

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. 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.
- 2. In November, half of Americans said that K-12 education is on the wrong track nationwide, though "right direction" responses have increased this school year. Nearly half of parents think K-12 education is on the wrong track at the national level. Parents are more positive about their local schools.
- 3. School parents think it is most important that their children's schools instill values of respect, honesty, and responsibility in their students.
- 4. 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.
- 5. The general public and school parents greatly underestimate per-student spending in public schools. The public and parents are much less likely to say their state's per-student spending is "too low" when given a publicly reported statistic by 19 points and 21 points respectively. Providing respondents with a government-reported spending statistic consistently decreases their tendency to say school spending is "too low."
- 6. The general public and school parents underestimate the average teacher salary across states. 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.
- 7. The percentage of school parents interested in a tutor for their child stayed about the same in November after several months of small increases. Interest was highest among special education and special needs parents. It was lowest among small-town parents and parents living in the Midwest. The amount parents were willing to spend on tutoring rose to \$333 per child/month.
- 8. Over half of parents would prefer having their child learn at home at least one day per week.
- 9. Overall support levels for choice-based policies remain high among school parents and the general public. Support was stable in November.
 - Education savings accounts (ESAs) 76% / 65%
 - School vouchers 70% / 60%
 - Charter schools 68% / 59%
 - Open enrollment 72% / 65%

Methodology

This poll was conducted between November 5-7, 2024 among a sample of 2,263 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 2.30 percentage points..

AGENDA

VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION

SCHOOLING AND EXPERIENCES

K-12 CHOICE POLICIES

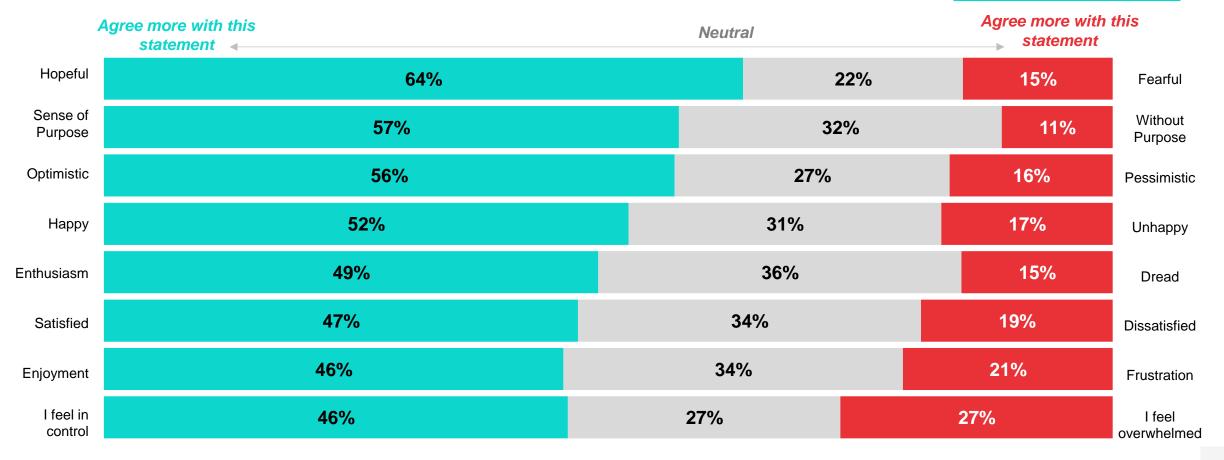
SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



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

49%

45%

42%

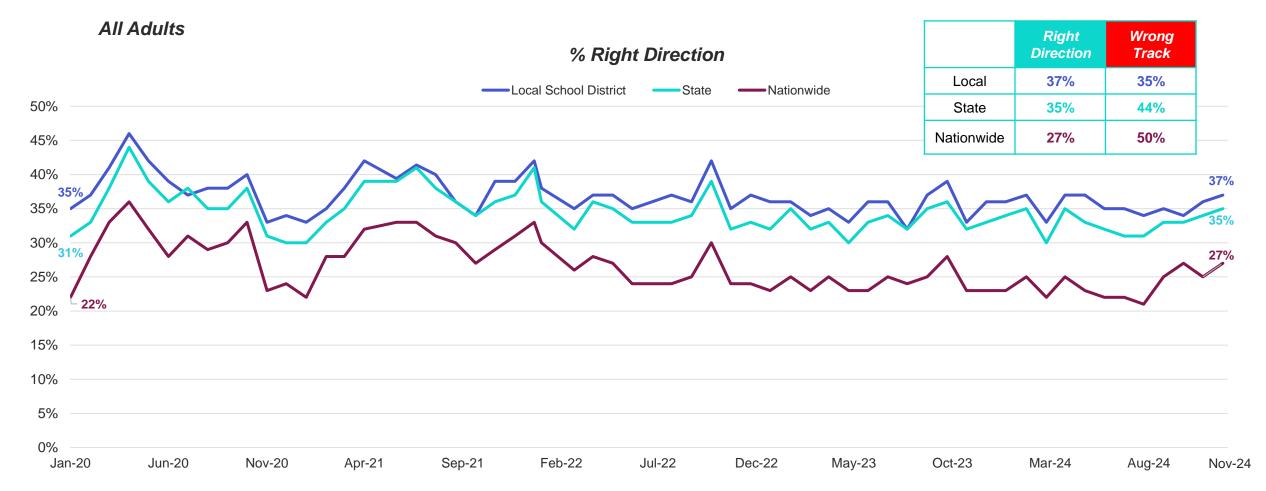
Hopeful

Sense of Purpose

Optimistic

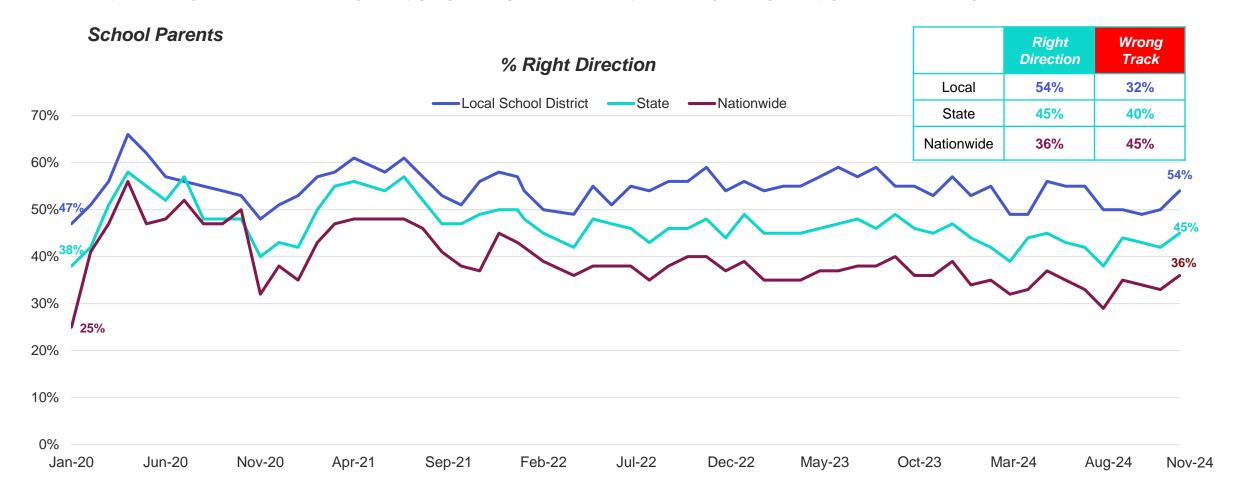
In November, half of Americans said that K-12 education is on the wrong track nationwide, though "right direction" responses have increased this school year.

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?



Nearly half of parents think K-12 education is on the wrong track at the national level. Parents 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?



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/9th-12th grade? 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 42%	Average % selected Extremely Important 49%	
	Core academic subjects (55%)	Skills for future employment (60%)	
	Socialization (47%)	- ˙Δ΄- To become independent thinkers (56%)	
	-'Ò'- To become independent thinkers (46%)	How to be good citizens (55%)	
	How to be good citizens (46%)	Core academic subjects (54%)	
	Skills for future employment (41%)	Socialization (47%)	
	Values, moral character, religious virtues (39%)	Values, moral character, religious virtues (42%)	
	To fix social problems (27%)	To fix social problems (34%)	

