



EdChoice

GEN POP NATIONAL
POLLING PRESENTATION

September 2020

Key Points

- Most parents are at least somewhat comfortable sending their children to school, but they still prefer virtual learning. Parents generally feel prepared to facilitate virtual learning, especially parents of younger students. Public school parents are more likely than charter and private school parents to be satisfied with the communication around reopening from schools.
- A slight majority of parents have either joined a learning pod or are looking to form one. Those with younger children, higher incomes, and living in urban areas are more likely to be participating in one. Those that are interested or participating in pods think they will help students stay up to speed and provide a safe environment for socialization. While, those against learning pods think they are unsafe, unnecessary, or too expensive.
- Over half of school parents are at least somewhat likely to seek out tutoring for their child/children outside of school hours this year. Parents that are very likely to seek out tutoring for their child/children have younger children, higher incomes and are living in urban areas.
- School parents' favorability of homeschooling has remained high since the coronavirus outbreak began in March. While many students switched from home school to other school types for this upcoming school year, homeschooling still saw an increase in enrollment. Americans school type preferences have shifted since the outbreak to be more in favor of homeschooling when given the option, especially if cost and transportation are not factors.
- Americans remain more likely to support school choice policies, including charter schools, once given information, especially non-parents and independents. However, school preferences continue to lean towards private and public-school options.

Methodology (also see slides 54-55)

This poll was conducted from September 11-17, 2020, among a national sample of 2,200 adults and an oversample of 700 school parents. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of adults and school parents based on age, race/ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, and region.

NOTE: the school parent oversample data is not included in this month's dashboard website data

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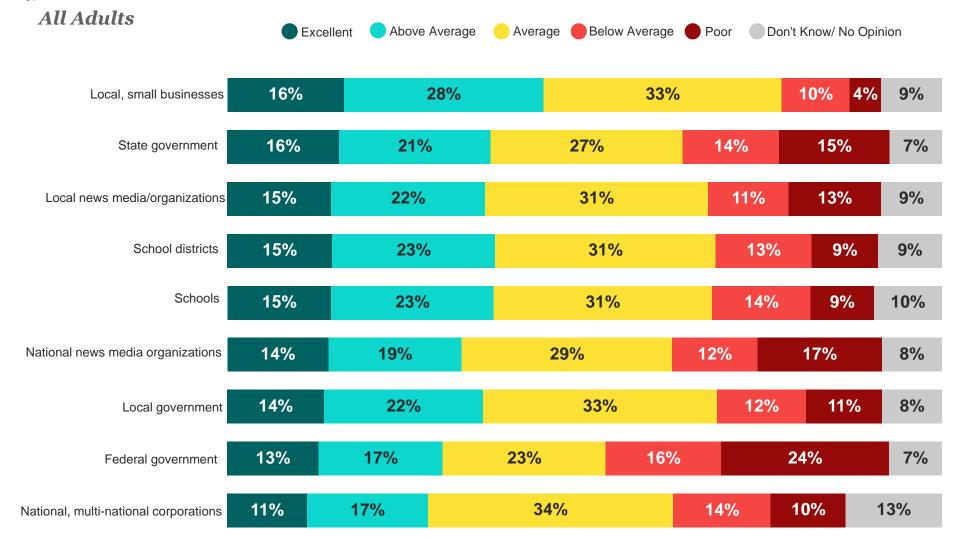
COVID-19 Response Rating

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A plurality of adults continue to feel most institutions' responses to the coronavirus outbreak have been average.

Based on what you have seen, read, or heard so far, how would you rate the following institutions on their response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?



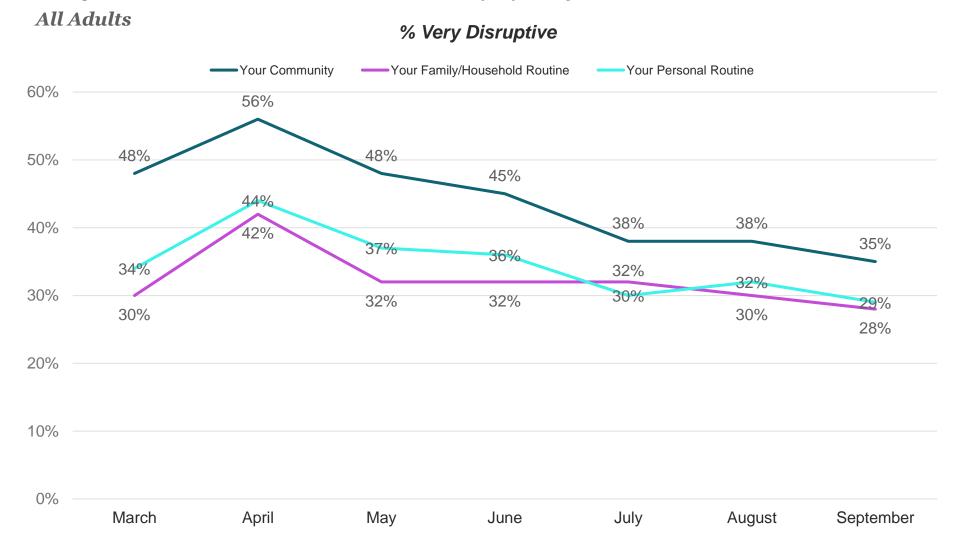
COVID-19 Disruption

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Overall disruption caused by the outbreak has continued to decline since its peak in April, most notably for disruption to the community.

How disruptive has the coronavirus (also called COVID-19) been on each of the following?



COVID-19 Concerns

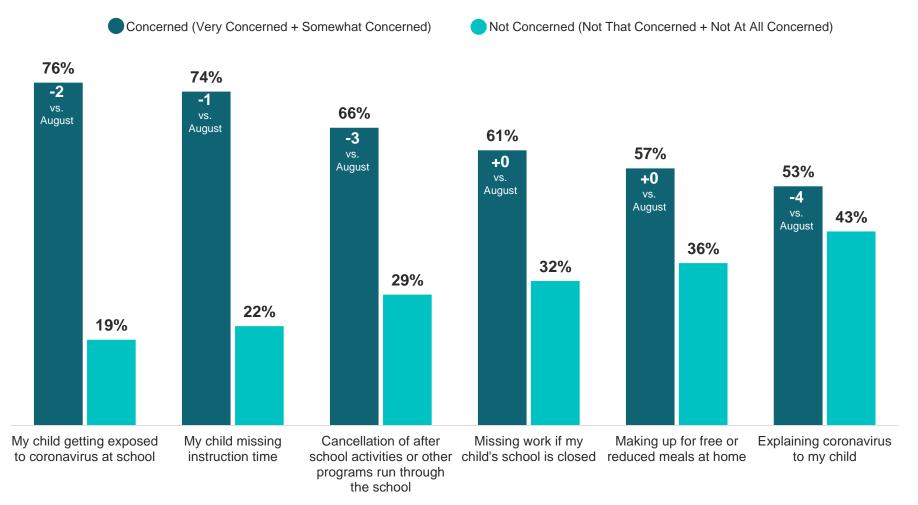
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School parents continue to be most concerned with their child/children getting exposed to the coronavirus at school and their child/children missing instruction time.

Thinking about the coronavirus (COVID-19), how concerned are you about each of the following?

School Parents



Note: The school parent subsample is weighted based on ACS benchmarks, starting in September 2020

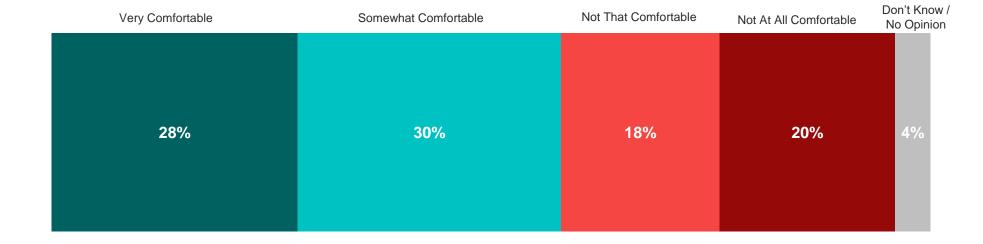
Comfort with Children Returning to School

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A majority of school parents are at least somewhat comfortable with their children returning to school.

Based on what you have seen, read, or heard about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak so far, how comfortable are you with your child/children returning to school right now?

School Parents



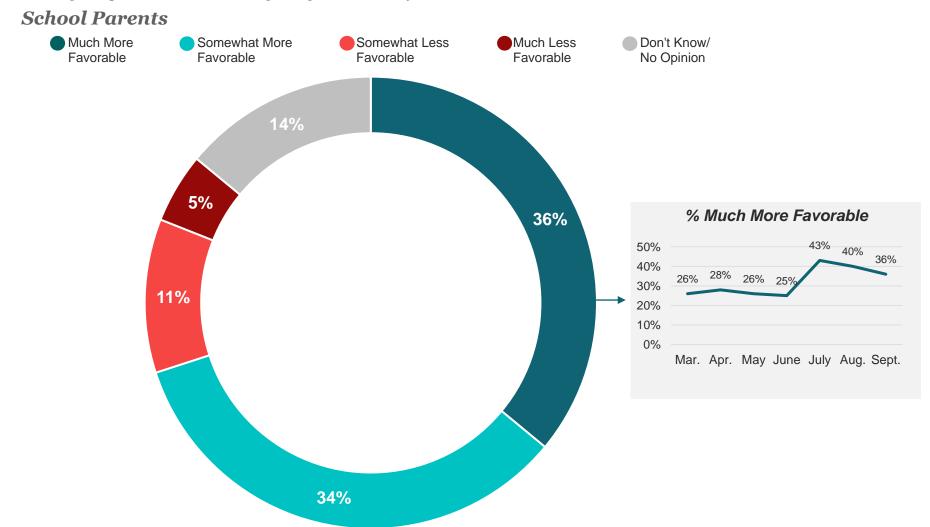
COVID-19 Impact on Homeschooling

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School parents continue to have a more favorable view of homeschooling since the coronavirus outbreak began in March...

