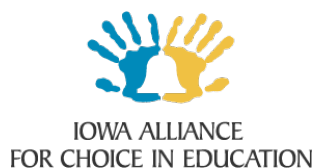


IOWA K–12 & SCHOOL CHOICE SURVEY

JANUARY 2021



KEY FINDINGS

- More than two-fifths of Iowans (43%) said they had never heard of Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs). However, after being provided with a definition, two-thirds (67%) are in favor of ESAs.
- When asked their views on a universal ESA program, more than three-fourths of current school parents (77%) are in favor. More than three-fifths of all observed demographics with more than 30 respondents favor universal ESAs.
- About two out of five Iowans (42%) said they had never heard of tax-credit scholarships. When provided with a definition of Iowa's School Tuition Tax Credit Program, more than two-thirds of Iowans are in favor of the state's tax-credit scholarship program.
- Iowans ages 18–24 (74%) were the observed demographic group most likely to favor the School Tuition Tax Credit Program, while respondents from the Silent Generation (60%) were the least likely to favor the program.
- When asked their views on increasing the cap on tax-credit scholarships, two-thirds of Iowans (66%) were in favor. Those without college degrees (80%) were most likely to favor increasing the cap and those in the Silent generation (49%) were least likely to favor increasing the cap on tax-credit scholarships.
- In a split-sample experiment, more than two out of five current and former Iowa school parents (43%) said they would prefer to send their children to private school if financial costs and transportation were of no concern, whereas only 8 percent of Iowa K–12 students are enrolled in a private school. Eighty-nine percent of Iowa K–12 students attend a public district school; 41 percent of parents said they would select this type of school for their child if it was their decision and there were not limited by financial or transportation constraints.
- Iowans severely underestimate how much is spent per student in public schools. Half of respondents offering an answer said Iowa spends \$5,000 or less per student, which is less than half of reported 2017–18 spending (\$11,724).¹ In total, 89 percent of respondents underestimated per-pupil public spending.

See the Survey Methodology and Data Sources, Screening Questions, and Questionnaire and Topline Results at www.iowaace.org/resources. For media inquiries, contact Nick Boeyink, nboeyink@ls2group.com.

OVERVIEW

Iowa awards the fifth-most tax-credit scholarships in the nation, behind Florida, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. Iowa's School Tuition Organization Tax Credit Program, a tax-credit scholarship facilitating nonprofits in providing scholarships to attend private schools, was enacted and launched in 2006. While starting off modestly with less than 200 students using scholarships in its first year, the program has grown significantly over the years—in large part due to legislative updates increasing the number of Iowa students eligible to receive a scholarship—and had 143 participating private schools enrolling 12,538 scholarship recipients as of the conclusion of the 2019–20 school year.²

The purpose of the *Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey* is to measure public opinion on, and in some cases awareness or knowledge of, a range of K–12 education topics and school choice reforms. EdChoice and the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education developed this project in partnership with Braun Research, Inc., which conducted the online interviews and live phone call interviews, collected the survey data, and provided data quality control.

We explore the following topics and questions:

- In which direction do Iowans think K–12 education in the state is heading?
- Do they believe district schools are adequately funded?
- How would they rate the various types of schooling options in the state in general and in their area specifically?
- What sort of schooling options would they prefer for their own children?
- How supportive are Iowans of the various types of educational choice programs?
- What are their views on Iowa's current educational choice program?
- And how has the coronavirus pandemic changed their children's education?

Methods and Data

The *Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey* project, funded and developed by EdChoice in partnership with the Iowa Alliance for Choice in Education and conducted by Braun Research, Inc., interviewed a statistically representative statewide sample of Iowa voters (age 18+). Data collection methods consisted of a non-probability-based opt-in online panel and probability sampling and random-digit dial for telephone. The unweighted statewide sample includes a total of 500 online interviews and 500 live phone interviews completed in English from December 14–29, 2020. The margin of sampling error for the total statewide sample is ± 3.1 percentage points.

The statewide sample was weighted using population parameters from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 tables for voters living in the state of Iowa. Results were weighted on age, race, ethnicity, gender, region, and party ID. Weighting based on party affiliation used 2014 data from Pew.

Ground Rules

Before discussing the survey results, we want to provide some brief ground rules for reporting statewide sample and demographic subgroup responses in this brief. For each survey topic, there is a sequence for describing various analytical frames. We note the raw response levels for the statewide sample on a given question. Then we consider the statewide sample's margin, noting differences between positive and negative responses. If we detect statistical significance on a given item, then we briefly report demographic results and differences. We do not infer causality with any of the observations in this brief. Aside from the demographic tables in the appendices, we do not use specific subgroup findings if there were fewer than 50 respondents.

Explicit subgroup comparisons/differences are statistically significant with 95 percent confidence, unless otherwise clarified in the narrative. We orient any listing of subgroups' margins around more/less "likely" to respond one way or the other, usually emphasizing the propensity to be more/less positive. Subgroup comparisons are meant to be suggestive for further exploration and research beyond this project.

FINDINGS

Tax-Credit Scholarships

Tax-credit scholarships allow taxpayers to receive full or partial tax credits when they donate to nonprofits that provide private school scholarships. In Iowa, taxpayers eligible for school tuition organization (STO) tax credits include individuals as well as businesses subject to the state's corporate income tax. In some states, scholarship-giving nonprofits also provide innovation grants to public schools and/or transportation assistance to students who choose non-residentially assigned public schools. As of January 2021, there are 23 operating tax-credit scholarship programs in 18 states with nearly 330,000 scholarships awarded in the most recent school year.³ Of the current school parents who responded to the survey, 65 percent had never heard of Iowa's tax-credit scholarship program and 27 percent had heard of the program but did not apply.

School Tuition Tax Credit Program

Iowans are more than twice as likely to favor the School Tuition Tax Credit Program than they are to oppose it. More than two-thirds of respondents (68%) said they supported the tax credit program after being given a description, whereas 28 percent said they oppose. The margin is +40 percentage points. Iowans are more likely to express an intensely positive response compared with a negative response (24% "strongly favor" vs. 13% "strongly oppose").

An initial question asked for an opinion of tax-credit scholarships without offering any description. On this baseline question, 36 percent of respondents said they favored tax-credit scholarships, and 15 percent said they opposed them. In the follow-up question, respondents were given a description of the School Tuition Tax Credit Program. With this information, support increased 32 points to 68 percent, and opposition increased 13 points to 28 percent.

More than four of 10 Iowans (41%) said they had never heard of tax-credit scholarships on the baseline item gauging familiarity with this type of school choice program. The Iowa subgroups having the highest proportions saying they had never heard of tax-credit scholarships include: females (50%), those age 18 to 34 (47%), Millennials (47%), and lower-income respondents (47%).⁴

The margins of all subgroups observed are positive—and they all exceed +24 percentage points. The largest positive margins for the School Tuition Tax Credit program are among: Republicans (+56 points), Generation Z (+53 points), and low-income earners (+49 points). The subgroups exhibiting the lowest net positive margins for program favorability include Democrats (+24 points), the Silent Generation (+25 points), college graduates (+27 points), and high-income earners (+31 points).

In addition:

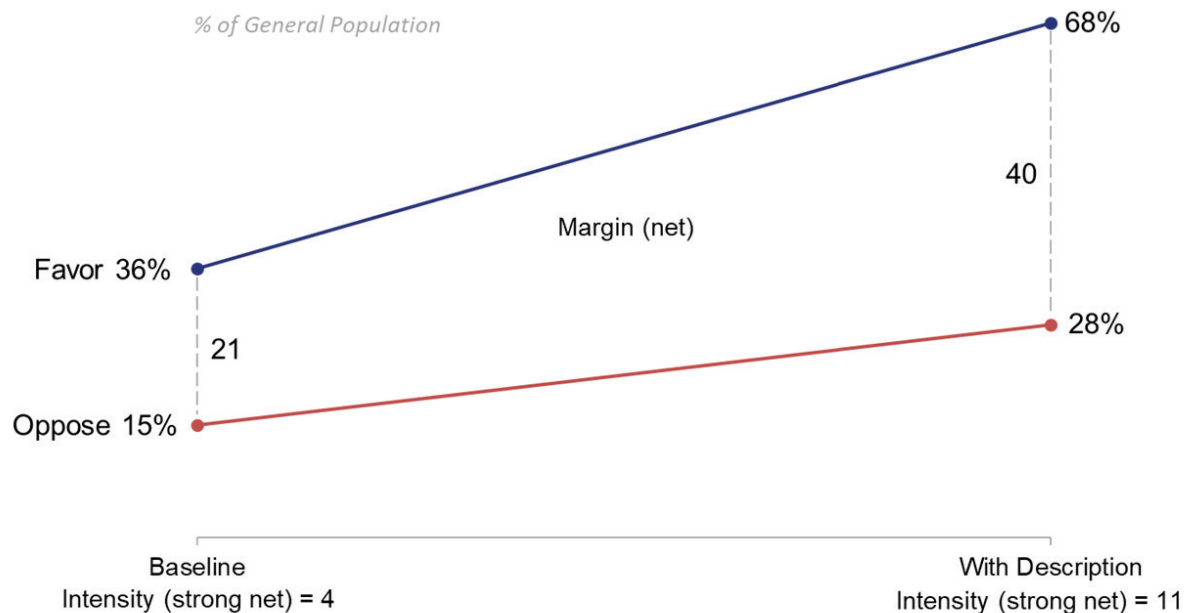
- Republicans (77%) were more likely to favor the program than Independents (67%) and Democrats (60%).
- Gen Z respondents (76%) were more likely to favor the School Tuition Tax Credit program than those belonging to the Silent Generation (60%).
- Young adults (74%) were more likely to favor the program than the overall sample (68%).
- Those without a college degree (72%) were more likely to favor the program than college graduates (62%).

Tax-Credit Scholarship Cap Increase

Currently, there is a limit on the number of tax-credit scholarships available to Iowa students. Iowans are much more likely to favor increasing the cap on these tax-credit scholarships so more children can participate in the programs than they are to oppose it. Two-thirds of respondents (66%) said they supported increasing the cap on Iowa's tax-credit scholarship

FIGURE 1. Iowans' Views on the School Tuition Tax Credit Program: Baseline vs. Descriptive Versions

When given a description of Iowa's tax-credit scholarship program, support increased by 33 points and opposition increased by 13 points. The net positive margin increased by 19 points.



