

2021 Schooling in America

What Do the Public and Parents Say About K–12 Education and Schooling During the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Survey conducted June 14–July 8, 2021



KEY FINDINGS

- **The public and school parents are more likely to be pessimistic about the direction of K–12 education in the country. However, at least among the general public, trends have been moving in a more positive direction in recent years.**
 - About two out of five American adults believe K–12 education is heading in the right direction—an 18-point increase since 2016. Just over half say K–12 is on the wrong track—a 10-point decrease since fall 2020.

- **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.
 - Priorities vary across different parent groups of schoolers. Parents’ top reasons for choosing their public district school are location/close to their home or work (42%), socialization (38%), or school assignment (34%). Private school parents primarily said they made their choice because of academic reputation (40%) or safe environment (37%). Public charter school parents also signaled highest importance to academic reputation (35%) or safe environment (32%). Homeschoolers’ priorities are to have a safe environment (54%) and individual/one-on-one attention (43%).
 - Actual enrollment patterns don’t reflect the variety of parents’ schooling preferences. Approximately three-fourths of students attend a public district school, but only about 40 percent of current school parents say that would be their first choice. In a wording experiment, parents were given question wording that discounts "financial costs and transportation" hurdles, and we detected an elevated preference for private schools.

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 last year, the proportion of A/B grades for district schools has decreased by -14 points. The proportions of those giving high grades for private schools and charter schools is about the same as last year.

■ Public School Funding and Spending

- Most Americans and parents (four out of five) drastically underestimate public school spending. The median respondent for the general public said their state spends \$7,000 per student. Parents were even further off in their estimates (median response = \$5,000).
- 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

- **One-third of all school parents (34%) said they are at least somewhat likely to join/form a *learning pod* for their children.**
 - More than half of charter school parents said they were at least somewhat likely to seek out a learning pod for their children, substantially higher than parents with children in other types of schools.
 - Other demographic groups most interested in learning pods are Black parents, Hispanic parents, Democrats, college educated, parents who had children mostly remote learning last school year (2020–21), and those who are living in urban areas.

- **Two out of five school parents (41%) indicated they are at least somewhat likely to seek out *tutoring* for their children.**
 - About half of private and charter school parents indicated they were likely to seek out tutoring for their children. A much higher level than district school or homeschooling parents.
 - Demographic response levels and patterns are very similar between tutoring and learning pods. Groups most interested in tutoring are Black parents, Hispanic parents, Democrats, college educated, parents who had children mostly remote learning last school year (2020-21), and those who are living in urban areas.

KEY FINDINGS

▪ Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)

- ESAs received more public support (78%) compared to other types of educational choice policies. Nearly one out of five (19%) say they oppose ESAs. Levels are relatively unchanged since last year.
- Our first question about ESAs asked for an opinion without offering any description. On this baseline question, 49 percent of respondents said they favored ESAs. Current school parents expressed a slightly higher support (56%). In a follow-up question that described how an ESA program operates, support rose by 29 points among all respondents, and increased 28 points (to 84%) among parents.
- Three-fourths of the general public (76%) prefers universal access to ESAs compared to the preference for means-tested eligibility based solely on financial need (50%). Agreement for the latter has decreased by 5 points since last year.

▪ School Vouchers

- On the baseline question about school vouchers—without any description—49 percent of all respondents said they favored the policy. Current school parents expressed higher initial support (55%). In the follow-up question that described how vouchers work, public support rose by 18 points (to 67%) and increased 23 points (to 78%) among current school parents. Support among school parents—at the same level as last year—remains at an all-time high in our polling.

KEY FINDINGS

▪ Tax-Credit Scholarships

- Two-thirds of all respondents (70%) said they support tax-credit scholarships, while 27 percent are opposed. Current school parents were significantly more likely than the general public to favor such a policy (80%).

▪ Public Charter Schools

- On our first question about public charter schools—without any description—58 percent of all respondents said they supported charters. Current school parents expressed higher initial support (64%). In the follow-up question that described how vouchers work, public support rose by eight points (to 66%) and increased 10 points (to 74%) among current school parents. The latter level of support remains near an all-time high in our polling.

▪ Open Enrollment

- Very large majorities of the public and school parents support open enrollment policies—regardless of whether that involves transfers within a school district or transfers across school districts. There appears to be a little more support for an “intra-district” policy, compared to an “inter-district” one.
- Public district school parents and homeschoolers appear more likely to favor students being allowed to transfer to another public school within their resident school district, compared to private and public charter school parents.

▪ Issue Priorities

- Nearly three times as many parents say parental choice in K–12 education is one of their top three issues right now when compared to all respondents.
- Parents are more likely to say civil rights/civil liberties should be a priority right now, compared to all respondents.
- Nearly 60 percent of parents said student safety and having access to the best type of school to meet a child’s learning needs should be top priorities in the area of K–12 education. More than half of all respondents said the same.
- Parents are more likely than the general public to say receiving financial support for therapies for students with special needs is one of their top three issues in the area of K–12 education

DIRECTION OF K-12 EDUCATION

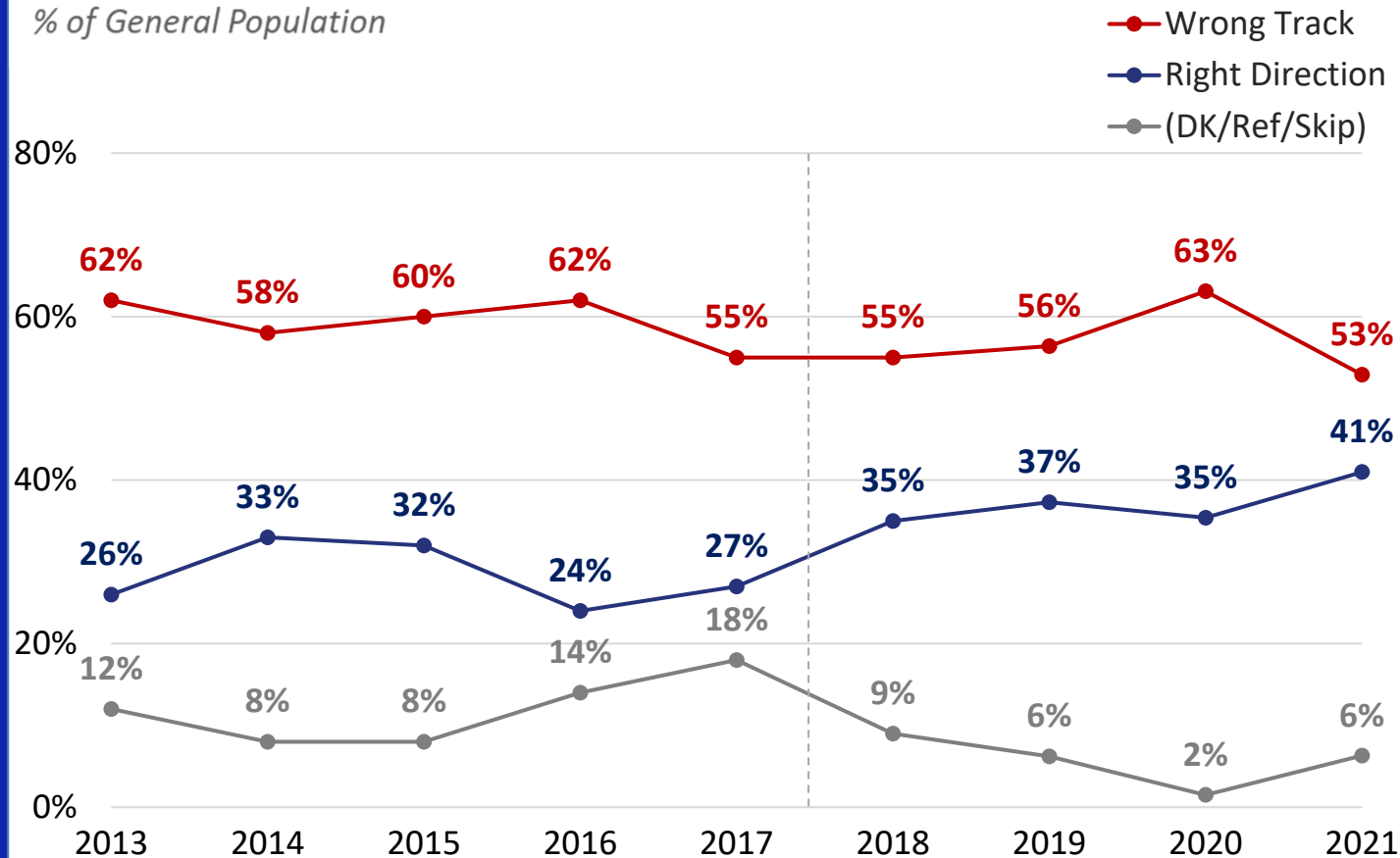
Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2021. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016Q1; –2020 (Wave 2)*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

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About two out of five Americans believe K–12 education is heading in the right direction—an 18-point increase since 2016. Just over half say K–12 is on the wrong track—a 10-point decrease since fall 2020.

% of General Population

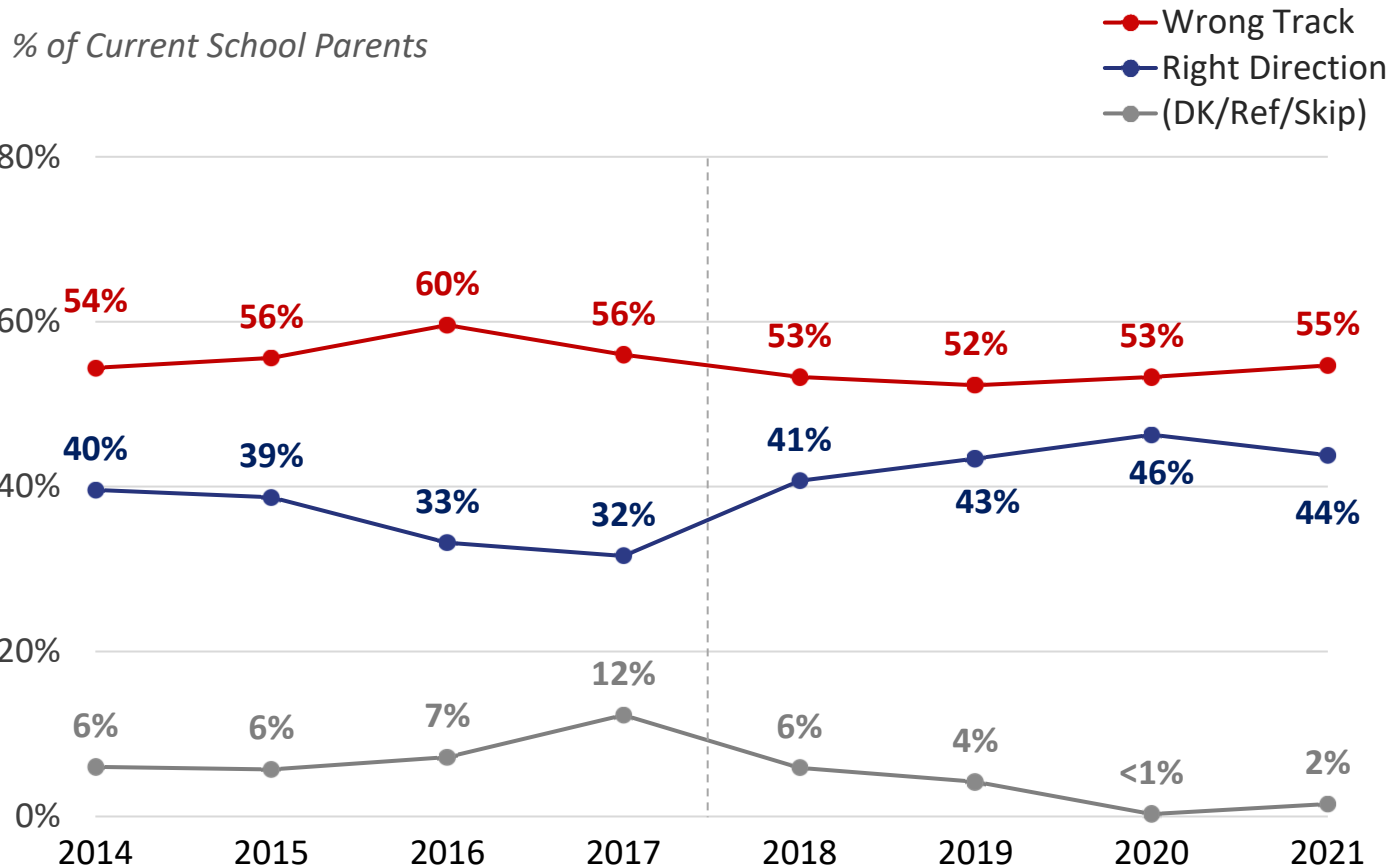


DIRECTION OF K-12 EDUCATION

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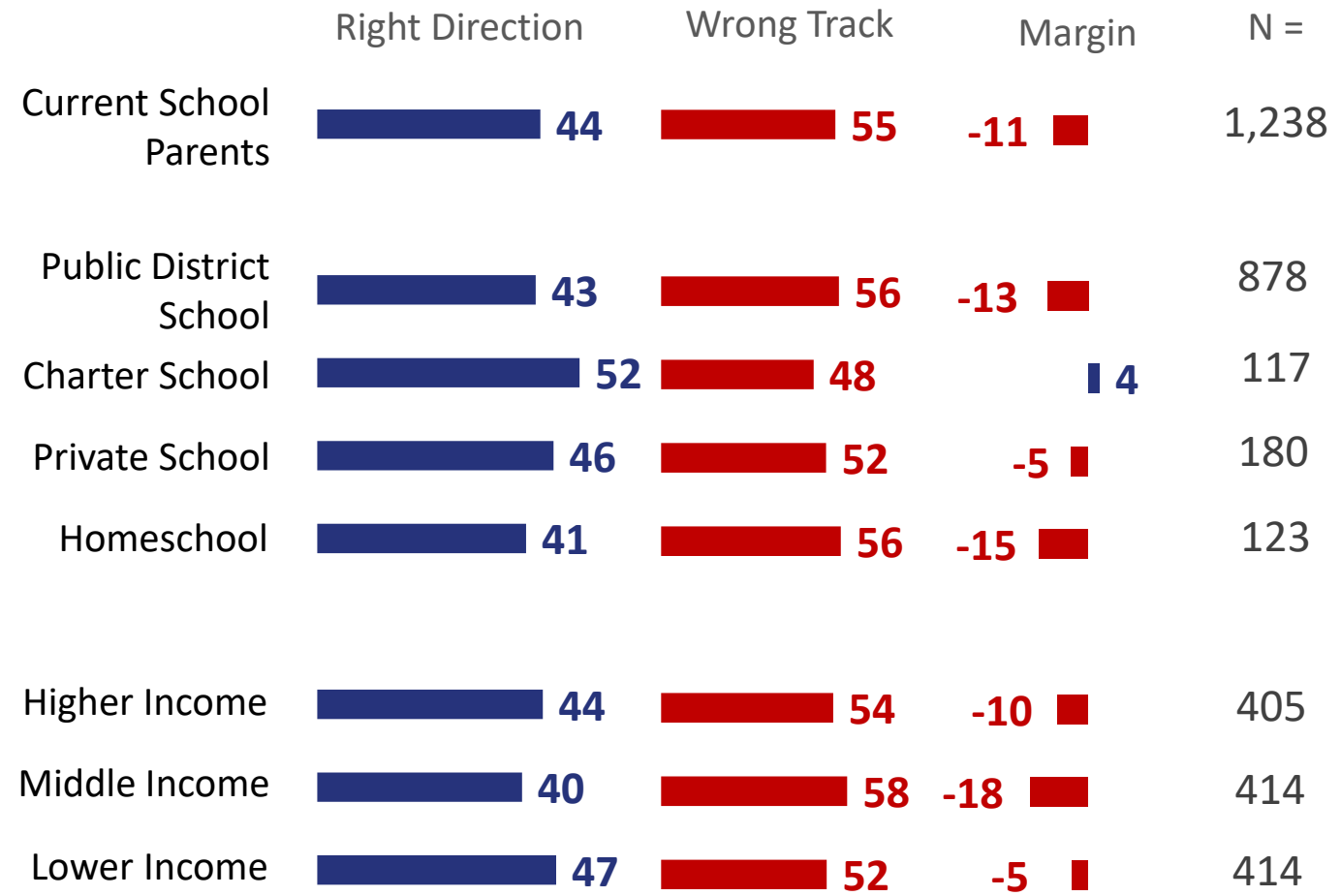
Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q1; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2020* (Wave 2); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

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



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

DIRECTION OF K–12 EDUCATION

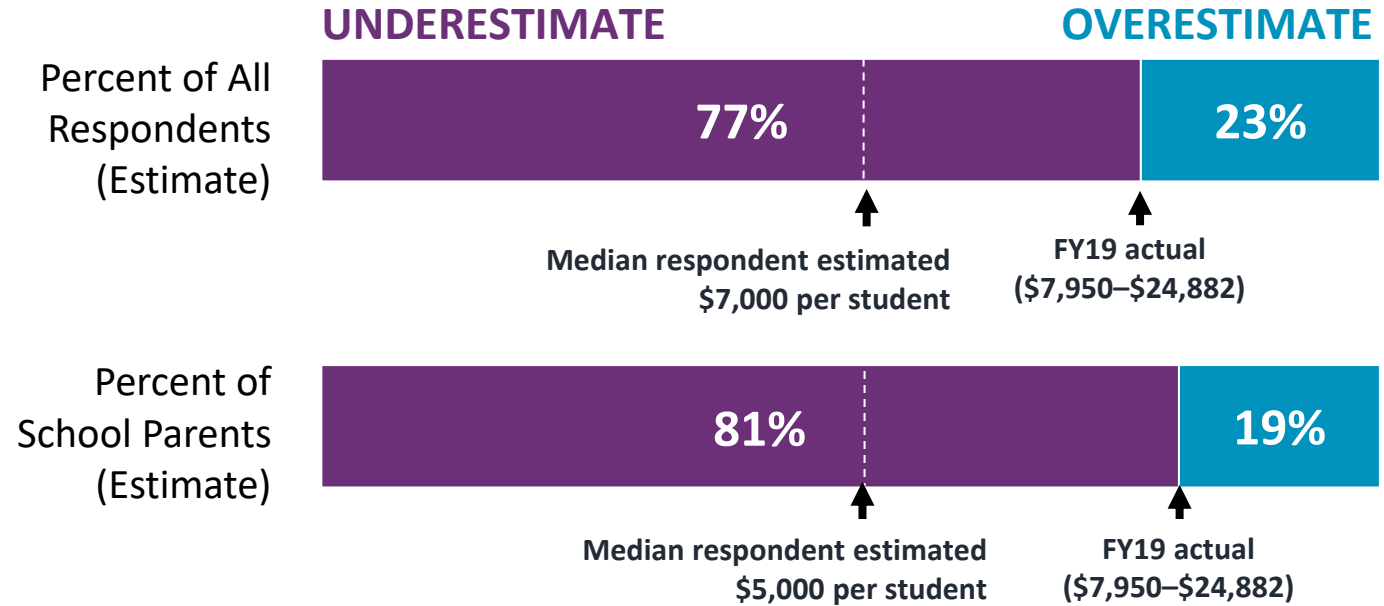


Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.
Sources: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q1

SCHOOL SPENDING ESTIMATE, COMPARED TO ACTUAL SPENDING

Most Americans and parents drastically underestimate public school spending. The median parent respondent said spending is significantly less than the lowest state average.