How have your opinions on homeschooling changed as a result of the coronavirus?



Note: The school parent subsample is weighted based on ACS benchmarks, starting in September 2020

Likelihood of Homeschooling

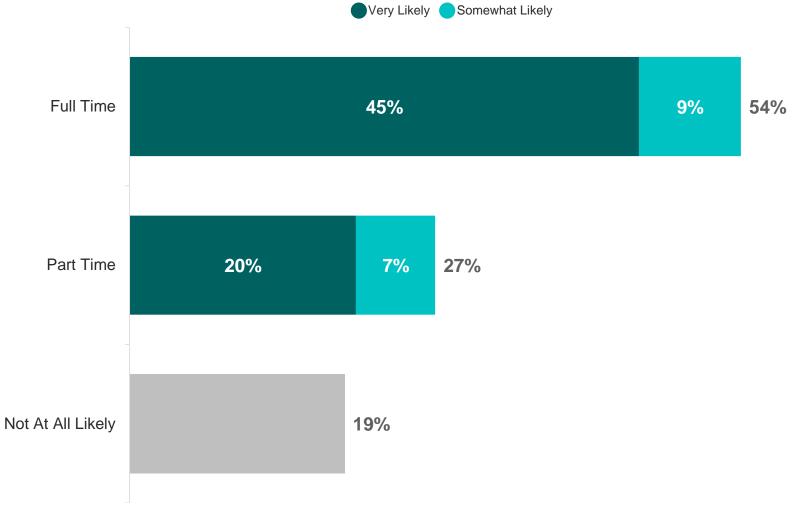
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...And many say they're likely to homeschool their children either full-time or part-time this school year as a result of the pandemic. Based on percentages, parents are likely conflating remote learning (via school) with conventional homeschooling.

'Homeschooling' is the education of a child mainly at home other than a school. It is usually conducted by a parent, tutor, or online teacher. Parents or guardians' control and direct the curriculum, content, and subject matter. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, how likely are you to homeschool your child/children on your own this current school year, either part-time or full-time?





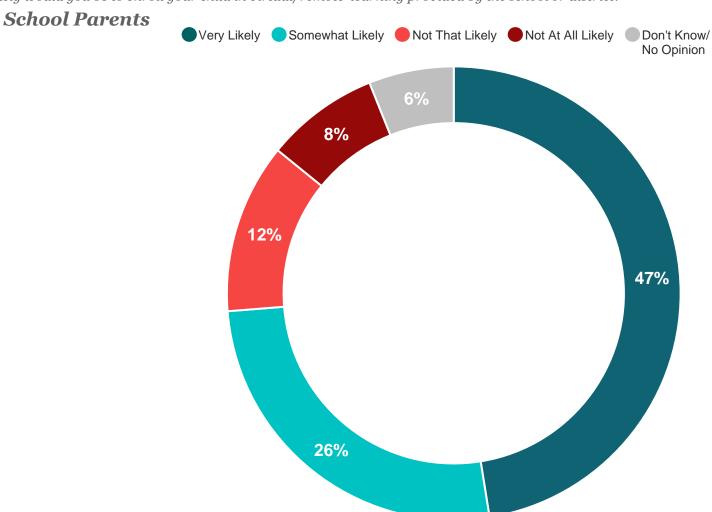
Likelihood of Remote Learning Enrollment

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If given the option, most school parents would opt for remote learning over their children going physically back to school.

In the current school year, if your school or school district allows for the option of virtual learning instead of physically going back to school, how likely would you be to enroll your child in virtual/remote learning provided by the school or district?



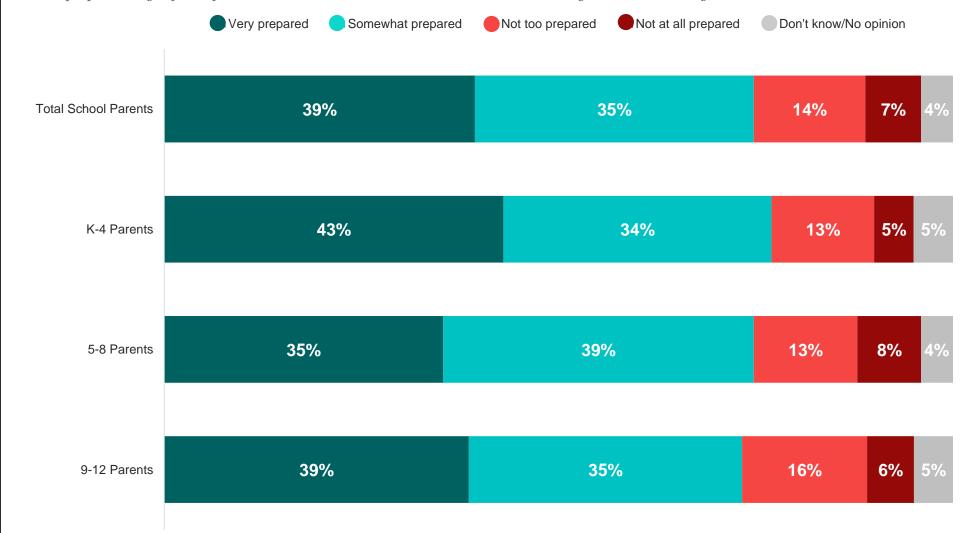
Remote Learning Preparedness

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Most school parents continue to feel at least somewhat prepared to facilitate remote learning, especially those with children in grades K-4.

How prepared do you feel to facilitate online instruction (also known as virtual learning or remote learning)?



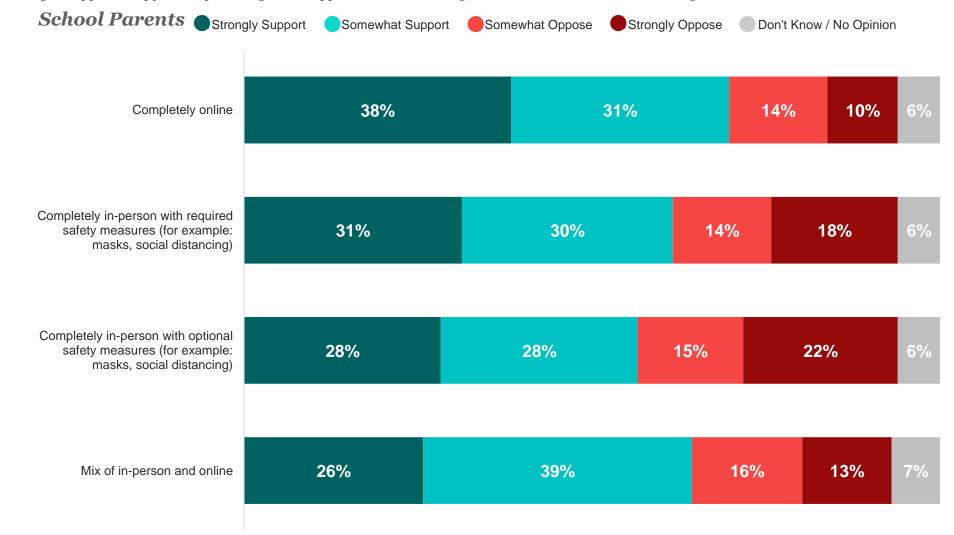
Online, Inperson, or Hybrid Schooling Support

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School parents continue to be most supportive of school being conducted completely online for the current school year.





One or Multiple Learning Options Preference

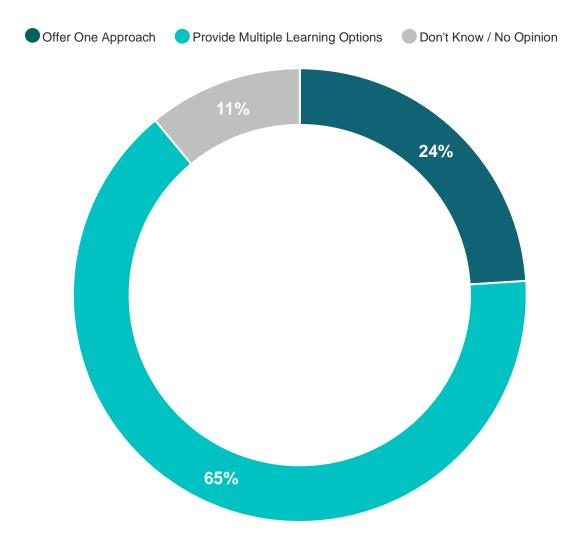
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The majority of parents continue to prefer that schools provide multiple learning options.

And, do you think schools should offer one approach to educating K-12 students in the fall or provide multiple learning options?

