



SCHOOL SAFETY OBSERVATIONS AND
PERSPECTIVES AMONG PARENTS,
TEACHERS, AND THE PUBLIC

A National Polling Brief

JUNE 2022

A brief note about our polling brief—

In light of the mass school shooting in Uvalde, TX, and amidst ongoing conversations and elevated national attention on guns and school safety, we believe bringing new public opinion data can help inform public discourse. In advance of our monthly report, we produced this polling brief describing the observations and views about guns and school safety among school parents, teachers, and the general public. We want to highlight their perspectives about what steps can be taken to ensure children across America have safe schools and classrooms for their learning.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Teachers are less positive than parents when assessing how their schools address mental health, guns, bullying, and violent behaviors. Only about one-third of teachers say their schools are doing extremely/very well in any of those four categories. Teachers are also much more likely than parents to be aware of what their school does to ensure a safe learning environment.
2. Roughly one out of four adults – and a similar proportion of school parents – believe that it is likely gun violence will occur at their local school sometime in the next school year. However, a lower percentage of teachers (16%) share the same belief.
3. Parents express slightly more concern than their children about the possibility of a mass shooter at their school. In a wording experiment, mentioning the school shooting in Uvalde, TX, has the effect of increasing concern among children and parents.
4. Teachers tend to be much more supportive of policies that have been proposed to reduce school shootings, including investing in mental health programs, raising the age to purchase guns to 21, and passing laws that allow the police to take guns from those exhibiting troubling behavior.
5. Parents are much more likely than the general public to support their school district allowing teachers/administrators to carry a firearm/gun in school. And only one out of five teachers indicate they would carry a gun in school if allowed.

Methodology:

This poll was conducted between June 15-June 21, 2022 among a sample of 2,198 Adults and June 15-June 25, 2022 among a sample of 1,000 Teachers. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results based on the full survey have a measure of precision of plus or minus 2.39 percentage points for Adults, 3.74 for School Parents, and 3.22 for Teachers.

