

## **KEY FINDINGS**

- In October, half of Americans said that K-12 education is on the wrong track nationwide. About half of parents think K-12 education is on the wrong track at the national level, though they are more positive about their local schools.
- 2. School parents place the most trust in teachers, principals, and other parents to make good decisions about education. They trust state legislatures and governors the least.
- 3. Parents are much more likely than other adults to have participated in civic engagement activities related to K-12 education in the past year.
- 4. When it comes to voting in federal elections, adults and school parents care most about economic issues. School parents place much higher importance on education issues than other adults. Similar to federal elections, both adults and parents care most about economic issues when voting in state elections. Over half of school parents see education issues as a top issue to vote on in state elections.
- 5. More than two-thirds of the general public and school parents believe teacher salaries in their state should increase, though they are less supportive than teachers.
- 6. Roughly 60% of parents feel that their children should be able to have cell phones in schools. But they are much less likely to support cell phone use in the classroom.
- 7. More than one-third of parents say their children are on social media at least "very often." Over half of high school parents say the same about their kids.
- 8. The general public and school parents greatly underestimate per-student spending in public schools. They both are much less likely to say their state's per-student spending is "too low" when given a publicly reported statistic by 18 points each.
- 9. Overall support levels for choice-based policies remain high among school parents and the general public. Small increases were observed in October.
  - Education savings accounts (ESAs) 74% / 68%
  - School vouchers 68% / 60%
  - Charter schools 69% / 62%
  - Open enrollment 73% / 66%

#### Methodology

This poll was conducted between October 10-13, 2024 among a sample of 2,253 Adults. 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 2.33 percentage points..

AGENDA

## **VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION**

## SCHOOLING AND EXPERIENCES

K-12 CHOICE POLICIES

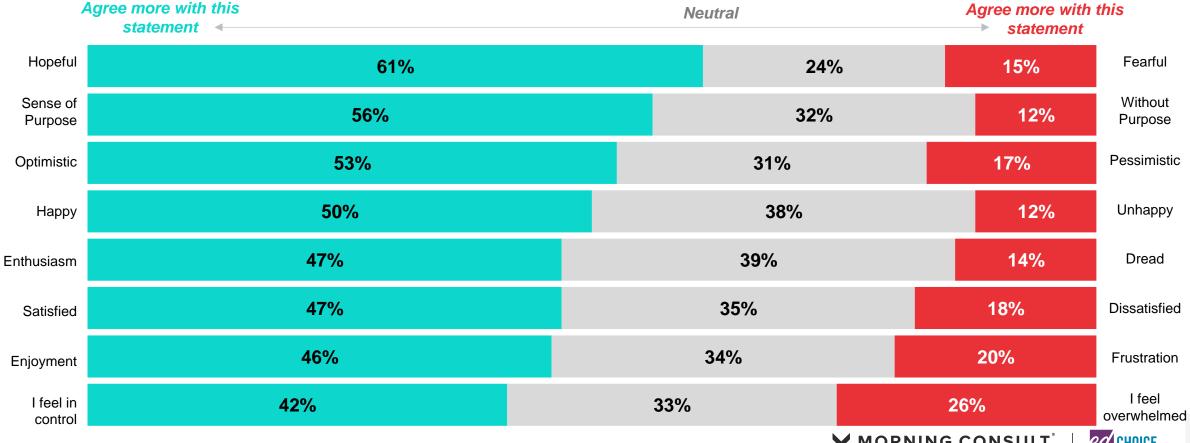
SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



Nearly two-thirds of parents feel "hopeful" about the future, and at least half feel "a sense of purpose," "optimistic," and "happy." Parents are much more likely than non-parents to have a positive outlook.

When thinking about the future, please select which of these words best describes how you feel right now?

#### School Parents



Non-Parents

Hopeful Sense of Purpose

Optimistic

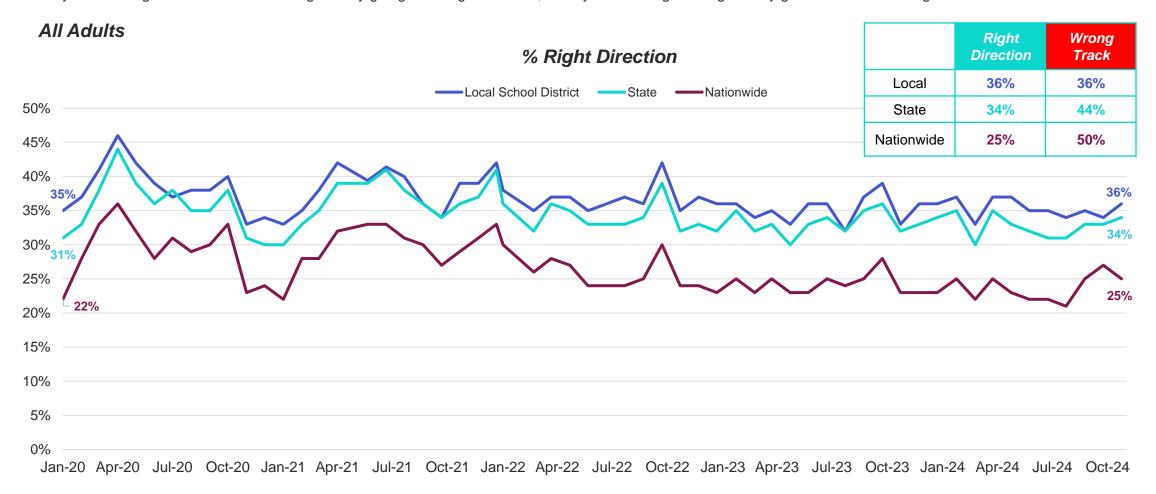
52%

47%

43%

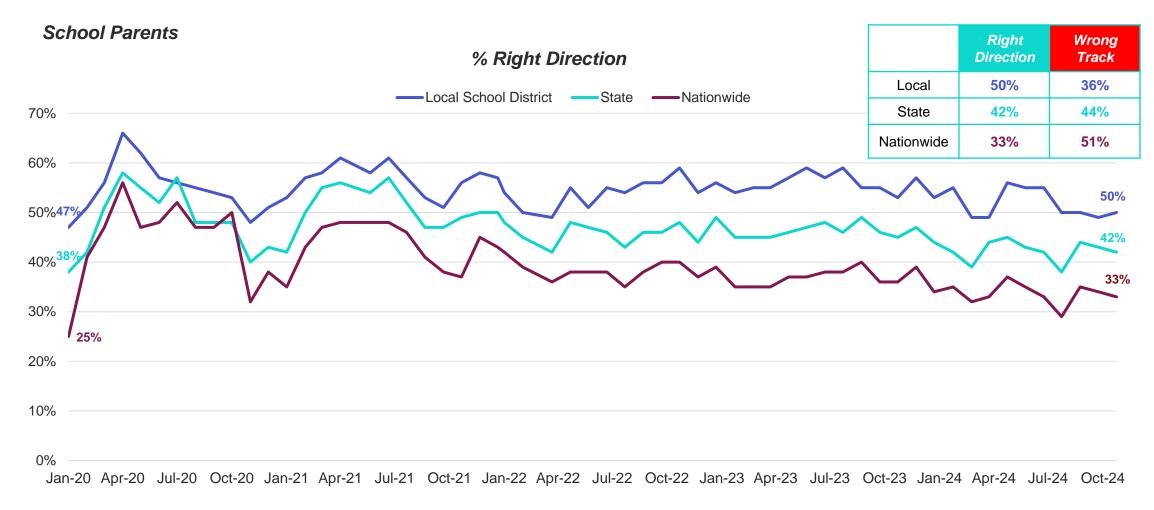
### In October, half of Americans said that K-12 education is on the wrong track nationwide.

Do you feel things in K-12 Education are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?



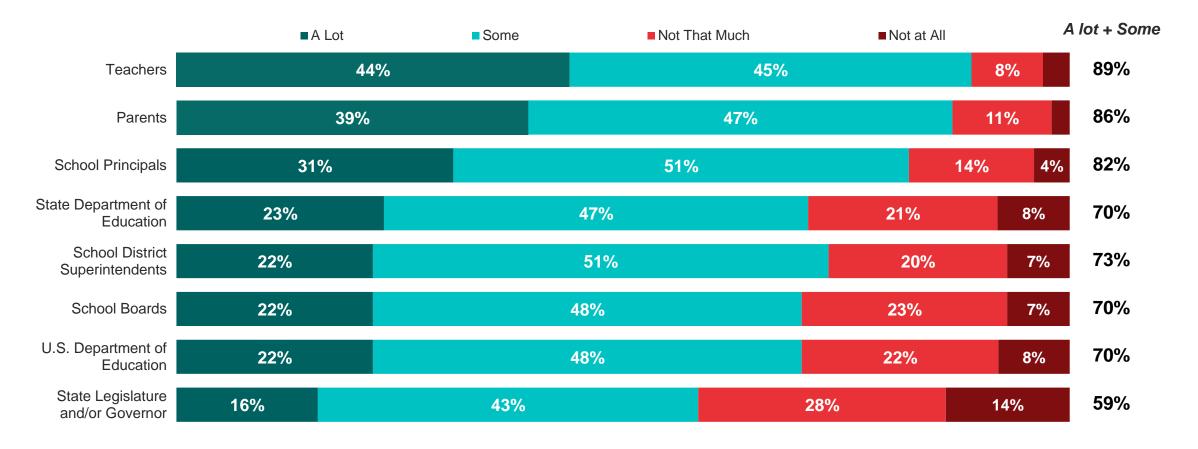
About half of parents think K-12 education is on the wrong track at the national level, though they are more positive about their local schools.

Do you feel things in K-12 Education are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things have generally gotten off on the wrong track?



# School parents place the most trust in teachers, principals, and themselves to make good decisions about education. They trust state legislatures and governors the least.

How much, if at all, do you trust the following to make good decisions about K-12 education?



# Americans are most likely to say core academic subjects are extremely important for grades K-8. They see skills for future employment as extremely important for grades 9-12.

What do you believe should be the main purpose of education during Kindergarten through 8th grade/High School? In your opinion, how important is it for students to learn...