School Parents



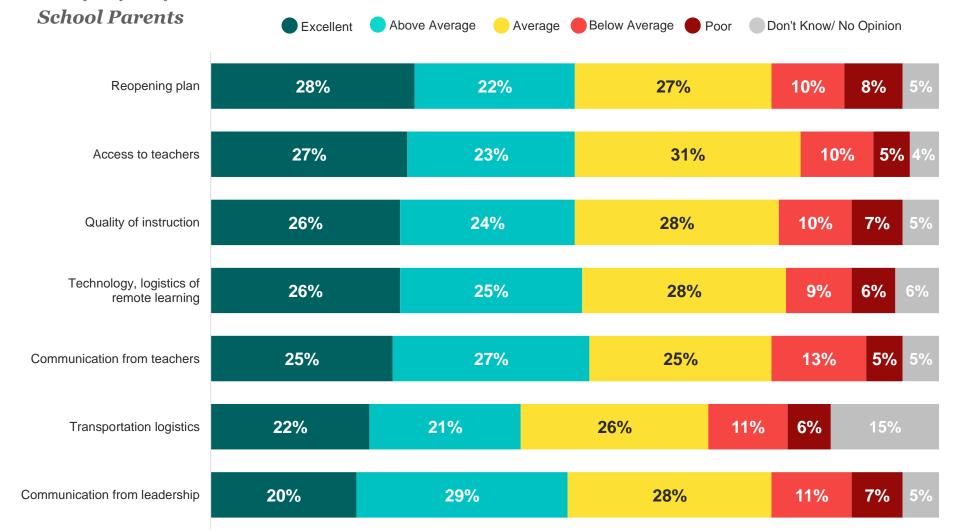
Satisfaction with School Communication

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School parents give their schools mixed ratings when it comes their communications about education plans for this fall.

How satisfied or unsatisfied are you with the communication from your child's/children's school related to the coronavirus outbreak and education plans for the fall?



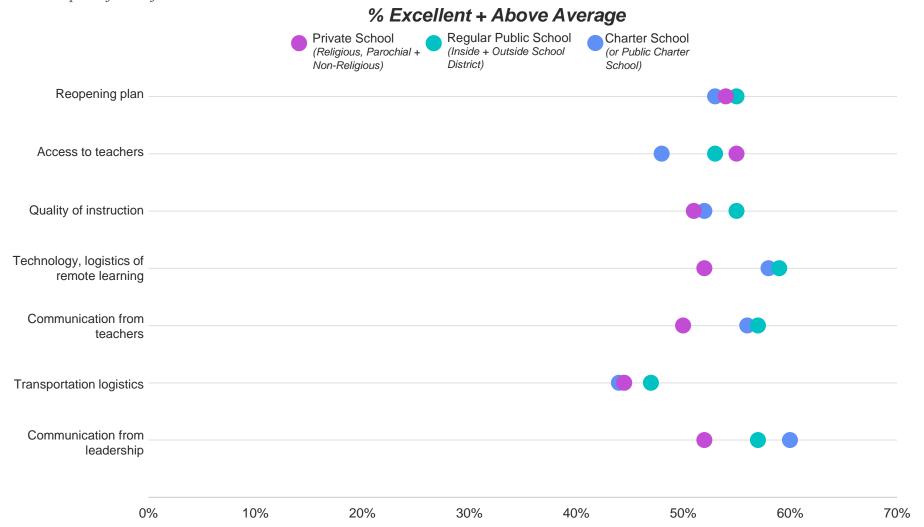
Satisfaction with School Communication

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Different school types have excelled at various types of communications related to the coronavirus outbreak.

How satisfied or unsatisfied are you with the communication from your child's/children's school related to the coronavirus outbreak and education plans for the fall?



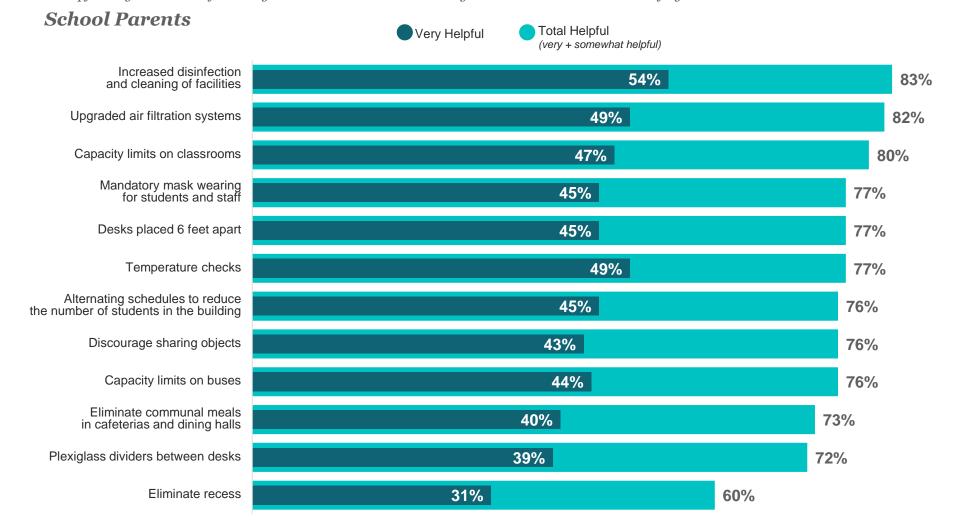
School Safety Measures

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Most parents continue to think that all proposed safety measures will be at least somewhat helpful and believe increased disinfection of facilities will be most helpful.

How helpful do you think the following measures would be in allowing students to return to school safely?



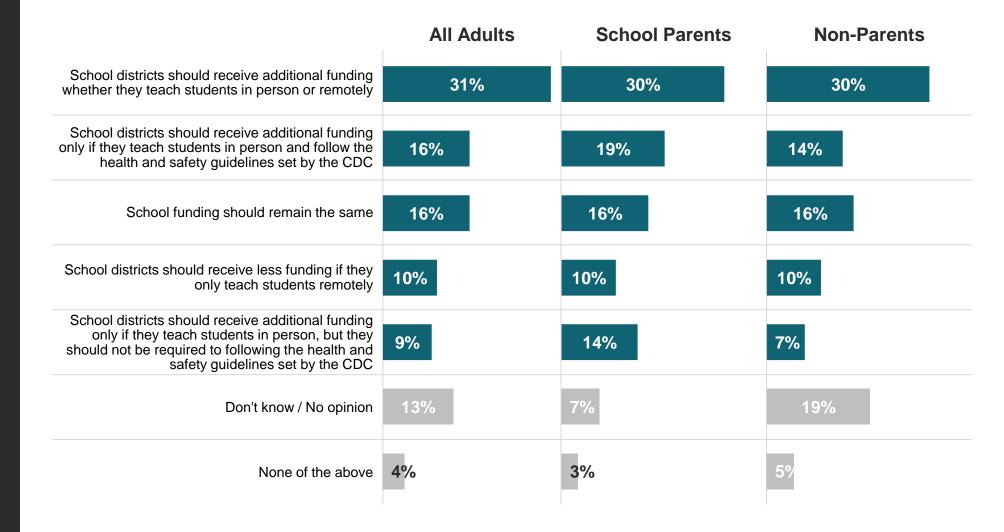
COVID-Related School Funding Support

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A plurality of Americans support additional school funding regardless of the school's approach to COVID-19.

Which of the following statements regarding school funding in response to the pandemic do you most agree with, even if none are exactly right?



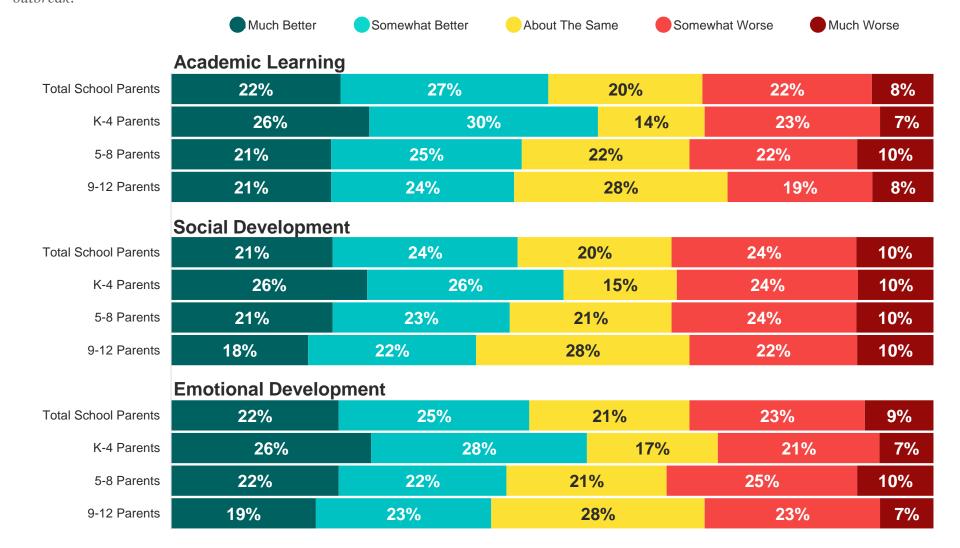
COVID-19 Impact on Learning and Development

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K-4 parents feel their child/children's learning and development is better since the start of the pandemic. 9-12 parents are more likely to feel their child/children are doing about the same in those areas.

How would you compare your child's/children's progress on the following right now, compared to just before the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?



School Type Shift

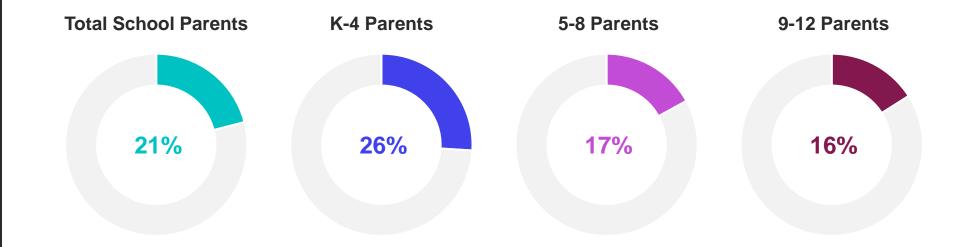
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K-4 parents are most likely to have switched their child/children's school type for this school year than those with older children.