% of Respondents



Note: Percentages based on those offering estimates
Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q9

SCHOOL FUNDING

Question Wording A

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

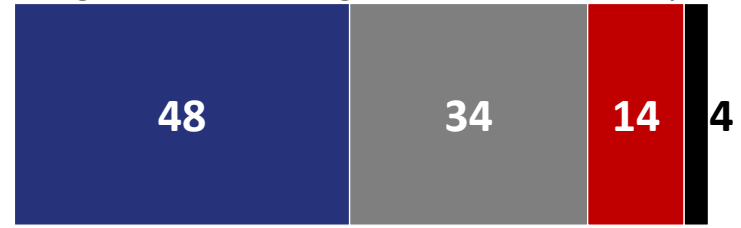
Question Wording B

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:

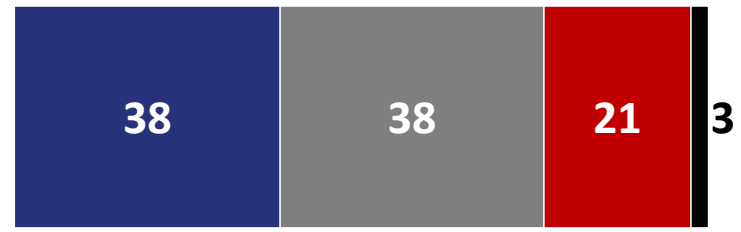
% of General Population by Split Question Version

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

Split/Without Information (N = 610)



Split/With Information (N = 600)

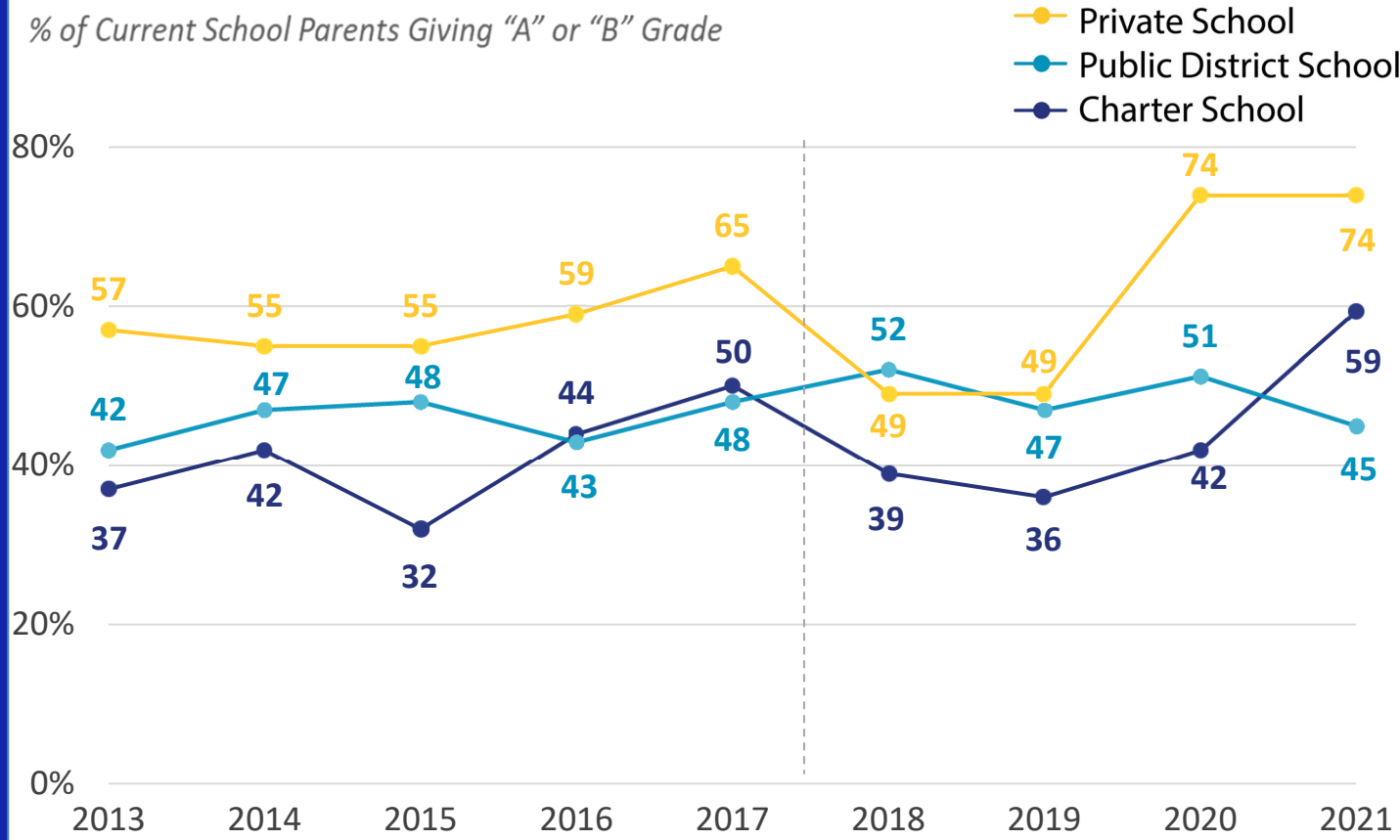


Notes: Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question. *Source:* EdChoice, 2021 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q10

GRADING LOCAL SCHOOLS

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

% of Current School Parents 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.

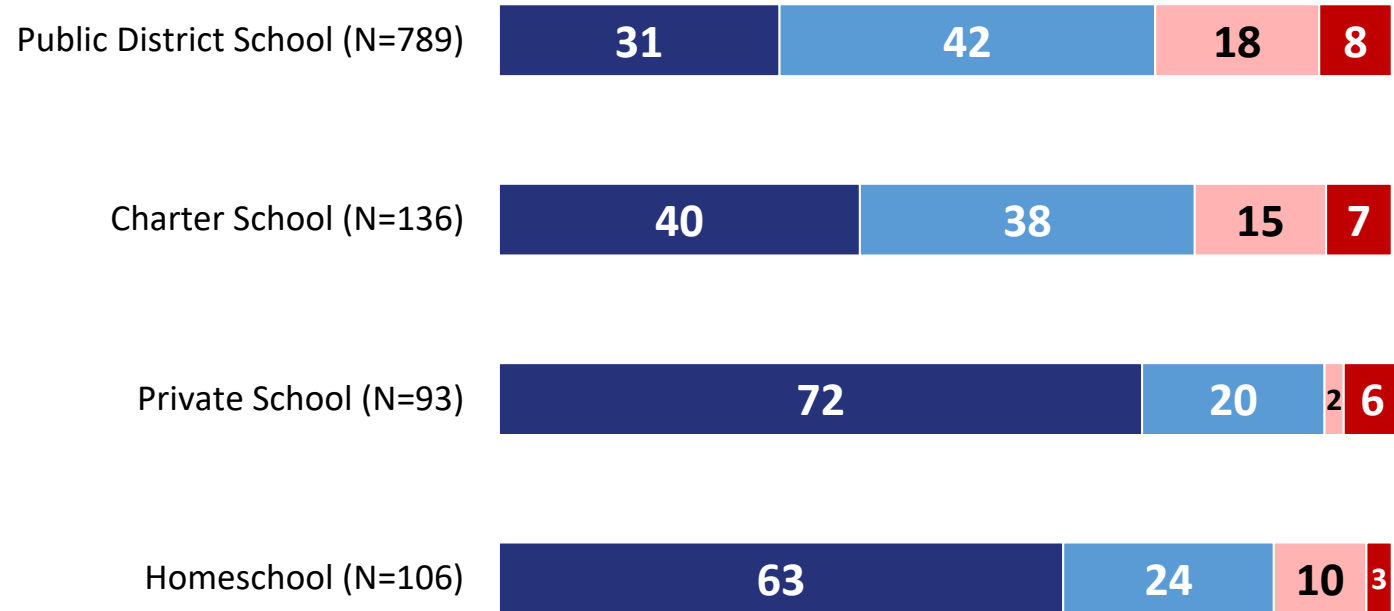
Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q11; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2020* (Wave 2); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

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 with Experience

Very Satisfied | **Somewhat Satisfied** | **Somewhat Dissatisfied** | **Very Dissatisfied**



Notes: 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, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q4

FACTORS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Homeschoolers were much more likely than other parent groups to indicate a “safe environment” and “individual/one-on-one attention” as a top-three factor for how they preferred to school their children.

*% of Current School Parents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3
By School Type Child(ren) Ever Attended*

Factors	LOW-HIGH			
	Public District School (N=1,035)	Public Charter School (N=328)	Private School (N=301)	Homeschool (N=566)
Location/Close to Home or Work	42%	24%	22%	27%
Socialization/Peers/Other Kids	38%	24%	19%	16%
Our Assigned District/Neighborhood School	34%	11%	12%	14%
Academic Reputation	31%	35%	40%	23%
Safe Environment	28%	32%	37%	54%
Extracurricular Activities	19%	14%	16%	8%
Morals/Character/Values Instruction	17%	26%	30%	27%
Diversity	16%	16%	16%	9%
Structure, Discipline	16%	25%	24%	24%
Individual/One-on-One Attention	15%	17%	24%	43%
Class Size	14%	24%	20%	16%
School Size	12%	20%	15%	14%
Test Scores	10%	17%	16%	13%
Religious Environment/Instruction	4%	10%	14%	9%

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

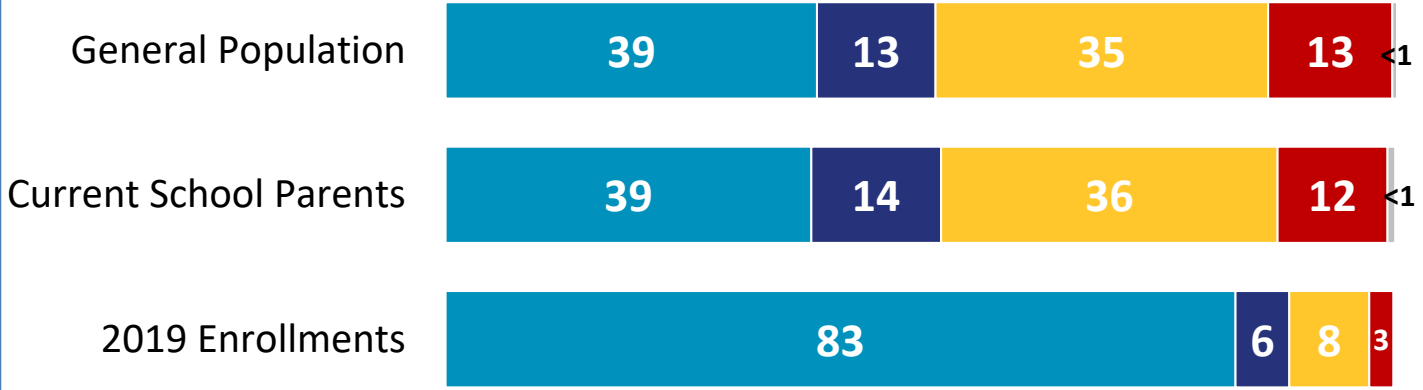
Source: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8

SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE, COMPARED TO ACTUAL ENROLLMENT

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

% of Respondents

- 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.

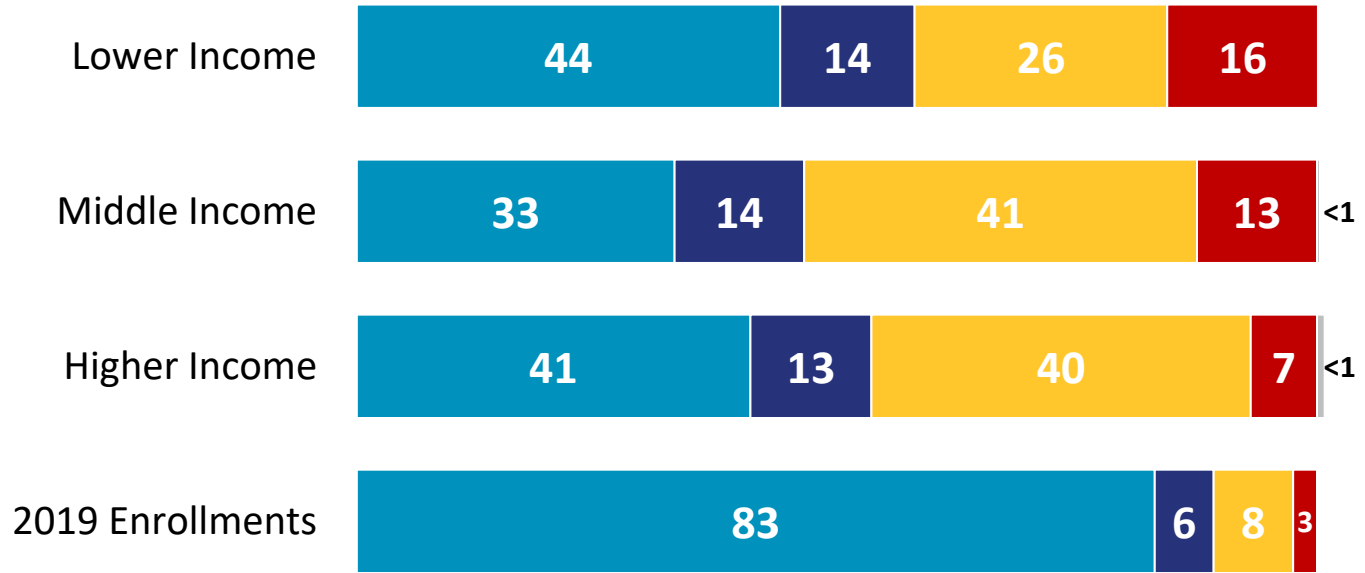
Sources: Authors' calculations; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); EdChoice, 2021 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q12

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 middle-income and 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, 2021 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q12

SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE

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?

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?

% of Current School Parents

■ Public District School ■ Public Charter School ■ Private School

Split/Baseline (N = 612)



Split/Less Constrained (N = 626)



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, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q12

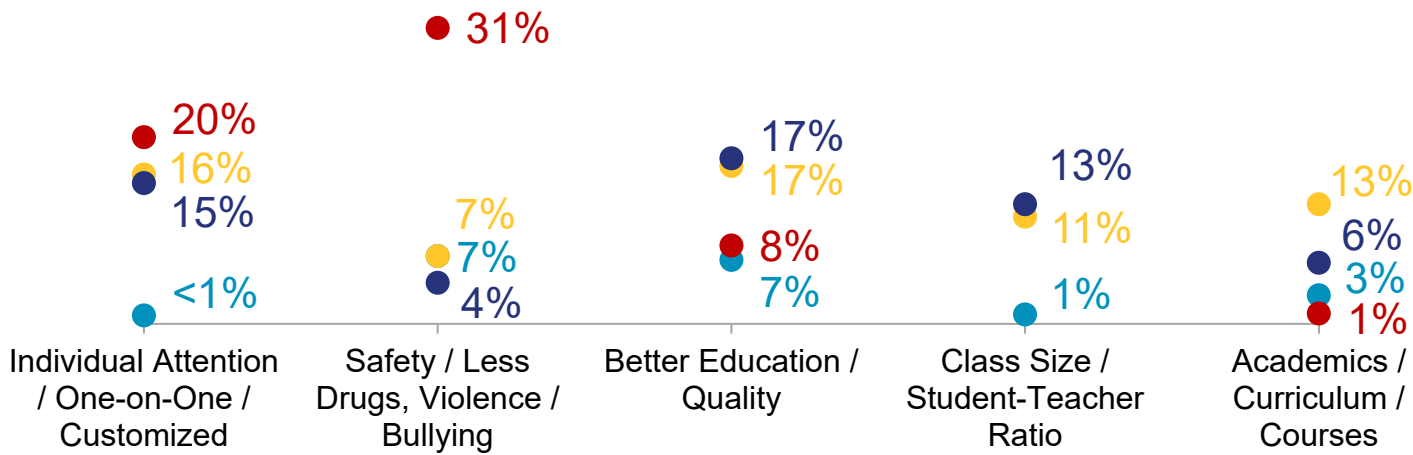
REASONS FOR A SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE

There is a wide range of reasons Americans say they prefer any school type.

