



2022 SCHOOLING IN AMERICA

*Exploring 10 Years of Public
Opinion on K–12 Education*

SCHOOLING IN AMERICA SURVEY AT 10 YEARS

This year marks the 10th year of the Schooling in America (SIA) survey series. EdChoice—then known as the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice—launched our annual national poll in 2013, after several years of exclusively conducting and reporting state-level polls. Braun Research has been a wonderful survey data partner throughout the lifetime of this series. We are grateful for their partnership and excellent work.

EdChoice's annual survey began as private school choice programs started to launch and expand on an unprecedented scale. No Child Left Behind was mostly fading out in the rearview mirror. Common Core was hitting a fever pitch in states and local school districts. Some districts were trying out parent trigger policies. Those developments and issues would have downstream implications for school politics, parent organizing, testing, and accountability that continue to reverberate to this day. Even as America continues its slow emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic, in many cases what was old is now new again.

That first SIA survey, conducted in April 2013, contained more than a dozen questions that we still ask in our polling. Our methods have updated over time. Initially we conducted interviews only by phone. Since 2017, we have taken a mixed mode approach. We still include phone interviews for SIA, but mostly administer the survey online now.

SCHOOLING IN AMERICA SURVEY AT 10 YEARS

On what topics have we had a laser focus? To stay true to our organization's mission we prioritize questions gauging public opinion on school/educational choice policies, as well as parents' schooling experiences and preferences. These areas are foundational for SIA and to track annually over time. K–12 education funding and spending is another longstanding area of interest. Our experiments (as well as others') show a consistent knowledge gap and information effects for views on K–12 education spending. We have also tried to show differences, similarities, and trends based on parent experiences in different schooling sectors.

Each year we also attempt to stay timely with current developments regarding school choice or K–12 education. In some years we have asked new questions to meet the attention and concerns of the day. The most recent examples include schooling during the pandemic, and this year, expanding questions about funding and K–12 education spending. In the past we have also focused attention on the experiences of specific populations, such as Small Town-Rural residents, Millennials, Black and Latino parents, and Homeschoolers.

Our annual SIA reports are heavy on polling data and short, concise descriptives. We continue to let the charts, numbers, trends, and key findings do most of the talking. We do our best to avoid overstating findings or other hyperbole.

SCHOOLING IN AMERICA SURVEY AT 10 YEARS

To earn your trust we aspire to be as transparent as possible. That is a major reason why, in 2015, we applied for and received charter membership to be part of the Transparency Initiative, overseen by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR).

In the SIA survey series, we set out to ask clear, understandable questions, collect revealing response data, and report findings in a non-partisan way. Our mission at EdChoice establishes our priorities. Our commitment to producing informative and useful survey research guides our approach to methods, data collection, and reporting.

A special feature of this year's SIA survey includes questions we asked the public and parents about their knowledge, perceptions, and opinions on K–12 education funding and spending. We also asked about considering tradeoffs, a fundamental part of school politics and policymaking. With federal pandemic relief funding still flowing in states and districts, we felt now was a good time to take a deeper dive into funding/spending topics. In this report, we attempt to draw attention and show how the American public and parents navigate and respond to the complexities of these important issues.



Vice President of Research and Innovation

KEY FINDINGS

- **The general public and school parents are more likely to be pessimistic about the direction of K–12 education in the country but are trending in opposite directions.**
 - About one-third of American adults believe K–12 education is heading in the right direction—an 8-point decrease since 2021. Just under half (48%) of parents believe K–12 education is heading in the right direction, which is 4 points higher than last year.

- **Parents’ Experiences**
 - Most parents are satisfied with their children’s school, but private school parents are more likely to say that they are satisfied (78%) than any other group by school type. Private school parents have been more likely than parents of any other schooling sector to say they are very satisfied since 2018.
 - Priorities vary across different parent groups of schoolers. Parents of children attending public district schools are most likely to name location (38%), although this has decreased 11 percentage points since 2019. Private school parents primarily said they made their choice because of academic reputation (41%)—a 9-point increase since 2019—or safe environment (30%)—a 3-point increase since 2019. Public charter school parents highly valued academic quality or reputation, with more than half (52%) placing it in their top three reasons for selecting a school type—a 16-point increase since 2019. Homeschoolers’ top priorities are having a safe environment (40%)—a 1-point decrease since 2019—and individualized attention (34%)—a 2-point decrease since 2019.
 - Parents are as likely to prefer a public school outside of their district of residence (13%) as a charter school (11%) or homeschooling (11%). Actual enrollment patterns don’t reflect the variety of parents’ schooling preferences. More than four-fifths (82%) of students attend a public district school, but only 42 percent of school parents say that would be their first choice.

KEY FINDINGS

▪ Public School Funding and Spending

- Most Americans (71%) and parents (four out of five) drastically underestimate public school spending. The median respondent for the general public said their state spends \$8,000 per student. Parents were even further off in their estimates (median response: \$5,000 per student).
- When shown the average per-student spending in their states, Americans are less likely to say public school funding is at a level that is “too low.” In a split-sample experiment, we randomly put respondents in two groups and asked slightly different questions. One group did not learn how much money their states spent on public schools; 55 percent of them said public school funding was “too low.” The other group saw a statistic for average state public per-pupil spending (state range: \$8,287–\$25,273 in FY20), and the proportion of that group who said spending was “too low” was only 42 percent. There has been at least a 14-point gap in the “too low” response since 2014 between those not receiving information and those given an actual spending statistic.
- Americans are more likely to believe school spending is ineffective than effective. Nearly one-third (30%) of the general public believes government spending on K–12 education “not that effective” or “not at all effective,” while just 17 percent believes it is “very” or “extremely” effective.

- **Americans are split on some key school spending policies.**
 - More than two out of three *parents* favor their state having a unified system of K–12 funding where dollars follow students to the educational setting of their families' choosing, and 63 percent of *all* Americans favor their state having such a unified funding system.
 - After being told how teacher salaries are currently set according to a pre-determined schedule considering experience and credentials, 54 percent of the general public and 51 percent of parents preferred to keep the status quo. Forty-six percent of the public and 49 percent of parents preferred to pay teachers according to how the market values their skills and knowledge.
 - Fifty-four percent of all respondents and 53 percent of parents are willing to tradeoff larger class sizes for higher teacher salaries rather than have smaller class sizes with lower-paid teachers.
 - Out of the six government entities presented as potential controllers of school spending, none received a plurality of votes as the public's or parents' preference, although local school boards received the most votes.

KEY FINDINGS

▪ Issue Priorities

- Slightly more than one out of four parents say parental choice is one of their top three K–12 education issues out of the 11 we presented. Nineteen percent of all respondents named parental choice as a top three K–12 education issue.
- School safety is the most important K–12 education issue for Americans, with more than half of parents and all respondents naming it among their top three issues. School funding and curriculum were the second- and third-most important issues, respectively.
- Both parents and the general public were most likely to name special education as one of their three most important priorities regarding where school COVID-19 relief funding should be directed. Assistance for homeless students, mental health services, and provision of educational technologies directly to students were the next-highest priorities.

KEY FINDINGS

▪ Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)

- ESAs received more public support (76%) compared to other types of educational choice policies. Just under one out of five (19%) say they oppose ESAs. Levels are relatively unchanged since last year; however, more parents said they had heard of them.
- Our first question about ESAs asked for an opinion without offering any description. On this baseline question, 52 percent of respondents said they favored ESAs. Current school parents expressed higher support (61%). In a follow-up question that described how an ESA program operates, support rose by 25 points among all respondents and 21 points (to 81%) among parents.
- In a split-sample question, three-fourths of the general public (76%) agreed that ESAs should be universally accessible, while 51 percent agreed that ESAs should be limited to those with certain financial needs.

▪ School Vouchers

- On the baseline question about school vouchers—without any description—48 percent of all respondents said they favored the policy. Current school parents expressed higher initial support (59%). In the follow-up question that described how vouchers work, public support rose by 21 points (to 69%) and increased 16 points (to 74%) among current school parents.

KEY FINDINGS

■ Tax-Credit Scholarships

- Two-thirds of all respondents (71%) said they support tax-credit scholarships, while 25 percent are opposed. Current school parents were significantly more likely than the general public to favor such a policy, with four out of five doing so. Support and opposition has changed little since 2019 for the general public and 2020 for parents.

■ Public Charter Schools

- On our first question about public charter schools—without any description—55 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 11 points (to 66%) and increased 12 points (to 76%) among current school parents. This level of parent support matches 2020’s all-time high.

■ Open Enrollment

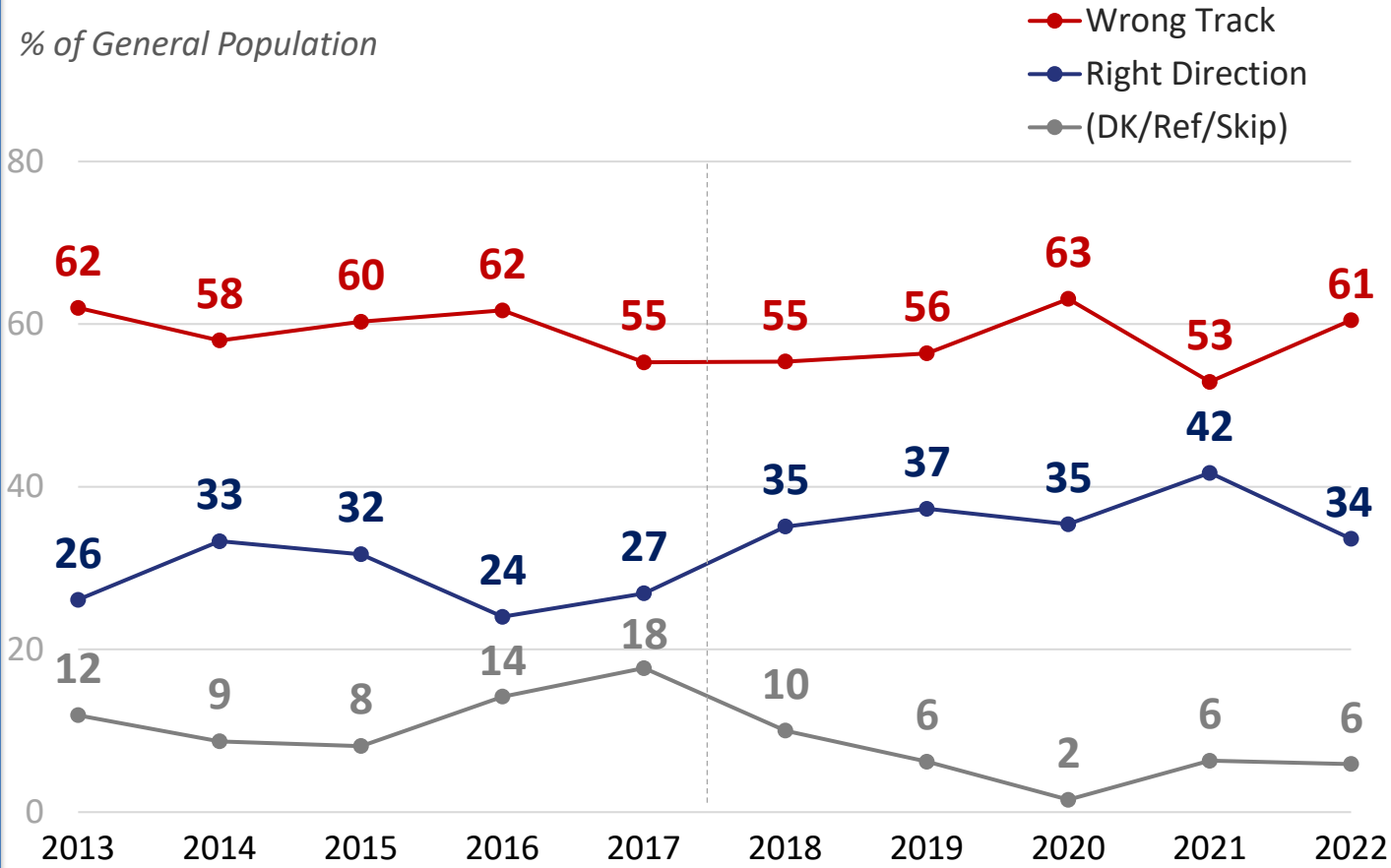
- Very large majorities of the public and school parents support open enrollment policies—regardless of whether that involves transfers within a school district or transfers across school districts. There appears to be a slightly more support for an “intra-district” policy, compared to an “inter-district” one. Parents are 3 percentage points more likely to favor intra-district enrollment than last year, while they are 6 points more likely to favor inter-district enrollment than last year.

■ School Choice

- Parents were seven percentage points more likely to say they had heard of "school choice" and three points more likely to say they favored it compared to last year.

DIRECTION OF K-12 EDUCATION

About one-third of Americans believe K-12 education is heading in the right direction—an 8-point decline since 2021.



Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. 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.

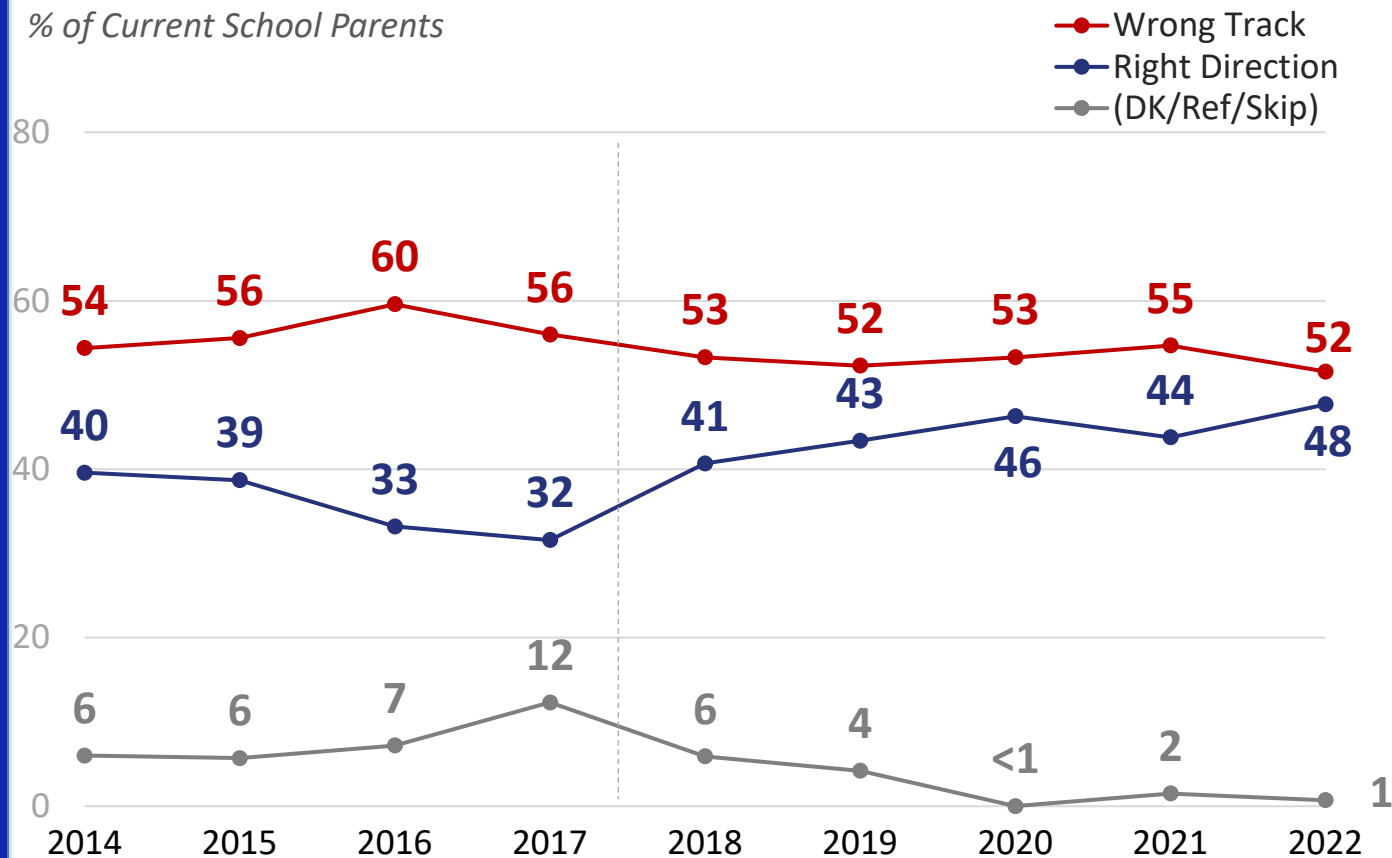
Sources: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q1; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

DIRECTION OF K-12 EDUCATION

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2014–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. 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, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q1; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2014–2015*

Current school parents are slightly more likely to be optimistic about the direction of K–12 education in 2022 than they were in 2021.