Please tell us the grade level for each of your children; what kind of school each child will attend this new school year; and what kind of school each child was being educated in February of this year, before any school closures.

% Of Students Switching School Type, Reported by Parents



School Type Shift

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Since February of this year, there has been a slight uptick in children being enrolled in homeschooling and charter schools. There has been a slight decrease in private and public district school enrollment.

Please tell us the grade level for each of your children; what kind of school each child will attend this new school year; and what kind of school each child was being educated in February of this year, before any school closures.



Note: New pilot question added in August 2020. Reported school types in February 2020 reflect higher than typical national enrollment patterns for private schools, charter schools, and homeschooling.

School Type Shift

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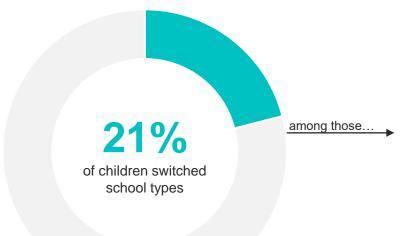
Homeschoolers appear most likely to say their children switched to a different school type this fall.

Please tell us the grade level for each of your children; what kind of school each child will attend this new school year; and what kind of school each child was being educated in February of this year, before any school closures.

School Type Attended

% Of Students, Reported by Parents

School Parents



•	This New Year
	→ TO
13%	Private School
9%	Public Charter School
19%	Public District School
11%	Home School
2%	Public Charter School
7%	Public District School
9%	Home School
7%	Private School
6%	Public District School
7%	Home School
7%	Private School
4%	Public Charter School
	13% 9% 19% 11% 2% 7% 9% 7% 6% 7%

School Type Attending

Learning Pods

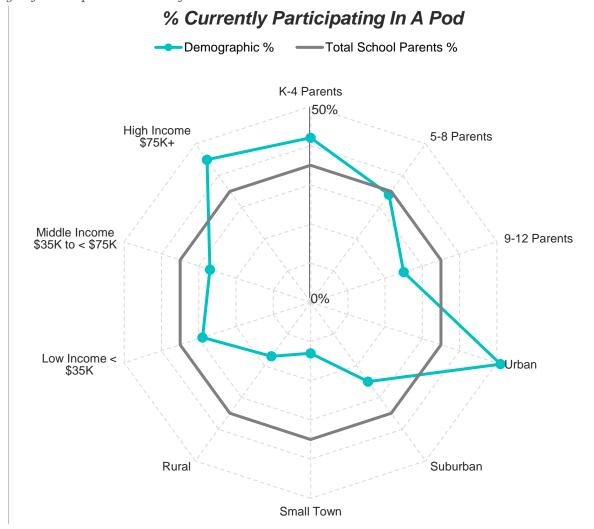
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School parents with high incomes (\$75k+), younger children (grades K-4), and live in urban areas are most likely to be participating in a pod for this school year.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, are you planning to form a 'pod' with other families?





Learning **Pods**

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School parents that are interested or are participating in a 'pod' believe that they are a good for socialization and will keep their child/children up to speed with curriculum. School parents that oppose pods believe they are unsafe, expensive, and unnecessary for their children.

Why are you participating in a 'pod'? Why are you looking to form or join a 'pod'? Why aren't you planning to participate in a 'pod'?

WHY PARTICIPATING IN A 'POD'

"To help my children keep up to date with their curriculum."

66

"It's safe and helpful to help my kids study within a tight community of other children."

> "To keep my child socializing with other children during the pandemic."

WHY LOOKING TO FORM OR JOIN A 'POD'

"I want my children to have more social interaction and I need help facilitating their learning."

"It could be helpful for my son with the subjects he's struggling with."

"My kids are tired of being home. I have to work and can't teach, plus it's good for their social skills."

WHY NOT PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN A 'POD'

"I don't feel comfortable with my kids being around other children during this time of **COVID-19.**"

"Can't afford the cost, plus I don't think there a need for a pod for my child."

"High schoolers can work independently."

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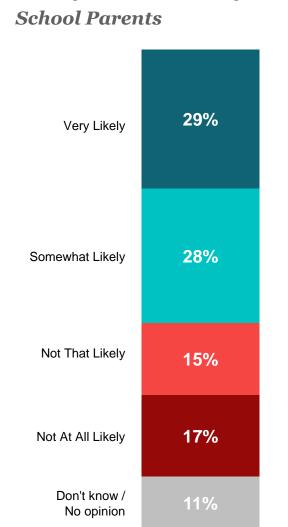
Tutoring

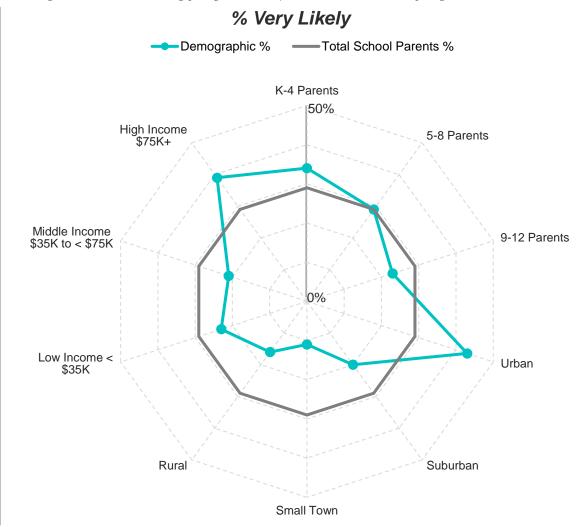
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A majority of school parents are likely to seek out tutoring for their child/children this school year. The same demo groups that are more likely to be interested in learning 'pods' are also more likely to seek out tutoring.

This school year, to what extent are you more or less likely to seek out tutoring for your child/children – outside of regular school hours?





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Direction of Education

School parents, especially parents of younger students, continue to be more optimistic than non-parents about the direction of K-12 education.

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?

% Right Direction

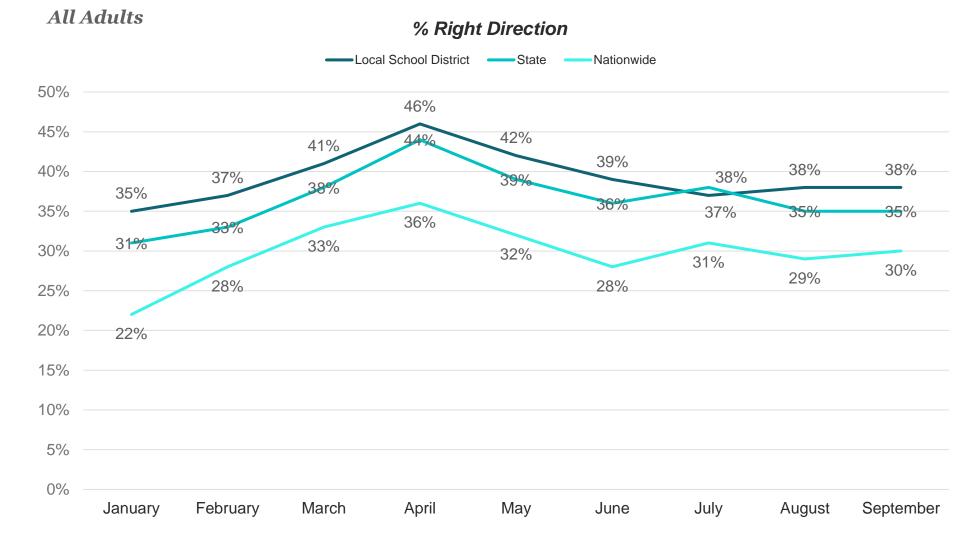


Direction of Education

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American's feeling about the direction of education were steady across all levels compared to August.

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?



Purpose of Education

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Americans believe its most important that grades K-8 teach students core academics and grades 9-12 teach students skills for future employment.

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

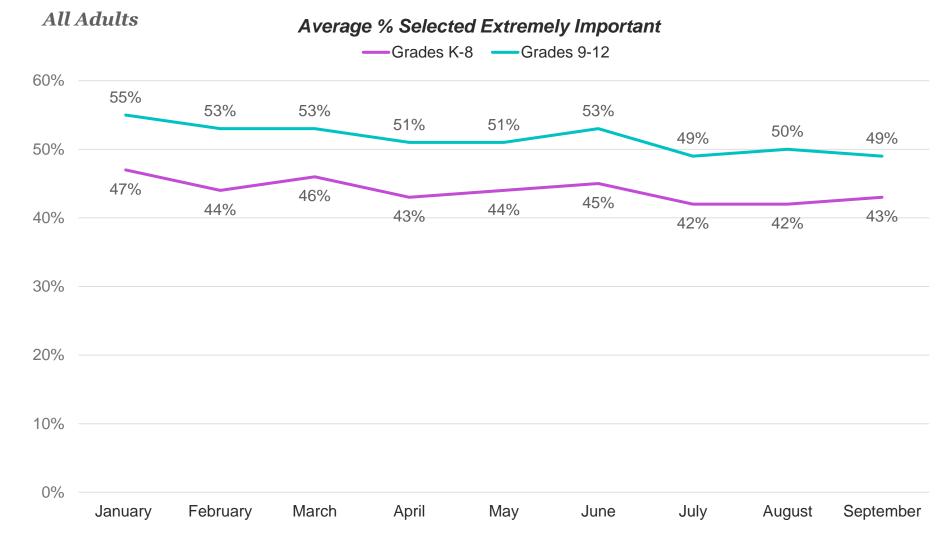
% Extremely Important

Grades K-8 Average % selected Extremely Important 43%			Grades 9-12 Average % selected Extremely Important 49%	
	Core academic subjects (55%)		Skills for future employment (59%)	
	Become independent thinkers (47%)		Core academic subjects (54%)	
	Socialization (47%)	-`````	Become independent thinkers (53%)	
	How to be good citizens (46%)		How to be good citizens (51%)	
	Skills for future employment (42%)		Socialization (47%)	
	Values, moral character, religious virtues (41%)	\$	Values, moral character, religious virtues (45%)	
Ŕ	To fix social problems (26%)		To fix social problems (33%)	

Purpose of Education

Americans continue to set higher standards for High School education vs. grades K-8.

