

# Public Opinion on K–12 Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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## 2020 Schooling in America

Wave 2 (September 30–October 20, 2020)



# KEY FINDINGS

COVID-19 IMPACTS

SCHOOLING DURING A PANDEMIC

LOOKING AHEAD

SNAPSHOTS AND TRENDS IN K–12 SCHOOLING

INFORMATION IMPACTS

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS AND POLICIES

- EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)
- SCHOOL VOUCHERS
- TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS
- CHARTER SCHOOLS

SURVEY PROFILE

# KEY FINDINGS

- **Nearly one-sixth of current school parents (14%) have at least one school-aged child in their household who is at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.**
- **Parents report a mixed picture regarding the well-being of their children.**
  - Parents now more often say their children are much/somewhat less happy than they indicated back in the spring (45% vs. 38%). Similarly, we have seen an increase among the proportion of parents who say their children are much/somewhat more stressed since the spring (53% vs. 45%).
- **The percentage of the general public giving high grades (A/B) to institutions fell across all types from spring to fall 2020. High grades assigned to local schools decreased the most (-19 points).**
  - School parents are more likely to give high grades (A/B) to local schools and businesses. Though the proportions giving those high grades also declined across all institutions from spring to fall 2020.
  - A majority of the general public still give A/B grades to local businesses.
- **Solid majorities of parents gave A/B grades for how their schools were doing on a range of back-to-school activities. But nearly one-fourth assigned D/F grades to schools for their reopening plans.**

# KEY FINDINGS

- **Child exposure to COVID-19 remains the greatest concern among parents.**
  - Similar to spring survey results, at least 40 percent of parents are extremely/very concerned about their children falling behind academically, feeling socially isolated, having major disruptions to school re-openings this fall, and missing extracurricular activities and programs because of cancellations.
- **Nearly two out of five parents say they are not at all comfortable with their children returning in-person to school, much higher (+15 points) than those giving the same response back in the spring.**
  - Nearly half of lower-income parents (48%) are not at all comfortable sending their children to school in person, which is significantly higher than higher-income (26%) or middle-income parents (39%) giving the same response.
- **Remote Learning**
  - As of October, two-thirds of parents reported their students either doing remote-online learning only (38%) or some mix of online and in-person learning (30%). Slightly more than half of all school parents (51%) report voluntarily choosing for their children to learn remotely, if it was offered by the school or district.
  - More than half of higher-income parents (52%) say they feel extremely/very prepared to facilitate virtual or remote learning. That is nearly double the number of lower-income parents (27%) who said the same.

# KEY FINDINGS

- **Parents reported their children doing more remote learning on a daily basis than indicated in our spring survey. The percentage of time interacting with teachers appears also to have increased.**
  - More than half of parents reported their student spends five or more hours per day doing remote learning, which is more than double the percentage of those who responded in May/June.
  - The median percentage of daily time students are interacting with a teacher in real time has more than doubled since spring: 45 percent vs. 20 percent.
- **More than half of current school parents (55%) were more favorable of homeschooling as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. That reflects an increase of +12 percentage points since the spring.**
- **More than one-third of current school parents said they were either participating in (19%) or looking to form/join (18%) a learning pod.**
  - Charter school and private school parents are much more likely than district school parents to report their children are currently in a learning pod.
  - Higher-income parents are roughly three times as likely to indicate participation compared to lower and middle-income households.

# KEY FINDINGS

- **More than three out of five Americans (63%) say K–12 is on the wrong track. That reflects a +7 point increase since the spring and the highest level since 2013.**
  - Private school parents are by far the most positive about K–12 education this fall, compared to other sectors. Homeschool parents are the most negative.
- **Parents' Experiences**
  - A much larger proportion of private school parents (72%) reported being “very satisfied” with their children’s schooling experiences, compared to parents schooling their children in other sectors.
  - All parents except public district school parents said a “safe environment” was one of the three most influential factors for choosing their kids’ schools. Parents’ top reasons for choosing their public district school are location/close to their home or work (43%), assigned to them (41%), or socialization (40%). Private school parents primarily said they made their choice because of safe environment (43%) or academic reputation (40%). Public charter school parents’ top reason was safe environment (44%). Homeschooling parents’ top reasons was a safe environment (68%) and individual/one-on-one attention (53%).
  - Actual enrollment patterns don’t reflect diversity of parents’ schooling preferences. Approximately four of five students attend a public district school, but only about one-third of current school parents say that would be their first choice. When parents are given question wording that sets aside “financial costs and transportation” hurdles, we did not see any discernable impact from the wording experiment one way or another.

# KEY FINDINGS

## ▪ **Grading Local Schools**

- Private schools received the largest proportion of high grades (A/B) compared to public district and public charter schools.
- Since the spring survey, the proportion of A/B grades increased by +5 points each for private schools and charter schools, but there was no change for district schools.

## ▪ **Public School Funding and Spending**

- Most Americans and parents drastically underestimated public school spending. The median respondent in both groups said per-student spending in their state is \$5,000, which is significantly less than the lowest state average.
- When provided their own state’s average per-student spending, Americans are less likely to say public school funding is at a level that is “too low.” In a split-sample experiment, we asked two slightly different questions. On the baseline version, 53 percent of respondents said public school funding was “too low.” However, on the version inserting a statistic for average state public per-pupil spending (state range: \$7,576–\$23,686 in FY18), the proportion that said spending was “too low” shrank by 19 percentage points to 34 percent. That drop has widened since the spring by -5 points.

# KEY FINDINGS

## ▪ Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)

- ESAs received the highest level of public support (81%) of any other type of educational choice in the eight years we have polled on the policy type. Nearly one out of five (18%) say they oppose ESAs.
- Our first question about ESAs asked for an opinion without offering any description. On this baseline question, 54 percent of respondents said they favored ESAs. Current school parents expressed a slightly higher support (58%). In a follow-up question that described how an ESA program operates, support rose by 27 points among all respondents, and increased 28 points (to 86%) among parents.
- Those who favor ESAs are most likely to do so because of “more freedom and flexibility for parents” (32%) or “access to better academic environment” (27%). The main reason for opposing ESAs appears to be the belief that ESAs will “divert funding away from public schools” (27%).
- A large majority of the general public (81%) prefers universal access to ESAs compared to the preference for means-tested eligibility based solely on financial need (59%).

# KEY FINDINGS

## ▪ **School Vouchers**

- On the baseline question about school vouchers—without any description—52 percent of all respondents said they favored the policy. Current school parents expressed higher initial support (59%). In the follow-up question that described how vouchers work, public support rose by 21 points (to 73%) and increased 19 points (to 78%) among current school parents. Support and opposition are at all-time highs in our polling.

## ▪ **Tax-Credit Scholarships**

- Two-thirds of all respondents (74%) said they support tax-credit scholarships, while 24 percent are opposed to the policy type. Current school parents were significantly more likely than the general public to favor such a policy (78%). There has been a significant increase of support since last year.

## ▪ **Public Charter Schools**

- On our first question about public charter schools—without any description—62 percent of all respondents said they favored the policy. Current school parents expressed higher initial support (71%). In the follow-up question that described how vouchers work, public support rose by 10 points (to 72%) and increased five points (to 76%) among current school parents. Support is at an all-time high in our polling.

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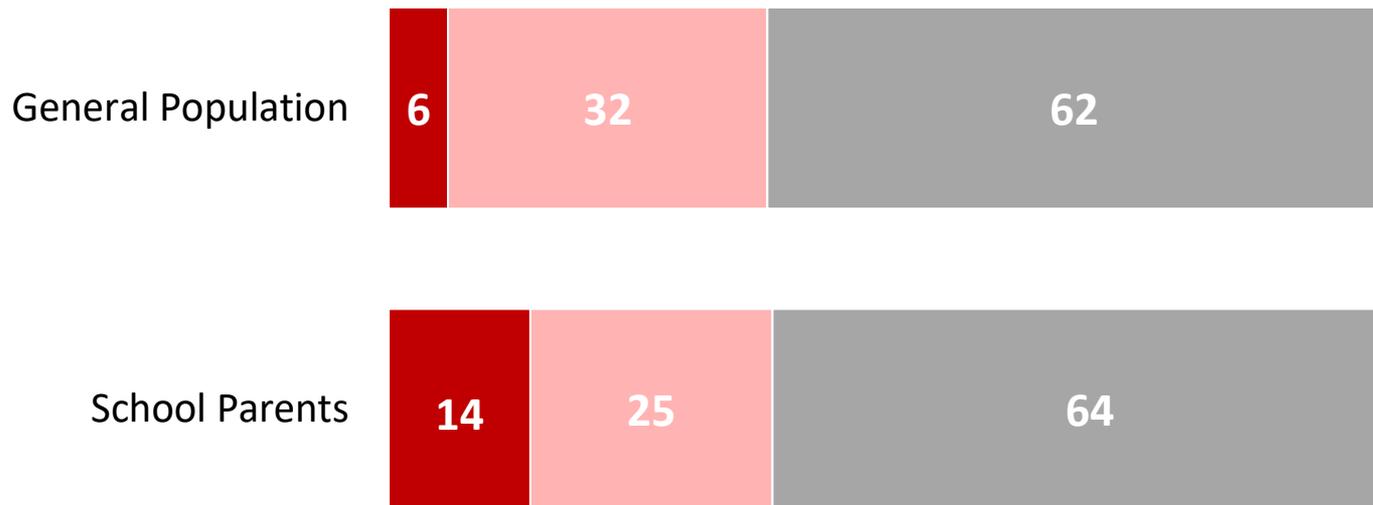
**SURVEY PROFILE**

## HOUSEHOLD RISK TYPE

**Nearly one-sixth of current school parents have at least one school-aged child in their household who is at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.**

*% of Respondents Indicating Household Risk Type*

- Yes, one or more school-aged children
- Yes, at least one person who is not a school-aged child
- No person in my house falls into any of these categories



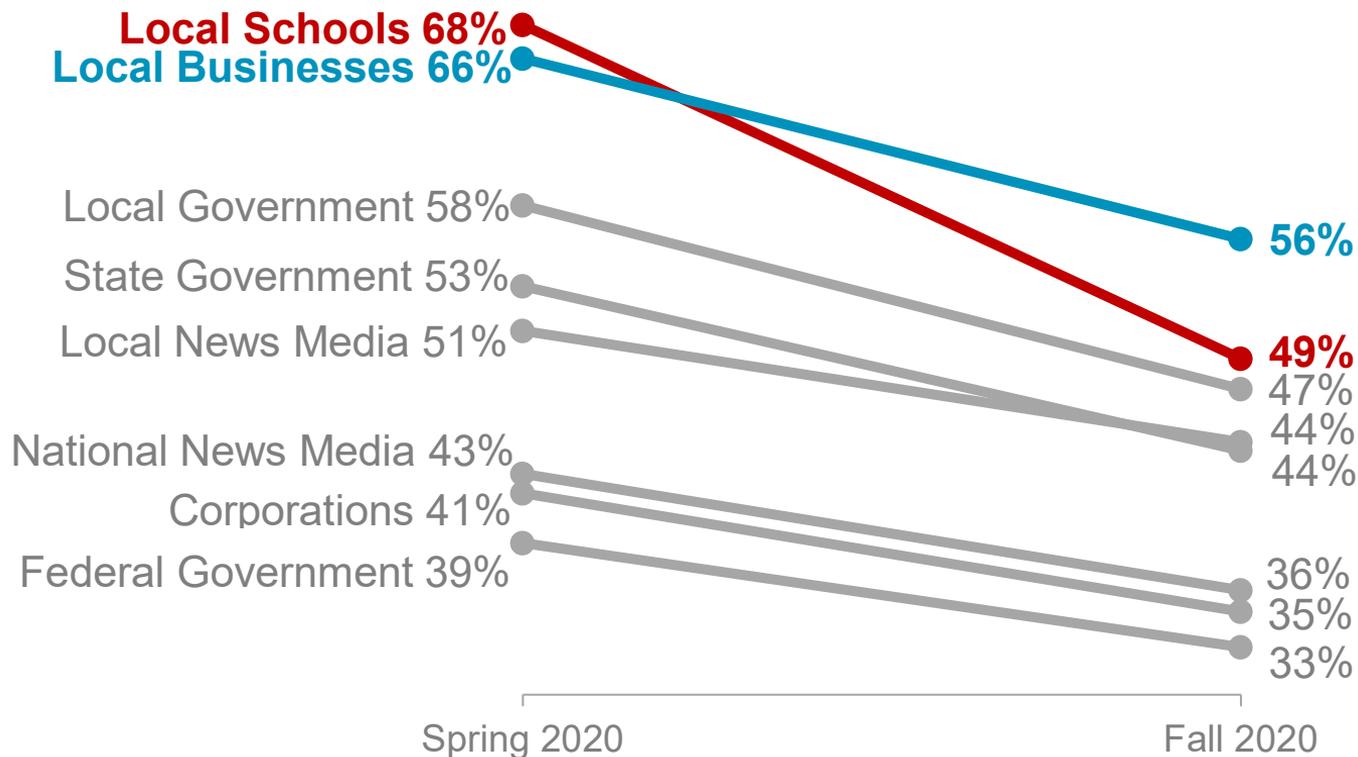
*Notes:* We define “high risk” using Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Responses of “Don’t Know” and “Refusal” not shown. For the online survey, respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP24

## GRADING RESPONSES BY INSTITUTION

The percentage of the general public assigning high grades (A/B) fell across all institutions from spring to fall 2020. High grades assigned to local schools decreased the most (-19 points). A majority of the general public still give high grades to local businesses.

*% of General Population Giving Grade "A" or "B"*

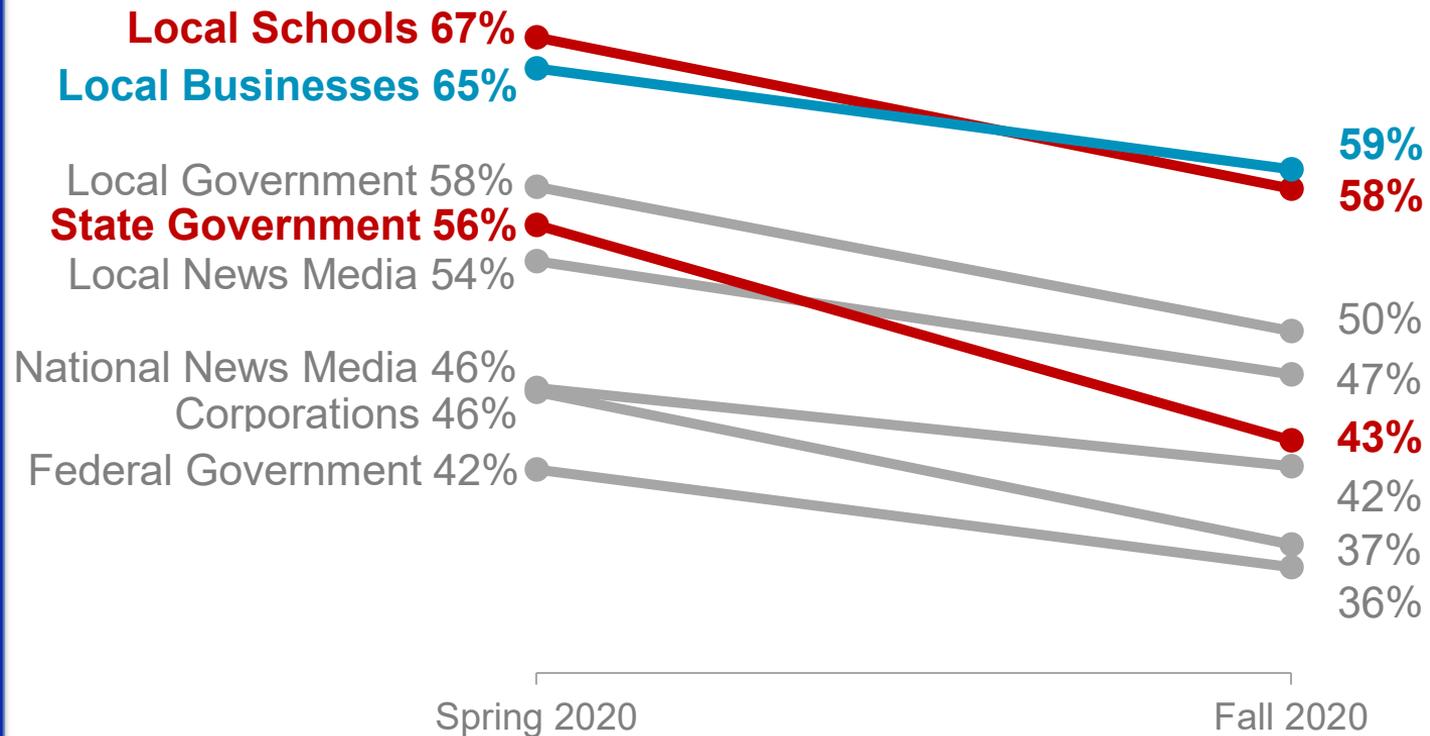


Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q24

## GRADING RESPONSES BY INSTITUTION

School parents are more likely to give high grades (A/B) to local schools and businesses, though the proportions giving those high grades declined across all institutions from spring to fall 2020.

*% of Current School Parents Giving Grade "A" or "B"*



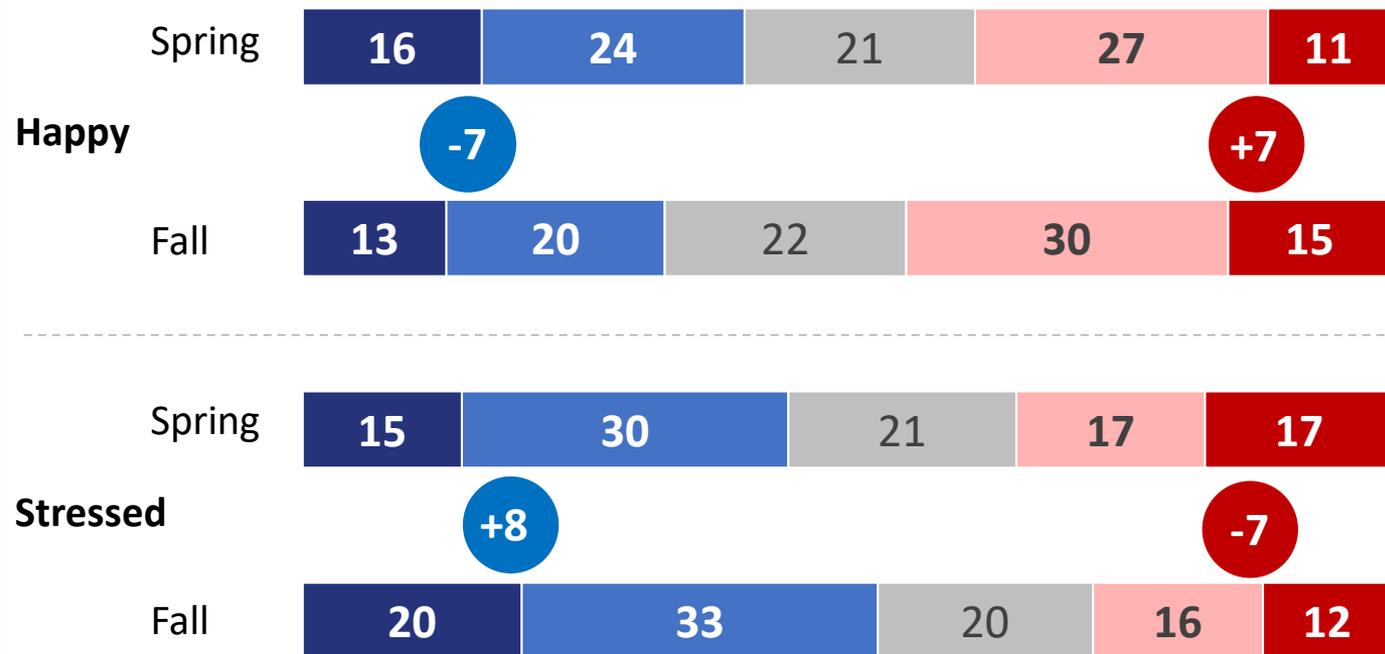
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q24

## CHANGES IN CHILD HAPPINESS, STRESS

Parents are more likely to say their children are more stressed and less happy now compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic. Compared to the spring results, a higher percentage of parents said their child is more stressed (+8 points) and less happy (+7 points).

*% of Current School Parents*

Much More | Somewhat More | About the Same | Somewhat Less | Much Less



*Note:* Responses of "Don't Know" and "Refusal" not shown. For the online survey, respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

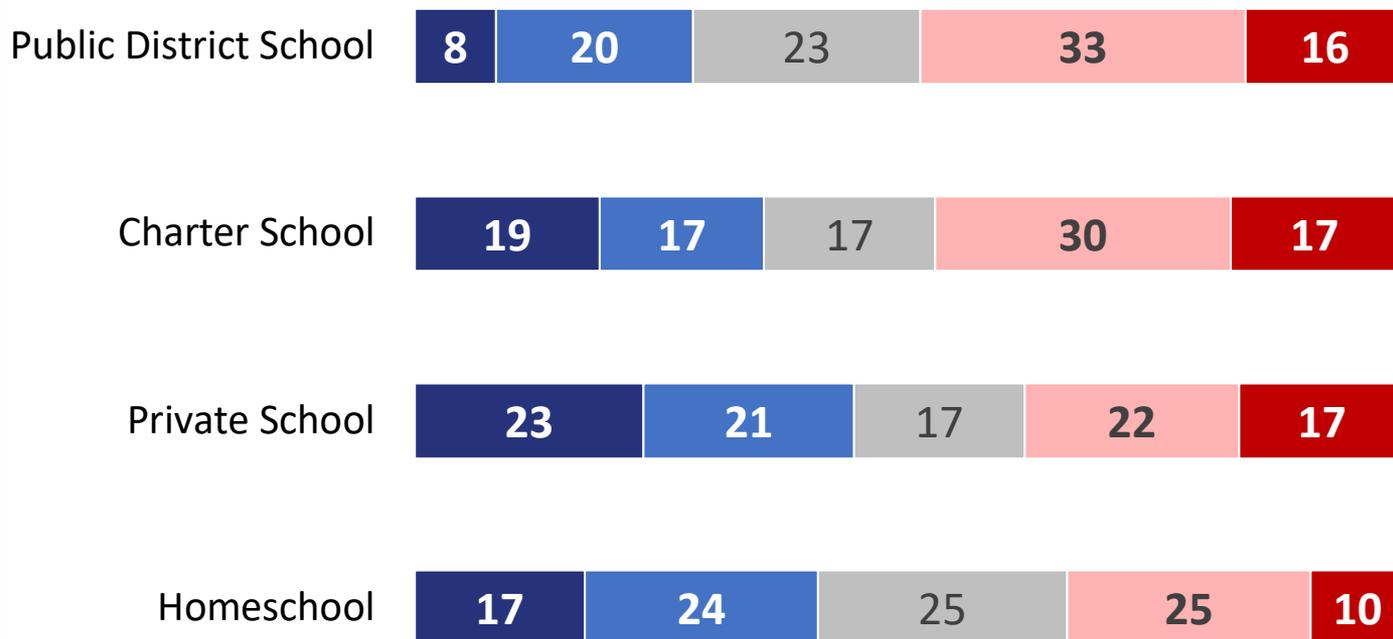
*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP1 and QCP2

## CHANGES IN CHILD HAPPINESS, STRESS

Parents with children in private school or homeschool reported that their children are overall happier now than they were pre-pandemic.

*% of Current School Parents by Schooling Sector*

**Much More** | **Somewhat More** | **About the Same** | **Somewhat Less** | **Much Less**



*Note:* Responses of "Don't Know" and "Refusal" not shown. For the online survey, respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

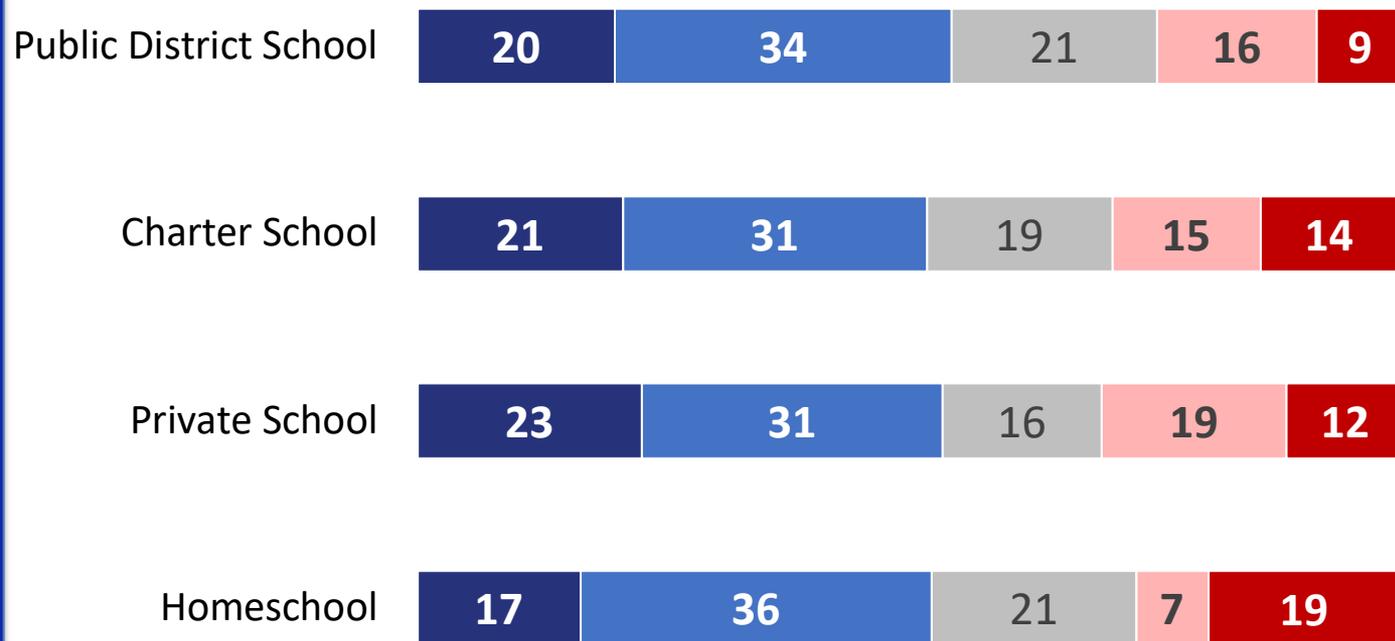
*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP1 and QCP2

## CHANGES IN CHILD HAPPINESS, STRESS

Parents with children in charter schools or homeschooling are more likely to report their children are much less stressed than public district school parents.