AGENDA

SCHOOL SAFETY CLIMATE

OPINIONS ON SCHOOL SAFETY POLICIES

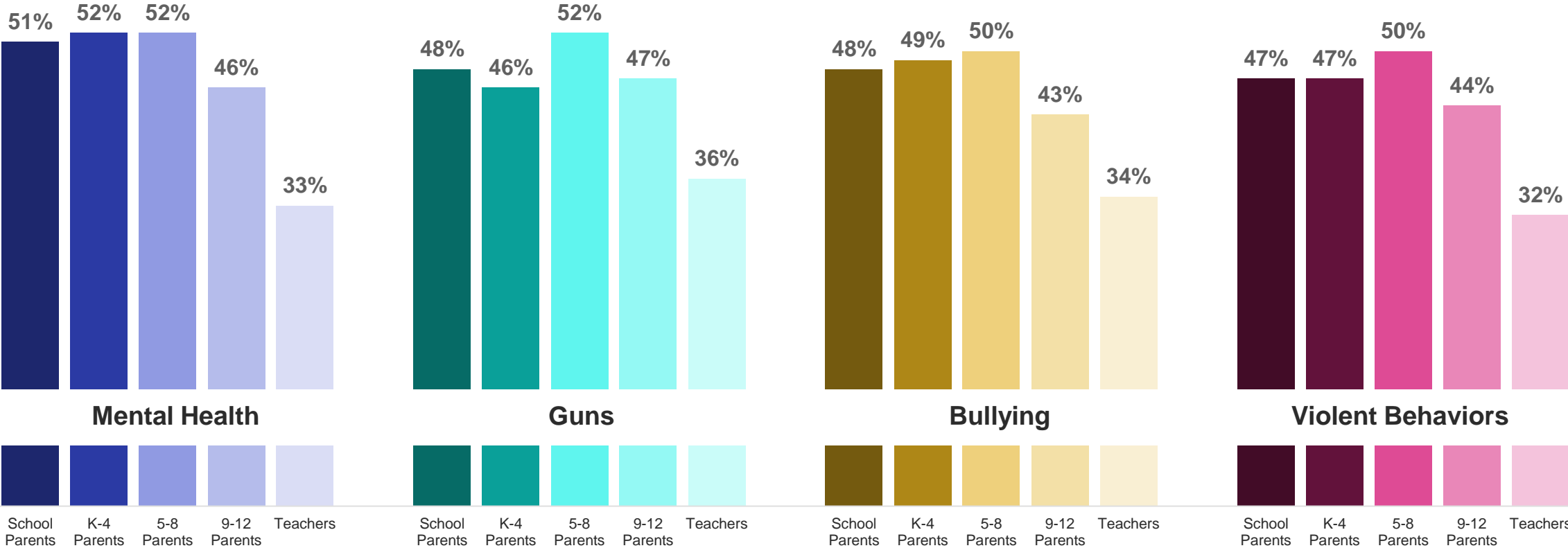
SURVEY PROFILE



Teachers are less positive than parents when assessing how their schools address mental health, guns, bullying, and violent behaviors. Only about one-third of teachers say their schools are doing extremely/very well in any of those four categories.

How well do you feel your youngest/oldest child's school addresses the following among its students?
 How well do you feel your school addresses the following among its students?

Most Positive
 (Extremely + Very Well)



Source: Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 21, 2022, among U.S. adults
 Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 25, 2022, among U.S. Teachers

Note: Results are composite numbers between those who were asked about their youngest child and those who were asked about their oldest child.

Private school parents, males, and urbanities are the most likely to believe their child’s school does a good job addressing the following issues. Those in less urban areas are the most likely to believe their child’s school does not do a good job.

How well do you feel your youngest/oldest child's school addresses the following among its students?

Most Positive
(Extremely + Very well)

Mental Health		Guns		Bullying		Violent Behaviors	
Private School Parent	68%	Private School Parent	58%	Private School Parent	64%	Private School Parent	62%
Male	60%	Male	56%	Male	57%	Republican	55%
Urban	60%	Republican	54%	Republican	53%	Special Education Parent	54%
Democrat	56%	Educ: Bachelors or Postgrad	53%	Special Education Parent	52%	Male	53%
Hispanic	55%	Income: 100k+	52%	Urban	52%	Urban	52%

Least Positive
(Not that + Not at all well)

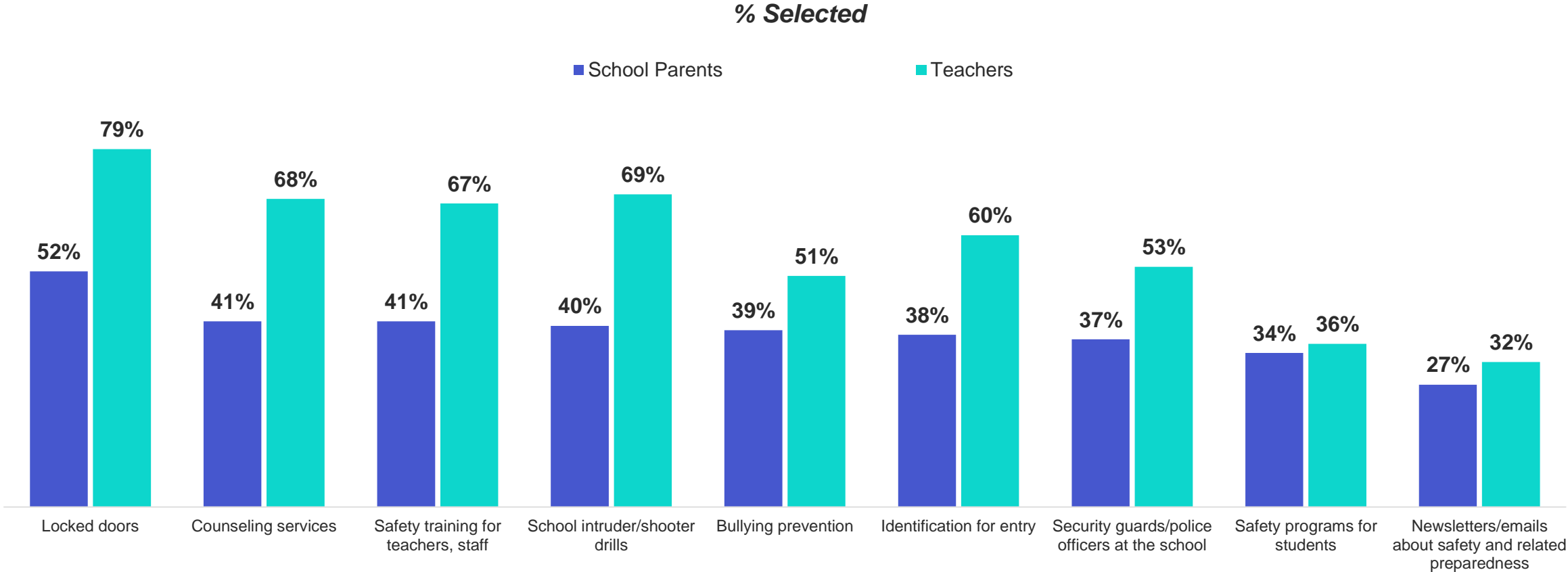
Mental Health		Guns		Bullying		Violent Behaviors	
A small Town	24%	Black	25%	A small town	28%	Special Education Parent	23%
Independent	24%	Northeast	25%	Independent	27%	Independent	22%
Suburban	23%	Private School Parent	24%	Special Education Parent	26%	A small town	22%
Home School Parent	22%	Rural	23%	West	26%	Black	21%
Special Education Parent	22%	Home School Parent	22%	Millennials	25%	Millennials	21%