#### All Adults

### % Extremely Important

Grades K-8		Grades 9-12	
	Average % selected Extremely Important 46%	Average % selected Extremely Important 54%	
	Core academic subjects (58%)	Skills for future employment (64%)	
	- Ġ- To become independent thinkers (50%)	© Core academic subjects (60%)	
	Socialization (49%)	- ˙Δ΄- To become independent thinkers (60%)	
	How to be good citizens (49%)	How to be good citizens (56%)	
	Skills for future employment (49%)	Socialization (52%)	
	Values, moral character, religious virtues (43%)	Values, moral character, religious virtues (48%)	
	To fix social problems (27%)	To fix social problems (35%)	

School parents are most likely to say core academic subjects are extremely important for K-8 education. They see skills for future employment as the most important purpose of high school.

What do you believe should be the main purpose of education during Kindergarten through 8th grade/High School? In your opinion, how important is it for students to learn...

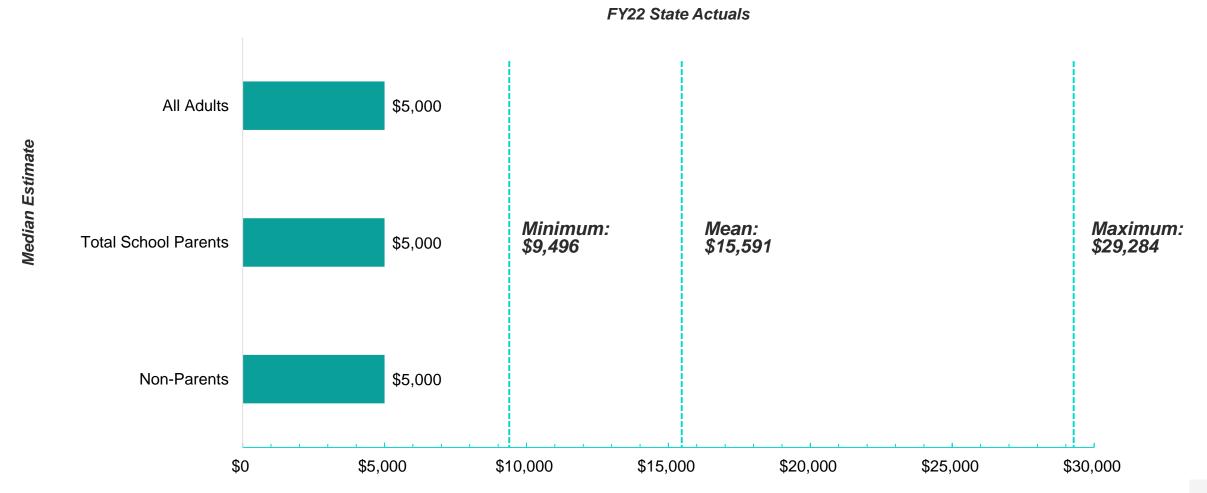
#### **School Parents**

### % Extremely Important

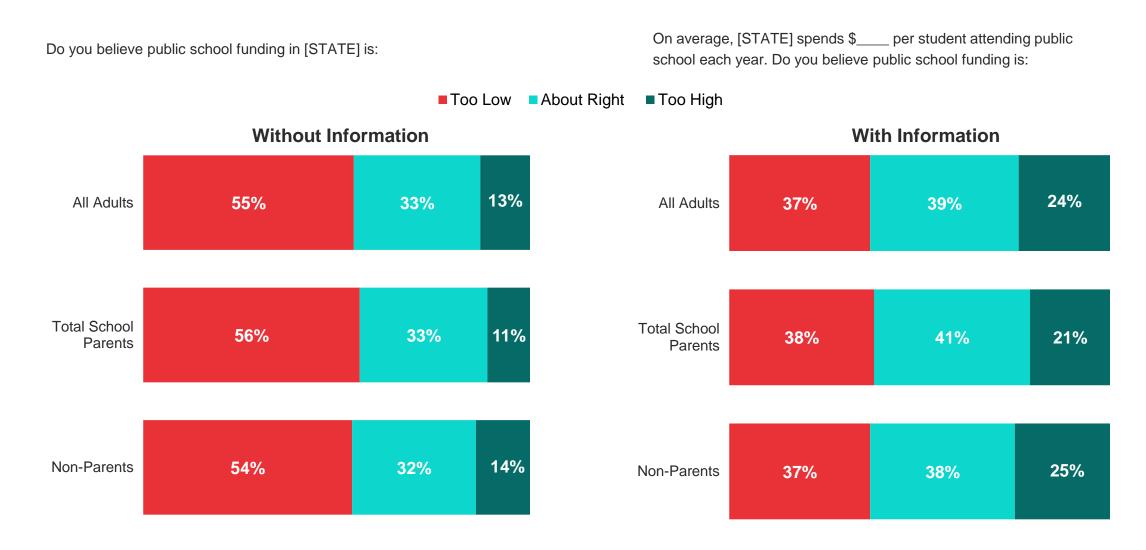
Grades K-8	Grades 9-12	
Average % selected Extremely Important 48%	Average % selected Extremely Important 51%	
Core academic subjects (55%)	Skills for future employment (61%)	
- ˙Δ΄- To become independent thinkers (53%)	-Ò́- To become independent thinkers (58%)	
Skills for future employment (52%)	Core academic subjects (58%)	
Socialization (52%)	How to be good citizens (53%)	
How to be good citizens (52%)	Socialization (48%)	
√ Values, moral character, religious virtues (45%)	√ Values, moral character, religious virtues (46%)	
To fix social problems (28%)	To fix social problems (32%)	

# The general public and school parents greatly underestimate per-student spending in public schools.

How much do you think is spent per year on each student in your state's public schools? Your estimate of the state average—to the nearest thousand dollars—will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.



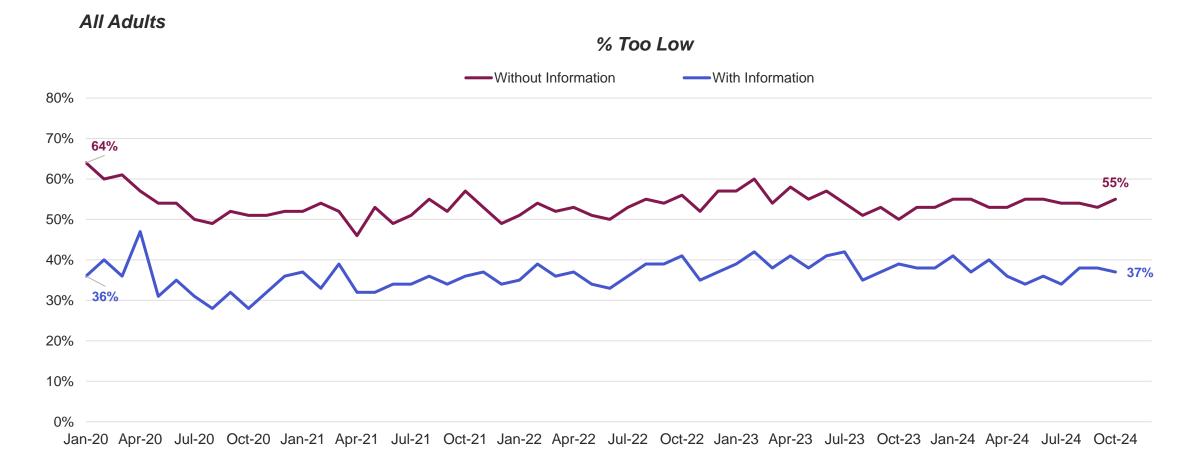
The general public and school parents are much less likely to say their state's per-student spending is "too low" when given a publicly reported statistic – by 18 points each.



## Providing respondents with a government-reported spending statistic consistently decreases their tendency to say school spending is "too low."

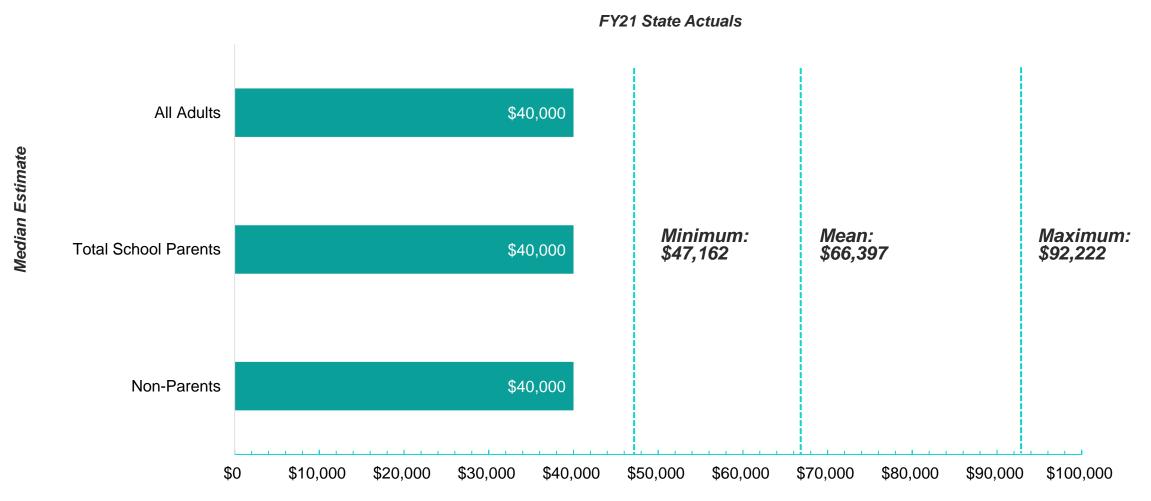
Do you believe public school funding in [STATE] is:

On average, [STATE] spends \$\_\_\_\_ per student attending public school each year. Do you believe public school funding is:

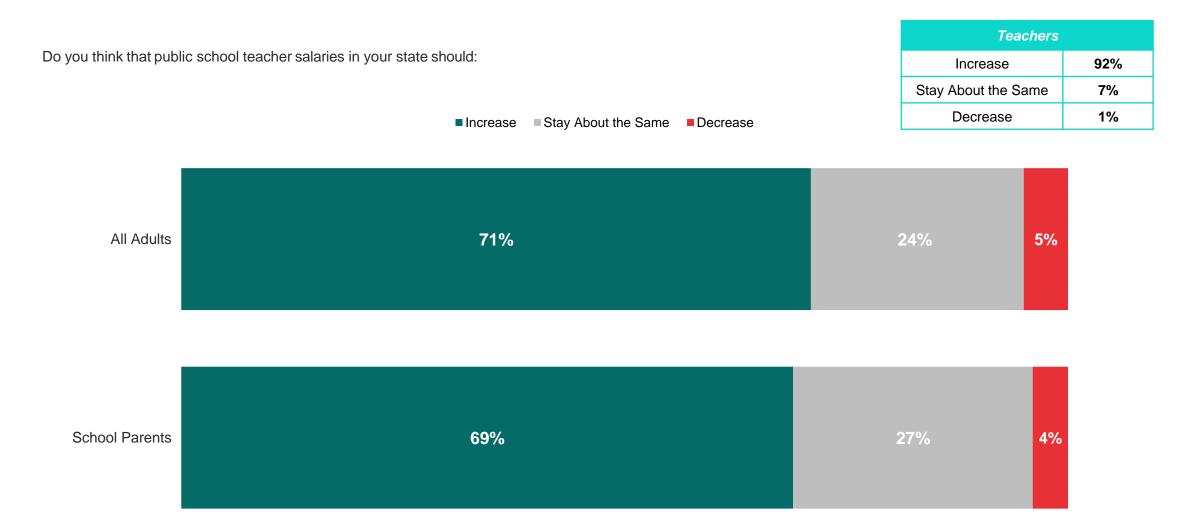


The general public and school parents underestimate the average teacher salary across states.