Notes: All statistical results reported in this figure and report reflect weighted data, a standard procedure to correct for known demographic discrepancies. Margins and intensities are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K-12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14-29, 2020), Q24 and Q25

FIGURE 2. Iowans' Views on Increasing Cap on Tax-Credit Scholarships

Urbanites are the most favorable about increasing the cap on Iowa's tax-credit scholarship program. Independent voters are the most negative.

	Favor %	Oppose %	Margin	Intensity	N =
General Population	66	28	39	16	1,000
Current School Parent	71	25	45	23	271
Non-Parent	66	28	38	16	438
Urban	72	24	48	19	202
Suburban	67	27	40	20	258
Small Town/Rural	64	30	34	13	539
Democrat	67	28	40	17	334
Republican	67	27	39	17	329
Independent	63	31	32	14	326

Notes: Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its registered voter population size in Iowa and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. The subgroup sample sizes displayed in the far right column represent the unweighted number of interviews. Margins and intensities are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth. Volunteered "Don't Know" and "Refused" are not shown. Respondents were allowed to skip questions on the online survey.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K-12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14-29, 2020), Q26

program, whereas 28 percent said they oppose. The margin is +39 percentage points. Iowans are more likely to express an intensely positive response compared with a negative response (26% “strongly favor” vs. 10% “strongly oppose”).

The margins of all subgroups observed are positive—and they all exceed +15 percentage points. The largest positive margins for increasing the cap on tax-credit scholarships are among: those without a college degree (+57 points), low-income earners (+52 points), urbanites (+48 points), Generation Z (+48 points), and Democrats (+45 points). The subgroups exhibiting the lowest net positive margins for favorability of increasing the cap on tax-credit scholarships include the Silent Generation (+15 points), college graduates (+25 points), high-income earners (+30 points), and Independents (+33 points).

In addition:

- Those without a college degree (80%) were more likely to favor increasing the cap on tax-credit scholarships than college graduates (60%).
- Low-income earners (73%) were more likely to favor increasing the cap on tax-credit scholarships than high-income earners (63%).
- Democrats (72%) were more likely to favor increasing the cap on tax-credit scholarships than Independents (64%).
- Urbanites (72%) were more likely to favor increasing the cap on tax-credit scholarships than residents of small towns and rural areas (63%).
- Those in the Silent Generation (49%) were less likely to favor increasing the cap than those in other generations (66% to 74%).

Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs)

Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) are currently active in five states and have been introduced in dozens more. ESAs allow parents to customize their child’s education. With ESAs, a portion of the state’s per-pupil education funding would be placed in a restricted-use account that a parent controls. The money could be used for things like private school tuition, online classes, curriculum, tutoring, and services for students with special needs.⁵

Iowans are more than twice as likely to support ESAs as they are to oppose them based on descriptive results. Almost two-thirds of respondents (67%) said they supported ESAs, whereas 27 percent said they oppose. The margin is +39 percentage points. Iowans are more likely to express an intensely positive response compared with a negative response (23% “strongly favor” vs. 13% “strongly oppose”).

An initial ESA question asked for an opinion without offering any description. On this baseline question, 43 percent of respondents said they favored an ESA system, with 16 percent saying they opposed. In the next question, respondents were given a description of a general ESA program. With this program-specific information, support increased 24 points to 67 percent, and opposition increased 12 points to 27 percent.

More than two out of three Iowans (35%) said they had never heard of ESAs on the baseline item. The subgroups having the highest proportions saying they had never heard of ESAs are: low-income earners (39%), females (38%), Millennials (38%), and those in the 18 to 34 age group (37%).

The margins of all subgroups observed are positive—and are at least +19 percentage points for all subgroups. The largest positive margins are among Generation Z (+62 points), suburban residents (+54 points), low-income earners (+52 points), and younger Iowans (+49 points). The subgroups exhibiting the lowest net positive margins for ESA favorability include those belonging to the Silent generation (+19 points), college graduates (+26 points), seniors (+35 points), and non-parents (+39 points).

In addition:

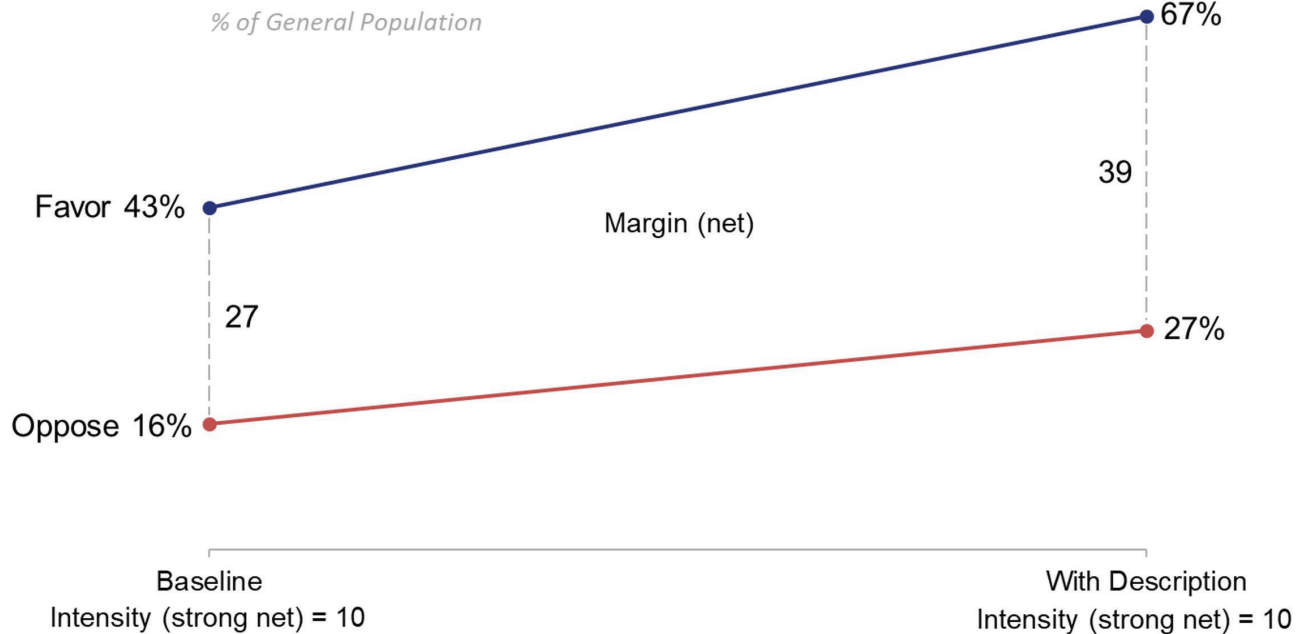
- Those in Generation Z (81%) were more likely to favor ESAs than Gen Xers (67%), Baby Boomers (66%), and those in the Silent Generation (52%).
- Younger Iowans (74%) were more likely to favor ESAs than senior Iowans (64%).
- Suburban residents (74%) were more likely to favor ESAs than small town and rural residents (63%).
- Republicans (71%) expressed higher ESA favorability than Independents (63%).

- Those without a college degree (71%) were more likely to favor ESAs than college graduates (61%).
- Lower-income Iowans (20%) were less likely to oppose ESAs than middle-income earners (28%) and high-income earners (32%).

In a follow-up item, we learned the most common reasons for supporting ESAs are: “access to better academic environment” (30%); “more freedom and flexibility for parents” (25%); and “focus on more individual attention” (23%). Respondents opposed to ESAs answered a similar follow-up question. By far the most common reason for opposing this policy is the belief it would “divert funding away from public schools” (53%).

FIGURE 3. Iowans' Views on Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs): Baseline vs. Descriptive Versions

When given a description of an ESA program, support increased by 29 points and opposition increased by 13 points. The net positive margin increased by 16 points.

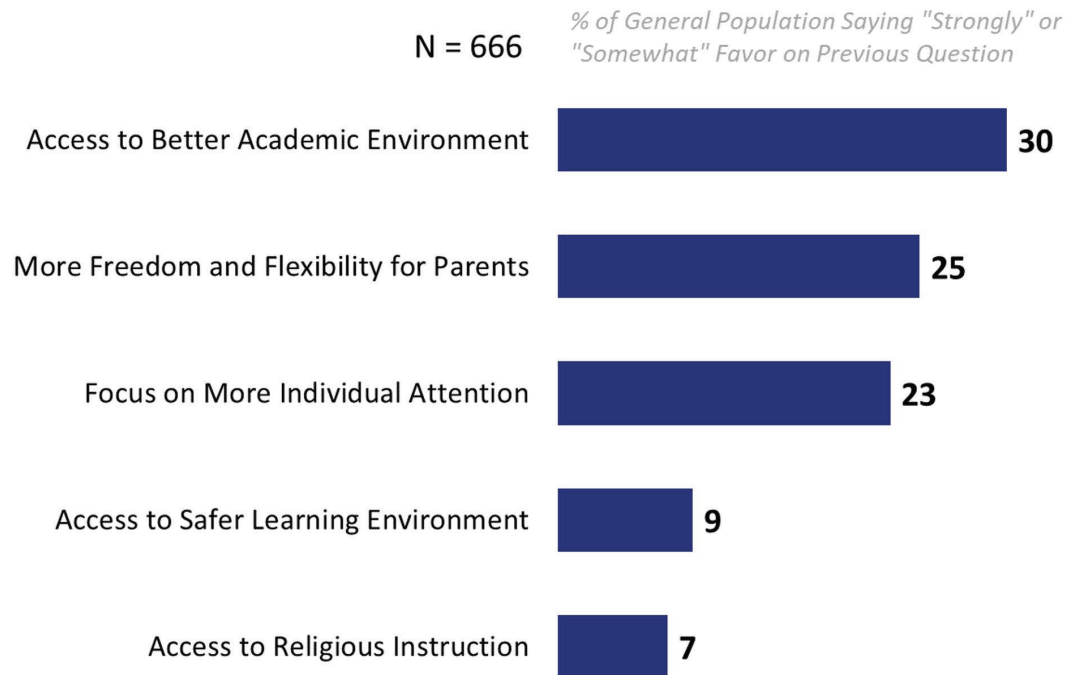


Note: Margins and intensities are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q19 and Q20

FIGURE 4. The Most Important Reason for Supporting ESAs

Nearly one-third of supporters said access to better academic environments was the most important reason they favor ESAs.

