

# WHAT IS SCHOOL CHOICE

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MILLENNIAL CONVENING ON EDUCATIONAL CHOICE | ATLANTA



# HOW WE DEFINE “SCHOOL CHOICE!”



# WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF SCHOOL CHOICE?



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- Assigned Public School
- Public School Open Enrollment |  
Intra and Inter District Transfers
- Homeschool
- Virtual Schooling
- Charter Schooling
- Private Schooling

# HOW DO PARENTS ACCESS SCHOOL CHOICE?



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- Buy a House
- Pay for Private Schooling
- Lie about your address
- Know Someone (use social capital)
- Lottery



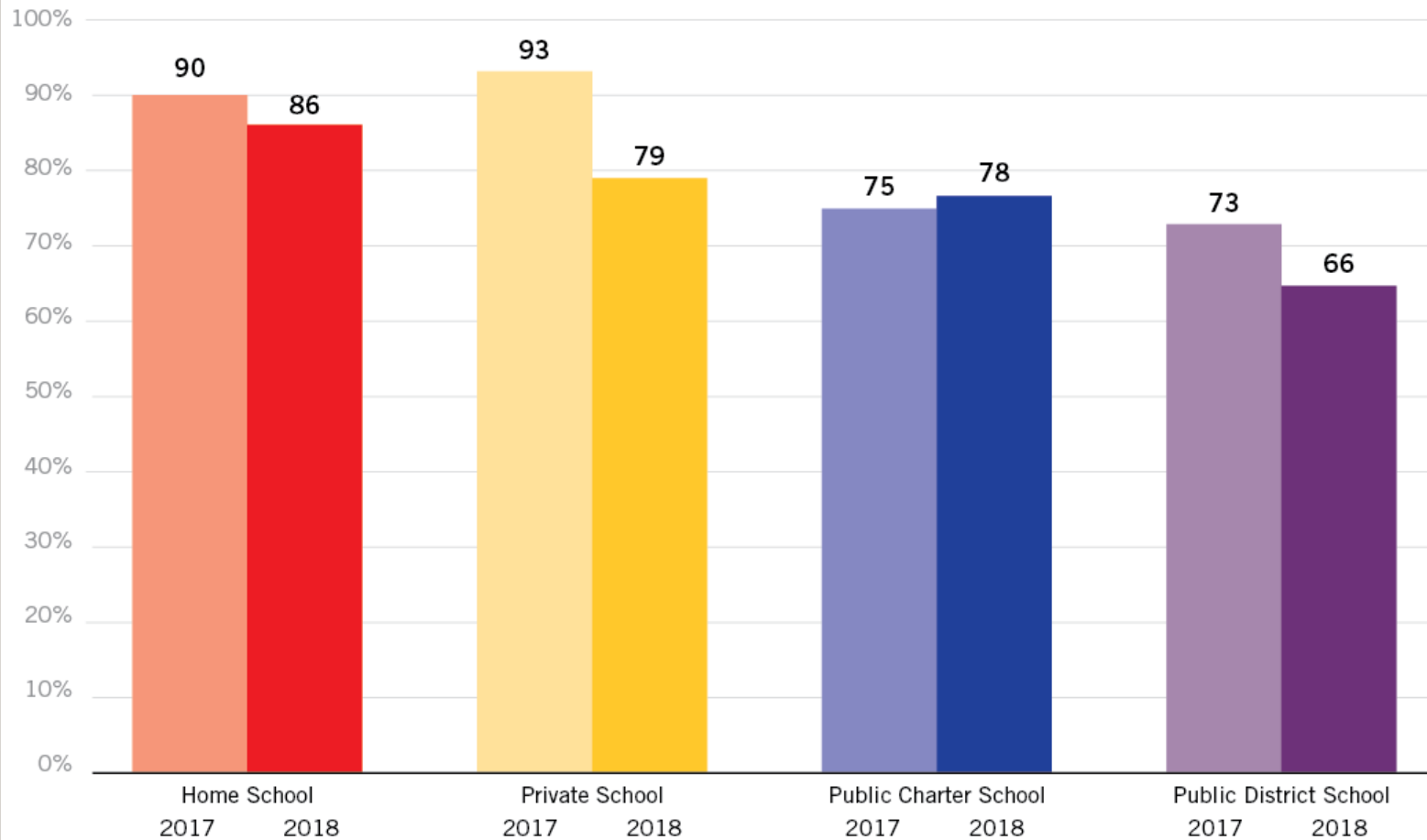
HOW DO FAMILIES  
FEEL ABOUT THEIR  
CURRENT SCHOOL?