How much do you think is the average teacher salary in your state's **public schools**?

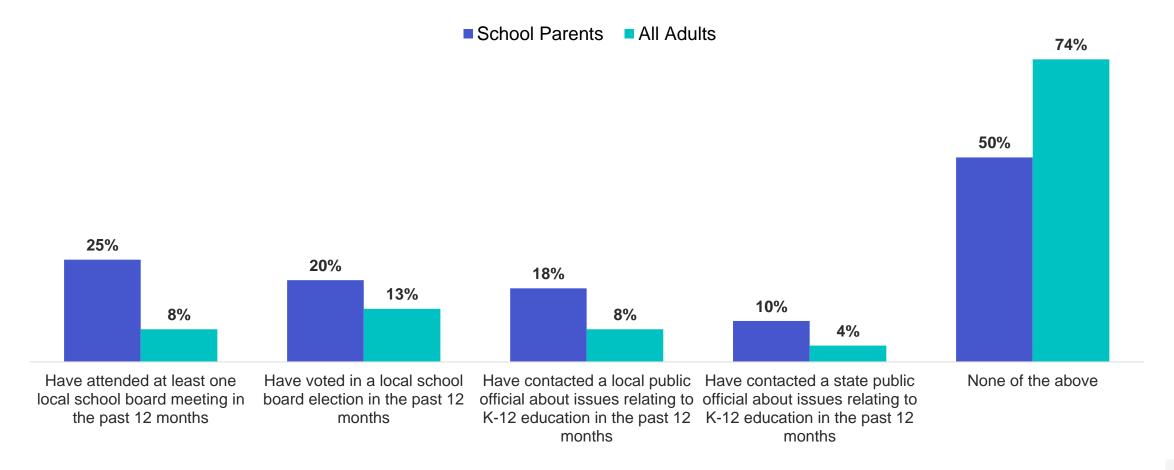


More than two-thirds of the general public and school parents believe teacher salaries in their state should increase, though they are less supportive than teachers themselves.



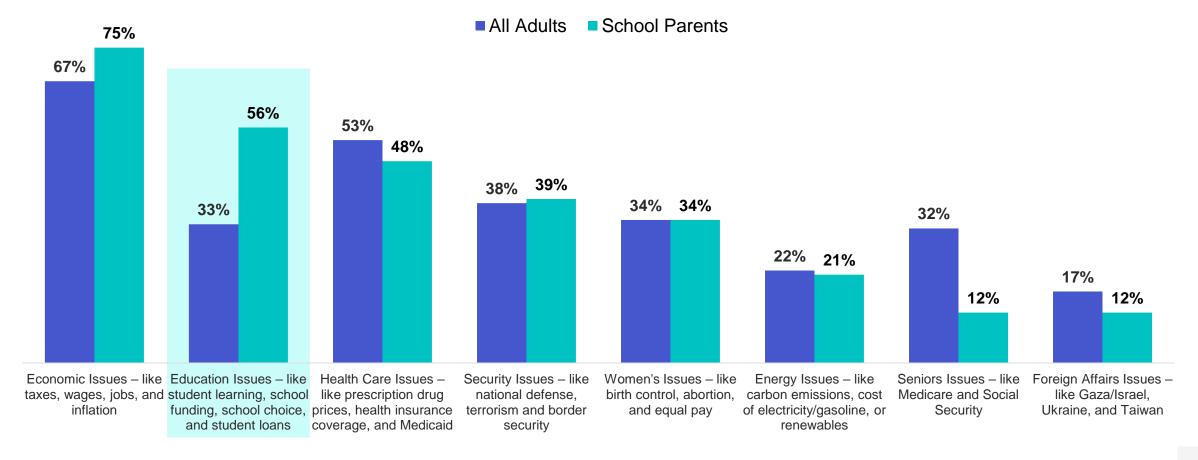
Parents are much more likely than other adults to have participated in civic engagement related to K-12 education in the past year.

Which of the following apply to you? Select all that apply.



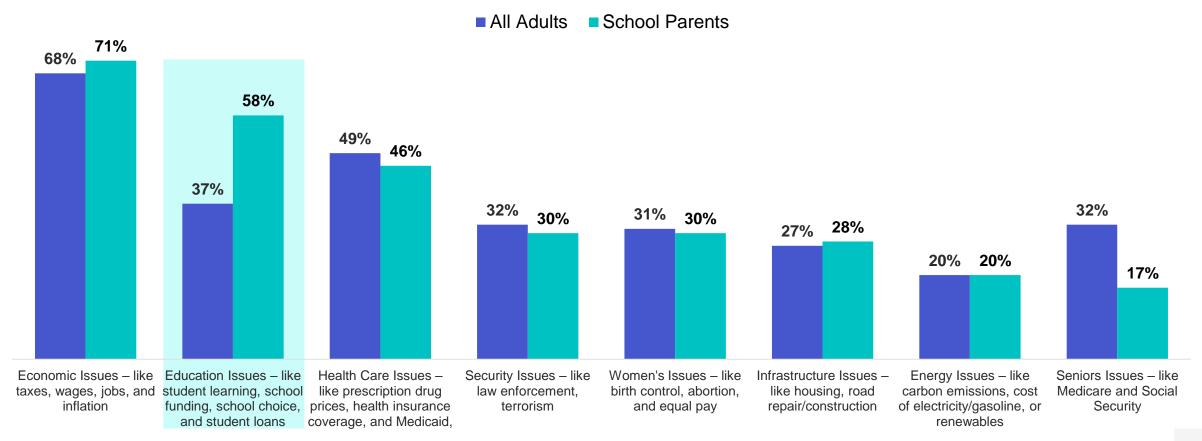
When it comes to voting in federal elections, adults and school parents care most about economic issues. School parents place much higher importance on education issues than adults.

Now, thinking about your vote, what would you say are the top 3 issues on your mind when you cast your vote for federal offices such as U.S. Senate or Congress?



Similar to federal elections, both adults and parents care most about economic issues when voting in state elections. Over half of school parents see education issues as a top issue to vote on in state elections.

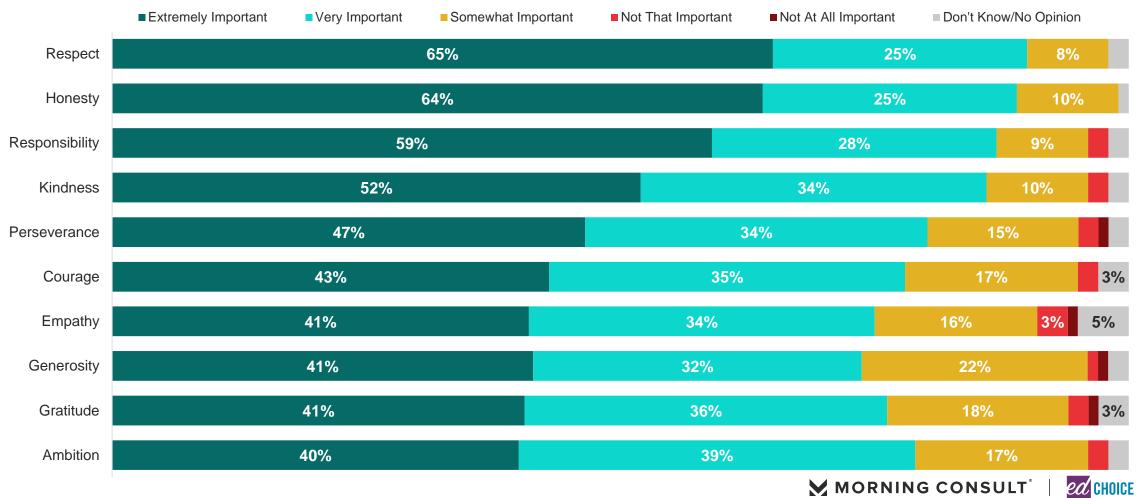
Now, thinking about your vote, what would you say are the top 3 issues on your mind when you cast your vote for state offices such as Governor or the State legislature?



# School parents think it is most important that their children's schools instill values of respect, honesty, and responsibility in their students.

For this current school year, to what extent is it important that your child/children's school emphasizes the following values for students?