Source: Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 21, 2022, among U.S. adults

Note: Results are composite numbers between those who were asked about their youngest child and those who were asked about their oldest child.

Teachers seem much more aware than parents regarding what their school does to maintain a safe environment.

Which of the following does your youngest/oldest child's school do to keep the school safe? Please select all that apply.
 Which of the following does your school do to keep the school safe? Please select all that apply.



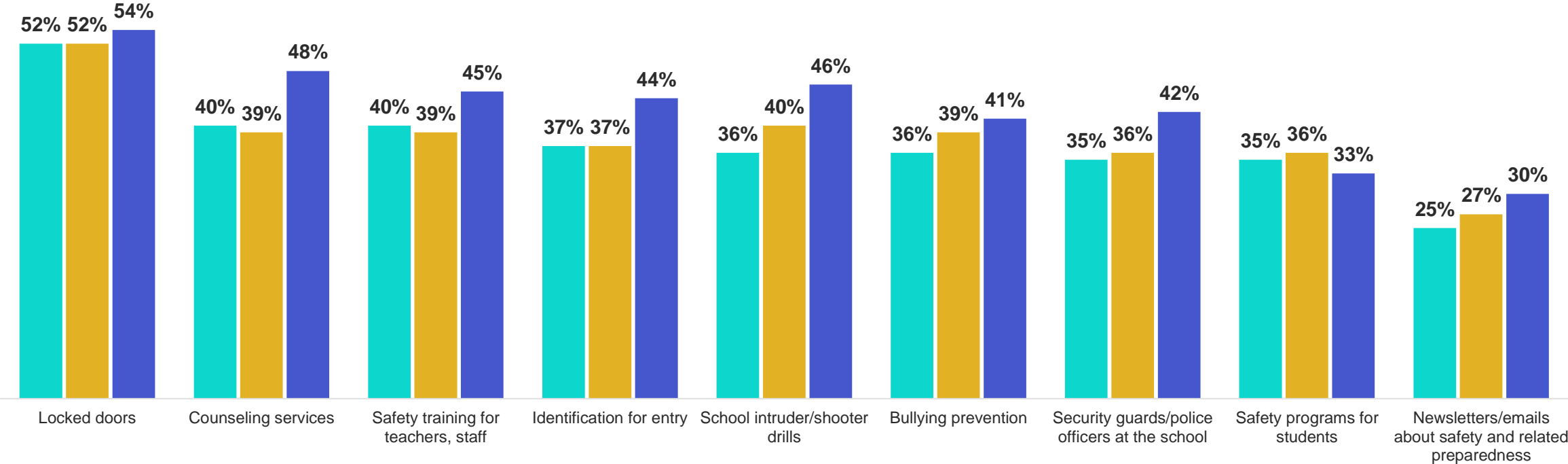
Source: Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 21, 2022, among U.S. adults
 Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 25, 2022, among U.S. Teachers
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Parents are more likely to indicate a wide range of safety measures are done at their children's high schools, compared to what parents of younger students say about their schools.

Which of the following does your youngest/oldest child's school do to keep the school safe? Please select all that apply.