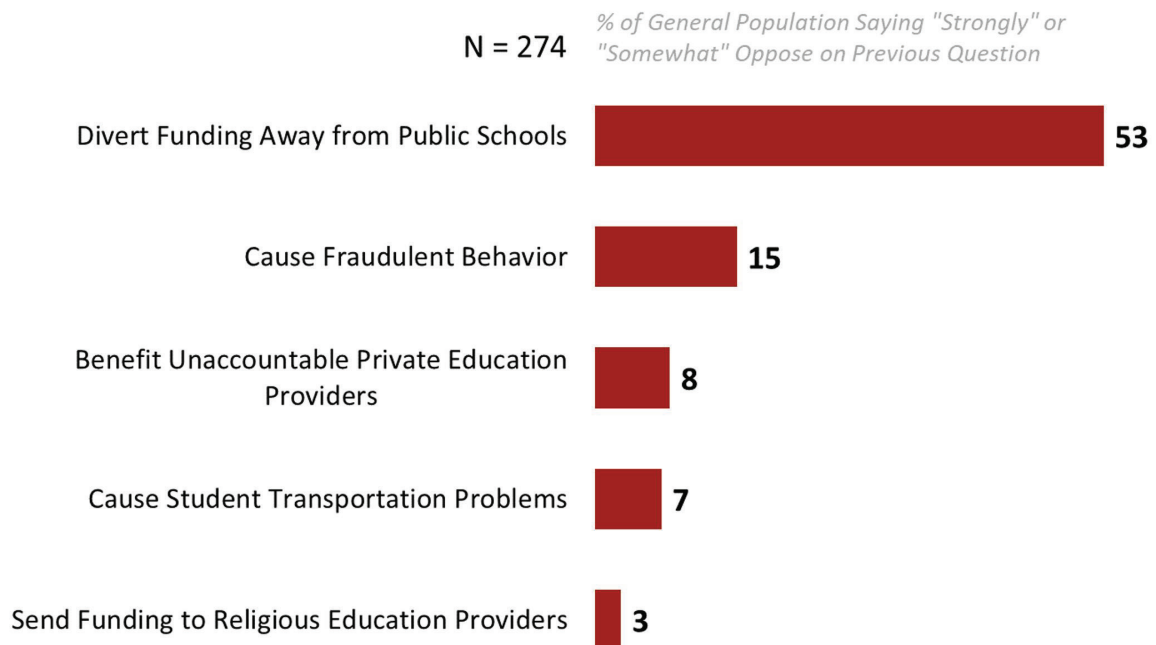


Notes: Volunteered responses not shown. Skips on the online survey are not reflected in this chart.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q21

FIGURE 5. The Most Important Reason for Opposing ESAs

More than half of those who oppose ESAs do so because they believe it would take funds away from public schools.

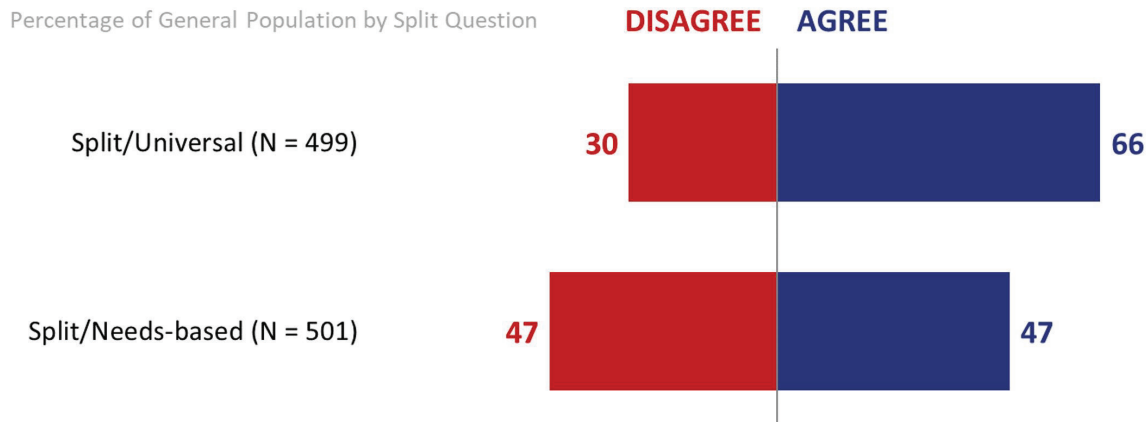


Notes: Volunteered responses not shown. Skips on the online survey not reflected in this chart.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q22

FIGURE 6. Comparing Views for Different Approaches to ESA Eligibility

Our question wording experiment indicates Iowans are much more likely to favor universal ESA eligibility than limited, needs-based eligibility.



Q23-Split. 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?

Q23-Split. Some people believe that ESAs *should be available only to families based on financial need*. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?

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

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q23

FIGURE 7. Iowans' Views on Universal Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)

More than three out of four school parents are favorable towards universal ESAs. More than three-fifths of all observed demographics with more than 30 respondents favor universal ESAs.

	Favor %	Oppose %	Margin	Intensity	N =
General Population	65	30	35	18	499
Current School Parent	77	22	55	28	135
Non-Parent	61	34	27	15	211
Urban	69	26	43	17	100
Suburban	65	33	33	16	127
Small Town/Rural	65	31	34	19	272
Democrat	65	30	35	19	165
Republican	66	32	33	15	164
Independent	67	28	40	19	164

Notes: Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its registered voter population size in Iowa and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. The subgroup sample sizes displayed in the far right column represent the unweighted number of interviews. Margins and intensities are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth. Volunteered "Don't Know" and "Refused" are not shown. Respondents were allowed to skip questions on the online survey.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q23-Split

A subsequent split-sample experiment shows Iowans are inclined toward universal eligibility for ESAs rather than means-tested eligibility based solely on financial need. In the universal split, 66 percent of respondents said they agree with the statement that “ESAs should be available to all families, regardless of income and special needs.” About 30 percent “strongly agree” with that statement. Nearly one-third of Iowans (30%) disagree with that statement; 13 percent said they “strongly disagree.” In the comparison sample, needs-based split, respondents were asked if they agree with the statement, “ESAs should only be available to families based on financial need.” Respondents were evenly split with their views on that statement, with 47 percent saying they both agree and disagree with means-testing as an avenue for ESA eligibility. More respondents, though, strongly disagreed with means testing (22%) than strongly agreed with means testing (16%).

Current school parents (77%) were the most likely demographic to favor universal ESAs, followed by Gen Xers (75%), middle-aged Iowans (75%), urbanites (69%), and those without a college degree (69%). Those most likely to oppose universal ESAs were younger Iowans (36%), suburbanites (33%), college graduates (33%), Republicans (32%), females (32%), and middle-income earners (32%)

Public Charter Schools

Iowa enacted its charter school law in 2003, and public charter schools in the state may not be operated by for-profit entities.⁶ Respondents were asked two questions about charter schools, and Iowans express various levels of support them, both before and after given a description.

Interviewers first asked for an opinion without offering any description. On this baseline question, 38 percent of respondents said they favored charters, and 22 percent said they opposed them. In the follow-up question, respondents were given a general description of a charter school. With that information, support increased 21 points to 58 percent, and opposition increased nine points to 31 percent. The net margin of support for the descriptive question was large (+27 points).

Slightly more than one in five Iowa residents (21%) said they had never heard of charter schools on the baseline item. The subgroups having the highest proportions saying they had never heard of charter schools are Generation Z (29%), low-income earners (27%) younger Iowans (26%), and those without a college degree (26%),

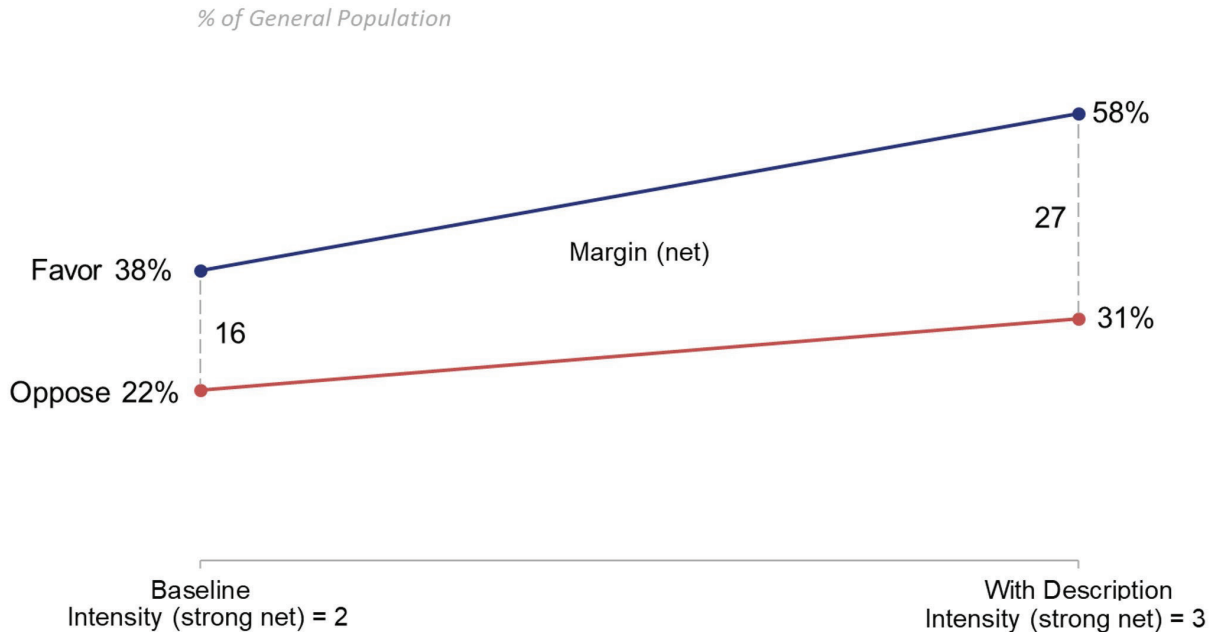
The margins of all subgroups observed are positive—and they exceed at least +8 percentage points for all subgroups. The largest positive margins are among Republicans (+45 points) and younger Iowans (+34 points). The subgroups exhibiting the lowest net positive margins for charter school favorability include Democrats (+8 points), college graduates (+16 points), and those belonging to the Silent Generation (+16 points).