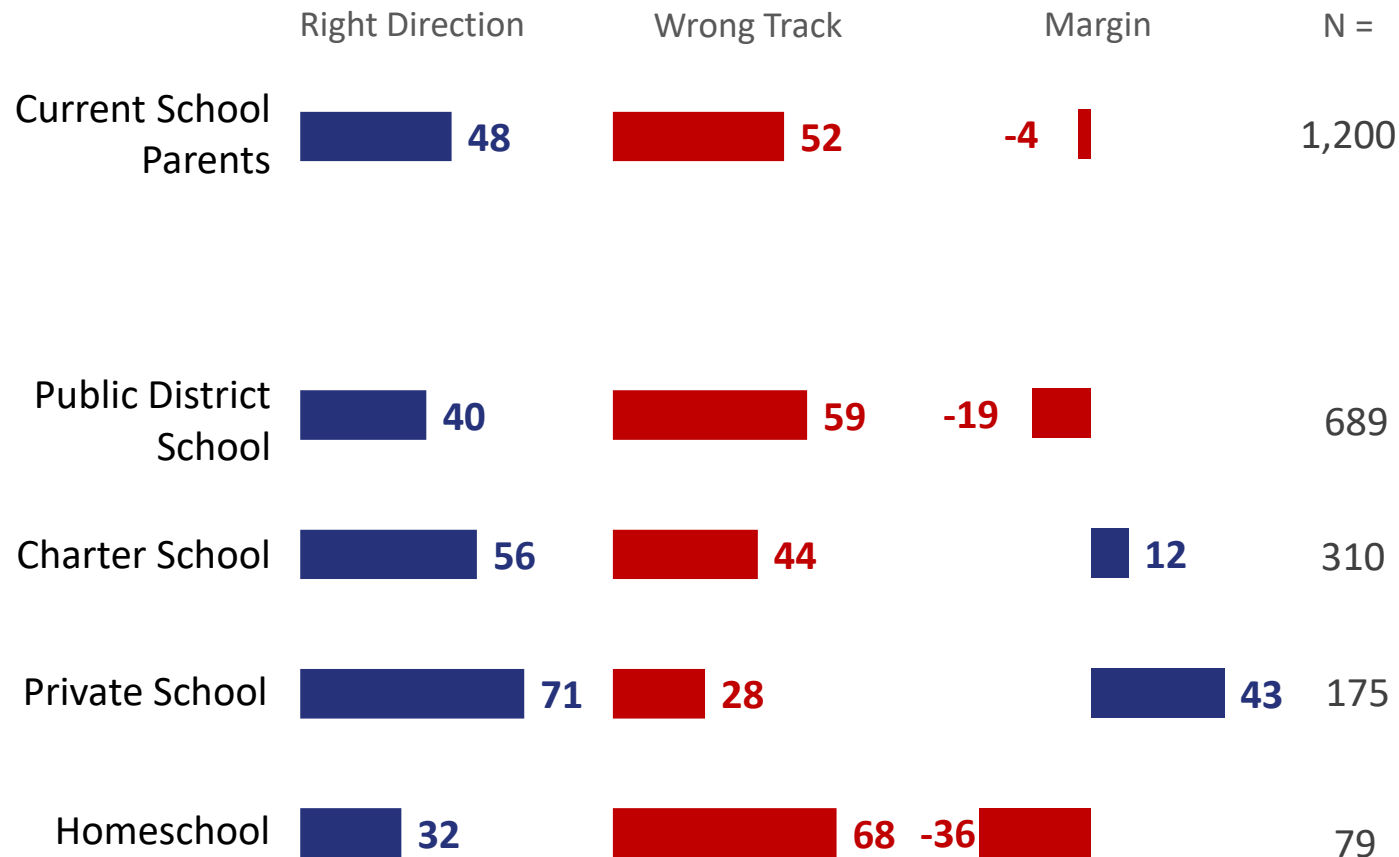


DIRECTION OF K-12 EDUCATION

Notes: All percentages reflect the count of coded responses divided by the total number of applicable interviews. Unweighted N's are provided so the reader can roughly assess the reliability of reported percentages. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Source: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q1

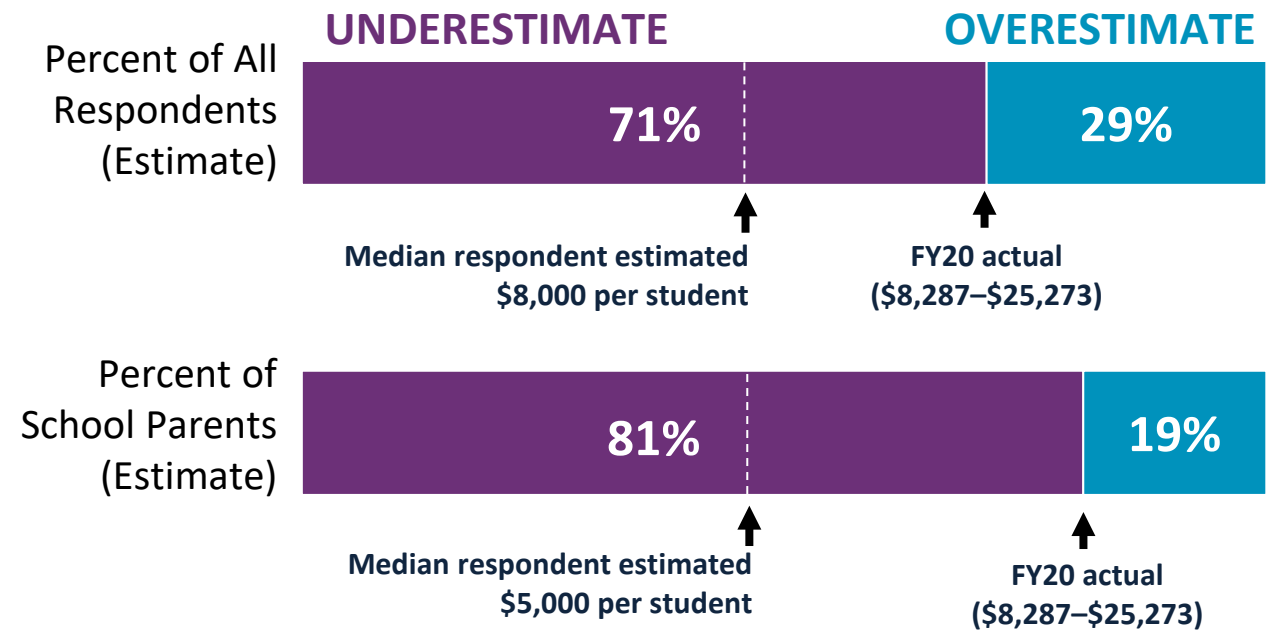
Private school parents are the most positive about K-12 education in America compared to other sectors. Homeschool parents are the most negative.



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
Sources: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q9; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

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:

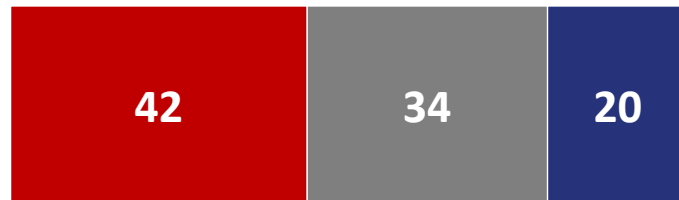
% of General Population by Split Question Version

■ Too Low ■ About Right ■ Too High

Split/Without Information (N = 400)



Split/With Information (N=400)



Notes: All percentages reflect the count of coded responses divided by the total number of applicable interviews. Unweighted N's are provided so the reader can roughly assess the reliability of reported percentages. For the online survey, respondents were permitted to skip the question.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q11

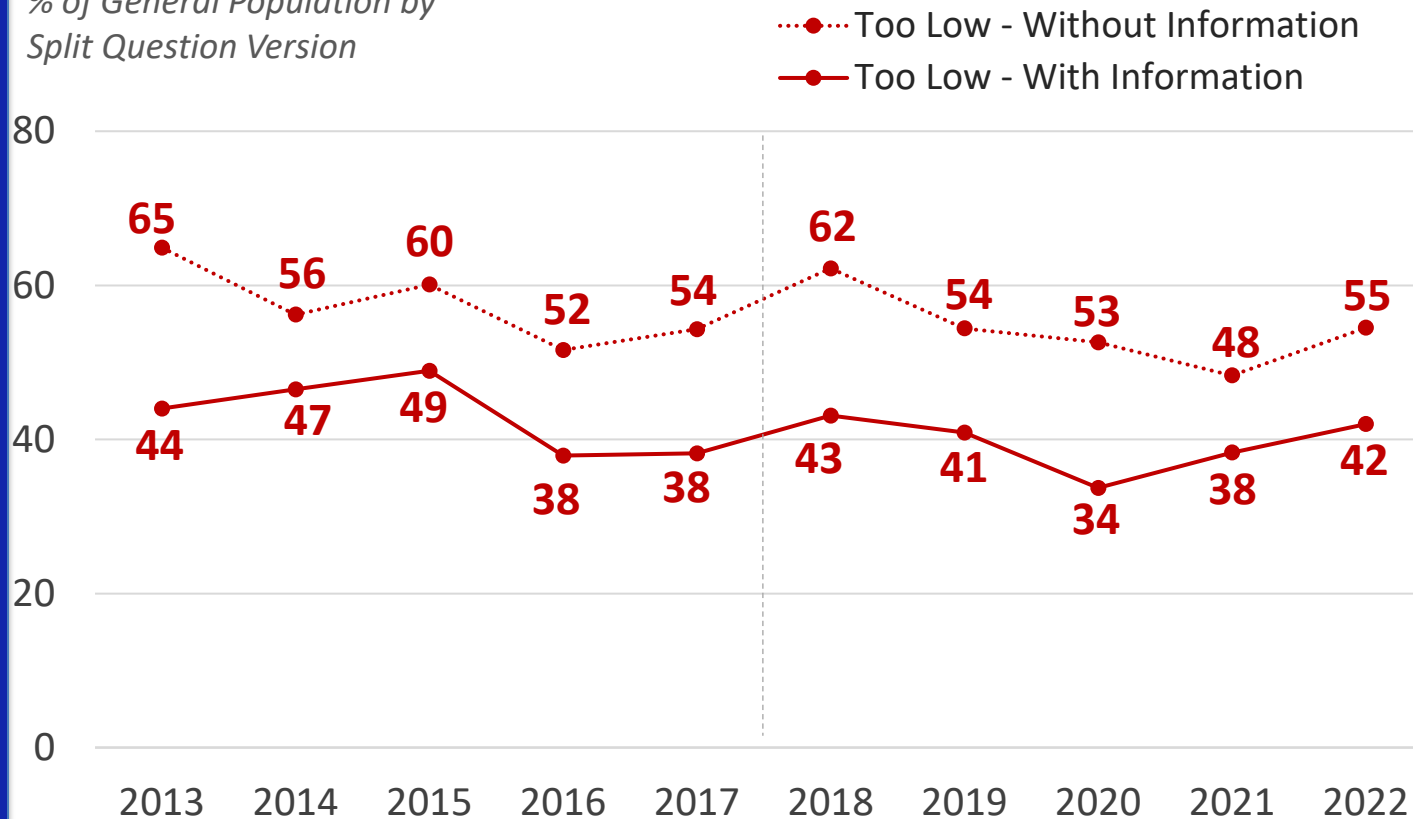
SCHOOL FUNDING

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. Starting in 2020, state-specific amounts based on respondents' state of residence were provided instead of national average.

Sources: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q11; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

Receiving an actual spending amount decreased the percentage of respondents saying that funding or spending is too low in all 10 years of *Schooling in America*.

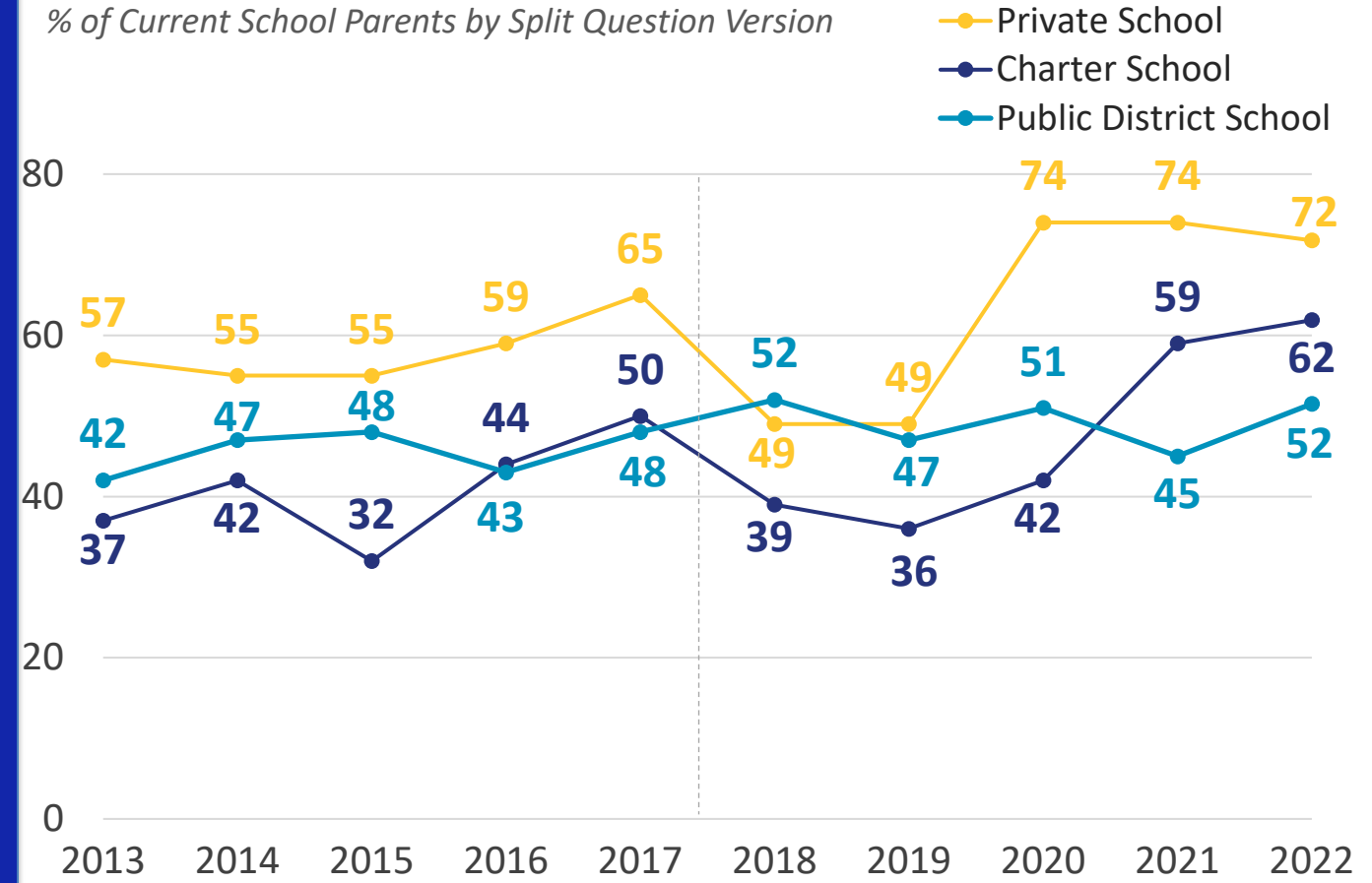
% of General Population by Split Question Version