TOP REASONS LISTED

% of Current School Parents by Preferred School Type

- Public District School (N = 430)
- Charter School (N = 150)
- Private School (N = 433)
- Homeschool (N = 139)



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.

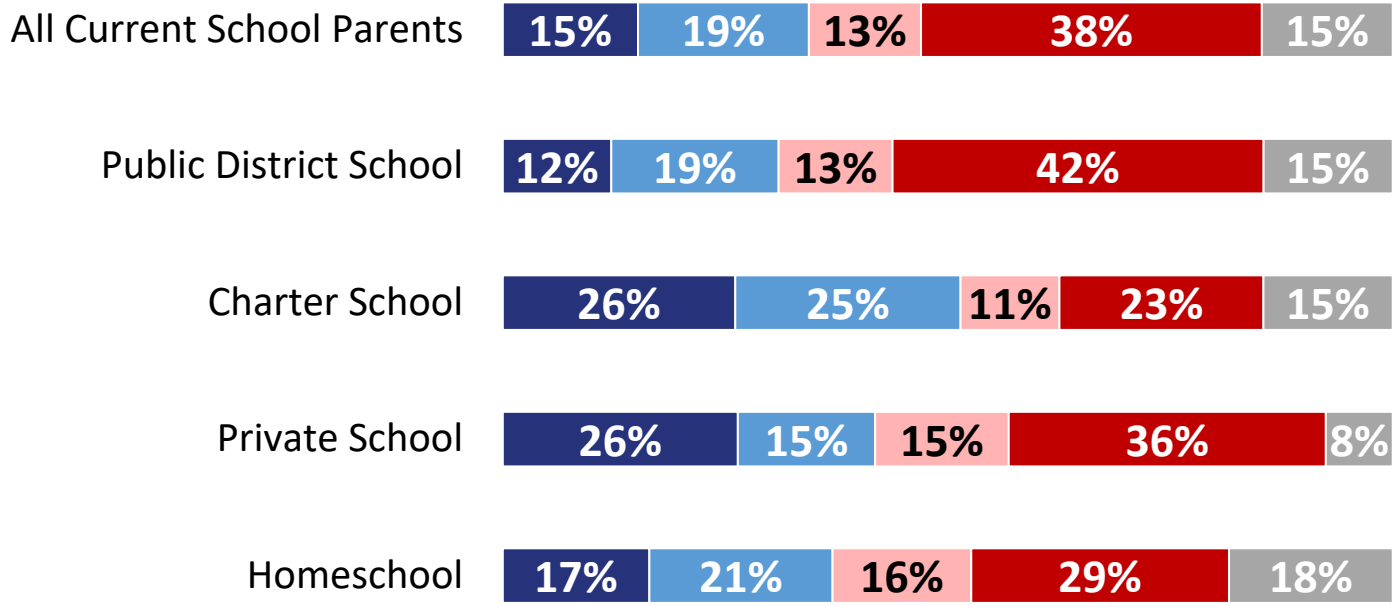
Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q13

LEARNING PODS

More than half of charter school parents said they were at least somewhat likely to seek out a learning pod for their children—substantially higher than parents with children in other types of schools.

% of Current School Parents by Sector

Very Likely | **Somewhat Likely** | **Somewhat Unlikely** | **Very Unlikely**
Don't Know/No Opinion



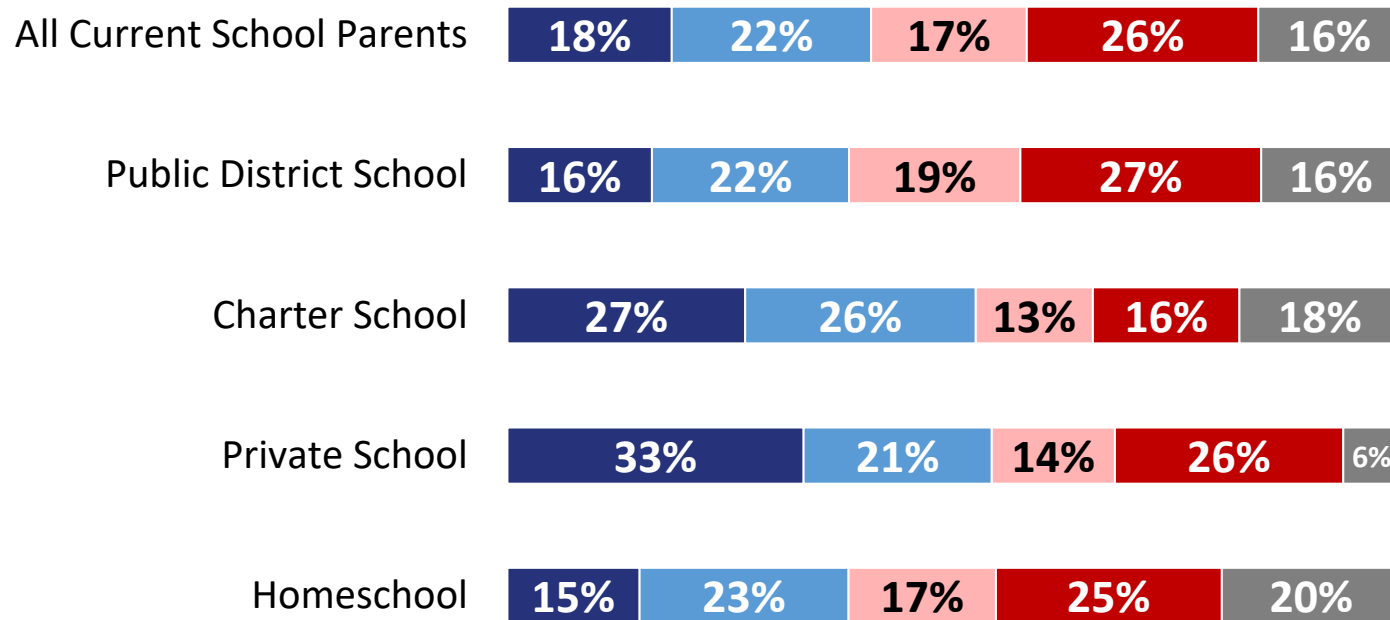
Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q31

TUTORING

About half of private and charter school parents indicated they were likely to seek out tutoring for their children—a much higher level than district school or homeschooling parents.

% of Current School Parents by Sector

Very Likely | Somewhat Likely | Somewhat Unlikely | Very Unlikely | Don't Know/No Opinion



Source: EdChoice, 2021 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q33

SCHOOL CHOICE FAVORABILITY

Nearly 60 percent of respondents say they support “school choice.” But more than one out of five have never heard of the term.

% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"

Strongly Favor | **Somewhat Favor** | **Somewhat Oppose** | **Strongly Oppose**
Never Heard of School Choice



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, 2021 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q14

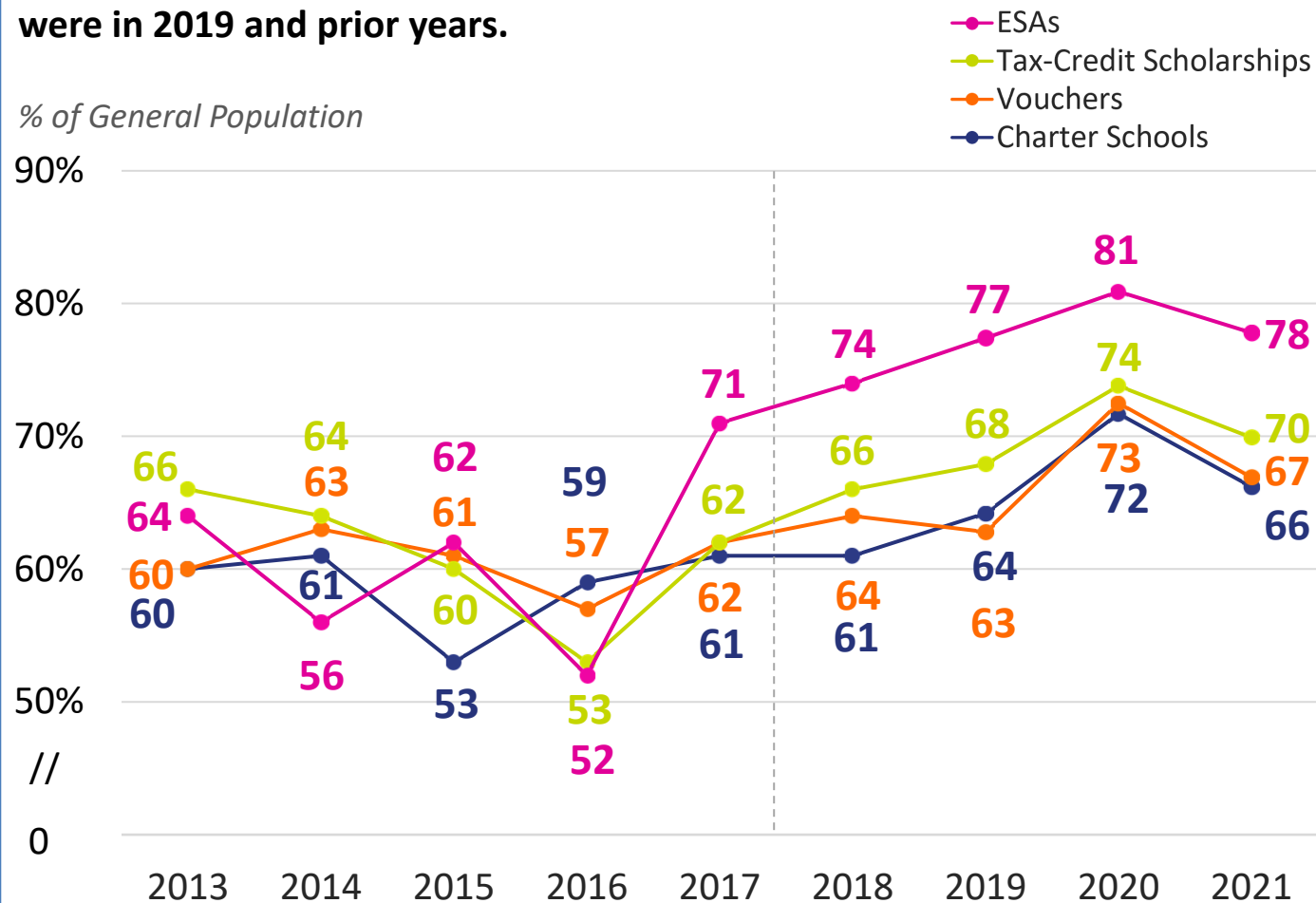
FAVORABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS

Notes: From 2013 to 2015 we slightly changed question wording to more accurately reflect the features of an education savings account (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 2018–2021.

Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q16, Q18, Q20, and Q24; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2020 (Wave 2)*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

There have been small dips in total support for four types of educational choice reforms since fall 2020. However, levels are still higher now than they were in 2019 and prior years.

% of General Population

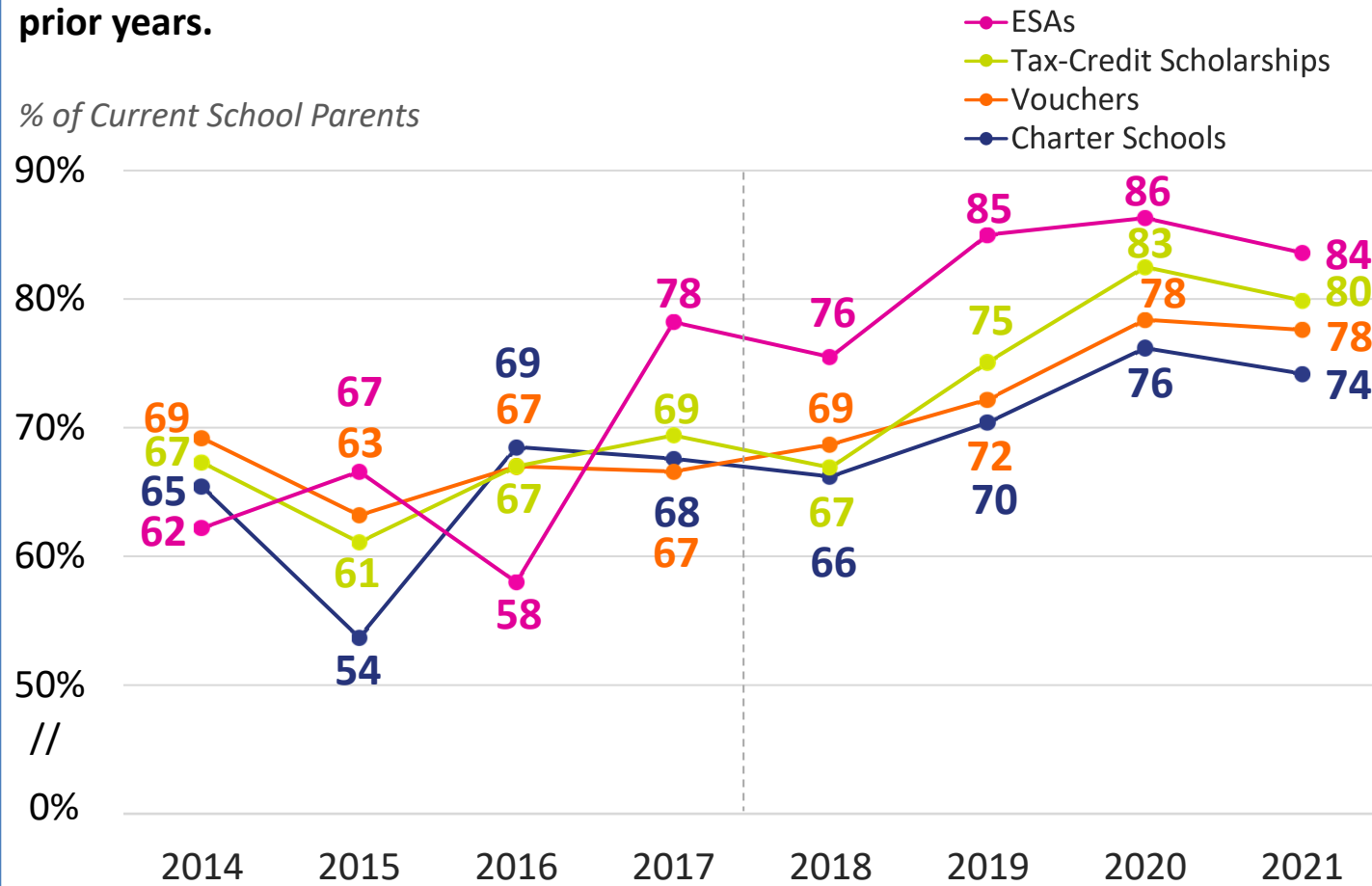


FAVORABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS

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Parents' levels of support for four types of educational choice reforms are statistically similar to 2020 and remain much higher than they were in 2018 or prior years.

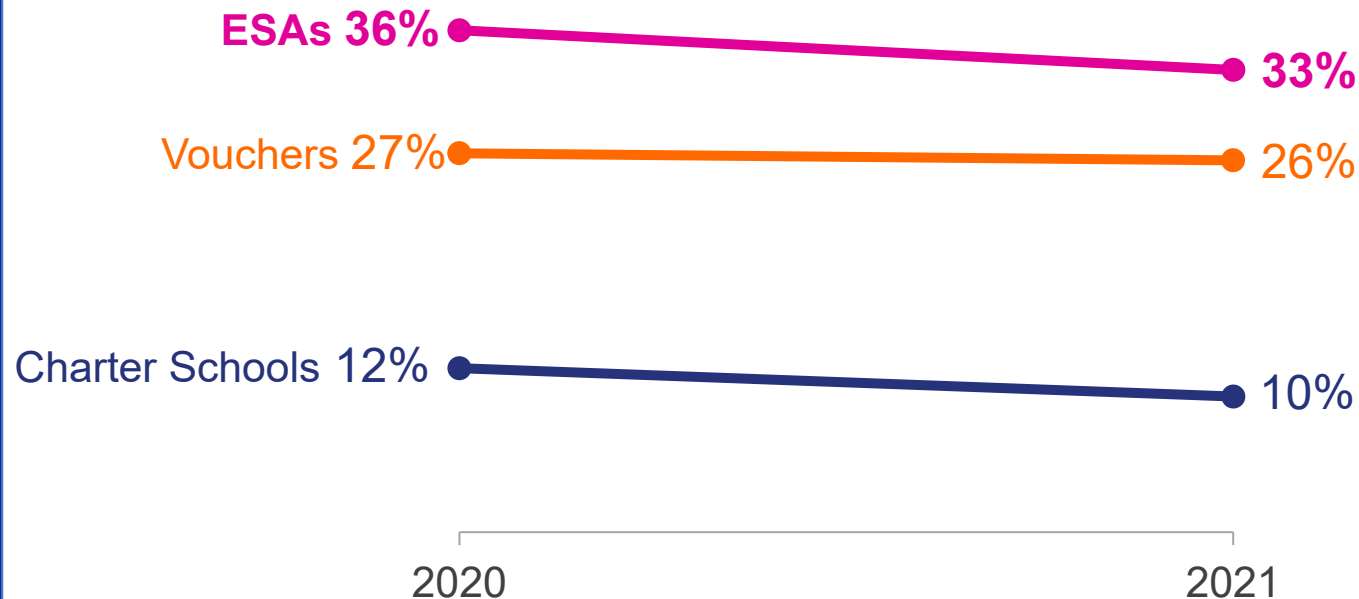
% of Current School Parents



NEVER HEARD OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE POLICIES

One out of three respondents have never heard of education savings accounts (ESAs). Percentages saying they've never heard of each of the educational choice types slightly decreased from last year.