*% of Current School Parents by Schooling Sector*

**Much More** | **Somewhat More** | **About the Same** | **Somewhat Less** | **Much Less**



*Note:* Responses of "Don't Know" and "Refusal" not shown. For the online survey, respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

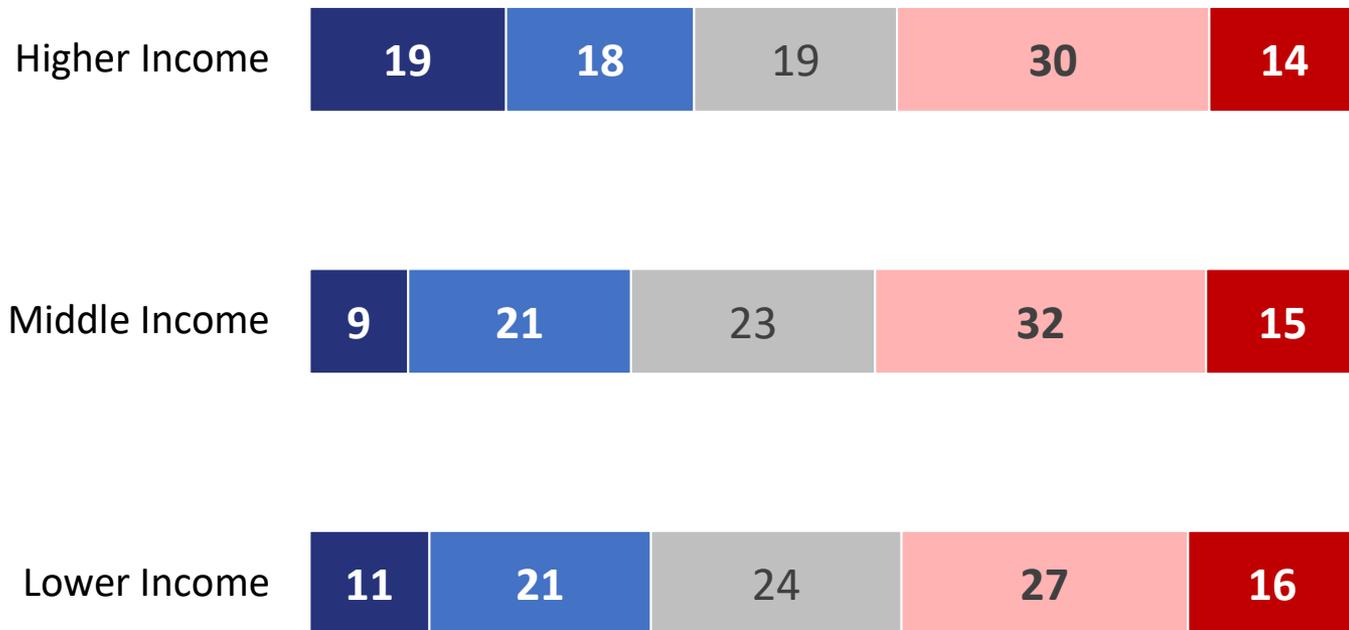
*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP1 and QCP2

## CHANGES IN CHILD HAPPINESS, STRESS

Parents in higher-income households are more likely than other parents to report their child is much happier now than they were pre-pandemic.

*% of Current School Parents by Income*

**Much More** | **Somewhat More** | **About the Same** | **Somewhat Less** | **Much Less**



*Note: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.*

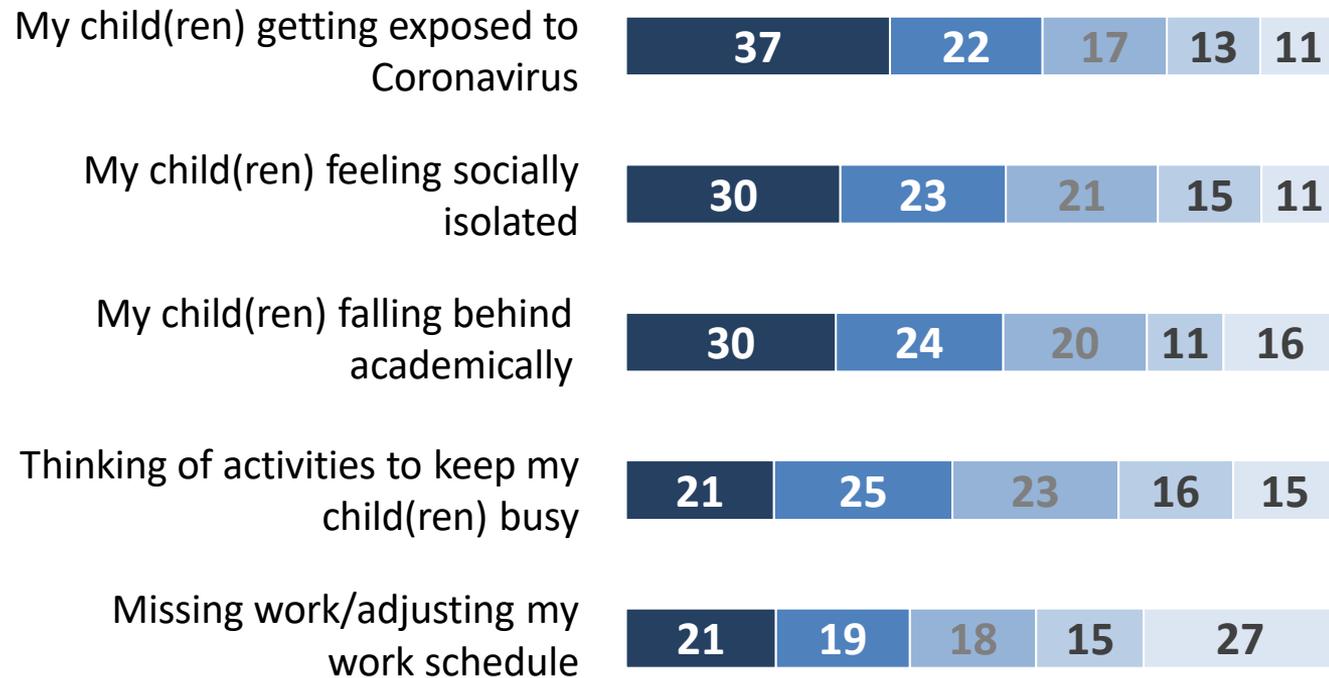
*Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP1 and QCP2*

## PARENT CONCERNS

Parents said they are most concerned about their child's virus exposure and less so about work-related matters.

*% of Current School Parents*

**Extremely** | **Very** | **Moderately** | **Slightly** | **Not At All**



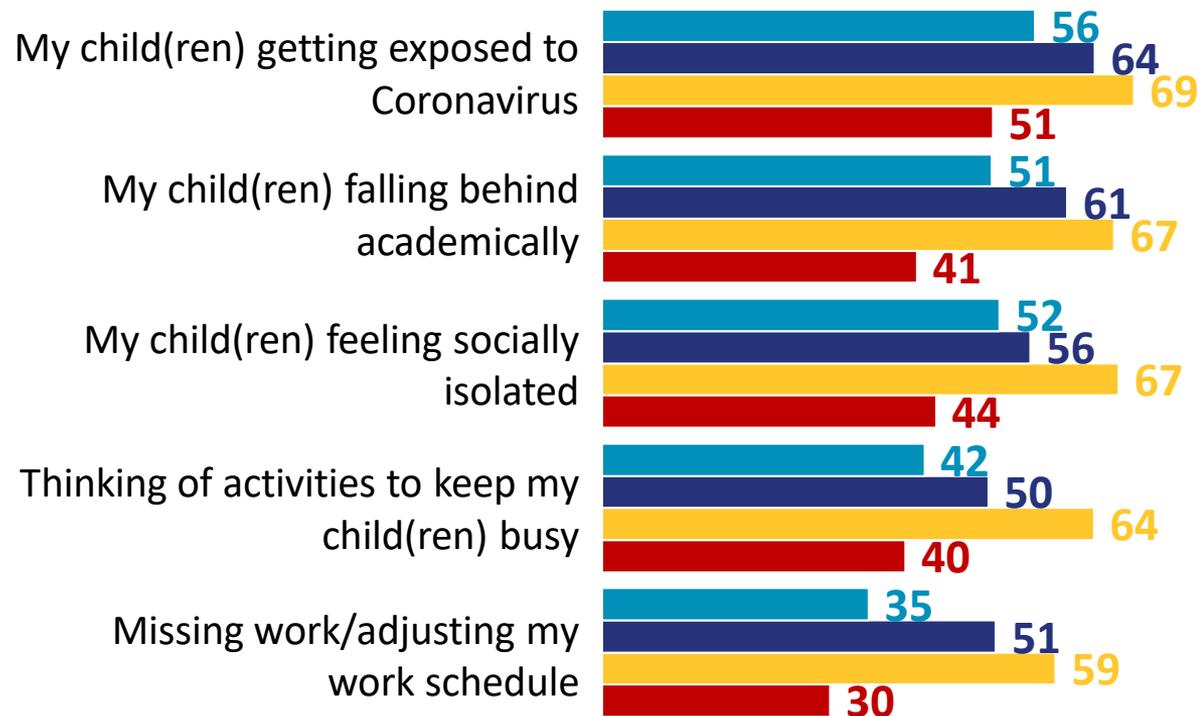
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP5

# Private school parents are more likely to express top levels of concern than parents of other schooling sectors.

## PARENT CONCERNS

*% of Current School Parents Saying “Extremely/Very Concerned” by Sector*

■ Public District School ■ Public Charter School ■ Private School ■ Home School



Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP5

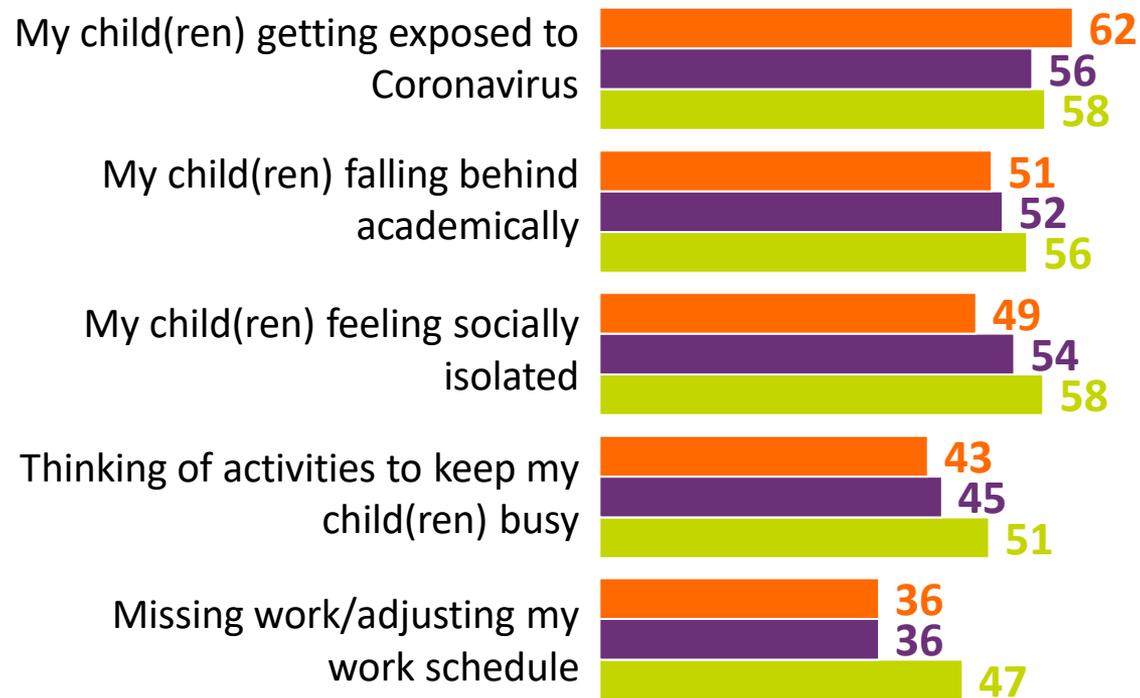
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## PARENT CONCERNS

Higher-income parents are more likely than other parents to say they are extremely or very concerned with missing work or adjusting their work schedule.

*% of Current School Parents Saying “Extremely/Very Concerned” by Income*

■ Lower Income ■ Middle Income ■ Higher Income



Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP5

EDCHOICE.ORG

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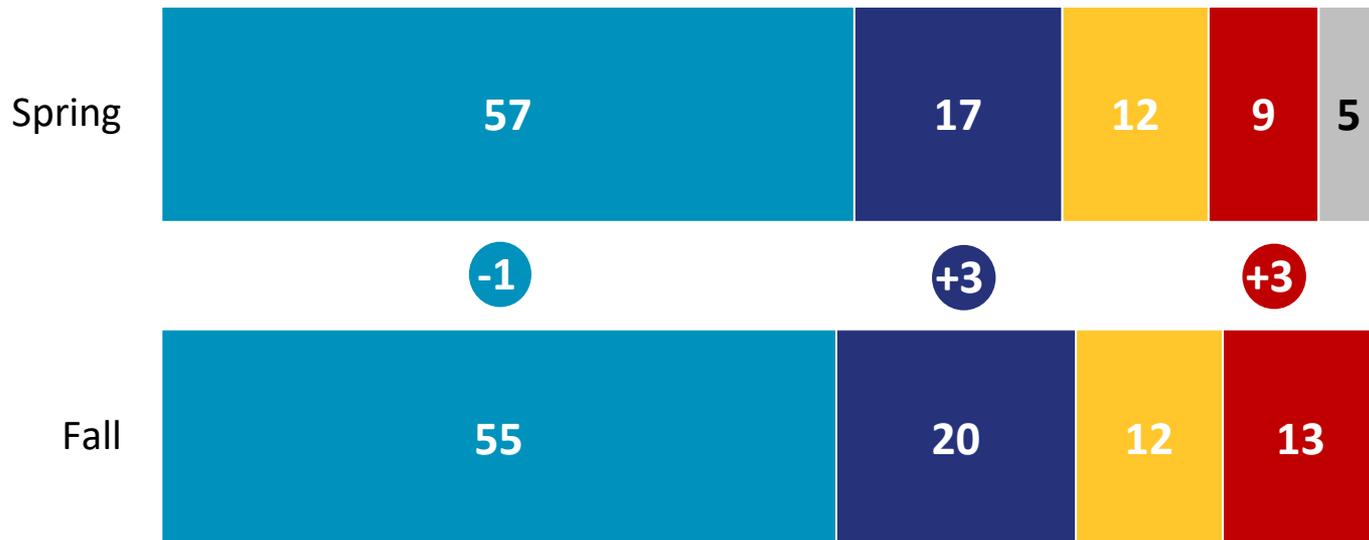
SURVEY PROFILE

## SCHOOLS ATTENDING

Enrollment proportions by school sector have modestly changed since February, based on our sample of parents.

*% of All Students Reported by Current School Parents' Responses*

- Public District School
- Public Charter School
- Private School
- Homeschool
- Not Yet in Kindergarten



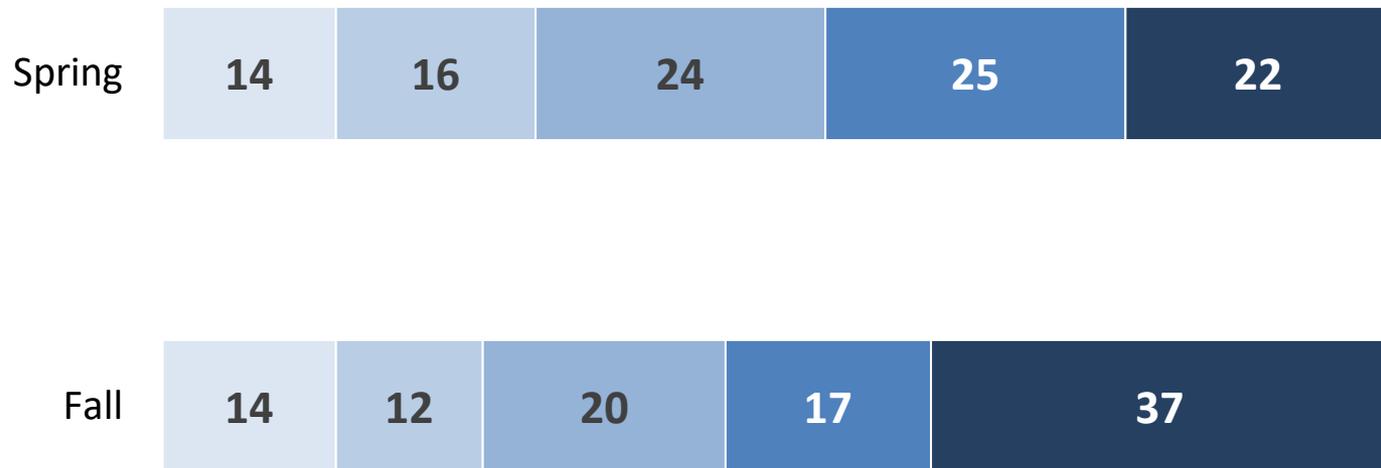
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q3

# PARENT COMFORT LEVELS ABOUT RETURNING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

Nearly two out of five parents are not at all comfortable with their children returning in-person to school, much higher (+15 points) than those giving the same response back in the spring.

*% of Current School Parents*

Extremely | Very | Moderately | Slightly | Not At All



Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP8

# PARENT COMFORT LEVELS ABOUT RETURNING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

Private and charter school parents are much more likely to be extremely comfortable with their children returning to school in-person than parents of other schooling sectors.

*% of Current School Parents*

Extremely | Very | Moderately | Slightly | Not At All



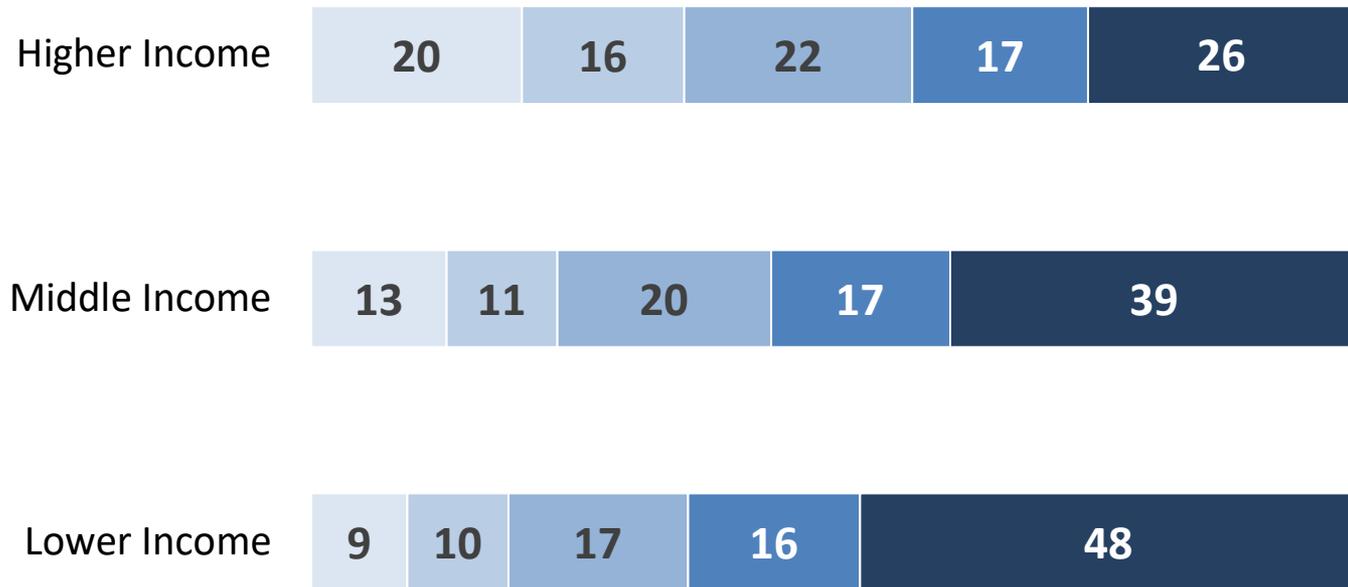
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP8

## PARENT COMFORT LEVELS ABOUT RETURNING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

Nearly half of lower-income parents are not at all comfortable sending their children to school in person. By comparison, higher-income parents are much more likely to be comfortable.

*% of Current School Parents by Income*

Extremely | Very | Moderately | Slightly | Not At All



Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP8

Slightly more than half of all school parents (51%) report voluntarily choosing for their children to learn remotely, if offered by the school or district.

## PARENTS OPTING FOR VIRTUAL/REMOTE LEARNING

*% of Current School Parents by Demographic*

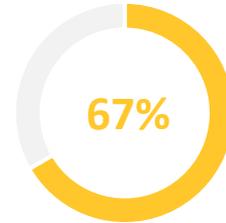
Public District School



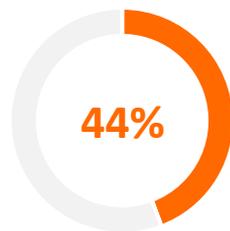
Charter School



Private School



Lower Income



Middle Income



Higher Income



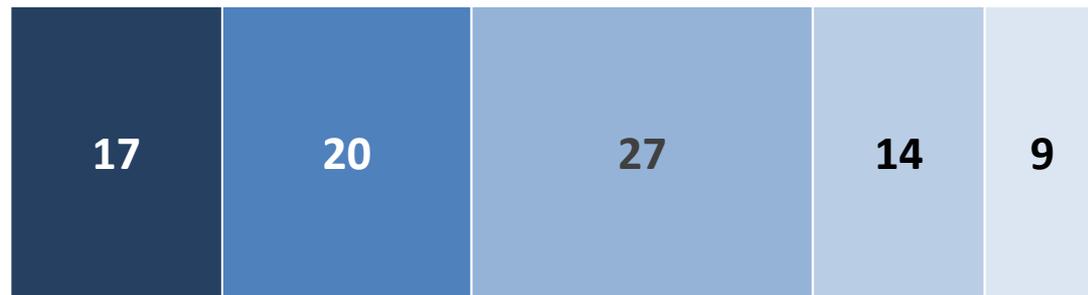
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP9

Nearly one out of four parents say they are slightly or not at all prepared to facilitate virtual or remote learning.

## PARENT PREPAREDNESS FOR FACILITATING VIRTUAL/REMOTE LEARNING

*% of Current School Parents*

Extremely | Very | Moderately | Slightly | Not At All



*Note:* Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

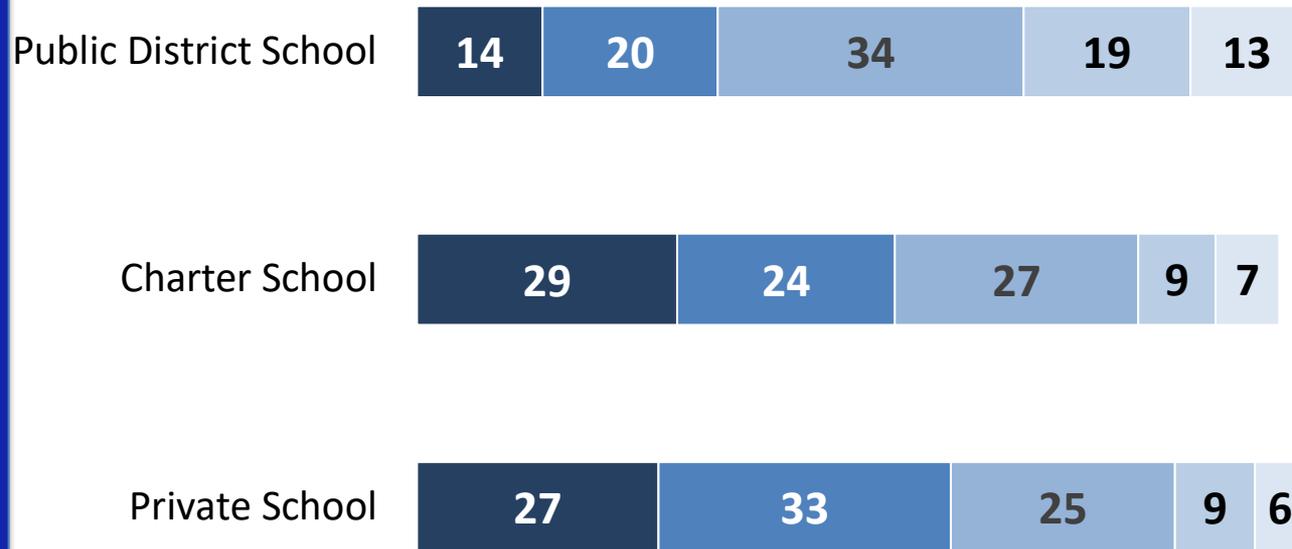
*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP12

# PARENT PREPAREDNESS FOR FACILITATING VIRTUAL/REMOTE LEARNING

Majorities of private school and charter school parents said they were extremely/very prepared to facilitate virtual or remote learning.

*% of Current School Parents – Preparedness for Facilitating Virtual/Remote Learning by Sector*

Extremely | Very | Moderately | Slightly | Not At All



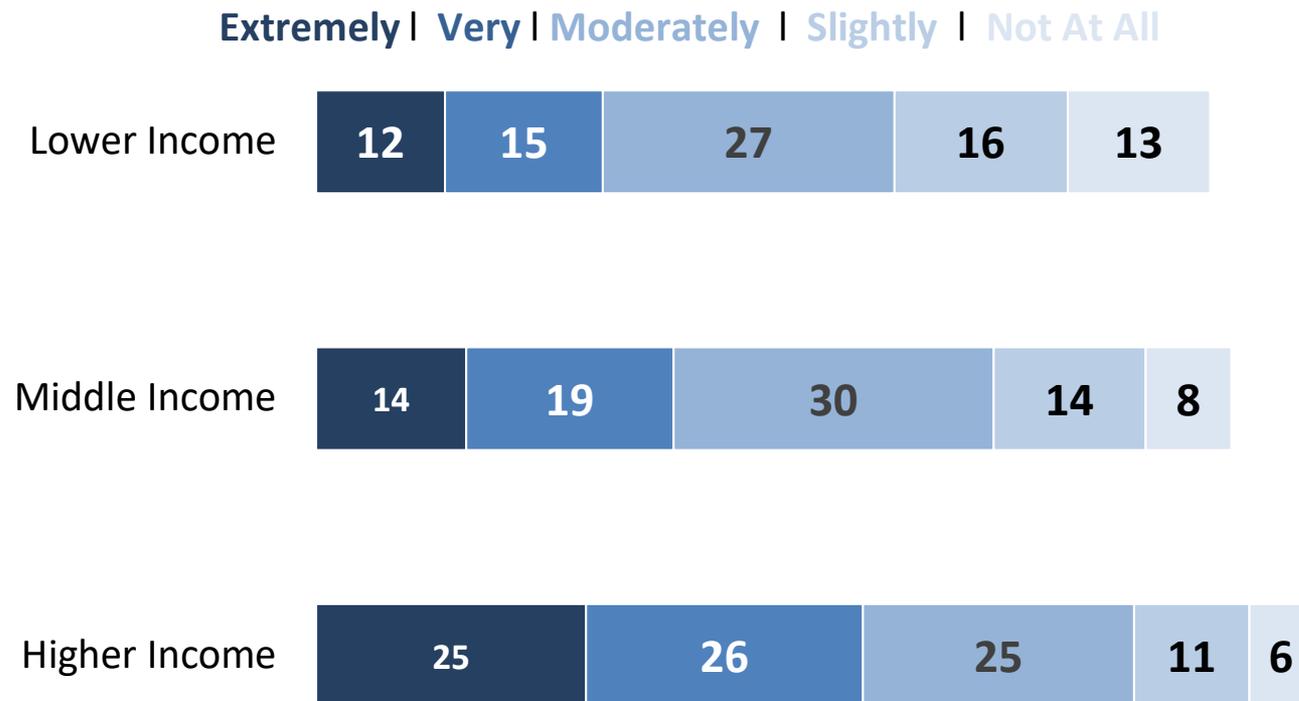
*Note: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.*

*Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP12*

# PARENT PREPAREDNESS FOR FACILITATING VIRTUAL/REMOTE LEARNING

More than half of higher-income parents say they feel extremely/very prepared to facilitate virtual or remote learning. About one-fourth of lower-income parents said the same.