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

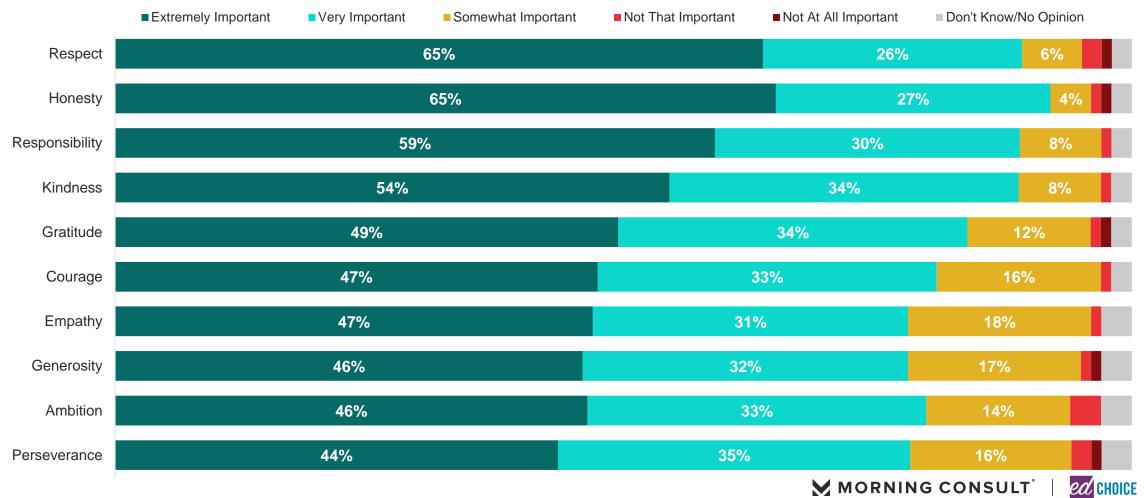
% Extremely Important

Grades K-8	Grades 9-12	
Average % selected Extremely Important 47%	Average % selected Extremely Important 53%	
Core academic subjects (56%)	Skills for future employment (65%)	
- ˙Δ΄- To become independent thinkers (56%)	- ˙Δ΄ To become independent thinkers (64%)	
Socialization (51%)	Core academic subjects (56%)	
Skills for future employment (50%)	How to be good citizens (56%)	
How to be good citizens (50%)	Socialization (49%)	
Values, moral character, religious virtues (47%)	√ Values, moral character, religious virtues (48%)	
To fix social problems (28%)	To fix social problems (37%)	

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?

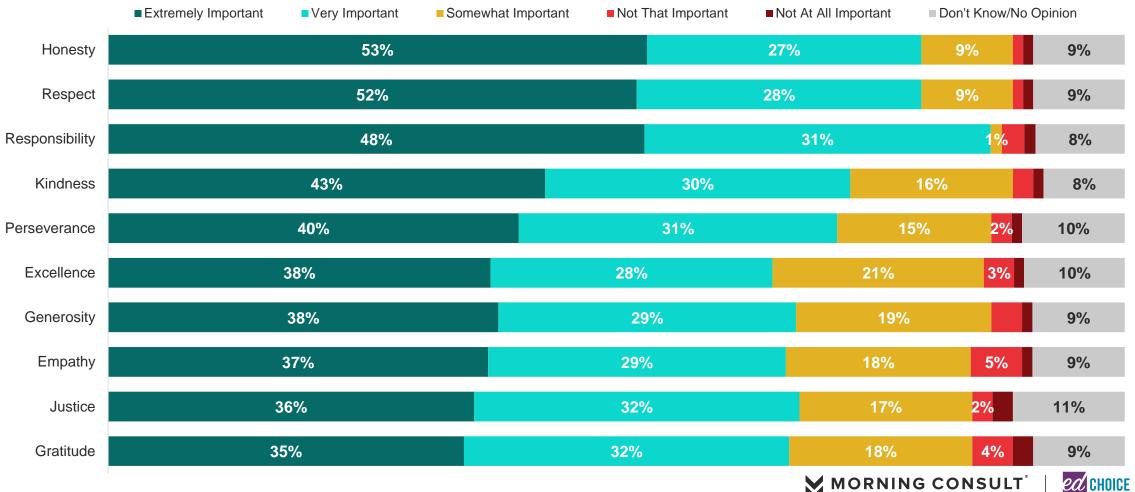
School Parents - Top 10 Values



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

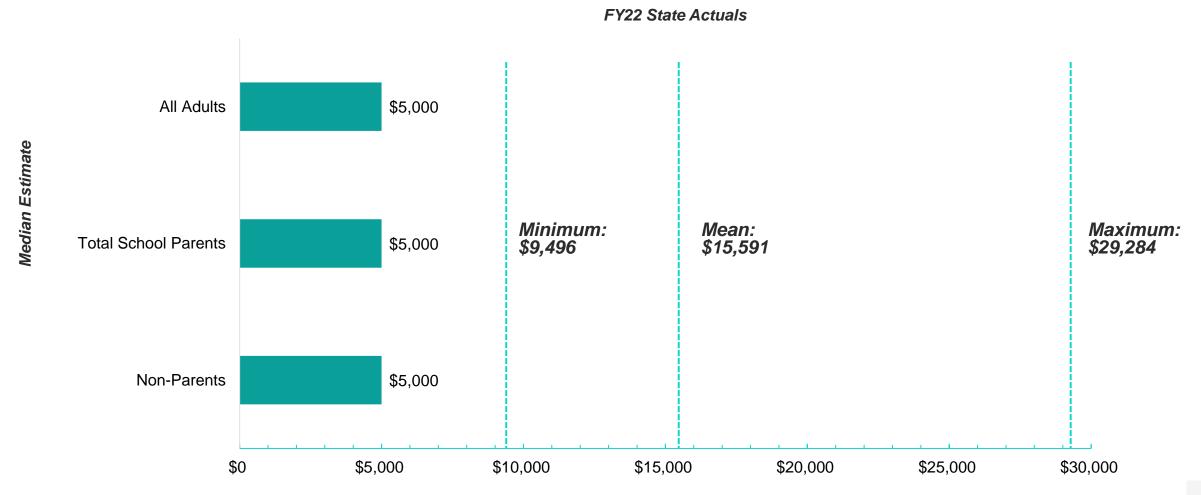
For this current school year, to what extent is it important that schools in K-12 education emphasize the following values for students?

Non-School Parents - Top 10 Values



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 19 points and 21 points respectively.

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

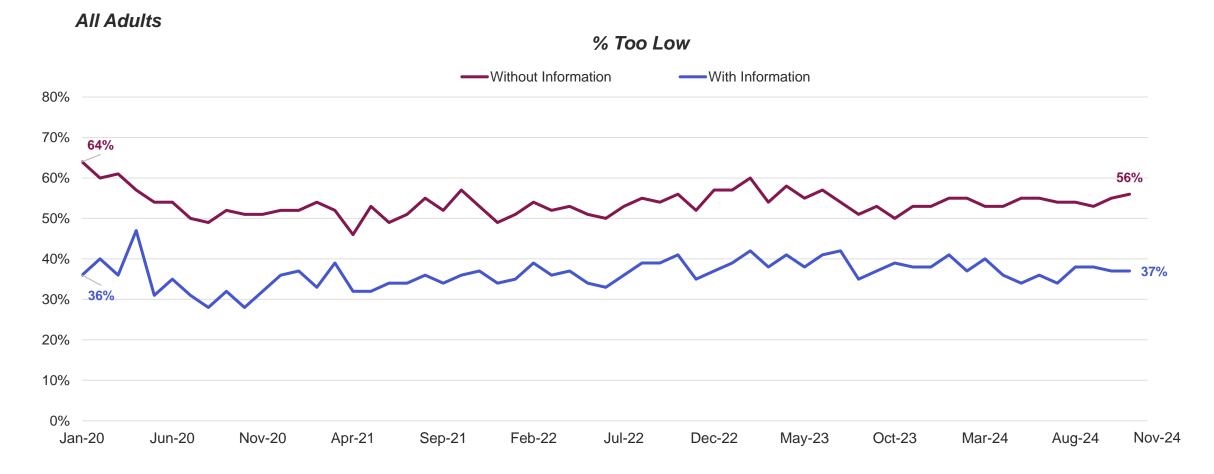
On average, [STATE] spends \$____ per student attending public school each year. Do you believe public school funding is:



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

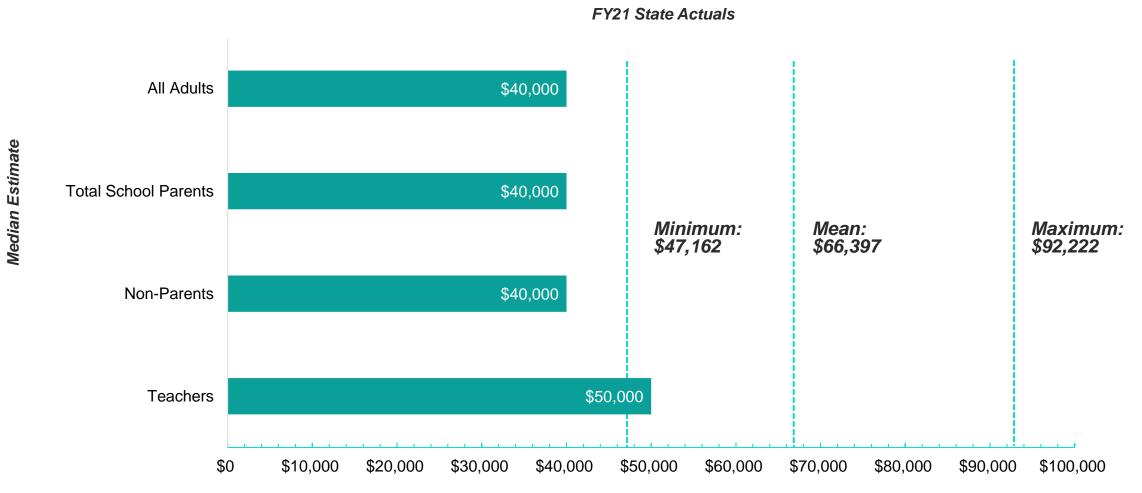
Do you believe public school funding in [STATE] is:

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

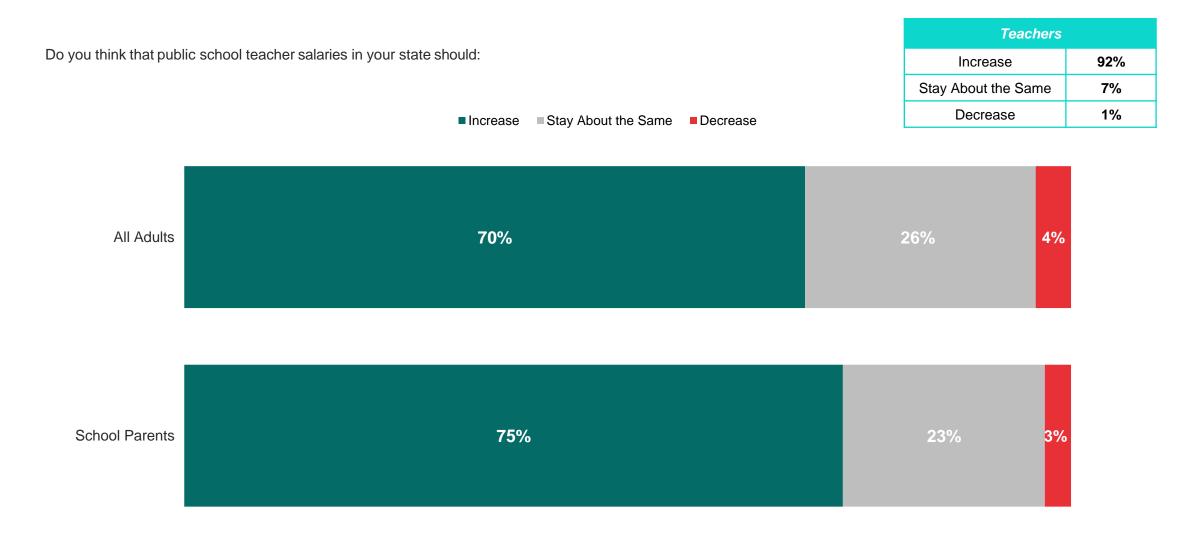


The general public and school parents underestimate the average teacher salary in their state.

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

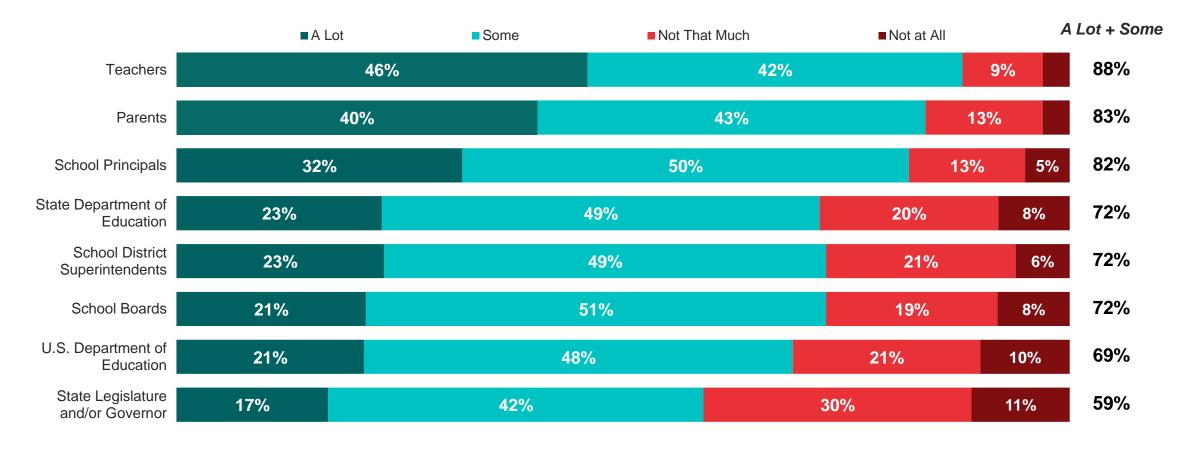


More than two-thirds of the general public and school parents believe teacher salaries in their state should increase, though they are less supportive than teachers.



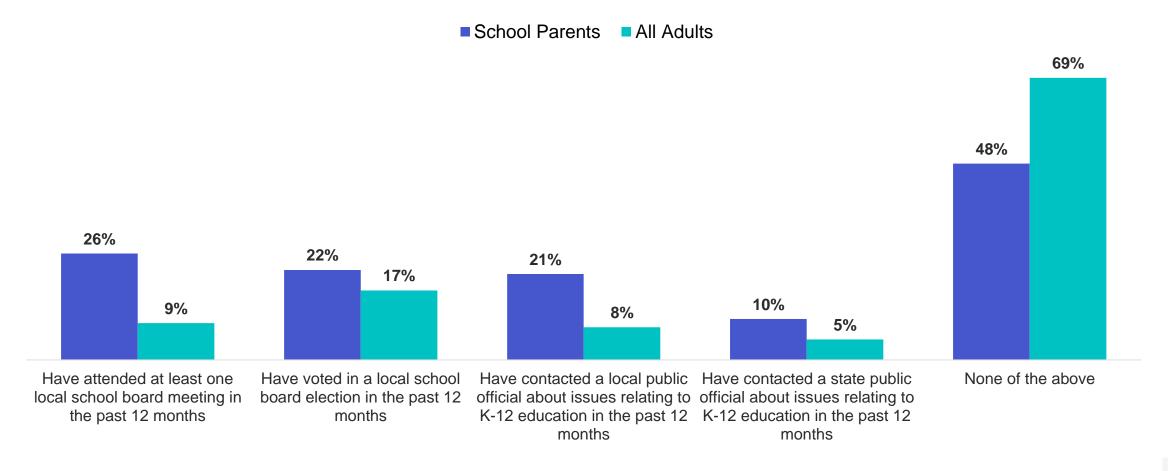
School parents place the most trust in teachers, principals, and other parents to make good decisions about education. They trust state legislatures and governors the least.

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



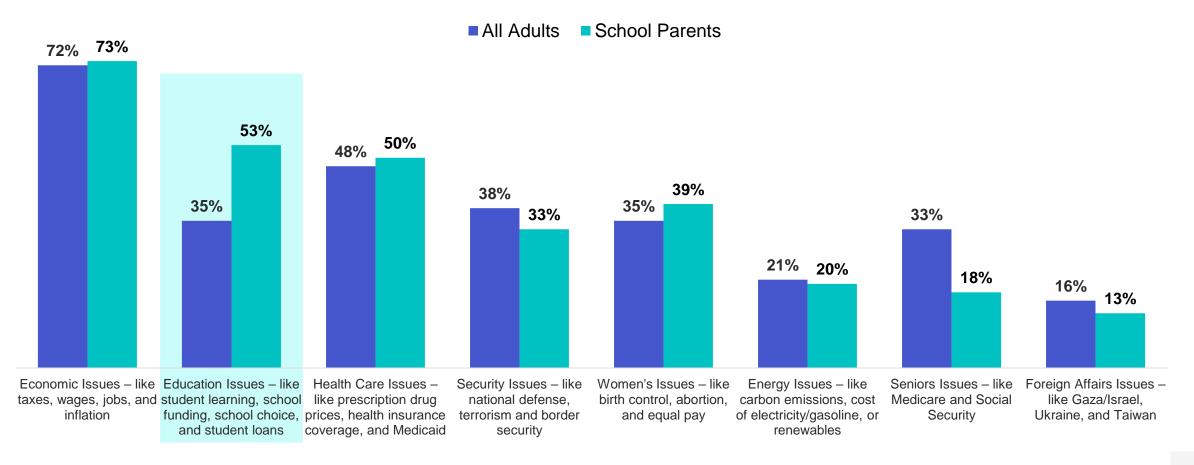
Parents are much more likely than other adults to have participated in civic engagement activities related to K-12 education in the past year.