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...



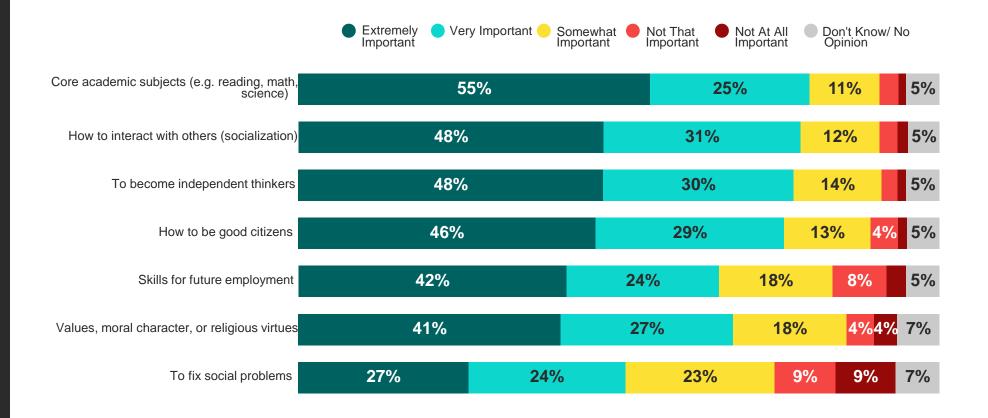
Purpose of Education: K-8

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Adults believe it's most important for grades K-8 to focus on core academics.

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

All Adults



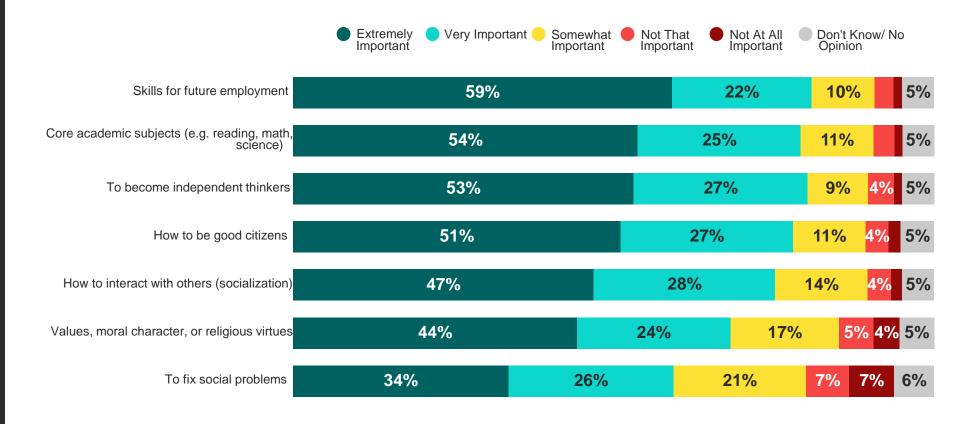
Purpose of

Education: High School

Americans believe grades 9-12 should focus on skills for future employment.

What do you believe should be the main purpose of education during **High School (9th through 12th grade)**? In your opinion, how important is it for students to learn...

All Adults



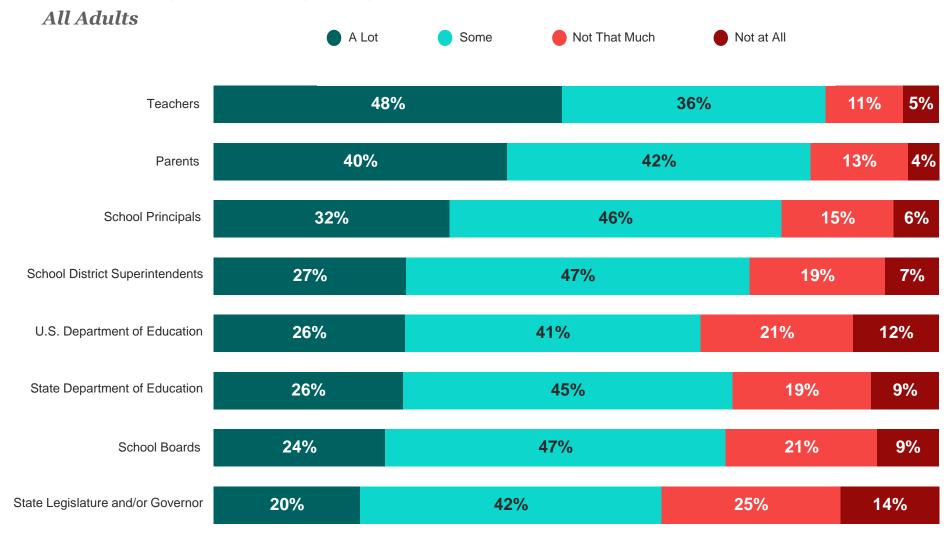
Trust in Education Decision Makers

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Americans are more likely to trust personal sources like teachers and parents to make good decisions about education.

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



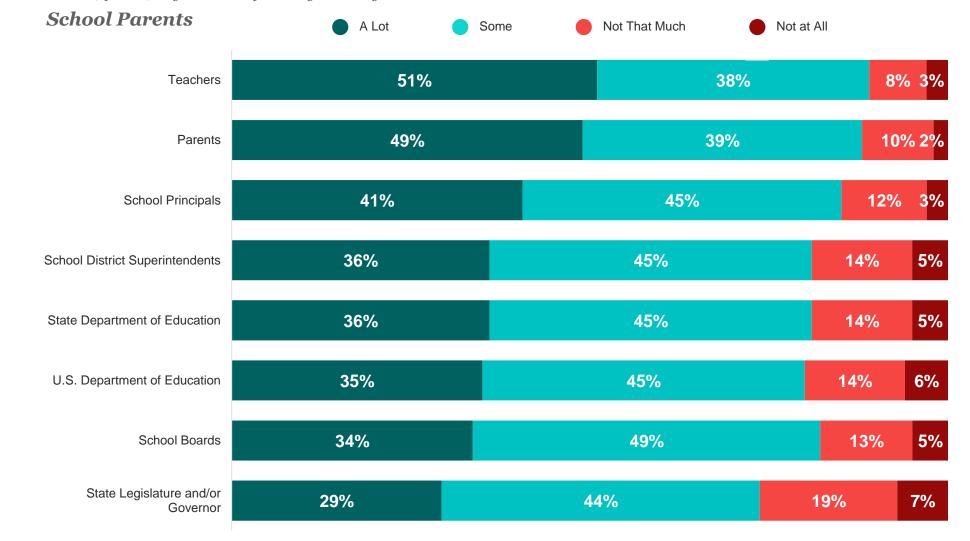
Trust in Education Decision Makers

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School parents are also most likely to trust teachers, other parents and school principals to make good decisions about education.

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



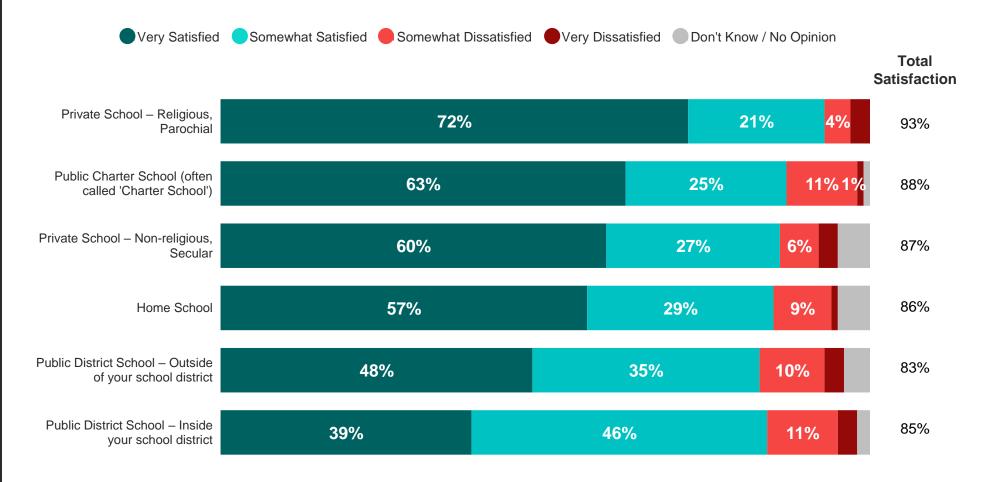
Satisfaction with Schooling

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Overall, parents are satisfied with their experiences across school types. Parents are most satisfied with religious private schools.