% Selected

■ K-4 Parents ■ 5-8 Parents ■ 9-12 Parents

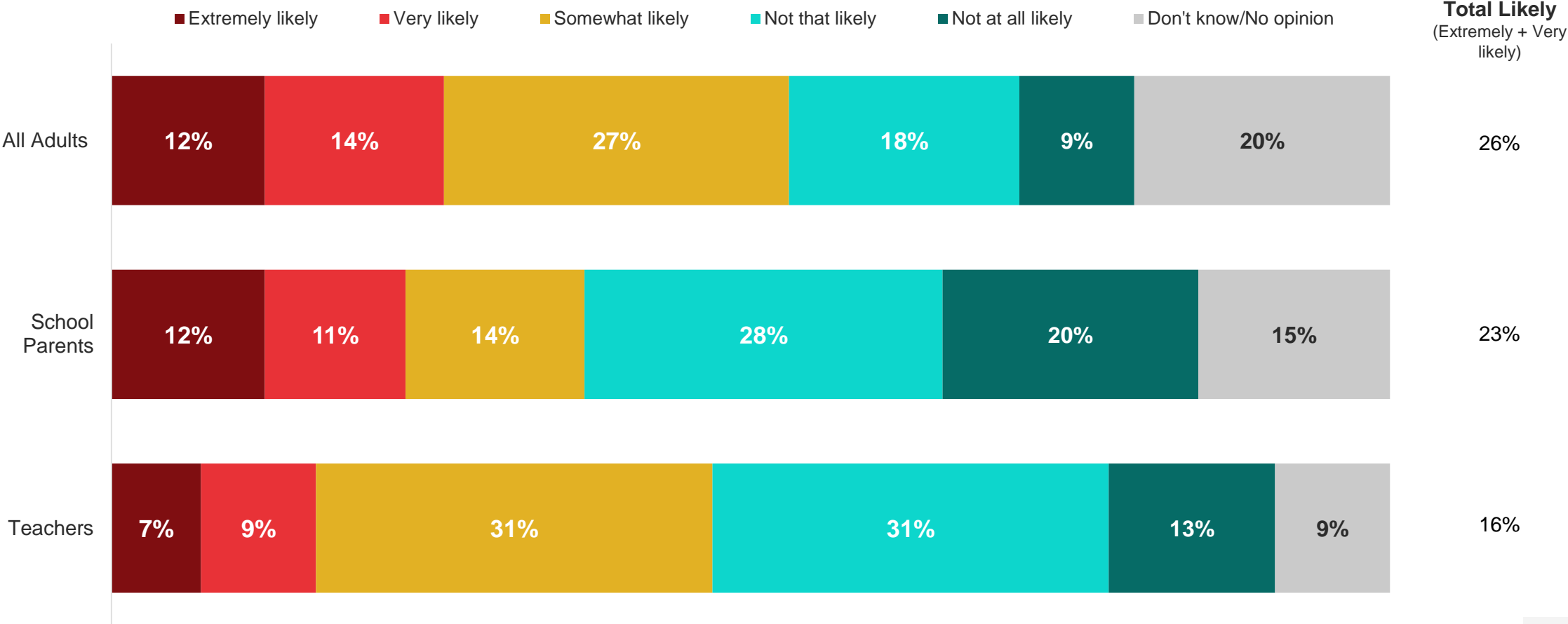


Source: Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 21, 2022, among U.S. adults

Note: Results are composite numbers between those who were asked about their youngest child and those who were asked about their oldest child.

Teachers are less likely than the public and parents to believe that gun violence could occur in a local school.

Based on your observations, how likely is it that there could be gun violence at a local school in your community in the next school year?



Source: Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 21, 2022, among U.S. adults
 Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 25, 2022, among U.S. Teachers

Democrats, those living in urban areas, and Black and Hispanic adults are most likely to believe gun violence could occur at a school in their local area. Republicans and those from small towns and rural areas are the least likely to believe such an event could occur next school year.

Based on your observations, how likely is it that there could be gun violence at a local school in your community in the next school year?