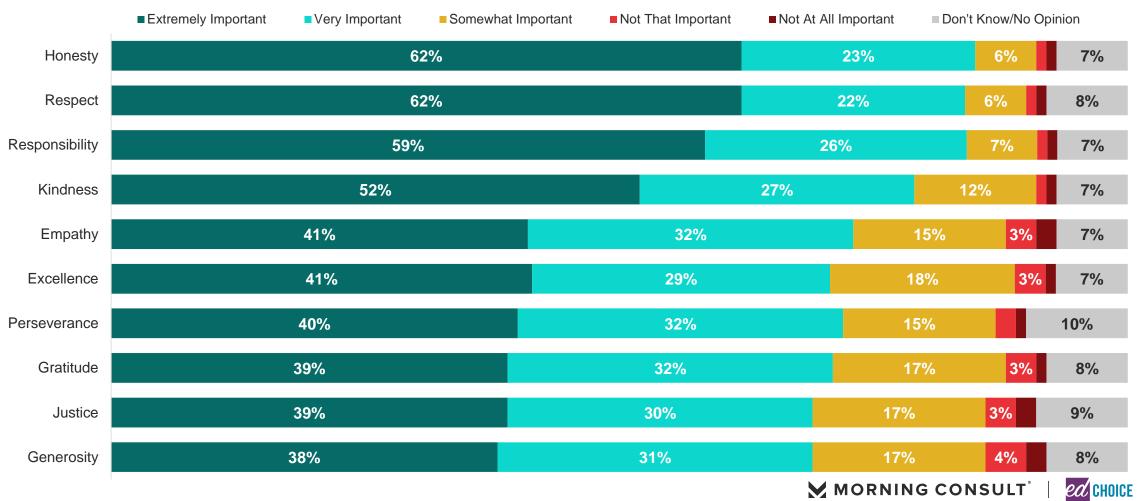
### School Parents - Top 10 Values



## Similarly, non-school parents think it is most important that K-12 schools emphasize the same three values for their students.

For this current school year, to what extent is it important that schools in K-12 education emphasize the following values for students?

### Non-School Parents - Top 10 Values



AGENDA

## **VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION**

### SCHOOLING AND EXPERIENCES

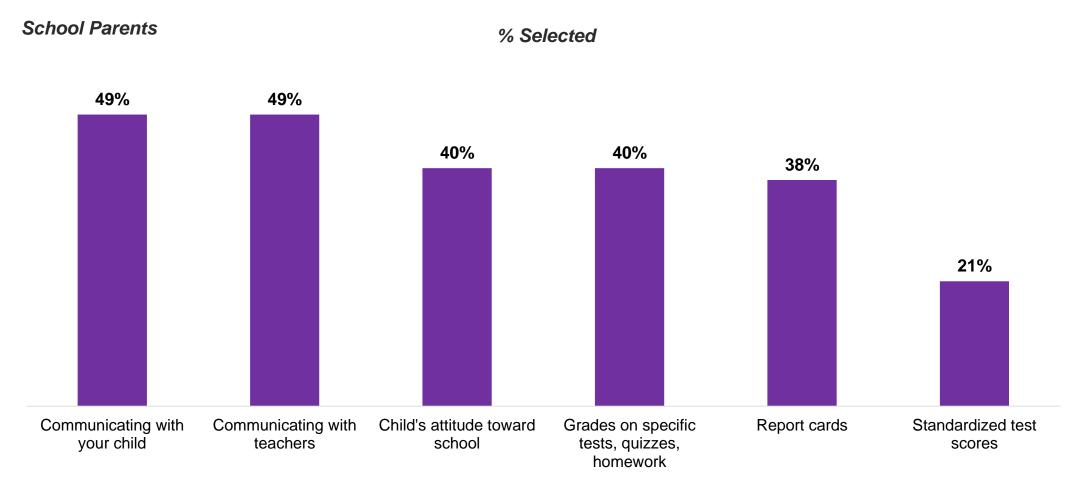
K-12 CHOICE POLICIES

SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



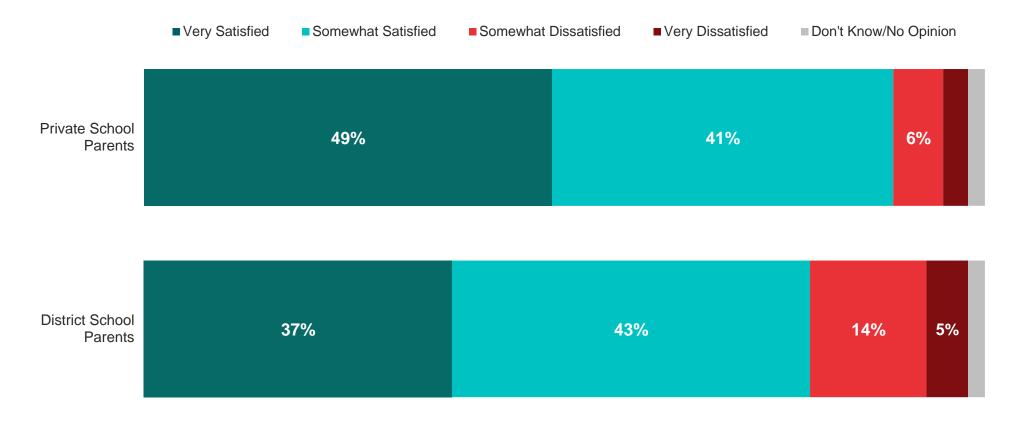
Parents are most likely to measure success of a school year based on their communications with their child and teachers. Standardized test scores are the least important metric.

Which of the following are the most important to know if your youngest/oldest child's school year is a successful one?



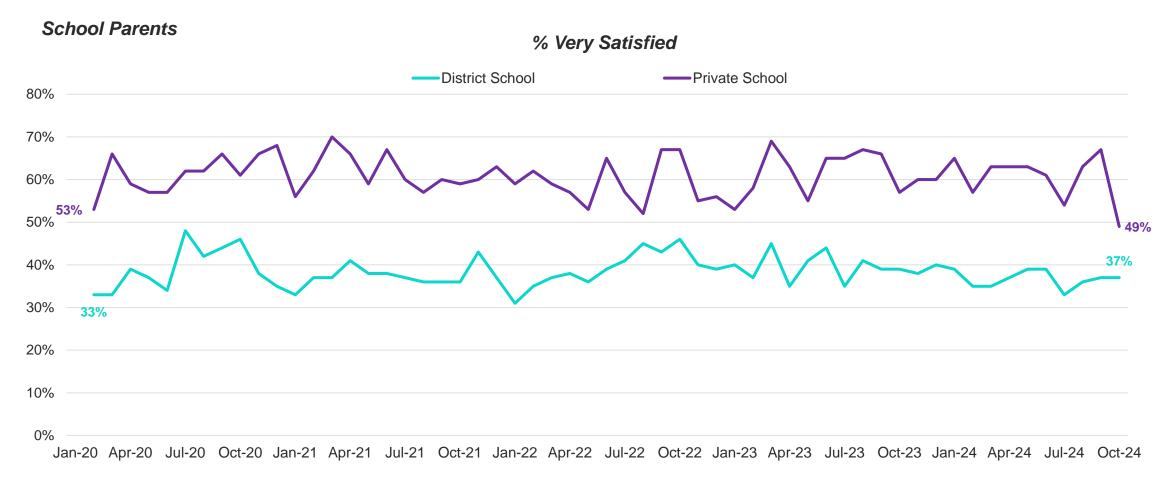
# Private school parents are more likely to say that they are "very satisfied" with their child's schooling experiences than district school parents.

To what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your child's/children's experiences with the following types of schooling?



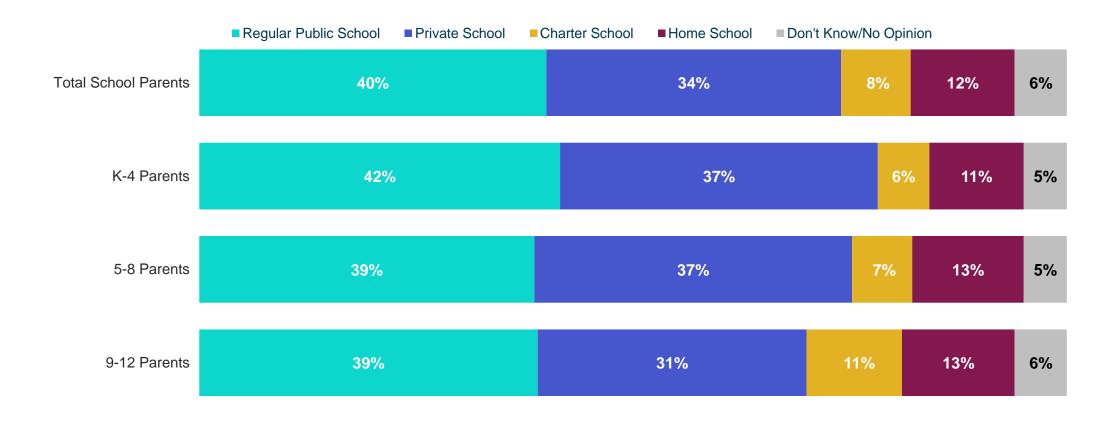
Strong satisfaction among private school parents has fallen sharply since last month, but their total satisfaction remains high.

To what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your child's/children's experiences with the following types of schooling?



Parents have a diverse range of schooling preferences. By a small margin, parents favor regular public schools over private schools.

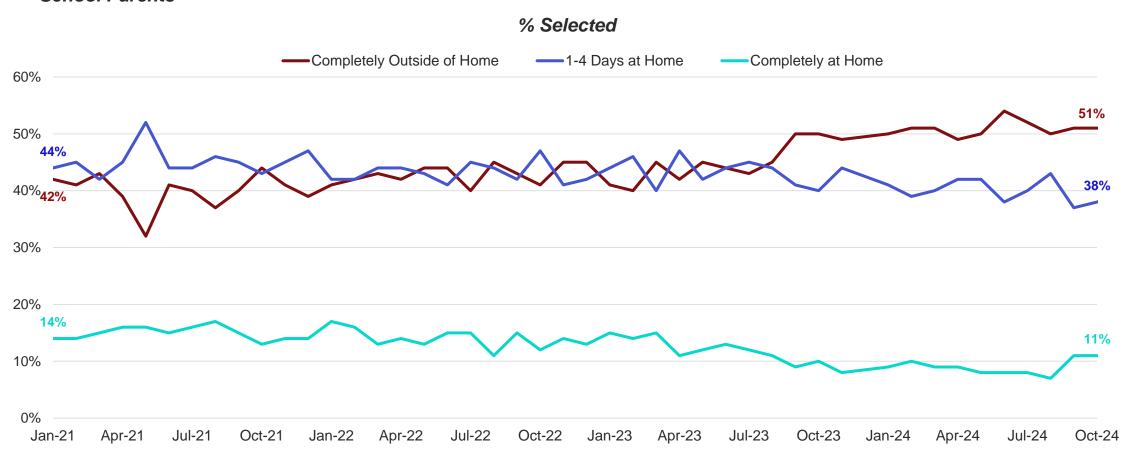
If given the option, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?





