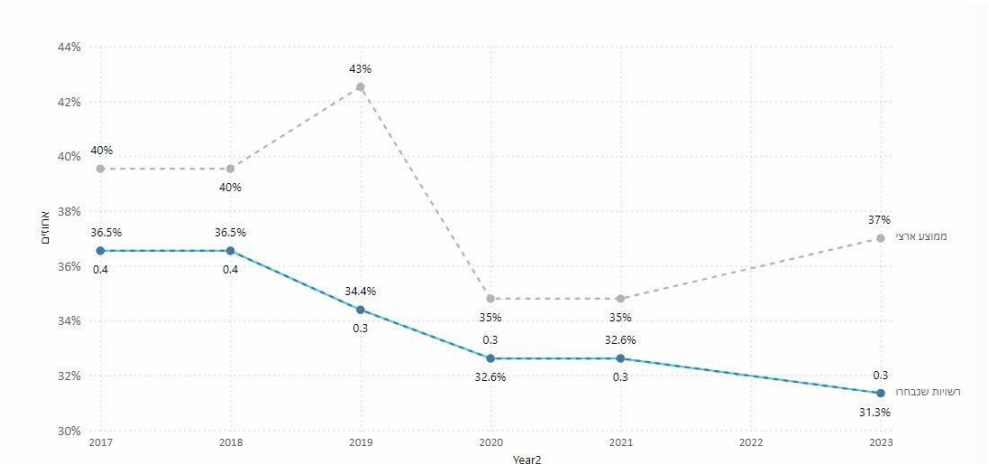


Regional tendency compared to national average in selected localities in the index of matriculation entitlement w/5 points Math (%) in 2015-2022, From the Ministry of Education

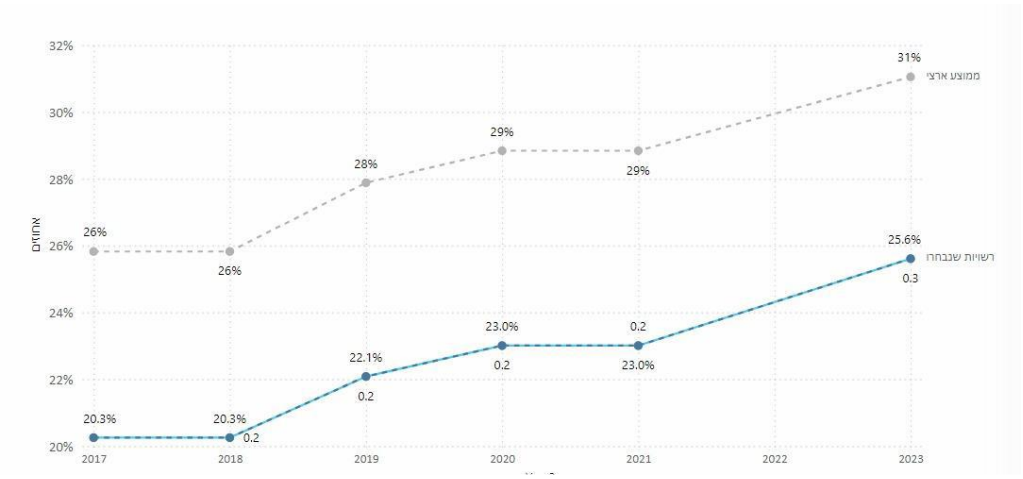
Thus, the percentage of Eastern Galilee students who are entitled to a matriculation diploma with 5 points of English has been consistently lower in recent years by approx. 10% than the national average. The situation is even worse in צath, where that percentage appears to be 13.6% among Eastern Galilee students, while the national tendency has grown to 20% in those years.

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These findings repeat regarding higher education. As can be seen in the two charts below, only some 31% of eligible students from the Eastern Galilee actually pursue higher education (while the national average is some 37%). The same finding appears in the index of academic degree holders, which shows 25.6% in the Eastern Galilee compared to 31% in all Israel.