Top 5 Likely
(Extremely + Very likely)

School Parents	
Private School Parents	48%
Black	43%
Urban	35%
Democrat	35%
Special Education Parents	31%

Teachers	
Black	28%
Urban	21%
Hispanic	21%
Low Income < \$35K	21%
Democrat	20%

All Adults	
Hispanic	36%
GenZers	36%
Democrats	34%
Black	30%
Urban	30%

Top 5 Unlikely
(Not that + Not at all likely)

School Parents	
Midwest	57%
A Rural Area	56%
Republican	56%
Independent	55%
Suburban	52%

Teachers	
Private School Teachers	55%
A Rural Area	53%
K-4 Teachers	52%
Small Town	52%
Republican	50%

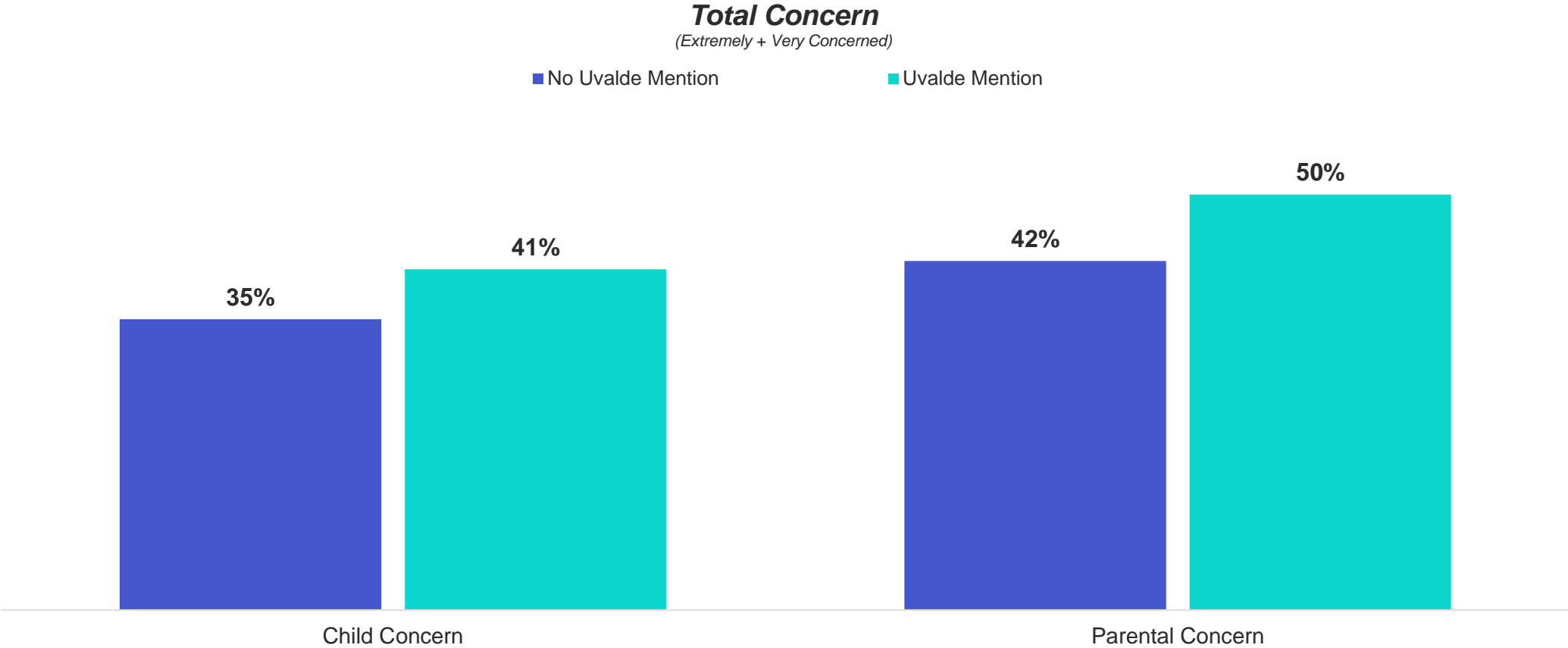
All Adults	
Republican	38%
Small Town	35%
A Rural Area	34%
Northeast	34%
Male	33%

Source: Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 21, 2022, among U.S. adults
Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 25, 2022, among U.S. Teachers

Parents express slightly more concern than their children about the possibility of a mass shooter at their school. Mentioning the school shooting in Uvalde, TX, has the effect of increasing concern among children and parents.

As a result of the recent mass shooting that occurred at a school in Uvalde, Texas, how concerned are you/is your youngest/oldest child about a violent intruder, like a mass shooter, entering your child's/their school?

How concerned are you/ is your youngest/oldest child about a violent intruder, like a mass shooter, entering your child's/their school?