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



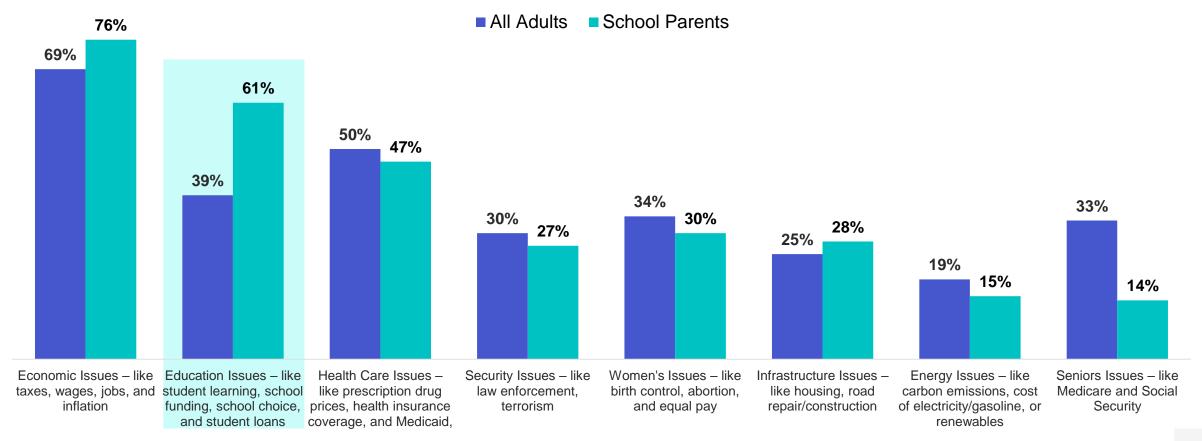
When it comes to voting in federal elections, adults and school parents care most about economic issues. School parents place much higher importance on education issues than other adults.

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?



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VIEWS ON K-12 EDUCATION

SCHOOLING AND EXPERIENCES

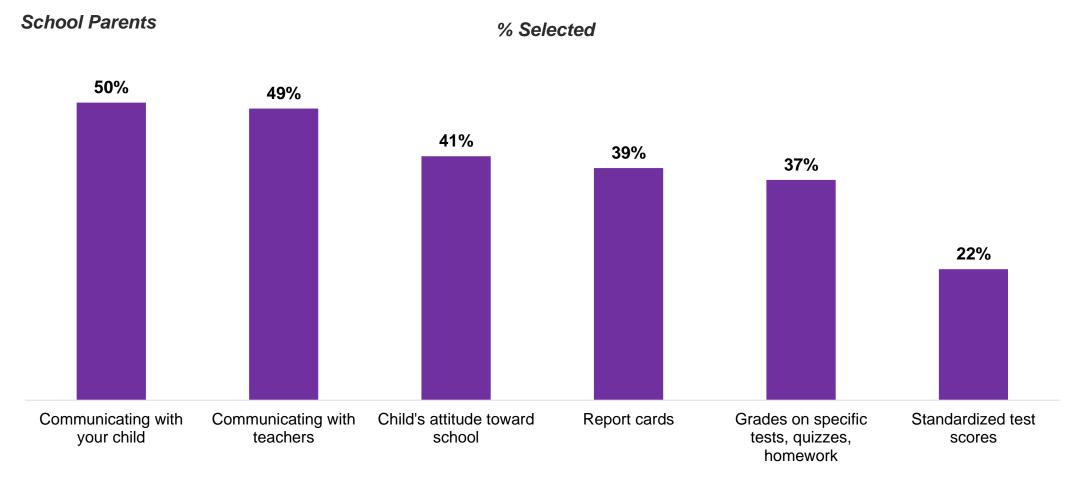
K-12 CHOICE POLICIES

SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



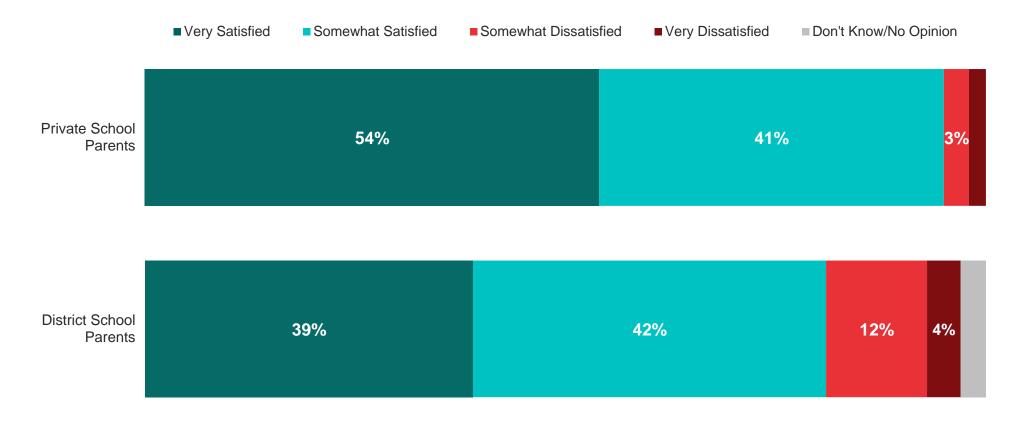
Parents are most likely to measure success of a school year based on communicating with their child and teachers. Standardized test scores are the least important metric.

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



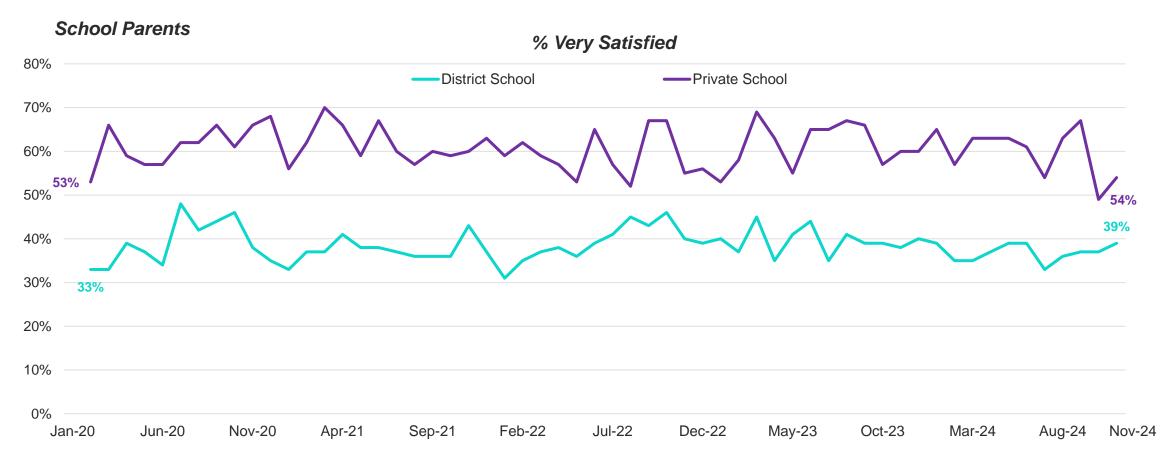
Private school parents are more likely to say they are "very satisfied" with their child's schooling experiences than district school parents.

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



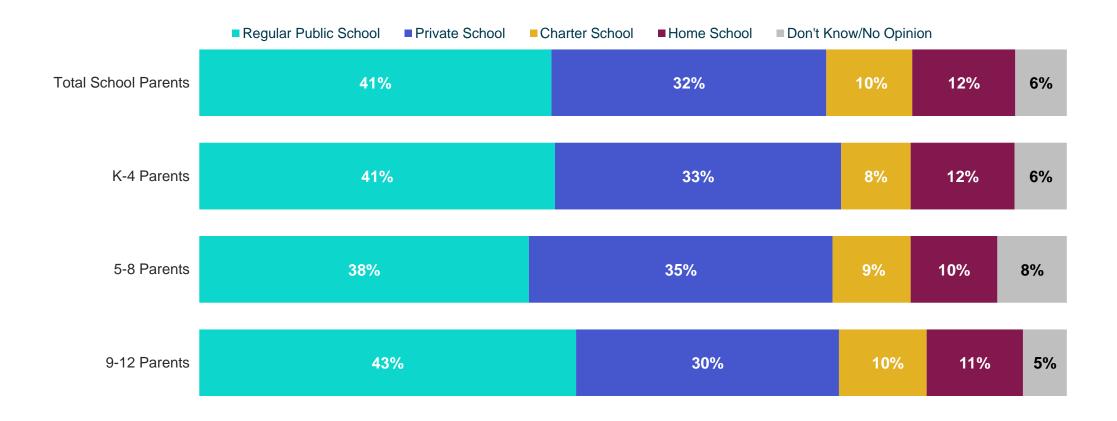
Strong satisfaction among private school parents has risen after falling sharply last month.

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.

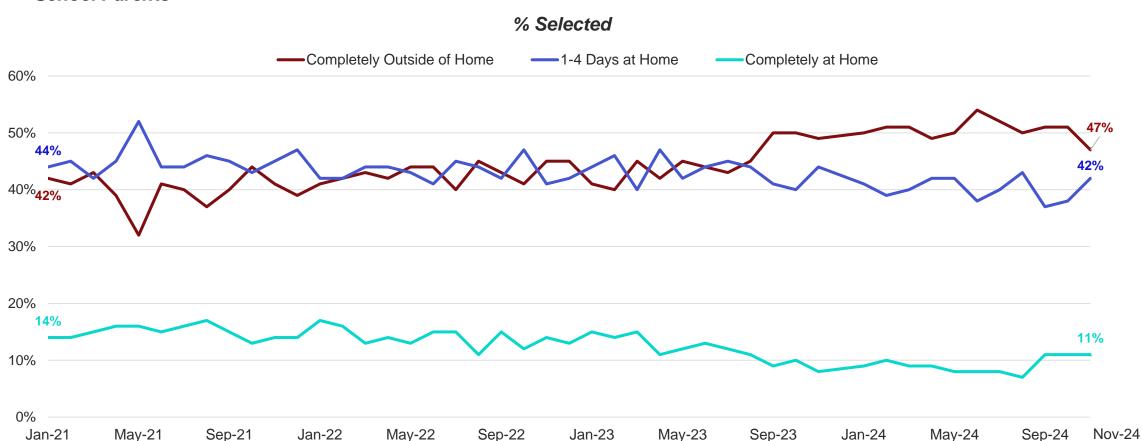
If given the option, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?