**FIGURE 7****Parents' Satisfaction with Schools, 2017 and 2018**

*Parent satisfaction has dropped across school sectors since last year, except for charter schools.*

Percentage of Current and Former School Parents Saying They Have Been "Very" or "Somewhat" Satisfied



*Notes:* Phone-only survey results shown for 2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018. For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question. Sample sizes vary by school type and by year: Home School (2017, N = 47; 2018, N = 126); Private School (2017, N = 122; 2018, N = 188); Public Charter School (2017, N = 59; 2018, N = 166); Public District School (2017, N = 485; 2018, N = 825).

*Sources:* EdChoice, *2018 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 25-October 7, 2018), Q4, Q6, Q8, Q10; EdChoice, *2017 Schooling in America Survey*



**TABLE 2**

## Top Five Reasons for Choosing a Specific School Type

Percentage of General Population by Preferred School Type

Public District School (N=614)	
Socialization / Peers / Other Kids	15%
Better Education / Quality	13%
Diversity / Variety	11%
Cost / Tuition / Affordability	7%
Teachers / Teaching / Way They Teach	7%
Private School (N=723)	
Better Education / Quality	18%
Individual Attention / One-on-One	16%
Class Size / Student-Teacher Ratio	12%
Religion / Religious Reasons	9%
Teachers / Teaching / Way They Teach	9%
Public Charter Schools (N=207)	
Individual Attention / One-on-One	15%
Better Education / Quality	14%
Academics / Curriculum / Courses	12%
Class Size / Student-Teacher Ratio	12%
Teachers / Teaching / Way They Teach	9%
Home School (N=198)	
Safety / Less Drugs, Violence / Bullying	24%
Better Education / Quality	12%
Individual Attention / One-on-One	11%
Academics / Curriculum / Courses	9%
Teaching / Way They Teach	6%