Regional tendency compared to national average in selected localities in the index of individuals pursuing higher education (%) in 2017-2023
From the Central Bureau of Statistics



Regional tendency compared to national average in selected localities in the index of academic degree holders aged 35-55 (%) in 2017-2023
From the Central Bureau of Statistics

These data have been consistent for several years now, indicating a clear, disturbing tendency regarding the education in the Galilee. Unfortunately, findings of the current survey reinforce this insight, and even suggest a possible worsening of the existing situation.

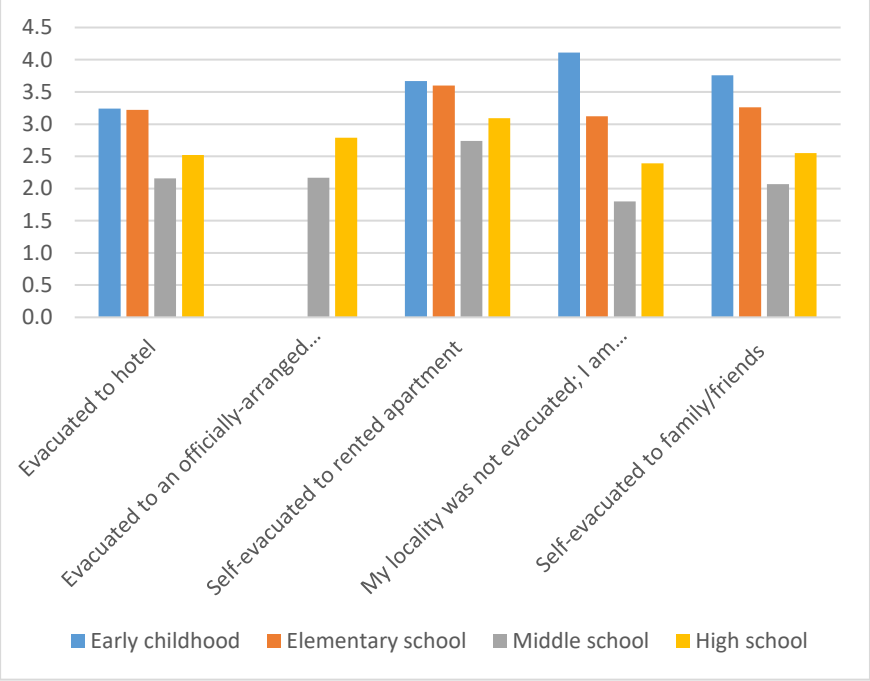
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3. Satisfaction from Current Education Framework

- Overall, satisfaction from the various educational frameworks which children of the region attend these days is relatively low, standing on 2.85 in a scale of 1–5. It is important to distinguish between the different frameworks in relation to people's current living situation, i.e., those who were evacuated to hotels, those who evacuated themselves to a rented apartment or family or friends' homes, and those who stayed in the Galilee. As shown in the next chart, 68% of individuals who evacuated to family or friends express relatively high satisfaction from their children's current educational arrangements. In contrast, other evacuees (particularly those living in hotels) expressed low satisfaction from the educational system their children attend. This tendency was also found among residents who were not evacuated, and their children remained in their original educational institutes; out of those, only 32% indicated high/very high levels of satisfaction.

High/very high agreement with the statement:

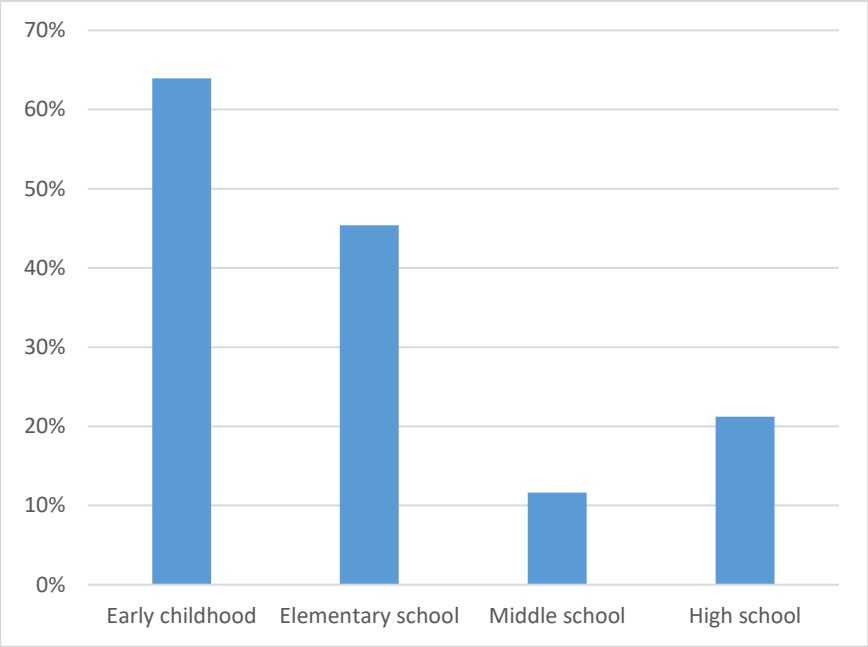
"I am satisfied with the educational system my child currently attends"