GRADING LOCAL SCHOOLS

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

% of Current School Parents by Split Question Version



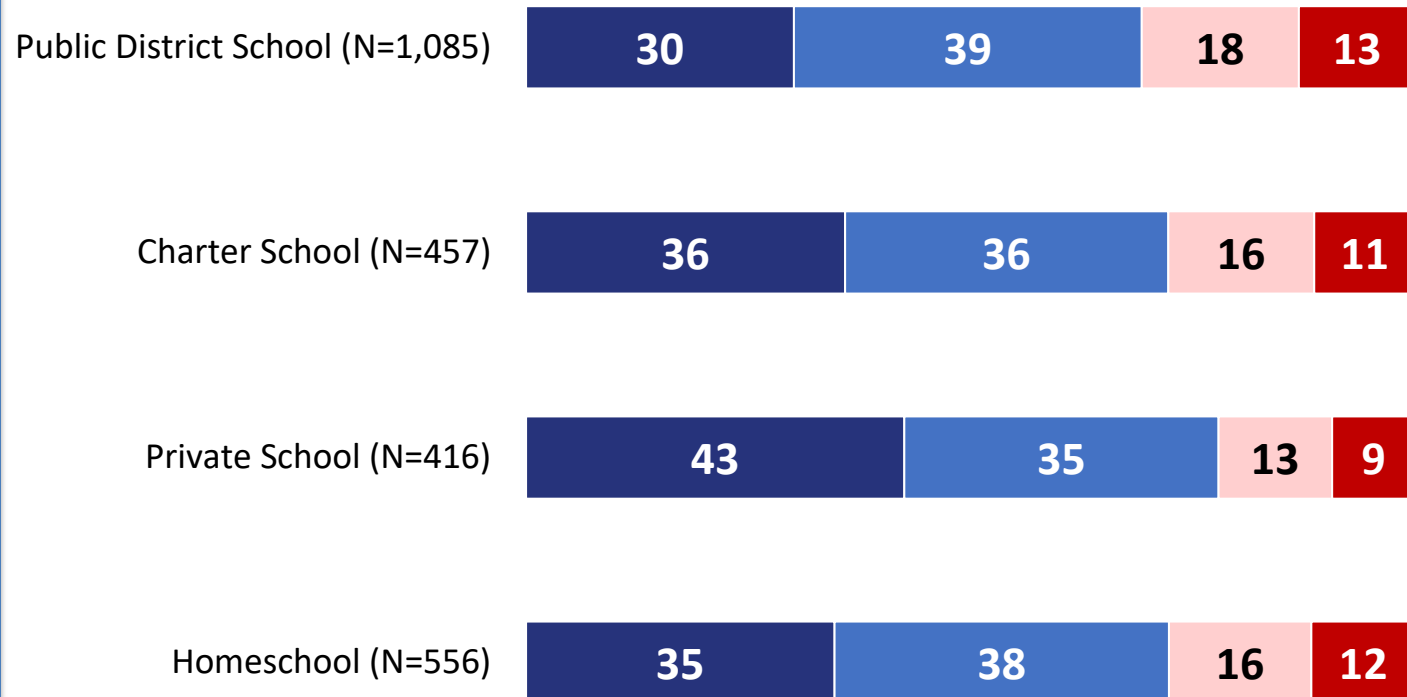
Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022.
 Sources: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q12; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

SCHOOLING SATISFACTION

Private school parents are most likely to report being very satisfied with their children's schooling experiences compared to other sectors.

% of Current School Parents with School Type Experience

Very Satisfied | Somewhat Satisfied | Somewhat Dissatisfied | Very Dissatisfied



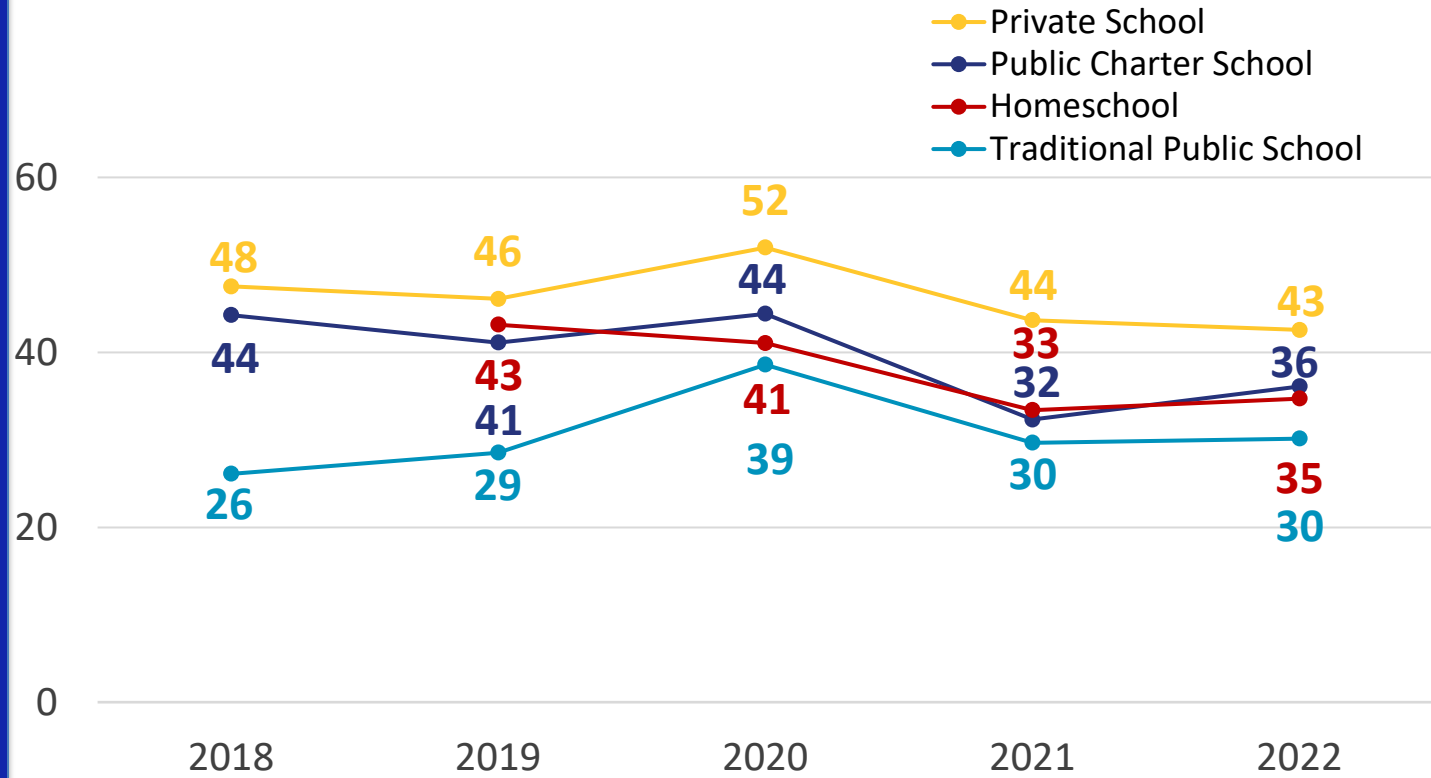
Notes: All percentages reflect the count of coded responses divided by the total number of applicable interviews. Unweighted N's are provided so the reader can roughly assess the reliability of reported percentages. Since parents can reply for each child in their family, response sizes are larger than for other questions. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Source: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q4

SCHOOLING SATISFACTION

Private school parents are most likely to report being very satisfied with their children’s schooling experiences compared to other sectors in all years with robust enough sample sizes.

% of Current School Parents with School Type Experience Reporting Very Satisfied



Notes: All percentages reflect the count of coded responses divided by the total number of weighted interviews. Homeschool figure not shown for 2018 due to limited sample size. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Sources: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q4; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2018–2021*

FACTORS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL

Charter school and private school parents were most likely to name academic quality or reputation as a top-three factor in choosing a school.

% of Current School Parents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3

By School Type Child(ren) Ever Attended

LOW-HIGH

| Factors | Public District School (N=999) | Public Charter School (N=465) | Private School (N=418) | Homeschool (N=544) |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Academic Quality or Reputation | 30% | 52% | 41% | 31% |
| Safe Environment | 26% | 29% | 30% | 40% |
| Location/Close to Home or Work | 38% | 25% | 16% | 23% |
| Structure, Discipline | 19% | 26% | 27% | 29% |
| Individual/One-on-One Attention | 19% | 23% | 24% | 34% |
| Class Size | 15% | 26% | 26% | 22% |
| Morals/Character/Values Instruction | 13% | 23% | 29% | 21% |
| Extracurricular Activities | 21% | 21% | 23% | 15% |
| Diversity | 17% | 16% | 13% | 10% |
| Our Assigned District/Neighborhood School | 27% | 9% | 11% | 10% |
| Socialization/Peers/Other Kids | 26% | 11% | 6% | 10% |
| School Size | 13% | 12% | 14% | 9% |
| Religious Environment/Instruction | 6% | 5% | 12% | 9% |
| Test Scores | 6% | 5% | 10% | 6% |

Note: For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.
Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q5–Q8

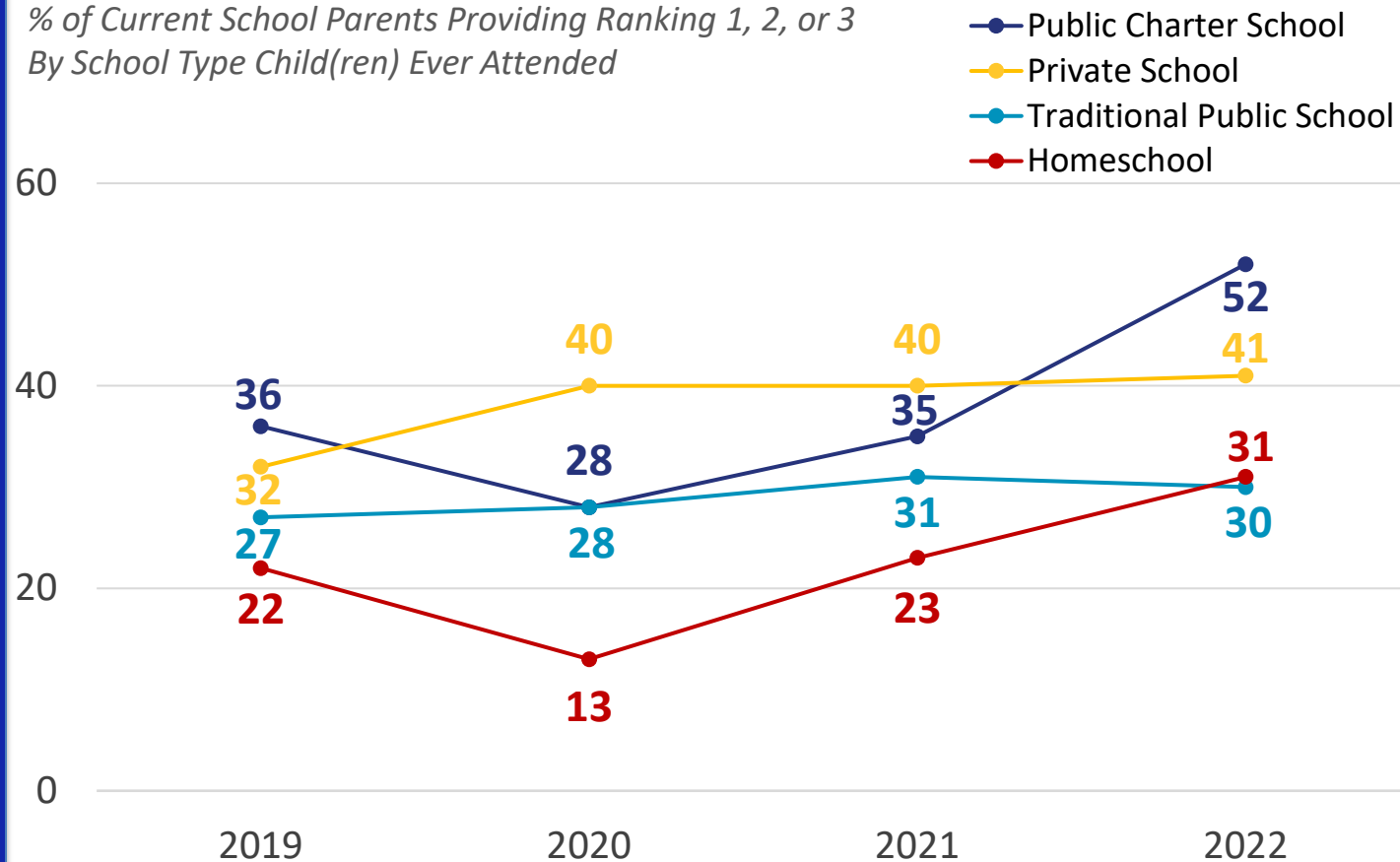
FACTORS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL: ACADEMIC QUALITY OR REPUTATION

Note: For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Sources: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q5–Q8; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2019–2021

A growing share of charter school parents say that academic quality or reputation is a top three factor for why they chose their school.

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



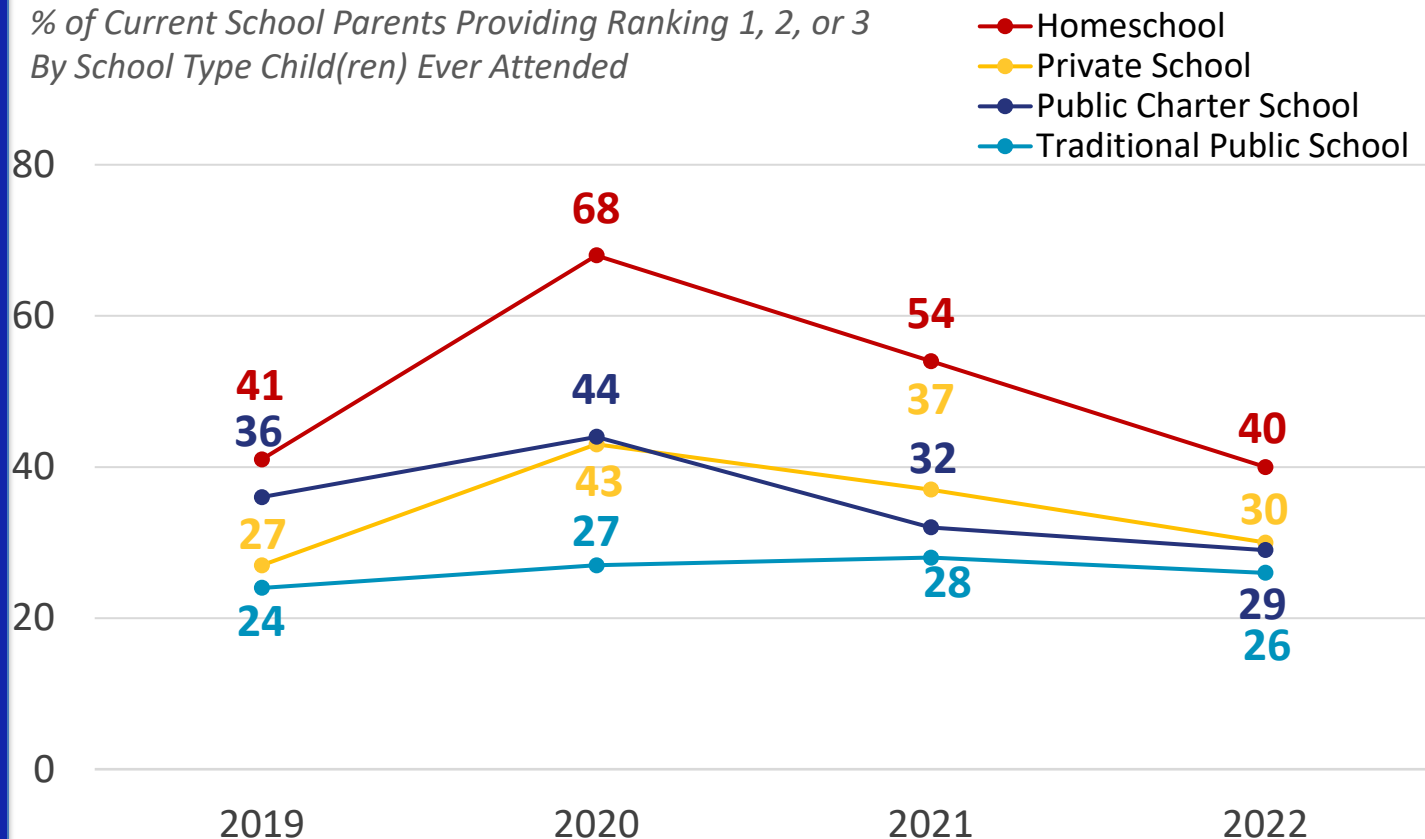
FACTORS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL: SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Note: For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Sources: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q5–Q8; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2019–2021

From 2019 to 2020, all sectors saw an increase in the share of parents indicating “safe environment” was a top reason they chose their school. Rates have since dropped toward pre-pandemic levels.