*% of Current School Parents by Students' Needs*



*Note:* Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

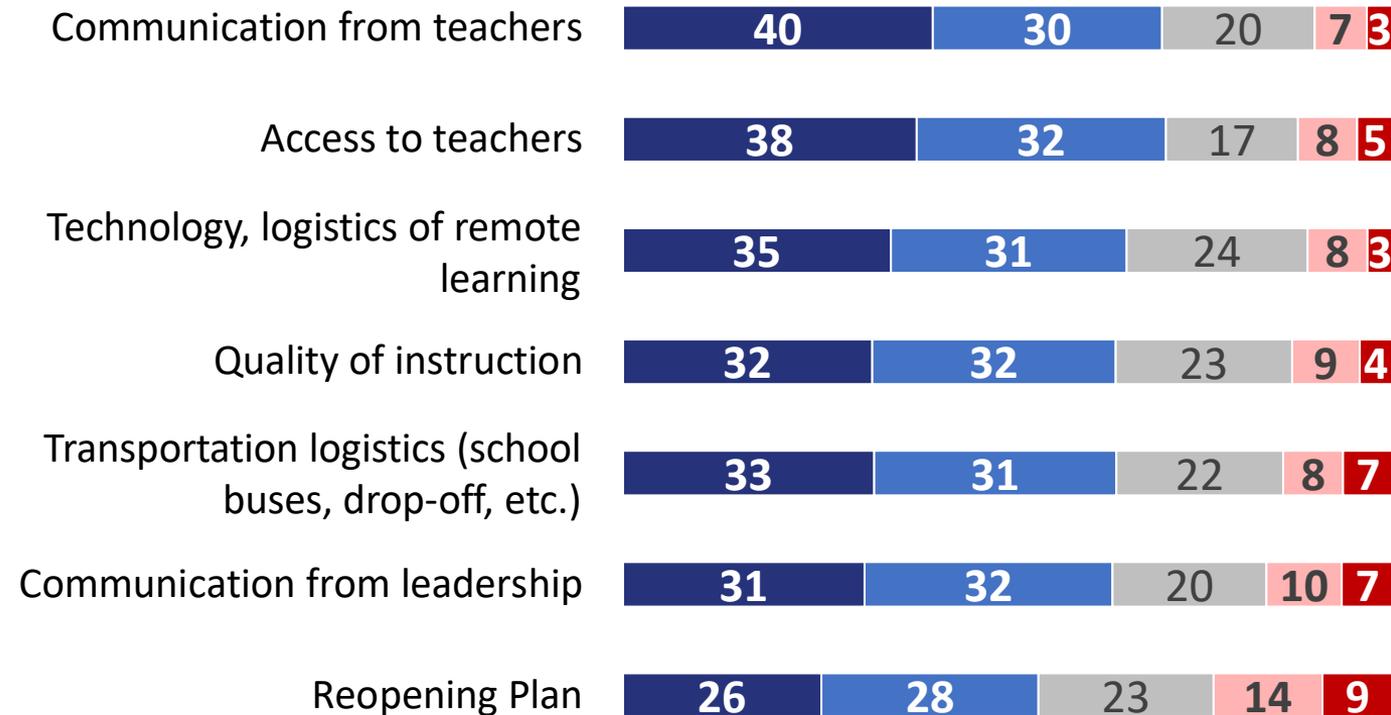
*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP12

## GRADING CHILD'S SCHOOL

**Solid majorities of parents give A/B grades for how their schools are doing on a range of activities. But nearly one-fourth assign D/F grades to schools for their reopening plans this year.**

*% of Current School Parents Assigning Grades*

A | B | C | D | F



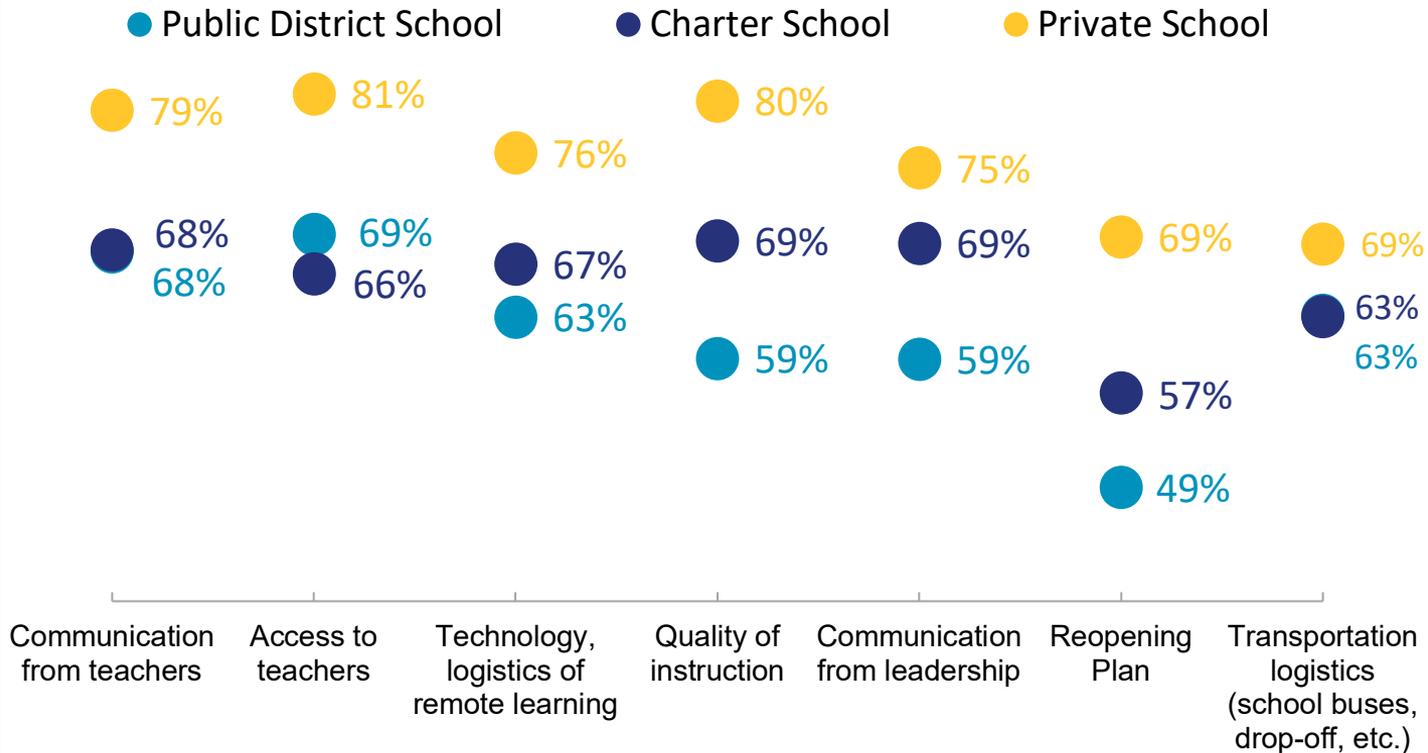
*Note:* Responses of “Don’t Know” or “Not Applicable” not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCPGRADES

Generally, private school parents were more likely to give A/B grades on various school dimensions than parents in other sectors.

## GRADING CHILD'S SCHOOL

% of Current School Parents Assigning Grades Who Graded "A" or "B" by Sector



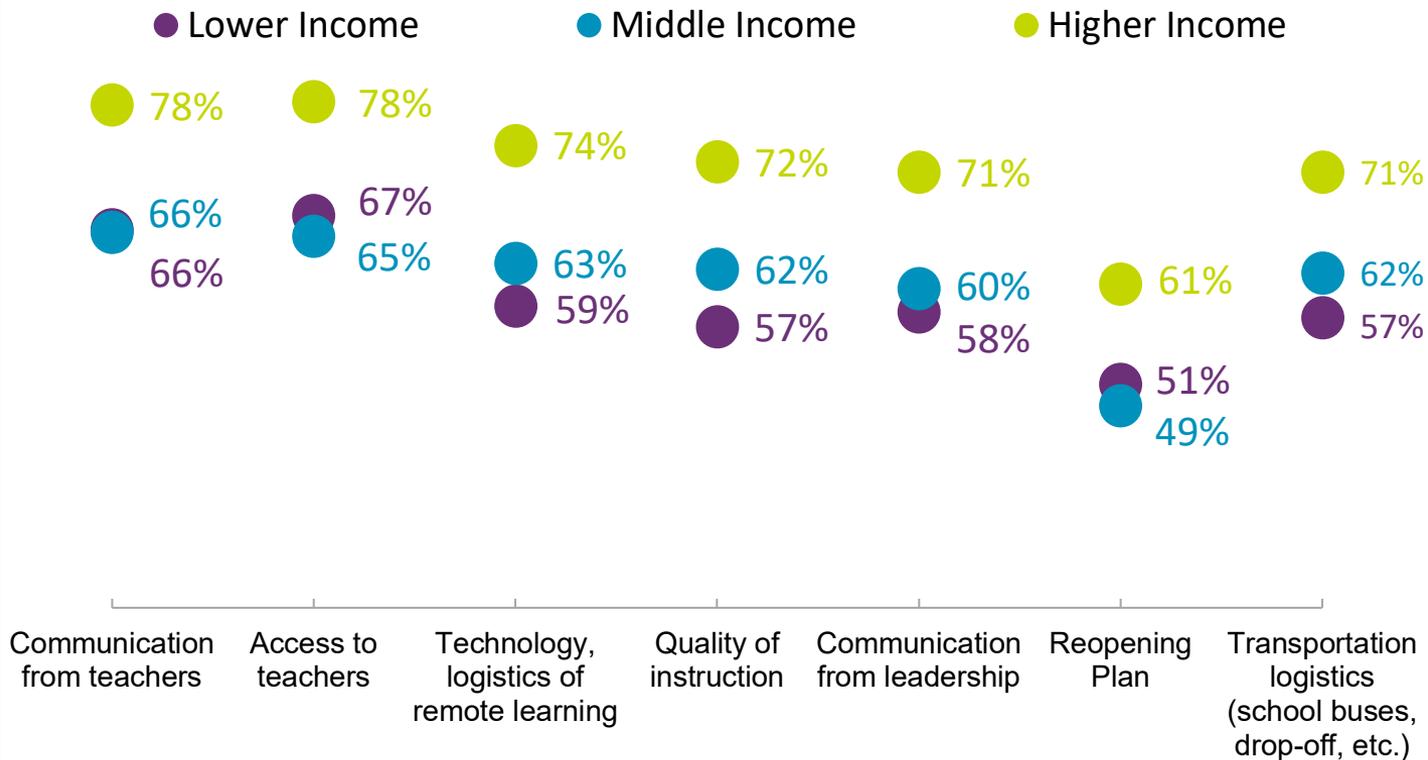
Note: Responses of "Don't Know" or "Not Applicable" not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCPGRADES

Generally, higher-income parents were more likely to give A/B grades on various school dimensions than parents in other sectors.

## GRADING CHILD'S SCHOOL

% of Current School Parents Assigning Grades Who Graded "A" or "B" by Sector



Note: Responses of "Don't Know" or "Not Applicable" not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

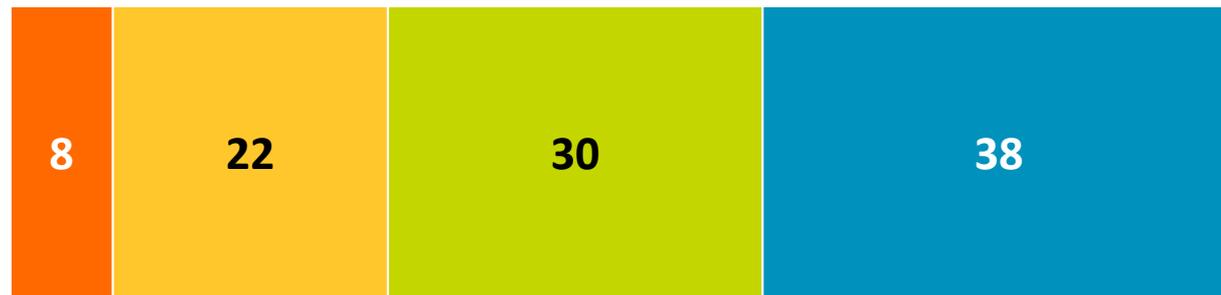
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCPGRADES

## EDUCATION MODALITY

Nearly two out of five parents said their child's school or district is educating students completely online.

*% of Current School Parents*

- Completely in-person with optional safety measures
- Completely in-person with required safety measures
- Mix of in-person and online
- Completely online



*Note:* Responses of “Don’t Know” or “Not Applicable” not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

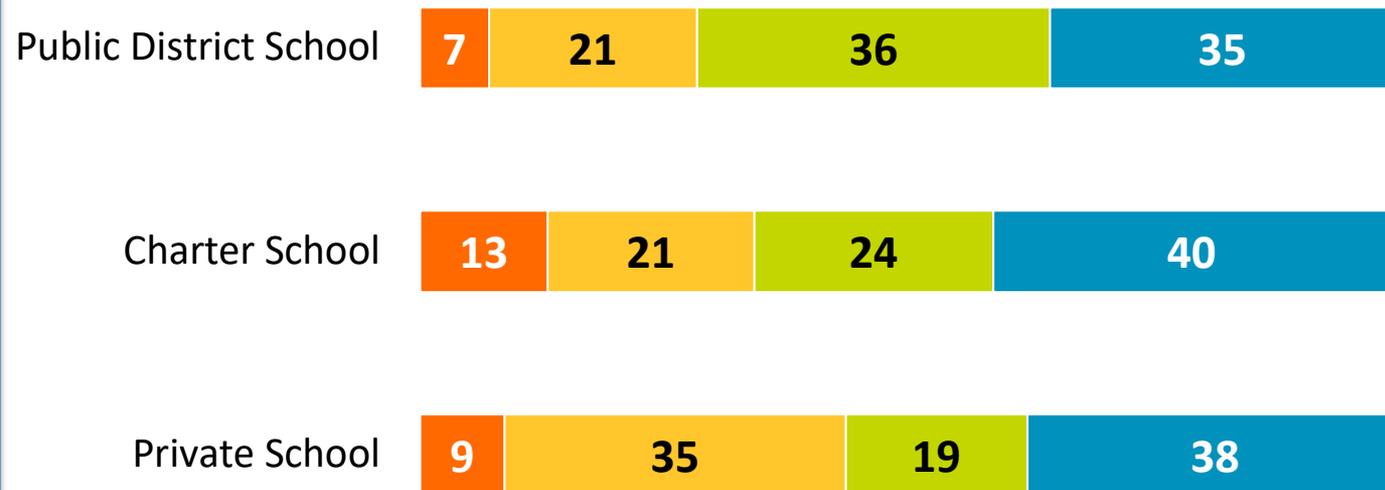
*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP13

## EDUCATION MODALITY

Approximately 44 percent of private school parents said their child’s school is educating students completely in-person, which is more than parents in other schooling sectors.

*% of Current School Parents by Sector*

- Completely in-person with optional safety measures
- Completely in-person with required safety measures
- Mix of in-person and online
- Completely online



*Note:* Responses of “Don’t Know” or “Not Applicable” not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

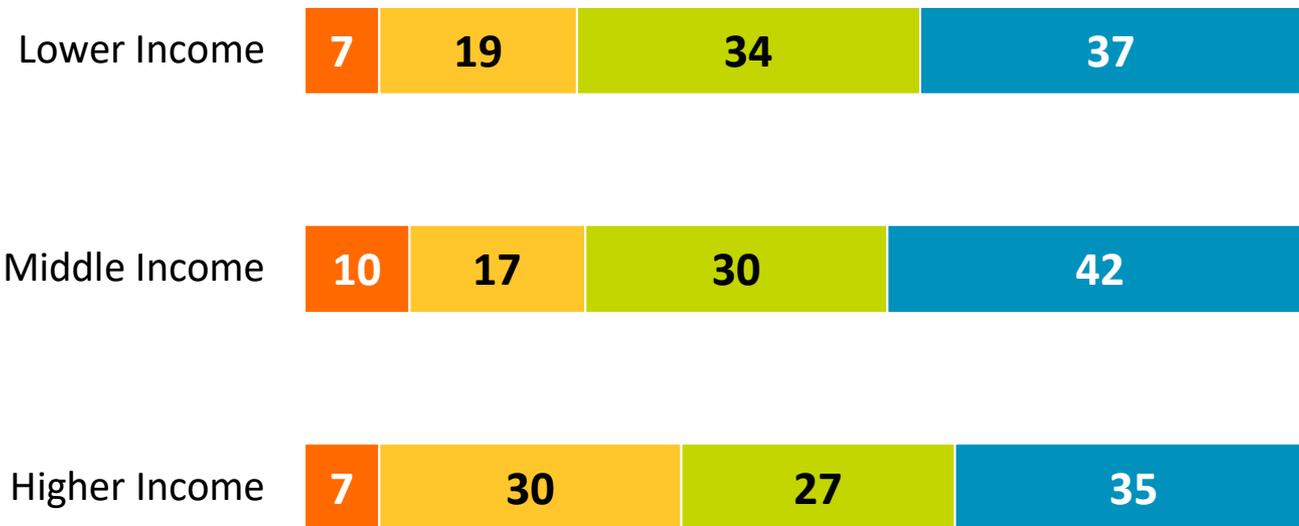
*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP13

## EDUCATION MODALITY

More than one-third of higher-income parents said their child's school or district is educating students completely in-person, which is more than other parents.

*% of Current School Parents by Income*

- Completely in-person with optional safety measures
- Completely in-person with required safety measures
- Mix of in-person and online
- Completely online



Note: Responses of "Don't Know" or "Not Applicable" not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

Source: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP13

# FEELINGS ABOUT EDUCATION MODALITY

Parents whose children are online-only because of the pandemic appear most likely to say it makes them feel safe/secure.

## TOP 15 OVERALL LISTED

% of Current School Parents

LOW-HIGH

Feelings	100% In-Person w/ Optional Safety Measures (N=105)	100% In-Person w/ Required Safety Measures (N=337)	Mix of In- Person and Online (N=431)	100% Online (N=527)
Good/Great/Better	18%	20%	15%	13%
Ok/Fine/Satisfied	12%	11%	19%	11%
Safe/Secure	7%	5%	7%	22%
Nervous/Worried/Uneasy/Anxious	13%	11%	7%	4%
Comfortable/Relaxed	7%	10%	7%	9%
Happy	4%	8%	3%	3%
Not Good/Bad/Don't Like	4%	2%	5%	5%
It Works/Effective	2%	5%	4%	3%
Sad/Unhappy/Upset	3%	<1%	2%	5%
Frustrated/Angry/Disappointed	1%	2%	2%	5%
Scared	2%	5%	1%	<1%
Concerned	<1%	2%	4%	2%
Uncomfortable	3%	3%	2%	<1%
Stressed	3%	1%	3%	1%
Unsure	2%	3%	2%	1%

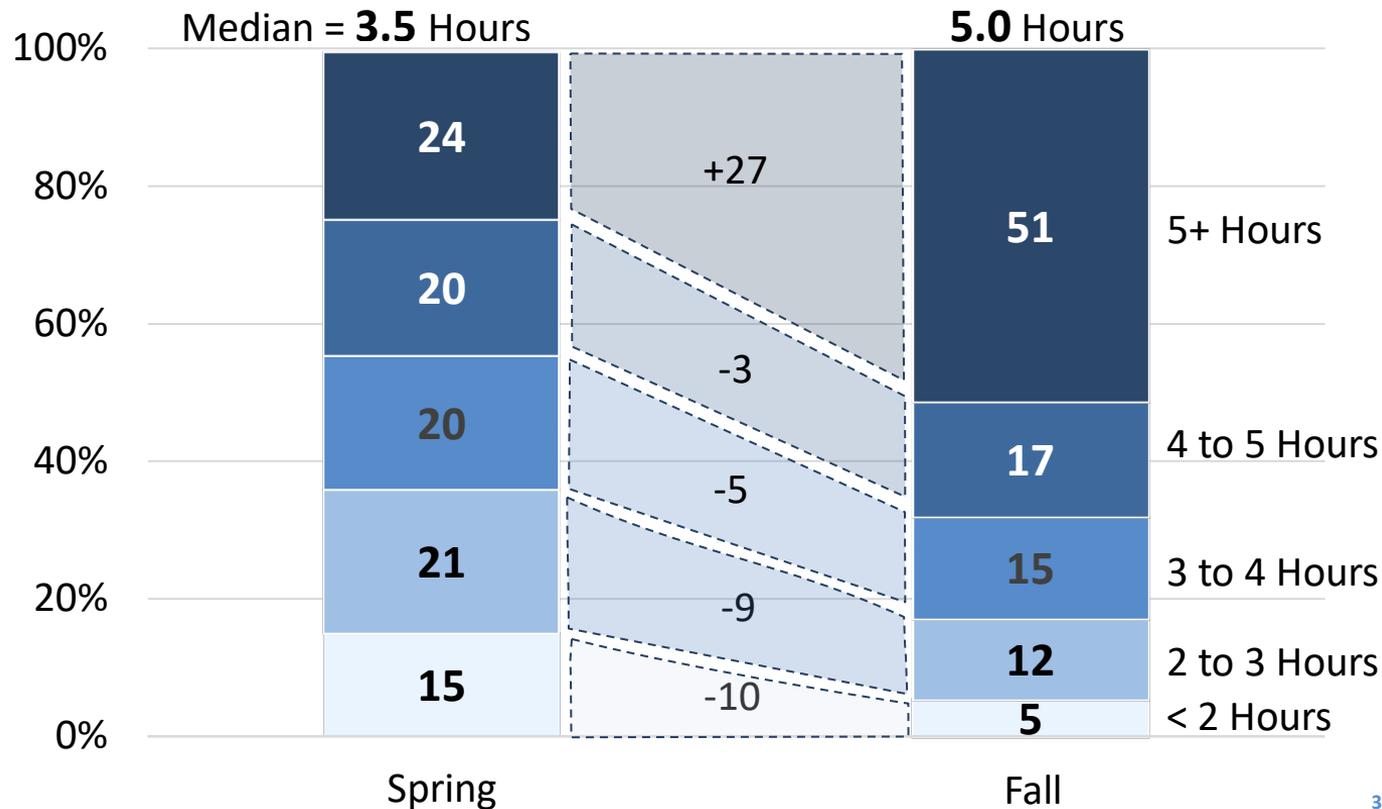
Note: Responses of “Don’t Know” or “Not Applicable” not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP13

# AMOUNT OF DAILY REMOTE LEARNING

More than half of parents reported their student spends five or more hours per day doing remote schoolwork, which is more than double the percentage of those who responded in May/June.

*% of Current School Parents*



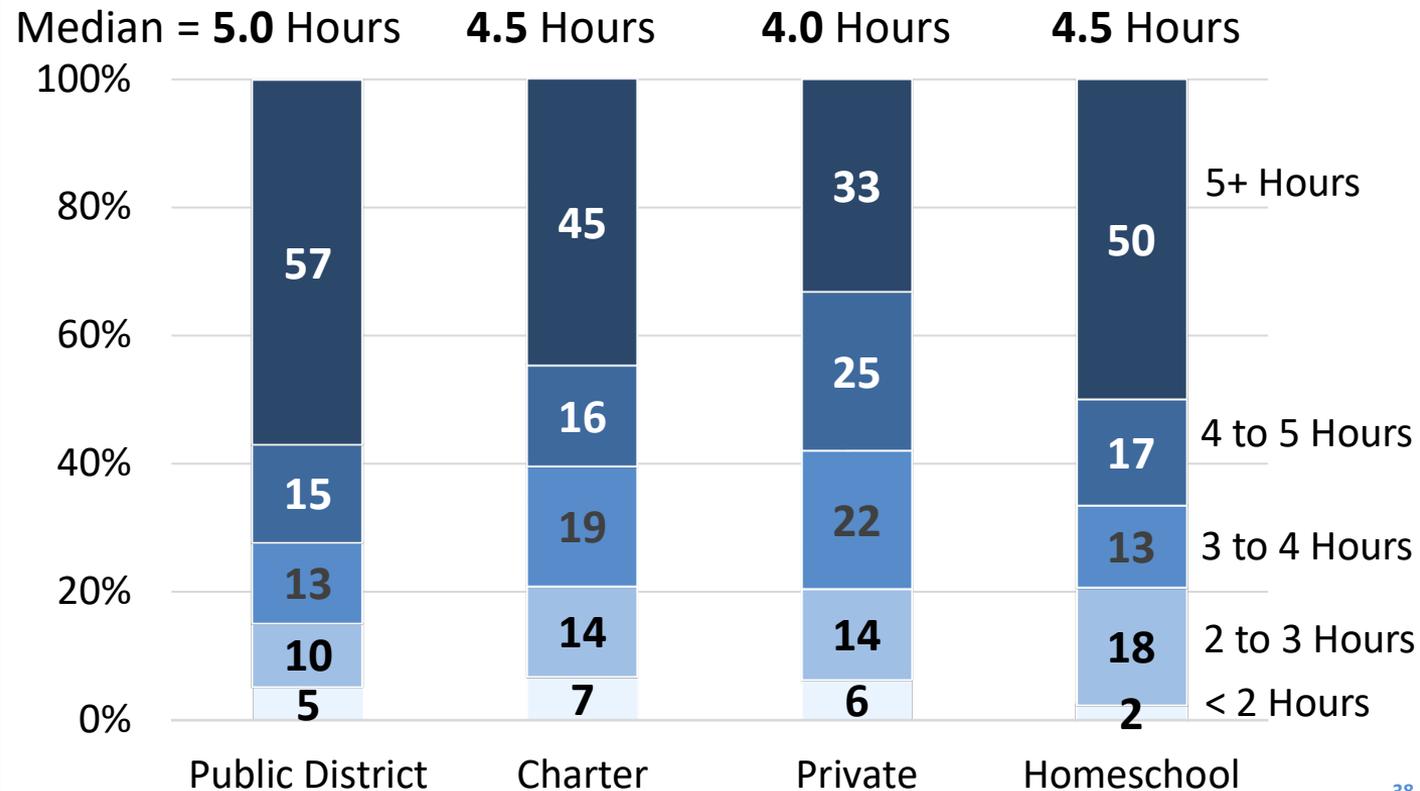
*Note:* Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP15

## AMOUNT OF DAILY REMOTE LEARNING

One-third of private school parents reported their child spends five or more hours per day doing remote schoolwork, which is substantially less than same response from public district school parents.