- In addition, there are significant differences in these finings according to the various grade levels, as demonstrated in the following chart:

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High/very high satisfaction from current educational system

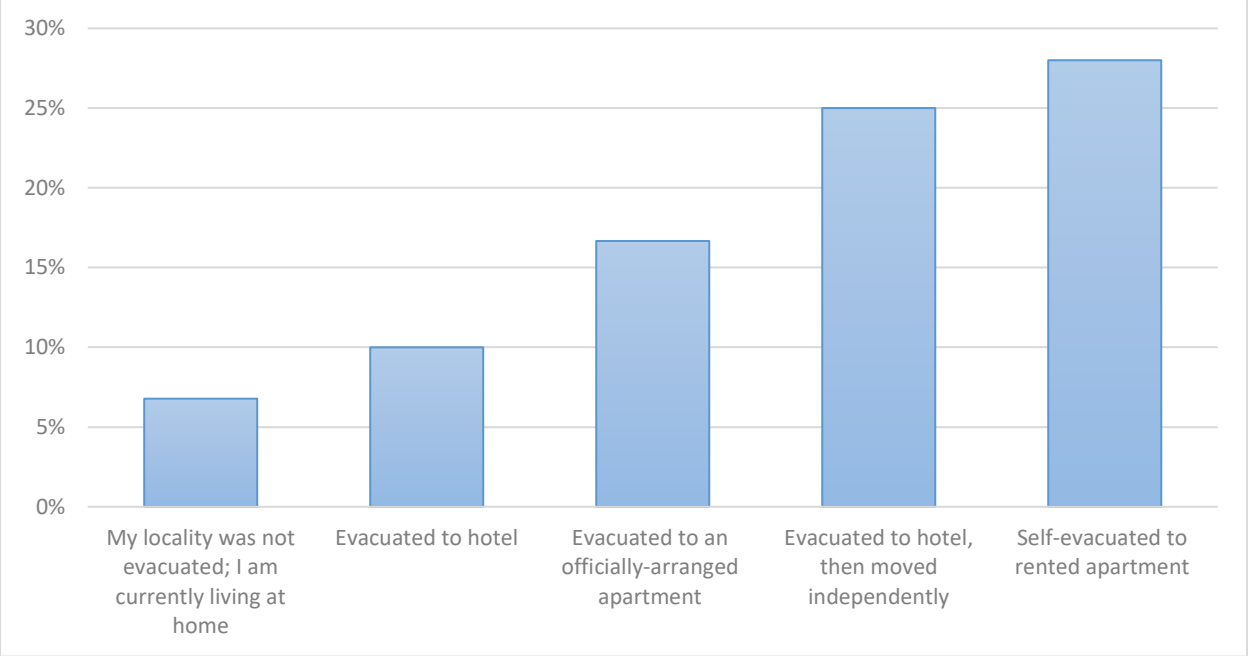


While the early childhood facilities received moderate or higher ratings, the frameworks for older students are rated lower, with only 12% high/very high satisfaction levels in the middle schools and only 21% in the high schools.

The middle schools were rated the lowest among evacuees living in hotels and residents who were not evacuated; only 10% of the former and 7% of the latter expressed high or very high satisfaction from their children's arrangements.