% of Respondents Replying "Never Heard of [Educational Choice Type]"

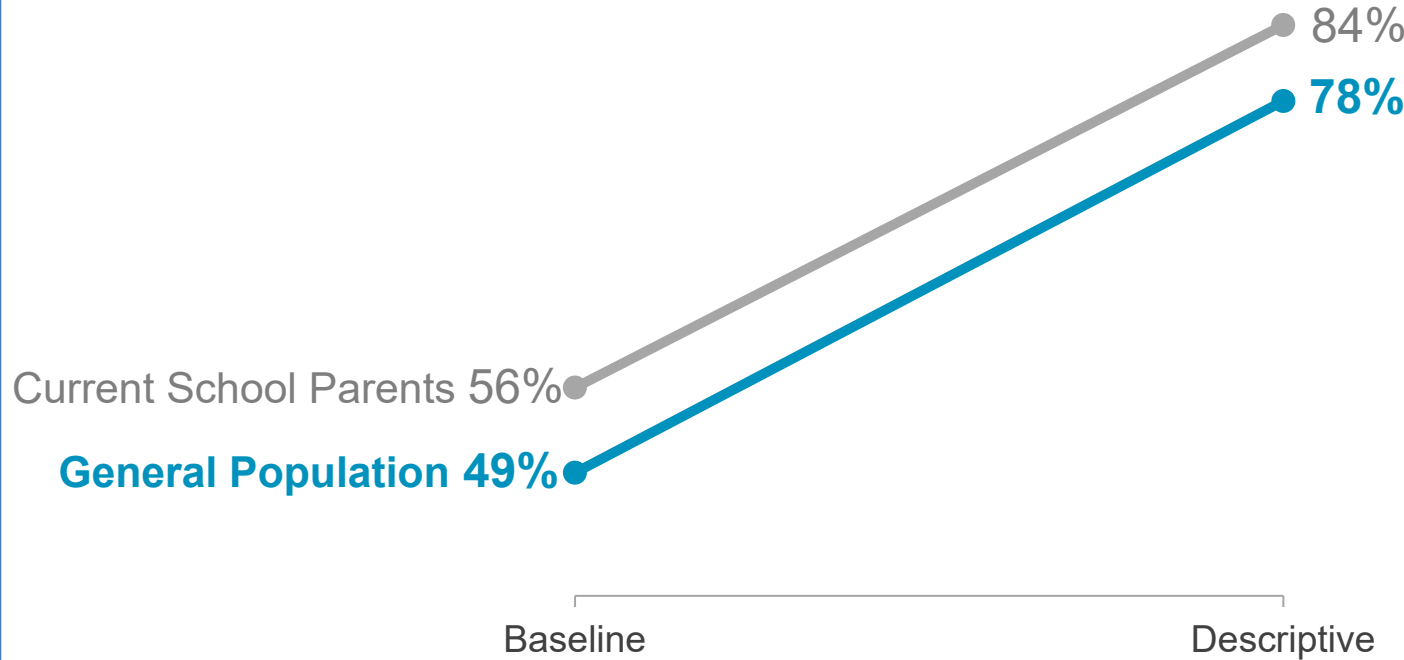


Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q15, Q17, Q19; EdChoice, 2020 Schooling in America Survey

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs) FAVORABILITY

When given a description of ESAs, support increased by 28 points for parents and 28 points for the general population.

% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"



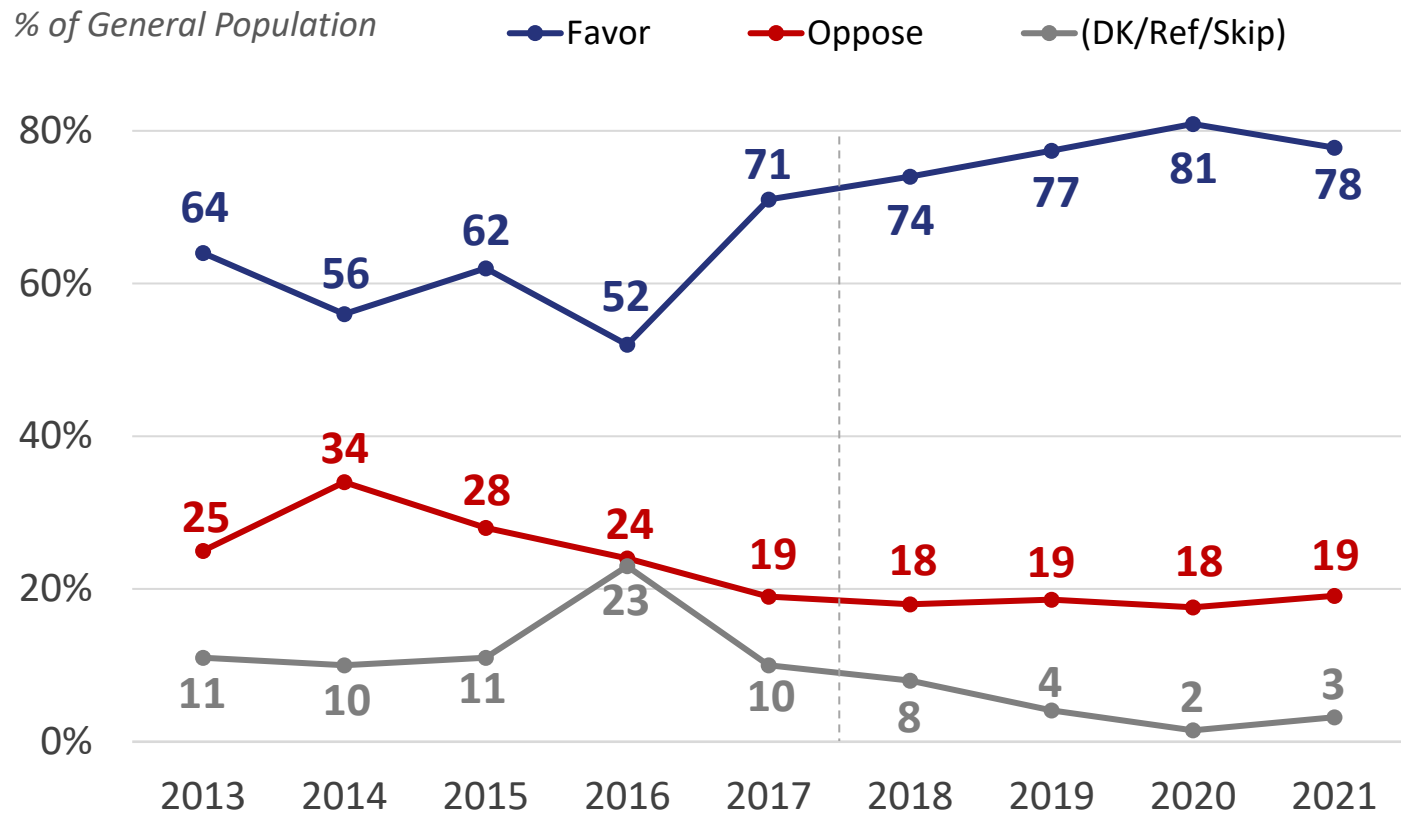
Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q19 and Q20

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 were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q20; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2020* (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

Nearly 80 percent of Americans support ESAs. Favorability of ESAs is slightly lower than last year but still higher than pre-pandemic years.

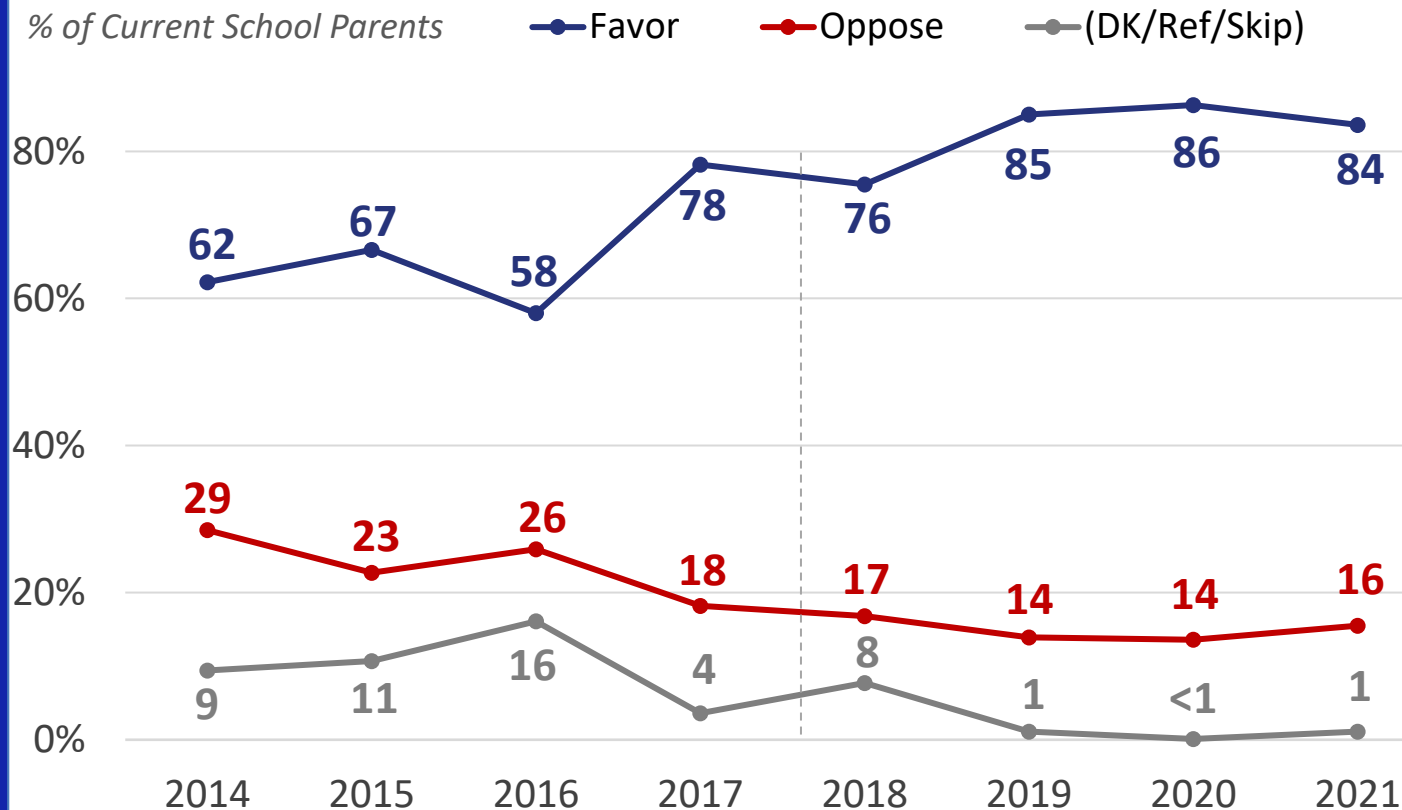


EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs) FAVORABILITY

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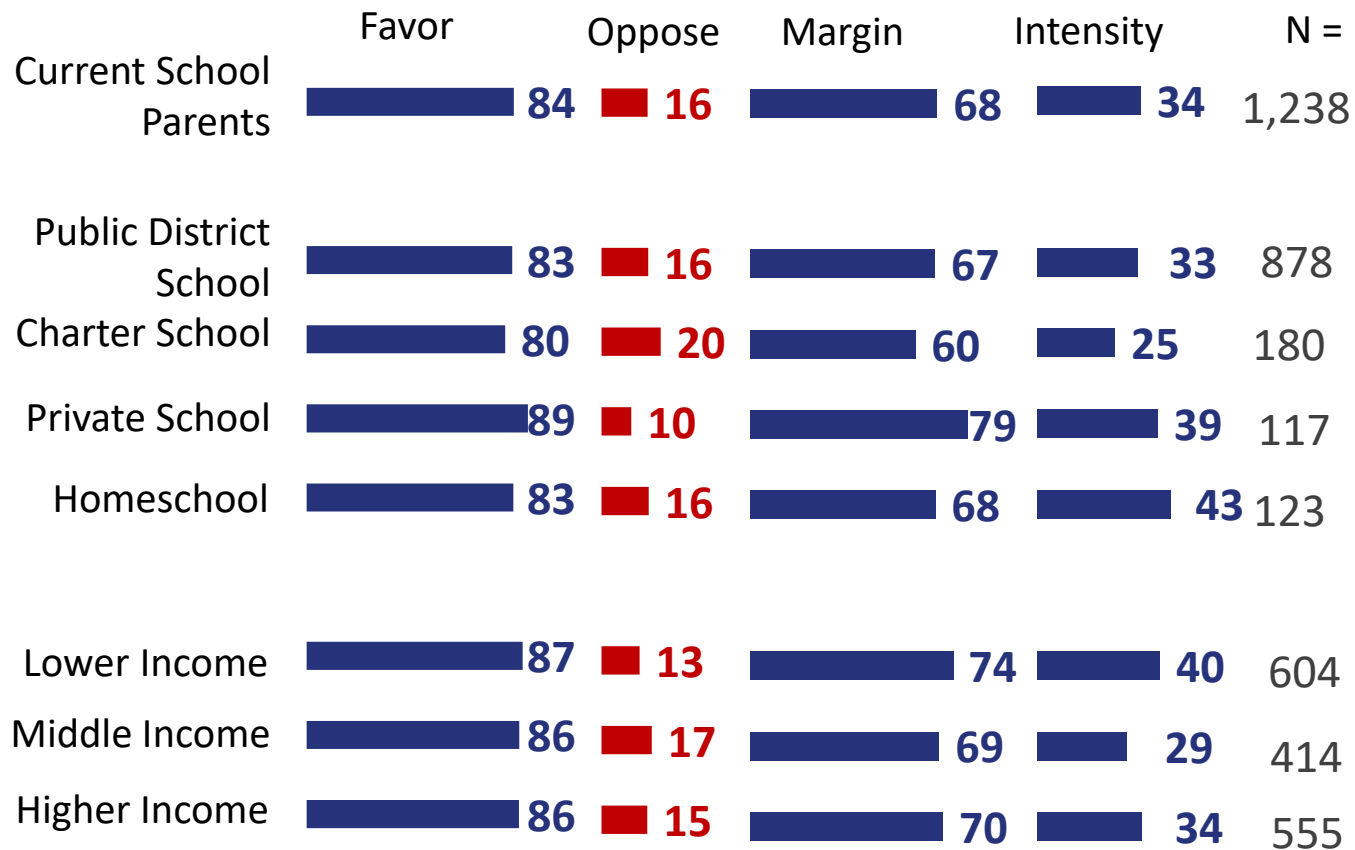
Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q20; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2020* (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

Current school parents are approximately four times more likely to support ESAs than they are to oppose them.



VIEWS ON EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Across various demographics, parents are very favorable of ESAs. One out of five charter school parents are opposed to ESAs.



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

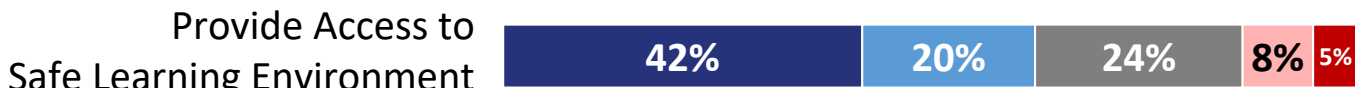
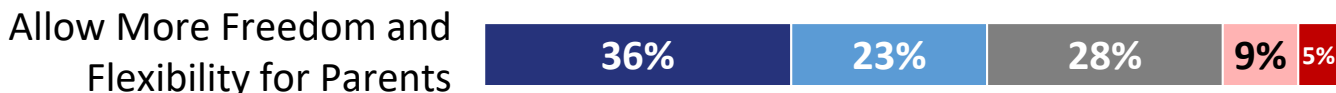
Sources: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q20

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Approximately three out of five Americans agree ESAs allow more freedom and flexibility for parents, focus on more individual attention, and provide access to better academic environments and safer learning environments.

% of General Population

Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Neutral | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree



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

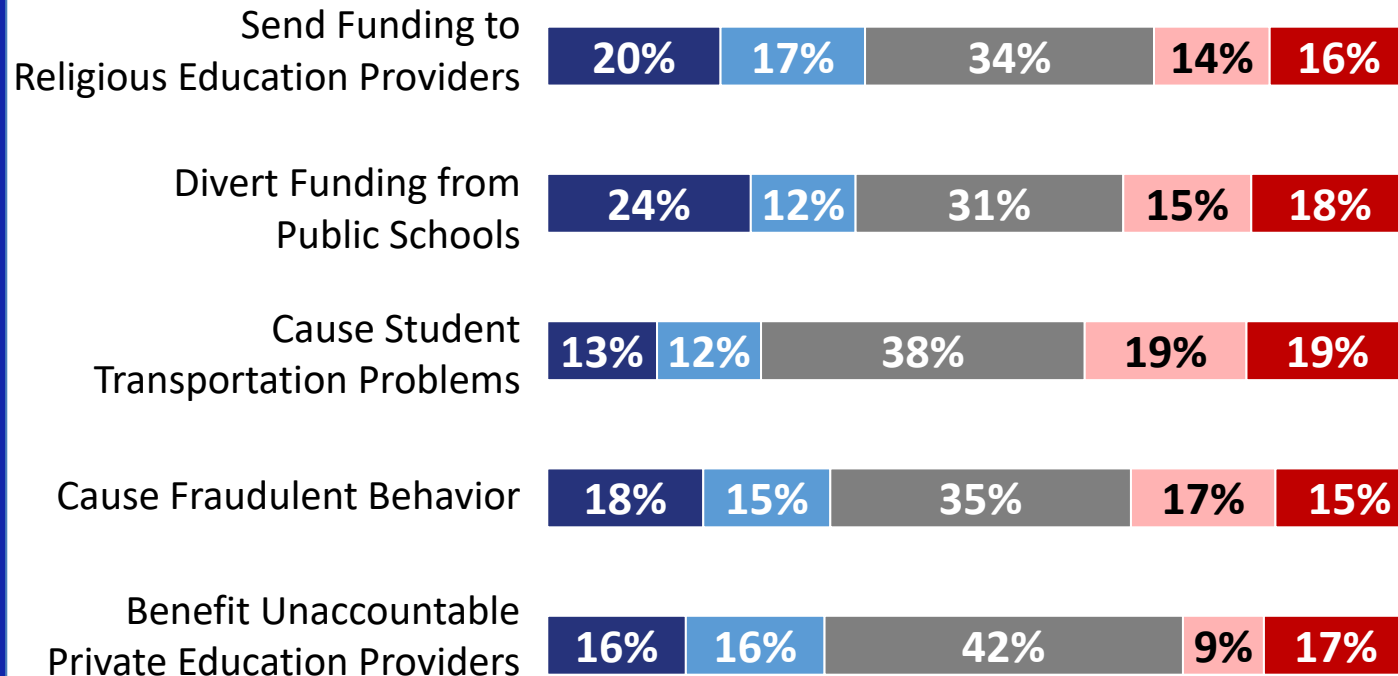
Sources: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q21

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Americans tend to disagree that ESAs may cause student transportation problems. They also are more likely to be neutral or disagree with other statements suggesting negative effects.