In addition:

- Those without a college degree (61%) were more likely to favor charter schools than college graduates (54%) and the total statewide sample (58%).
- Younger Iowans (66%) were more likely to favor charters than the general population (58%), as well as older Iowans (56%).
- Millennials (65%) were more likely to favor charter schools than the general population, Baby Boomers (56%), and the Silent Generation (51%).
- Republicans (68%) expressed higher charter school favorability than the overall sample, Independents (57%), and Democrats (48%).

**FIGURE 8. Iowans' Views on Public Charter Schools:
Baseline vs. Descriptive Versions**

When given a description about charter schools, support increased by 21 points and opposition increased by nine points. The net positive margin increased by 11 points.



Note: Margins and intensities are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q17 and Q18

School Type Enrollments and Satisfaction

The vast majority of parents' experiences occur in public district schools, with more than nine out of 10 parents surveyed (92%) having children who attended at least one year of public school. Figure 9 displays parents' schooling experiences by type based on survey responses.

Current and former school parents are much more likely to say they have been satisfied than dissatisfied across all types of schools. Nearly nine out of 10 parents who have sent their children to private school (88%) expressed they were satisfied, the highest levels of satisfaction among the four school types. The private school satisfaction margin (+76 points) is far greater than the satisfaction margin for homeschools (+58 points), charter schools (+54 points), and regular public schools (+51 points). Iowa parents were more likely to say they were "very satisfied" with private schools (52%) and homeschooling (44%) than public charter schools (30%) or public district schools (28%).

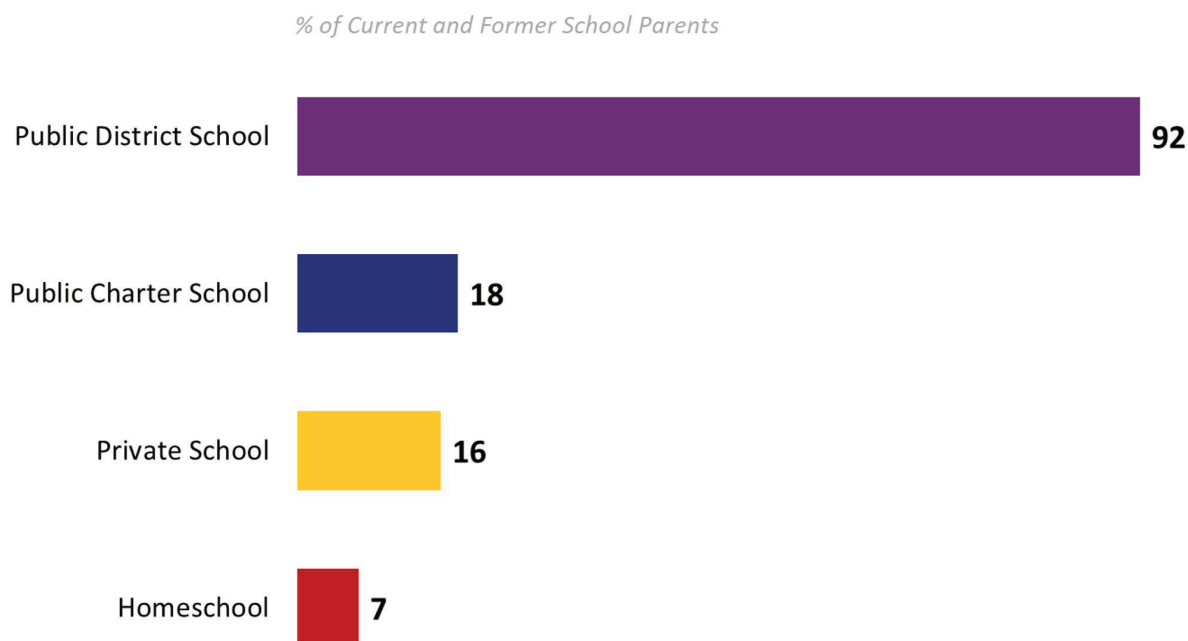
Grading Local Schools

Iowans are much more likely to give grades of "A" or "B" to private schools in their communities compared with their local public schools. When considering only those respondents with children in school, the local private schools (69% gave an "A" or "B") fare better than regular public schools (62% gave an "A" or "B") and public charter schools (50% gave an "A" or "B"). Only 7 percent of respondents give a "D" or "F" grade to private schools; 16 percent gave low grades to public charter schools; and 15 percent assign poor grades to area public district schools.

When considering all responses, we see approximately 55 percent of Iowans give an "A" or "B" to local private schools; 24 percent give an "A" or "B" to local public charter schools; and 51 percent giving those high grades to regular local public schools. Only 6 percent of respondents give a "D" or "F" grade to private schools; 14 percent give the same low grades to regular public schools; and 7 percent suggest low grades for public charter schools.

FIGURE 9. School Types Children Have Attended for at Least One Year in Iowa

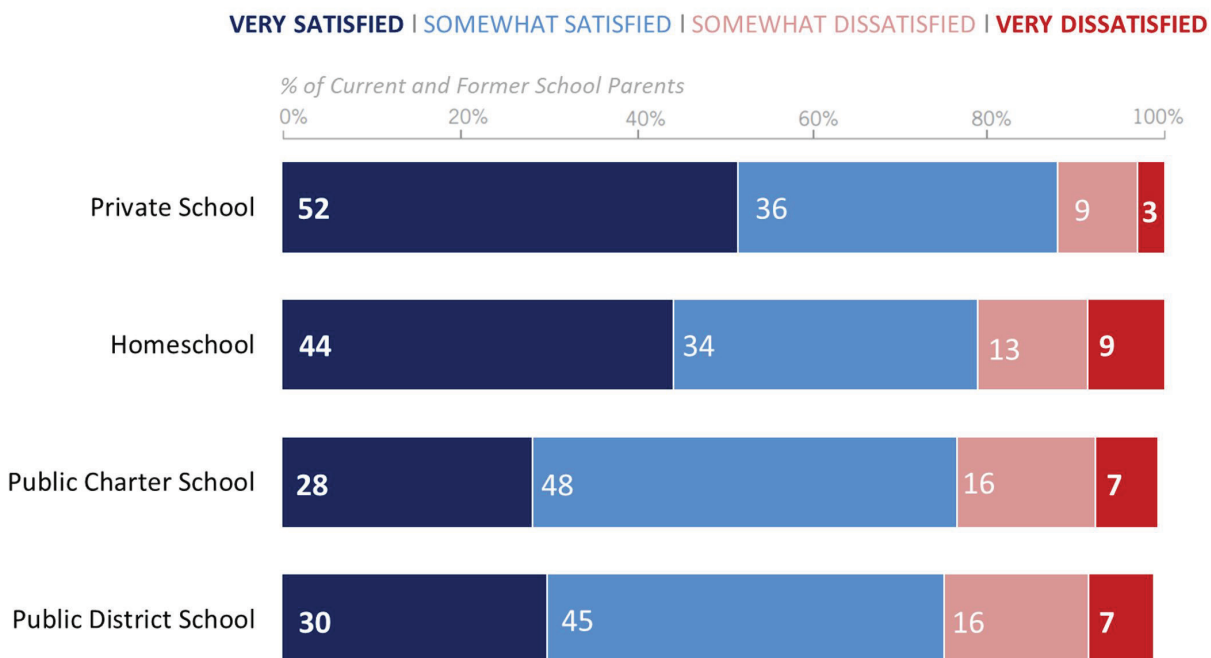
The vast majority of parents in our survey have enrolled their children in public district schools.



Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q3, Q5, Q7, and Q9

FIGURE 10. Iowa Parents' Satisfaction with Schools

Parent satisfaction is highest in private schools and homeschools.

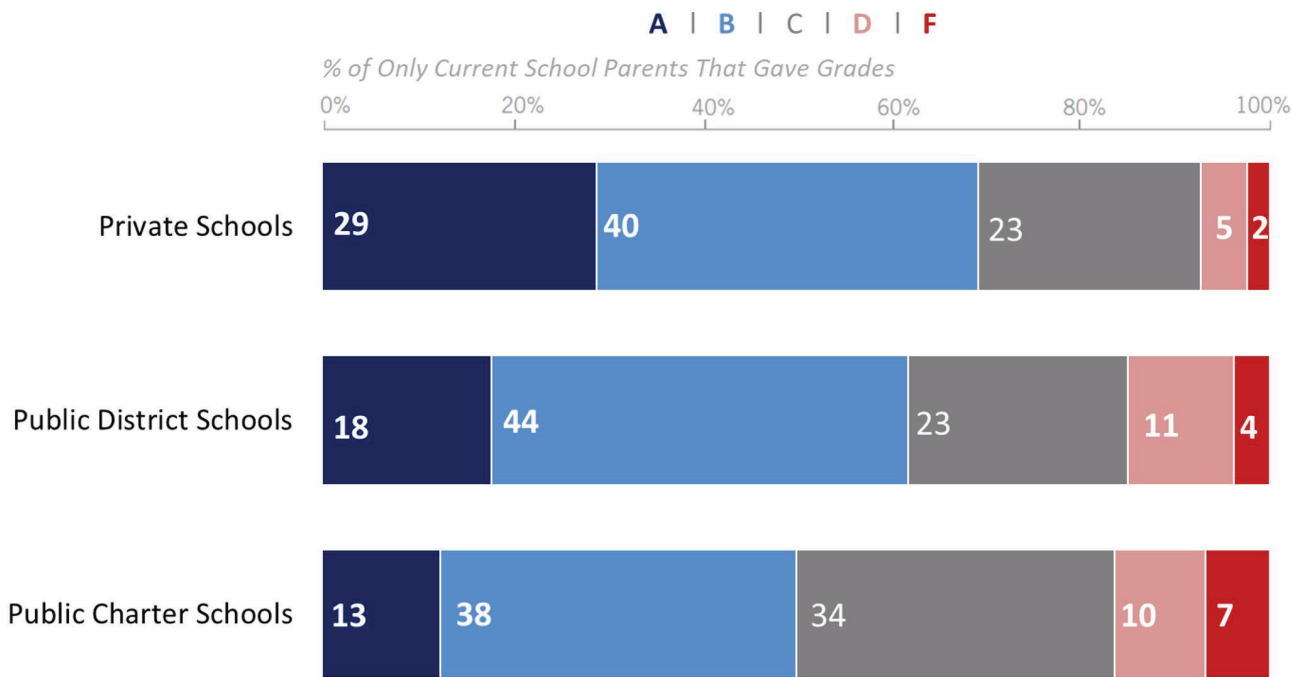


Note: Volunteered "Don't Know" and "Refused" responses and skips not shown in the chart.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q4, Q6, Q8, and Q10

FIGURE 11. How Current School Parents in Iowa Grade Their Local Schools

Current school parents are more likely to rate their local private schools with an "A" or "B" (69%) compared to ratings of public district schools (62%) or public charter schools (50%).