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High/very high satisfaction from middle schools by current living status

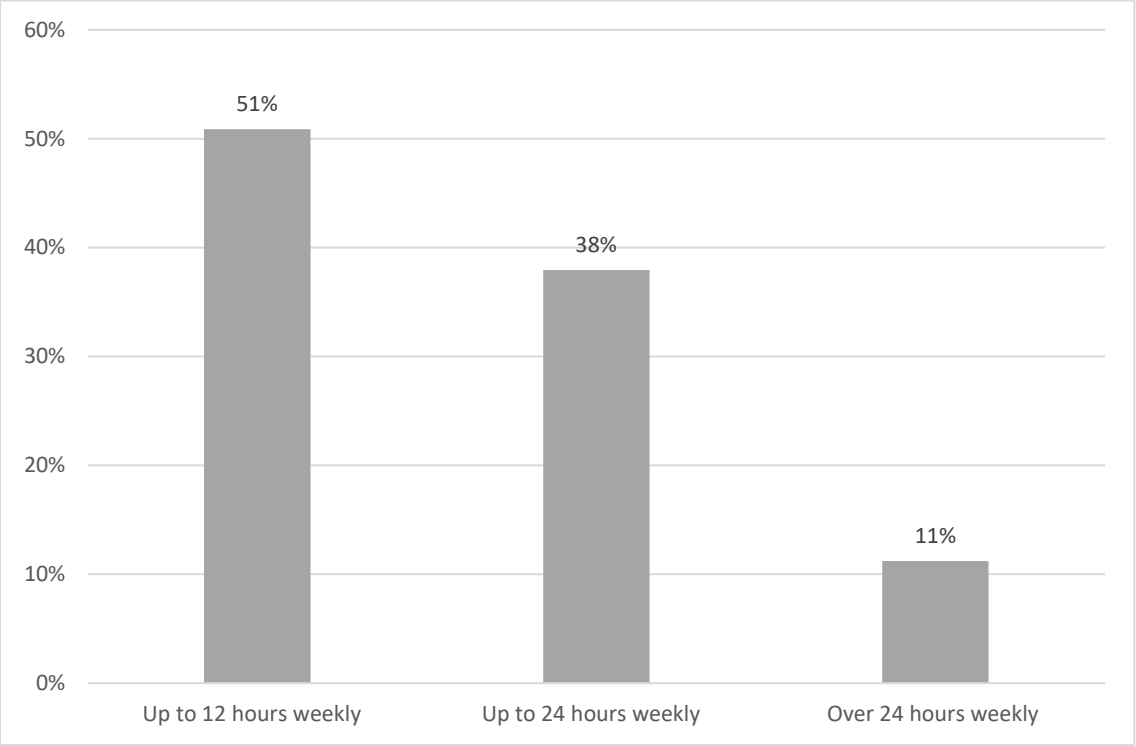


4. Activity in the Educational Systems

The disturbing tendency that was observed in the middle and high schools reappears when considering other aspects of the educational activity. About half (51%) of middle-school students actually study only 12 hours or less weekly.

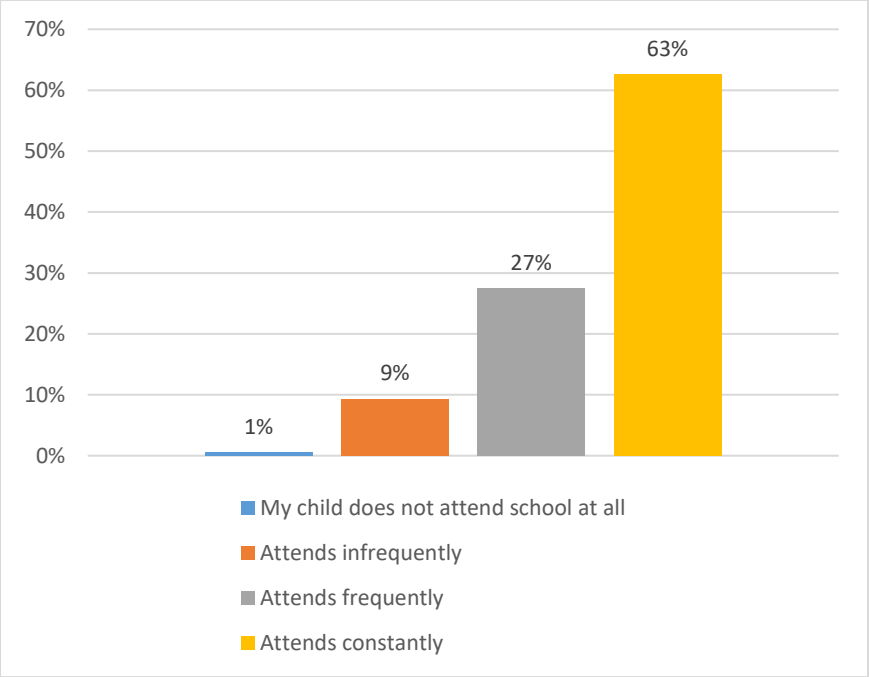
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Educational activities in middle schools:



Simultaneously, middle-school students present alarmingly low level of attendance, with only 63% attending constantly:

Attendance of middle school students



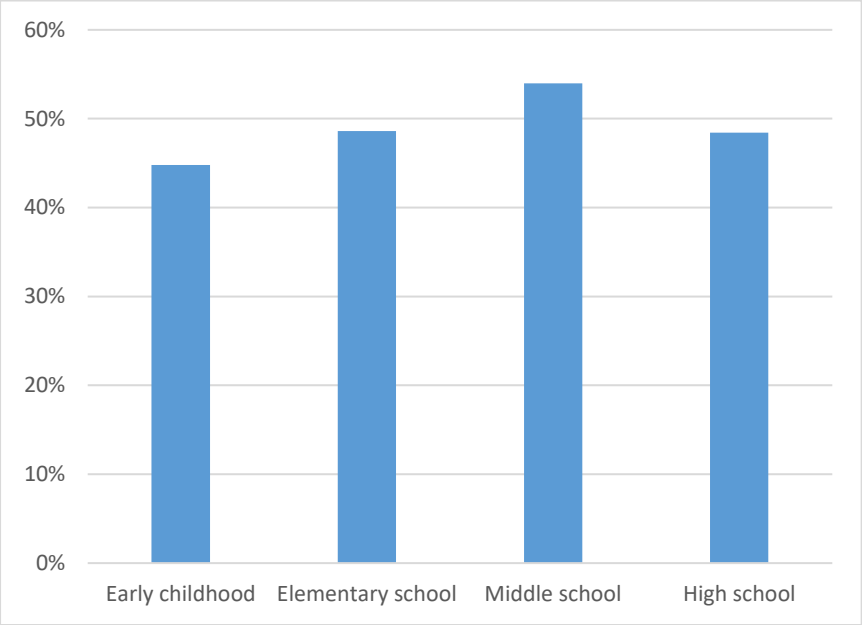
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5. Emotional and Social State

In general, Eastern Galilee parents believe the current situation has harmed their children to a moderate/high level in terms of social/emotional state; here, too, middle-school students are affected the most, as can be seen below:

High/very high agreement with the statement:

"My child's emotional state has been harmed"