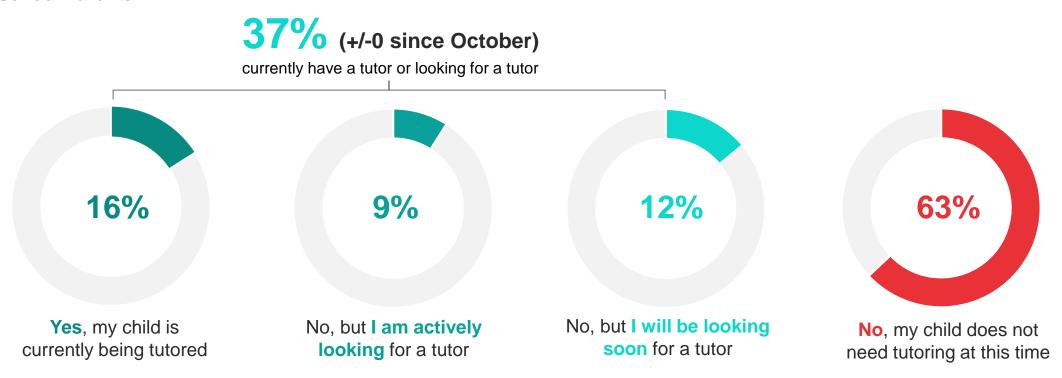
Over half of parents would prefer having their child learn at home at least one day per week.

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 November, over one-third of parents were currently using a tutor or were interested in finding tutoring for their children – unchanged since October.

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



In November, 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

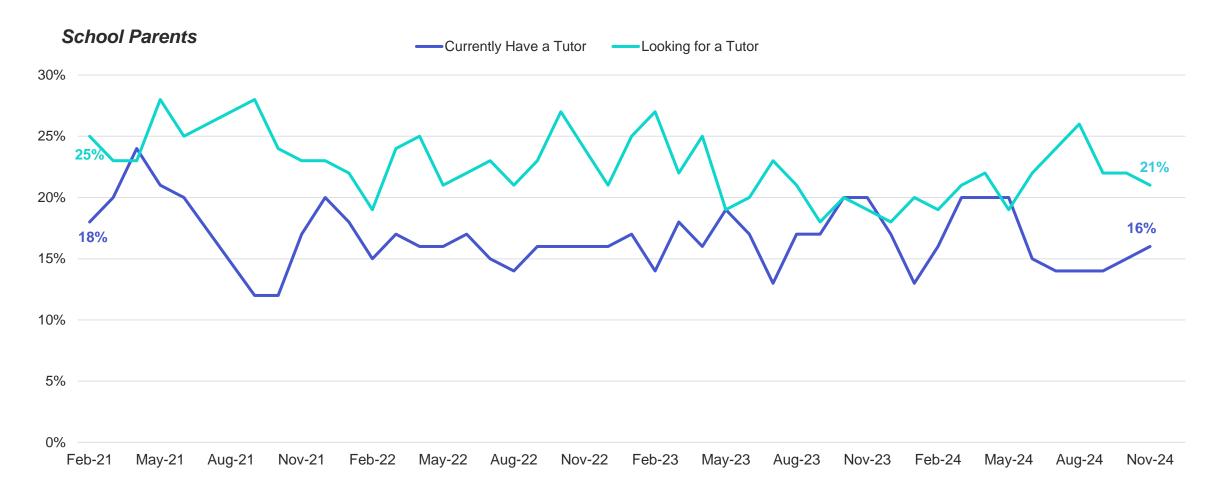
School	37%
Parents	31%

Special Education	54%
Special Needs	52%
Black	52 %
Urban	52%
Hispanic	51%
Liberal/Progressive	46%
Democrat	45%

Middle Income: \$50k to \$100k	32%
Suburban	32%
Independent	31%
Rural	29%
Gen X	28%
Midwest	27%
Small town	27%

The percentage of school parents interested in a tutor for their child stayed about the same in November after several months of small increases.

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



28

In November, the amount parents were willing to spend on tutoring rose to \$333 per child/month.

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

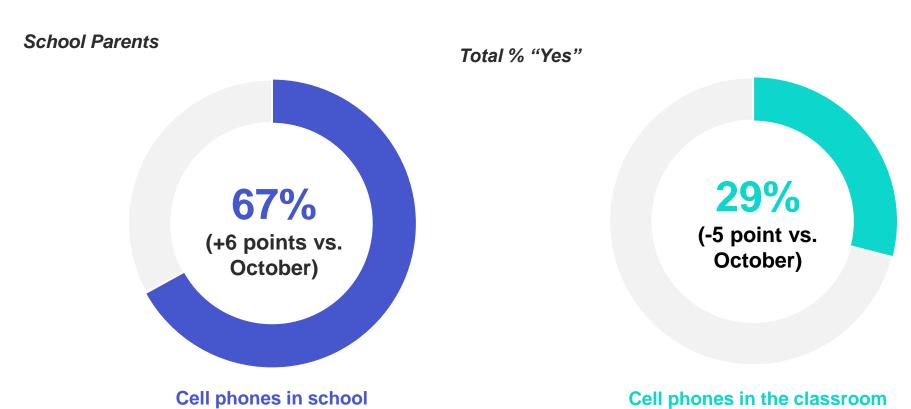
School Parents

among those interested in or participating in a tutoring



Roughly two-thirds 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...



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?

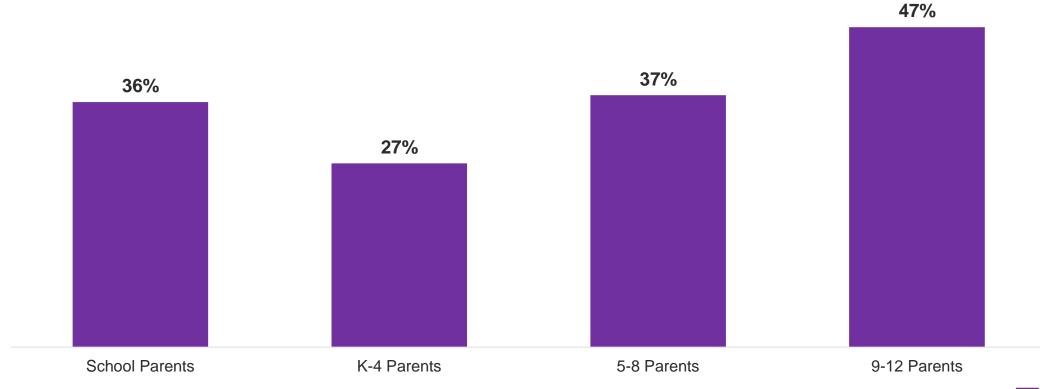


More than one-third of parents say their children are on social media at least "very often." Nearly half of high school parents say the same about their kids.

School Parents

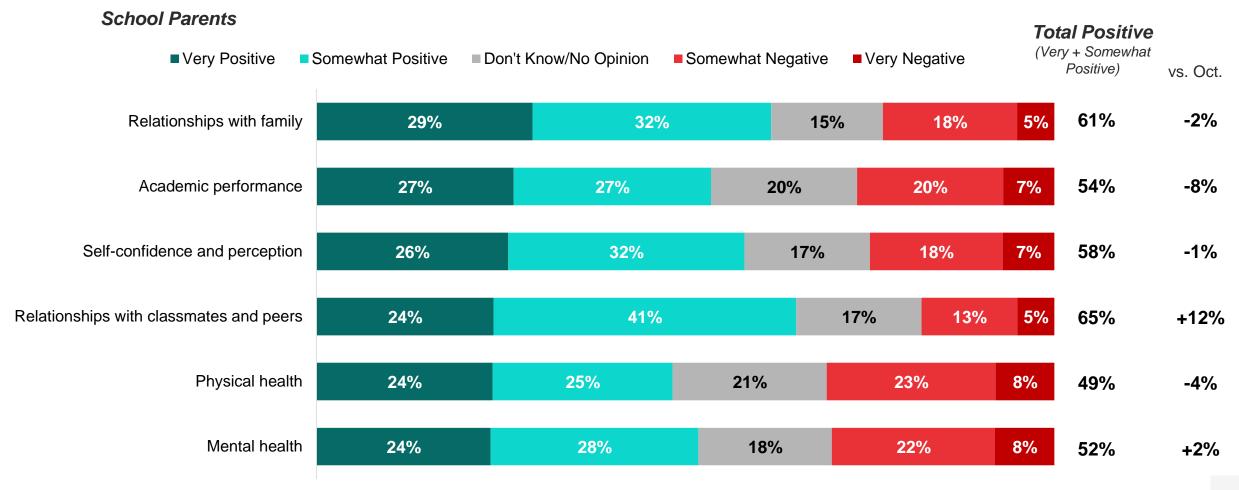
Overall, how often would you say your child/children spends on social media?