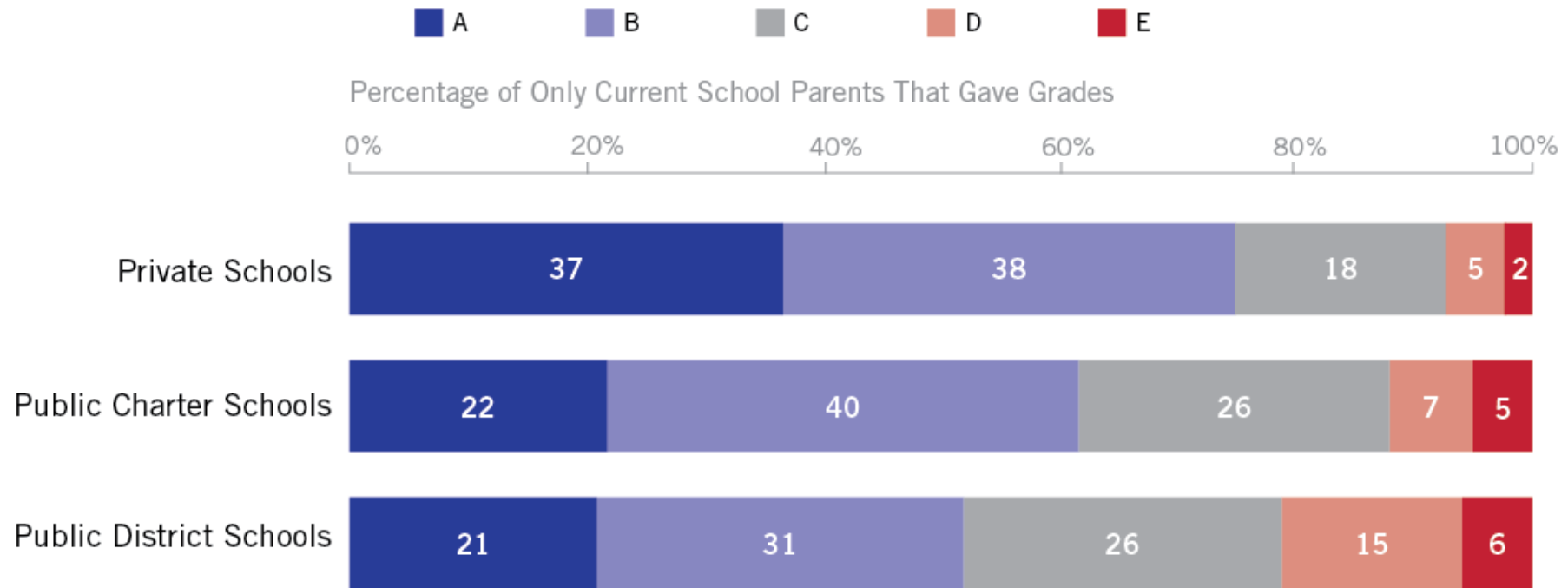
*Notes:* Lists cite the total number of unweighted interviews (N) per school type grouping. However, all percentages reflect the count of coded responses divided by the total number of weighted interviews. Unweighted N's are provided so the reader can roughly assess the reliability of reported percentages.

*Source:* EdChoice, *2018 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 25–October 7, 2018), Q17.

**FIGURE 8**

### How Current School Parents Grade Their Local Schools

*Current school parents are much more likely to rate their local private schools with an "A" or "B" (75%) compared to ratings of public district schools (53%).*



*Notes:* Volunteered "Don't Know" and "Not Applicable" responses not shown nor reflected in this chart. Sample sizes vary by school type: Private Schools (N = 346); Public Charter Schools (N = 330); Public District Schools (N = 520).