% of Current School Parents by Sector



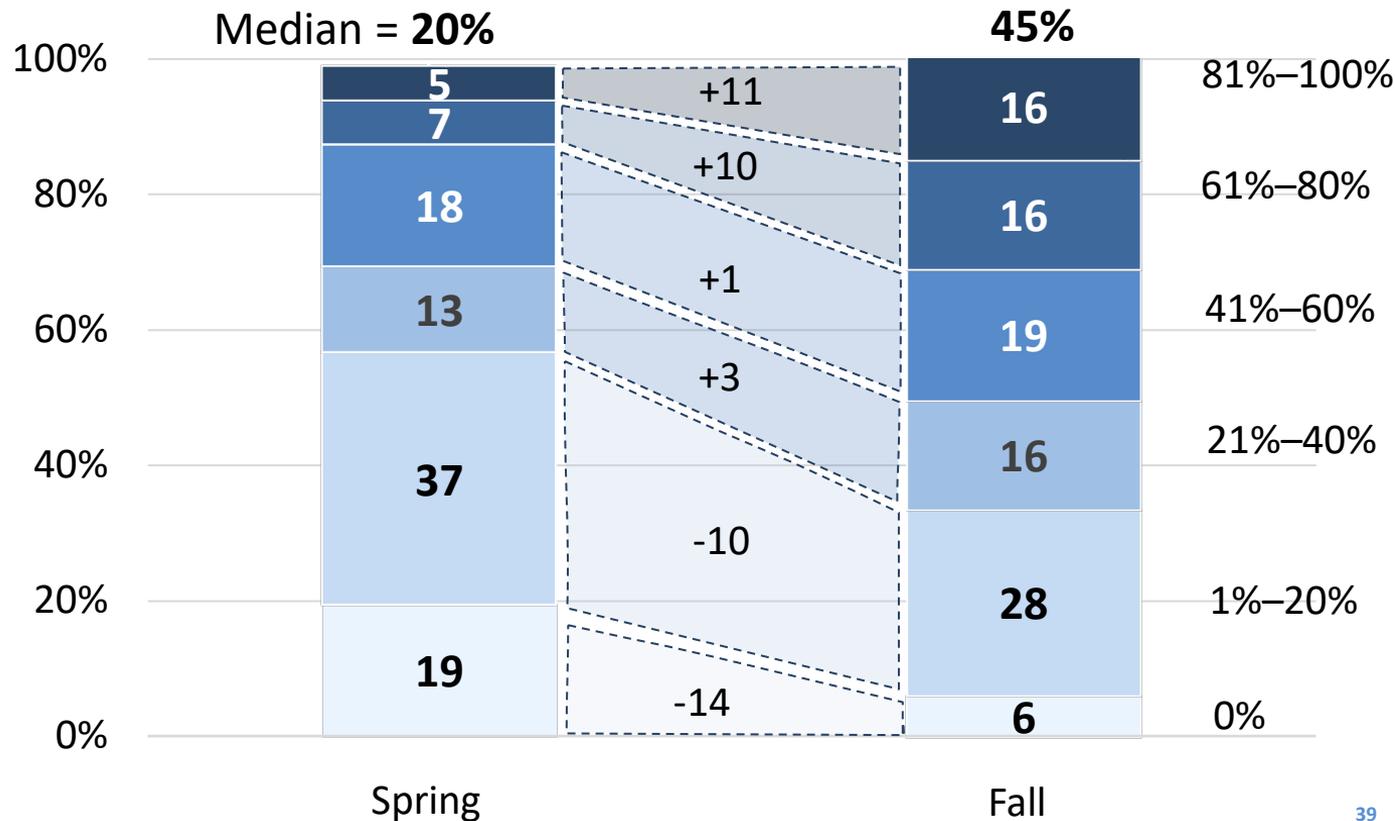
Note: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP15

The median percentage of daily time students are interacting with a teacher in real time more than doubled since spring: 45 percent vs. 20 percent.

## PERCENTAGE OF DAILY REMOTE LEARNING THAT IS LIVE

% Current School Parents Reporting Synchronous Time



Note: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP16

## PERCENTAGE OF DAILY REMOTE LEARNING THAT IS LIVE

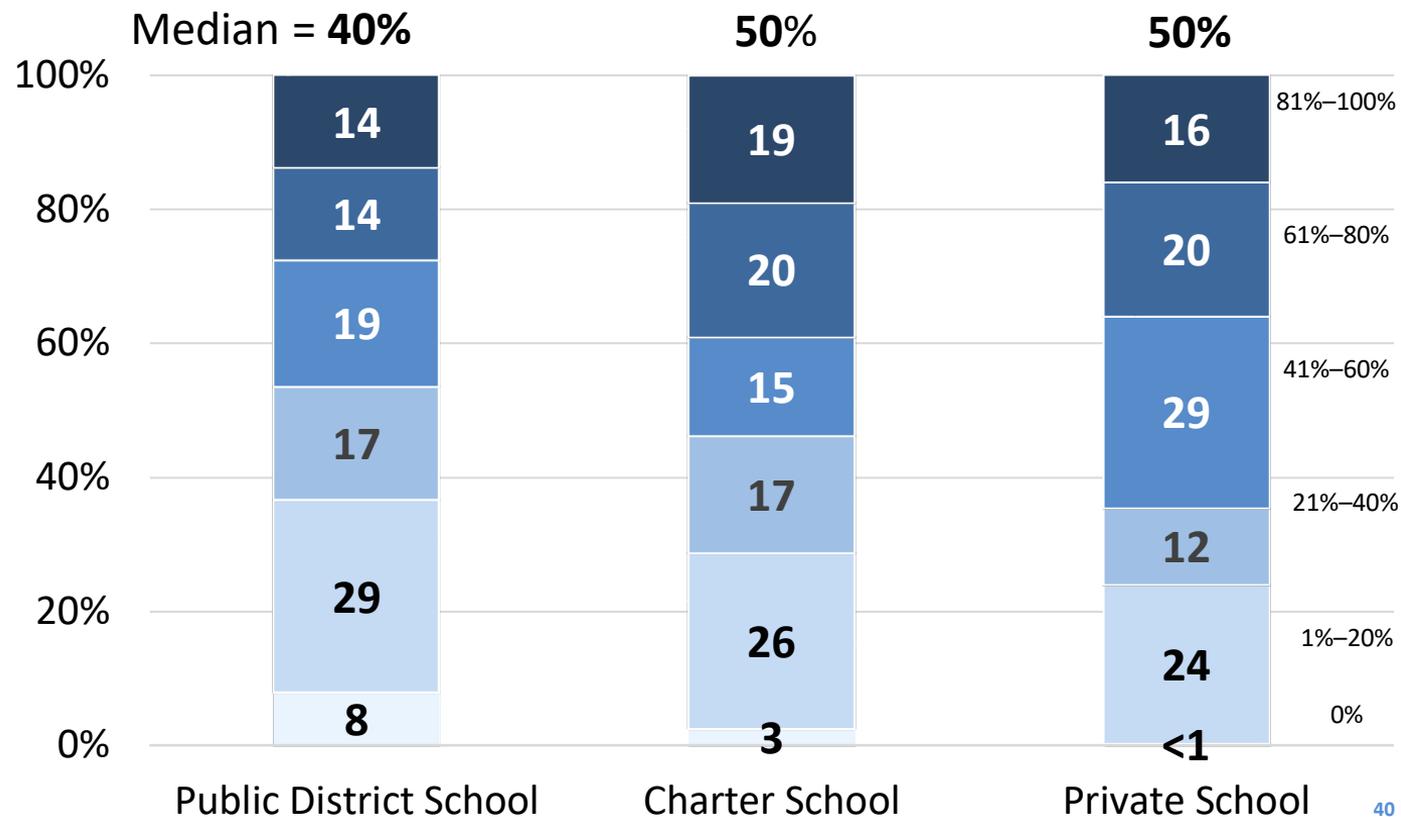
Note: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP16

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**Charter school and private school parents are more likely than district school parents to report their children spending additional time interacting with a teacher in real time.**

*% Current School Parents Reporting Synchronous Time*

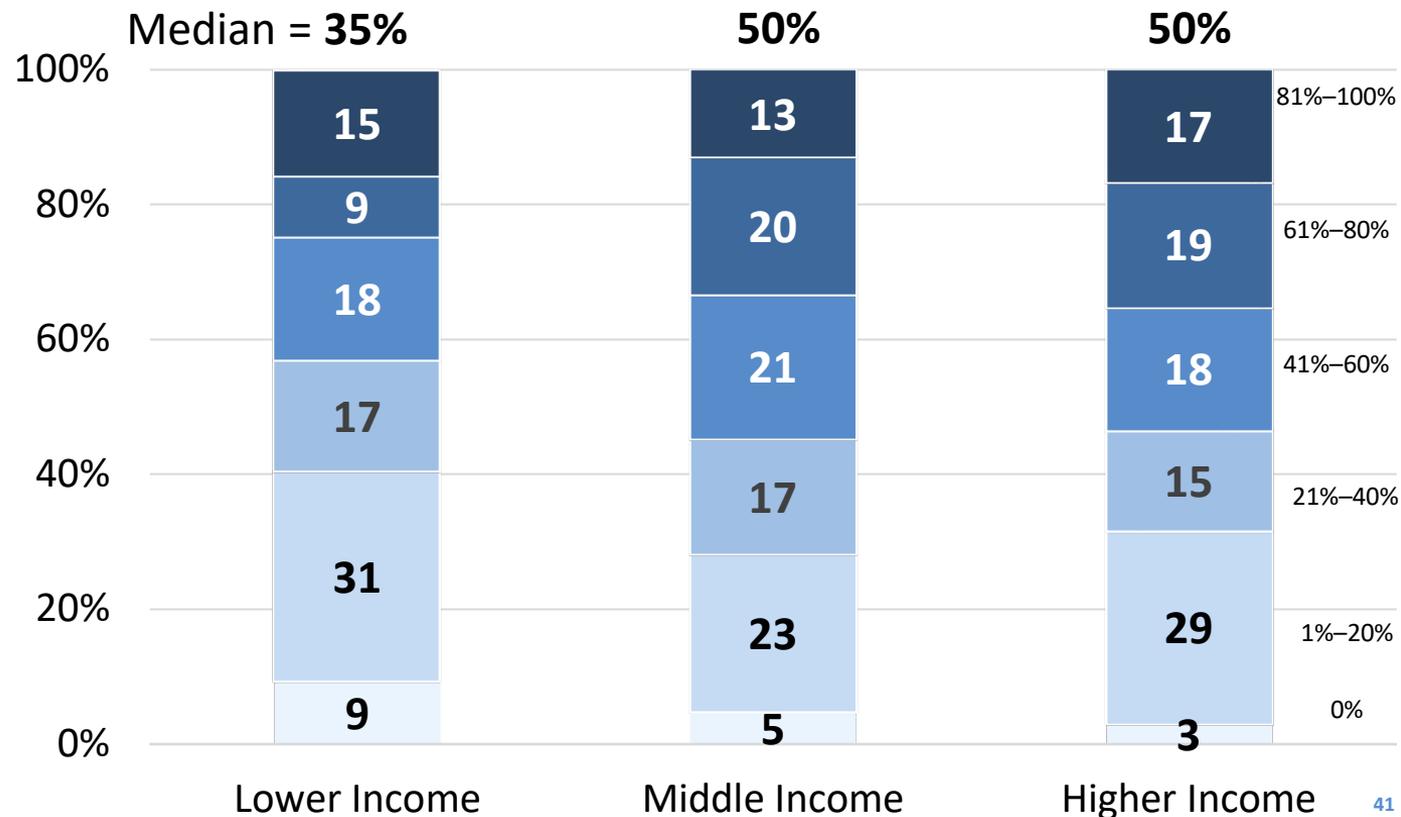


# PERCENTAGE OF DAILY REMOTE LEARNING THAT IS LIVE

Note: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.  
 Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP16

Lower-income parents are less likely to report their children spending time interacting with a teacher in real time.

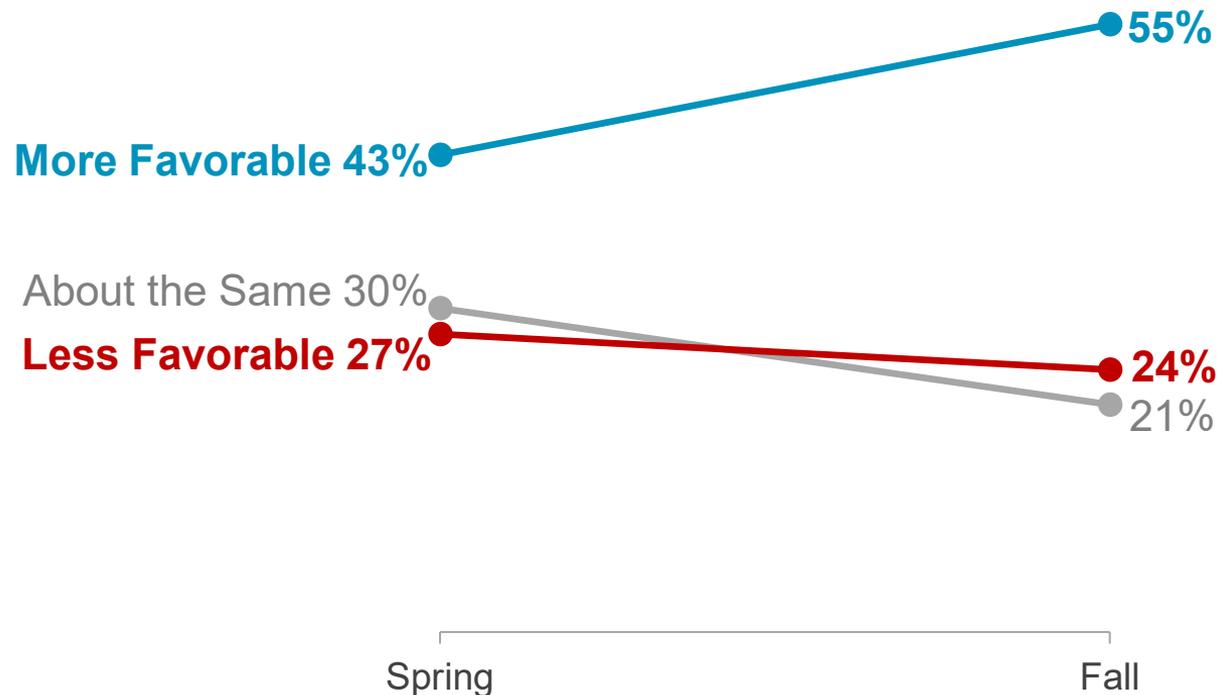
% Current School Parents Reporting Synchronous Time



## HOMESCHOOLING FAVORABILITY

More than half of current school parents are more favorable of homeschooling as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. That reflects an increase of +12 percentage points since the spring.

*% of Current School Parents*



*Note:* Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP22

KEY FINDINGS

COVID-19 IMPACTS

SCHOOLING DURING A PANDEMIC

**LOOKING AHEAD**

SNAPSHOTS AND TRENDS IN K–12 SCHOOLING

INFORMATION IMPACTS

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS AND POLICIES

- EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)
- SCHOOL VOUCHERS
- TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS
- CHARTER SCHOOLS

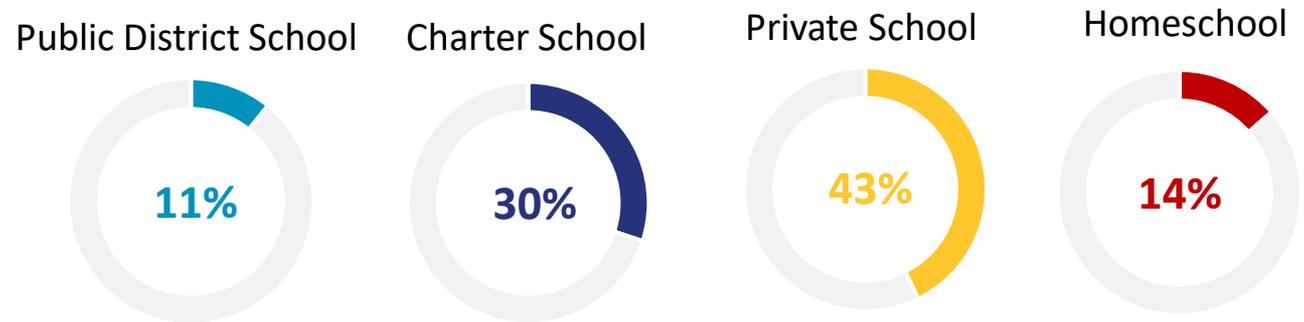
SURVEY PROFILE

**Learning pods** are small groups of children, organized by parents, gathering to learn together. Parents either hire a private teacher to facilitate or take turns supervising.

## LEARNING PODS

Nearly one out of five current school parents (19%) said they have a child in a learning pod. Charter school and private school parents are much more likely than district school parents to report their children are currently in a learning pod.

*% of Current School Parents with Children in Learning Pod by Demographic*

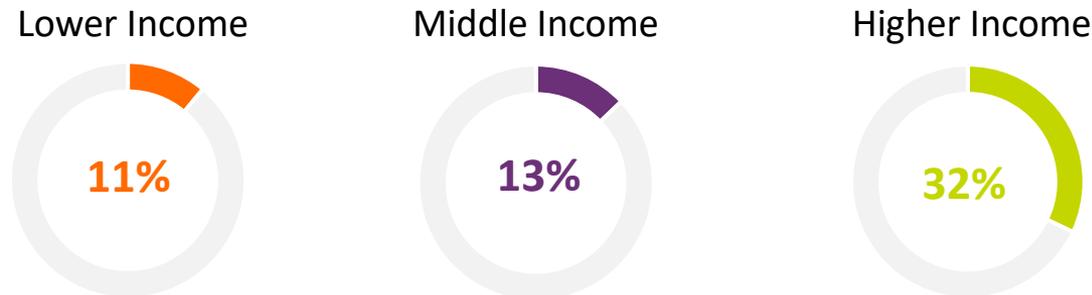


Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP25

Nearly one out of five current school parents (19%) said they have a child in a learning pod. Higher-income parents are roughly three times as likely to indicate participation compared to lower and middle-income households.

## LEARNING PODS

*% of Current School Parents with Children in Learning Pod by Income*



Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP25

## LEARNING PODS

A plurality of parents report socialization and community support as the main reasons to be interested in learning pods. That finding is consistent regardless of household income.

*% of Current School Parents Interested in Learning Pod by Income*

LOW-HIGH

Reason	Lower Income (N=86)	Middle Income (N=109)	Higher Income (N=123)
Social/Community Support	<b>31%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Education/Keep Kids Learning	<b>13%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>14%</b>
Helpful/Beneficial/Supportive	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Good/Great/Better/Nice	<b>0%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Safe	<b>4%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>7%</b>
Interesting	<b>7%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Relief for Parents	<b>3%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Unique	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>
It's Needed/It's What Is Best	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>

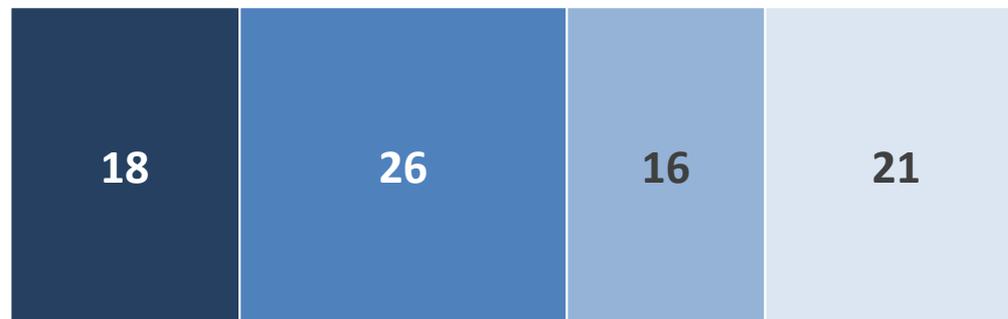
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP27

## TUTORING

Nearly half of parents say they are very/somewhat likely to seek out tutoring for their students this school year.

*% of Current School Parents*

**Very Likely** | **Somewhat Likely** | **Not That Likely** | **Not At All Likely**



*Note:* Responses of “Don’t Know” and “No Opinion” are not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

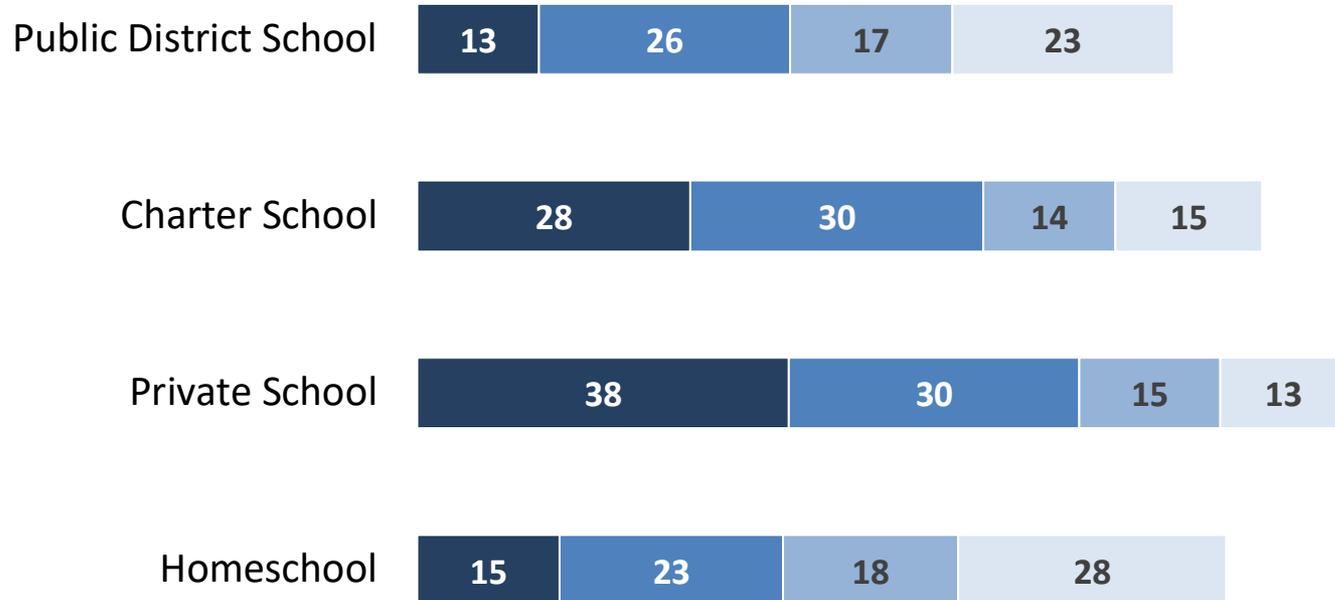
*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP29

## TUTORING

**Private and charter school parents are much more likely than public district and homeschool parents to seek out tutoring for their child this school year.**

*% of Current School Parents by Sector*

**Very Likely** | **Somewhat Likely** | **Not That Likely** | **Not At All Likely**



*Note:* Responses of “Don’t Know” and “No Opinion” are not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP29

## TUTORING

Higher-income parents are much more likely to seek out tutoring for their child this school year, compared to lower or middle-income parents.