Notes: Volunteered "Not Applicable" responses and skips not shown nor reflected in this chart. Sample sizes vary by school type: Private Schools (N = 166); Public District Schools (N = 241); Public Charter Schools (N = 104).
Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q14

It is important to highlight that much higher proportions of respondents do not express any view (potentially due to the lack of such schools in various respondents' communities) for private schools (25%) or public charter schools (53%), compared with the proportion that do not grade regular public schools (5%).

School Type Preferences

When asked for a preferred school type, nearly half of Iowa parents would choose a public district school (48%) as a first option for their child. Nearly two-fifths of respondents (36%) would select a private school. Nine percent would like to homeschool their child, and seven percent would choose a charter school.⁷

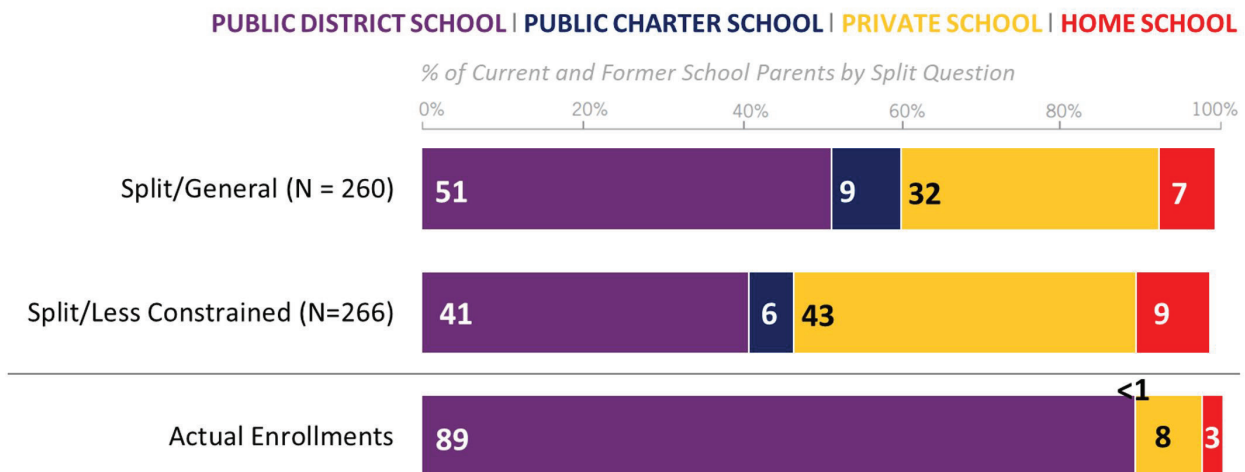
Private preferences signal a glaring disconnect with estimated school enrollment patterns in Iowa. About 89 percent of K–12 students attend public district schools across the state. Less than one percent of students currently go to public charter schools. About eight percent of students enroll in private or parochial schools, including about 2 percent doing so through

the state's tax-credit scholarship program. And it is estimated about 3 percent of the state's students are homeschooled.⁸

In a split-sample experiment, interviewers asked a baseline question and an alternate version using a short phrase in addition to the baseline. When inserting the short phrase "... and financial costs and transportation were of no concern," respondents are more likely to select private school compared to responses to the version without the phrase. The phrase's effect appeared to increase the likelihood for parents choosing private schools (+11 point increase from baseline to alternate) or electing to homeschool (+2 point increase). The phrasing effect depressed the likelihood of parents to choose a public district school (-10 point decrease) or public charter school (-3 point decrease). The inserted language in the alternate version appears to be a clear signal that can increase the attraction toward private schools while decreasing the likelihood to choose a public district school. Overall, 43 percent of Iowans said that if financial cost and transportation were of no concern, they would select private schooling to obtain the best education for their child.

FIGURE 12. Iowa Parents' Schooling Preferences by School Type

Nearly nine out of 10 Iowa students attend public district schools, but fewer than half of parents said they would prefer a district school.



Q15-Split. If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

Q15-Split. If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, and financial costs and transportation were of no concern, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?

Notes: Volunteered "Don't Know" and "Refused" responses and skips not shown in the chart. For enrollment data sources, see note 8.
Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q15

TABLE 1. Top Five Reasons for Choosing a Specific School Type

% of General Population by Preferred School Type

Public District School (N = 479)	
Diversity / Variety	26%
Better Education/Quality	13%
Socialization / Peers / Other Kids	12%
Teachers / Teaching/ Way They Teach	8%
Environment / Culture / Community	6%
Private School (N = 342)	
Better Education/Quality	17%
Class size/Student-Teacher ratio	16%
Religion/Religious Reasons/Parochial	14%
Individual Attention/One-on-One/Customized	12%
Teachers / Teaching/ Way They Teach	8%
Public Charter School (N = 66)	
Individual Attention/One-on-One/Customized	20%
Academics / Curriculum / Standards / Results	19%
Better Education/Quality	15%
Opportunities/Choices	14%
Teachers / Teaching/ Way They Teach	9%
Homeschool (N = 93)	
Academics / Curriculum / Standards / Results	21%
Safety / Less Drugs, Violence, Bullying	10%
Individual Attention/One-on-One/Customized	10%
Prefer/Positive Mentions of Homeschooling	8%
Teachers / Teaching/ Way They Teach	7%

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. We advise strong caution when interpreting results for groups with small sample sizes.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q16

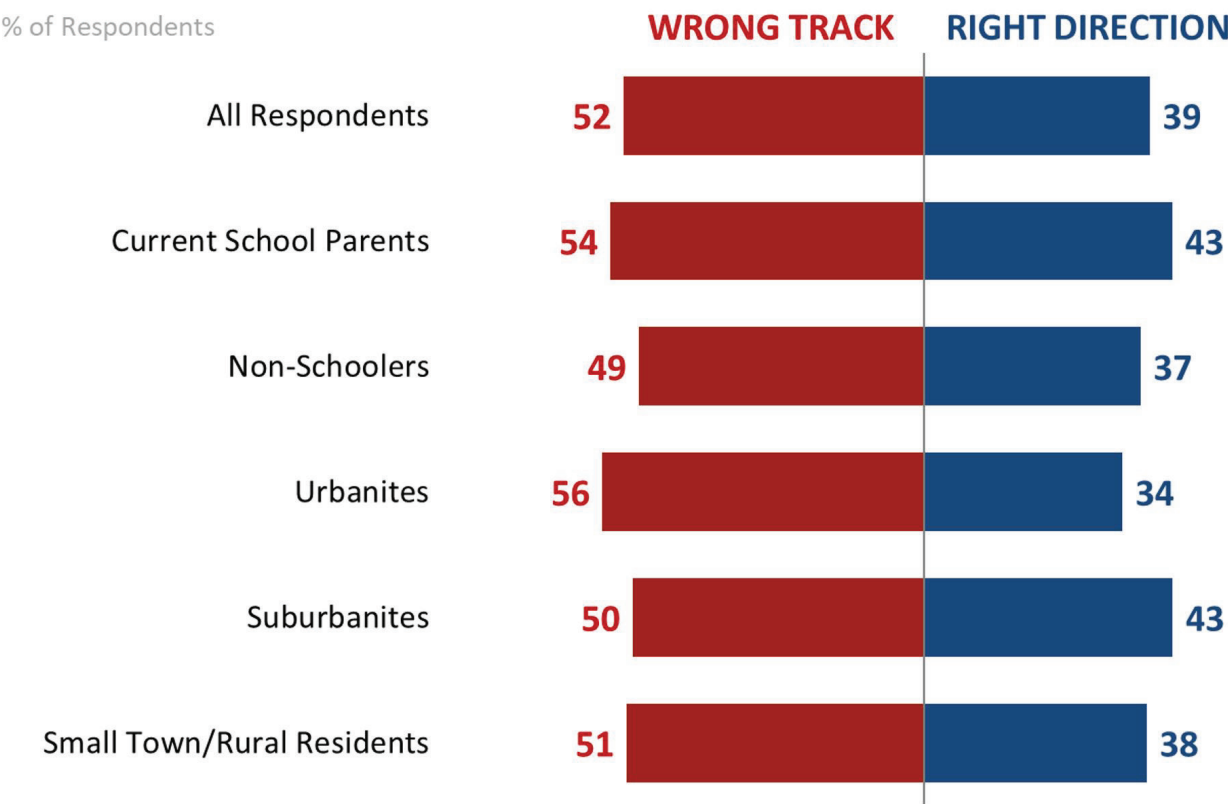
We asked survey respondents a follow-up question to find out the main reason they chose a certain type of school. Respondents choosing district schools were more likely to prioritize “diversity/variety” as a reason (26%) than those preferring other schooling sectors; district school choosers were also unique in listing “socialization/peers/other kids” (13%) as a reason. Private (12%), charter (20%), and homeschool (10%) choosers specified individualized attention as a reason they selected their child’s school; those selecting charter (19%) and homeschool (21%) also selected their schools for academic and curriculum reasons at similar levels. We encourage readers to cautiously interpret these results because sample sizes were relatively small for the respondents that chose charter schools.

Perceived Direction of K–12 Education

More than half of Iowans (52%) say they think K–12 education in the state is on the “wrong track,” compared to 39 percent thinking it is going in the “right direction.” On balance, the mood for K–12 education tends to be negative, showcased by a negative margin of -13 points. Those in Generation Z were the only observed demographic with a robust sample size to have a positive margin (+14 points). In addition, those in Gen Z (40%) were less likely to say “wrong track” than Gen Xers (58%).

FIGURE 13. Views on Iowa's K–12 Education

The majority of Iowans in our survey think K–12 education in the state has gotten off on the wrong track.



Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q1

Views on Spending in K–12 Education

On average, according to Private School Review, Iowa private schools charge approximately \$5,279 for tuition per student. Respondents were equally likely to underestimate and overestimate private school tuition (50% each). Responses ranged from \$0 to \$70,000. The average response was \$8,427, while the median response was \$5,000. Approximately one-sixth of respondents (17%) provided an estimate of \$10,000 or more, while half (50%) provided an estimate of \$5,000 or less.⁹

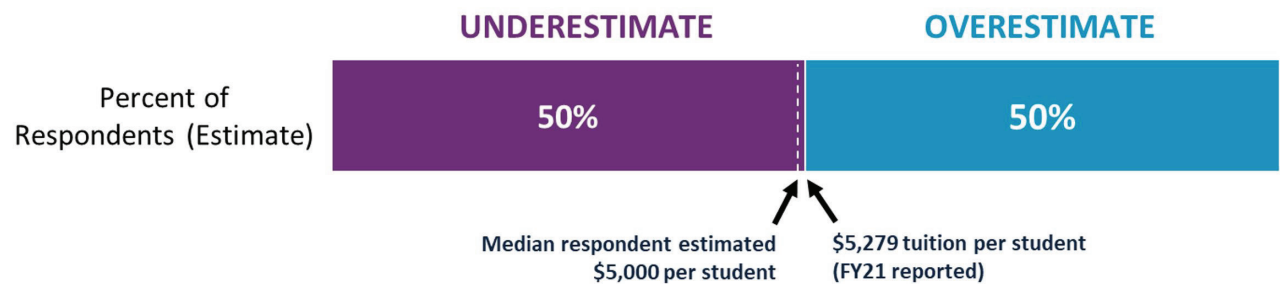
On average, Iowa spends \$11,724 on each student in the state’s public schools, based on a spending statistic termed “current expenditures.”¹⁰ Respondents were much more likely to underestimate public per-pupil spending (89%) than overestimate it (11%). Responses ranged from \$1,000 to \$60,000. The average response was \$6,287, while the median response was \$5,000. Only three percent of respondents provided an estimate of \$10,000 or more, while nearly one-third of respondents (32%) provided an estimate of \$2,000 or less.

If instead of “total expenditures” we use “current expenditures” per student (\$13,611 in 2017–18)—a more expansive federal government definition for K–12 education spending that includes capital costs and debt repayment—the proportion of Iowans likely to underestimate per-pupil spending increases three percentage points (92%).¹¹

Given an actual per-student spending statistic, Iowans are much 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, 51 percent of respondents said public school funding was “too low.” However, on the version where we included a statistic for average public per-pupil spending in Iowa (\$11,724 in 2017–18; the most recent statistic available when the survey was fielded), the proportion that said spending was “too low” shrank by 15 percentage points to 36 percent.¹²

Figure 14. Iowans' Awareness of Private K–12 Tuition

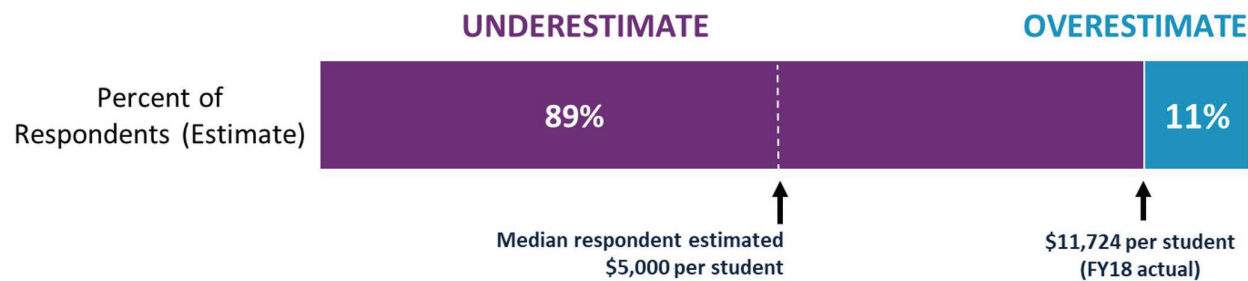
Iowans equally underestimate and overestimate how much private schools in their state charge on a per-student basis. Nearly half of respondents offering an answer said Iowa private schools charge \$5,000 or less per student, which is slightly less than reported 2020–21 average tuition (\$5,279 according to Private School Review).



Notes: Percentages based on unweighted responses. There were 153 respondents who replied "Don't Know" and 18 respondents skipped the question, which is not shown.
Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q11

Figure 15. Iowans' Awareness of Public K–12 Education Spending

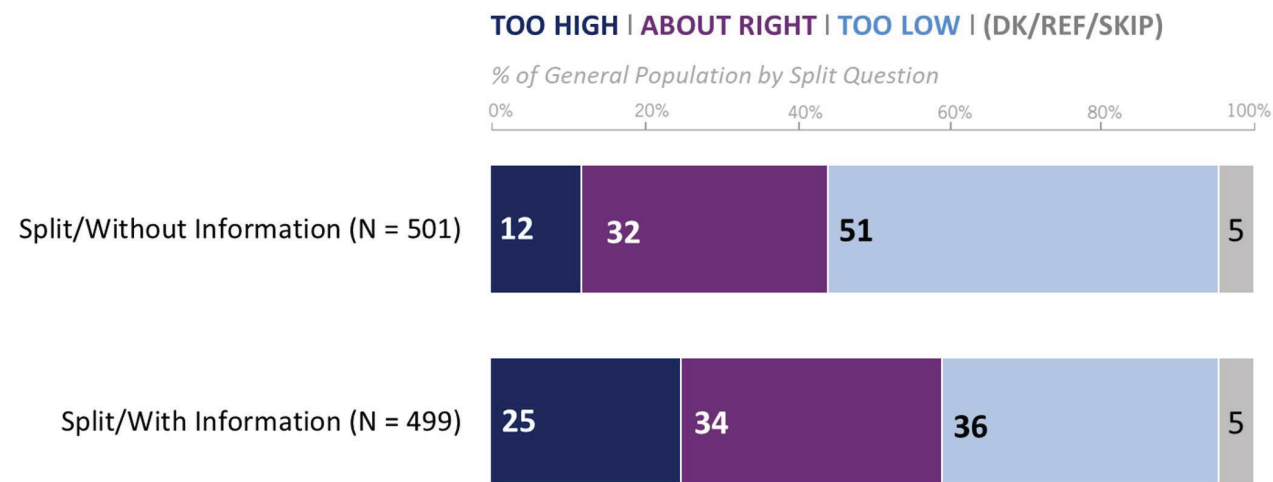
Iowans do not know how much they spend in K–12 education on a per-student basis. Half of respondents offering an answer said Iowans spends \$5,000 or less per student, which is less than half of reported 2017–18 spending (\$11,724).



Notes: Percentages based on unweighted responses. There were 154 respondents who replied "Don't Know" and 14 respondents skipped the question, which is not shown.
Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q12

FIGURE 16. How Information Affects Iowans' Views on K–12 Funding

When given an actual per-student spending statistic, Iowans are less likely to say public school funding is at a level that is "too low." The proportion giving that response shrinks from 51 percent to 36 percent between the two question versions—a decrease of 15 percentage points.



Q13-Split. Do you believe that public school funding in Iowa is at a level that is:

Q13-Split. According to the most recent information available, on average \$11,724 is being spent per year on each student attending public schools in Iowa. Do you believe that public school funding in the state is at a level that is:

Note: "DK" means "Don't Know" and "Ref" means "Refused." Respondents were allowed to skip questions on the online survey.
Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q13

Impact of COVID-19

While much about the way K-12 education was delivered in Iowa and across the country was altered by the COVID-19 pandemic and related school closures beginning in March 2020, school sector enrollment patterns in Iowa did not appear to be dramatically altered as of December 2020. That being said, we did observe some movement between school sectors when comparing pre- and post-pandemic.

In February 2020, 81 percent of students attended public district schools based on responses of Iowa parents. That amount decreased by five percentage points (76%) for the school year beginning 2020-21. Where Iowa's largest school sector saw a modest enrollment decrease, one of its smallest saw a comparatively significant increase in students. Prior to the pandemic, about six percent of Iowa students were homeschooled; that amount increased to 11 percent by the 2020-21 school year.

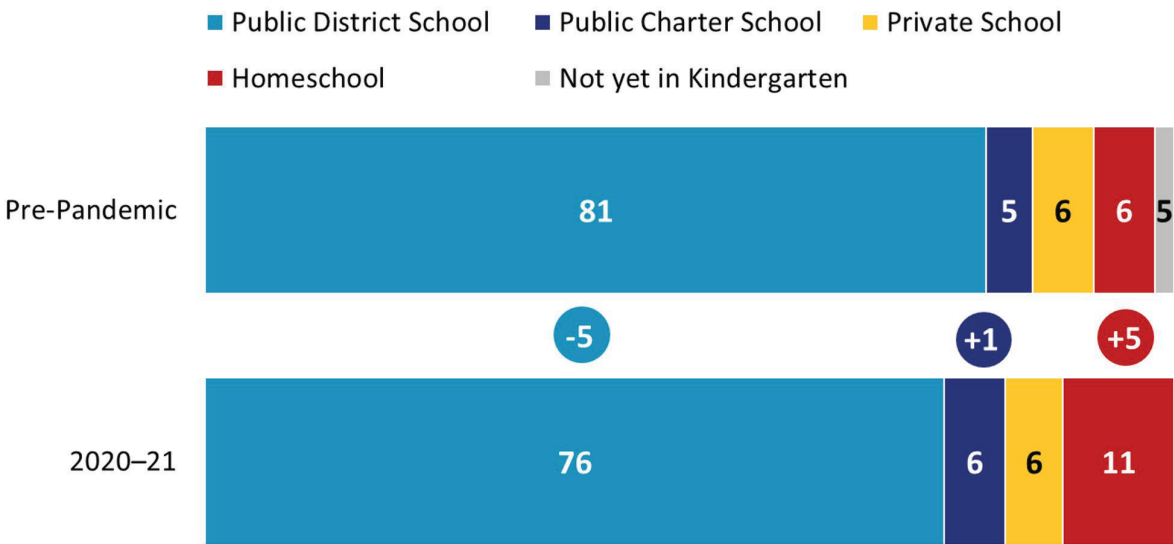
Current Iowa school parents reported that nearly half of their students (45%) are taking classes completely in person and more than four out of five students are taking at least some of their classes in person, when factoring in those whose education is a mix of in-person and online. Slightly more than one out of 10 Iowa students are being educated completely online this school year, according to parent responses.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, more current school parents in Iowa find homeschooling more favorable (29%) than less favorable (23%). Slightly less than half (47%) of current school parents said their perspectives on homeschooling were about the same as they were before the pandemic. Suburbanites were the demographic most likely to find homeschooling more favorable after the pandemic rather than less favorable (+14 points), followed by Republicans (+12 points), females (+8 points), and Millennials (+7 points). The demographic most likely to see homeschooling less favorably after the pandemic are Democrats (-2 points).