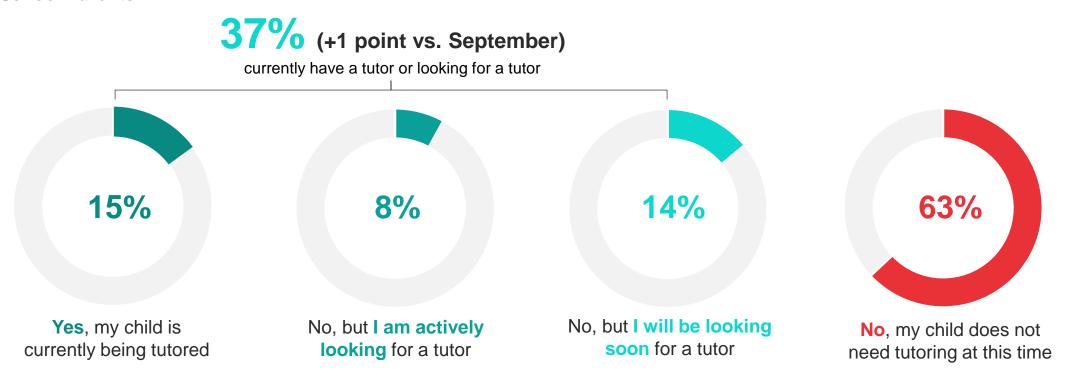
Roughly half of parents would prefer having their child learn at home at least one day per week, while half say they want all schooling to occur outside the home.

In order to provide the best education for your child/children, what would be your preferred weekly schedule and location between schooling at home with a parent/teacher/tutor, or outside the home?



In October, over one-third of parents were currently using a tutor or were interested in finding tutoring for their children – roughly level with the September survey.

Is your child getting tutoring outside of regular school hours this school year?



# In October, interest in tutoring was highest among special education and special needs parents. It was lowest among small-town parents and parents living in the Midwest.

Is your child getting tutoring outside of regular school hours this school year?

#### **School Parents**

Groups most likely to be looking for / already having tutoring

Groups least likely to be looking for / already having tutoring

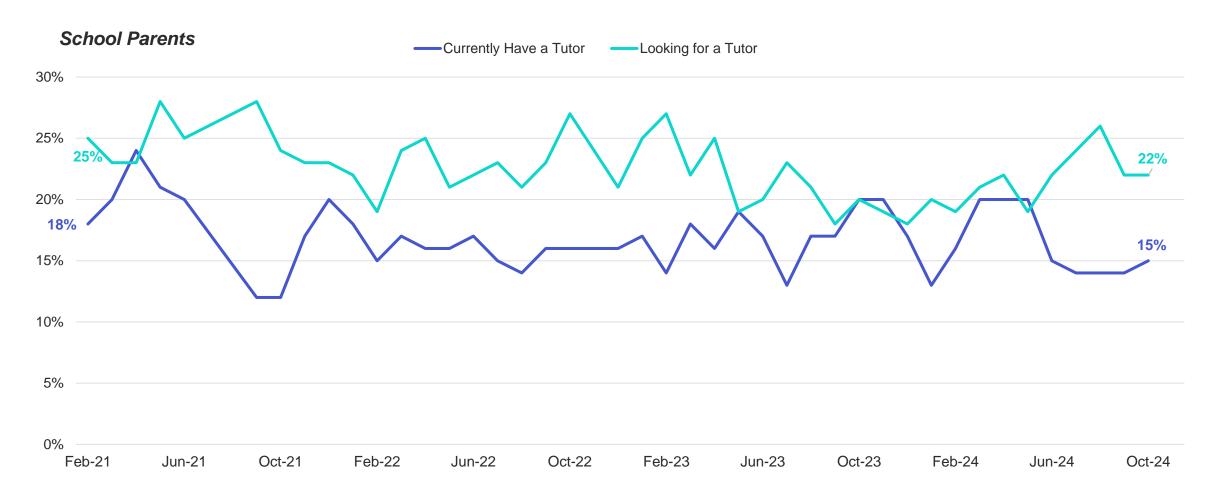
School	37%
Parents	31%

Special Education	55%
Special Needs	53%
Black	47%
Liberal/Progressive	46%
Democrat	45%
Education: Bachelors+	44%
West	44%

Rural		32%
Low Income: <\$50	Ok	31%
Education: <colle< td=""><td>ge</td><td>31%</td></colle<>	ge	31%
Conservative		30%
Republican		30%
Midwest		26%
Small town		23%

# The percentage of school parents interested in a tutor for their child has remained consistent after months of steady increases.

Is your child getting tutoring outside of regular school hours this school year?



28

# In October, the amount parents were willing to spend on tutoring rose to around \$315 per child/month.

What would you be able and willing to spend, on a monthly basis, per child for tutoring outside of school hours?

#### **School Parents**

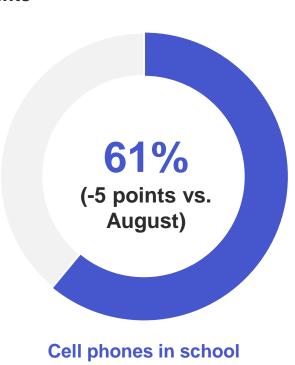
among those interested in or participating in a tutoring



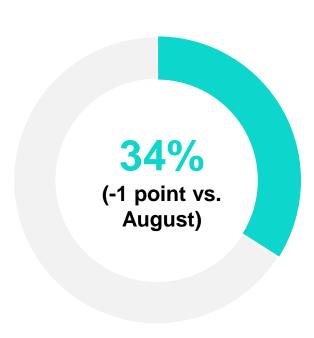
Roughly 60% of parents feel that their children should be able to have cell phones in schools. But they are much less likely to support cell phone use in the classroom.

When it comes to cell phones, do you feel child/children should be allowed to have...





Total % "Yes"



**Cell phones in the classroom** 

School parents report that cell phone access has had the most positive impact on their child's relationships, but more negative impact on their health and academics.

What kind of impact do you think cell phone access has had on your child in each of the following?

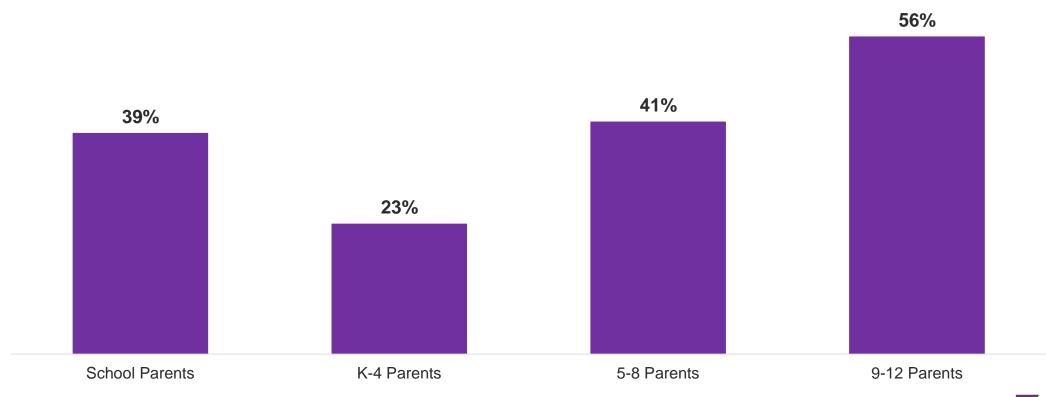


More than one-third of parents say their children are on social media at least "very often." Over half of high school parents say the same about their kids.

#### **School Parents**

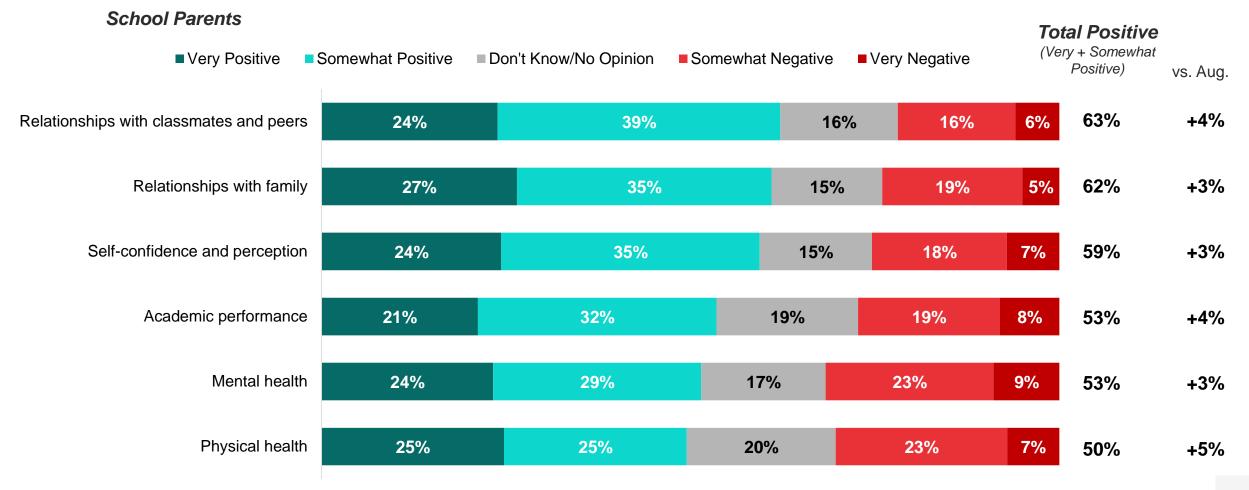
Overall, how often would you say your child/children spends on social media?

**Total Often**(Extremely Often + Very Often)



# School parents report that social media access has the most positive impact on their child's relationships but the most negative impact on their health.

What kind of impact do you think social media access has had on your child in each of the following?



AGENDA

## **VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION**

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K-12 CHOICE POLICIES

SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



## **Policy Descriptions Used**

### **Education Savings Accounts**

An "education savings account" in K–12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses.