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



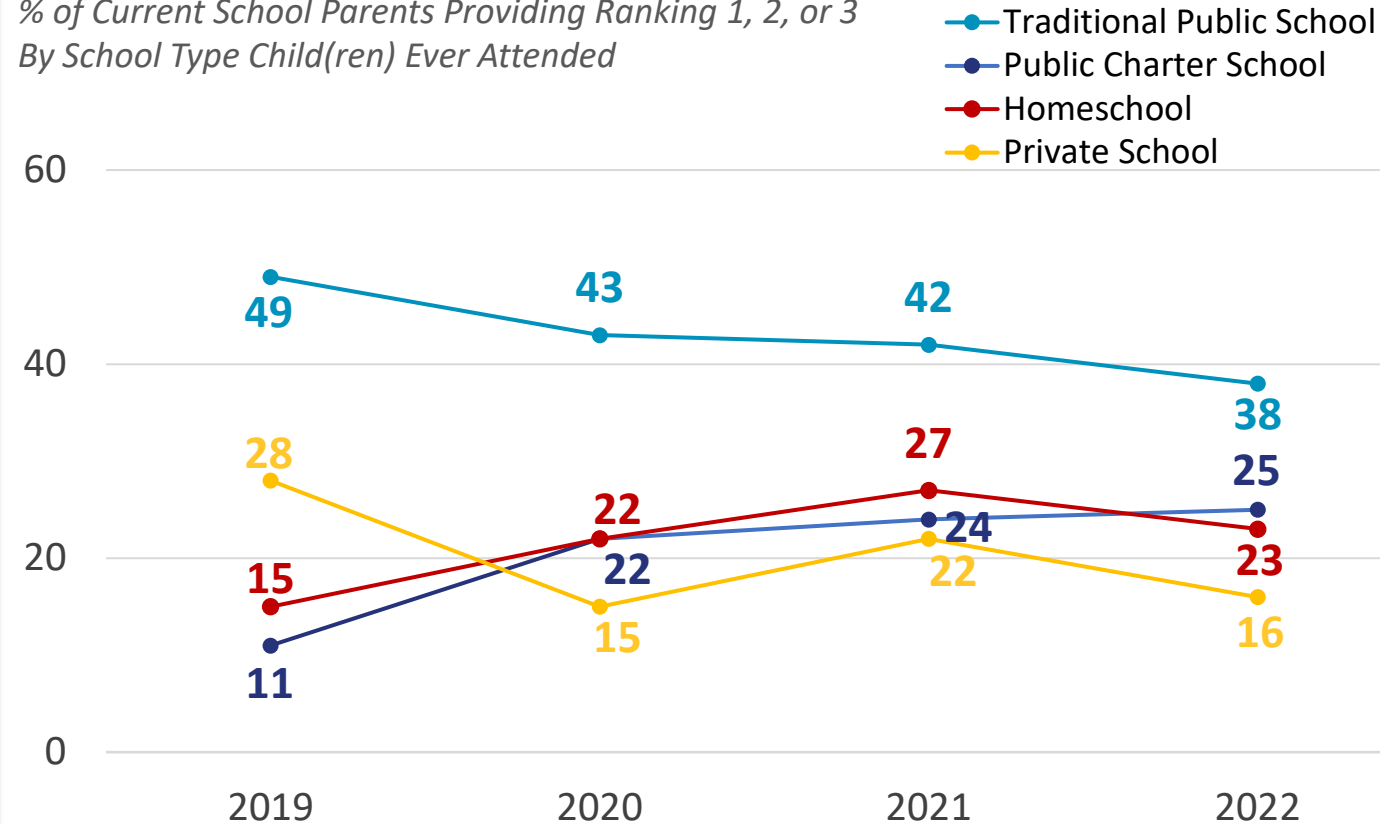
FACTORS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL: LOCATION

Note: For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Sources: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q5–Q8; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2019–2021

Although location has consistently been ranked the most in traditional public school parents' top three reasons for choosing a school for their children, there has been an 11-percentage point decrease over the past four years.

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



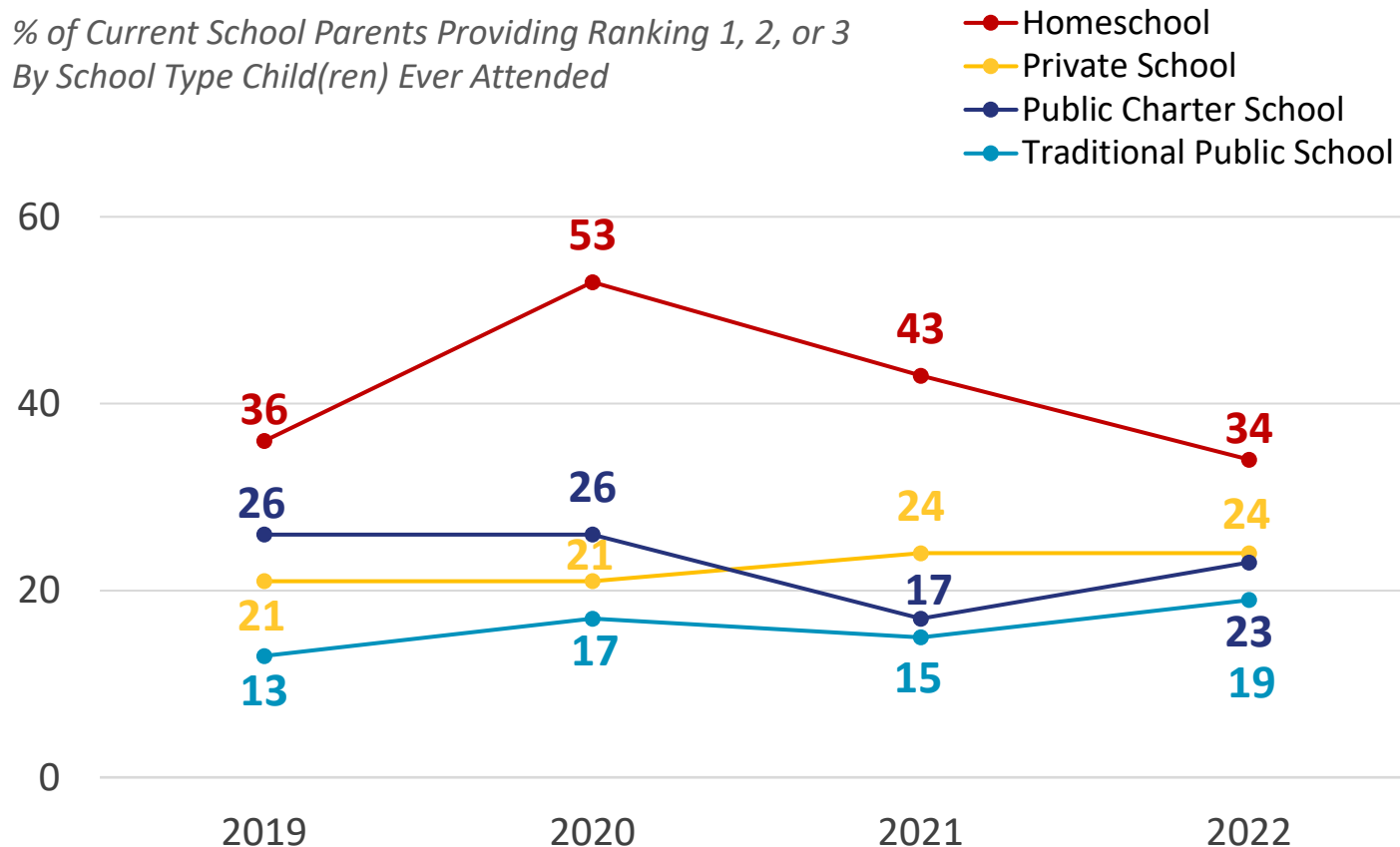
FACTORS FOR CHOOSING A SCHOOL: INDIVIDUAL OR ONE-ON-ONE ATTENTION

Note: For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Sources: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q5–Q8; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2019–2021

Compared to before the pandemic, private school parents and traditional public school parents were slightly more likely to say individual or one-on-one attention was a top three factor in choosing a school for their children.

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

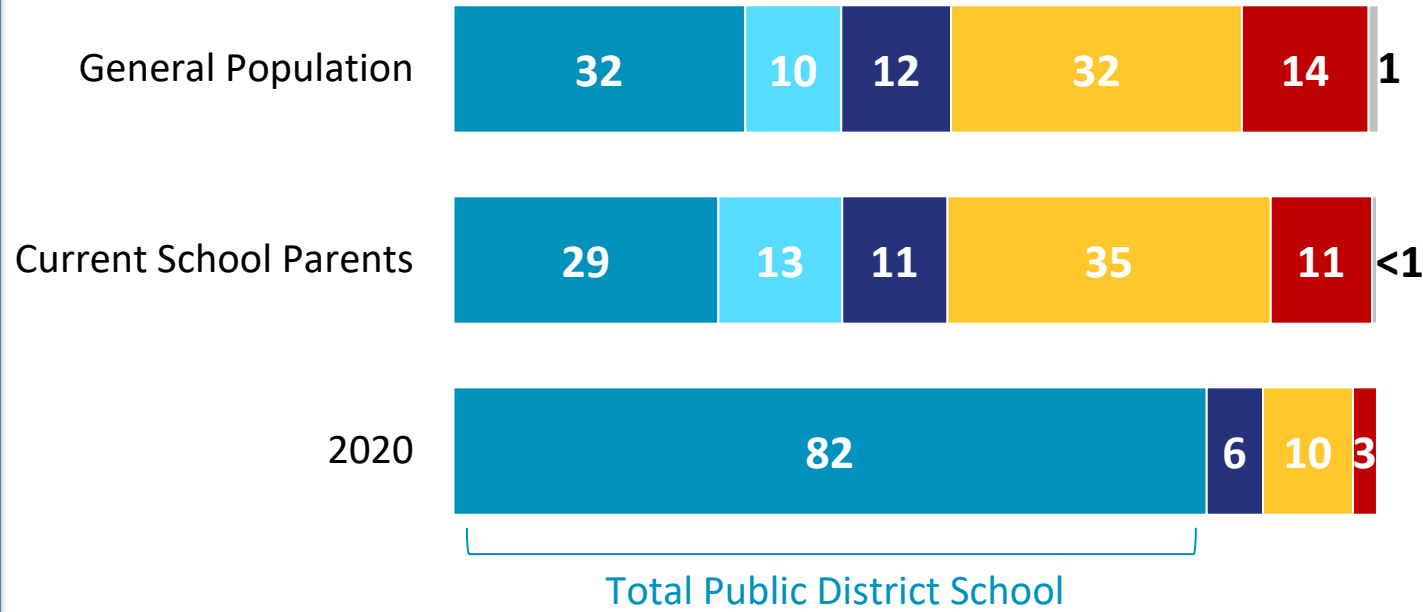


SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE, COMPARED TO ACTUAL ENROLLMENT

Actual enrollment patterns do not reflect the diversity of parents' schooling preferences. Parents are more likely to ideally prefer inter-district choice than they are charter schools or homeschooling.

% of Respondents

- Public District School - Inside Residential District
- Public District School - Outside Residential District
- Public Charter School
- Private School
- Homeschool
- (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: "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question. NCES does not split out inter- and intra-district choice.

Sources: Authors' calculations; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q13

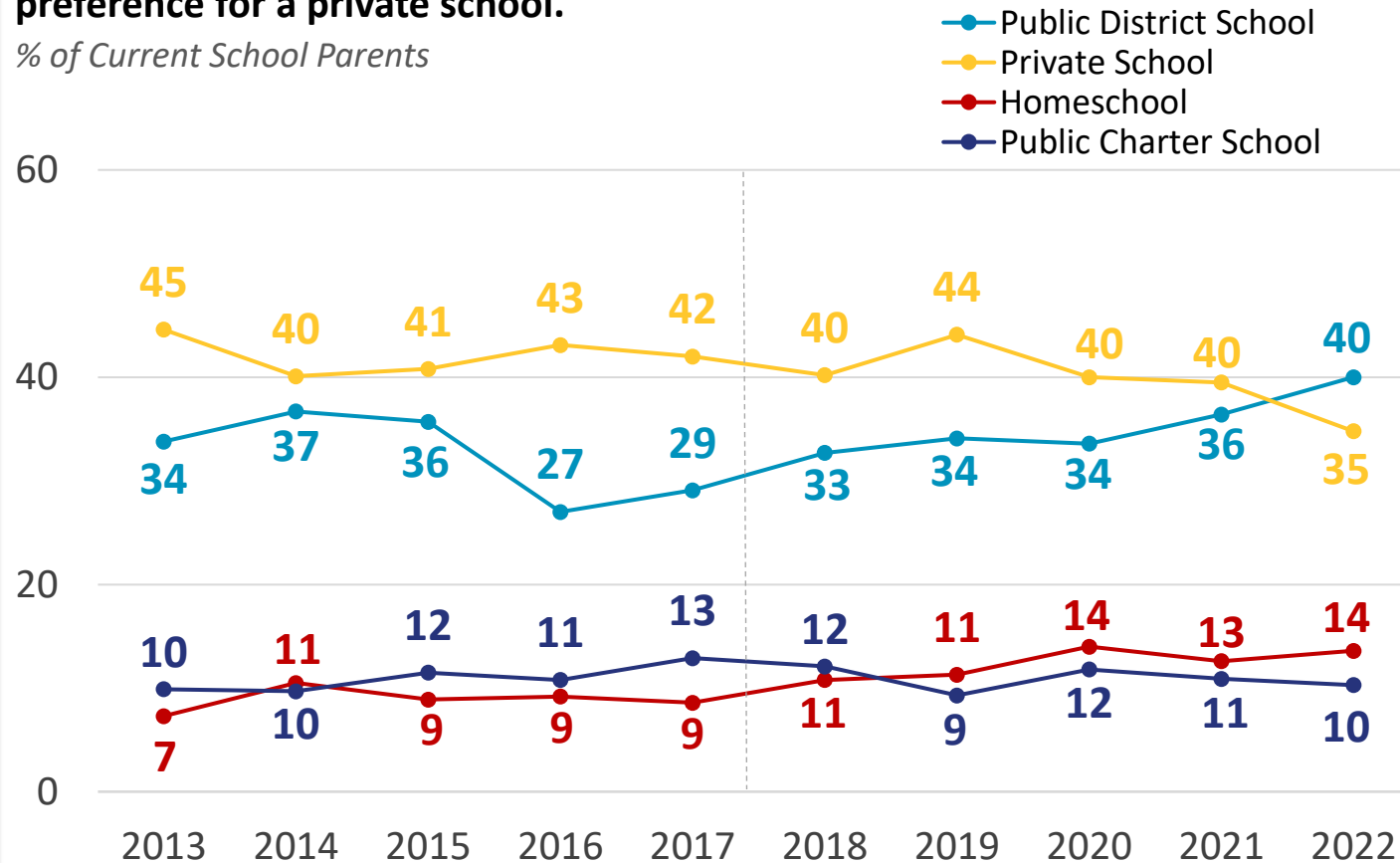
SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. Baseline responses used for 2013–2015 and less constrained split responses used for all other years.