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?



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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

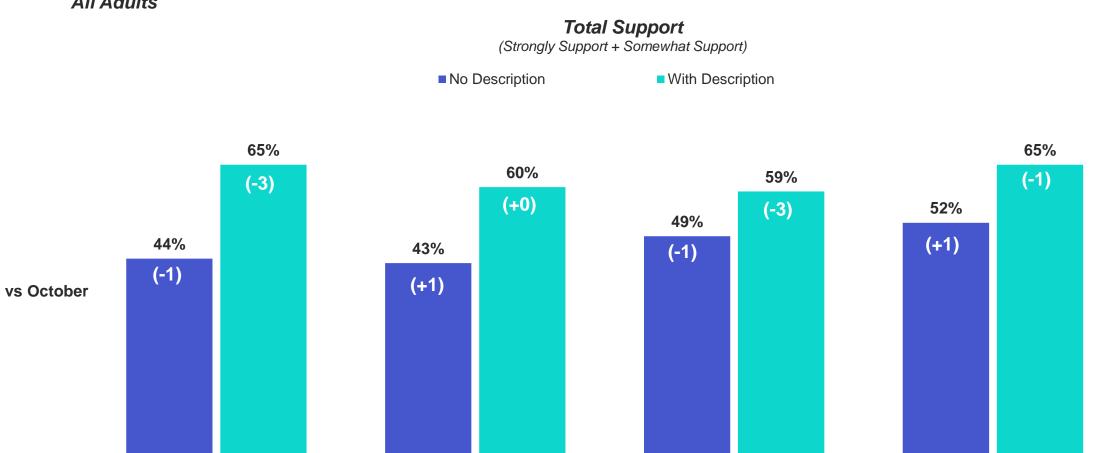
A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to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

All Adults



Charter Schools

School Vouchers

Open Enrollment

ESAs

In November, support for ESAs was highest among high-income adults and school parents. Support was lowest among those living in rural areas, Gen X adults, and low-income adults.

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?

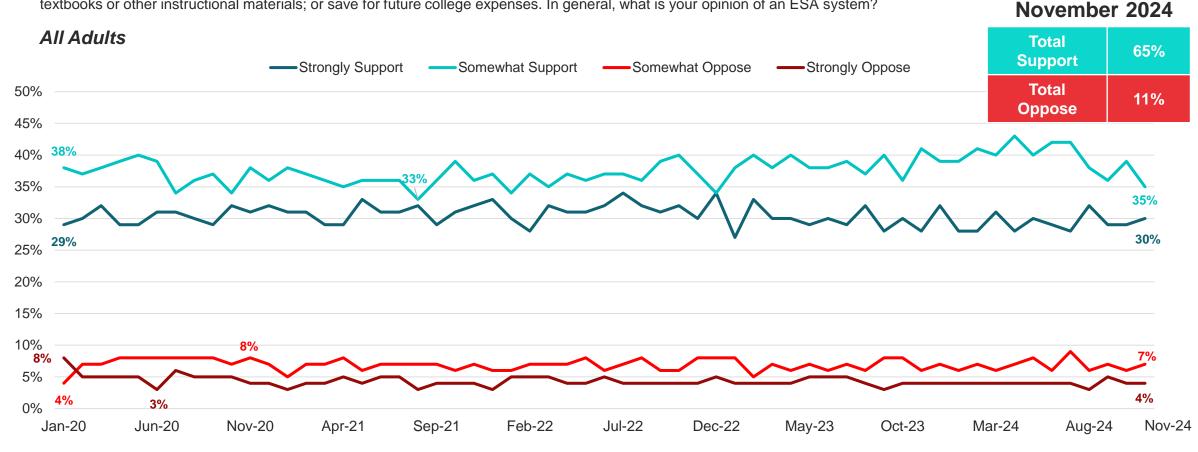
ESA Support, Among All Adults

Public	65%
Support	03%

Groups most support	ive	Groups least suppo	ortive
High Income: \$100k+	76%	Small town	64%
School Parents	76%	South	63%
Hispanic	74%	Female	62%
Middle Income: \$50k to \$100k	73%	Independent	61%
Liberal/Progressive	73%	Education: <college< td=""><td>61%</td></college<>	61%
Education: Bachelors+	72 %	Low Income: <\$50k	60%
Democrat	70%	Gen X	60%
Conservative	70%	Rural	60%

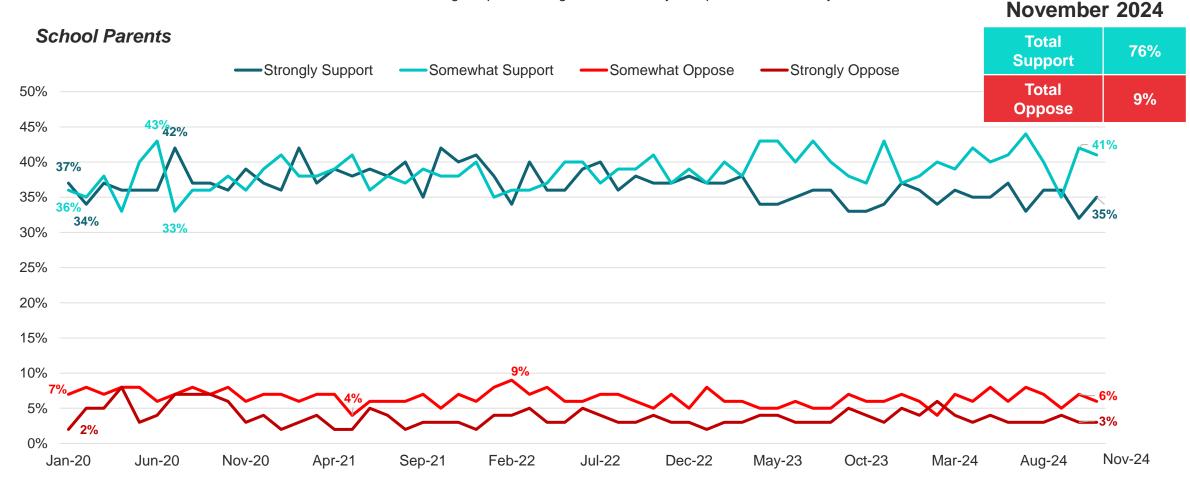
The public is nearly six times as likely to support ESAs than oppose them. Americans' overall support of ESAs decreased in November.

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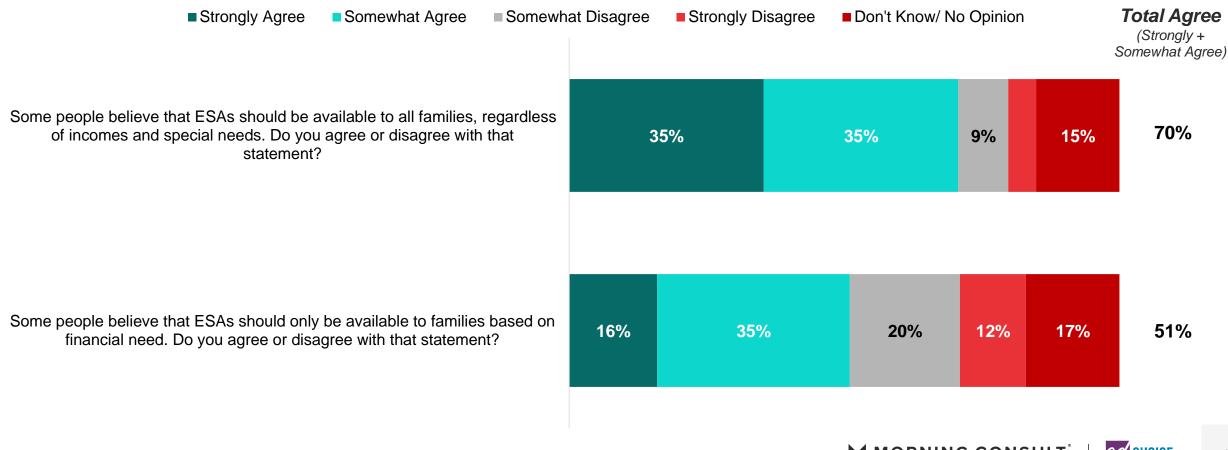
In November, school parents were over eight times as likely to be supportive of ESAs than to be opposed. Strong support increased since last month.

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?



More than two-thirds of school parents believe ESAs should be available to all families regardless of income or special needs. That is nearly 20-points higher than the percentage of parents who want ESA eligibility determined by financial need.

School Parents



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

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?