### **Charter Schools**

Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations.

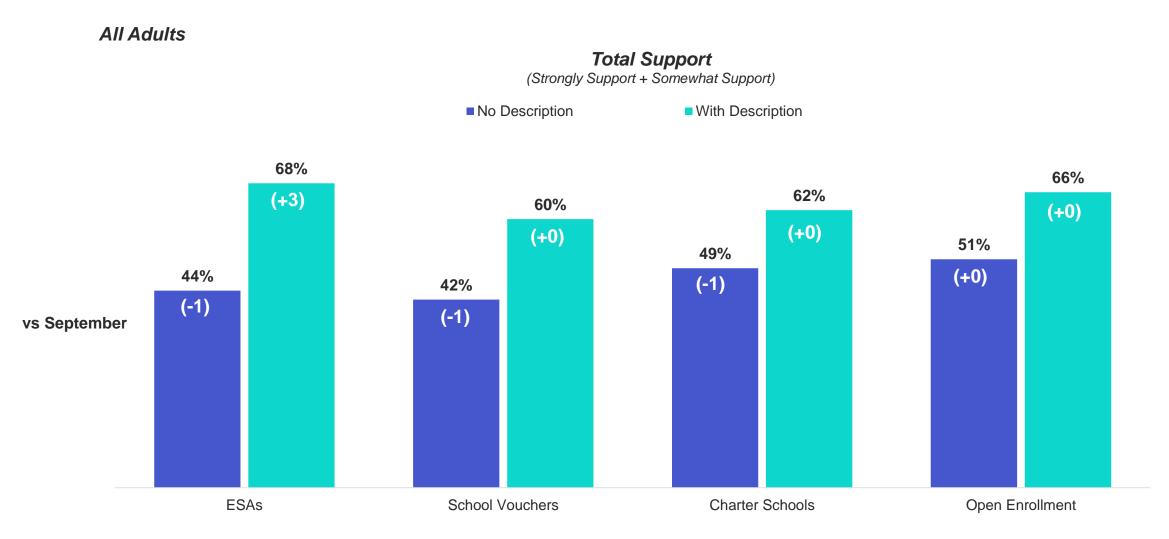
### **School Vouchers**

A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school.

### **Open Enrollment**

An "open enrollment" policy in K-12 education allows a student enrolled in public school to select and transfer to a public school of their choice, rather than attending a school based on where they live. A student can be allowed to transfer to a public school in another district (called "INTER-district"). The policy is based on a first come, first served process until districts are no longer able to accommodate new students.

Support for ESAs, school vouchers, charter schools, and open enrollment is much higher when given a brief description.



# In October, support for ESAs was highest among liberal/progressive adults and middle-income adults. Support was lowest among those living in small towns and rural areas.

An "education savings account" in K–12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?

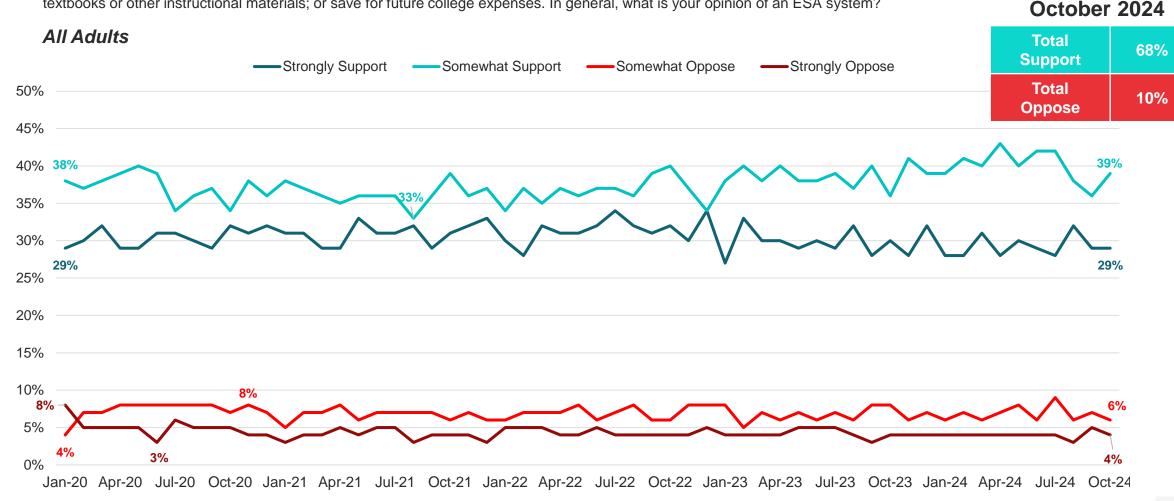
#### ESA Support, Among All Adults

Public	68%
Support	00%

Groups most support	ive	Groups least supp	oortive
Liberal/Progressive	75%	Black	67%
Middle Income: \$50k to \$100k	75%	Independent	65%
Education: Bachelors+	74%	Female	65%
School Parents	74%	Education: <college< td=""><td>65%</td></college<>	65%
Democrat	73%	Midwest	65%
Conservative	73%	Low Income: <\$50k	64%
Republican	72%	Rural	63%
Urban	71%	Small town	63%

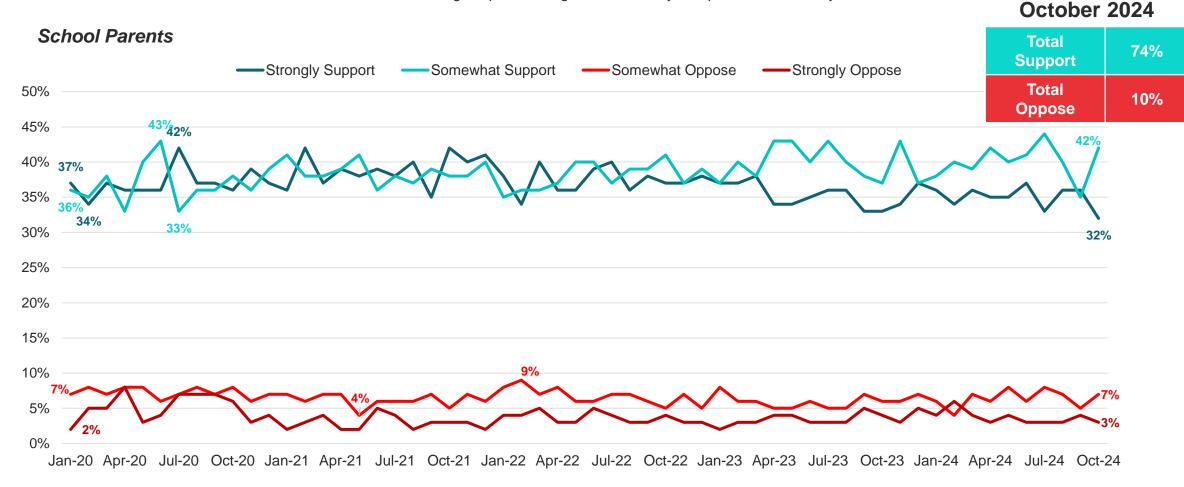
## The public is nearly seven times as likely to support ESAs than oppose them, as Americans' overall support of ESAs increased in October.

An "education savings account" in K–12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?



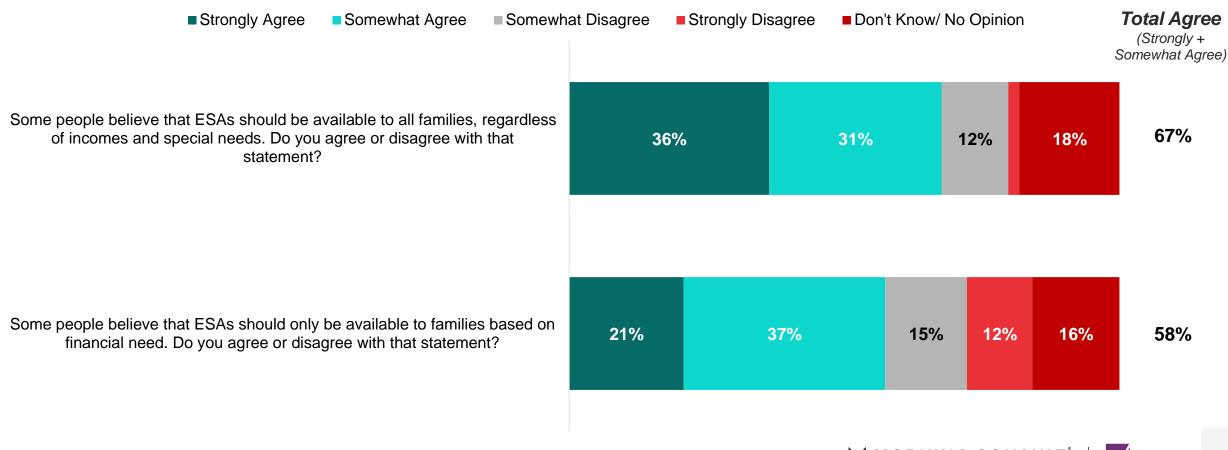
## In October, school parents were over seven times as likely to be supportive of ESAs than to be opposed. Strong support decreased since last month.

An "education savings account" in K–12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general, what is your opinion of an ESA system?



Roughly two-thirds of school parents believe ESAs should be available to all families regardless of income or special needs. That is nearly 10-points higher than the percentage of parents who want ESA eligibility determined by financial need.

#### **School Parents**



# Support for school vouchers was highest among conservatives, Republicans, and school parents. It was lowest among small town adults and liberals and progressives.

A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?