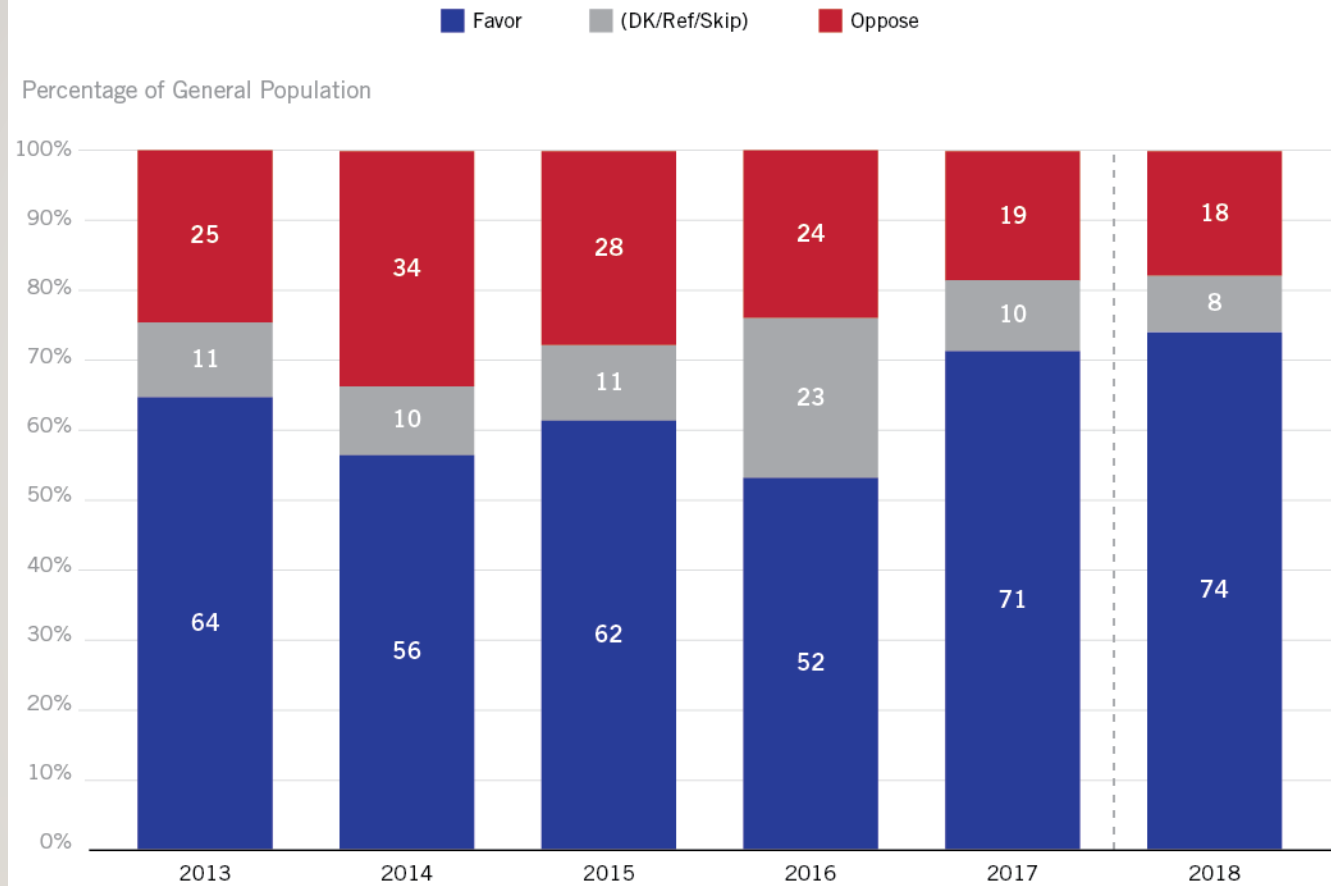
*Source:* EdChoice, *2018 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 25–October 7, 2018), Q15.

# HOW FAMILIES FEEL ABOUT CHOICE?



**FIGURE 18****The Public's Views on ESAs, with Description, 2013–2018**

Americans' support of ESAs is at its highest point in six years, with respondents four times more likely to favor than oppose such a program.