*% of Current School Parents by Income*

**Very Likely** | **Somewhat Likely** | **Not That Likely** | **Not At All Likely**



*Note:* Responses of “Don’t Know” and “No Opinion” are not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), QCP29

KEY FINDINGS

COVID-19 IMPACTS

SCHOOLING DURING A PANDEMIC

LOOKING AHEAD

**SNAPSHOTS AND TRENDS IN K–12 SCHOOLING**

INFORMATION IMPACTS

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS AND POLICIES

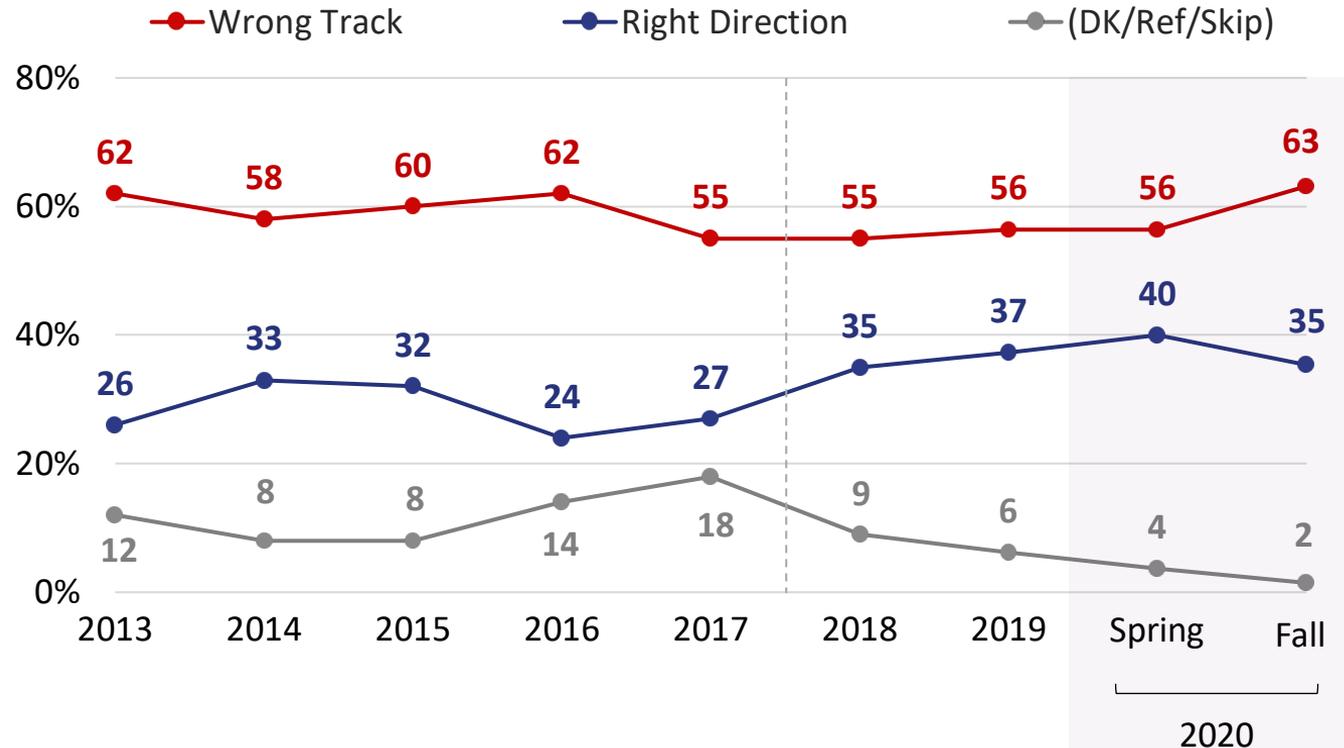
- EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)
- SCHOOL VOUCHERS
- TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS
- CHARTER SCHOOLS

SURVEY PROFILE

**More than three out of five Americans say K–12 is on the wrong track. That reflects a +7 point increase since spring and the highest level since 2013.**

## DIRECTION OF K–12 EDUCATION

*% of General Population*



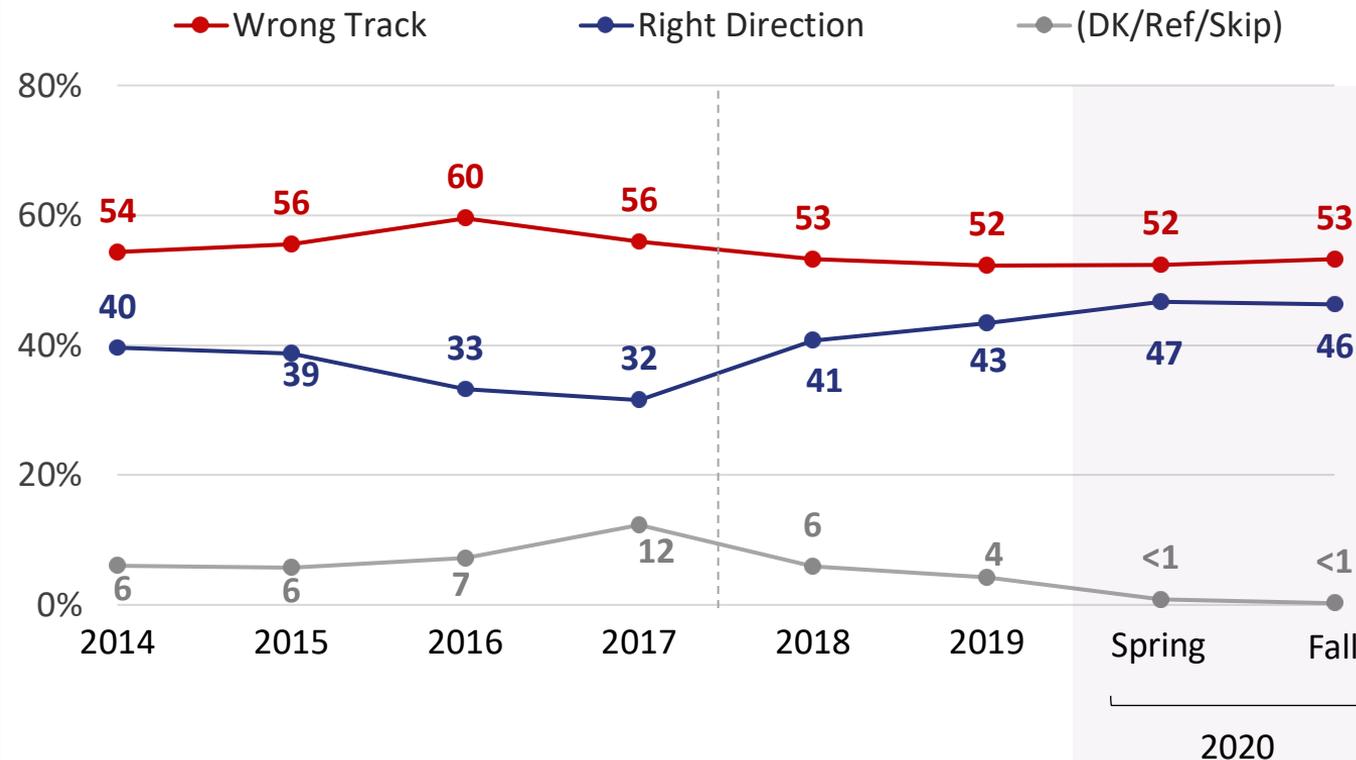
Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q1; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2019; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

## But current school parents are less pessimistic about the direction of K–12 education than the general public.

### DIRECTION OF K–12 EDUCATION

% of Current School Parents

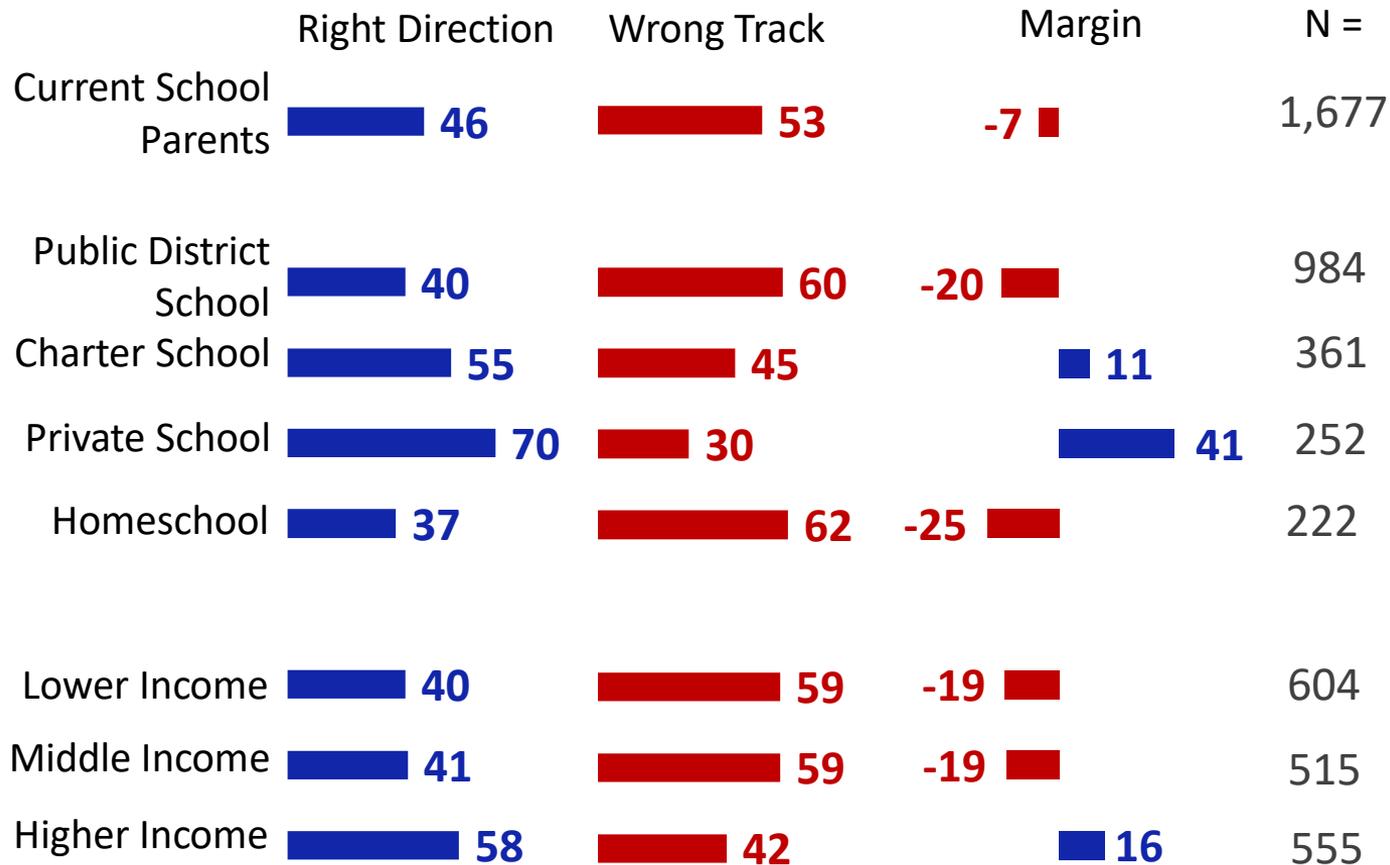


Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q1; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2019*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

## DIRECTION OF K-12 EDUCATION

Private school parents are the most positive about K-12 education, compared to other sectors. Homeschool parents are the most negative.



Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

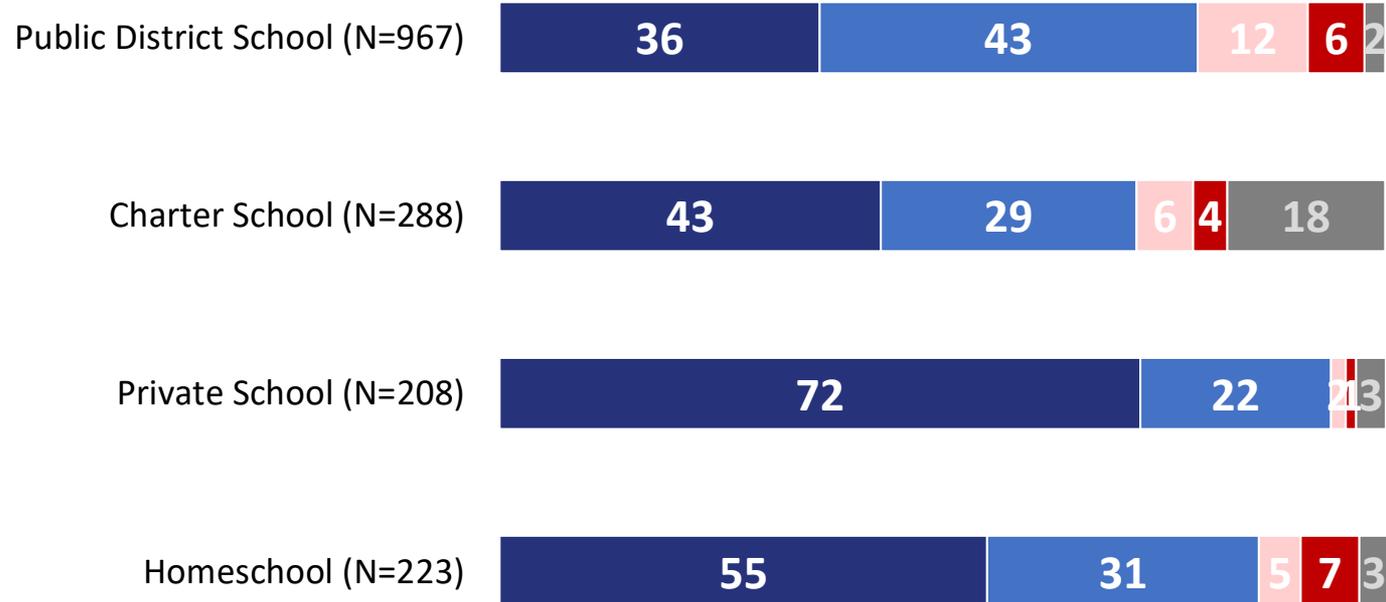
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q1

# SCHOOLING SATISFACTION

A far greater proportion of private school parents report being very satisfied with their children’s schooling experiences, compared to other sectors.

*% of Current School Parents*

Very Satisfied | Somewhat Satisfied | Somewhat Dissatisfied | Very Dissatisfied | Not Enough Experience Yet



*Notes:* Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

*Source:* EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q4

## FACTORS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL

More than two-thirds of homeschoolers said “safe environment” was one of the top three most influential factors in deciding to homeschool. That response frequency is much greater than for other sectors.

*% of Current School Parents*

**LOW-HIGH**

Factors	Public District School (N=984)	Public Charter School (N=252)	Private School (N=361)	Homeschool (N=221)
Safe Environment	27%	44%	43%	68%
Individual/One-on-One Attention	17%	26%	21%	53%
Academic Reputation	28%	28%	40%	13%
Location/Close to Home or Work	43%	22%	15%	22%
Morals/Character/Values Instruction	12%	23%	26%	36%
Socialization/Peers/Other Kids	40%	18%	19%	14%
Discipline	9%	18%	37%	11%
Our Assigned District/Neighborhood School	41%	11%	5%	11%
Class Size	14%	23%	14%	16%
School Size	13%	18%	15%	10%
Extracurricular Activities	19%	14%	13%	8%
Test Scores	10%	15%	16%	10%
Religious Environment/Instruction	2%	8%	27%	10%
Diversity	18%	19%	5%	4%

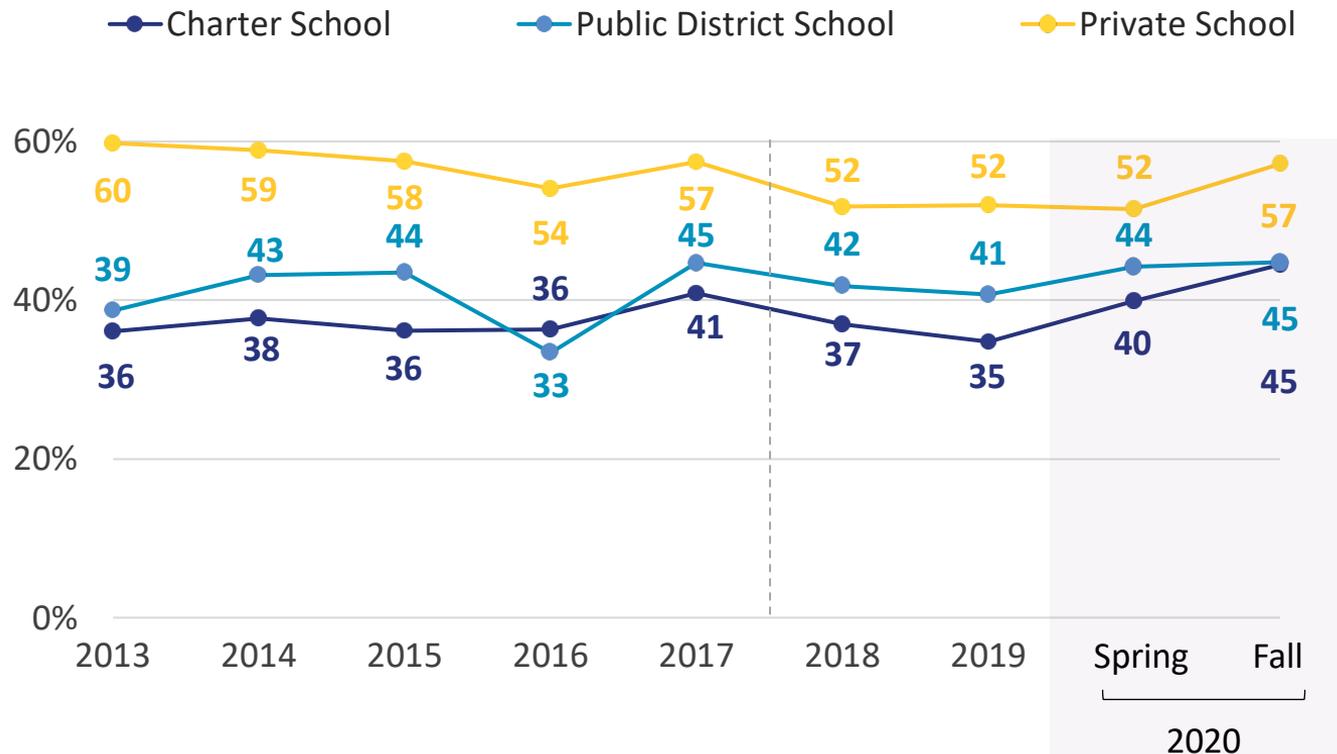
*Notes:* Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.

*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q8

# Americans are more likely to give the private schools in their area an A/B grade, compared to local districts or charter schools.

## GRADING LOCAL SCHOOLS

% of General Population Giving "A" or "B" Grade



Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q11; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2019*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

KEY FINDINGS

COVID-19 IMPACTS

SCHOOLING DURING A PANDEMIC

LOOKING AHEAD

SNAPSHOTS AND TRENDS IN K–12 SCHOOLING

**INFORMATION IMPACTS**

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS AND POLICIES

- EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)
- SCHOOL VOUCHERS
- TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS
- CHARTER SCHOOLS

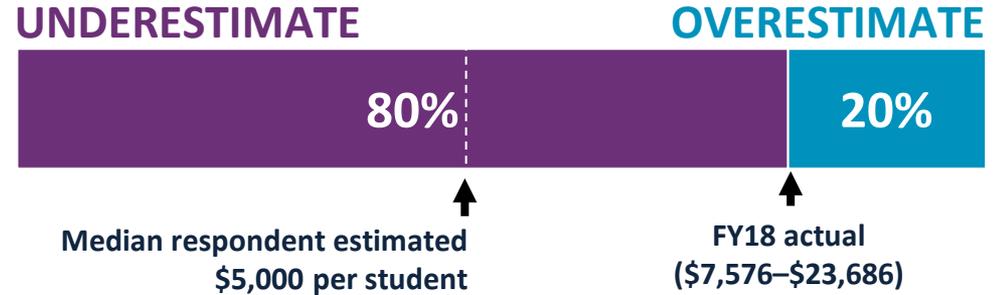
SURVEY PROFILE

# SCHOOL SPENDING ESTIMATE, COMPARED TO ACTUAL SPENDING

Most Americans and parents drastically underestimated public school spending. The median respondent in both groups said spending is significantly less than the lowest state average.

*% of Respondents*

Percent of All Respondents (Estimate)



Percent of School Parents (Estimate)



Note: Percentages based on those offering estimates

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q9

# SCHOOL FUNDING

## Question Wording A

*Do you believe that public school funding in [Your State] is at a level that is:*

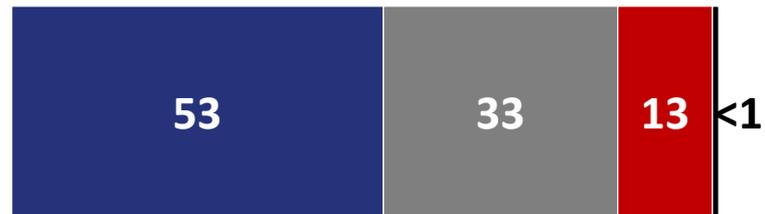
## Question Wording B

*According to the most recent information available, on average \$[Amount] is being spent per year on each student attending public schools in [Your State]. Do you believe that public school funding in [Your State] is at a level that is:*

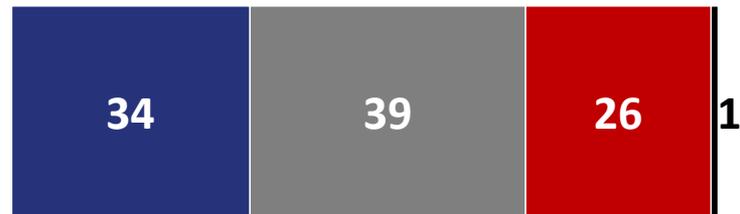
*% of General Population by Split Question Version*

■ Too Low ■ About Right ■ Too High ■ (DK/Ref/Skip)

Split/Without Information (N = 603)



Split/With Information (N = 606)

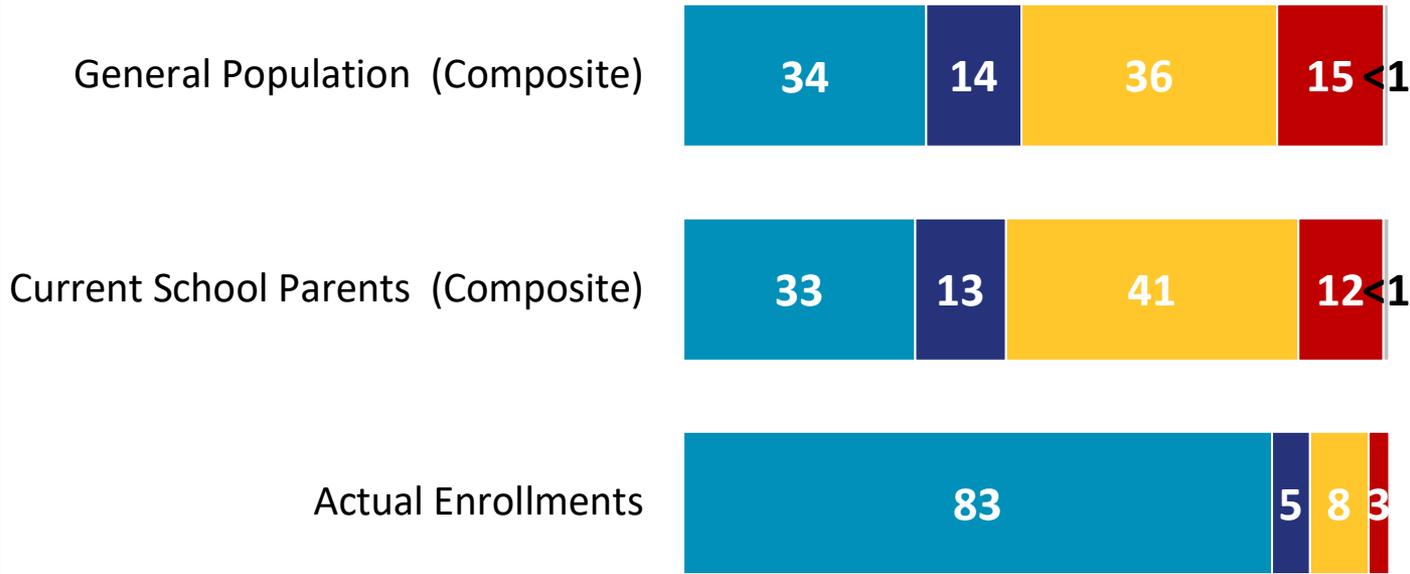
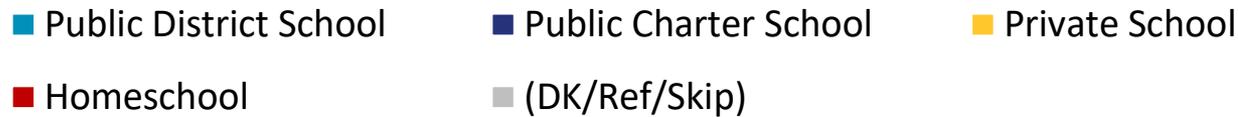


*Notes:* Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.  
*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q10

# SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE, COMPARED TO ACTUAL ENROLLMENT

Actual enrollment patterns do not reflect the diversity of parents' schooling preferences.

*% of Respondents*



*Notes:* The percentages in this chart reflect a composite that averages split samples' responses to two slightly different versions of this question. Responses within parentheses were volunteered: "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

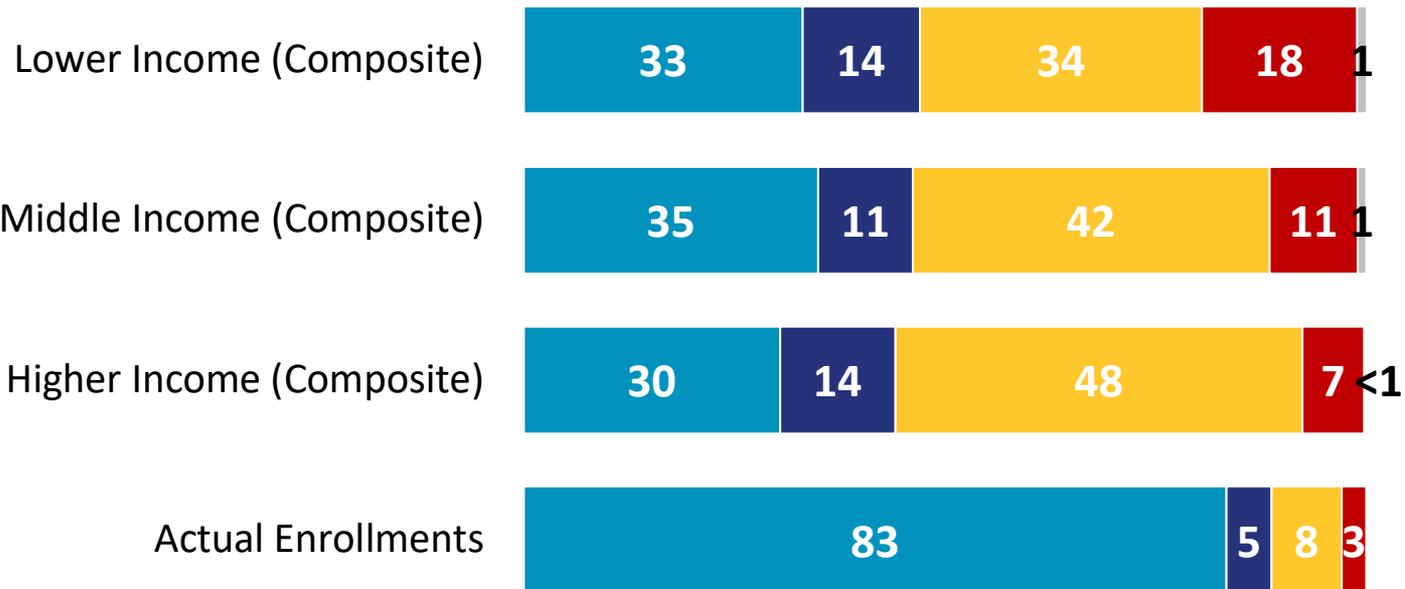
*Sources:* Authors' calculations; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q12

# SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE, COMPARED TO ACTUAL ENROLLMENT

**Lower-income parents are more likely than others to prefer to homeschool their children. But they are comparatively less likely than higher-income parents to prefer private school.**

*% of Current School Parents by Income*

■ Public District School    
 ■ Public Charter School    
 ■ Private School  
■ Homeschool    
 ■ (DK/Ref/Skip)



*Notes:* The percentages in this chart reflect a composite that averages split samples' responses to two slightly different versions of this question. Responses within parentheses were volunteered: "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.  
*Sources:* Authors' calculations; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); EdChoice, 2020 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q12

## REASONS FOR A SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE

There is a wide range of reasons parents say they prefer any given school type. Homeschoolers cite safety reasons more than any other by far.