Source: Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 21, 2022, among U.S. adults
Note: Results are composite numbers between those who were asked about their youngest child and those who were asked about their oldest child.

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SCHOOL SAFETY CLIMATE

OPINIONS ON SCHOOL SAFETY POLICIES

SURVEY PROFILE

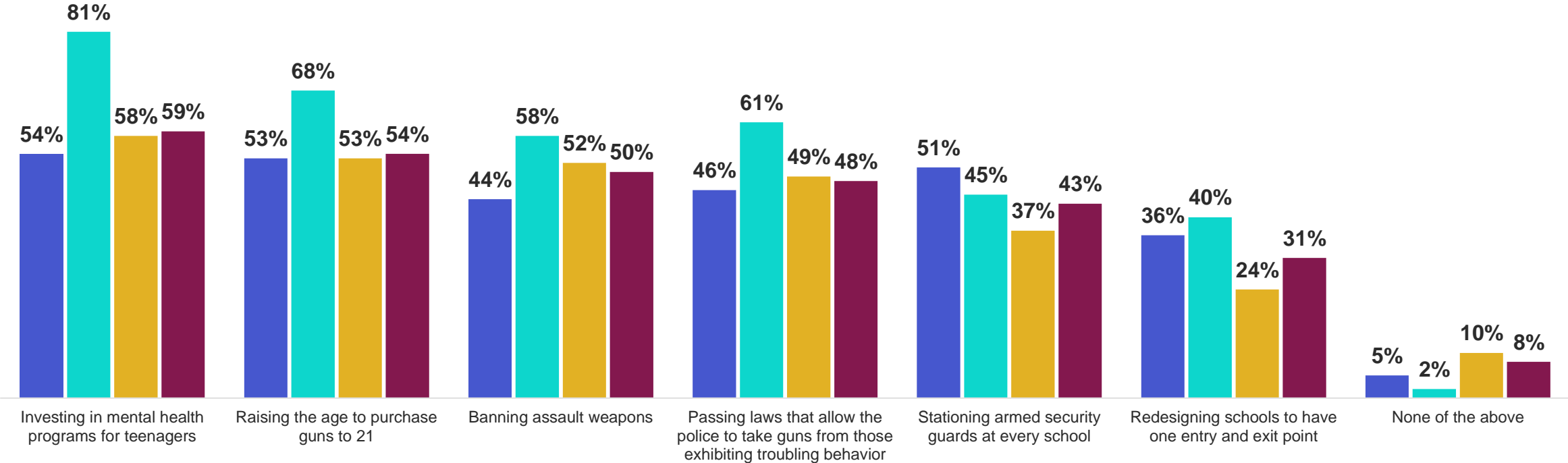


Teachers are more supportive of the following policies that could possibly reduce school shootings, especially investing in mental health programs.

Which of the following policies would you support to try and reduce the possibility of school shootings? Please select all that apply.