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

School Parents



School Spending Estimate

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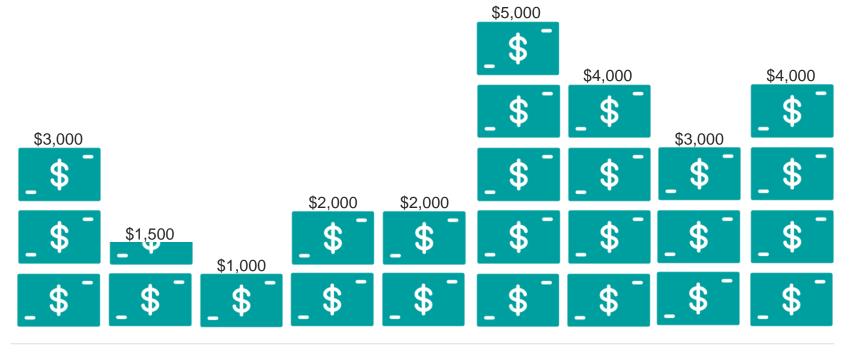
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Americans, especially school parents, believe that government spending per student is much lower than actual expenditures.

How much do you think is spent <u>per year on each student</u> 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.

Median estimate

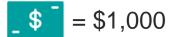
	FY17 Stat	FY17 State Actuals		
	Maximum	\$23,091		
	Mean	\$12,521		
	Minimum	\$7,179		



Total School K-4 Parents 5-8 Parents 9-12 Parents Non-Parents Conservative Parents

Liberal

Moderate



Adults

School Funding

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When given actual spending information, Americans are much less likely (-20 points) to believe school spending per student is 'too low'.



State Per Pupil Spending Source: National Center for Education Statistics

School Funding

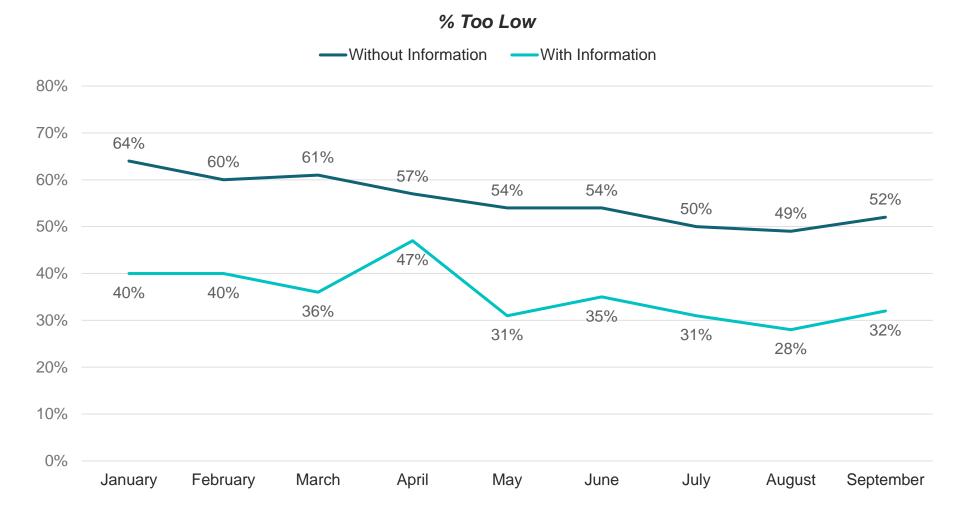
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The proportion of Americans that indicate spending is too low has been declining since January but ticked up slightly in September.

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:

All Adults



Teacher Salary Estimate

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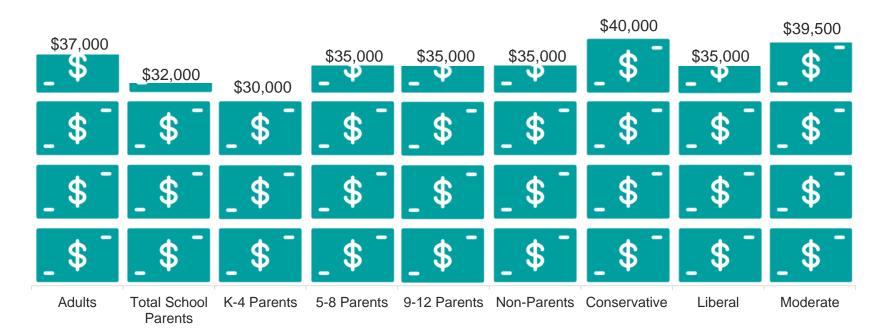
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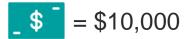
Americans believe that their state's teachers make less than even the lowest state average.

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

Median estimate

FY17 State Actuals		
Maximum	\$83,585	
Mean	\$57,282	
Minimum	\$43,107	





Teacher Salaries

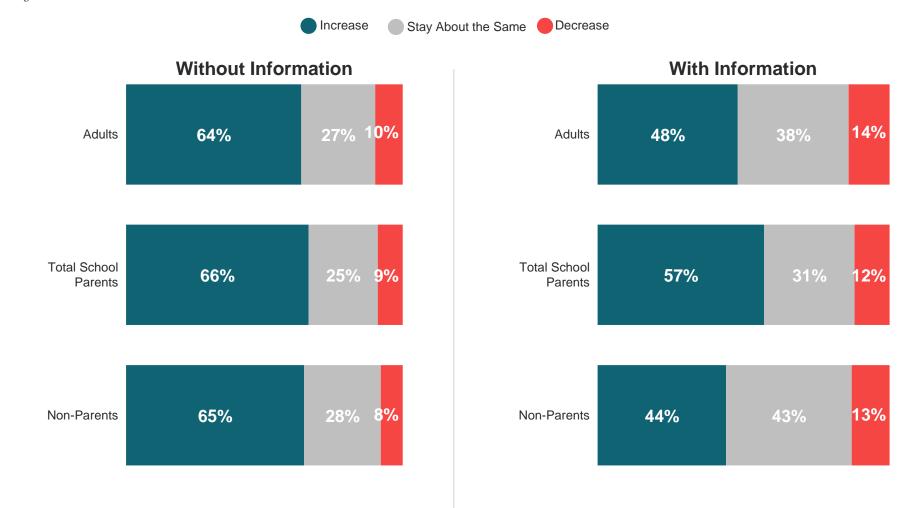
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Americans are less likely (-16 points) to say teacher salaries should increase when given a publicly reported statistic. School parents (a majority) are more likely than non-parents to believe teacher salaries should increase.

Do you think that public school teacher salaries in your state should:

On average, public school teachers in [STATE] are paid an annual salary of \$_____. Do you think that public school teacher salaries should:



Teacher Salaries

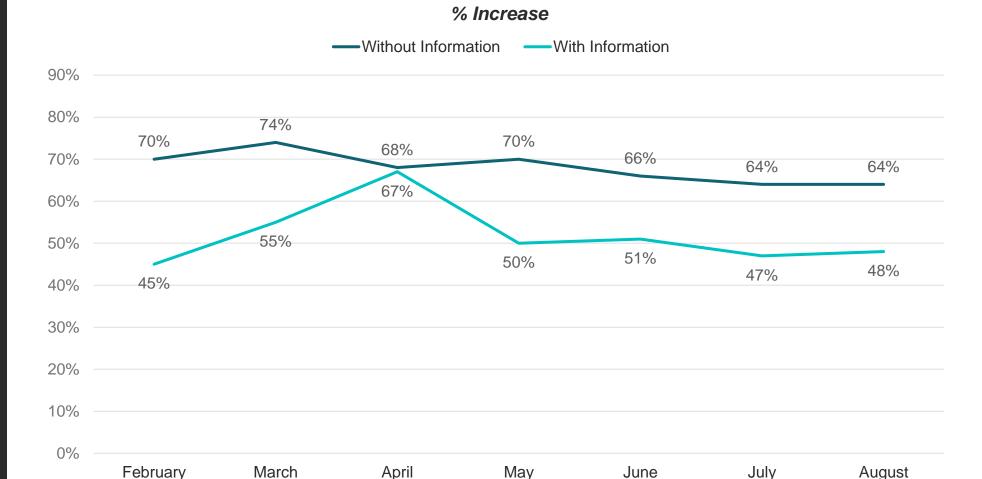
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The gap between those that think teacher's salaries should increase with and without information has remained steady since May.

Do you think that public school teacher salaries in your state should:
On average, public school teachers in [STATE] are paid an annual salary of \$_____. Do you think that public school teacher salaries should:

All Adults



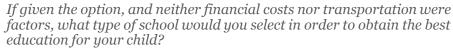
Preferred Schooling Type

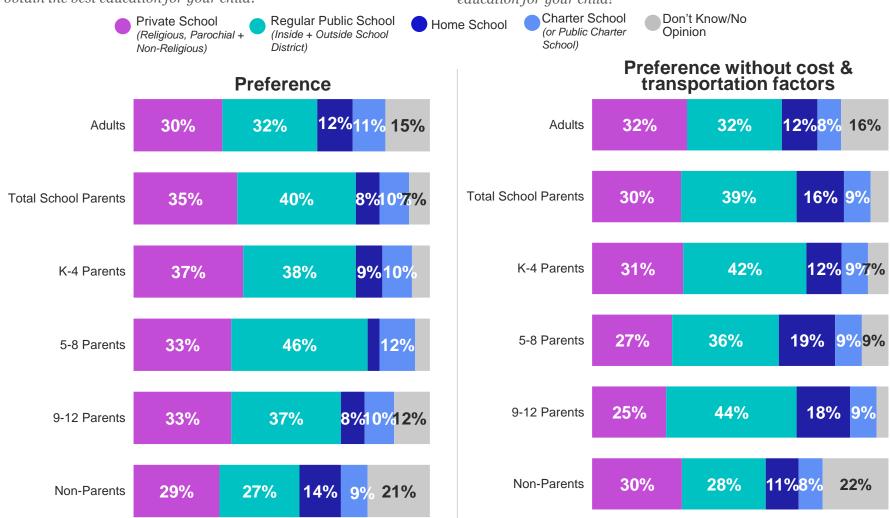
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School parents are more likely to choose home school when cost and transportation are not factors.