### TOP FIVE LISTED

*% of Current School Parents by Preferred School Type with Children Enrolled in Type*

Private School (N = 707)	
Better Education / Quality	23%
Class Size / Student-Teacher Ratio	13%
Individual Attention / One-on-One / Customized	13%
Academics / Curriculum / Standards / Results	13%
Religion / Religious Reasons / Parochial	8%
Public District School (N = 538)	
Socialization / Peers / Other Kids	18%
Better Education / Quality	13%
Diversity / Variety	11%
Teachers / Teaching / Way They Teach	8%
Safety / Less Drugs, Violence / Bullying	7%
Public Charter School (N = 222)	
Better Education / Quality	18%
Class Size / Student-Teacher Ratio	17%
Individual Attention / One-on-One / Customized	11%
Academics / Curriculum / Standards / Results	9%
Teachers / Teaching / Way They Teach	8%
Homeschool (N = 206)	
Safety / Less Drugs, Violence / Bullying	37%
Individual Attention / One-on-One / Customized	14%
Better Education / Quality	8%
Academics / Curriculum / Standards / Results	7%
Opportunities / Choices / Freedom / Flexibility	3%

Notes: Lists cite the total number of unweighted interviews (N) per school type grouping. However, all percentages reflect the count of coded responses divided by the total number of weighted interviews. Unweighted N's are provided so the reader can roughly assess the reliability of reported percentages.

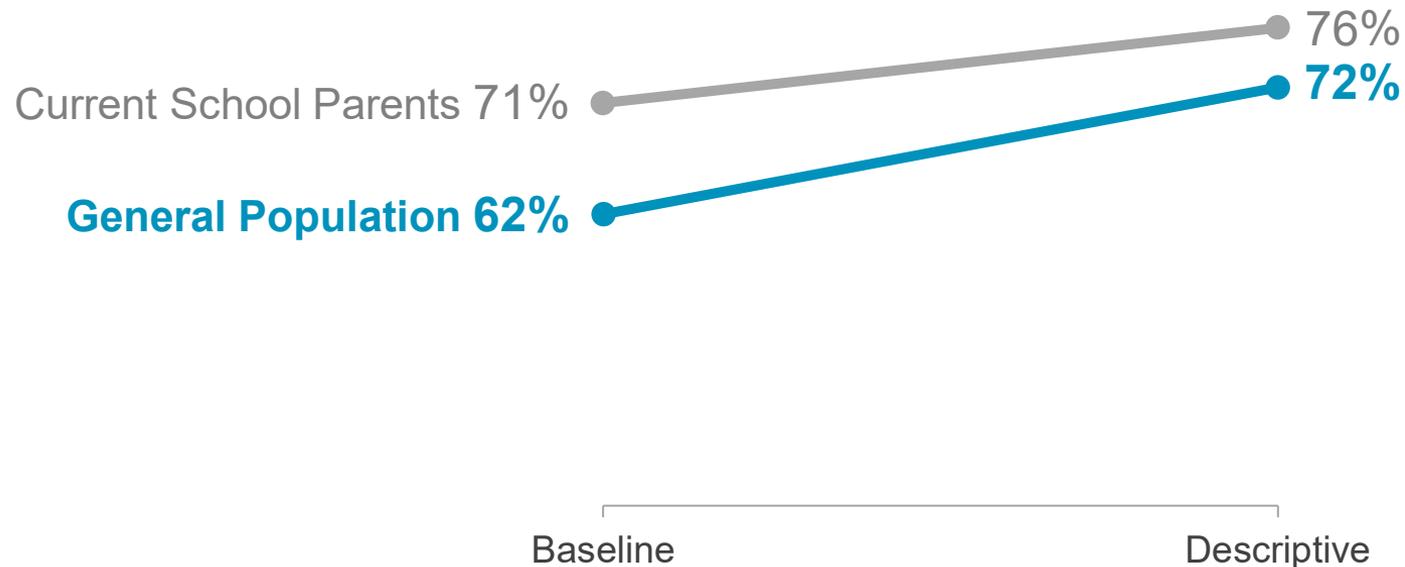
Source: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q13

**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.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS FAVORABILITY

When given a description of charter schools, support increased by six points for parents and 10 points for the general population.

*% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"*



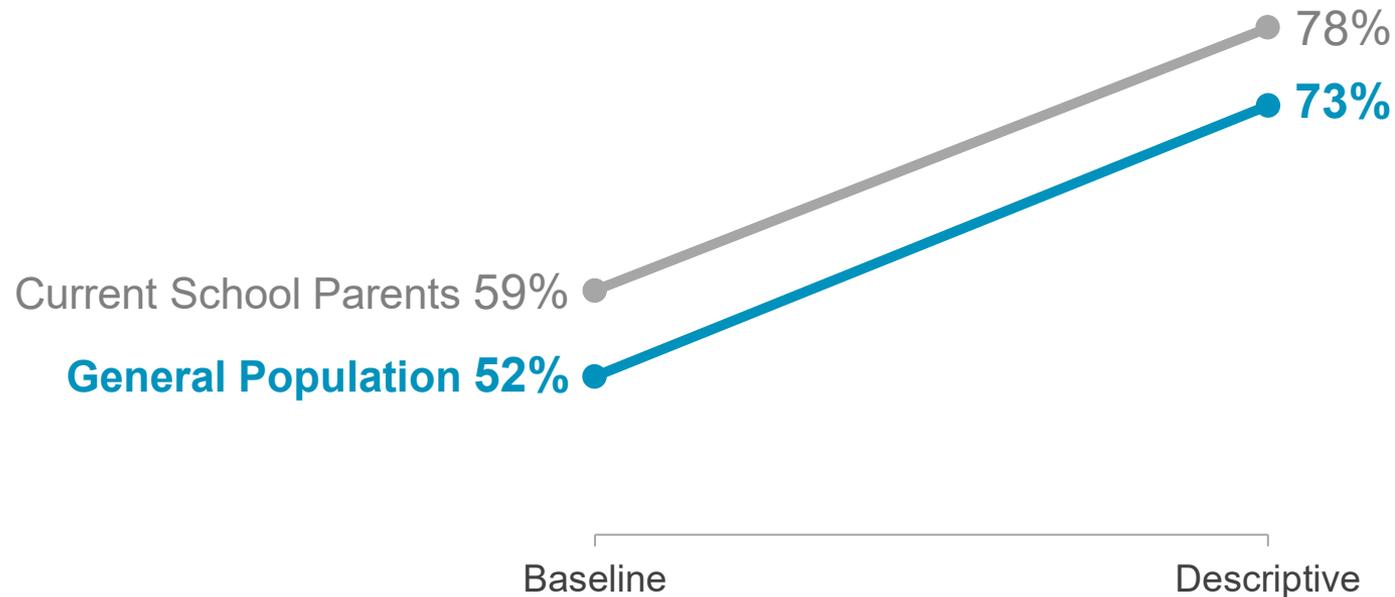
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q14 and Q15

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.

When given a description of school vouchers, support increased by 20 points for parents and 21 points for the general population.

## SCHOOL VOUCHERS FAVORABILITY

*% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"*



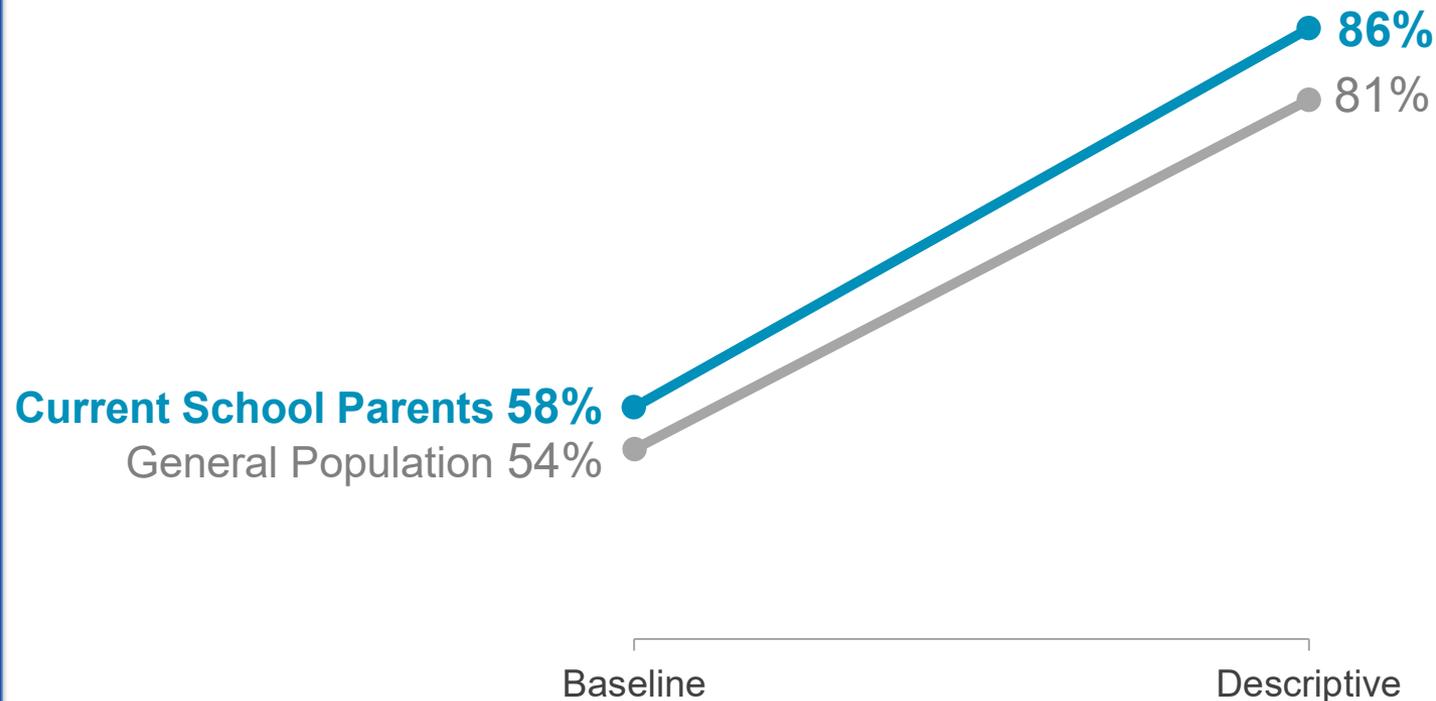
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q16 and Q17

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 future college expenses.

# EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs) FAVORABILITY

When given a description of ESAs, support increased by 29 points for parents and 27 points for the general population.

*% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"*



Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q18 and Q19

KEY FINDINGS

COVID-19 IMPACTS

SCHOOLING DURING A PANDEMIC

LOOKING AHEAD

SNAPSHOTS AND TRENDS IN K–12 SCHOOLING

INFORMATION IMPACTS

**EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS AND POLICIES**

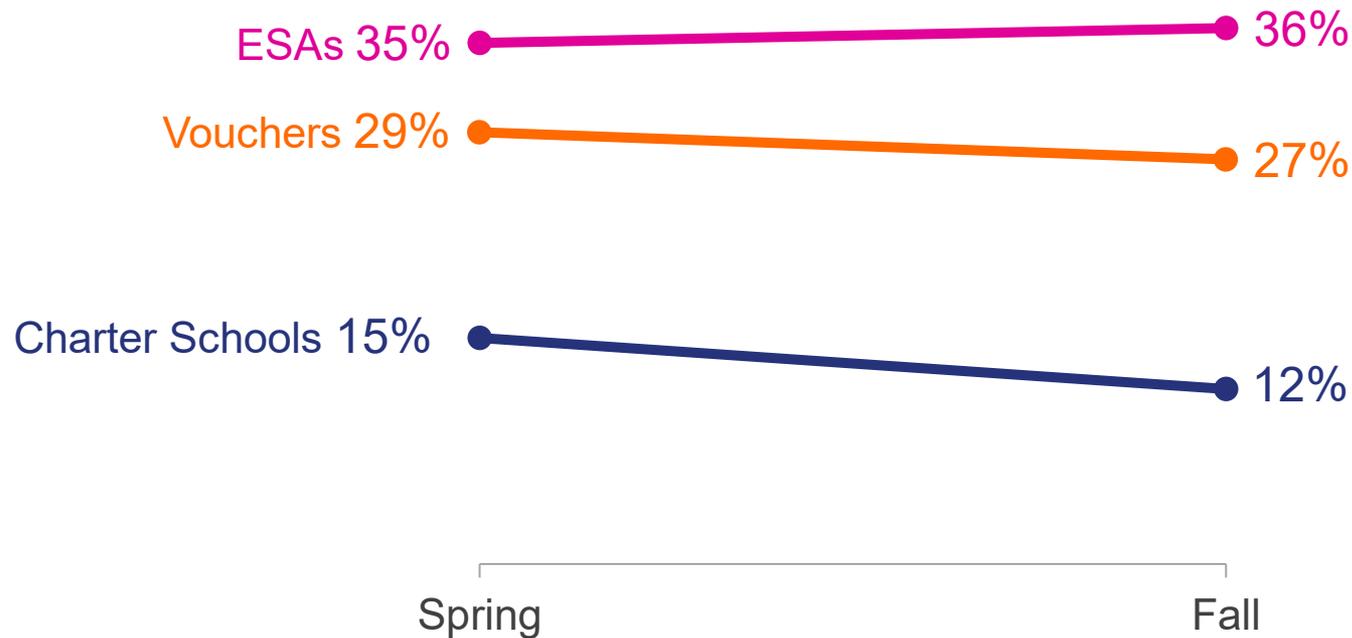
- EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)
- SCHOOL VOUCHERS
- TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS
- CHARTER SCHOOLS

SURVEY PROFILE

## AWARENESS OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS

More people indicate they have heard of charter schools and school vouchers than education savings accounts (ESAs). Levels are roughly unchanged since the spring.

*% of General Population Replying They Had Never Heard of Choice on Baseline Question*



Source: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22– June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020) Q14, Q16, and Q18

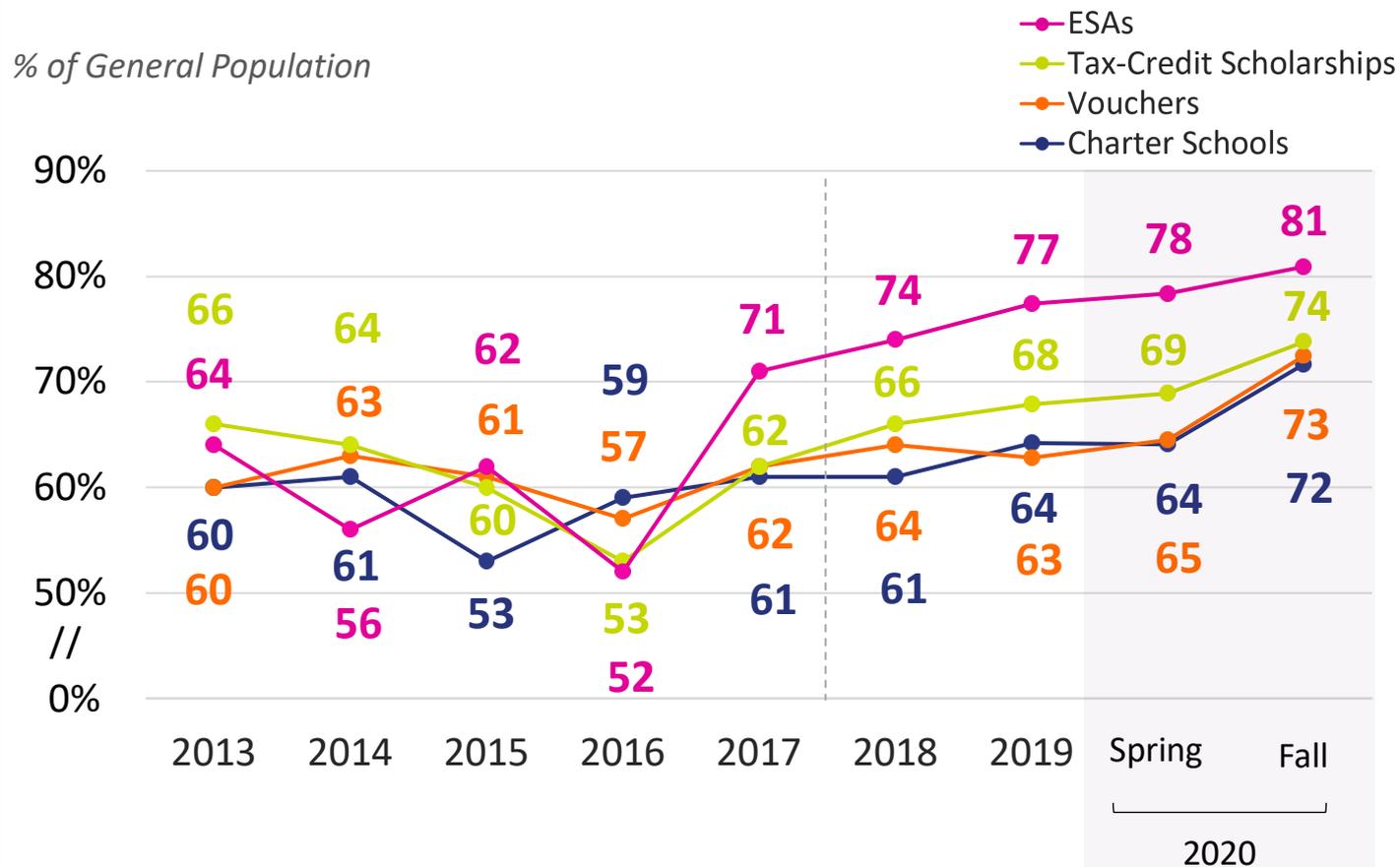
# FAVORABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS

Notes: From 2013 to 2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an ESA program and to avoid the inclusion of potentially loaded words or limiting ESA uses. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q15, Q17, Q19, and Q23; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2019*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

EDCHOICE.ORG

Levels of total support for different types of educational choice reforms are at all time highs.



KEY FINDINGS

COVID-19 IMPACTS

SCHOOLING DURING A PANDEMIC

LOOKING AHEAD

SNAPSHOTS AND TRENDS IN K–12 SCHOOLING

INFORMATION IMPACTS

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS AND POLICIES

– **EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)**

– SCHOOL VOUCHERS

– TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

– CHARTER SCHOOLS

SURVEY PROFILE

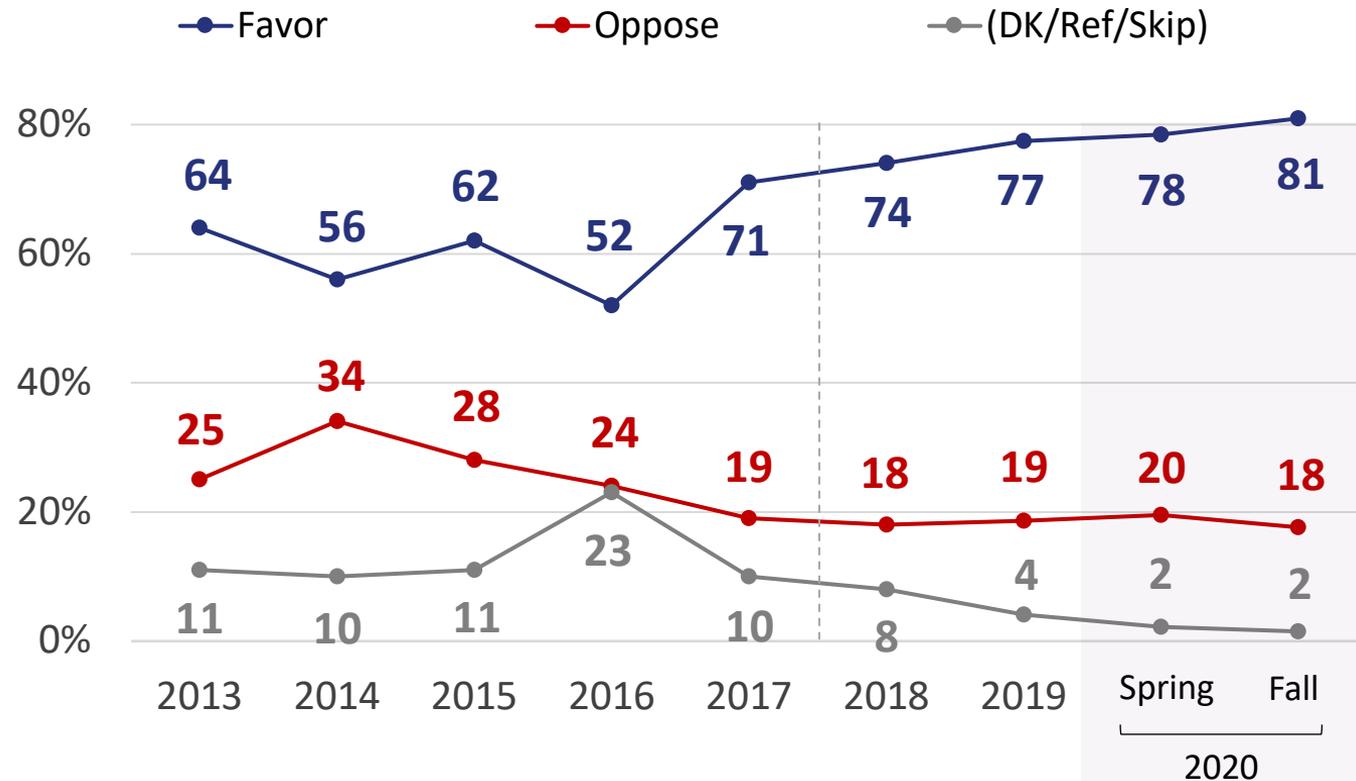
# EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs) FAVORABILITY

Notes: From 2013 to 2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an ESA program and to avoid the inclusion of potentially loaded words or limiting ESA uses. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22– June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q19; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2019 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

## More than four out of five Americans support ESAs.

% of General Population



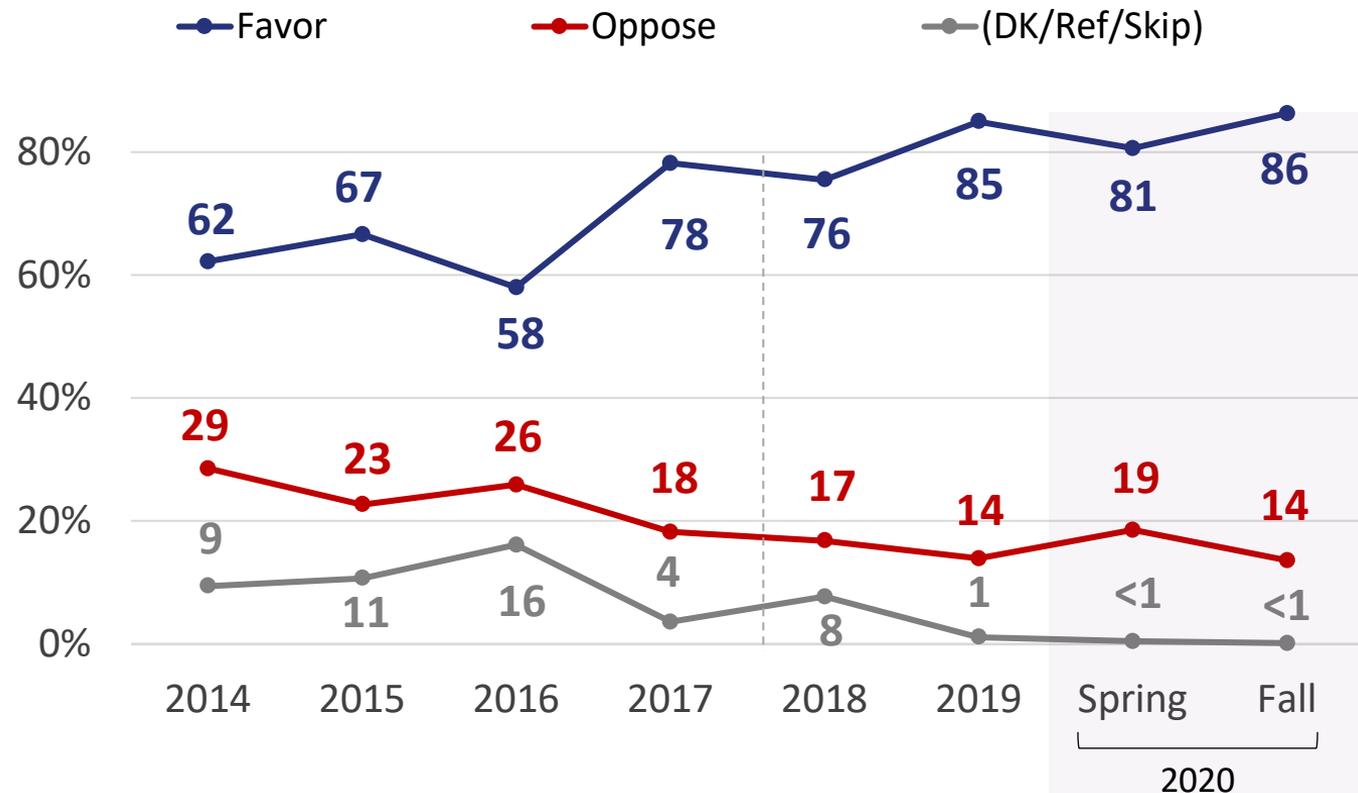
# EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs) FAVORABILITY

Notes: From 2013 to 2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an ESA program and to avoid the inclusion of potentially loaded words or limiting ESA uses. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22– June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q19; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2019 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

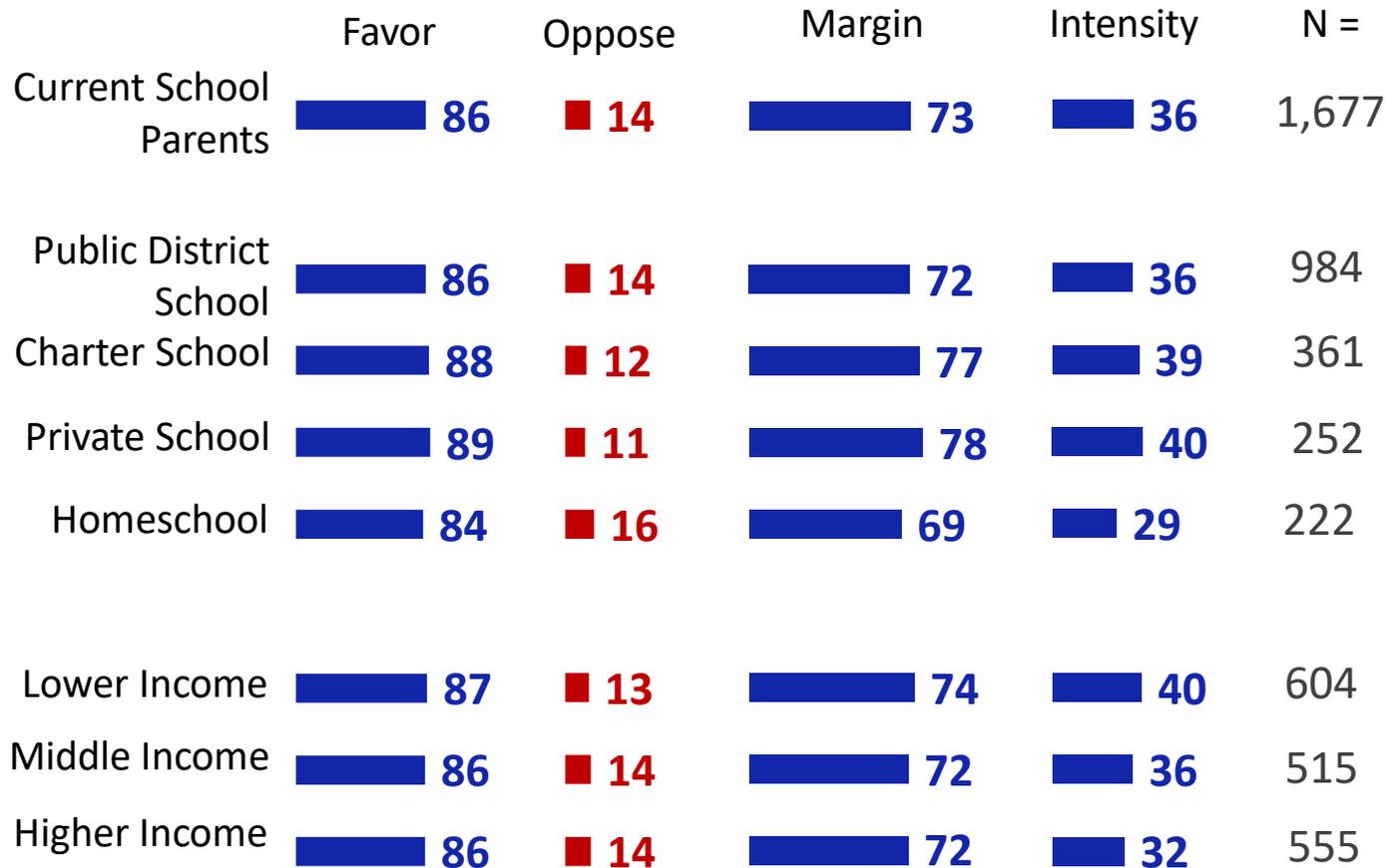
## Nearly nine out of 10 parents support ESAs.