Sources: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q13; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

The introduction of survey options for intra- and inter-district public school choice in 2022 may have impacted the percent of parents stating a preference for a traditional public school and decreased the percent of parents stating a preference for a private school.

% of Current School Parents



SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE

Split A - 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 B - 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 - Inside Residential District
- Public District School - Outside Residential District
- Public Charter School
- Private School
- Homeschool
- (Ref/Skip)

Split/Baseline (N = 599)



Split/Less Constrained (N = 601)



Notes: Responses within parentheses were volunteered: "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, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q13

REASONS FOR A SCHOOL TYPE PREFERENCE

Notes: N is the total number of unweighted interviews 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.

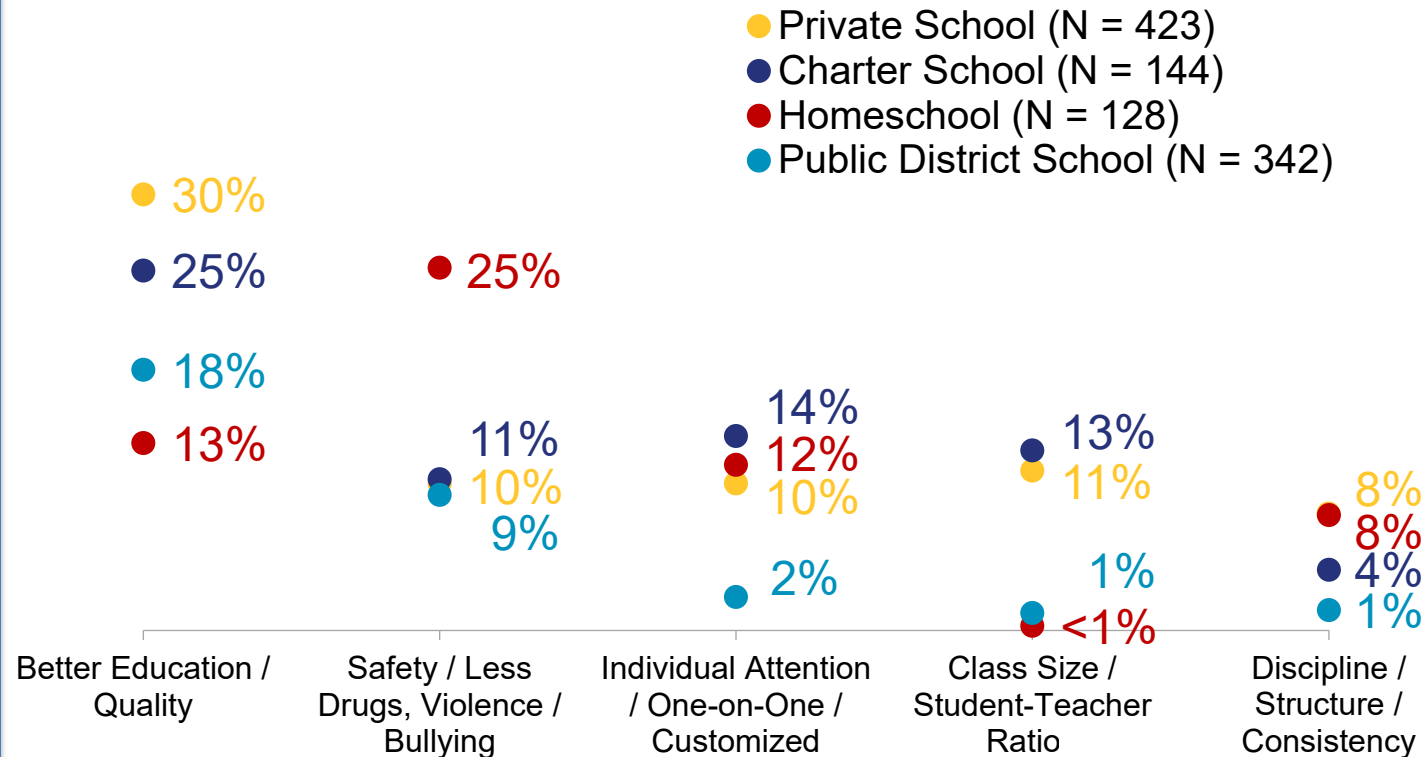
Source: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q14

EDCHOICE.ORG

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



SCHOOL CHOICE

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

% of Respondents

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



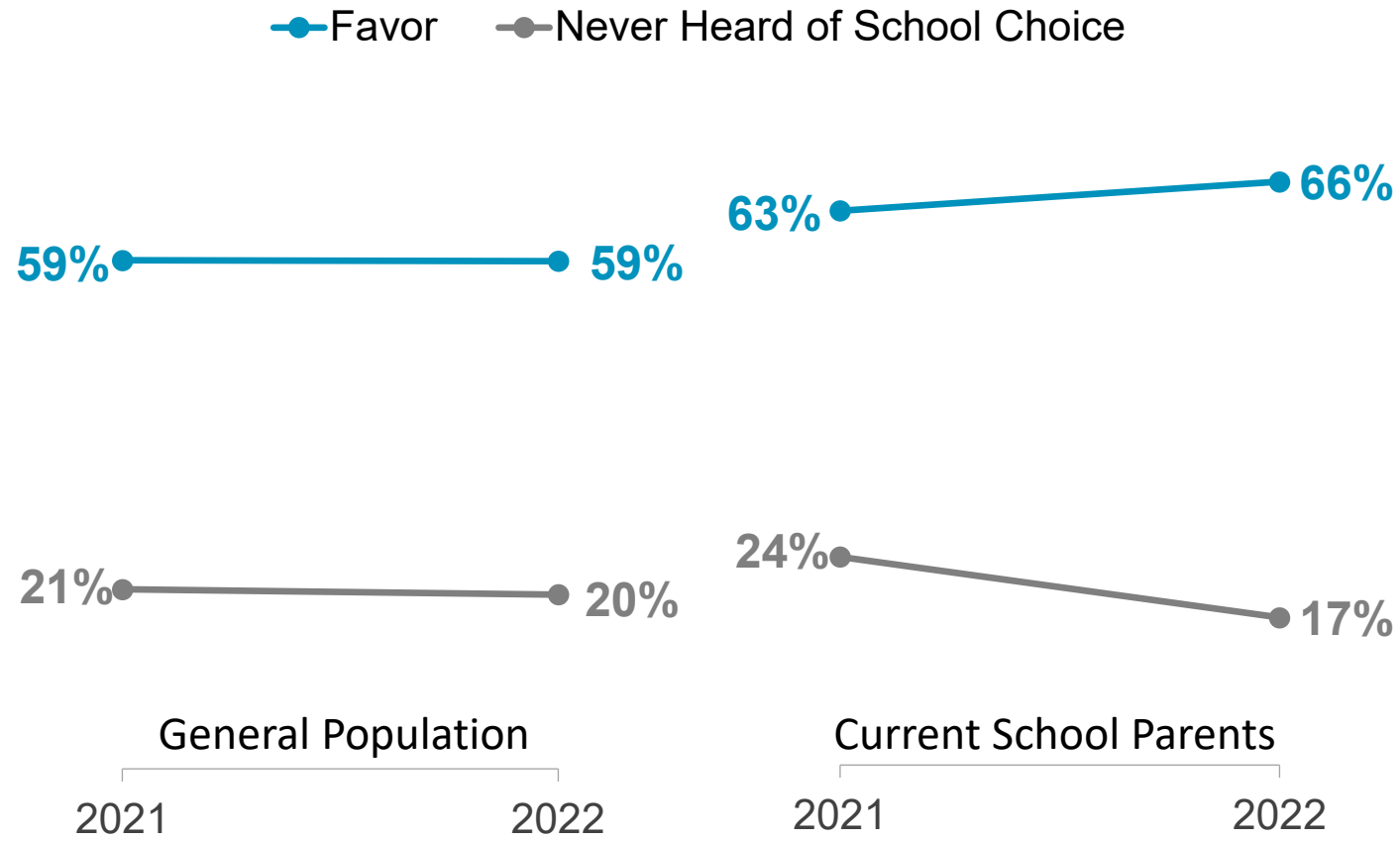
Notes: Responses of “Don’t Know” or “Not Applicable” not shown. Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is also not shown.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q15

SCHOOL CHOICE

Parents are more likely to have heard of school choice in 2022 compared to 2021.

% of Respondents



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

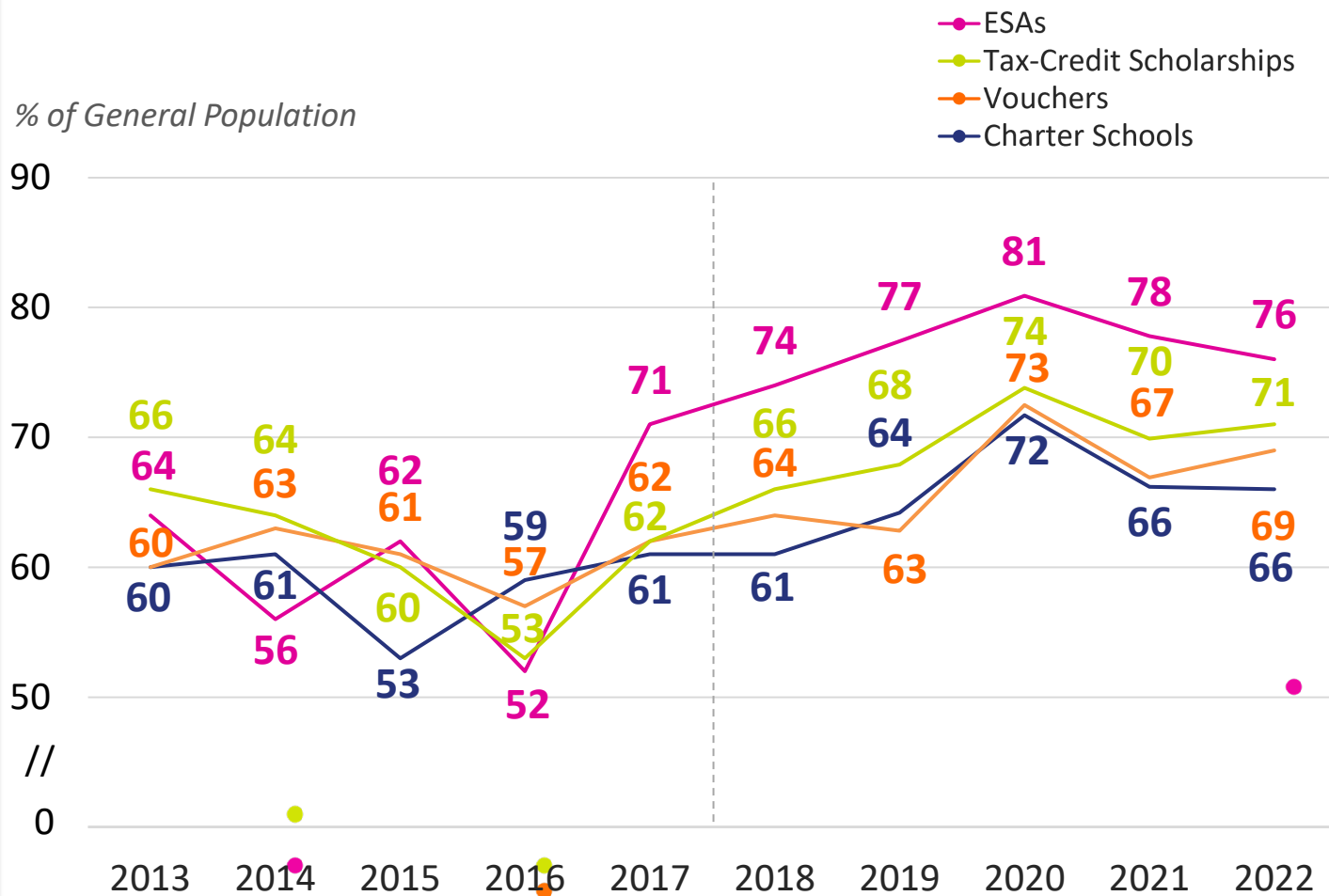
Sources: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q15; EdChoice, Schooling in America Survey, 2021

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 2018–2022.

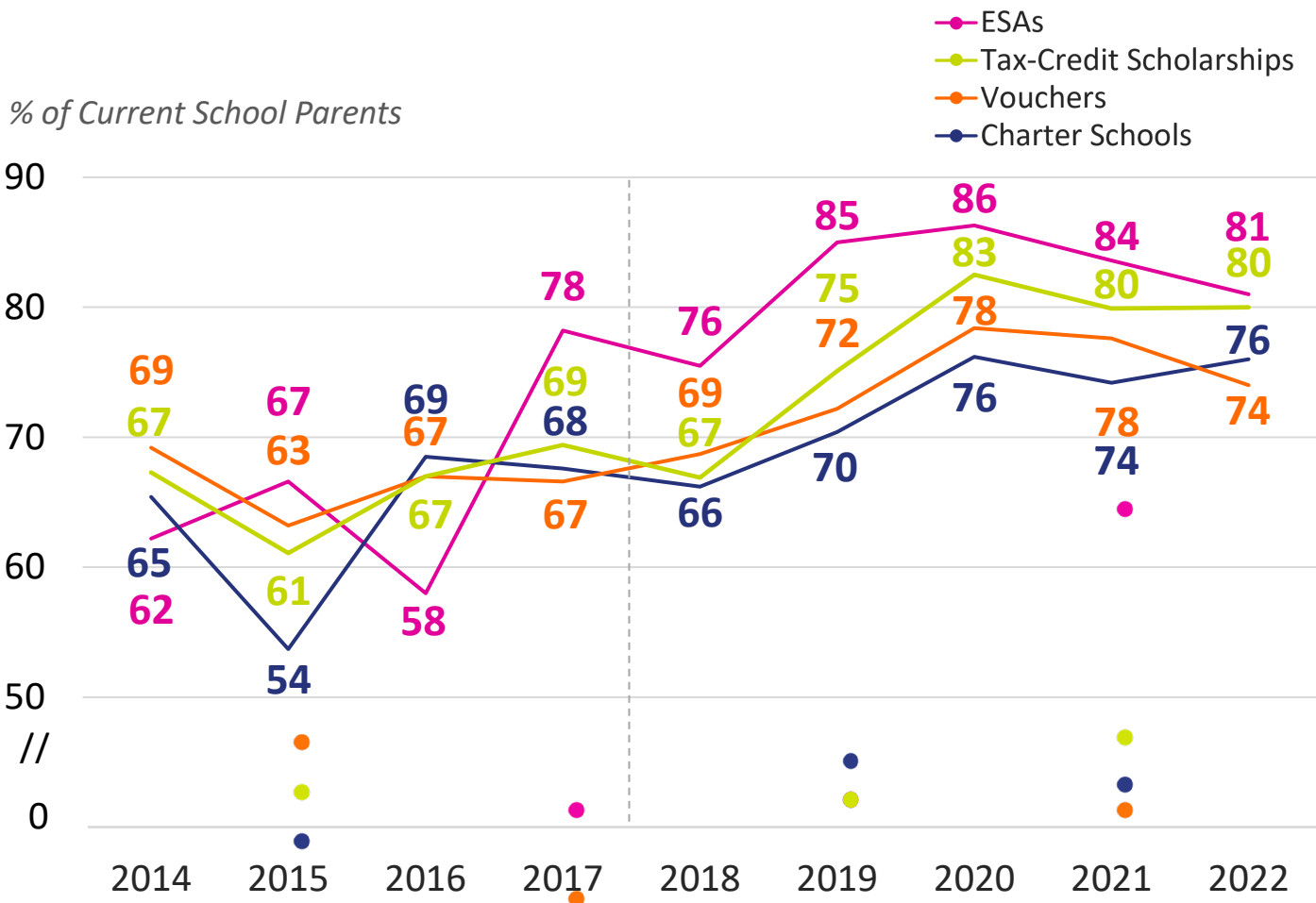
Sources: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q17, Q19, Q21, and Q25; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2021; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

Total support for four types of educational choice remained fairly stable from 2021 to 2022.



FAVORABILITY OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE REFORMS

Education savings accounts (ESAs) remain parents' most popular educational choice policy for the sixth consecutive year.



Notes: From 2014 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 2014–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022.