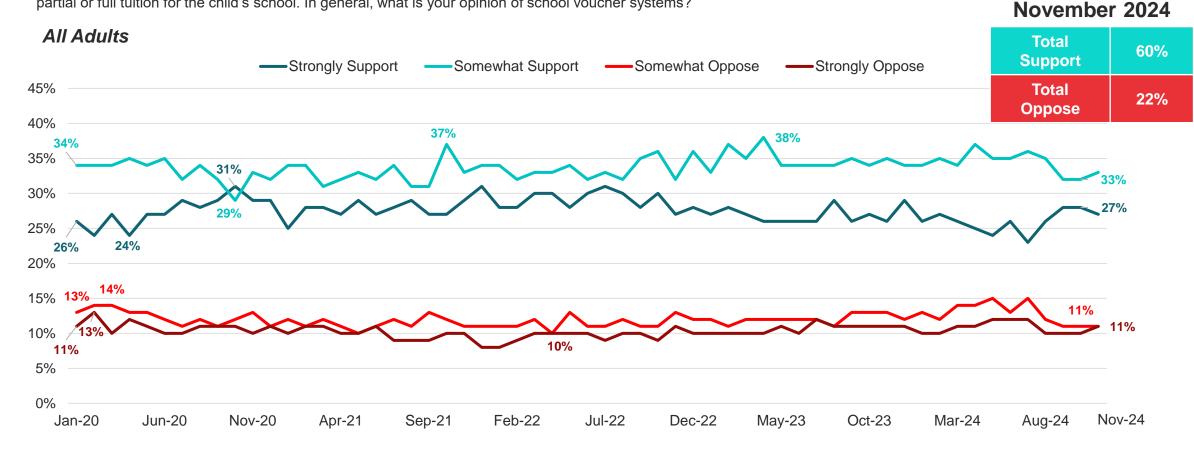
School Voucher Support, Among All Adults

Public	60%
Support	00%

Groups most su	ipportive	Groups least sup	portive
School Parents	70%	Suburban	59%
Conservative	69%	Democrat	58%
Republican	68%	South	58%
Hispanic	66%	Rural	58%
Millennials	66%	Female	57%
Black	65%	Small town	56%
Northeast	64%	Independent	55%
Urban	63%	Liberal/Progressive	55%

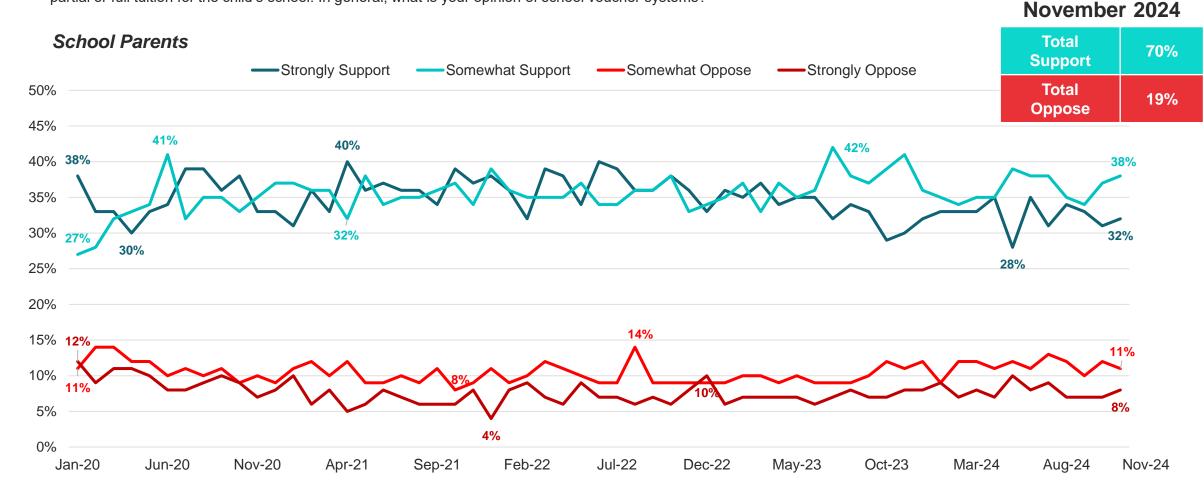
Americans are more than twice as likely to support school vouchers than oppose them. The public's overall support for school vouchers remained unchanged in November.

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 November, 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, high-income adults, 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?

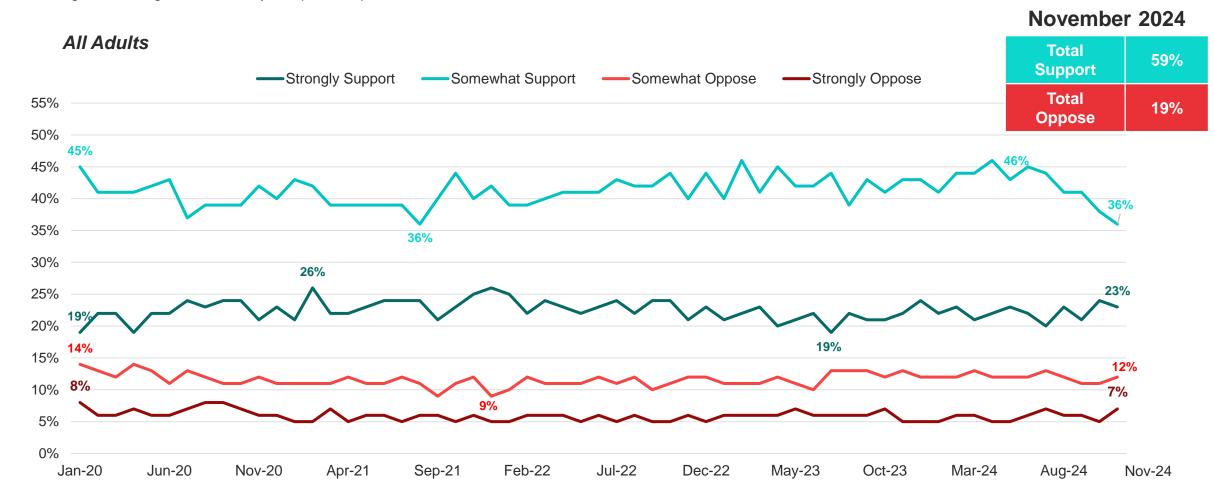
Charter School Support, Among All Adults

Public	59%
Support	39%

Groups most suppo	rtive	Groups least supp	ortive
Conservative	71%	Democrat	58%
High Income: \$100k+	70%	Education: <college< td=""><td>57%</td></college<>	57%
School Parents	68%	Liberal/Progressive	56%
Republican	66%	Midwest	56%
Black	65%	Independent	55%
Education: Bachelors+	64%	Low Income: <\$50k	55%
Middle Income: \$50k to \$100k	63%	Small town	55%
Hispanic	62%	Rural	54%

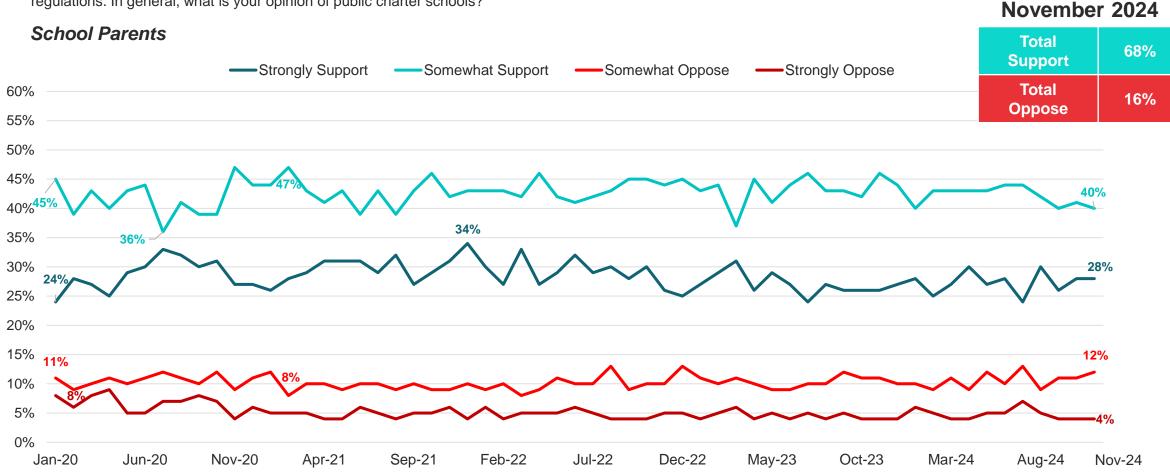
Americans are more than three times as likely to support charter schools than oppose them. Weak support continued to fall in November.

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?



Parents are over four times as likely to support charter schools than oppose them. Overall support for charter schools remained roughly level in November.