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





Standardized Testing

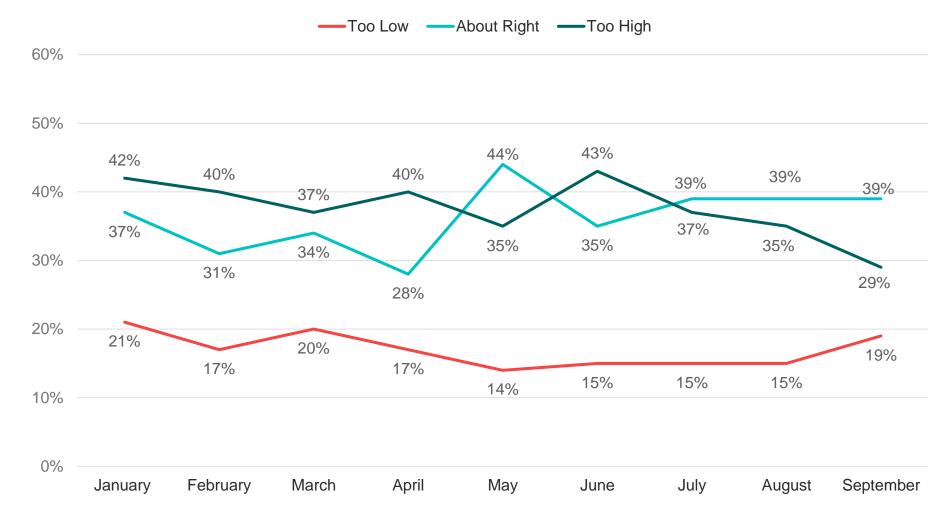
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The percentage of parents saying the amount of time spent on testing has dropped 14 points since June.

All public schools and most private schools give their students standardized tests during the school year. When thinking about students preparing for and taking these tests, in general, do you believe the amount of time spent on standardized testing in American schools is:

School Parents



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Charter School Favorability

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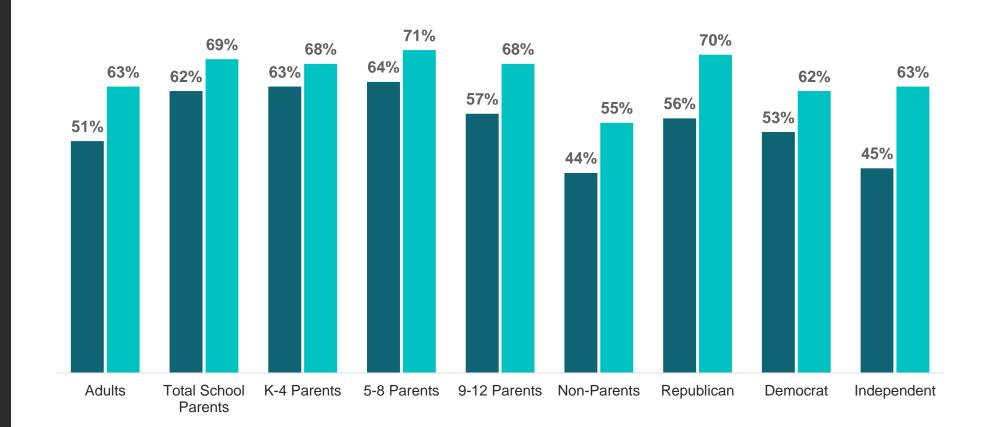
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All demographics experience a lift in support for charter schools once given a description.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'charter schools' in K-12 education? 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 Favorability

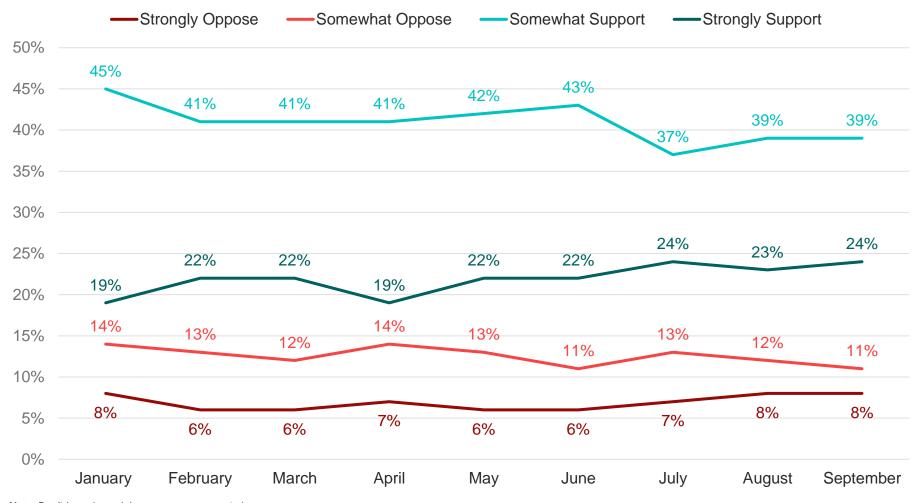
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There has been a decline in Adults that 'Somewhat Support' Charter Schools since the beginning of 2020. There has also been a slight increase in Adults that 'Strongly Support' Charter Schools.

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. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

All Adults



Charter School Favorability

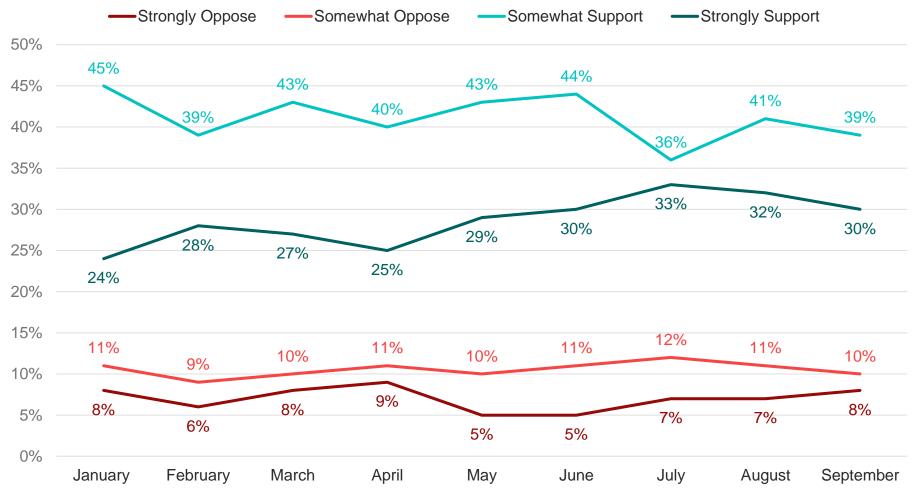
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Similarly, fewer School Parent 'Somewhat Support' Charter Schools but there has been a slight increase in School Parents that 'Strongly Support' Charter Schools.

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. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

School Parents



School Voucher Favorability

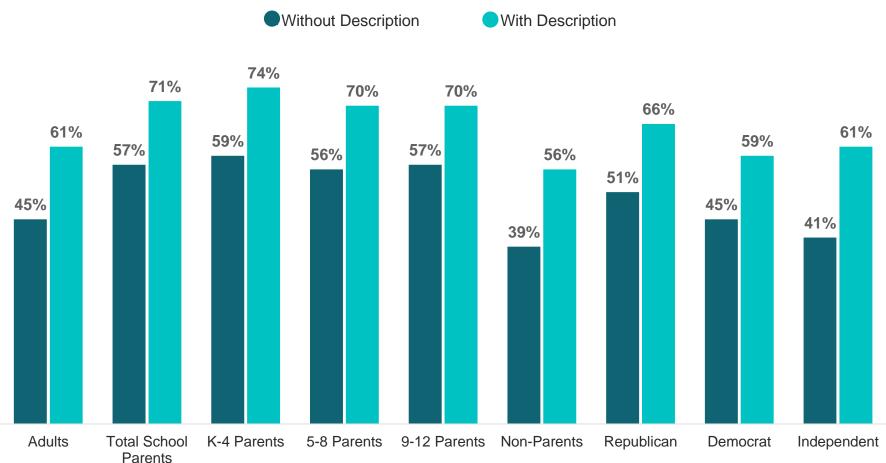
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Respondents are more supportive of school vouchers when given a description – especially among non-parents and Independents.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'school vouchers' in K-12 education? 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 Favorability

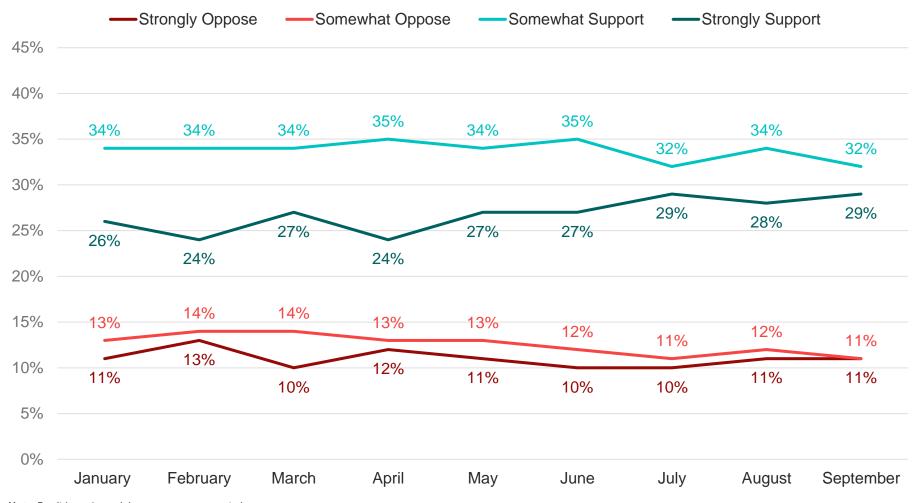
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Slightly more Americans 'Strongly Support' School Vouchers in September than did in January.