% of General Population

Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Neutral | Slightly Disagree | Strongly Disagree



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

Sources: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q22

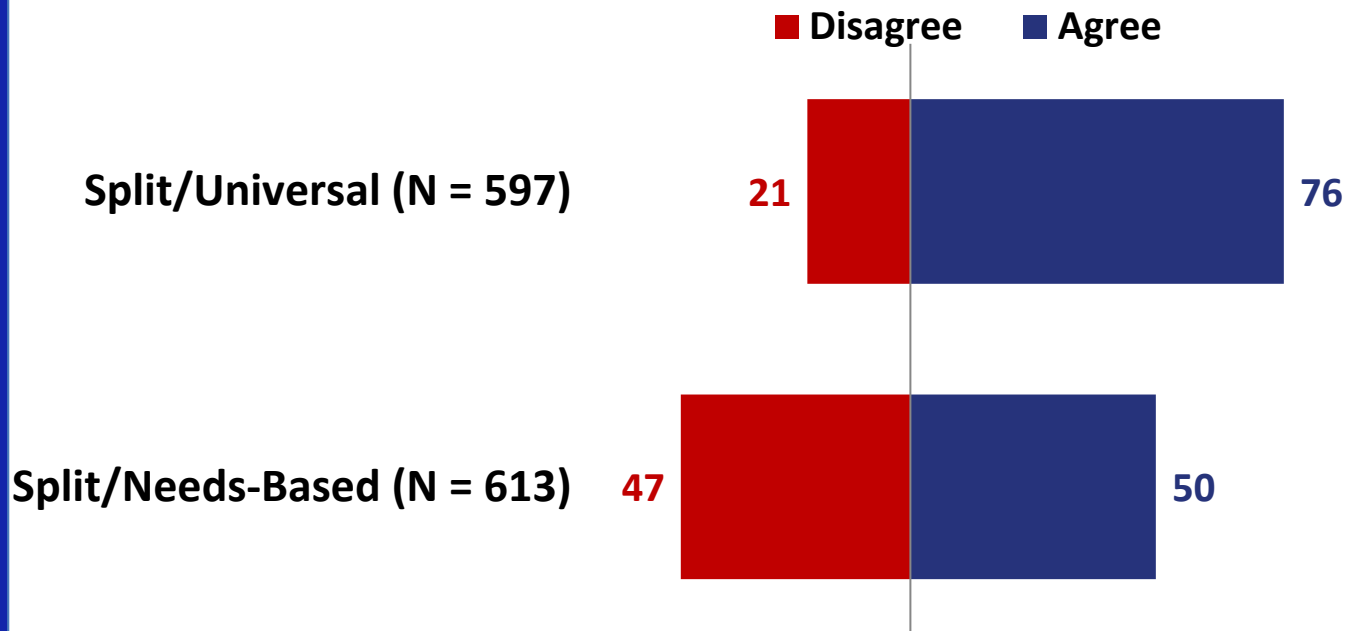
UNIVERSAL VS. NEEDS-BASED EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Notes: Volunteered responses not shown.
"Don't Know," Refusals, nor skips reflected in
this chart.
Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America
Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q23

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



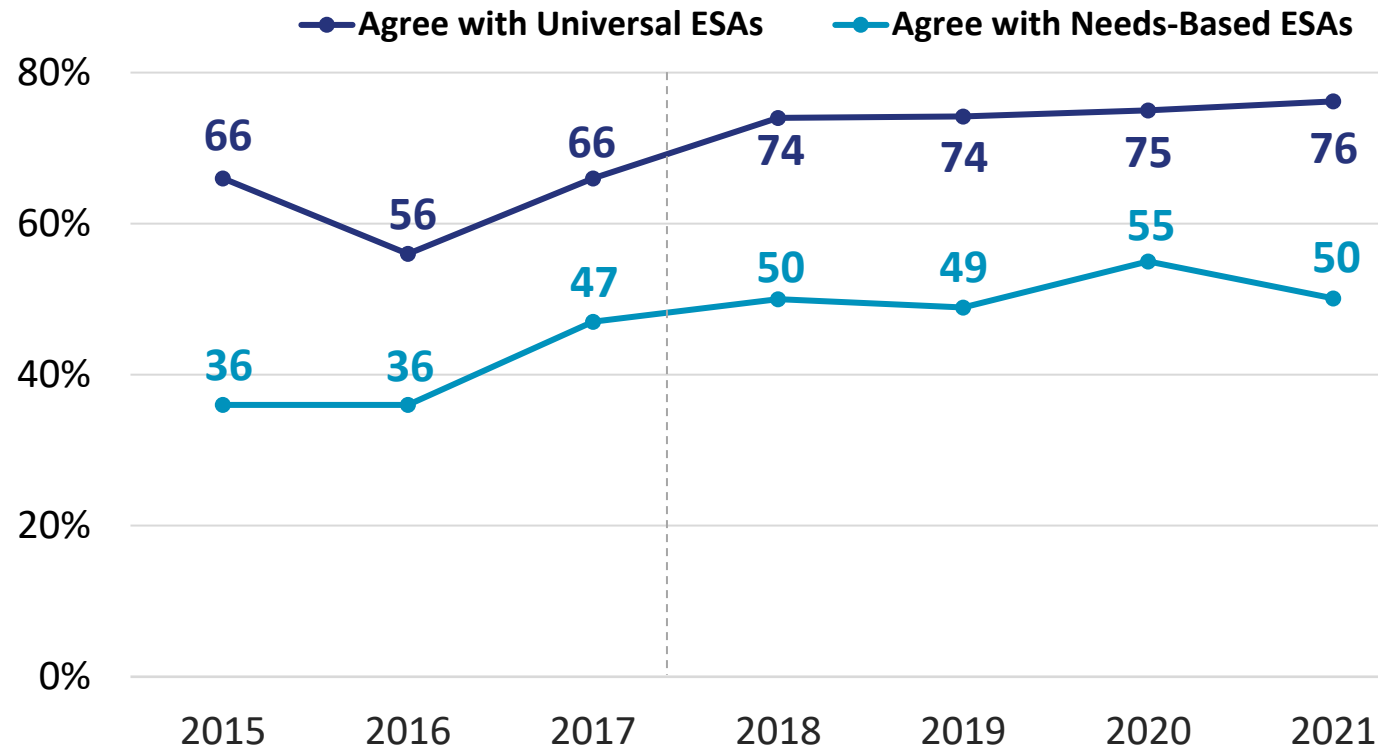
UNIVERSAL VS. NEEDS-BASED EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2021. Volunteered responses not shown. "Don't Know, Refusals, nor skips reflected in this chart.

Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q23; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2020* (Wave 2); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

More than three-fourths of the public support universal ESAs—a similar result to what we have observed in recent years.

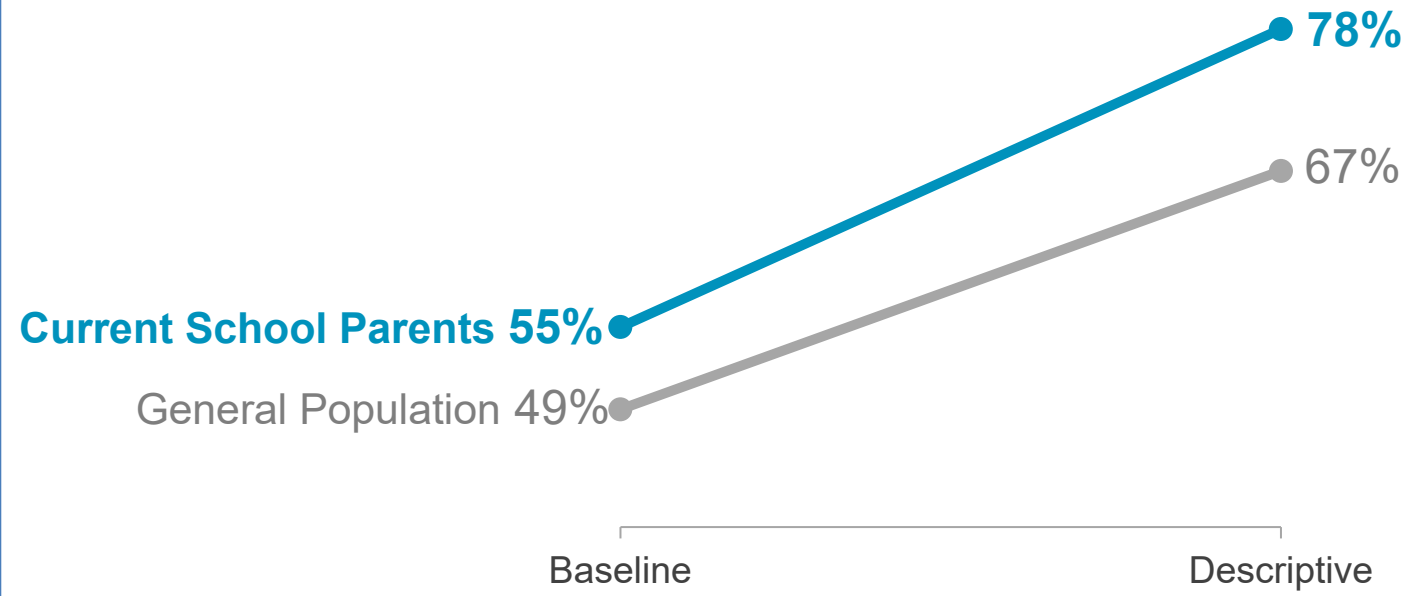
% of General Population by Split Sample



SCHOOL VOUCHERS FAVORABILITY

When given a description of school vouchers, support increased by 23 points for parents and 18 points for the general population.

% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"



Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q17 and Q18

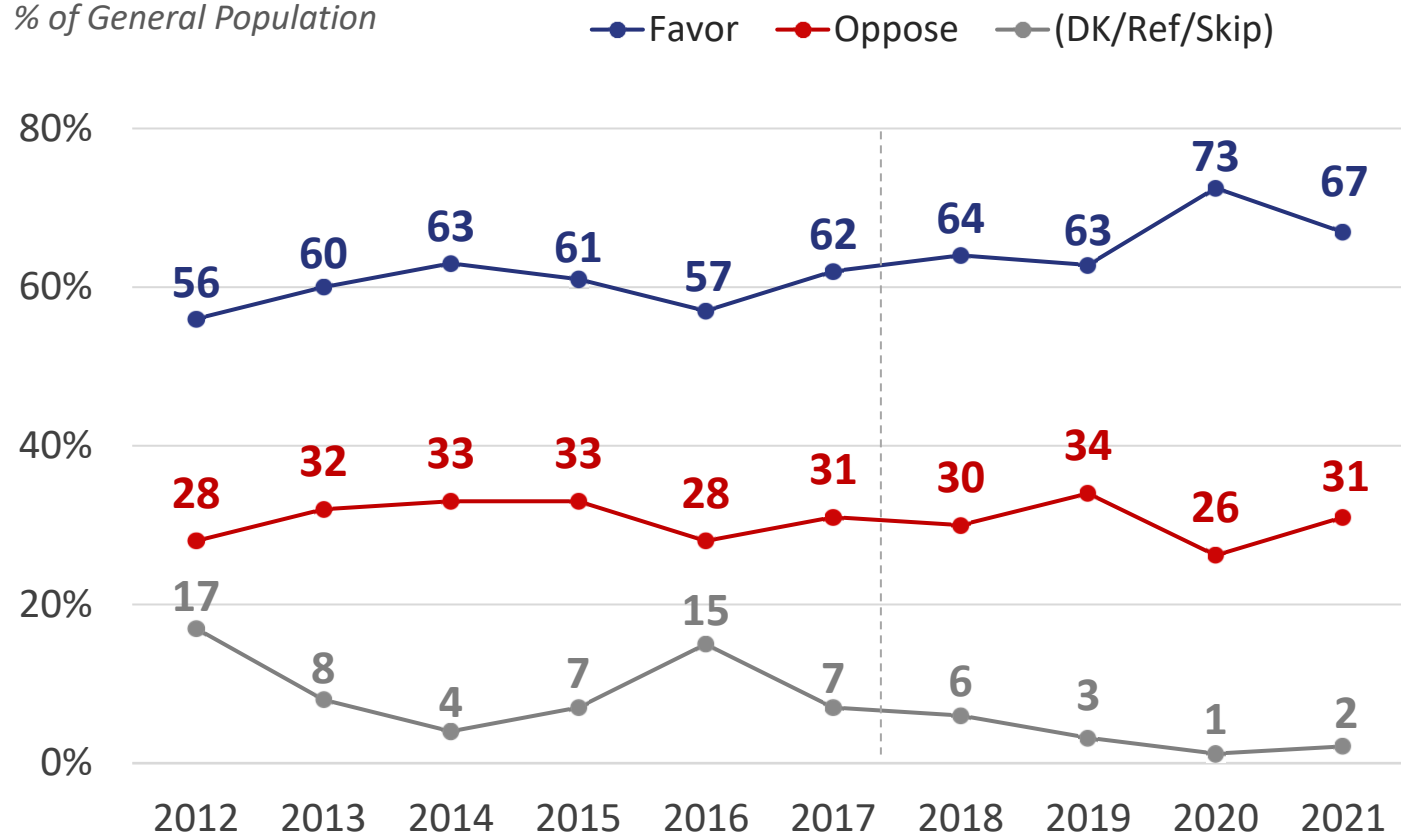
SCHOOL VOUCHERS FAVORABILITY

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2021. 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, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q18; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2020 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

Two-thirds of the public support school vouchers. The level of overall support has decreased six points since Fall 2020—but remains higher than all years prior to the pandemic.

% of General Population

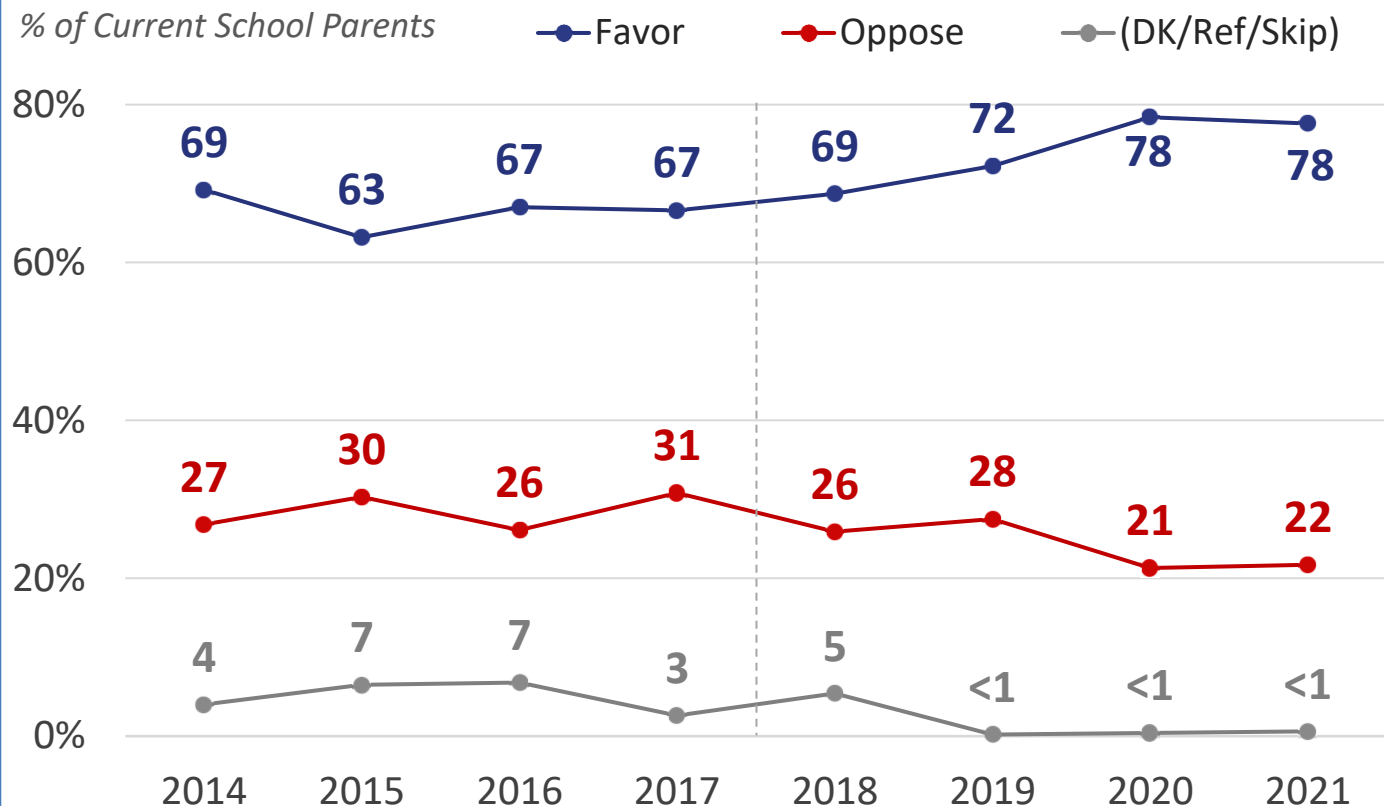


SCHOOL VOUCHERS FAVORABILITY

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2021. 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.