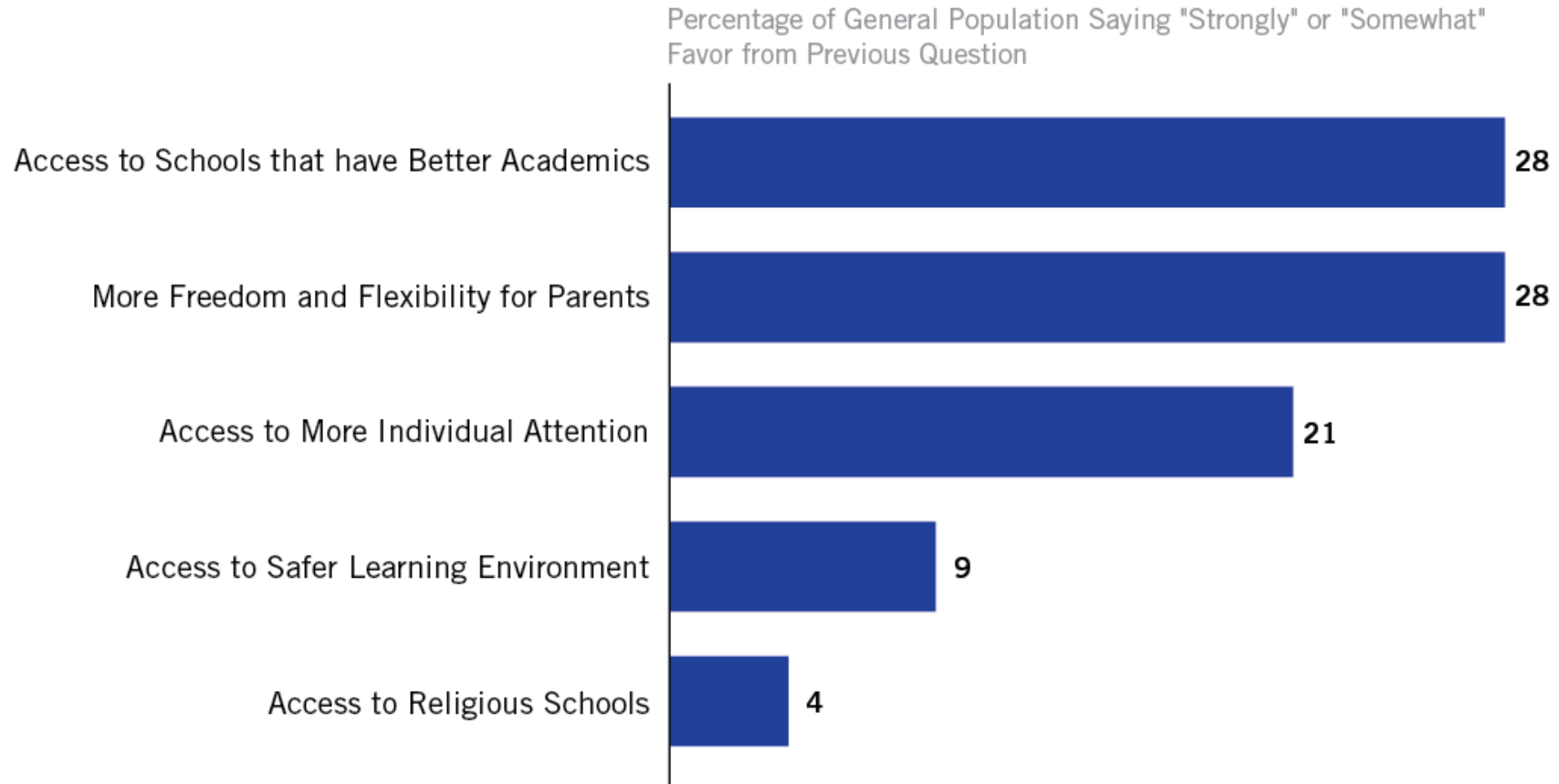


Notes: From 2013 to 2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an ESA program and to avoid the inclusion of potentially loaded words or limiting ESA uses. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018. Responses 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, *2018 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 25–October 7, 2018), Q23; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2017* (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*.

**FIGURE 20****The Most Important Reason for Supporting ESAs**

*More than half of supporters either said access to schools that have better academics or increased freedom and flexibility for parents was the most important reason they favor ESAs.*