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?

All Adults



School Voucher Favorability

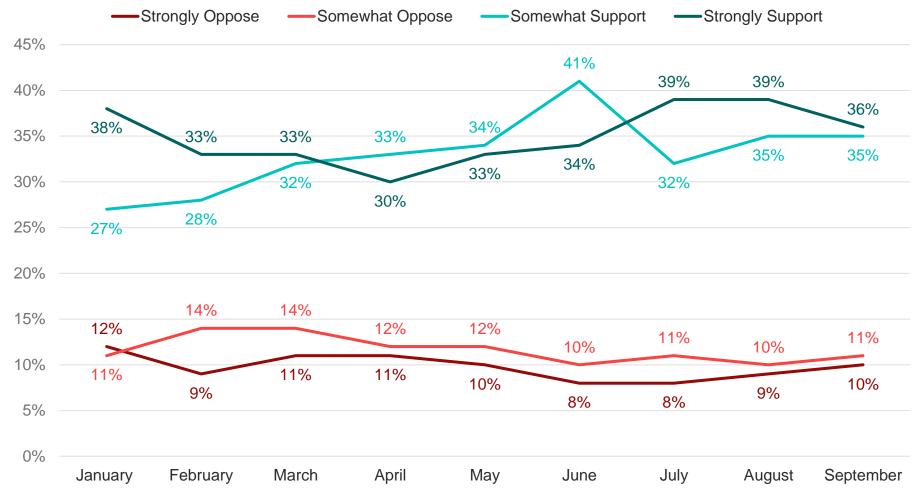
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The number of School Parents that 'Strongly Support' School Vouchers declined slightly since last month.

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 Parents



Education Savings Accounts Favorability

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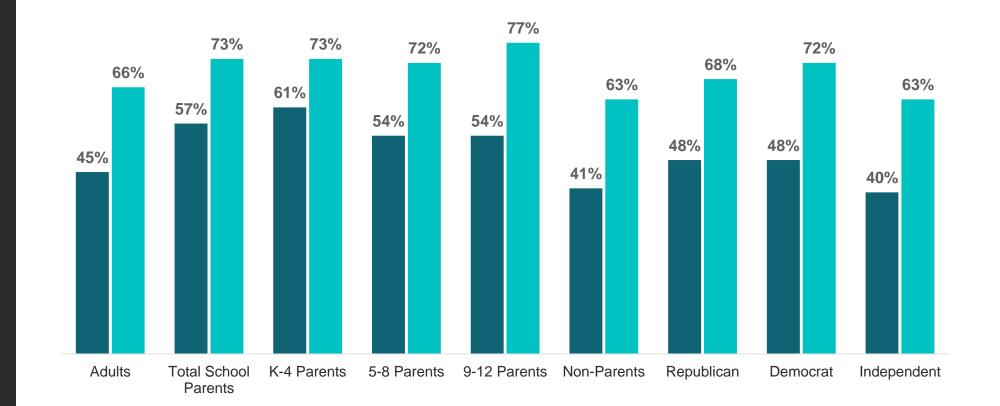
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ESA support rises dramatically across demographics once respondents are given information.

Based on what you know, or have heard from others... In general, what is your opinion of 'education savings accounts' in K-12 education? 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?

Total Support (Strongly Support + Somewhat Support)

Without Description
With Description



Education Savings Account Favorability

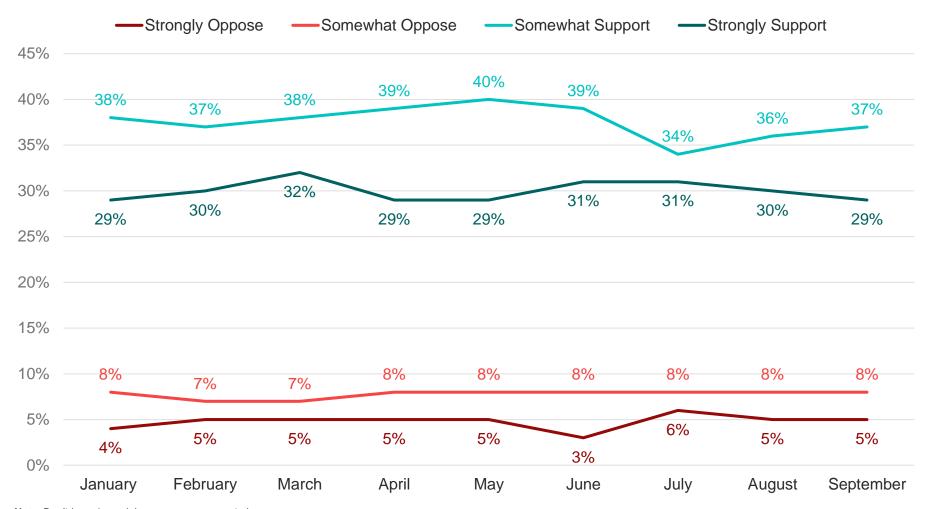


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Support and opposition of Education Savings Accounts remained the same among Americans compared to last month.

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?

All Adults



Education Savings Account Favorability

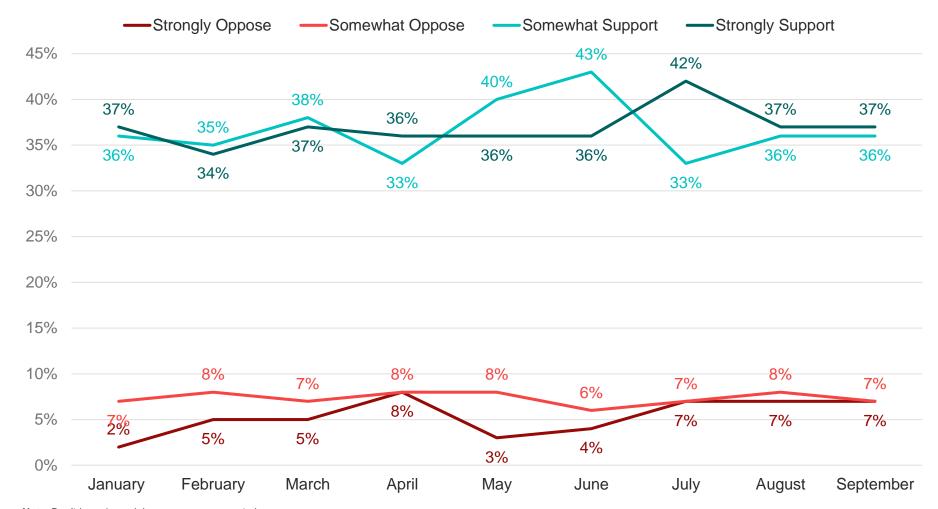


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Among School Parents, support and opposition for Education Savings Accounts has been steady since August.

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?

School Parents



Contents

- 1 COVID-19 and Schooling
- Opinions about K-12 Education
- Awareness and Favorability of School Choice Policies

Survey Profile and Demographics

Methodology

Survey Profile, 1

Dates September 11-17, 2020

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

Methodology

Survey Profile, 2

Survey Time Median = 10.90 minutes

Sample Size Total, N = 2,200 Gen Pop Adults

Oversampling N=700 School Parents

Quotas Age, Gender

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

Measure of Precision

(adjusted for weighting) ± 2.25 percentage points

Participation Rate 16.0%

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

Project Contact Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

Demographic Base Sizes

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Hispanic	271
White	1647
Non-Hispanic White	1510
Black	326
Other	94
Generation Z	228
Millennial	661
Generation X	607
Boomers	623
Male	990
Female	1210
< College	1375
College +	825
Northeast	405
Midwest	485
South	903
West	407

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Total School Parents	1261
K-4 Parents	756
5-8 Parents	529
9-12 Parents	433
Non-Parents	806
Liberal	647
Moderate	595
Conservative	744
Democrat	824
Independent	521
Republican	703
Urban	647
Suburban	926
Small Town	257
Rural	370
Low Income <\$35K	914
Middle Income \$35K to <\$75K	698
High Income \$75K+	588

Demographic Base Sizes and Weights

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Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted	Target (%)
Hispanic	12%	16%	16%
White	75%	78%	78%
Non-Hispanic White	69%	n/a	n/a
Black	15%	12%	12%
Other	4%	9%	9%
Age: 18-34	31%	30%	30%
Age: 35-44	18%	16%	16%
Age: 45-64	33%	34%	34%
Age: 65+	18%	20%	20%
Male	45%	48%	48%
Female	55%	52%	52%
< College	63%	69%	69%
College +	38%	31%	31%
Northeast	18%	18%	18%
Midwest	22%	21%	21%
South	41%	37%	37%
West	19%	24%	24%

School Parent Definitions

Total School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in grades K-12
Charter School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in a charter school
District/Public School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in a district/public school
Private School Parents	Have at least one child enrolled in a private school

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School Parents



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