% of Current School Parents



# EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs) FAVORABILITY

## At least four out of five parents in all observed demographics favor ESAs.



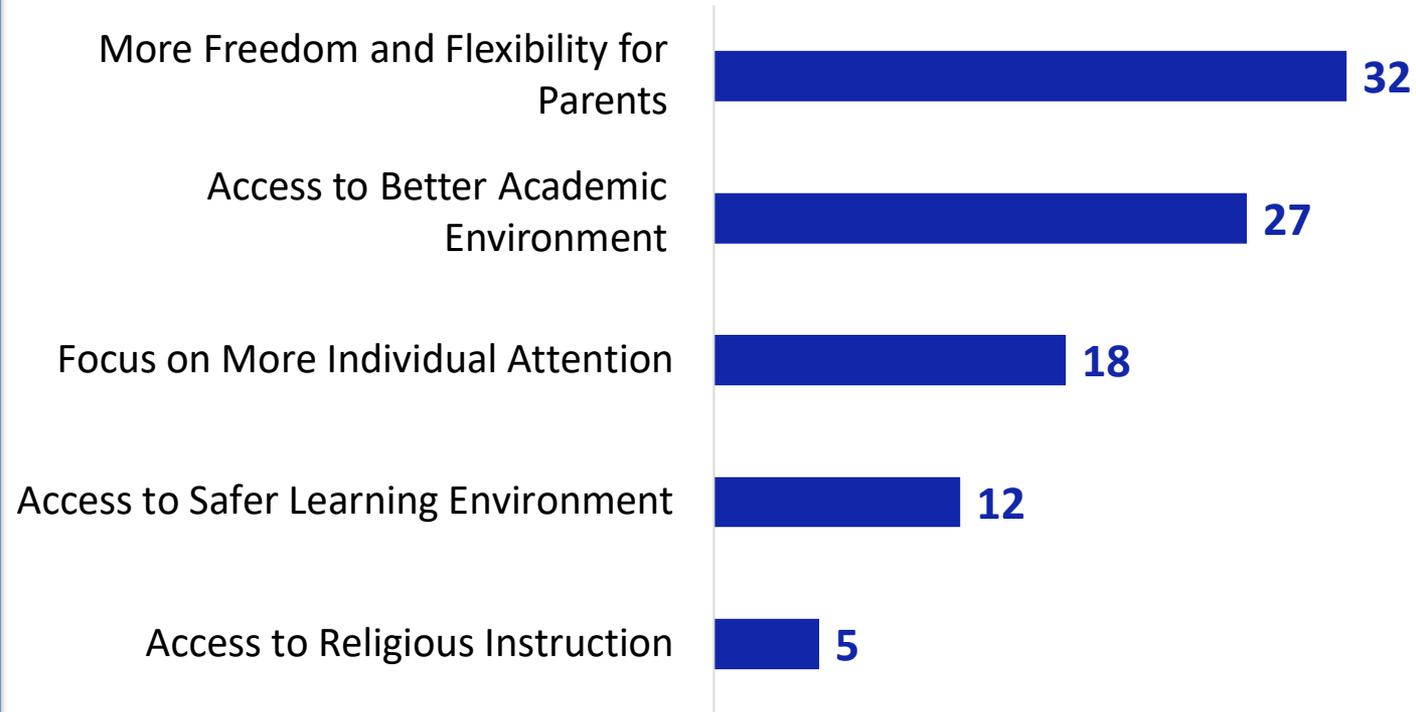
Note: Respondents were permitted to skip the survey question.

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q19

**REASONS FOR  
SUPPORTING  
EDUCATION  
SAVINGS  
ACCOUNTS (ESAs)**

**Supporters said increased freedom and flexibility for parents was the most important reason they favor ESAs.**

*% of General Population Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor" ESAs  
from Descriptive Question*



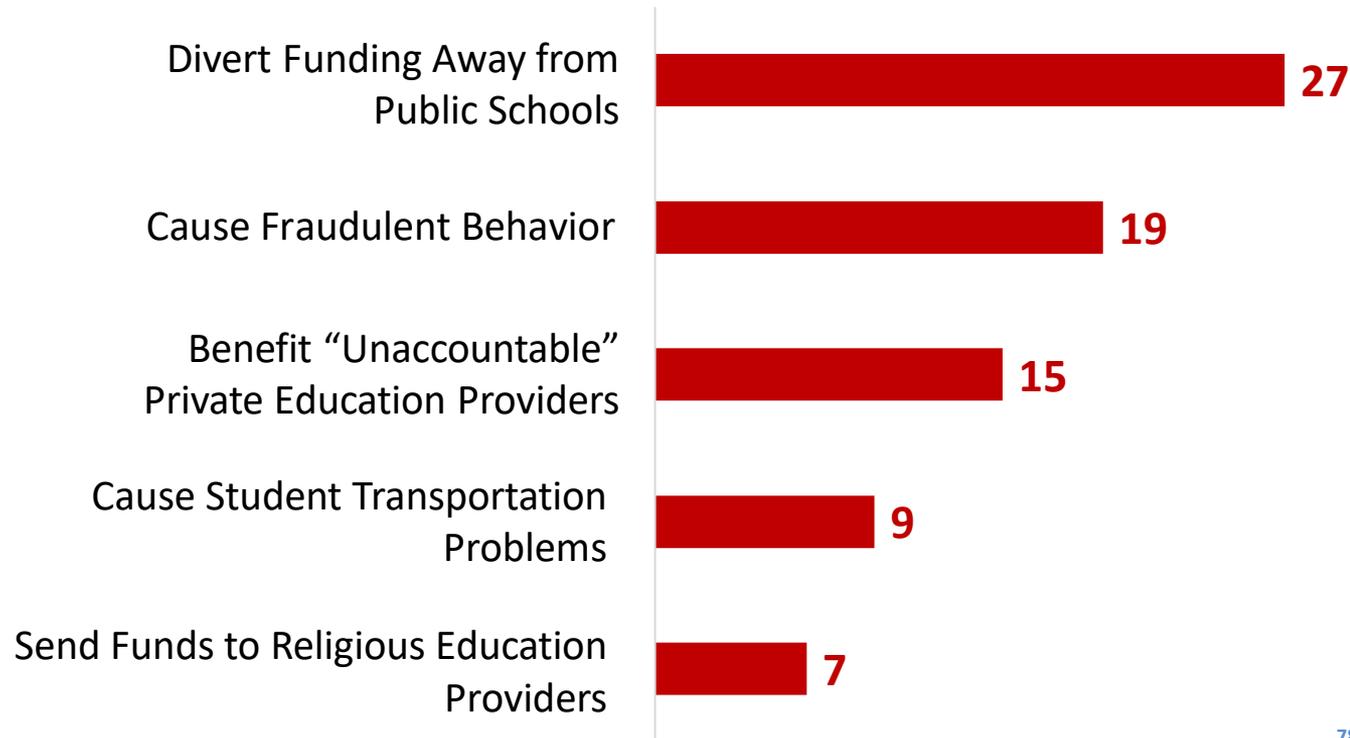
*Notes: Volunteered responses not shown.  
"Don't Know, Refusals, nor skips reflected in  
this chart.*

*Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America  
Survey (conducted September 30–October 20,  
2020), Q20*

# REASONS FOR OPPOSING EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

**More than one out of four oppose ESAs because they believe it would take funds away from public schools.**

*% of General Population Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Oppose" ESAs  
from Descriptive Question*



*Notes: Volunteered responses not shown.  
"Don't Know, Refusals, nor skips reflected in  
this chart.*

*Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America  
Survey (conducted September 30–October 20,  
2020), Q21*

# UNIVERSAL VS. NEEDS-BASED EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

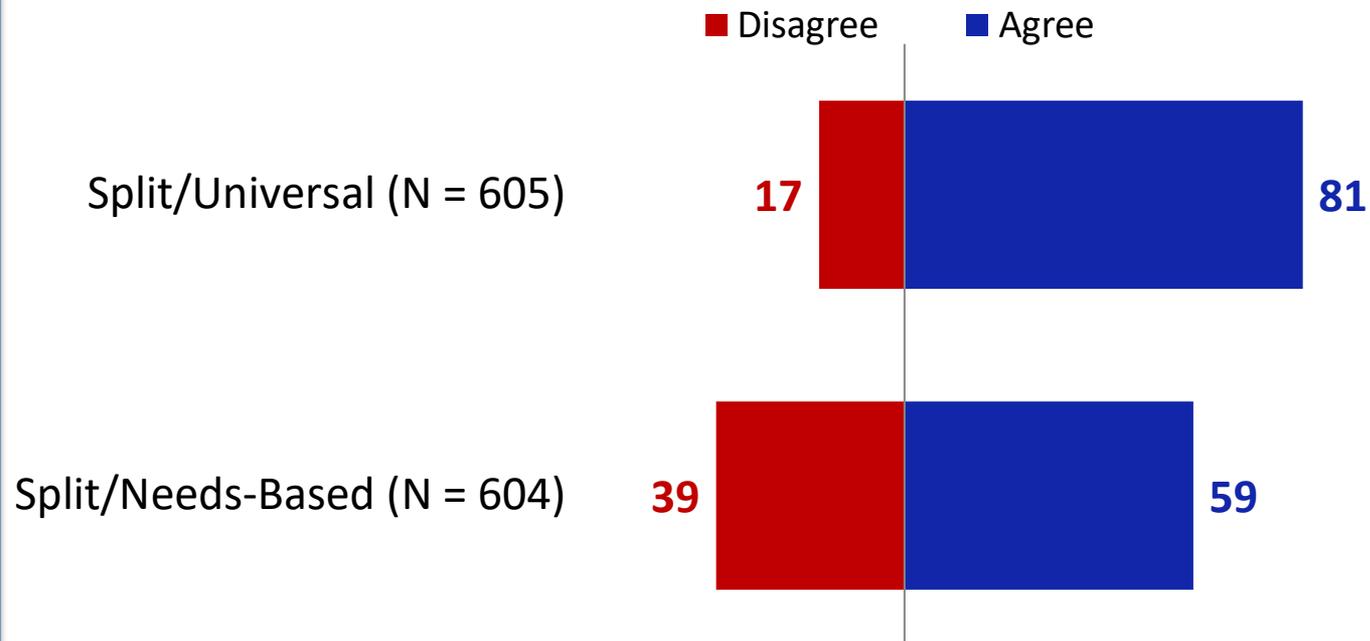
Notes: Volunteered responses not shown.  
"Don't Know," Refusals, nor skips reflected in  
this chart.  
Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America  
Survey (conducted September 30–October 20,  
2020), Q22

EDCHOICE.ORG

**Question Wording A** *Some people believe that ESAs should be available to **all families**, regardless of income and special needs. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?*

**Question Wording B** *Some people believe that ESAs should be available only to families **based on financial need**. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?*

*% of General Population by Split Sample*



KEY FINDINGS

COVID-19 IMPACTS

SCHOOLING DURING A PANDEMIC

LOOKING AHEAD

SNAPSHOTS AND TRENDS IN K–12 SCHOOLING

INFORMATION IMPACTS

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS AND POLICIES

– EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

– **SCHOOL VOUCHERS**

– TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

– CHARTER SCHOOLS

SURVEY PROFILE

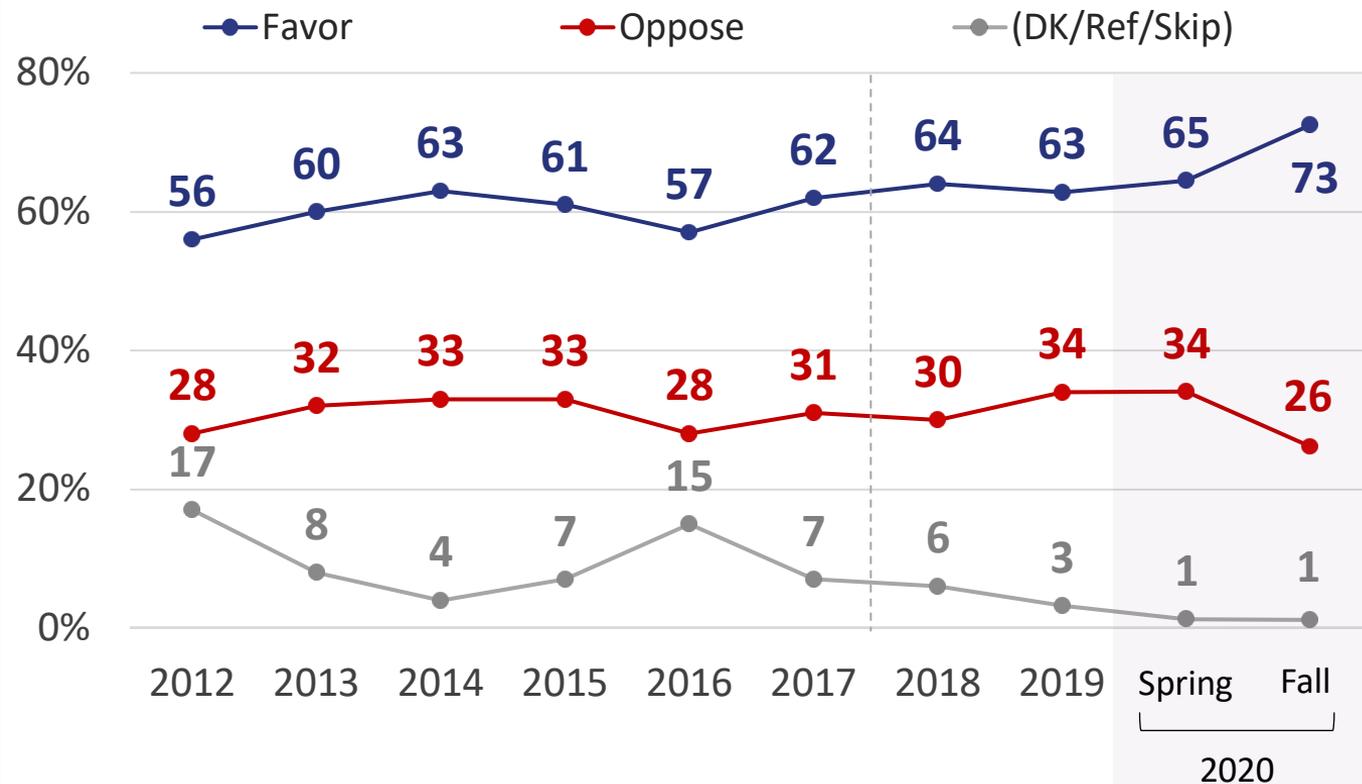
# SCHOOL VOUCHERS FAVORABILITY

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22– June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q17; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2019 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

Nearly three-fourths of the public support school vouchers—the highest level we've seen in our annual poll.

% of General Population



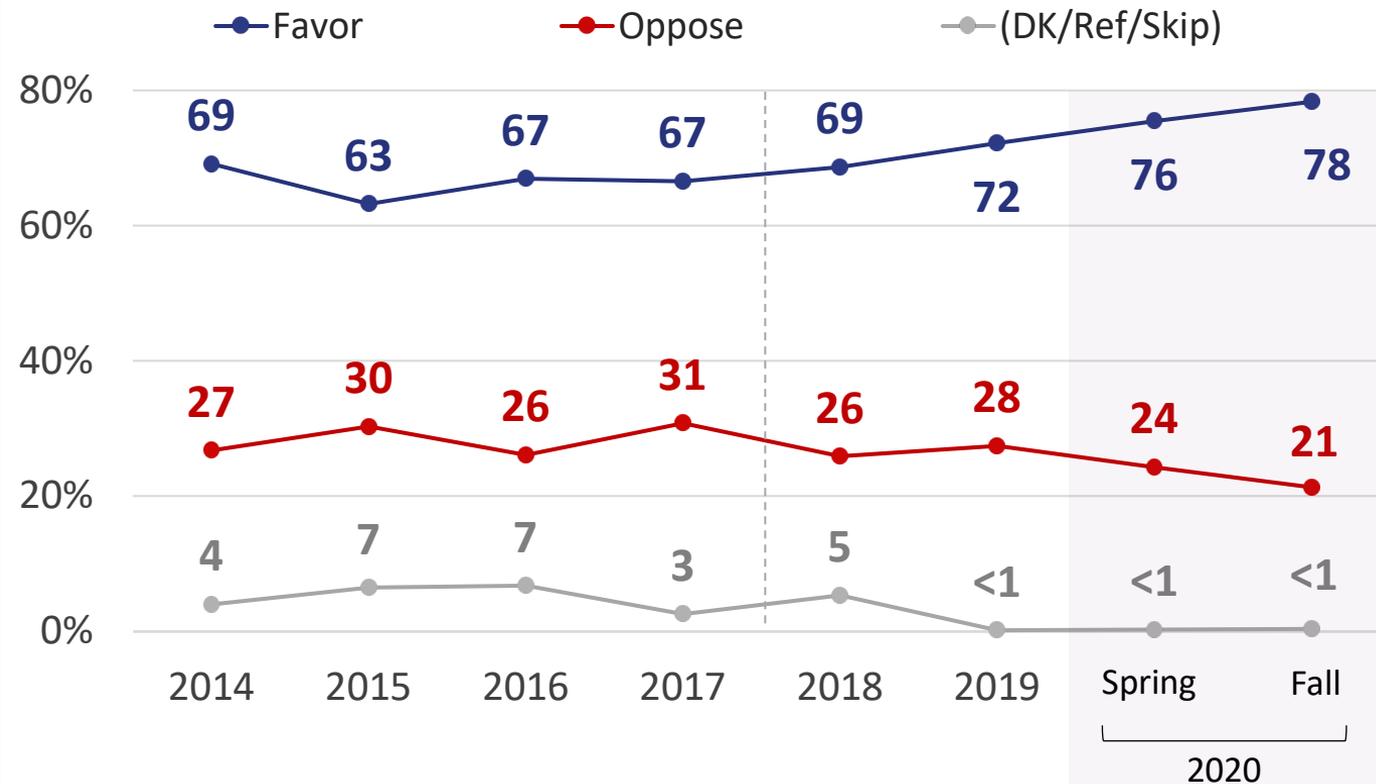
# SCHOOL VOUCHERS FAVORABILITY

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22– June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q17; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2019 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

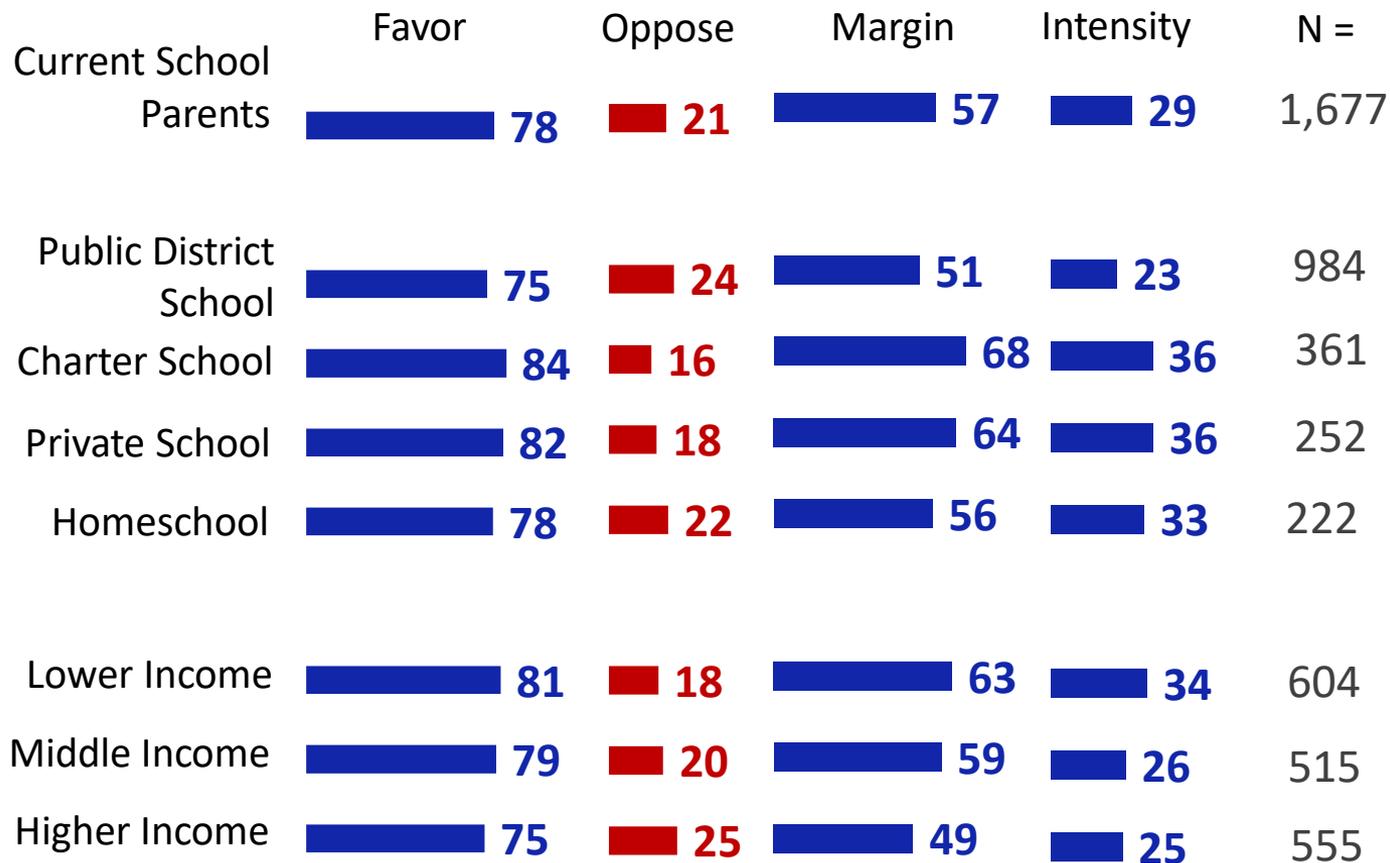
Nearly three-fourths of parents support school vouchers—the highest level we've seen in our annual poll.

% of Current School Parents



## SCHOOL VOUCHERS FAVORABILITY

**Public district school parents and higher-income parents are more likely to oppose school vouchers than their demographic counterparts. Those proportions are still relatively small.**



*Note:* For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

*Source:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q17

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– EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

– SCHOOL VOUCHERS

– **TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS**

– CHARTER SCHOOLS

SURVEY PROFILE

## *How We Describe: Tax-Credit Scholarships*

A tax credit allows an individual or business to reduce the final amount of a tax owed to government. In a **tax-credit scholarship** system, a government gives tax credits to individuals or businesses if they contribute money to nonprofit organizations that distribute private school scholarships. A nonprofit organization gives a scholarship to a qualifying student who would like to enroll in a private school of their choice, including both religious and non-religious schools. The student's parent then uses the scholarship to pay partial or full tuition for the chosen private school.

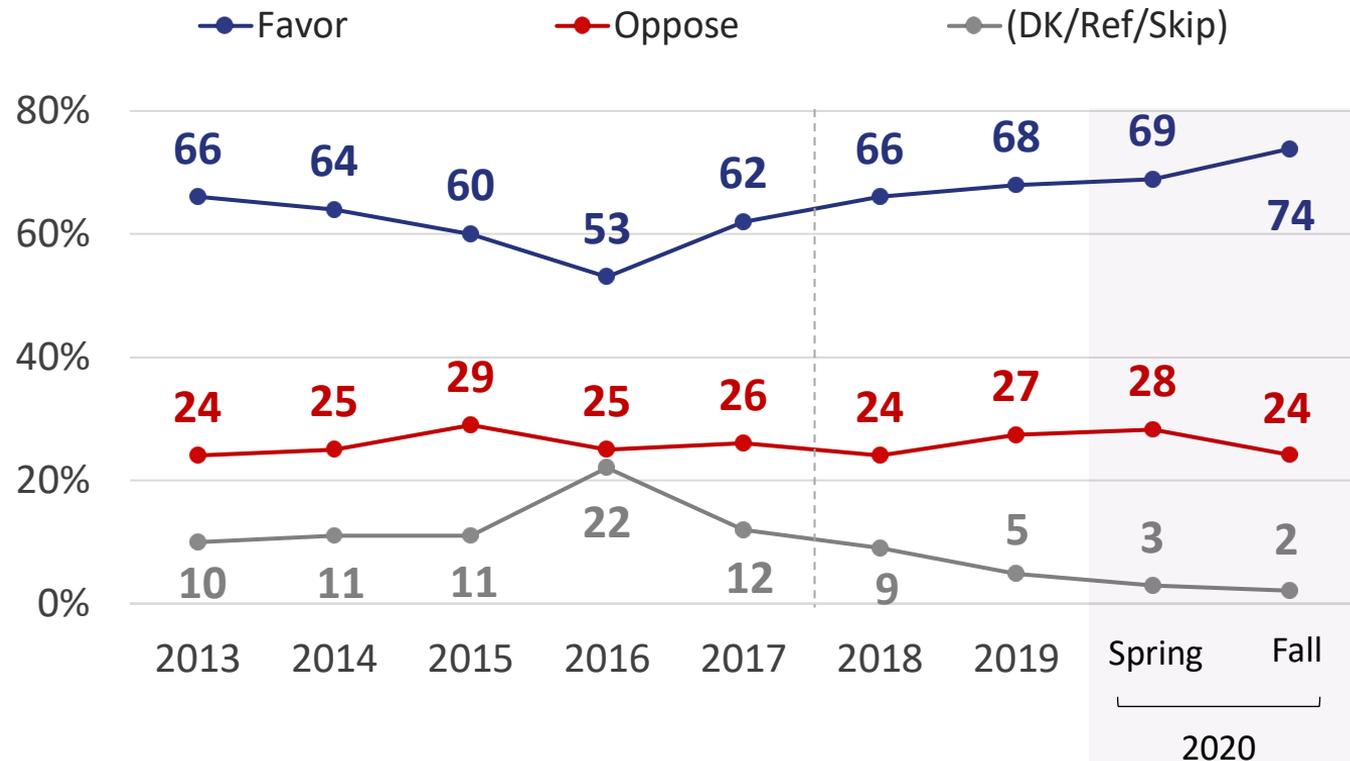
# TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS FAVORABILITY

*Notes:* We used slightly different question wording in 2013–2015, compared with the question version used in 2016–2020. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

*Sources:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22– June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q23; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2019* (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

Nearly three-fourths of the public support school tax-credit scholarships—the highest level we’ve seen in our annual poll.