FIGURE 17. Schools Iowa Students Attending Pre- and Mid-Pandemic

Enrollment proportions by school sector in Iowa have modestly changed since February 2020, based on our sample of current school parents.

% of All Students Reported by Current School Parents' Responses



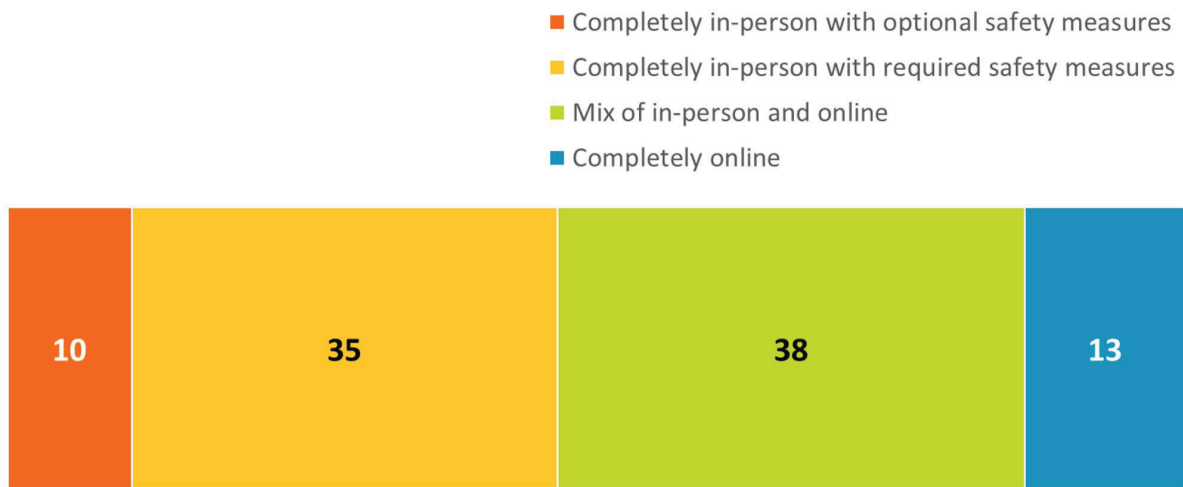
Notes: Responses of "Don't Know" and "Refusal" not shown. For the online survey, respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K-12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14-29, 2020), QCP1

FIGURE 18. Education Modality of Iowa Students

Nearly half of parents said their child's school or district is educating students completely in-person.

% of Current School Parents



Notes: 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, Iowa K-12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14-29, 2020), QCP2

FIGURE 19. Iowans' Homeschooling Favorability

More than one-fourth of current school parents are more favorable of homeschooling as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

% of Current School Parents



Notes: 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, Iowa K-12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14-29, 2020), QCP3

Nearly two out of five (39%) current school parents in Iowa say they are at least somewhat likely to homeschool their children either full- or part-time during the 2020-21 school year. Suburbanites were more likely to indicate a likelihood of homeschooling (50%), followed by Millennials (47%), females (47%),

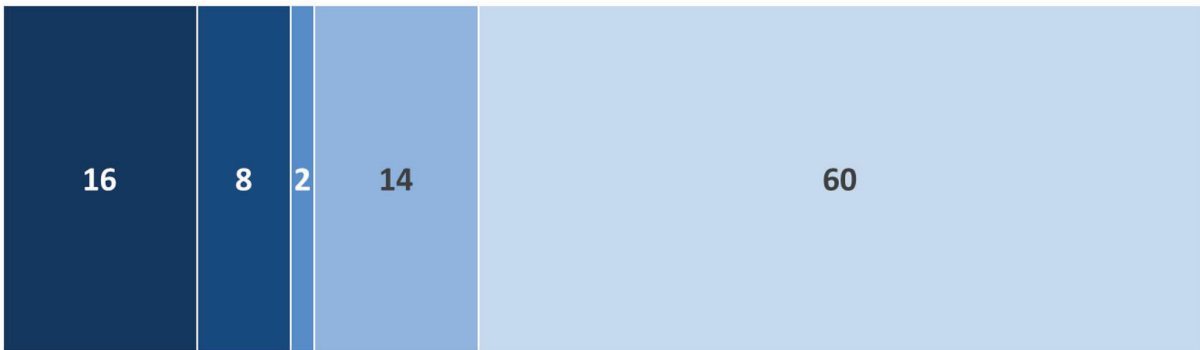
and Democrats (46%). The demographics least likely to indicate they were likely to homeschool this school year were those in Generation X (23%), males (32%), Republicans (35%), and parents from small towns or rural areas (37%).

FIGURE 20. Iowans' Likelihood of Homeschooling

Nearly one-fourth of current school parents are very likely to homeschool their children on their own this school year.

% of Current School Parents

Very Likely - Full Time | Very Likely - Part Time
Somewhat Likely - Full Time | Somewhat Likely - Part Time | Not At All Likely



Notes: 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, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), QCP4

APPENDIX 1

Survey Project and Profile

Title: Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey

Survey Funder: EdChoice

Survey Data Collection

& Quality Control: Braun Research, Inc. (BRI)

Interview Dates: December 14–29, 2020

Sample Frame: Iowa Registered Voters (age 18+)

Sampling Method: Online: Non-probability-based Opt-in Panel
Phone: Dual Frame, Probability-based, Random Digit Dial (RDD)

Language(s): English

Interview Method: Mixed Mode
Online, N = 500
Live Telephone, N = 500

- Landline = 70%
- Cell Phone = 30%

Interview Length: Online: 10.2 minutes (average)
Phone: 15.3 minutes (average)

Sample Size and

Margin of Error: Total (N = 1,000): ±3.1 percentage points

Response Rate: Online: 18.6%
Landline: 2.6%
Cell: 4.2%

Weighting? Yes
Age, County, Gender, Ethnicity, Race, Community Type, Income, Party ID

Oversampling? No

Project Contact: Drew Catt, dcatt@edchoice.org

The authors are responsible for overall survey design; question wording and ordering; this report's analysis, charts, and writing; and any unintentional errors or misrepresentations.

EdChoice is the survey's sponsor and sole funder at the time of publication.

APPENDIX 2

Views on Iowa's School Tuition Tax Credit Program: Descriptive Version Results

Percentage of General Population and Selected Demographic Groups

	Favor %	Oppose %	Margin (net)	Intensity (strong net)	N =
GENERAL POPULATION	68	28	40	11	1,000
Current School Parent	70	28	42	11	271
Non-Parent	67	28	38	10	438
AGE GROUP					
18 to 34	74	26	49	14	204
35 to 54	66	31	35	9	338
55 & Over	67	28	40	11	427
GENERATION					
Generation Z	76	24	53	21	58
Millennial	71	27	44	11	271
Generation X	66	32	34	8	248
Baby Boomer	70	26	44	15	309
Silent	60	35	25	-2	83
COMMUNITY					
Urban	69	29	41	12	202
Suburban	69	27	42	13	258
Small Town/Rural	68	29	39	10	539
EDUCATION					
< College Degree	72	24	49	16	593
≥ College Degree	62	35	27	4	404
GENDER					
Female	68	28	40	13	550
Male	68	28	40	10	450
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$40,000	72	23	49	18	312
\$40,000 to \$79,999	69	27	42	11	330
\$80,000 & Over	65	34	31	5	317
PARTY ID					
Democrat	60	36	24	5	334
Republican	77	21	56	18	329
Independent	67	28	39	11	326
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black/African American	79	21	58	26	24
Hispanic/Latino	84	16	68	33	30
White	67	29	38	9	910

Notes: Bolding denotes statistically significant differences from General Population or from within-group comparison. Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its adult population size in the United States and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. Results for Asians/Pacific Islanders not shown due to extremely small sample size. We advise strong caution when interpreting results for subgroups with small sample sizes. The subgroup sample sizes displayed in the far right column represent the unweighted number of interviews. Margins and intensities are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K-12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q25

APPENDIX 3

Views on Tax-Credit Scholarship Program Cap Increase

Percentage of General Population and Selected Demographic Groups

	Favor %	Oppose %	Margin (net)	Intensity (strong net)	N =
GENERAL POPULATION	66	28	39	16	1,000
Current School Parent	71	25	45	23	271
Non-Parent	66	28	38	16	438
AGE GROUP					
18 to 34	71	28	43	22	204
35 to 54	66	29	37	15	338
55 & Over	65	27	38	15	427
GENERATION					
Generation Z	74	26	48	25	58
Millennial	69	28	41	18	271
Generation X	66	30	37	17	248
Baby Boomer	69	25	44	18	309
Silent	49	35	15	4	83
COMMUNITY					
Urban	72	24	48	19	202
Suburban	67	27	40	20	258
Small Town/Rural	64	30	34	13	539
EDUCATION					
< College Degree	80	23	57	19	593
≥ College Degree	60	35	25	13	404
GENDER					
Female	67	28	39	16	550
Male	66	28	38	17	450
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$40,000	73	21	52	27	312
\$40,000 to \$79,999	68	27	41	18	330
\$80,000 & Over	63	33	30	7	317
PARTY ID					
Democrat	72	28	45	17	334
Republican	67	27	40	17	329
Independent	64	31	33	14	326
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black/African American	78	23	55	53	24
Hispanic/Latino	74	26	49	21	30
White	65	29	37	14	910

Notes: Bolding denotes statistically significant differences from General Population or from within-group comparison. Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its adult population size in the United States and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. We advise strong caution when interpreting results for subgroups with small sample size. Results for Asians/Pacific Islanders not shown due to extremely small sample sizes. The subgroup sample sizes displayed in the far right column represent the unweighted number of interviews. All other statistical results reported in this table and report reflect weighted data, a standard procedure to correct for known demographic discrepancies. Margins and intensities are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q26

APPENDIX 4

Views on Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs): Descriptive Version Results