% Selected

■ School Parents ■ Teachers ■ Non-Parents ■ All Adults

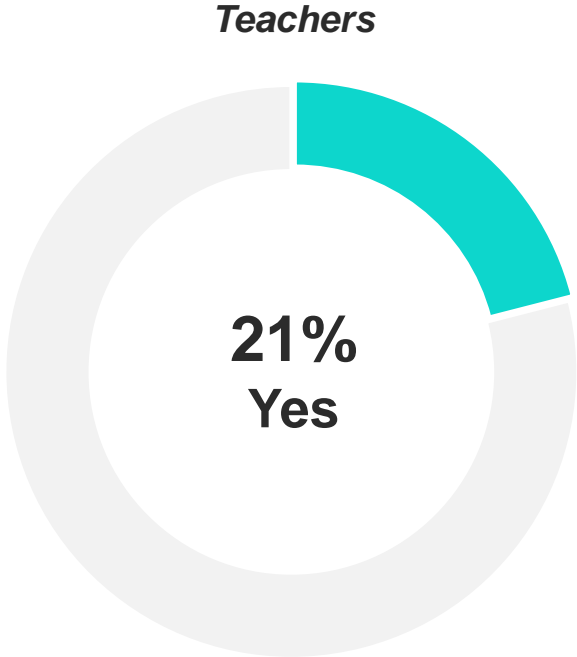
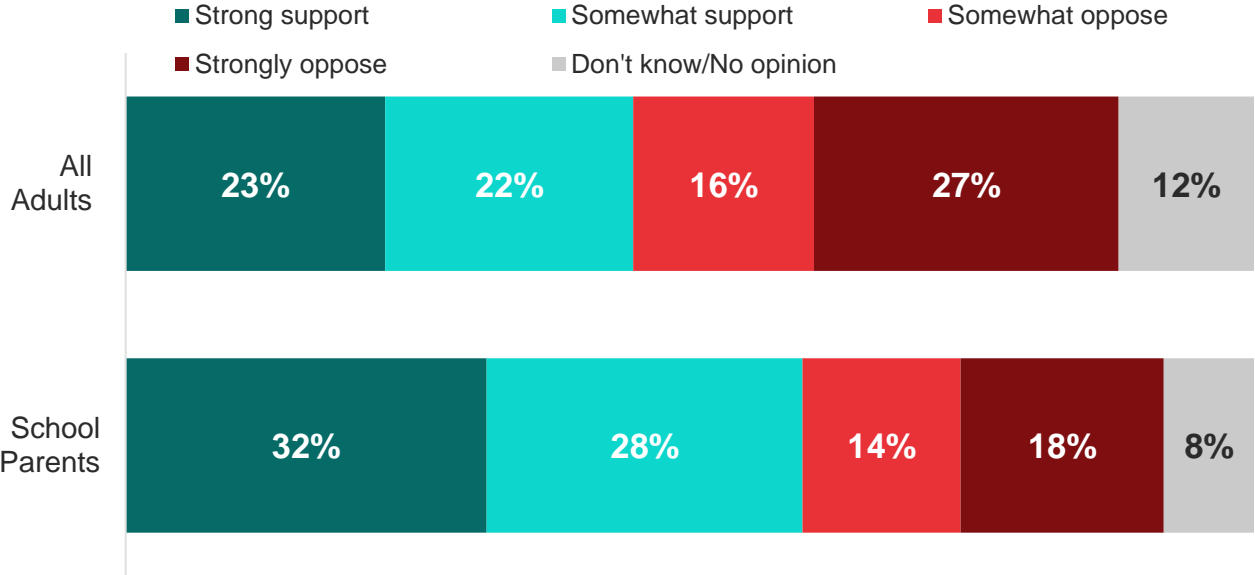


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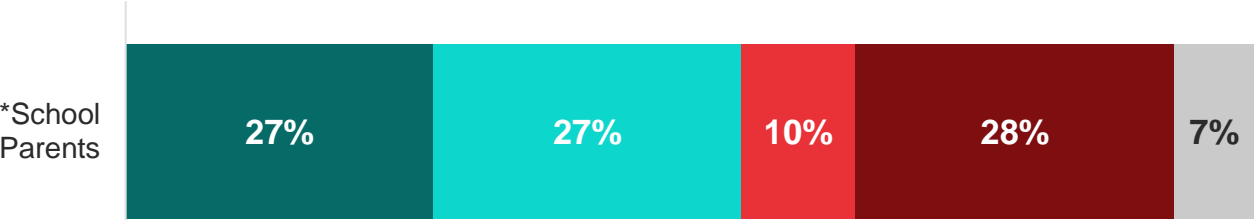
Parents are much more likely than the general public to support their school district allowing teachers/administrators to carry a firearm/gun in school. Only one out of five teachers would carry a gun in school if allowed.

Do you support or oppose your school district allowing teachers/administrators to carry a firearm/gun in school?

If your school district allowed you to carry a firearm/gun, would you?



Do you support or oppose your child's teacher carrying a firearm/gun in the classroom?



Source: Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 21, 2022, among U.S. adults
 Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 25, 2022 among U.S. Teachers
 *This question was asked June 25, 2022 – June 26, 2022, among 476 school parents with a measure of precision of 5.00.

Republicans, males, and those living in rural areas are more likely to support teachers carrying – or in the case of teachers, be willing to carry – a firearm/gun in school. Democrats and those with at least a college education are more likely to oppose such a policy.

Do you support or oppose your school district allowing teachers/administrators to carry a firearm/gun in school?

Do you support or oppose your child's teacher carrying a firearm/gun in the classroom?*

If your school district allowed you to carry a firearm/gun, would you?