Sources: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q17, Q19, Q21, and Q25; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2021; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2014–2015

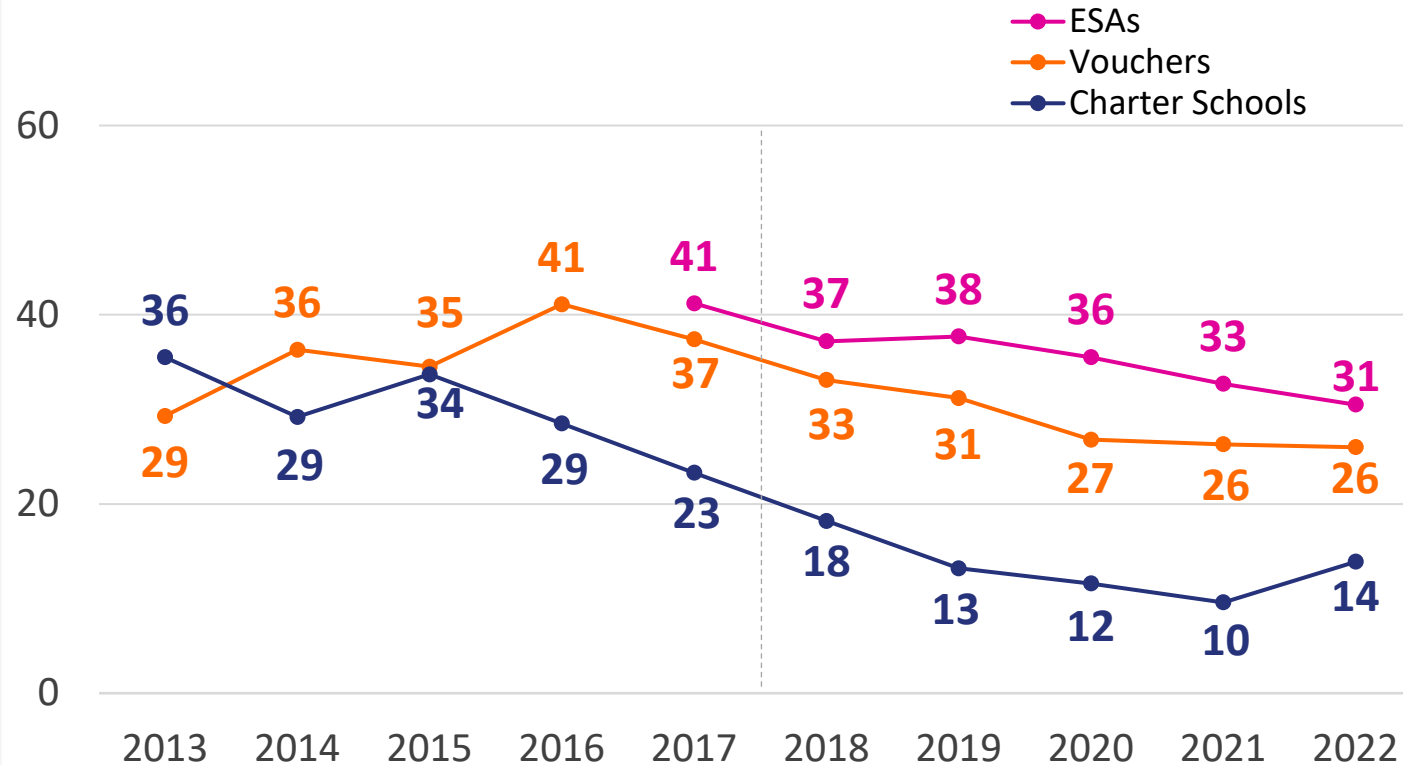
NEVER HEARD OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE POLICIES

Notes: From 2013 to 2017 response option was combined “Never Heard of [Education Choice Type], or Don’t Know,” in 2018 response option was “Don’t Know,” and from 2019 to 2022 response option was “Never Heard of [Educational Choice Type].” Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022.

Sources: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q16, Q18, and Q20; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2021; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

The share of people who have never heard of ESAs has declined since 2019.

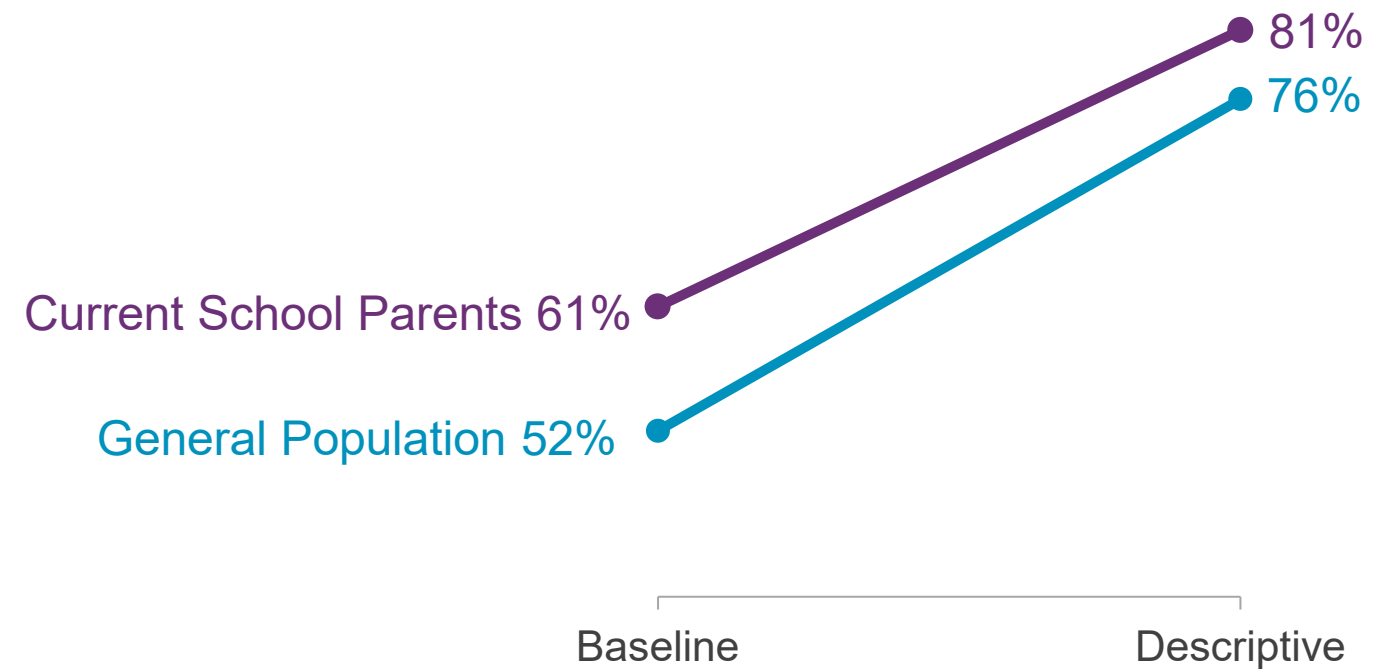
% of Respondents Replying “Never Heard of [Educational Choice Type]”



EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

After respondents were given a description of ESAs, support increased by 21 points for parents and 25 points for the general population.

% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"



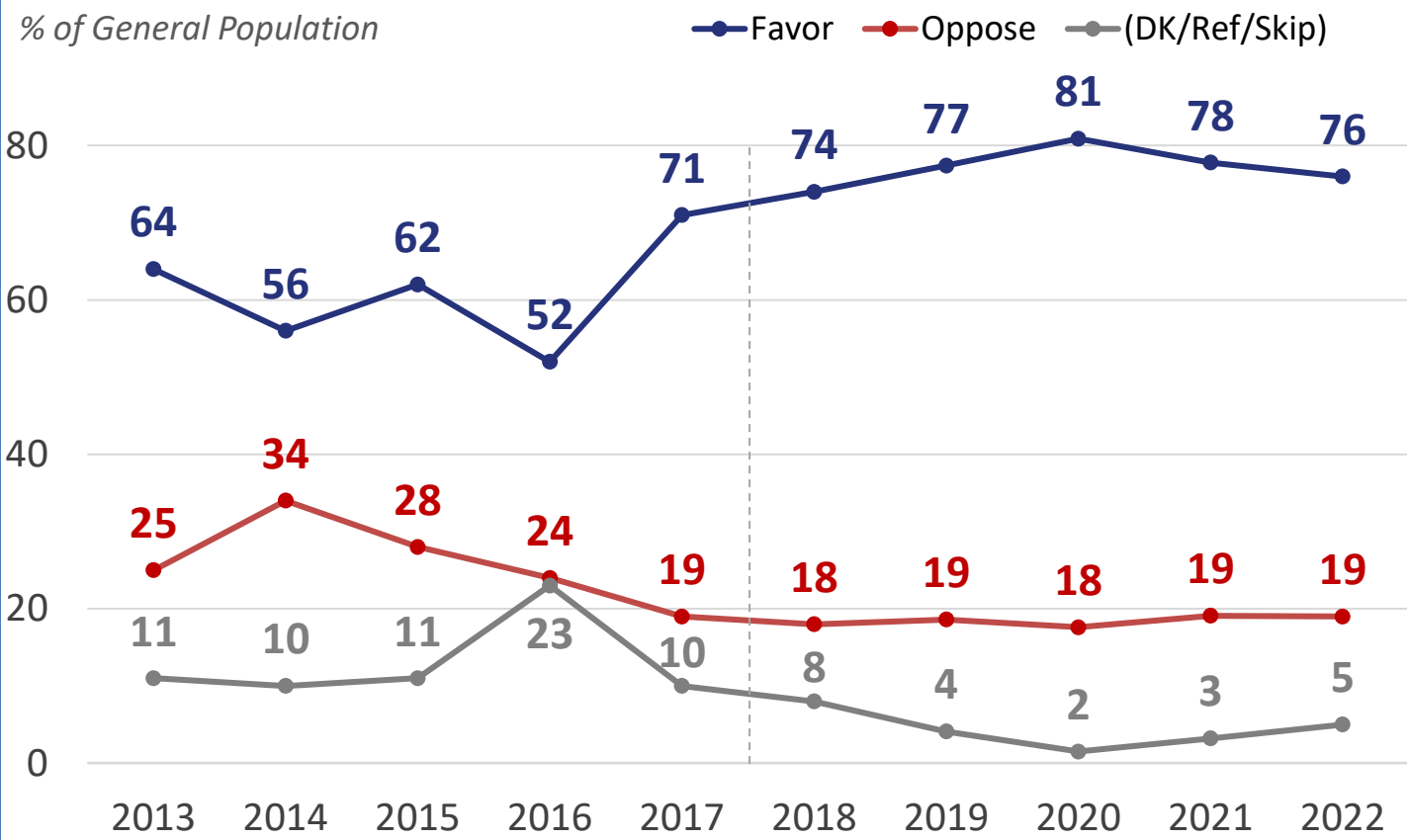
Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q20 and Q21

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

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 2018–2022. 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, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q21; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2021 (partial samples of General Population); Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2013–2015

More than three out of four Americans support ESAs. Favorability of ESAs has declined slightly since 2020, but opposition has remained stable.

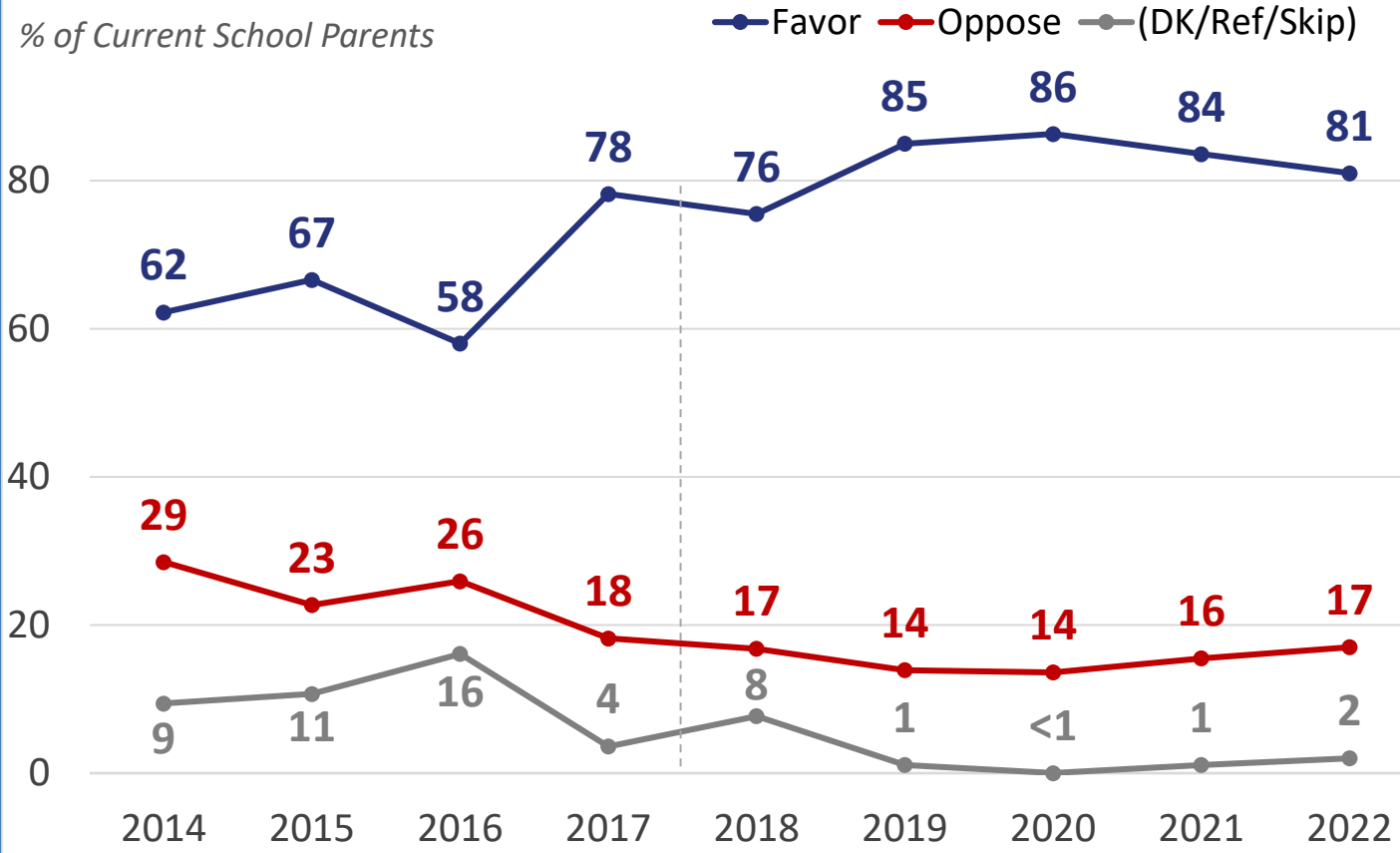


EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Notes: From 2014 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 2014–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. 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.