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

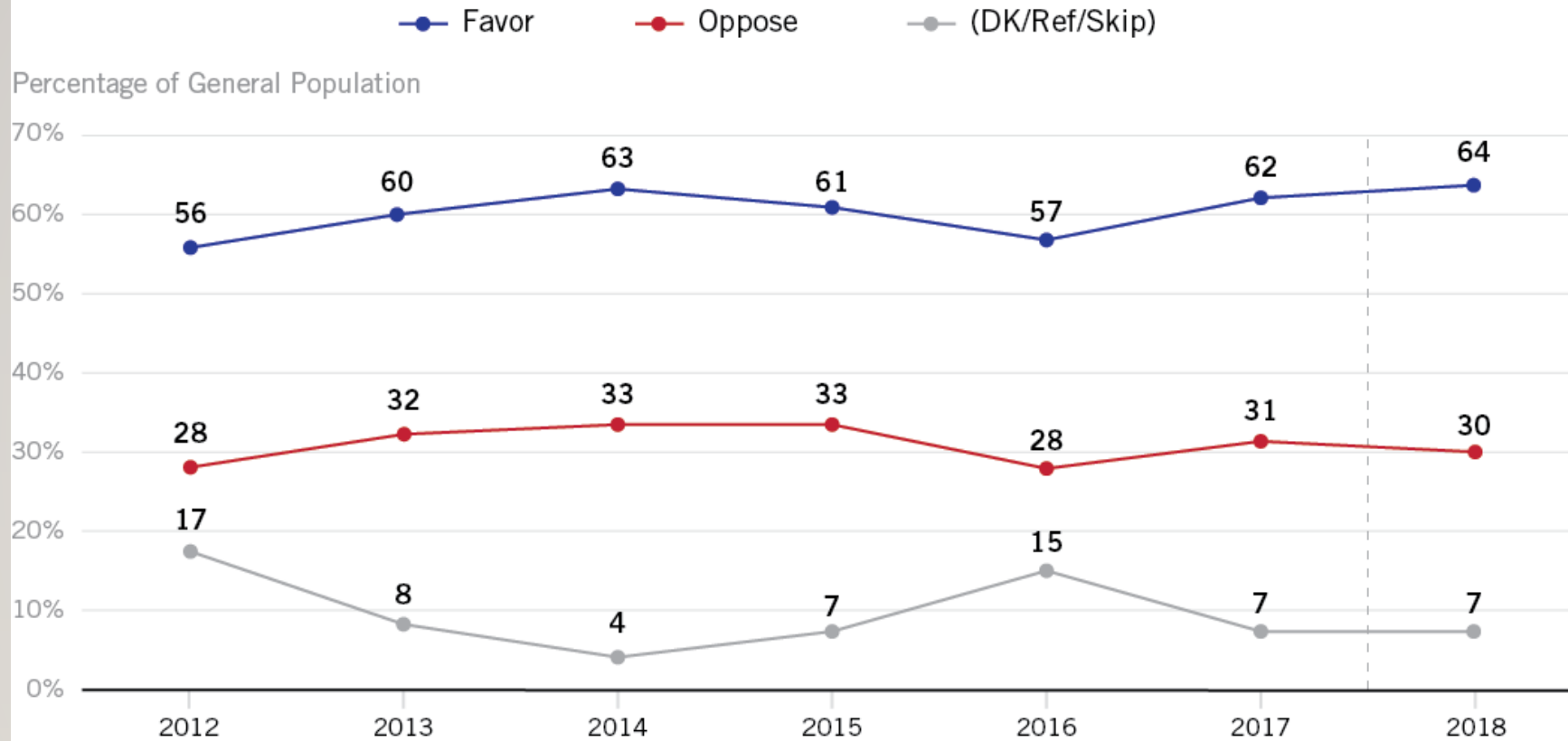
*Source:* EdChoice, *2018 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 25–October 7, 2018), Q24.



**FIGURE 23**

### The Public's Views on School Vouchers, with Description, 2012–2018

*Over the last six years Americans have consistently supported school vouchers at a level twice that of the opposition.*