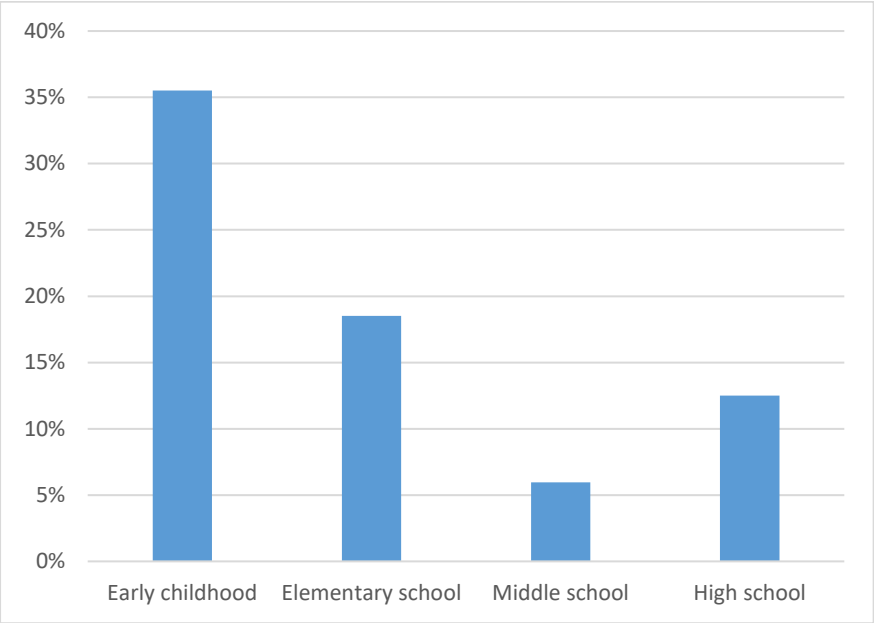


On top of this significant damage to adolescents, parents seem to feel their children have not been getting appropriate response. Parents indicated that, in their view, the children don't receive a suitable response to their emotional needs, particularly middle-school students. Only 6% of the parents expressed high/very high satisfaction from the emotional responses those students receive.

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High/very high agreement with the statement:

"My child receives an appropriate emotional response in their current educational system"

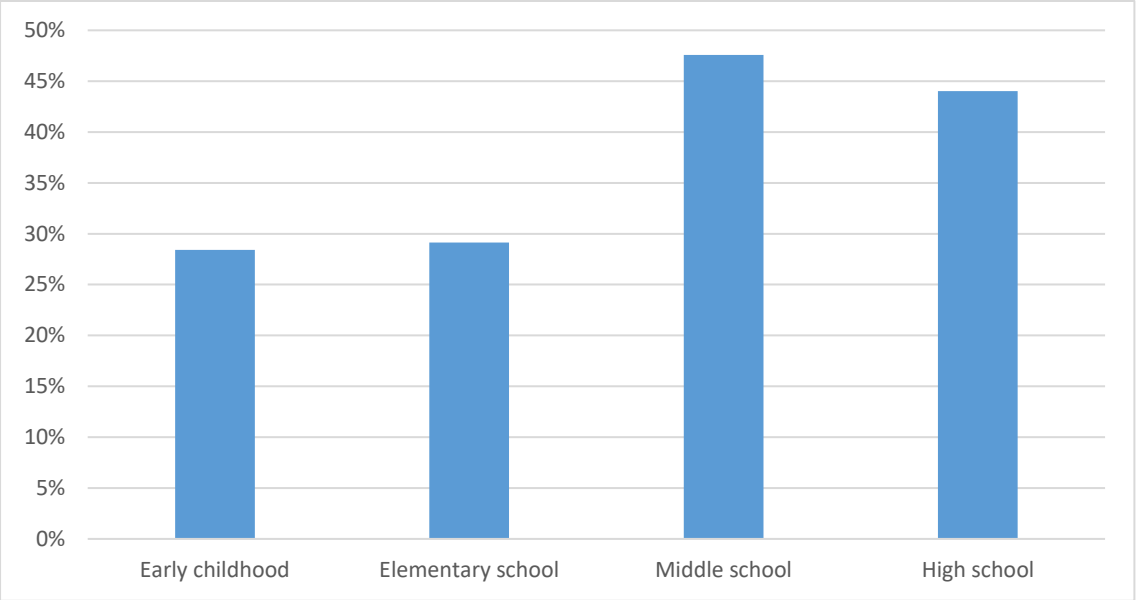


Additionally, social frameworks have been harmed these days as well, which again appears to affect the teenagers in particular; as shown in the next chart, nearly half of the middle-school and high-school students (48% and 44%, respectively) have been harmed socially.

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High/very high agreement with the statement:

"My child's social state has been damaged due to the current situation"



The findings regarding the emotional state of teens, combined with their social state, are especially alarming because the peer group is a significant source of support in this age group. Along with the data showing that half of the middle-school students only study 12 hours a week or less, their educational frameworks do not play a role in identifying them and taking care of their situation.

For more information or detailed findings, please feel free to contact us:

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