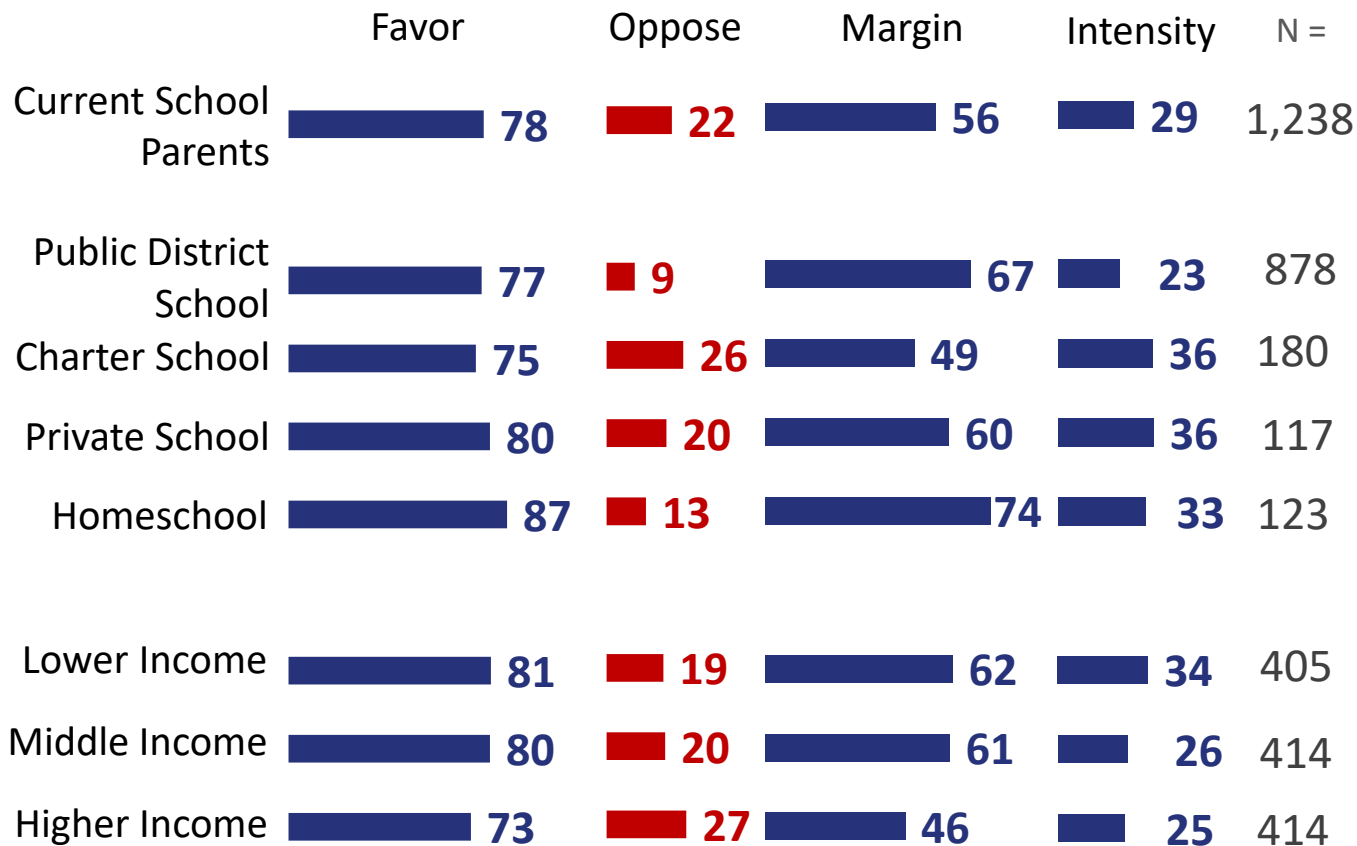
Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q18; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2020 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

Nearly 80 percent of parents support school vouchers—unchanged since last year. They are at least two times more likely to support vouchers than oppose such a policy.



VIEWS ON SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Across various demographics, parents are very favorable of school vouchers. One out of four charter school parents and higher-income parents are opposed to vouchers as policy.



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

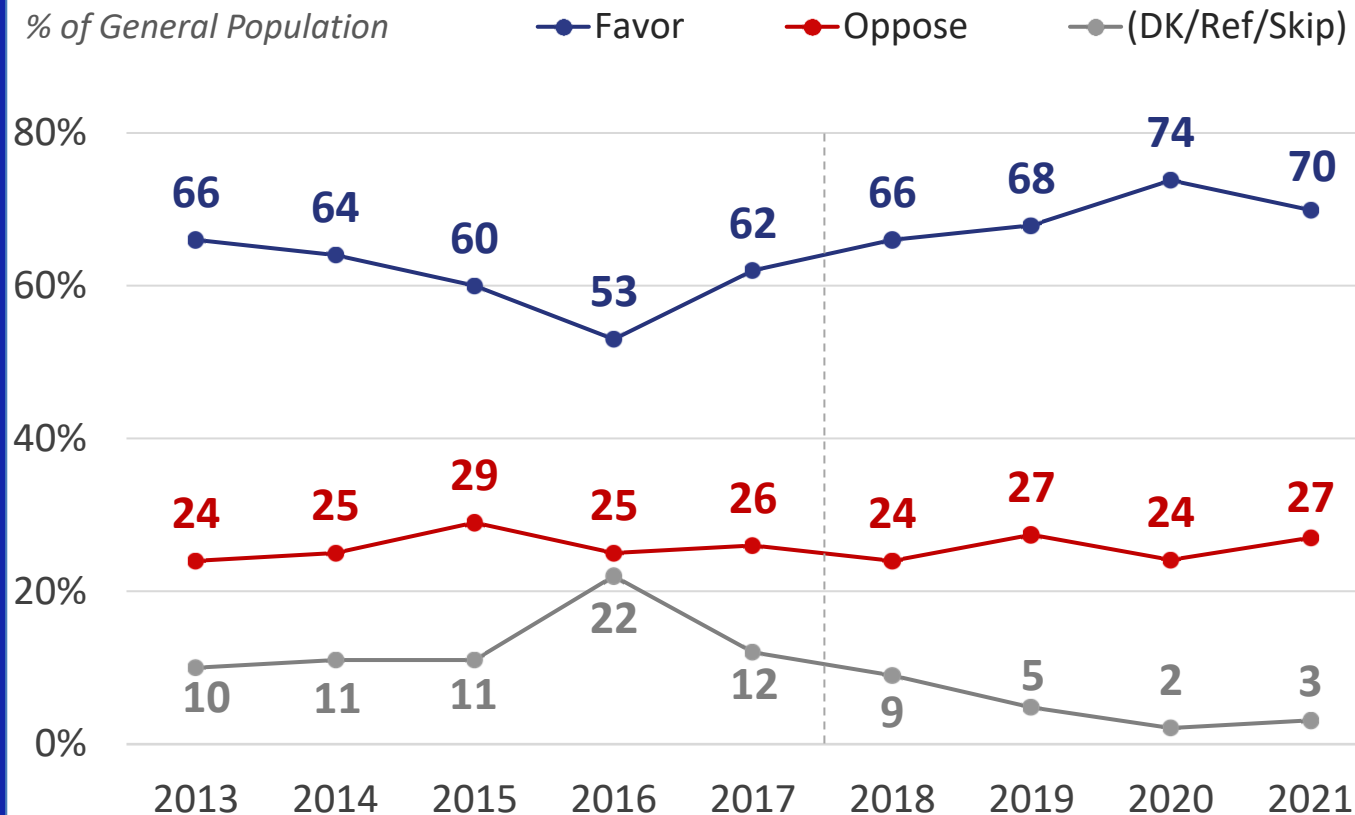
Sources: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q17

TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP FAVORABILITY

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2021. 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.

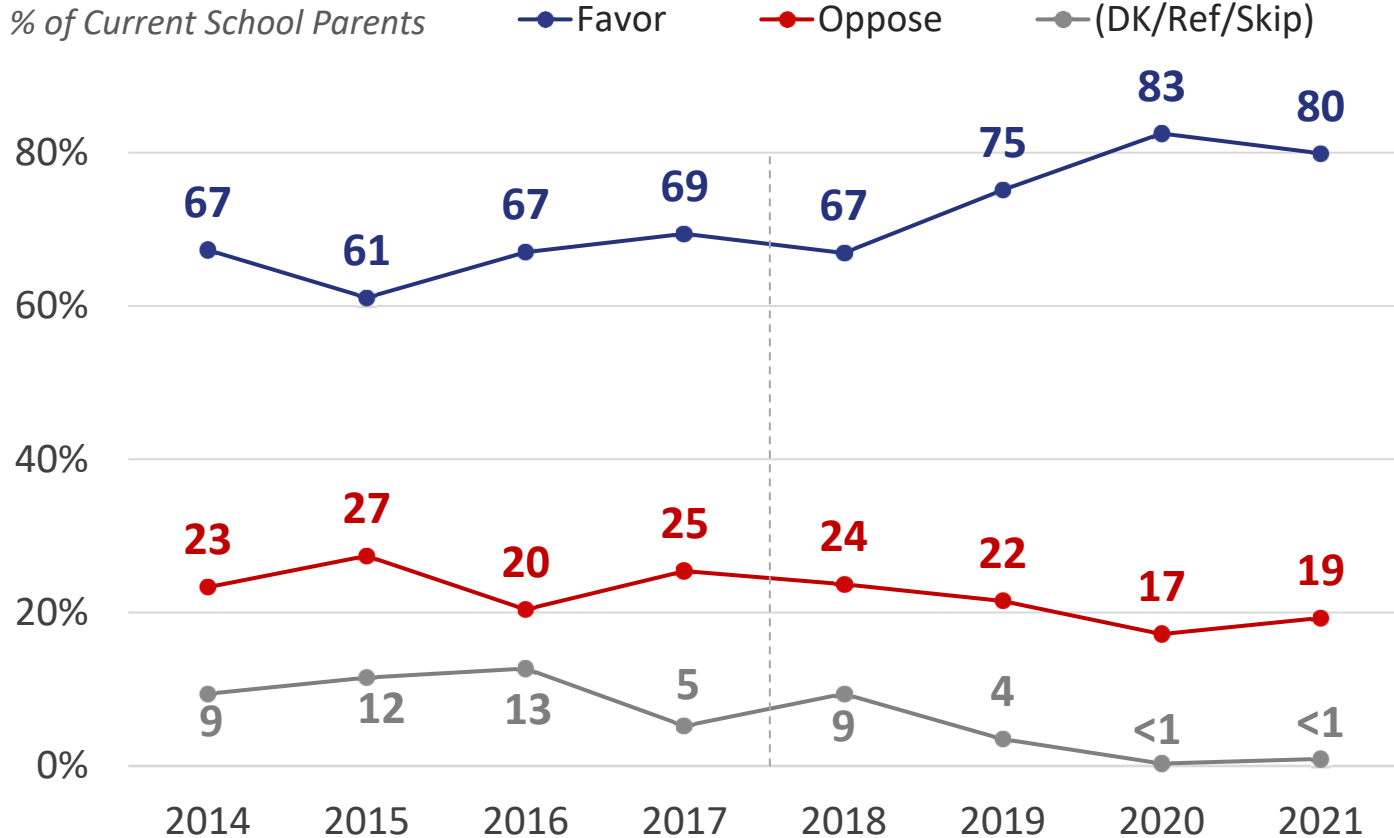
Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q24; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2020 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

Seven out of 10 Americans support tax-credit scholarships—higher than all years prior to 2020.



TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP FAVORABILITY

Eight out of 10 school parents support tax-credit scholarships—higher than all years prior to 2020. Parents are three times more likely to support tax-credit scholarships than they are to oppose.

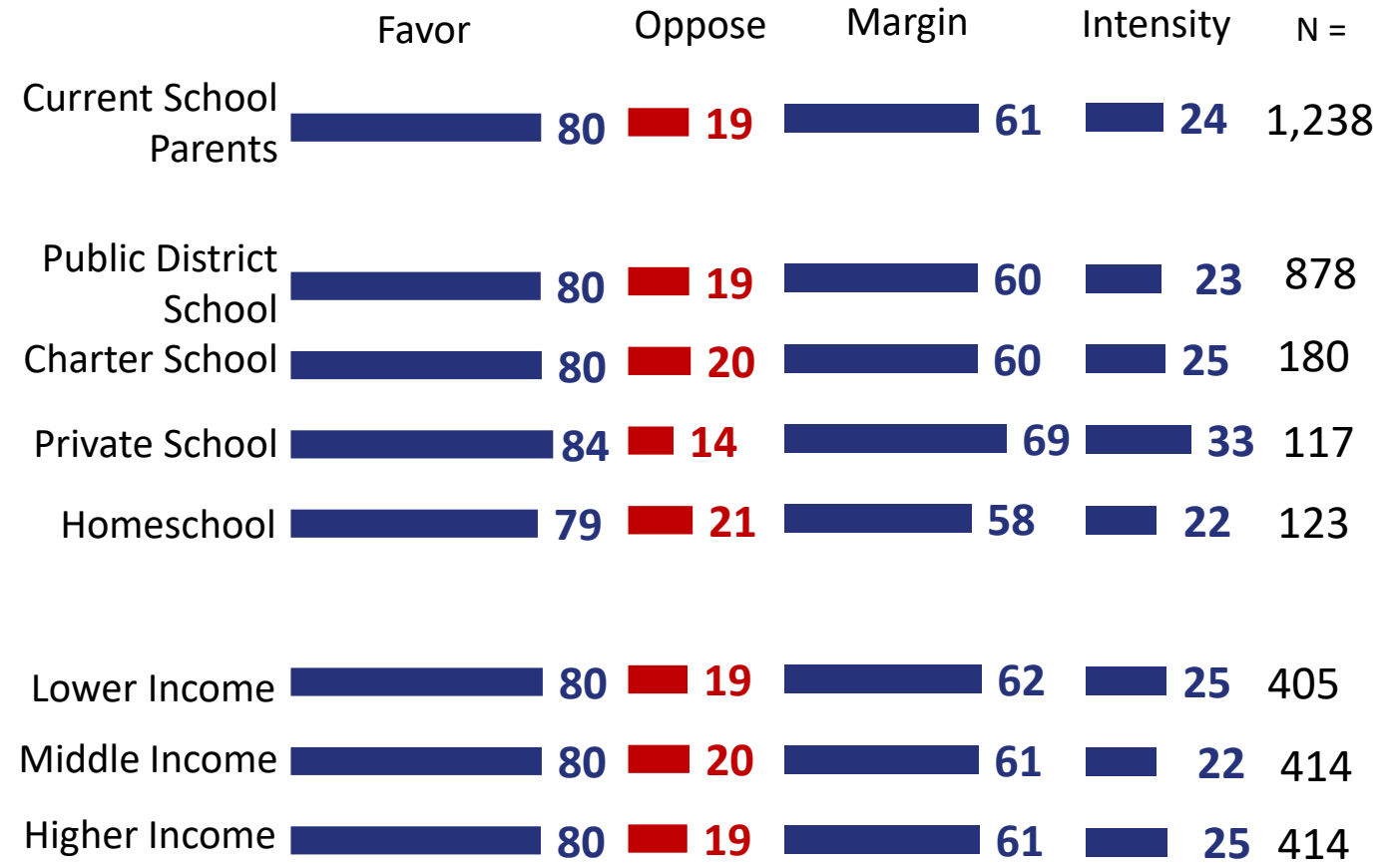


Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2021. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q24; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2020* (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

VIEWS ON TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Across various demographics, parents are very favorable of tax-credit scholarships.