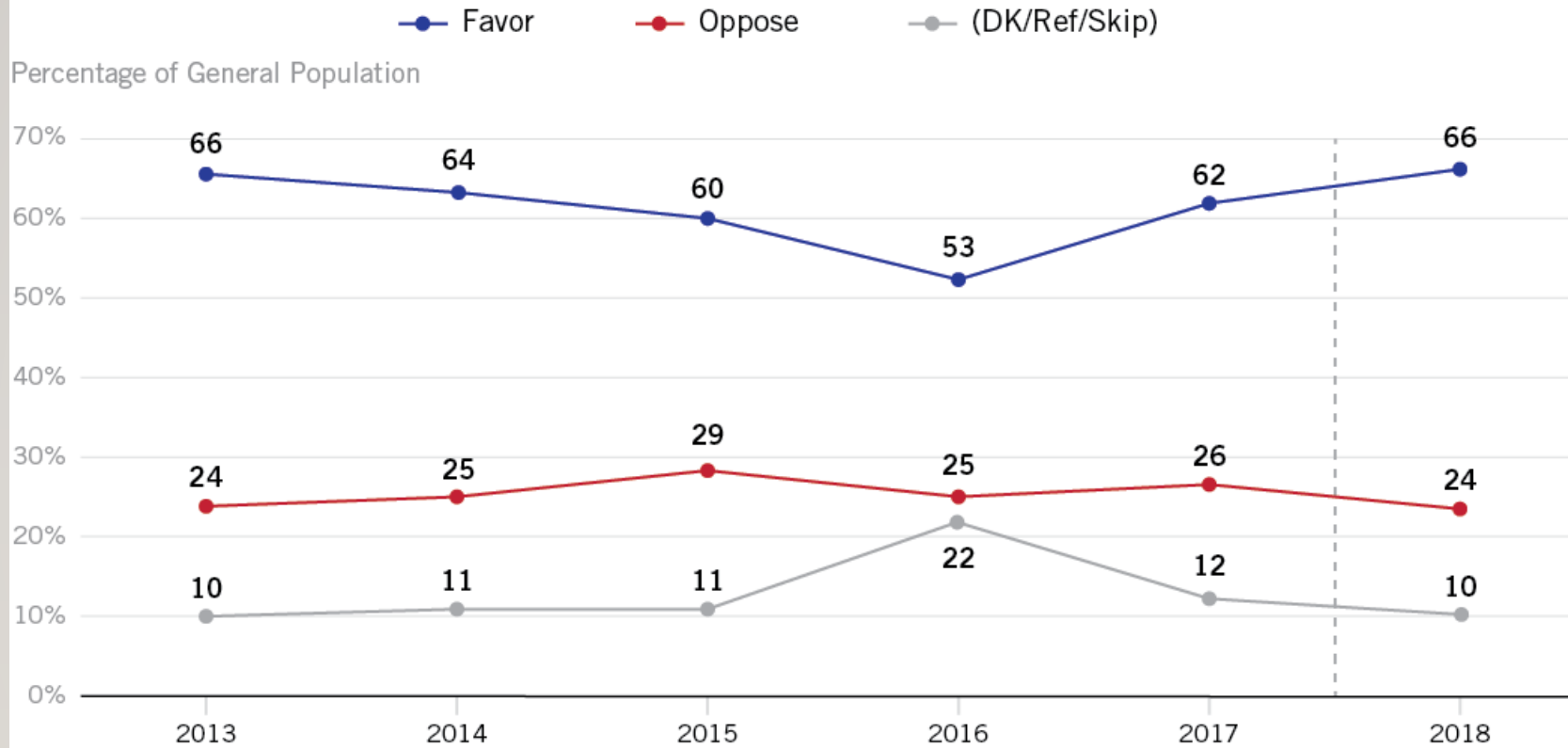
*Notes:* Phone-only survey results shown for 2012–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

*Sources:* EdChoice, *2018 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 25–October 7, 2018), Q21; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2017; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015.



**FIGURE 25****The Public's Views on Tax-Credit Scholarships, with Description, 2013–2018**

*Public support for tax-credit scholarships appears to have bounced back to the levels and wider margins observed before 2016.*