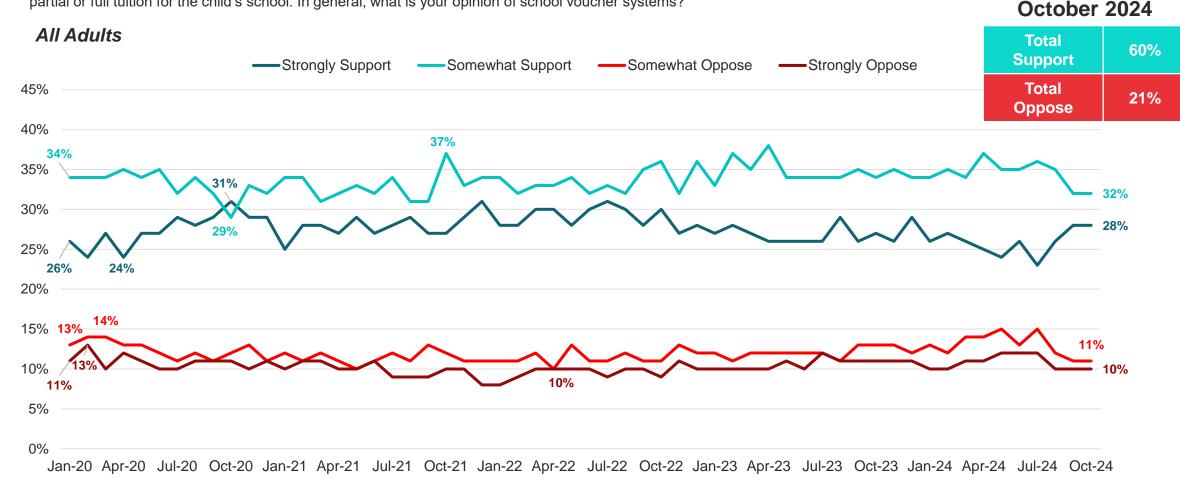
#### School Voucher Support, Among All Adults

Public	60%
Support	00%

Groups most support	ive	Groups least supp	oortive
Conservative	72%	West	58%
Republican	69%	High Income: \$100k+	58%
School Parents	68%	Low Income: <\$50k	57%
Male	65%	Female	55%
Middle Income: \$50k to \$100k	65%	Rural	55%
Age: 35-54	65%	Democrat	55%
Urban	64%	Liberal/Progressive	53%
Hispanic	63%	Small town	53%

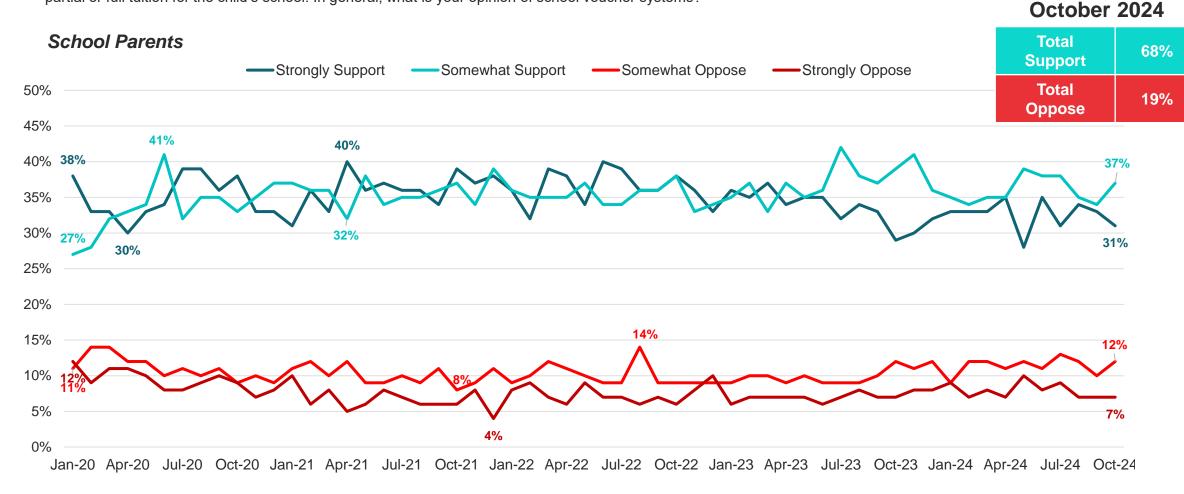
# Americans are more than twice as likely to support school vouchers than oppose them. The public's overall support for school vouchers remained unchanged in October.

A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?



## Parents are more than three times as likely to support school vouchers than oppose them. In October, support for school vouchers rose slightly among school parents.

A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?



# Support for charter schools is highest among conservatives, Republicans, and school parents. Adults living in small towns and rural areas are least likely to support them.

Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

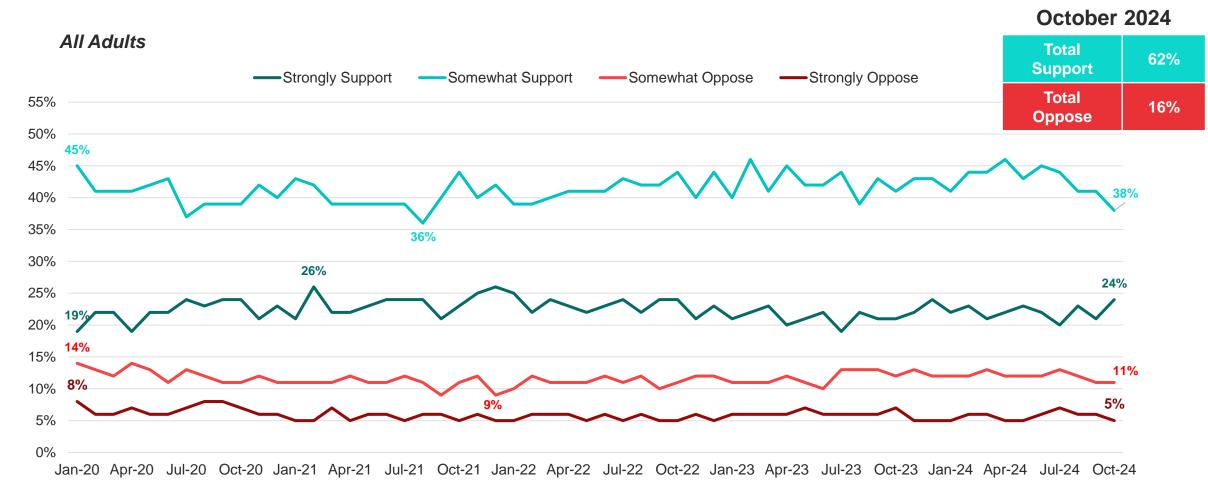
#### Charter School Support, Among All Adults

Public	62%
Support	02%

Groups most support	tive	Groups least sup	portive
Conservative	74%	Black	61%
Republican	73%	Low Income: <\$50k	60%
School Parents	69%	Midwest	60%
Urban	67%	Independent	59%
High Income: \$100k+	66%	Liberal/Progressive	58%
Middle Income: \$50k to \$100k	66%	Female	58%
Male	66%	Rural	55%
Millennials	65%	Small town	54%

### Americans are more than three times as likely to support charter schools than oppose them. Strong support for charter schools increased in October.

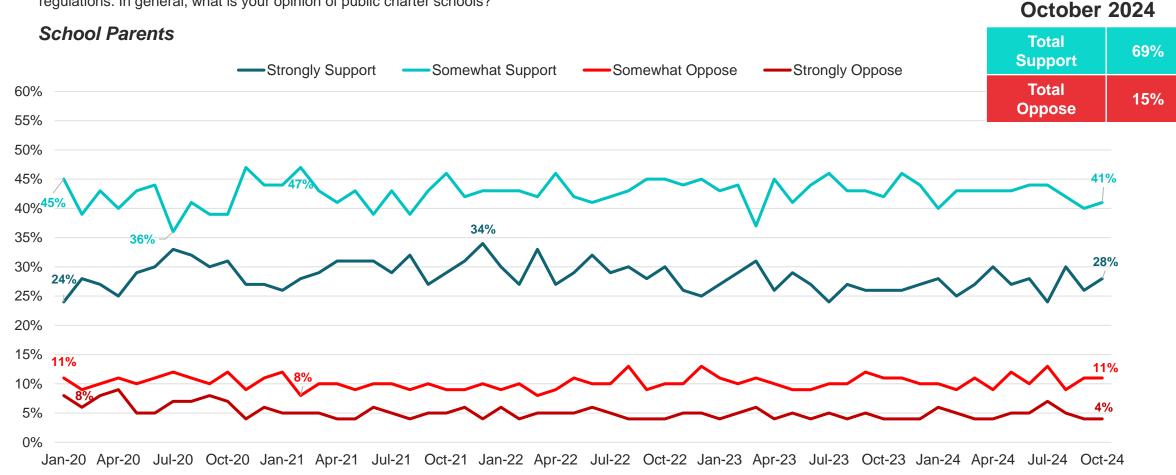
Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?



Note: Don't know/No opinion responses are not shown.

## Parents are over four times as likely to support charter schools than oppose them. Overall support for charter schools increased in October.

Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?



# School parents, Hispanic adults, and urban adults are most likely to support open enrollment. Small-town adults and adults living in the Midwest show the lowest support.

An "open enrollment" policy in K-12 education allows a student enrolled in public school to select and transfer to a public school of their choice, rather than attending a school based on where they live. A student can be allowed to transfer to a public school in another district (called "INTER-district"). The policy is based on a first come, first served process until districts are no longer able to accommodate new students

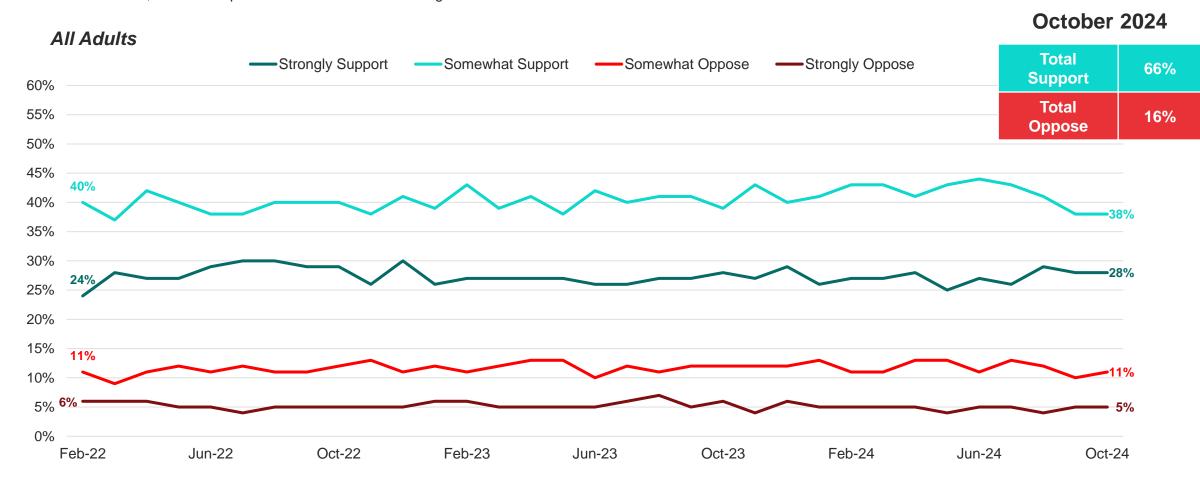
#### Open Enrollment Support, Among All Adults