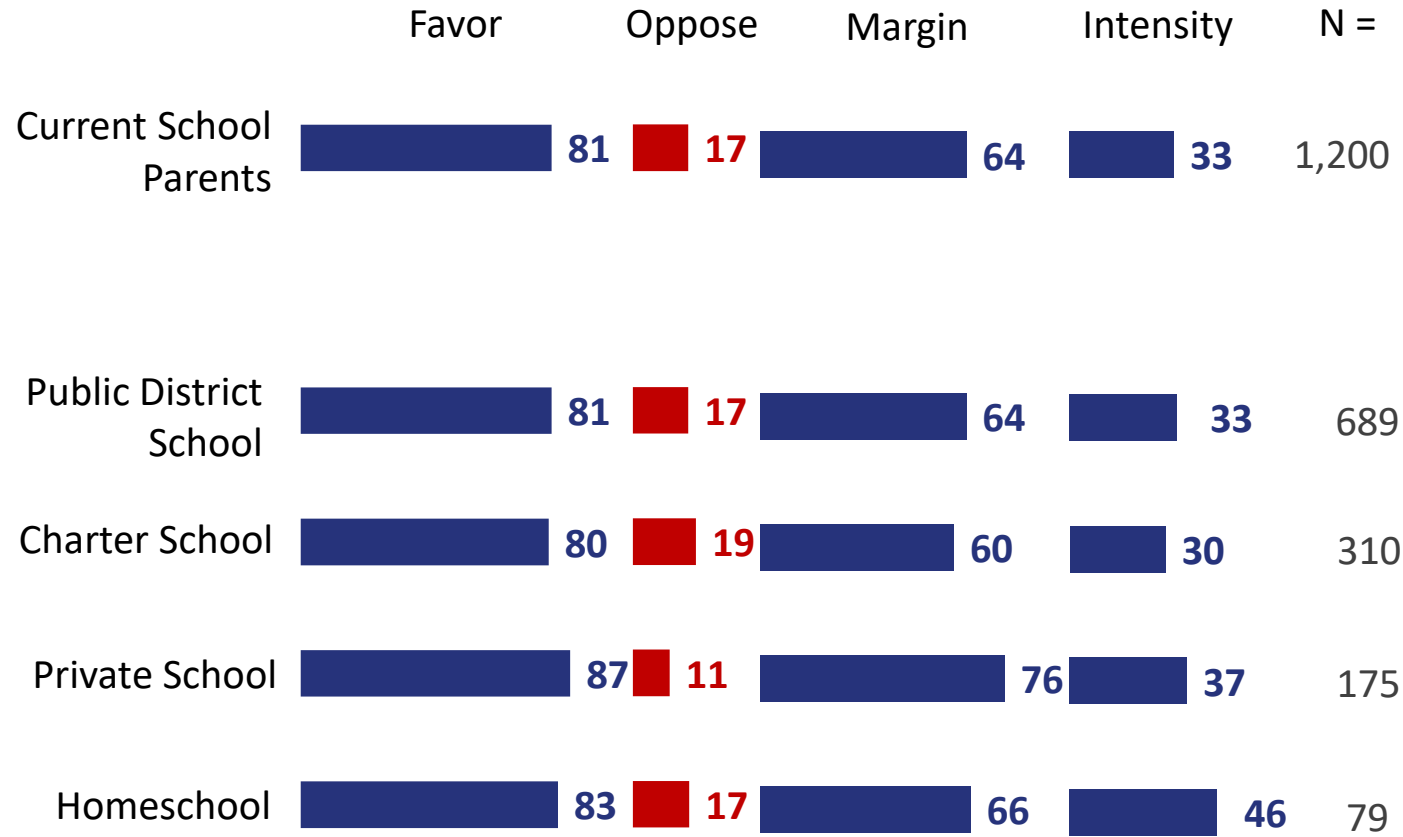
Sources: EdChoice, 2021 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q21; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2021; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2014–2015

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



EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Across various demographics, parents are very favorable of ESAs. Both margins and intensities are very positive.



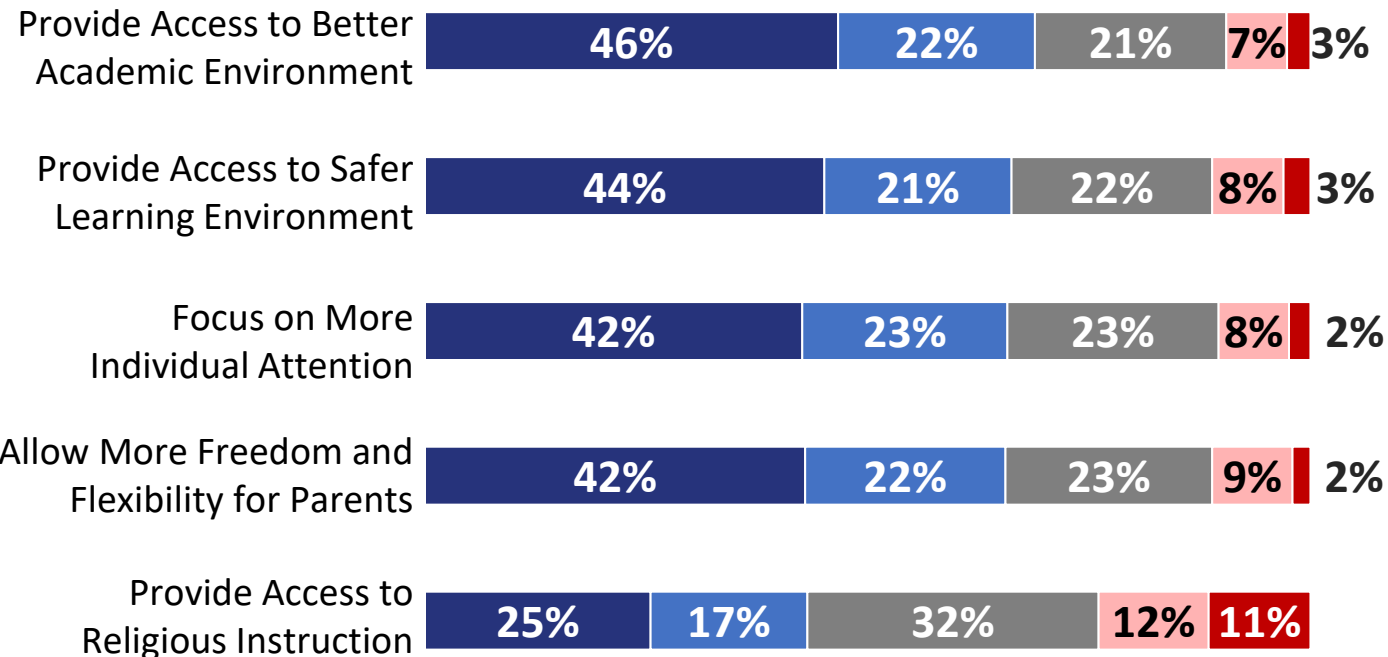
Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.
 Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q21

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

About two-thirds of 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**



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

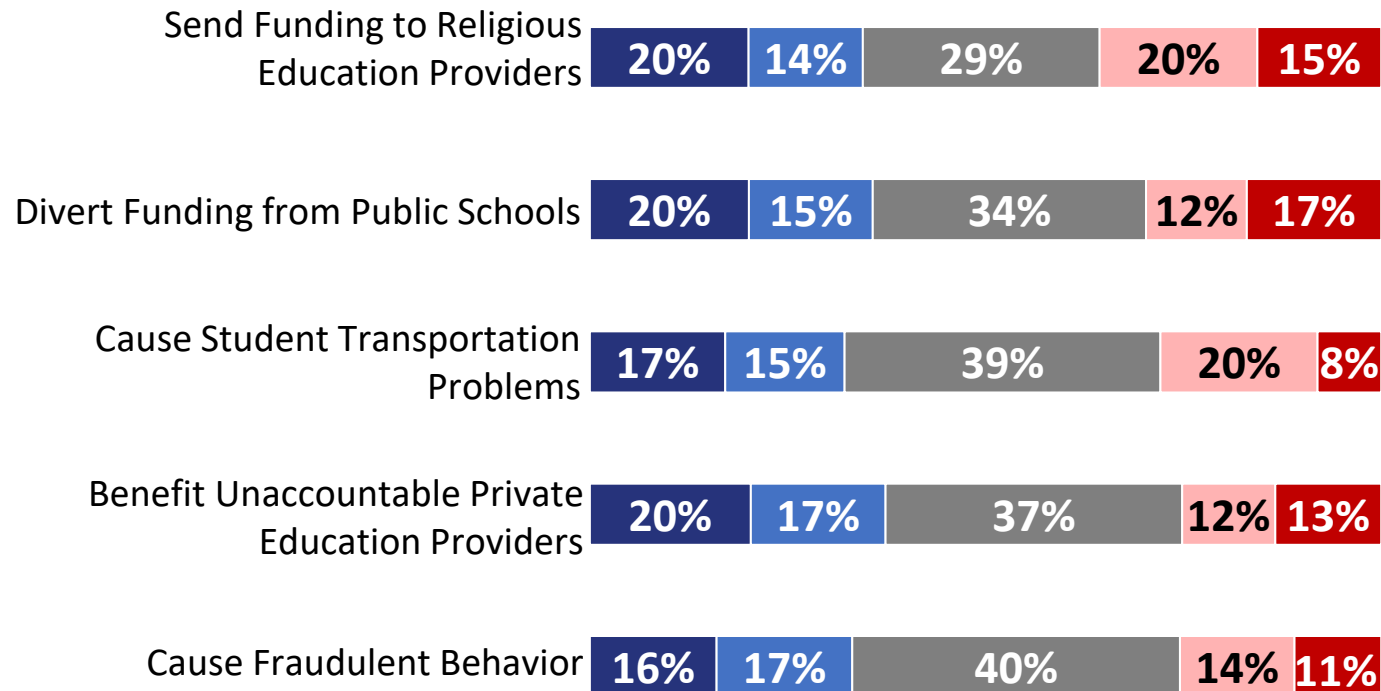
Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q22

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (ESAs)

Americans are most likely to be neutral or disagree with statements about ESAs suggesting negative effects.

% of General Population

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



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

Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q23

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

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?*

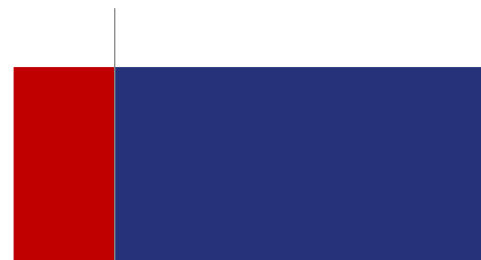
Question Wording B *Some people believe that ESAs should be available only to families **based on financial need**. Do you agree or disagree with that statement?*

% of General Population by Split Sample

■ Disagree ■ Agree

Split/Universal (N = 600)

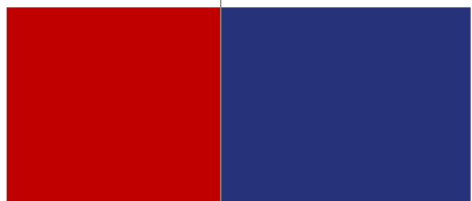
22



76

Split/Needs-Based (N = 600)

43



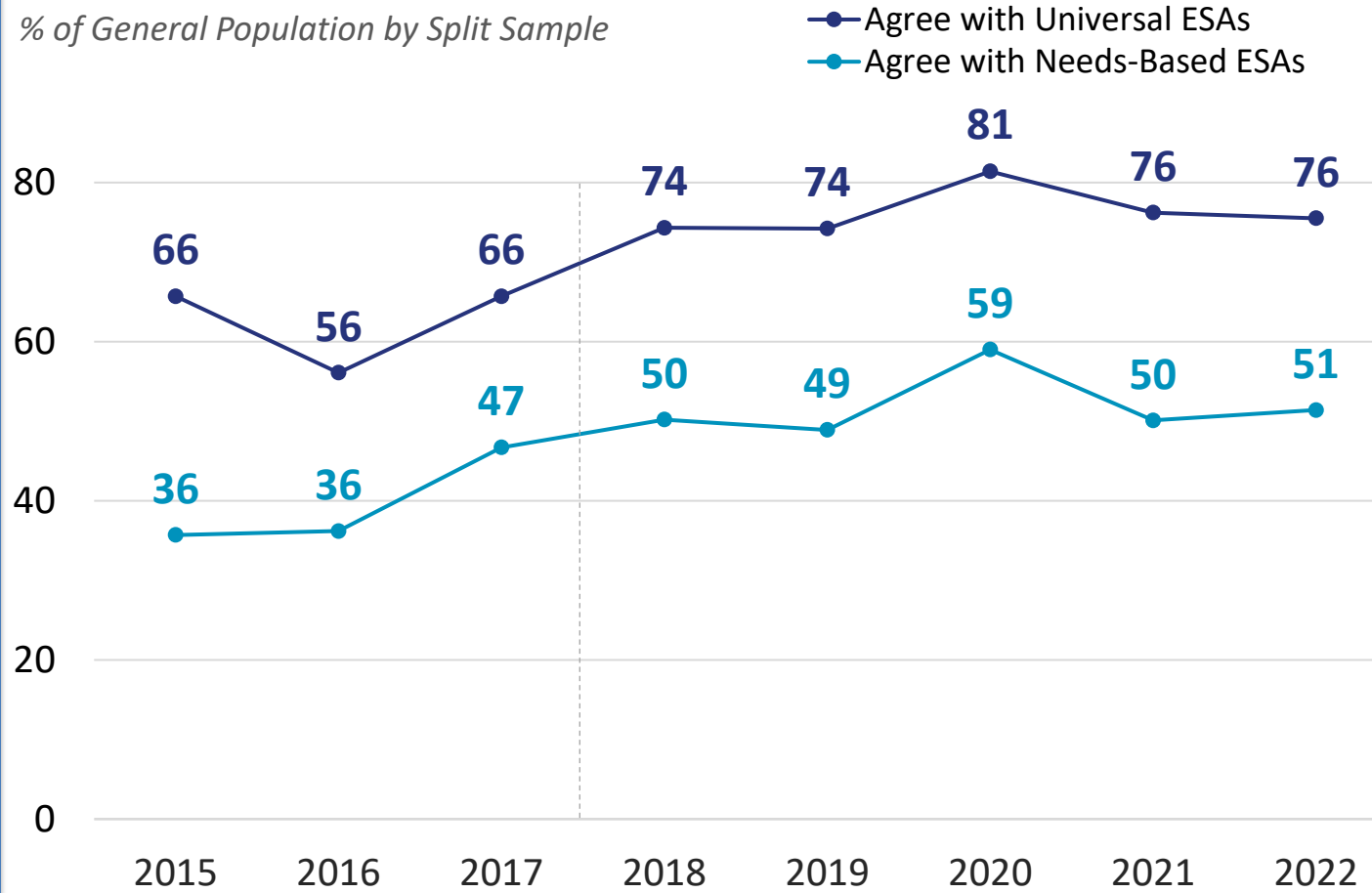
51

Note: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown.
Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q24

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

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



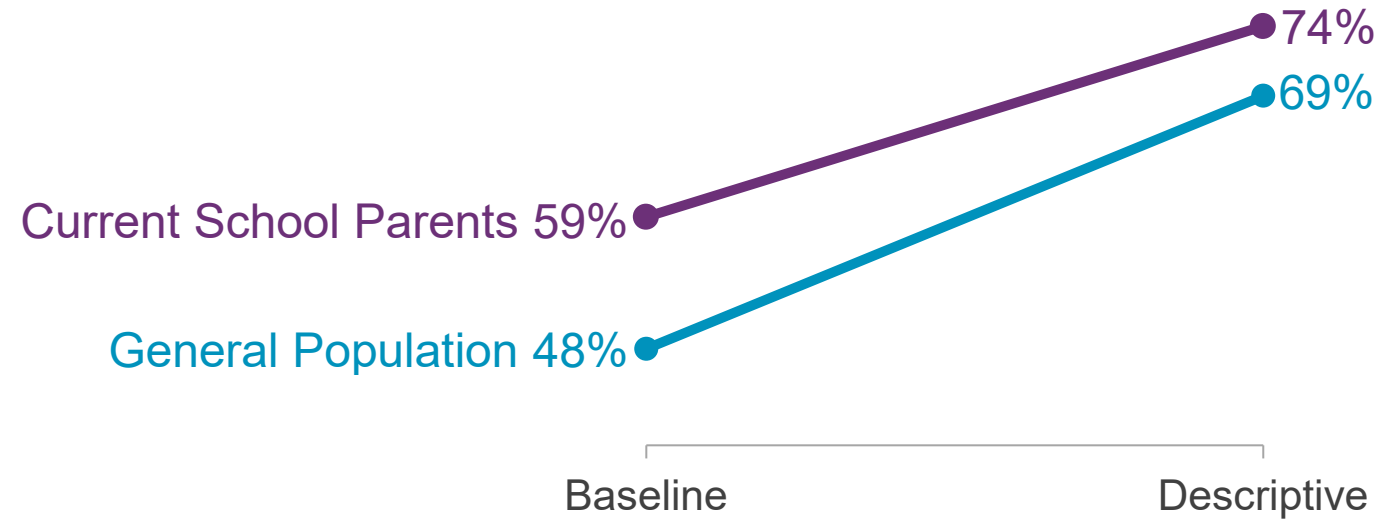
Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2015–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. Refusals nor skips reflected in this chart.