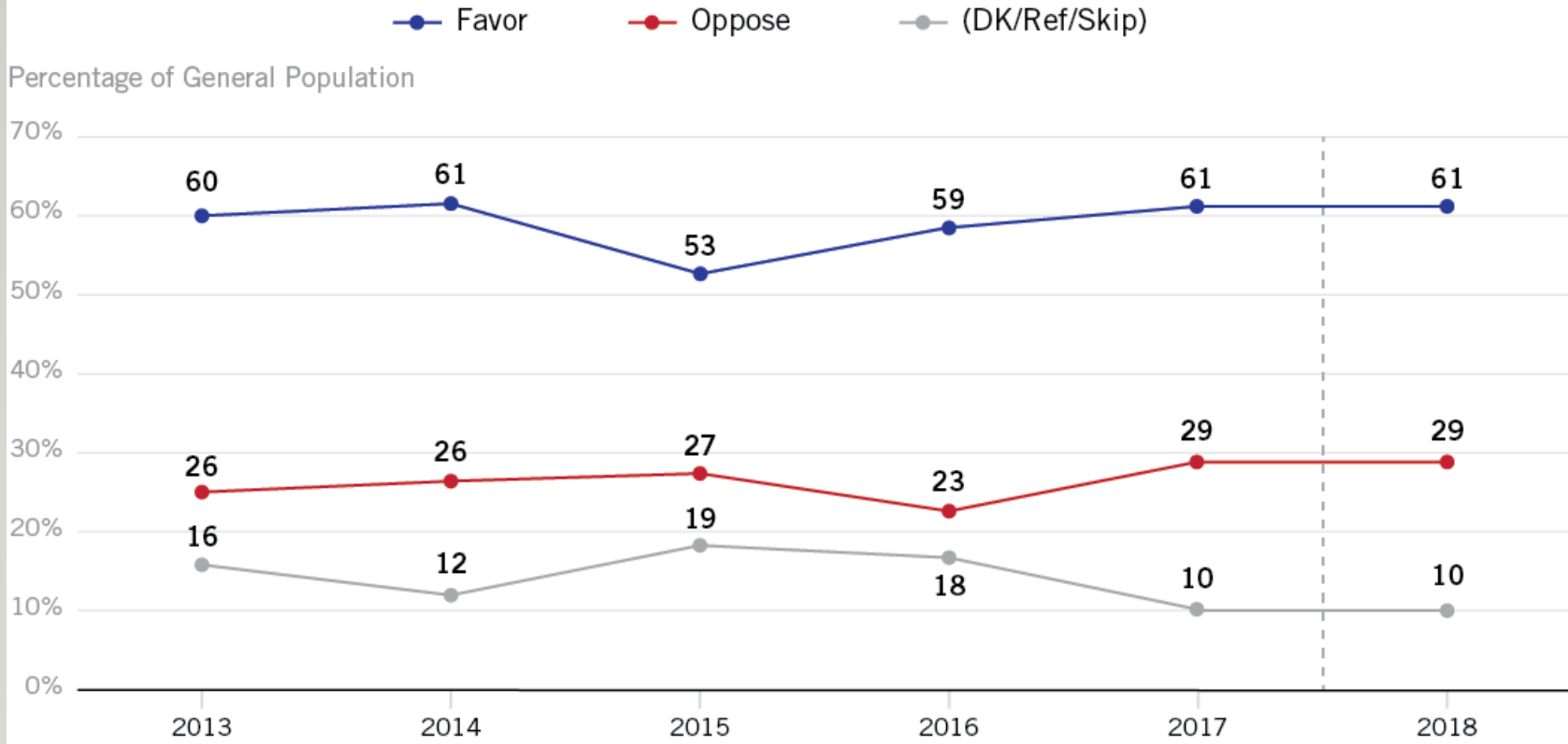


*Notes:* We used slightly different question wording in 2013, 2014, and 2015, compared with the question version used in 2016, 2017, and 2018. Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. 'DK' means "Don't Know." 'Ref' means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

*Sources:* EdChoice, *2018 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 25–October 7, 2018), Q27; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2017*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*.

**FIGURE 26****The Public's Views on Public Charter Schools, with Description, 2013–2018**

*Support for charter schools has hovered around 60 percent over the past six years, with the noted exception of 2015.*



*Notes:* Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018. 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, *2018 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted September 25–October 7, 2018), Q19; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2017*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*.

Choice = Opportunity