*% of General Population*



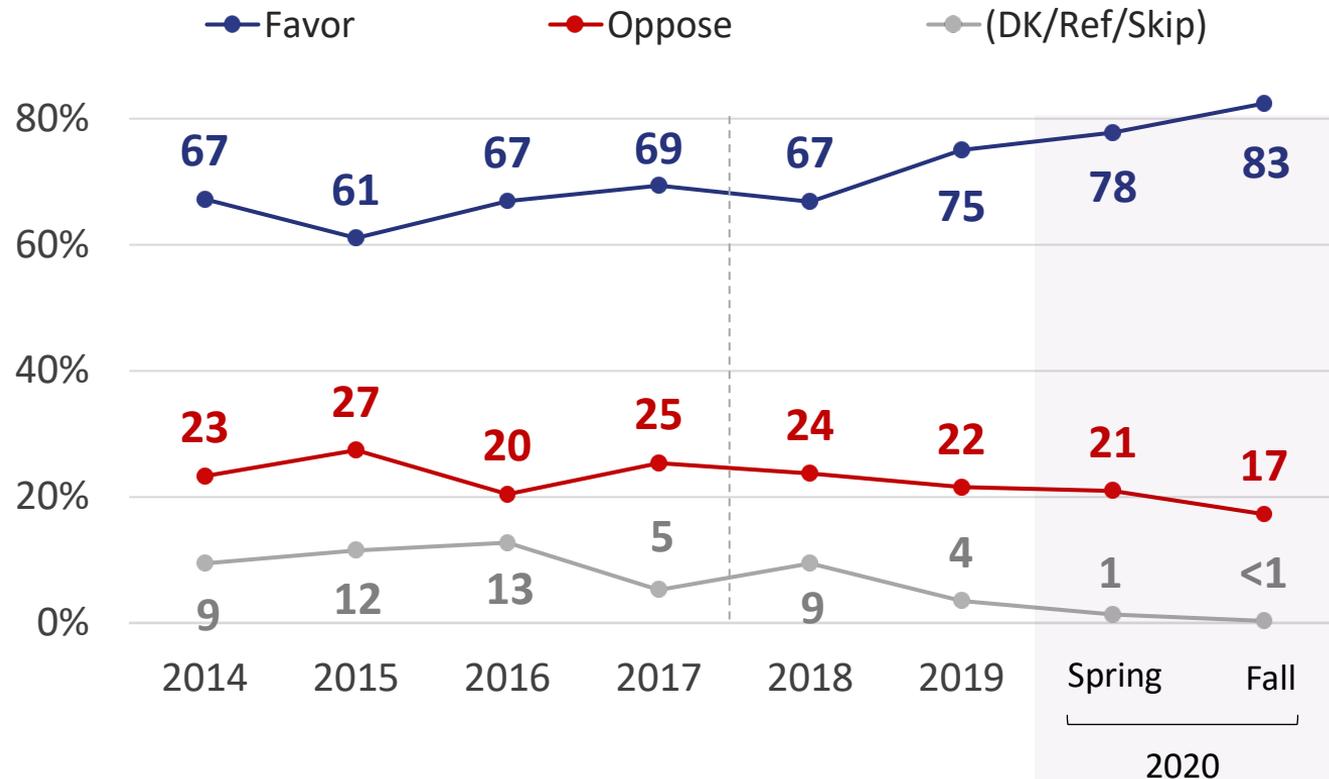
Nearly four out of five parents support tax-credit scholarships—the highest level we’ve seen in our annual poll.

## TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS FAVORABILITY

*Notes:* We used slightly different question wording in 2013–2015, compared with the question version used in 2016–2020. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

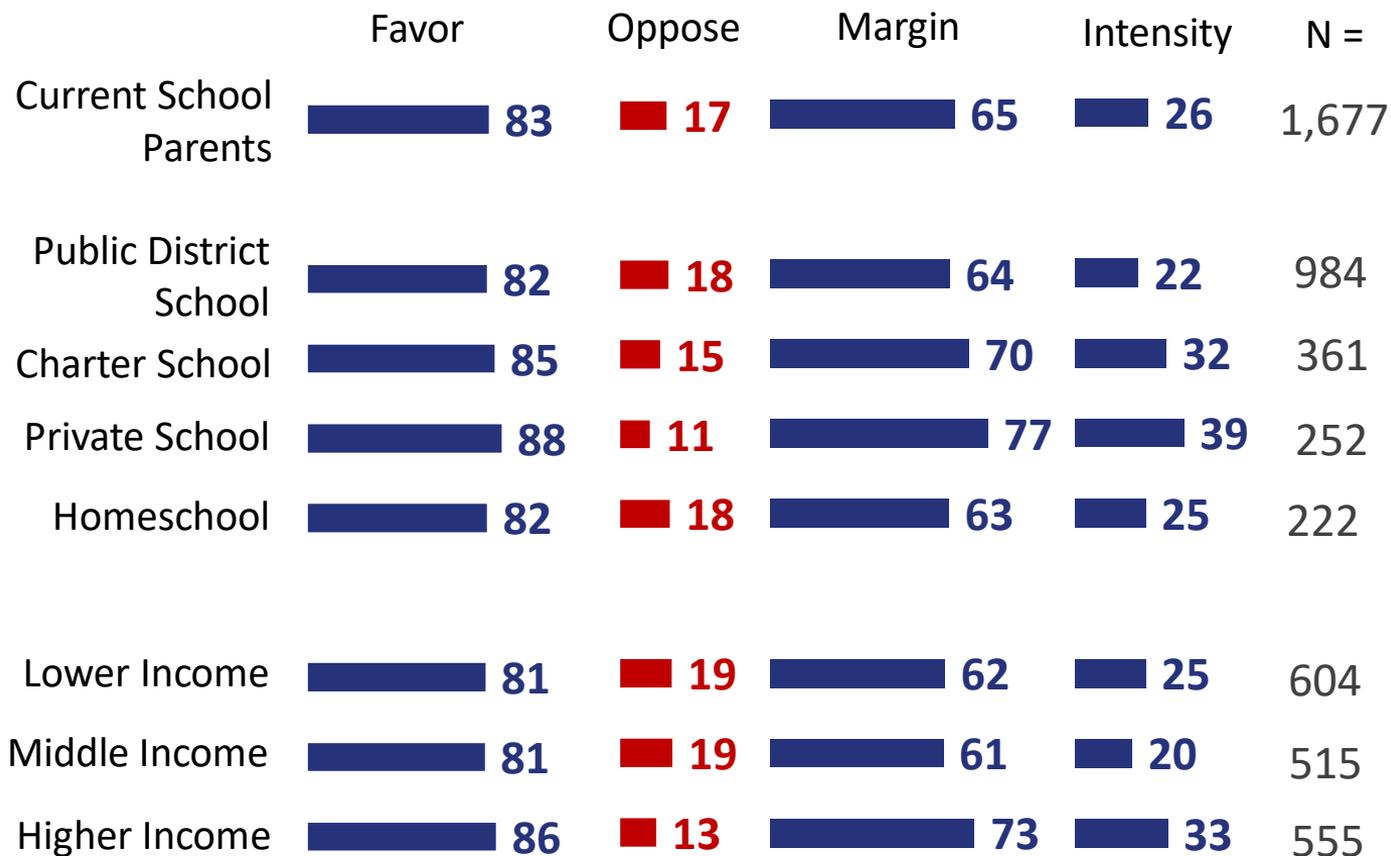
*Sources:* EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22– June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q23; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2019* (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

% of Current School Parents



## TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS FAVORABILITY

Private school parents and higher-income parents are slightly more likely to favor tax-credit scholarships than their demographic counterparts.



Note: For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.  
 Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q23

KEY FINDINGS

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INFORMATION IMPACTS

EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS AND POLICIES

– EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

– SCHOOL VOUCHERS

– TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

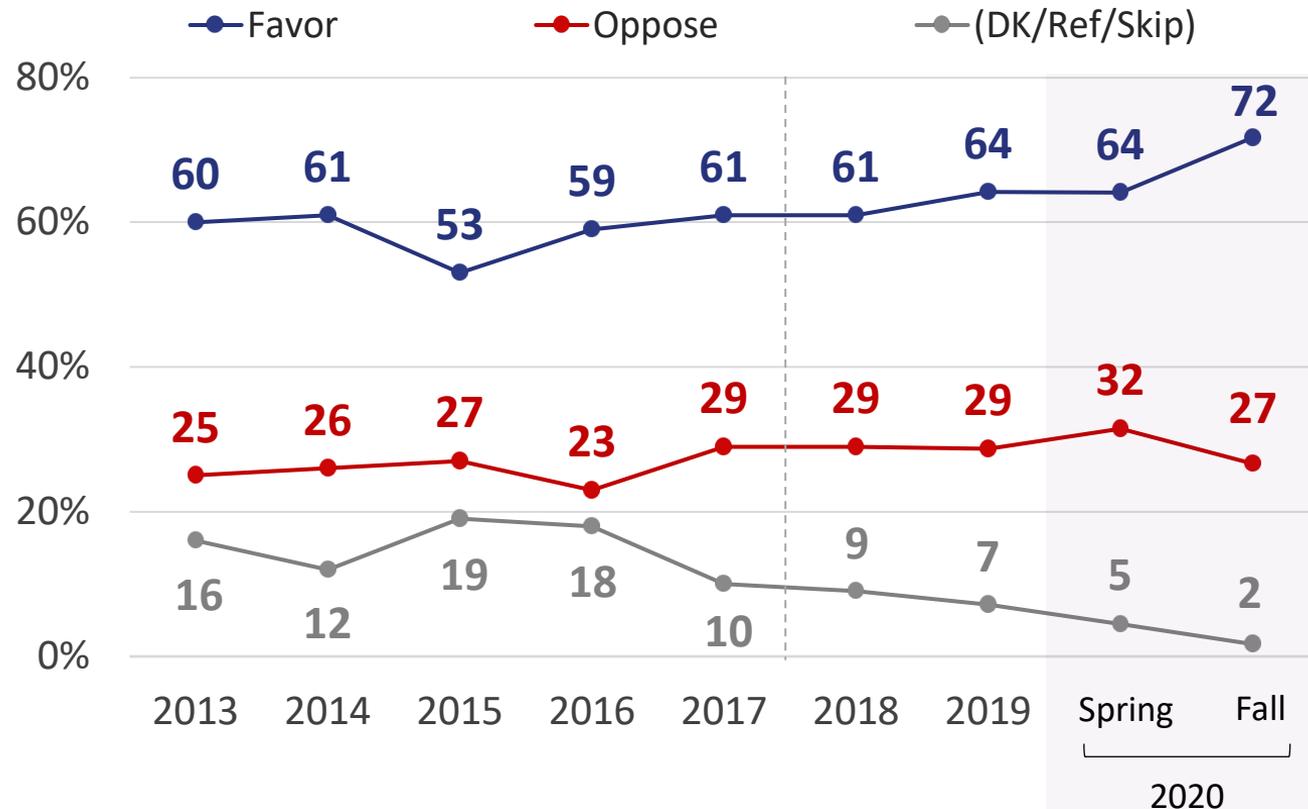
– **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

SURVEY PROFILE

More than 70 percent of the general public support charter schools—the highest level we’ve seen in our annual poll.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS FAVORABILITY

% of General Population



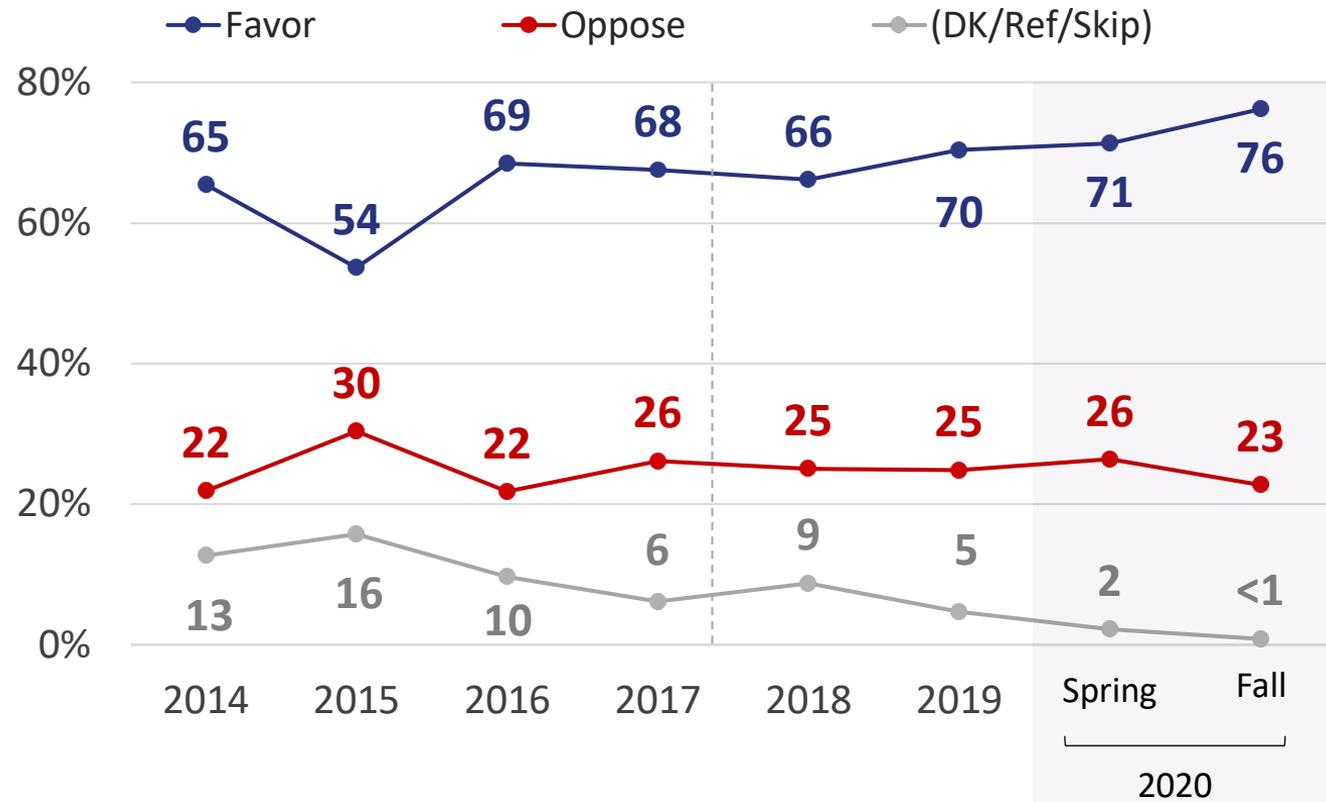
Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22– June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q15; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2019 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

# Seven out of 10 current school parents support charter schools—the highest level we’ve seen in our annual poll.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS FAVORABILITY

% of Current School Parents

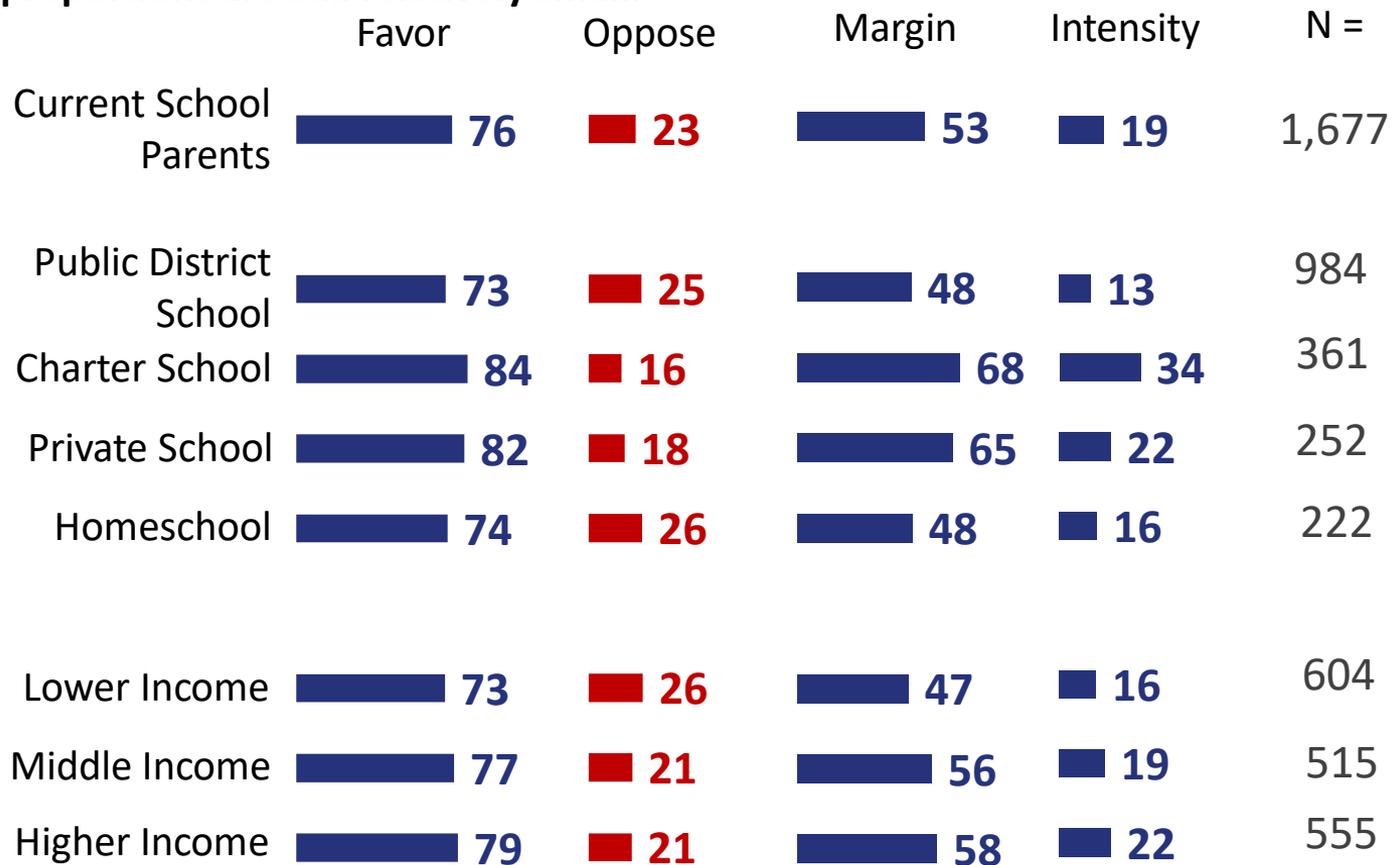


Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2020. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2020 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted May 22–June 2 and September 30–October 20, 2020), Q15; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2019 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

## CHARTER SCHOOLS FAVORABILITY

Homeschool and public district school and lower-income parents are more likely to oppose charter schools than their demographic counterparts. Those proportions are still relatively small.



Note: For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Source: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020), Q15

**KEY FINDINGS**

**COVID-19 IMPACTS**

**SCHOOLING DURING A PANDEMIC**

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**INFORMATION IMPACTS**

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- TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS
- CHARTER SCHOOLS

**SURVEY PROFILE**

# SURVEY PROFILE

<b>Administration/Fielding Dates</b>	Wave2 = September 30 to October 20, 2020
<b>Sponsor and Developer</b>	EdChoice
<b>Administration, Data Collection and Quality Control</b>	Braun Research, Inc.
<b>Population</b>	General Population (Adults, Age 18+)
<b>Sampling Frame</b>	National sample of adults (age 18+) living in the United States, including D.C.
<b>Sampling Method</b>	<u>Mixed Method</u> Phone: Probability-based ; Dual frame Online: Non-probability-based; Opt-in panel
<b>Mode</b>	Phone for General Population, N = 302 - Cell Phone = 75% - Landline = 25% Online for General Population, N = 907 Phone/Online for School Parents, N = 1,677

# SURVEY PROFILE

<b>Languages</b>	English; Spanish option
<b>Median Survey Time</b>	Phone (General Population): 15.5 minutes Online (General Population, Not School Parents): 15.1 minutes Online (School Parents): 18.5 minutes
<b>Sample Sizes</b>	General Population, N = 1,209 School Parents (Plus Oversample), N = 1,677
<b>Quotas</b>	African-American School Parents, N = 401 [400] Hispanic School Parents, N = 405 [400]
<b>Weighting</b>	<i>General Population</i> – Age, Census Division, Gender, Ethnicity, Race, Education, Phone Usage <i>School Parents</i> – Age, Census Region, Gender, Race
<b>Questionnaire and topline results:</b>	<a href="https://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-SIA-Questionnaire-and-Topline-Results-Wave-2.pdf">https://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-SIA-Questionnaire-and-Topline-Results-Wave-2.pdf</a>
<b>Project Contact</b>	Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

## REPORTED POPULATIONS AND SAMPLES SIZES

We provide the following counts of unweighted sample sizes for the populations described in this report. The larger the sample size, the more confident we can be in the reliability of the population's result.

	Unweighted Sample Size (N)
General Population (Adults 18+)	1,209
Current School Parents	1,677
Public District School	984
Charter School	252
Private School	361
Homeschool	222
Lower Income	555
Middle Income	515
Higher Income	604

# Summary Statistics for General Population (N = 1,209), Compared to U.S. Census

	Unweighted Count (N)	Unweighted Online (%)	Unweighted Phone (%)	Weighted Total (%)	Census (%)
<b>AGE GROUP</b>					
18 to 34	432	31.2	49.4	30.7	30.3
35 to 54	418	39.8	18.8	33.5	33.4
55 and Over	359	29.0	31.8	35.7	36.3
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
< College Graduate	829	64.3	56.6	68.8	71.0
≥ College Graduate	376	35.7	43.4	31.2	29.0
<b>GENDER</b>					
Male	573	47.9	46.0	48.9	48.7
Female	636	52.1	54.0	51.1	51.3
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>					
Asian/Pacific Islander	73	5.1	10.6	5.7	5.8
Black/African American	143	12.8	12.6	12.1	12.3
Hispanic/Latino	129	9.3	14.9	14.8	15.7
Native American	33	1.2	1.7	1.2	0.8
White, Not Hispanic	827	75.2	67.5	74.3	74.4
Two or More	122	4.5	6.0	5.4	2.3
Other	59	1.2	1.3	1.2	4.4
<b>REGION</b>					
Northeast	215	18.5	15.6	18.0	17.8
Midwest	251	20.4	21.9	21.3	21.0
South	475	40.9	34.4	38.9	37.7
West	268	20.2	28.1	22.7	23.5

Note: Counts for Native American, Two or More, and Other reflect weighted subsample sizes.

Sources: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020); 2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

## Summary Statistics for General Population (N = 1,209)

<b>COMMUNITY TYPE (SELF ID)</b>	<b>Unweighted Count (N)</b>	<b>Unweighted Total (%)</b>	<b>Weighted Total (%)</b>
Urban	378	31.3	31.0
Suburban	516	42.7	41.9
Small Town/Rural	313	25.9	26.9
<b>GENERATION</b>			
Generation Z	133	11.0	9.3
Millennial	390	32.3	27.9
Generation X	327	27.0	19.8
Baby Boomer	299	24.7	29.4
Silent	59	4.9	6.2
<b>HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b>			
< \$40,000	507	41.9	44.9
\$40,000 to < \$80,000	357	29.5	29.6
≥ \$80,000	337	27.9	24.5
<b>POLITICAL PARTY (SELF ID)</b>			
Democrat	446	36.9	36.1
Republican	364	30.1	30.1
Independent	397	32.8	33.5

Note: Counts for Native American, Two or More, and Other reflect weighted subsample sizes.

Sources: EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey (conducted September 30–October 20, 2020); 2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

**The authors welcome your feedback and any questions.**

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## About EdChoice

EdChoice is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing full and unencumbered educational choice as the best pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. EdChoice believes that families, not bureaucrats, are best equipped to make K–12 schooling decisions for their children. The organization works at the state level to educate diverse audiences, train advocates and engage policymakers on the benefits of high-quality school choice programs. EdChoice is the intellectual legacy of Milton and Rose D. Friedman, who founded the organization in 1996 as the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice.

## About Braun Research, Inc.

The Braun Research network of companies, founded in 1995, engages in data collection via telephone, and internet for various survey research firms, government and advertising agencies, local community organizations, local and national business groups, foundations, universities and academic entities, as well as religious organizations. In 24 years Braun Research has conducted over 11,000 research projects by telephone, internet, and mail worldwide.

Nationally-known research firms have hired Braun Research, including the Gallup Organization, the Pew Research Center, the Eagleton Poll, Mathematica Policy Research, and the Washington Post. Braun Research has worked for the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services, as well as other government agencies including the United States Departments of the Treasury and Defense, and the Center for Disease Control.

Braun Research employs techniques and standards approved by various survey research associations and other affiliations including those with whom Braun has been an active member, including the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). Paul Braun is recognized as a leader in the field by colleagues and industry peers. He has served as President of the New Jersey Chapter of AAPOR.

EdChoice is committed to research that adheres to high scientific standards. Matters of methodology and transparency are taken seriously at all levels of our organization. We are dedicated to providing high-quality information in a transparent and efficient manner.

The American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) welcomed EdChoice to its AAPOR Transparency Initiative (TI) in September of 2015. The TI is designed to acknowledge those organizations that pledge to practice transparency in their reporting of survey-based research findings and abide by AAPOR's disclosure standards as stated in the Code of Professional Ethics and Practices.

The contents of this publication are intended to provide empirical information and should not be construed as lobbying for any position related to any legislation.

We welcome any and all questions related to methods and findings.