Public	66%
Support	00%

Groups most suppor	tive	Groups least supp	oortive
School Parents	73%	Northeast	65%
Hispanic	73%	Independent	64%
Urban	73%	Female	64%
Middle Income: \$50k to \$100k	72%	Low Income: <\$50k	64%
West	70%	Suburban	64%
Millennials	70%	Rural	64%
Republican	70%	Midwest	63%
Moderate	69%	Small town	63%

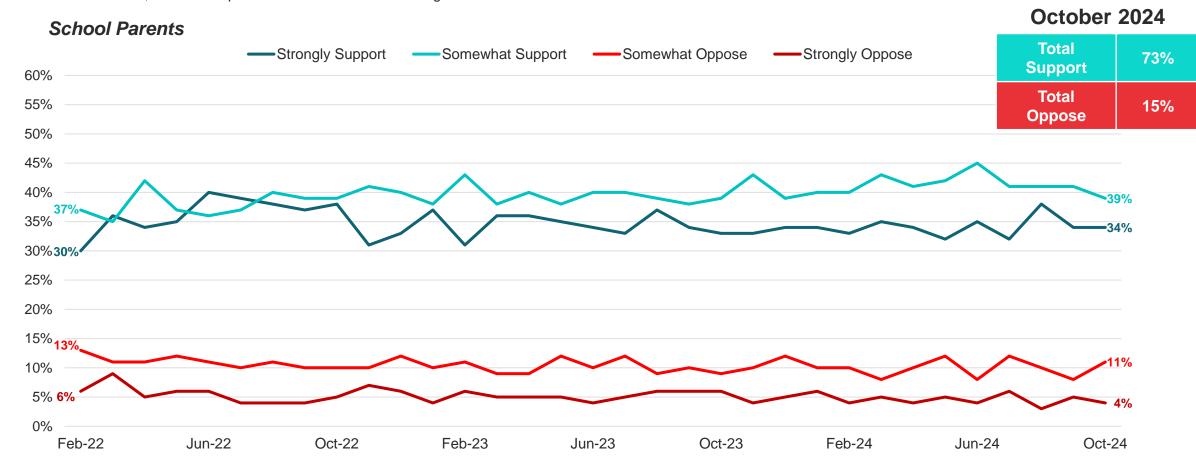
## The public's support for inter-district open enrollment is over four times as large as opposition. Overall support remained unchanged in October.

An "open enrollment" policy in K-12 education allows a student enrolled in public school to select and transfer to a public school of their choice, rather than attending a school based on where they live. A student can be allowed to transfer to a public school in another district (called "INTER-district"). The policy is based on a first come, first served process until districts are no longer able to accommodate new students.



### Among school parents, support for inter-district open enrollment is nearly five times as large as opposition. Overall support decreased in October.

An "open enrollment" policy in K-12 education allows a student enrolled in public school to select and transfer to a public school of their choice, rather than attending a school based on where they live. A student can be allowed to transfer to a public school in another district (called "INTER-district"). The policy is based on a first come, first served process until districts are no longer able to accommodate new students.



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### **VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION**

### SCHOOLING AND EXPERIENCES

K-12 CHOICE POLICIES

SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



### **Survey Profile, 1**

**Dates** October 10-13, 2024

**Survey Data Collection** 

& Quality Control Morning Consult

Survey Sponsor EdChoice

**Population** General Population (Adults, Age 18+)

Sampling Frame National sample of adults (age 18+) living in the United States,

including the District of Columbia, with an oversample of school parents

Sampling Method Non-Probability, Stratified (based on Age, Gender)

Mode Online Survey

**Language** English

### **Survey Profile, 2**

**Survey Time** Gen Pop Median = 11.31 minutes

Oversample Median = 14.83 minutes

**Sample Size** N = 2,253 General Population

N= 1,295 Total School Parents

Oversampling N = 850 School Parents

**Quotas** Age, Gender

Weighting Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Education, Census Region

**Measure of Precision** ± 2.33 percentage points (Gen Pop), ± 3.51 percentage points (Oversample)

Participation Rate 45.32% (Gen Pop), 52.24% (Oversample)

Methods Page https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology

Project Contact Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

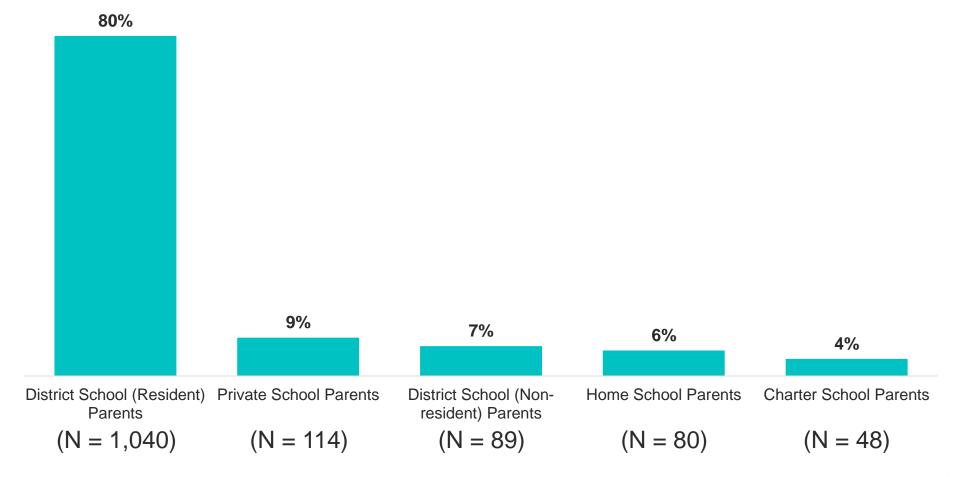
### **Total Sample Demographics**

Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Hispanic	342
Non-Hispanic White	1,411
Black	417
Other	109
Generation Z	279
Millennial	718
Generation X	555
Boomers	647
Male	1,095
Female	1,158
< College	1,478
College +	775
Northeast	420
Midwest	489
South	967
West	377

Demographics	Unweighted (N = )
Total School Parents*	1,295
K-4 Parents*	658
5-8 Parents*	542
9-12 Parents*	523
Non-Parents	960
Liberal/Progressive	561
Moderate	765
Conservative	678
Democrat	840
Independent	579
Republican	679
Urban	643
Suburban	959
Small Town	234
Rural	417
Low Income <\$50K	1,272
Middle Income \$50K to <\$100K	671
High Income \$100K+	310

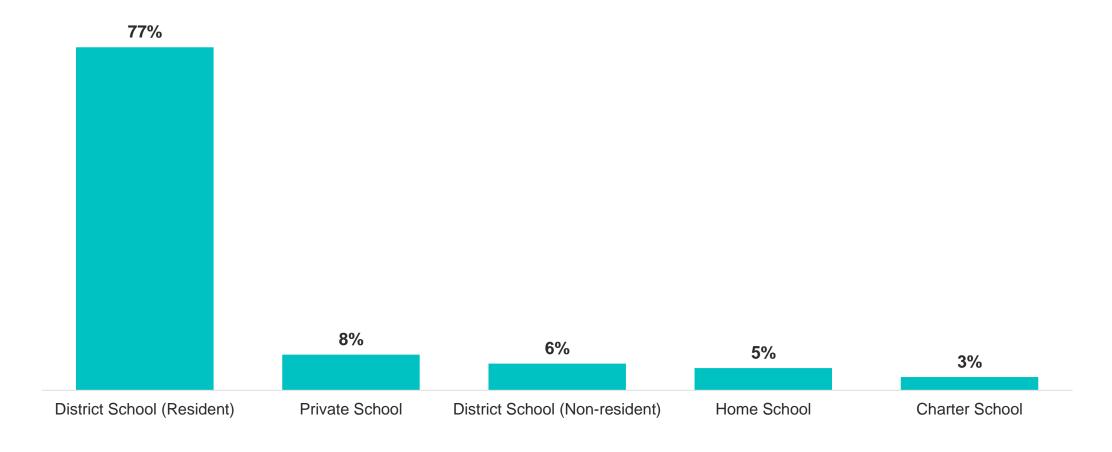
Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted	Target (%)
Hispanic	15%	17%	16%
White	63%	61%	78%
Non-Hispanic White	63%	n/a	n/a
Black	19%	13%	12%
Other	5%	8%	9%
Age: 18-34	28%	29%	30%
Age: 35-54	33%	32%	31%
Age: 55+	39%	39%	40%
Age: 65+	23%	23%	20%
Male	49%	49%	48%
Female	51%	51%	52%
< College	67%	64%	69%
College +	34%	36%	31%
Northeast	19%	17%	18%
Midwest	22%	21%	21%
South	43%	38%	37%
West	17%	24%	24%

### Parent groups based on estimated school type attendance for the 2024-2025 school year



### Estimated school type attendance for the 2024-2025 school year





### **Methodology Update**

In addition to the monthly general population polling, Morning Consult oversamples K-12 school parents, among a national sample of parents living in the United States (including the District of Columbia). The sample is collected via stratified sampling based on race and ethnicity quota targets derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey. Approximately 800 additional K-12 school parents are interviewed in English each month comprising the oversample. The completed K-12 school parent interviews are weighted to population totals obtained from the 2022 American Community Survey on the following demographic variables: age, gender, region, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment.

Total School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in grades K-12 for the 2024-2025 school year
Charter School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in a charter school for the 2024-2025 school year
District/Public School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in a district/public school for the 2024-2025 school year
Private School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in a private school for the 2024-2025 school year
Home School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in home school for the 2024-2025 school year



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

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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.

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