“Schools should provide supplies for the classroom. I purchase supplies every year for my kids, and I give extra supplies to the classroom, but the schools should be providing those supplies.”

Yasmine is from New York and is a mom of two kids: a 19-year-old boy and a 4-year-old girl. Yasmine found the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic stressful for her and her children, as she took the role of both mother and teacher for over a year. Though she believes she did a good job taking on both roles, she stressed that receiving supply assistance, such as printing, from schools would have been helpful, since many families are unable to print their own materials. On the flip side, Yasmine enjoyed staying at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, as she spent more time with her kids, finding that quality time to play an important role in bringing her family closer.

Yasmine has been thinking about significant changes that should occur in the education landscape following the COVID-19 pandemic. For one, she believes that education funding should increase, noting that increased funding leads to better books and teachers, and increased teacher pay, efficacy, and satisfaction. Additionally, she thinks that schools must prepare themselves for the next pandemic; the COVID-19 pandemic revealed schools’ inabilities to respond well to a catastrophe, and the correct resources and structures must be placed so that when the next catastrophe arrives, schools will be prepared to respond.