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, conservatives, and Hispanic adults are most likely to support open enrollment. Small-town adults and Gen Z 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

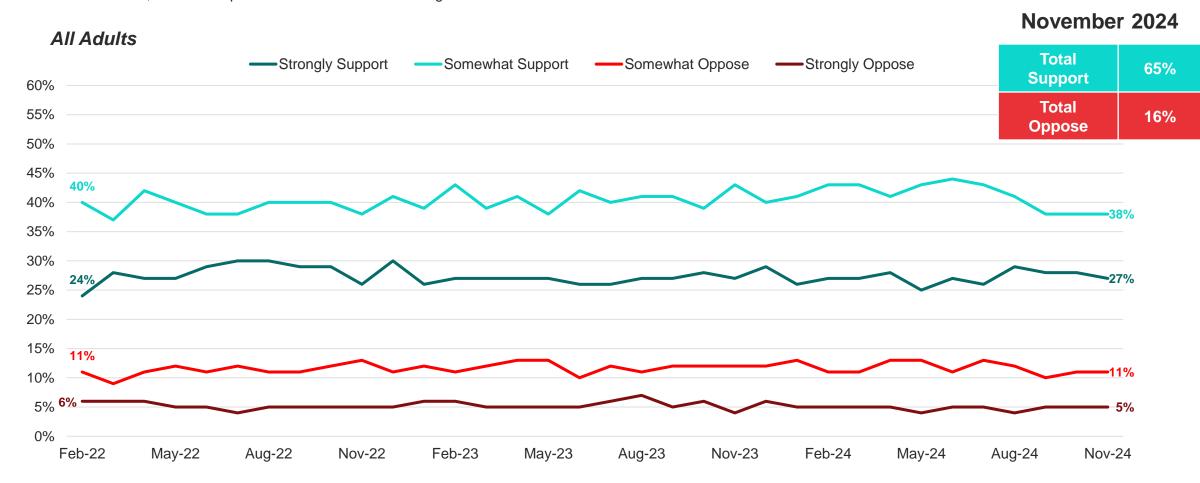
Open Enrollment Support, Among All Adults

Public	65%
Support	05%

Groups most suppor	tive	Groups least supp	oortive
School Parents	72 %	Female	65%
Conservative	71%	South	64%
Hispanic	70%	Low Income: <\$50k	63%
Education: Bachelors+	70%	Education: <college< td=""><td>63%</td></college<>	63%
Democrat	69%	Independent	62%
High Income: \$100k+	69%	Gen X	62%
Middle Income: \$50k to \$100k	69%	Gen Z	61%
Millennials	69%	Small town	59%

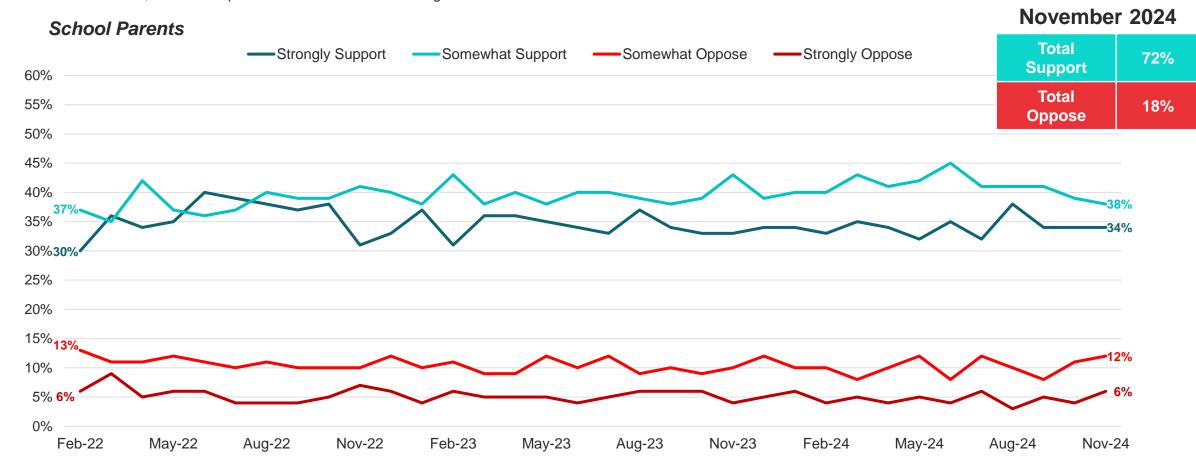
The public's support for inter-district open enrollment is over four times as large as opposition. Overall support remained roughly unchanged in November.

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 four times as large as opposition. Overall support remained roughly the same in November.

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SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



Survey Profile, 1

Dates November 5-7, 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 = 11.35 minutes

Oversample Median = 14.72 minutes

Sample Size N = 2,263 General Population

N= 1,273 Total School Parents

Oversampling N = 850 School Parents

Quotas Age, Gender

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

Measure of Precision ± 2.30 percentage points (Gen Pop), ± 2.75 percentage points (Oversample)

Participation Rate 41.29% (Gen Pop), 44.62% (Oversample)

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

Project Contact Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

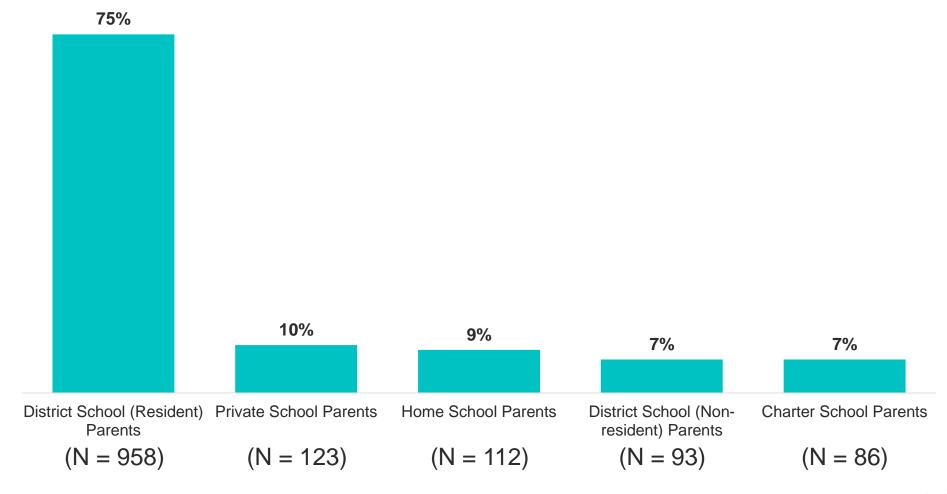
Total Sample Demographics

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Hispanic	358
Non-Hispanic White	1,394
Black	412
Other	106
Generation Z	358
Millennial	637
Generation X	598
Boomers	611
Male	1,089
Female	1,174
< College	1,483
College +	780
Northeast	413
Midwest	436
South	1,025
West	389

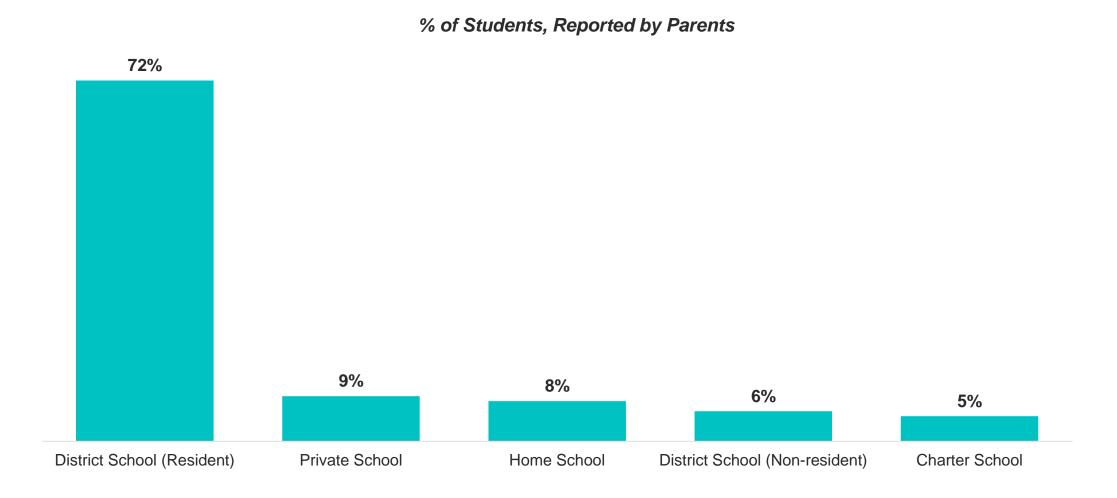
Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Total School Parents*	1,273
K-4 Parents*	633
5-8 Parents*	540
9-12 Parents*	534
Non-Parents	996
Liberal/Progressive	566
Moderate	799
Conservative	655
Democrat	830
Independent	561
Republican	720
Urban	674
Suburban	950
Small Town	214
Rural	425
Low Income <\$50K	1,309
Middle Income \$50K to <\$100K	657
High Income \$100K+	297

Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted	Target (%)
Hispanic	16%	17%	16%
White	62%	61%	78%
Non-Hispanic White	62%	n/a	n/a
Black	18%	13%	12%
Other	5%	8%	9%
Age: 18-34	29%	29%	30%
Age: 35-54	33%	33%	31%
Age: 55+	39%	38%	40%
Age: 65+	22%	22%	20%
Male	48%	49%	48%
Female	52%	51%	52%
< College	66%	65%	69%
College +	34%	35%	31%
Northeast	18%	17%	18%
Midwest	19%	21%	21%
South	45%	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



 $e\alpha$ CHOICE

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.

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.



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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