Percentage of General Population and Selected Demographic Groups

	Favor %	Oppose %	Margin (net)	Intensity (strong net)	N =
GENERAL POPULATION	67	27	54	10	1,000
Current School Parent	70	27	43	13	271
Non-Parent	65	26	39	9	438
AGE GROUP					
18 to 34	74	25	49	14	204
35 to 54	68	27	41	12	338
55 & Over	64	28	35	8	427
GENERATION					
Generation Z	81	19	62	33	58
Millennial	71	27	44	8	271
Generation X	67	27	39	11	248
Baby Boomer	66	27	39	10	309
Silent	52	33	19	<1	83
COMMUNITY					
Urban	67	28	39	10	202
Suburban	74	21	54	19	258
Small Town/Rural	63	31	32	6	539
EDUCATION					
< College Degree	71	23	48	15	593
≥ College Degree	61	35	26	4	404
GENDER					
Female	68	27	41	13	550
Male	66	28	37	8	450
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$40,000	72	20	52	16	312
\$40,000 to \$79,999	69	28	41	12	330
\$80,000 & Over	62	32	30	6	317
PARTY ID					
Democrat	64	31	33	6	334
Republican	71	23	48	16	329
Independent	63	30	33	7	326
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black/African	84	8	75	38	24
Hispanic/Latino	77	23	55	15	30
White	65	29	37	9	910

Notes: Bolding denotes statistically significant differences from General Population or from within-group comparison. Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its adult population size in the United States and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. We advise strong caution when interpreting results for subgroups with small sample sizes. Results for Asians/Pacific Islanders not shown due to extremely small sample size. The subgroup sample sizes displayed in the far right column represent the unweighted number of interviews. All other statistical results reported in this table and report reflect weighted data, a standard procedure to correct for known demographic discrepancies. Margins and intensities are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K-12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14-29, 2020), Q20

APPENDIX 5

Views on Charter Schools: Descriptive Version Results

Percentage of General Population and Selected Demographic Groups

	Favor %	Oppose %	Margin (net)	Intensity (strong net)	N =
GENERAL POPULATION	58	31	27	3	1,000
Current School Parent	61	30	30	6	271
Non-Parent	56	32	23	3	438
AGE GROUP					
18 to 34	66	32	34	<1	204
35 to 54	59	33	26	2	338
55 & Over	56	30	27	5	427
GENERATION					
Generation Z	62	34	28	1	58
Millennial	65	32	33	2	271
Generation X	62	30	32	3	248
Baby Boomer	56	30	26	5	309
Silent	51	35	16	3	83
COMMUNITY					
Urban	57	37	20	2	202
Suburban	62	29	33	3	258
Small Town/Rural	57	30	27	4	539
EDUCATION					
< College Degree	61	27	35	5	593
≥ College Degree	54	38	16	<1	404
GENDER					
Female	60	31	28	3	550
Male	57	32	25	3	450
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$40,000	60	30	30	5	312
\$40,000 to \$79,999	61	32	29	5	330
\$80,000 & Over	56	33	23	<1	317
PARTY ID					
Democrat	48	40	8	-7	334
Republican	68	23	45	13	329
Independent	57	33	25	3	326
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Black/African American	65	28	37	8	24
Hispanic/Latino	62	30	32	7	30
White	58	32	26	3	910

Notes: Bolding denotes statistically significant differences from General Population or from within-group comparison. Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its adult population size in the United States and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. We advise strong caution when interpreting results for subgroups with small sample sizes. Results for Asians/Pacific Islanders not shown due to extremely small sample size. The subgroup sample sizes displayed in the far right column represent the unweighted number of interviews. All other statistical results reported in this table and report reflect weighted data, a standard procedure to correct for known demographic discrepancies. Margins and intensities are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K-12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14-29, 2020), Q18

APPENDIX 6

Current School Parents' Schooling Preferences by School Type

Percentage of Current School Parents and Selected Demographic Groups

	Public District School	Public Charter School	Private School	Home School	N =
	%	%	%	%	
CURRENT SCHOOL PARENT	48	7	36	9	271
AGE GROUP					
18 to 34	46	7	37	9	58
35 to 54	51	6	35	6	188
55 & Over	25	10	33	28	18
GENERATION					
Millennial	48	8	36	7	133
Generation X	52	5	33	9	111
Baby Boomer	19	13	41	22	13
COMMUNITY					
Urban	63	6	23	9	55
Suburban	33	11	48	8	73
Small Town/Rural	49	5	36	10	143
EDUCATION					
< College Degree	43	8	36	12	144
≥ College Degree	53	5	36	6	127
GENDER					
Female	51	8	30	10	151
Male	44	5	42	9	120
HOUSEHOLD INCOME					
Under \$40,000	47	9	31	13	53
\$40,000 to \$79,999	48	11	30	11	41
\$80,000 & Over	48	5	39	6	170
PARTY ID					
Democrat	55	7	35	4	90
Republican	45	8	35	13	96
Independent	42	3	45	10	82
RACE/ETHNICITY					
Hispanic/Latino	41	10	49	-	11
White	50	6	34	9	241

Notes: Bolding denotes statistically significant differences from General Population or from within-group comparison. Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its adult population size in the United States and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. We advise strong caution when interpreting results for subgroups with small sample sizes. Results for the following demographics not shown due to extremely small sample sizes: Generation Z, Silent, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Black/African American. The subgroup sample sizes displayed in the far right column represent the unweighted number of interviews. All other statistical results reported in this table and report reflect weighted data, a standard procedure to correct for known demographic discrepancies.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K-12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q15 (composite)

APPENDIX 7

Views on Iowa's Direction in K–12 Education

Percentage of General Population and Selected Demographic Groups

	Right Direction %	Wrong Track %	Margin (net)	N =
GENERAL POPULATION	39	52	-13	1,000
Current School Parent	43	54	-11	271
Non-Parent	37	49	-12	438
AGE GROUP				
18 to 34	45	49	-4	204
35 to 54	39	55	-17	338
55 & Over	36	52	-16	427
GENERATION				
Generation Z	54	40	14	58
Millennial	41	53	-12	271
Generation X	34	58	-24	248
Baby Boomer	39	51	-13	309
Silent	34	49	-15	83
COMMUNITY				
Urban	34	56	-21	202
Suburban	43	50	-8	258
Small Town/Rural	38	51	-13	539
EDUCATION				
< College Degree	39	51	-12	593
≥ College Degree	38	53	-15	404
GENDER				
Female	41	51	-10	550
Male	37	53	-16	450
HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
Under \$40,000	41	50	-9	312
\$40,000 to \$79,999	38	53	-16	330
\$80,000 & Over	39	53	-13	317
PARTY ID				
Democrat	36	53	-17	334
Republican	43	49	-6	329
Independent	35	56	-21	326
RACE/ETHNICITY				
Black/African American	43	57	-14	24
Hispanic/Latino	41	51	-10	30
White	39	52	-13	910

Notes: Bolding denotes statistically significant differences from General Population or from within-group comparison. Please consider that each subgroup has a unique margin of error based on its adult population size in the United States and the sample size (N) obtained in this survey. We advise strong caution when interpreting results for subgroups with small sample sizes. Results for Asians/Pacific Islanders not shown due to extremely small sample size. The subgroup sample sizes displayed in the far right column represent the unweighted number of interviews. All other statistical results reported in this table and report reflect weighted data, a standard procedure to correct for known demographic discrepancies. Margins are calculated using percentages to the nearest tenth.

Source: EdChoice, Iowa K–12 & School Choice Survey (conducted December 14–29, 2020), Q1

NOTES

1. Stephen Q. Cornman, Lei Zhou, Malia Howell, Jeremy Phillips, and Jumaane Young (2020), *Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY 18* (NCES 2020-306), retrieved from National Center for Education Statistics website: <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2020/2020306.pdf>
2. Authors' calculations; EdChoice (2021), *The ABCs of School Choice: The Comprehensive Guide to Every Private School Choice Program in America*, 2021 edition, retrieved from <https://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-ABCs-of-School-Choice-WEB.pdf>
3. Ibid.
4. For demographic and subgroup terminology: We use the label “current school parents” to refer to those respondents who said they have one or more children in preschool through high school. We use the label “former school parents” for respondents who said their children are past high school age. We use the label “non-parents” for respondents without children. For terms regarding age groups: “younger” reflect respondents who are age 18 to 34; “middle-age” are 35 to 54; and “seniors” are 55 and older. Labels pertaining to income groups go as follows: “low-income earners” < \$40,000; “middle-income earners” ≥\$40,000 and < \$80,000; “high-income earners” ≥\$80,000. We adapt the Pew Research Center’s classifications of generational cohorts for this report: Generation Z (1997 or earlier) Millennial (1981–1996); Generation X (1965–1980); Baby Boomer (1946–1964); and Silent Generation (1928–1945). Pew Research Center, Generations and Age [Web page], accessed January 20, 2021, retrieved from <http://www.pewresearch.org/topics/generations-and-age>
5. EdChoice (2021), What Is An Education Savings Account? [Web page], January 19, 2021, retrieved from <https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/types-of-school-choice/education-savings-account>
6. Iowa Department of Education (2021), Charter Schools [Web page], accessed January 25, 2021, retrieved from: <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/options-educational-choice/charter-schools>; Education Commission of the States (2020), Charter Schools: State Profile - Iowa [Web page], accessed January 25, 2021, retrieved from: <http://ecs.force.com/mbdata/mbstprofile?Rep=CSP20&st=Iowa>
7. Unless otherwise noted, the results in this section reflect the composite average of split-sample responses of current and former school parents to both splits for question 15.
8. Authors' calculations; Michael Shaw and Andrew D. Catt (2021, January 26), 2021 EdChoice Share: Which Learning Settings Are Families Choosing in the States [Blog post], retrieved from EdChoice website: <https://www.edchoice.org/engage/2021-edchoice-share-which-types-of-schools-and-learning-settings-are-families-choosing-in-the-states/>
9. Private School Review, Iowa Private Schools by Tuition Cost [Web page], accessed January 21, 2021, retrieved from: <https://www.privateschoolreview.com/tuition-stats/iowa>
10. Stephen Q. Cornman, Lei Zhou, Malia Howell, Jeremy Phillips, and Jumaane Young (2020), *Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY 18* (NCES 2020-306), retrieved from National Center for Education Statistics website: <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2020/2020306.pdf>
11. Ibid.; “Current Expenditures” data include dollars spent on instruction, instruction-related support services, and other elementary/secondary current expenditures. “Total Expenditures” includes those categories and also expenditures on capital outlay, other programs, and interest on long-term debt..
12. Stephen Q. Cornman, Lei Zhou, Malia Howell, Jeremy Phillips, and Jumaane Young (2020), *Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: FY 18* (NCES 2020-306), retrieved from National Center for Education Statistics website: <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2020/2020306.pdf>

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