Top Support (Strongly + Somewhat Support)

All Adults		School Parents		School Parents V2*	
Republican	65%	Rural	75%	Republican	75%
Rural	51%	Republican	71%	Rural	64%
Male	50%	Private School Parent	70%	Income: Under \$50k	63%
GenXers	50%	Educ: < College	65%	Millennials	61%
South	49%	Black Parents	64%	Educ: < College	61%

Top Oppose (Somewhat + Strongly Oppose)

All Adults		School Parents		School Parents V2*	
Democrat	61%	Educ: Bachelors or Postgrad	43%	Democrat	57%
Educ: Bachelors or Postgrad	55%	Baby Boomers	42%	Income: 100k+	51%
Non-Parents	48%	Suburban	40%	Educ: Bachelors or Postgrad	50%
Suburban	45%	Democrat	35%	GenXers	47%
High Income: \$75K+	45%	Hispanic Parents	39%	Suburban	44%

Top % Yes

Teachers	
Hispanic	36%
Republican	33%
Private School Teacher	28%
Male	26%
Rural	25%

Top % No

Teachers	
Democrat	81%
Baby Boomers	74%
High School Teachers	71%
Urban	68%
Public School Teachers	68%

Source: Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 21, 2022, among U.S. adults
 Survey conducted June 15, 2022 – June 25, 2022 among U.S. Teachers
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SURVEY PROFILE



Survey Profile, 1

Dates	June 15-26, 2022
Survey Data Collection & Quality Control	Morning Consult
Survey Sponsor	EdChoice
Population	General Population (Adults, Age 18+) K-12 Education Teachers
Sampling Frame	National sample of adults (age 18+) living in the United States, including the District of Columbia, with an oversample of school parents National sample of K-12 teachers (age 18+) living in the United States, including the District of Columbia
Sampling Method	Gen Pop: Non-Probability, Stratified (based on Age, Gender) Teachers: Non-Probability, Stratified (based on Gender, Years of Experience)
Mode	Online Survey
Language	English

Survey Profile, 2

Survey Time	Gen Pop Median = 9.40 minutes, Oversample Median = 10.52 minutes, Teachers Median = 11.34
Sample Size	N = 2,198 General Population N = 1,028 Total School Parents N = 1,000 Teachers N = 476 Total School Parents (Omnibus study)
Quotas	Gen Pop: Age, Gender Teachers: Age, Years of Teaching Experience
Weighting	Gen Pop: Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Education, Census Region Teachers: Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Teaching Experience
Measure of Precision (adjusted for weighting)	± 2.39 percentage points (Gen Pop), ± 3.74 percentage points (Oversample), ± 3.22 percentage points (Teachers)
Participation Rate	26.27% (Gen Pop), 9.44% (Oversample), 4.20% (Teachers)
Methods Page	https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology/
Project Contact	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

Demographic Groups with Unweighted Sample Sizes

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Hispanic	190
Non-Hispanic White	1629
Black	238
Other	129
Generation Z	173
Millennial	676
Generation X	291
Boomers	846
Male	825
Female	1373
< College	1,465
College +	733
Northeast	356
Midwest	446
South	921
West	475

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Total School Parents*	1,028
K-4 Parents*	591
5-8 Parents*	441
9-12 Parents*	351
Teachers**	1,000
Non-Parents	1,016
Liberal	616
Moderate	666
Conservative	719
Democrat	778
Independent	613
Republican	649
Urban	529
Suburban	1,002
Small Town	241
Rural	426
Low Income <\$35K	894
Middle Income \$35K to <\$75K	770
High Income \$75K+	534

*Denotes the sample came from school parents

** Denotes the sample came from teachers

WHO WE ARE

 **MORNING CONSULT**[®]

Morning Consult is a global data intelligence company delivering insights on what people think in real time.

By surveying tens of thousands across the globe every day, Morning Consult is unmatched in scale and speed: It determines the true measure of what people think and how their decisions impact business, politics and the economy.

Industry leaders rely on Morning Consult's proprietary technology and analysis for real-time intelligence to transform information into a competitive advantage.

 **CHOICE**

EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our mission is to advance educational freedom and choice for all as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. We are committed to understanding and pursuing a K–12 education ecosystem that empowers every family to choose the learning environment that fits their children's needs best.

Learn more at: [EDCHOICE.ORG](https://edchoice.org)





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