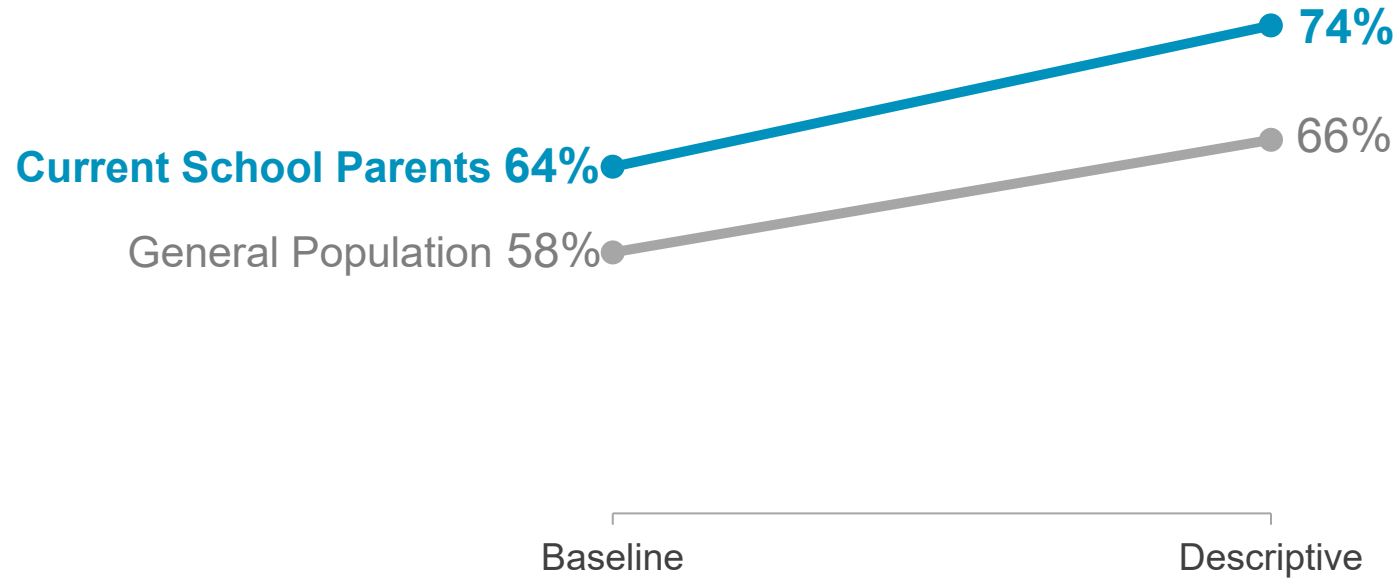


Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.
 Sources: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q24

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, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q15 and Q16

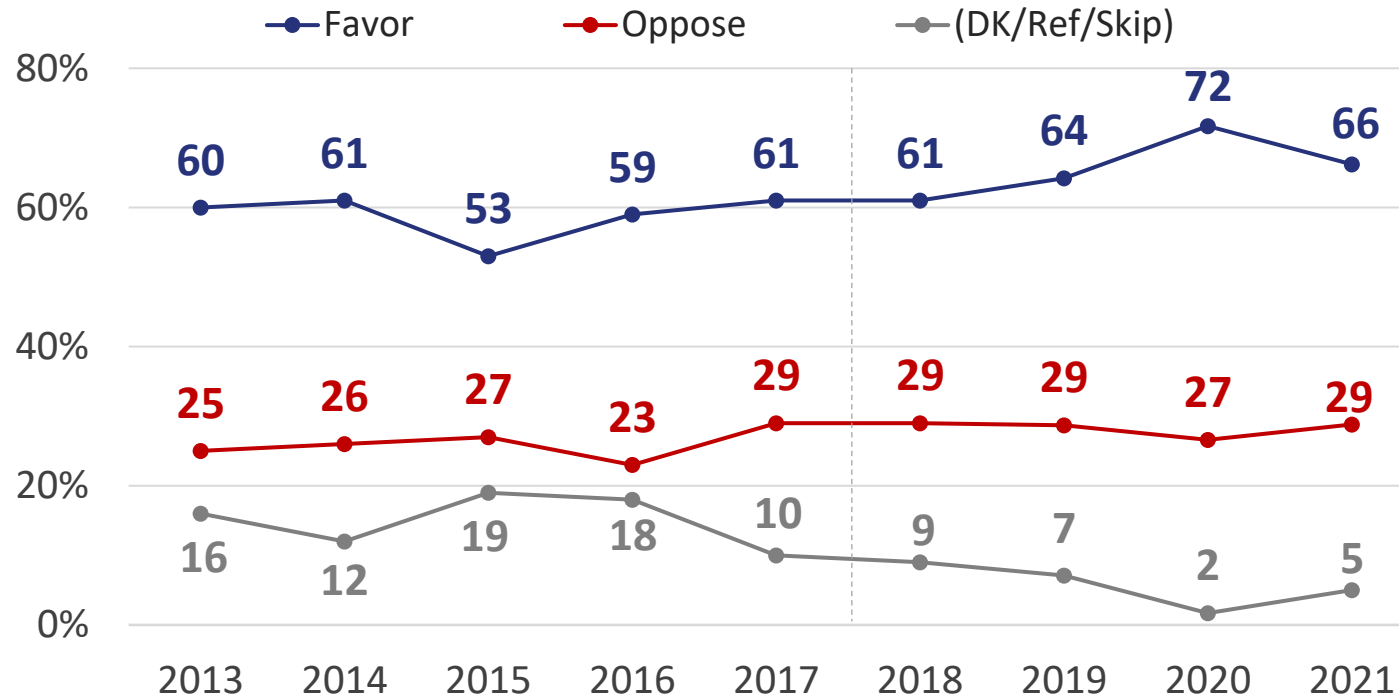
CHARTER SCHOOLS FAVORABILITY

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2021. 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, *2021 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q15; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2020* (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

Nearly two out of three Americans favor charter schools—higher than all years prior to 2020.

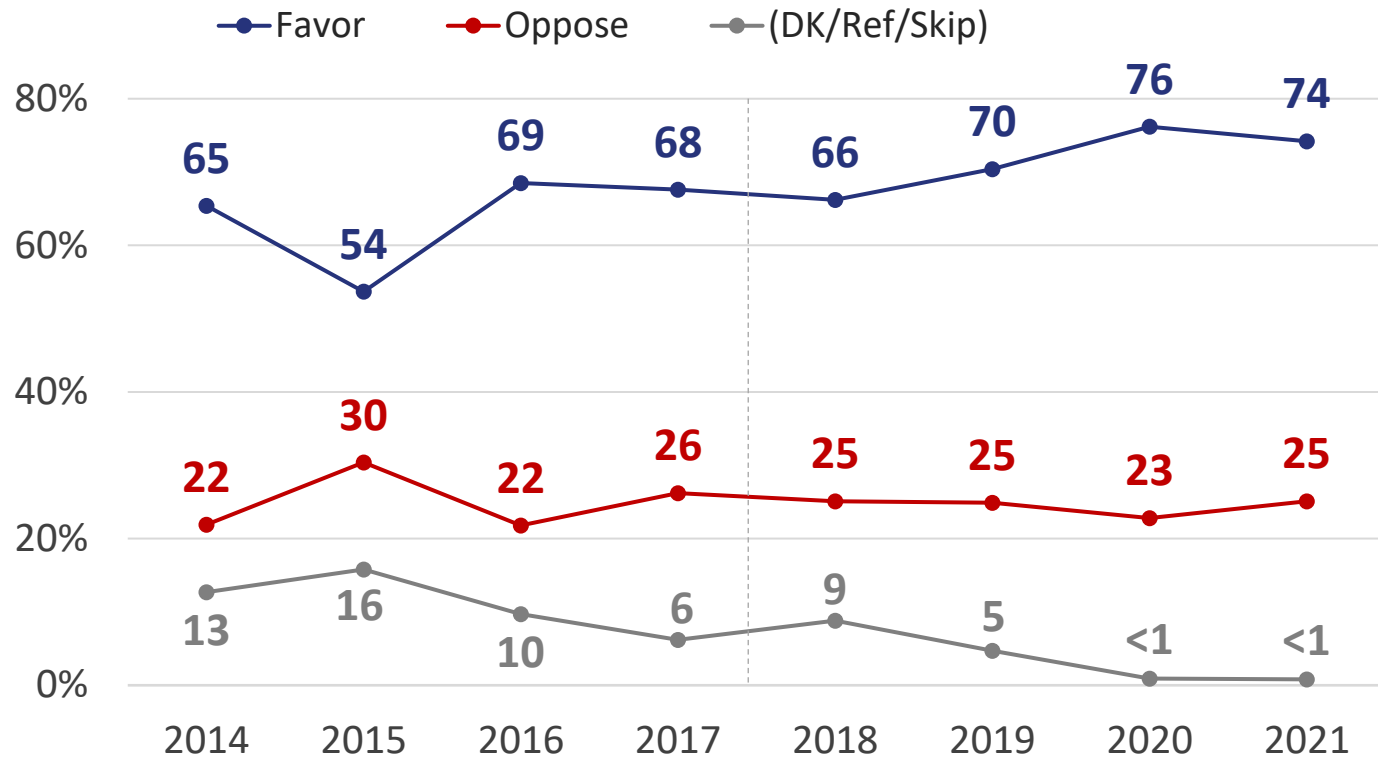
% of General Population



CHARTER SCHOOLS FAVORABILITY

Nearly three out of four current school parents support charter schools—higher than all years prior to 2020. Parents are two times more likely to support charters than oppose them.

% of Current School Parents

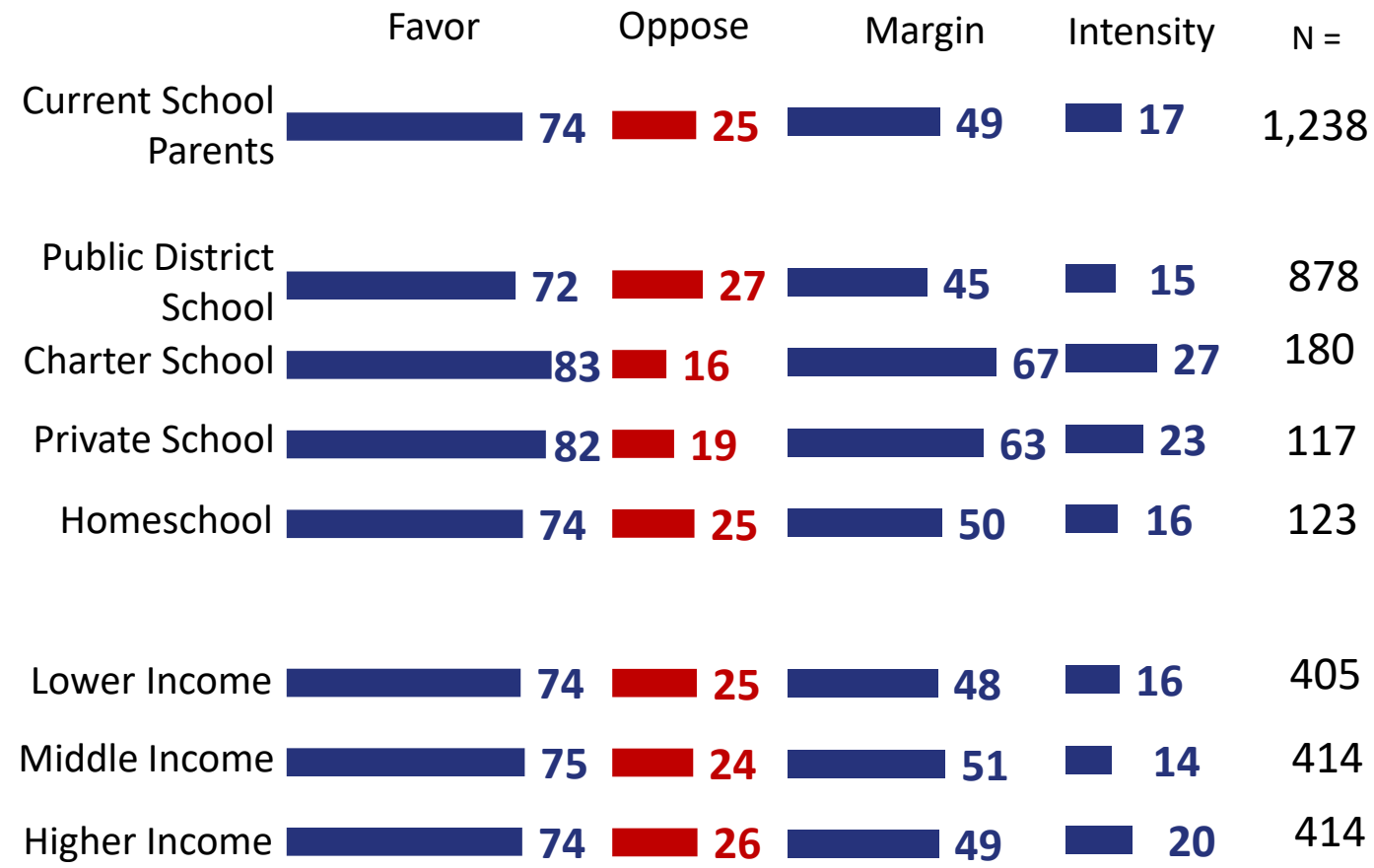


Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2021. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, 2021 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q15; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2019* (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

VIEWS ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

Across various demographics, parents are very favorable of charter schools.



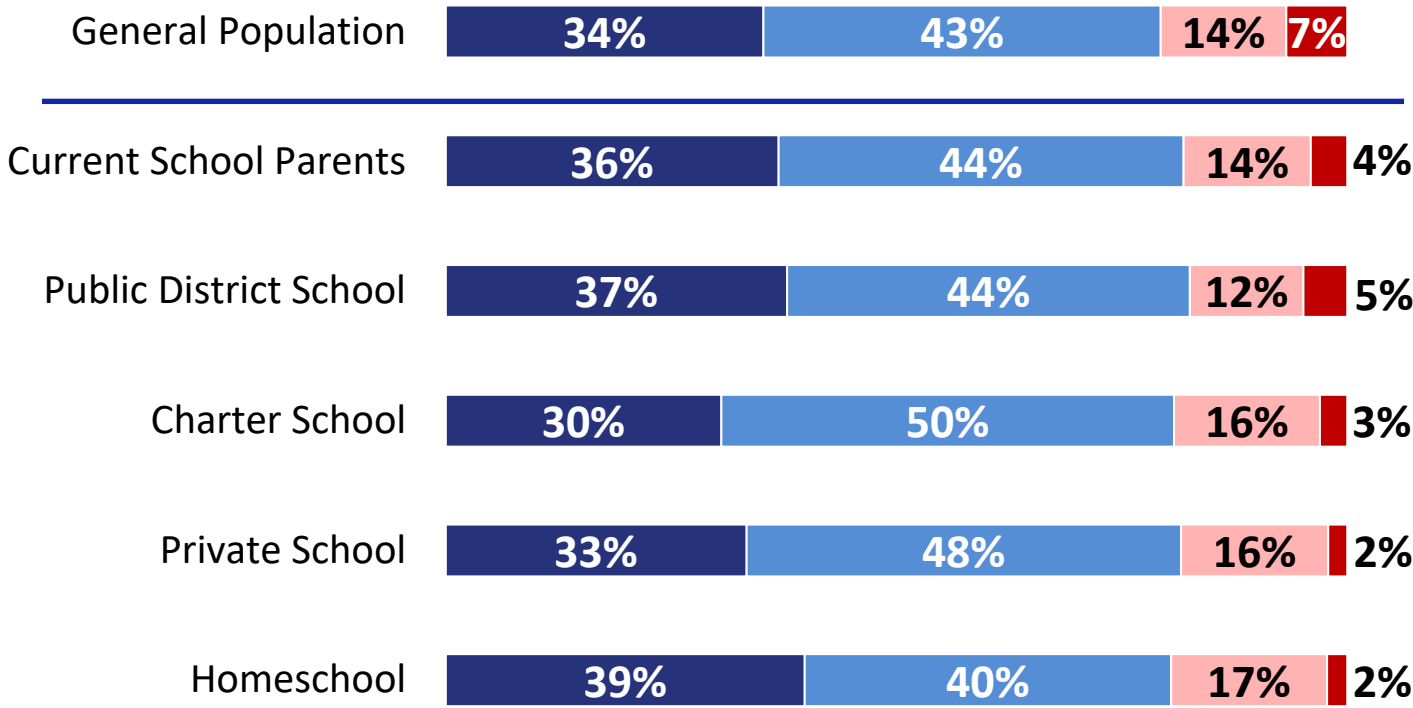
Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.
 Sources: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q15

VIEWS ON INTRA-DISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

Public district school parents and homeschoolers are most likely to favor students being allowed to transfer to another public school within their resident school district.

% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"

Strongly Favor | **Somewhat Favor** | **Somewhat Oppose** | **Strongly Oppose**

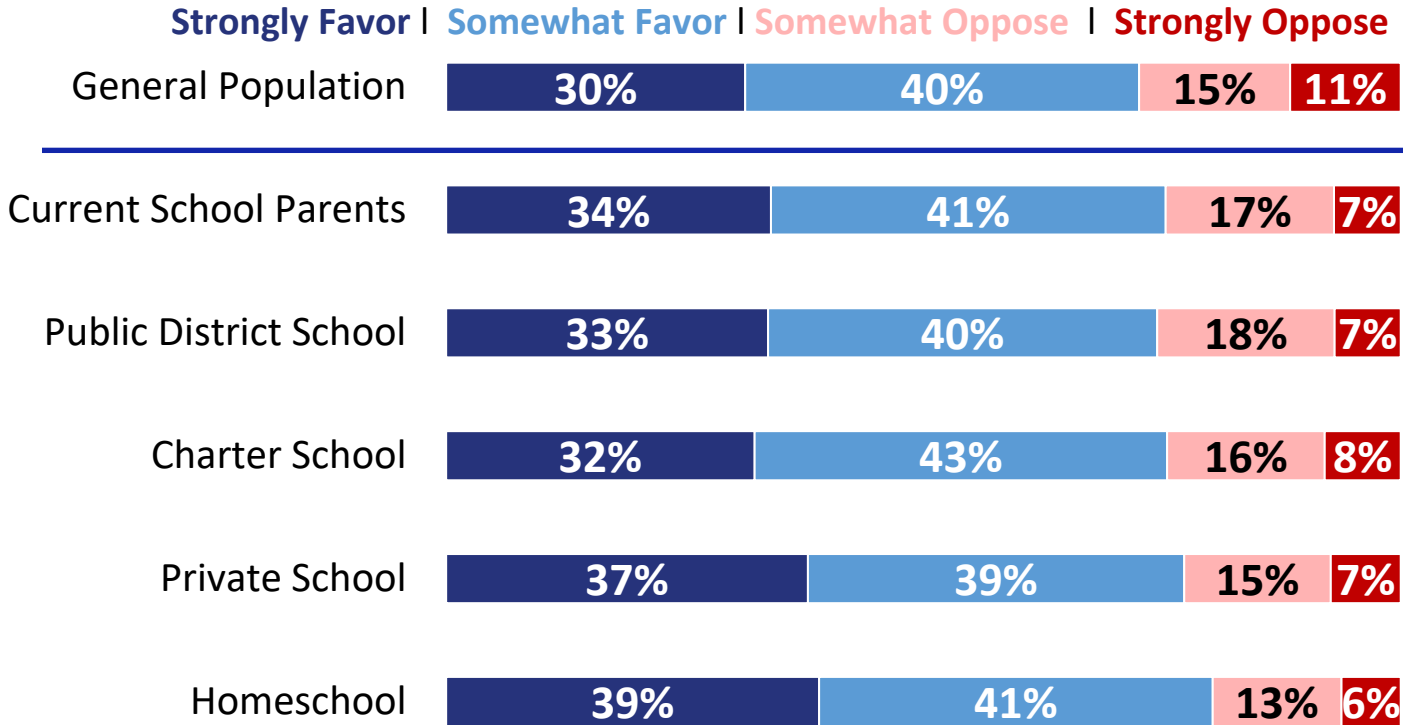


Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q25

VIEWS ON INTER-DISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

Homeschool parents are most likely to favor students being allowed to transfer to a public school in another district.

% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"

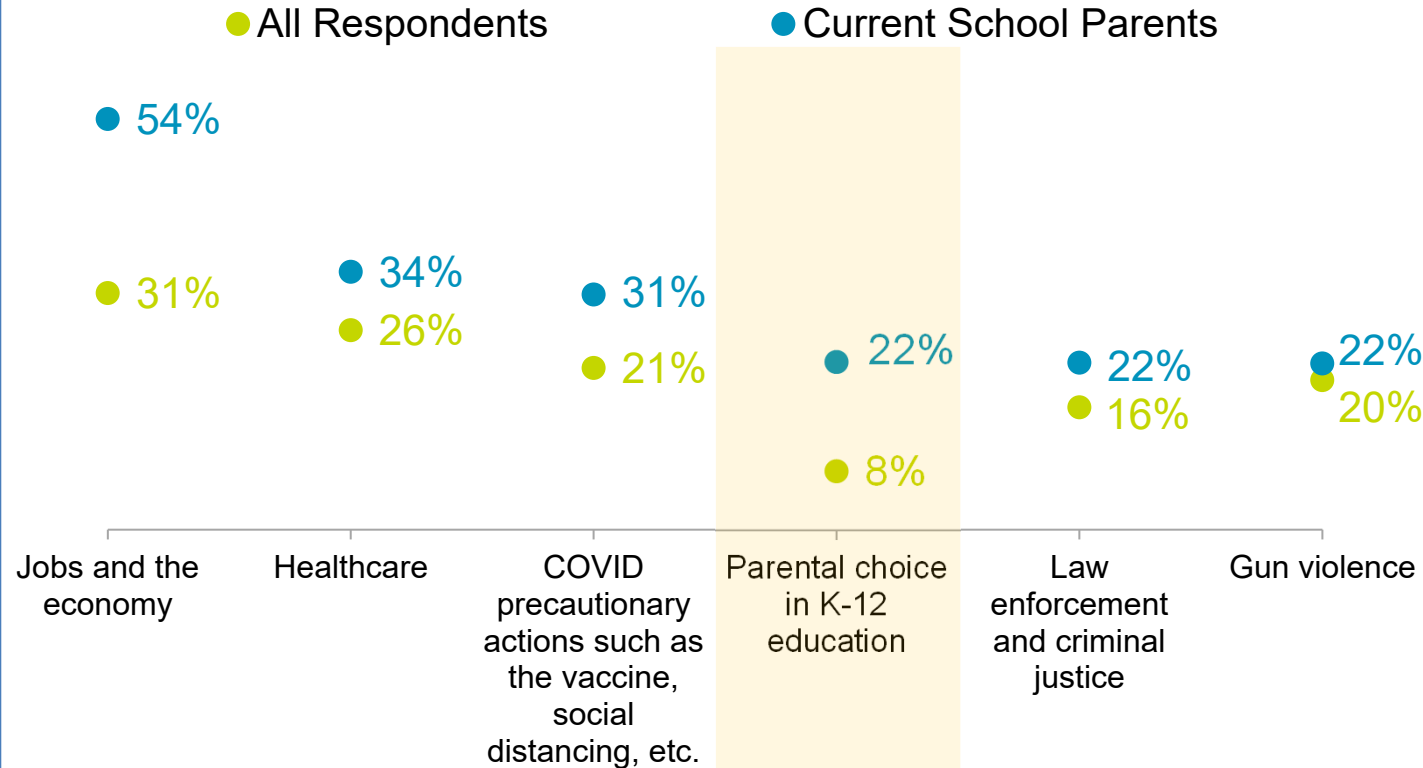


Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q25

PRIORITIZING ISSUES

Nearly three times as many parents say parental choice in K–12 education is one of the top three issues to them right now when compared to all respondents.

% of Respondents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3

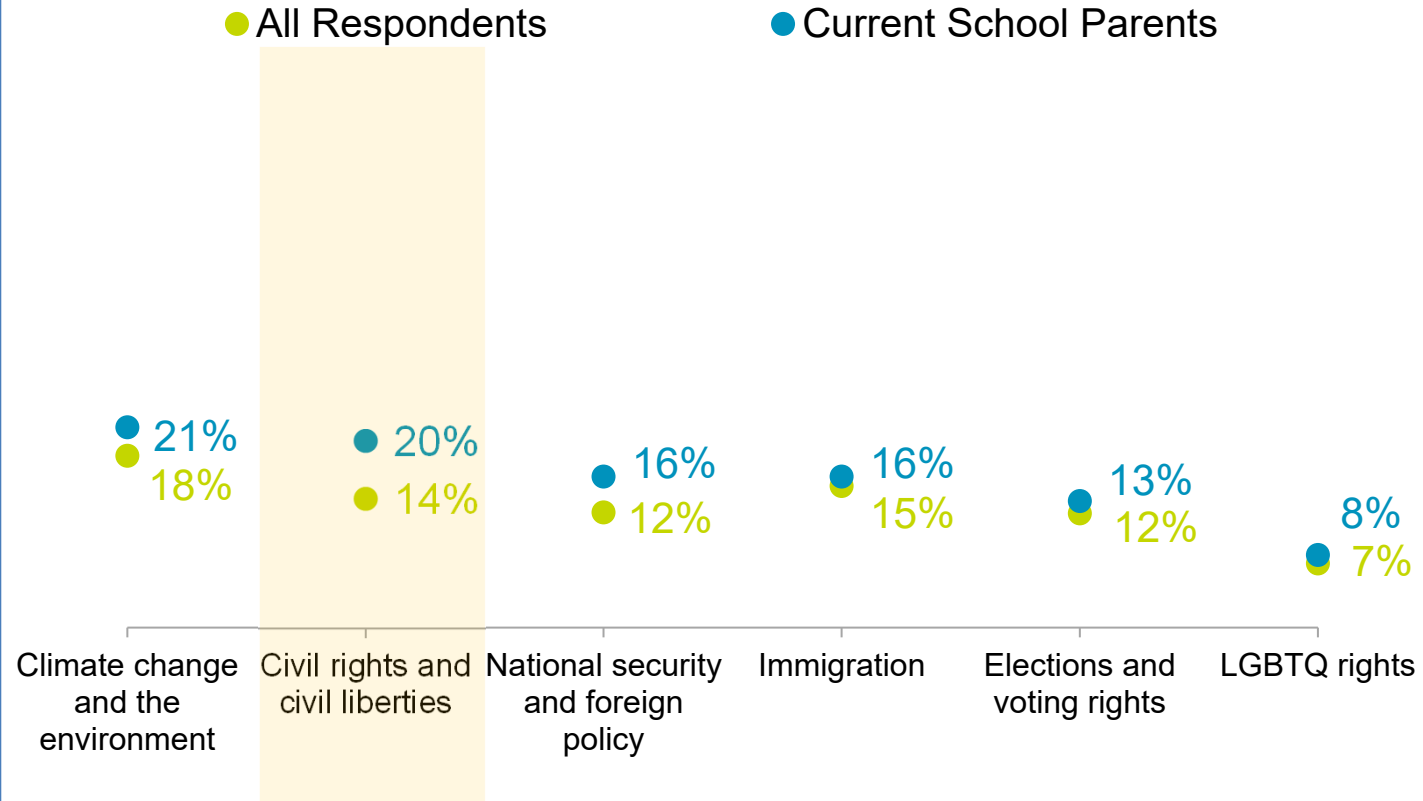


Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q1SSUES

PRIORITIZING ISSUES

Parents are more likely to say civil rights/civil liberties should be a priority right now, compared to all respondents.

% of Respondents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3

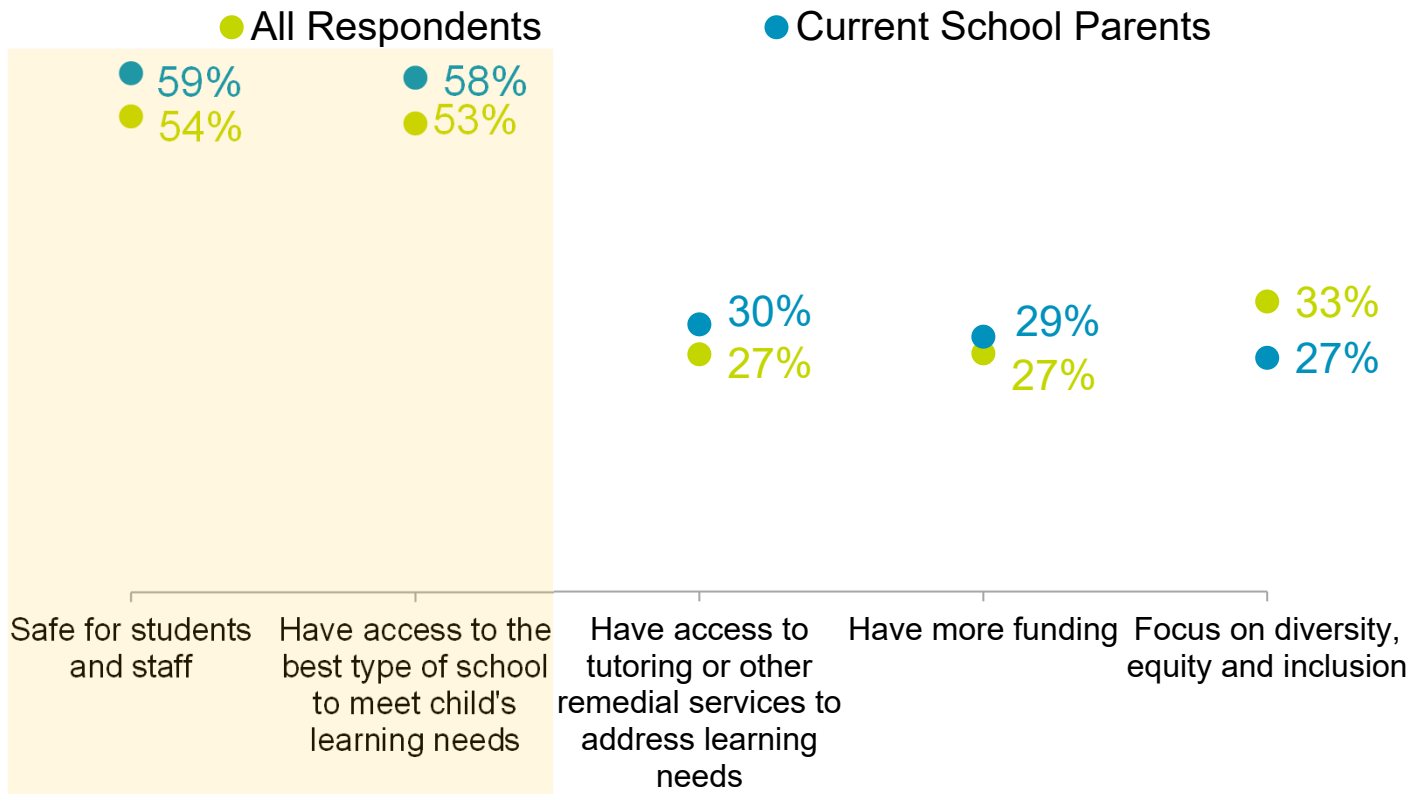


Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), Q155

RANKING STATEMENTS

Nearly 60 percent of parents said student safety and having access to the best type of school to meet a child’s learning needs should be top priorities in the area of K–12 education. More than half of all respondents said the same.

% of Respondents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3

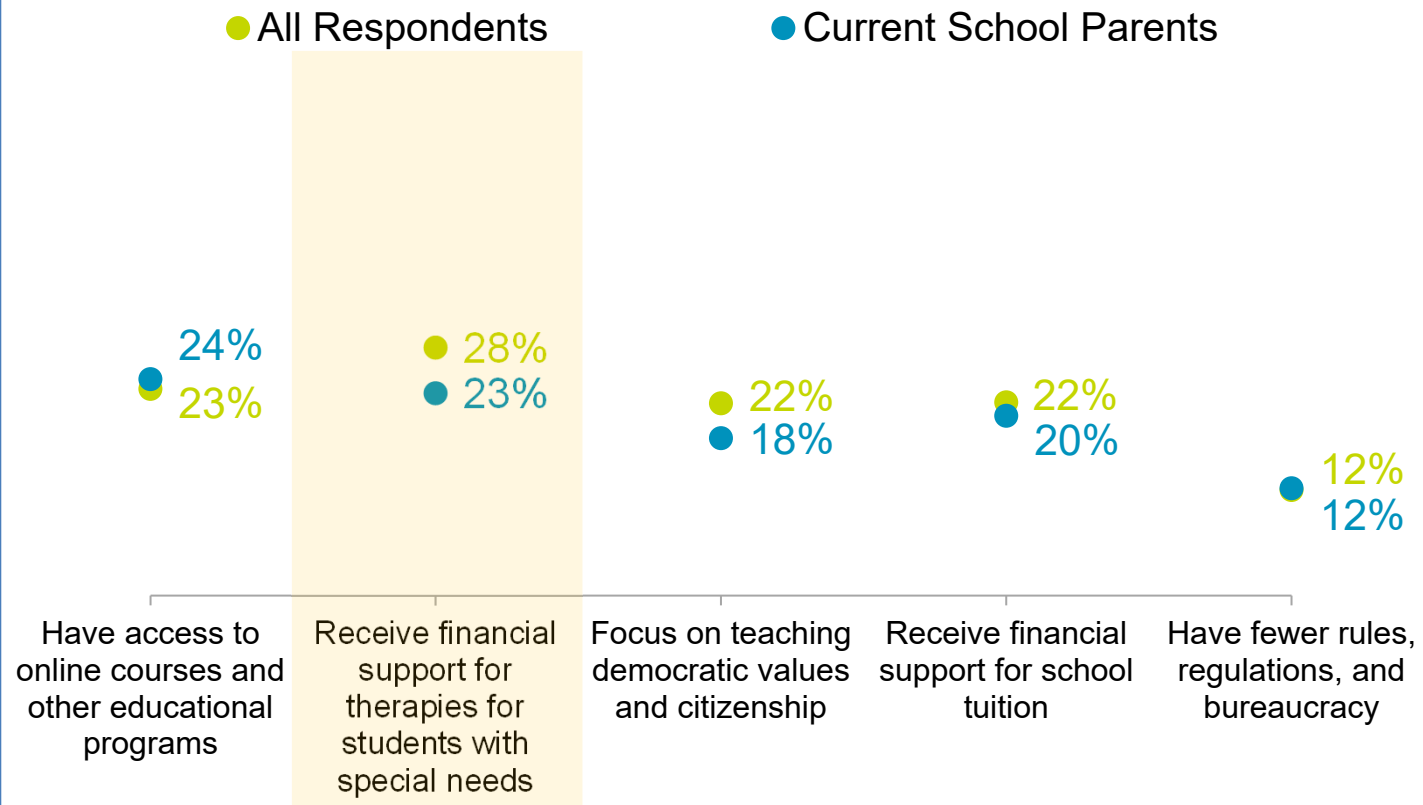


Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), QSTATEMENTS1

RANKING STATEMENTS

Parents are more likely than the general public to say receiving financial support for special needs therapies is one of their top three issues in the area of K–12 education

% of Respondents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3



Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted June 14–July 8, 2021), QSTATEMENTS1

SURVEY PROFILE

Administration/Fielding Dates	June 14 to July 8, 2021
Sponsor and Developer	EdChoice
Administration, Data Collection and Quality Control	Braun Research, Inc.
Population	General Population (Adults, Age 18+)
Sampling Frame	National sample of adults (age 18+) living in the United States, including D.C.
Sampling Method	<u>Mixed Method</u> Phone: Probability-based; Dual frame Online: Non-probability-based; Opt-in panel
Mode	Phone for General Population, N = 404 - Cell Phone = 75% - Landline = 25% Online for General Population, N = 805 Phone/Online for School Parents, N = 1,238

SURVEY PROFILE

Languages	English; Spanish option
Median Survey Time	Phone (General Population): 20 minutes Online (General Population, Not School Parents): 16.4 minutes Online (School Parents): 16.8 minutes
Sample Sizes	General Population, N = 1,209 School Parents (Plus Oversample), N = 1,238
Quotas	African-American School Parents, N = 203 [200] Hispanic School Parents, N = 252 [200]
Weighting	<i>General Population</i> – Age, Census Division, Gender, Ethnicity, Race, Education, Phone Usage <i>School Parents</i> – Age, Census Region, Gender, Race

Questionnaire and topline results:

<https://www.edchoice.org/research/2021-schooling-in-america>

Project Contact Paul DiPerna, paul@edchoice.org

REPORTED POPULATIONS AND SAMPLE 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	1,238
Public District School	878
Charter School	187
Private School	119
Homeschool	117
Lower Income	377
Middle Income	433
Higher Income	424

About EdChoice

EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our team is driven by the shared mission to advance freedom and choice in K–12 education where all families, regardless of race, origin or family income, are free to choose a learning environment—public or private, near or far, religious or secular—that works best for their children.

Learn more at: edchoice.org

About Braun Research

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 more than 25 years Braun Research has conducted over 11,000 research projects by telephone, internet, and mail worldwide.

The work we execute requires us to perform all work up to standards required by the various research organizations such as American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). Paul Braun has served as a past President of the New Jersey Chapter of AAPOR.

Learn more at: braunresearch.com