Sources: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q24; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2015*

SCHOOL VOUCHERS

When given a description of school vouchers, support increased by 16 points for parents and 21 points for the general population.

% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"



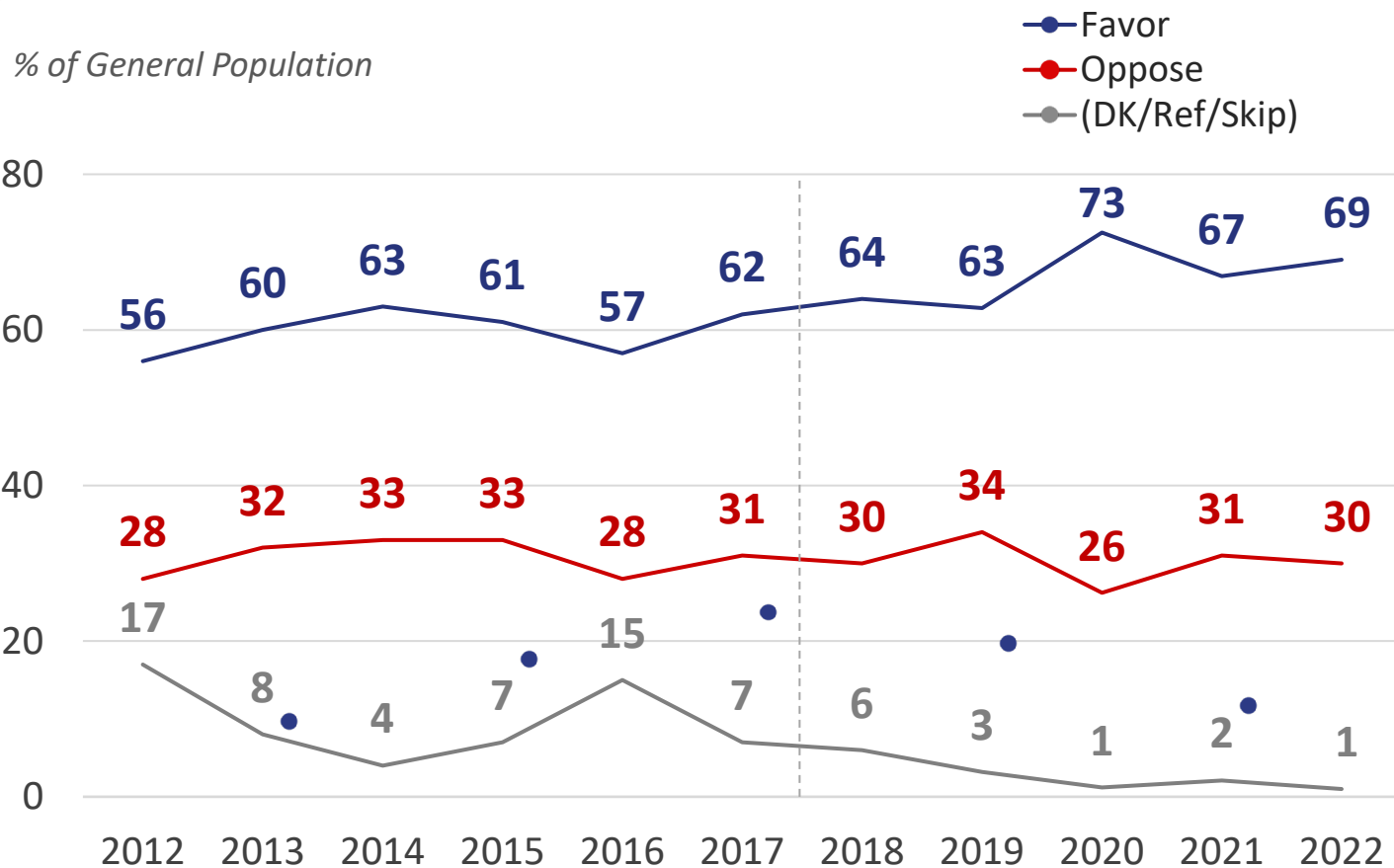
Source: EdChoice, 2021 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q18 and Q19

SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2012–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. 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, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q19; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2012–2015*

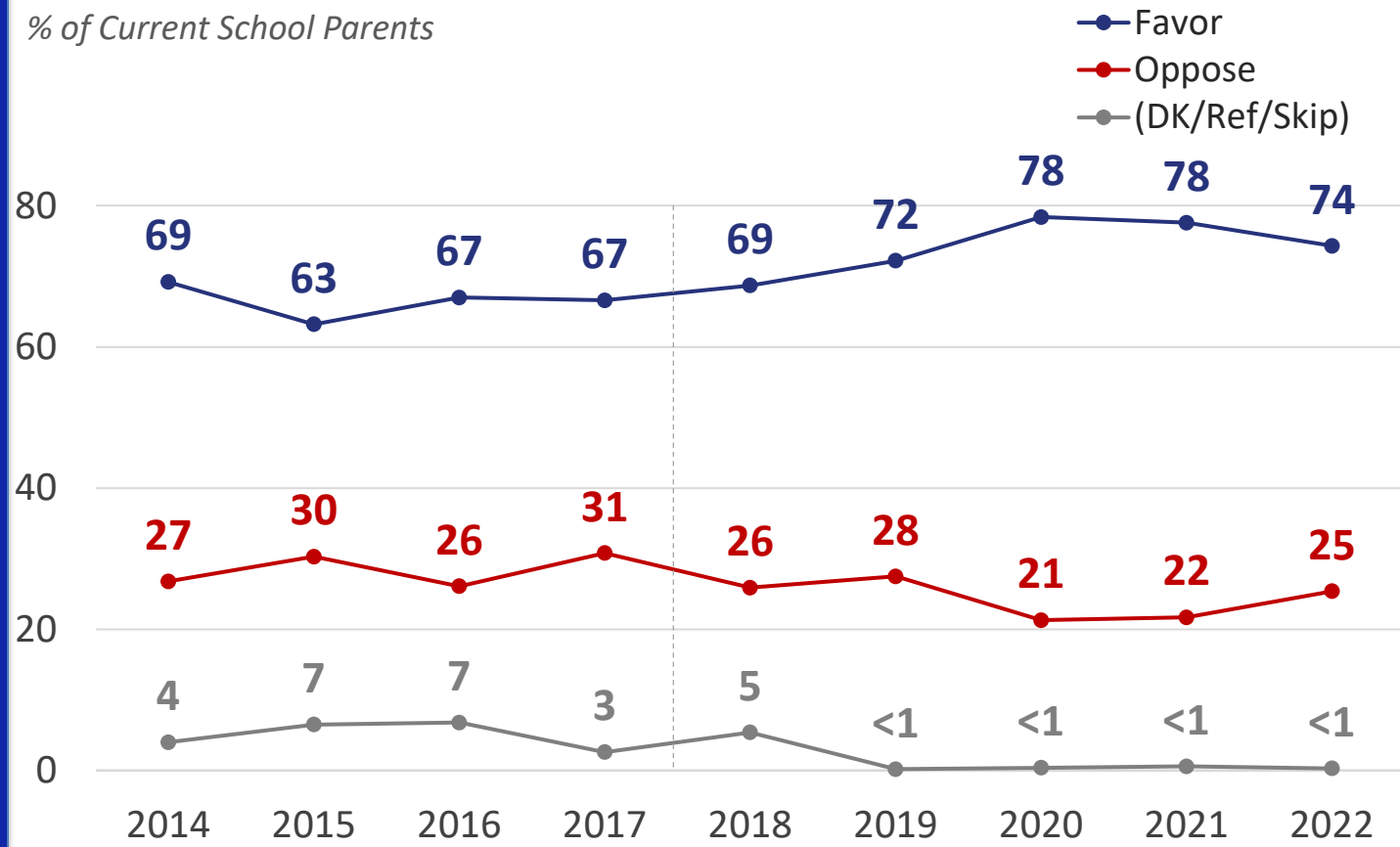
More than two-thirds of the public support school vouchers. Overall support remains higher than pre-pandemic levels.



SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Nearly three-quarters of parents support school vouchers, a slight decline from last year. Supporters outnumber opponents three to one.

% of Current School Parents

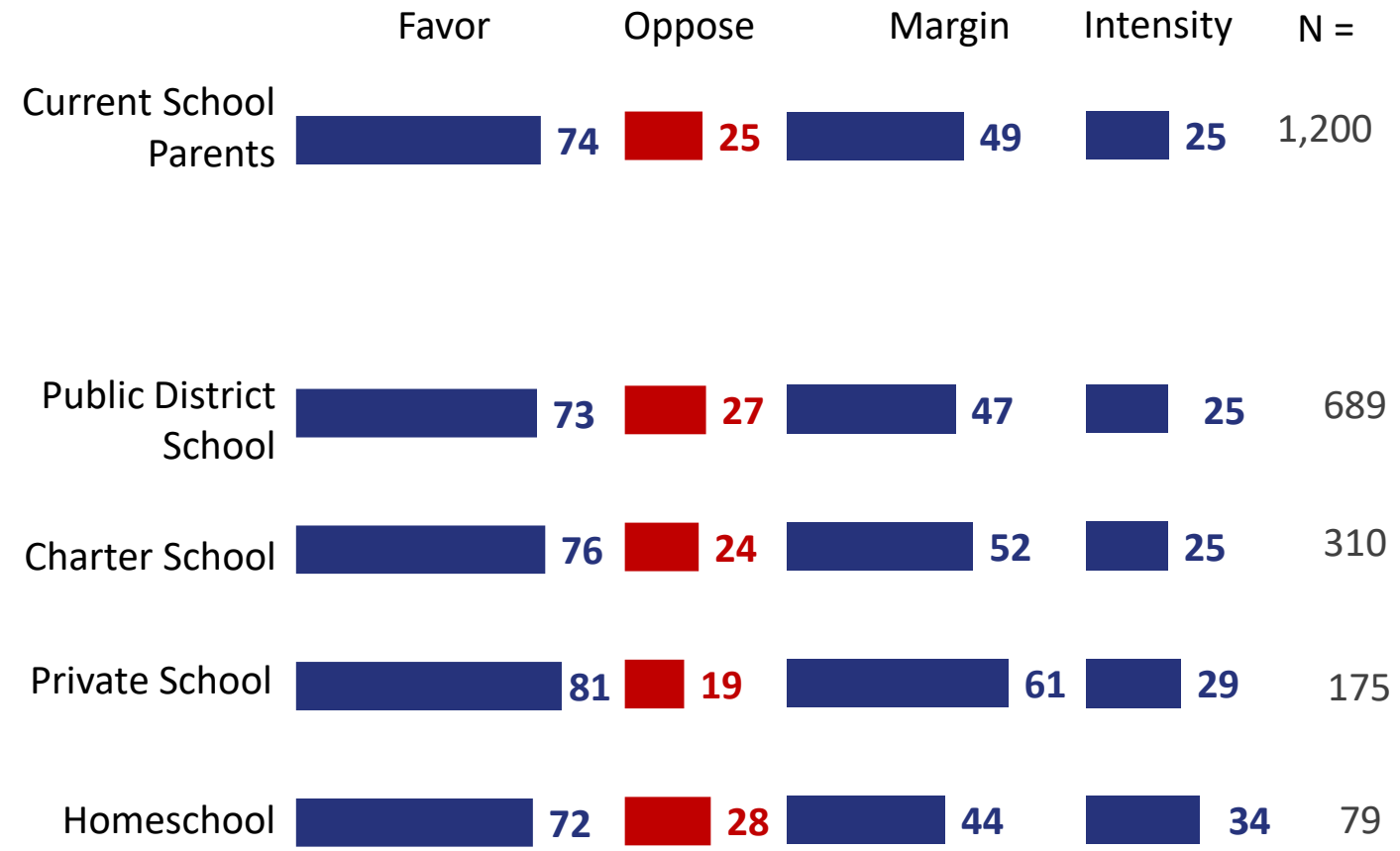


Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2014–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. Responses within parentheses were volunteered. "DK" means "Don't Know." "Ref" means "Refusal." For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question.

Sources: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q19; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2016–2021; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2014–2015

SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Across various demographics, parents are very favorable of school vouchers. Margins and intensities are very positive.

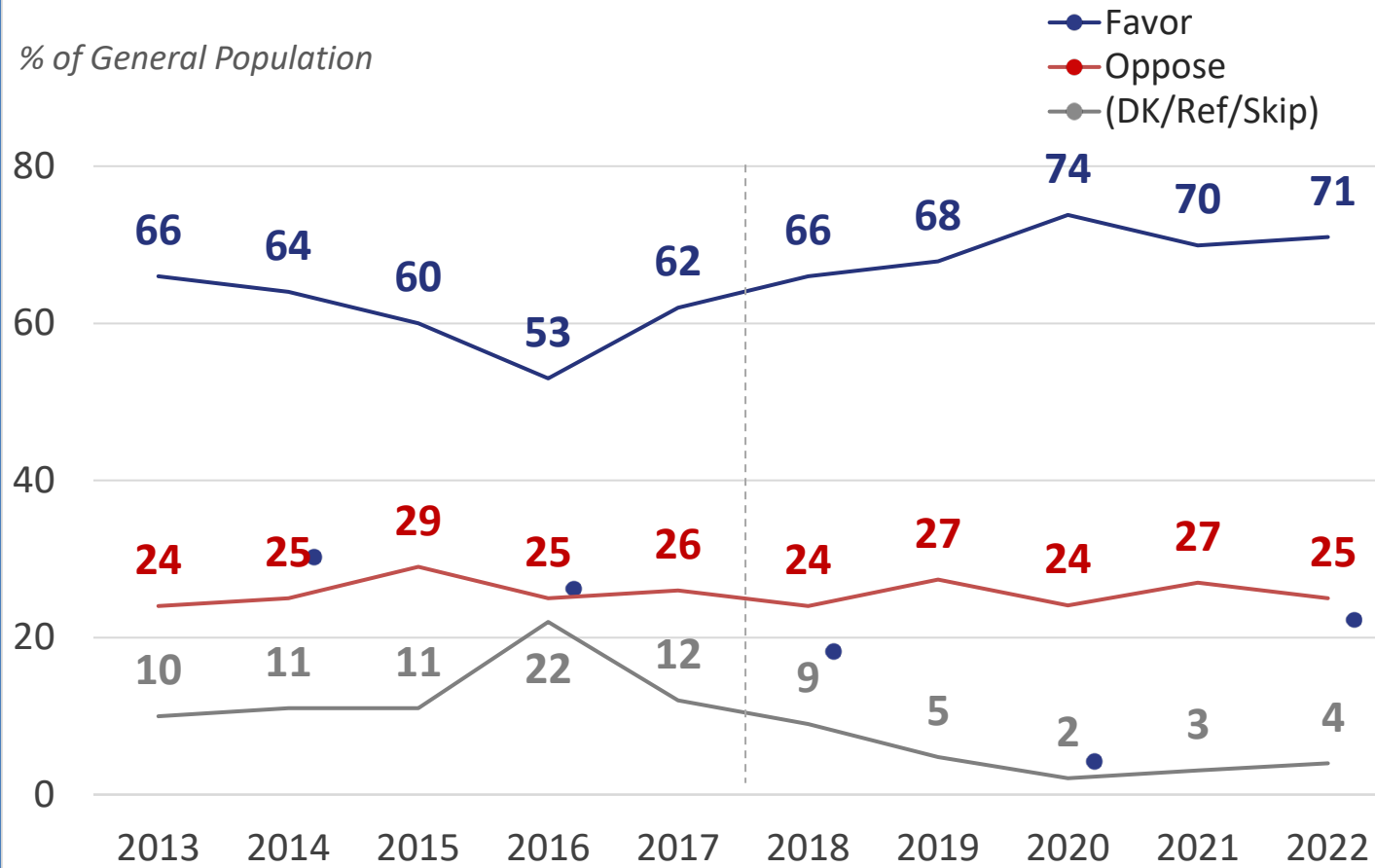


Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q19

TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

More than seven out of ten Americans support tax-credit scholarships—higher than all years prior to 2020.



Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. 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, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q25; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

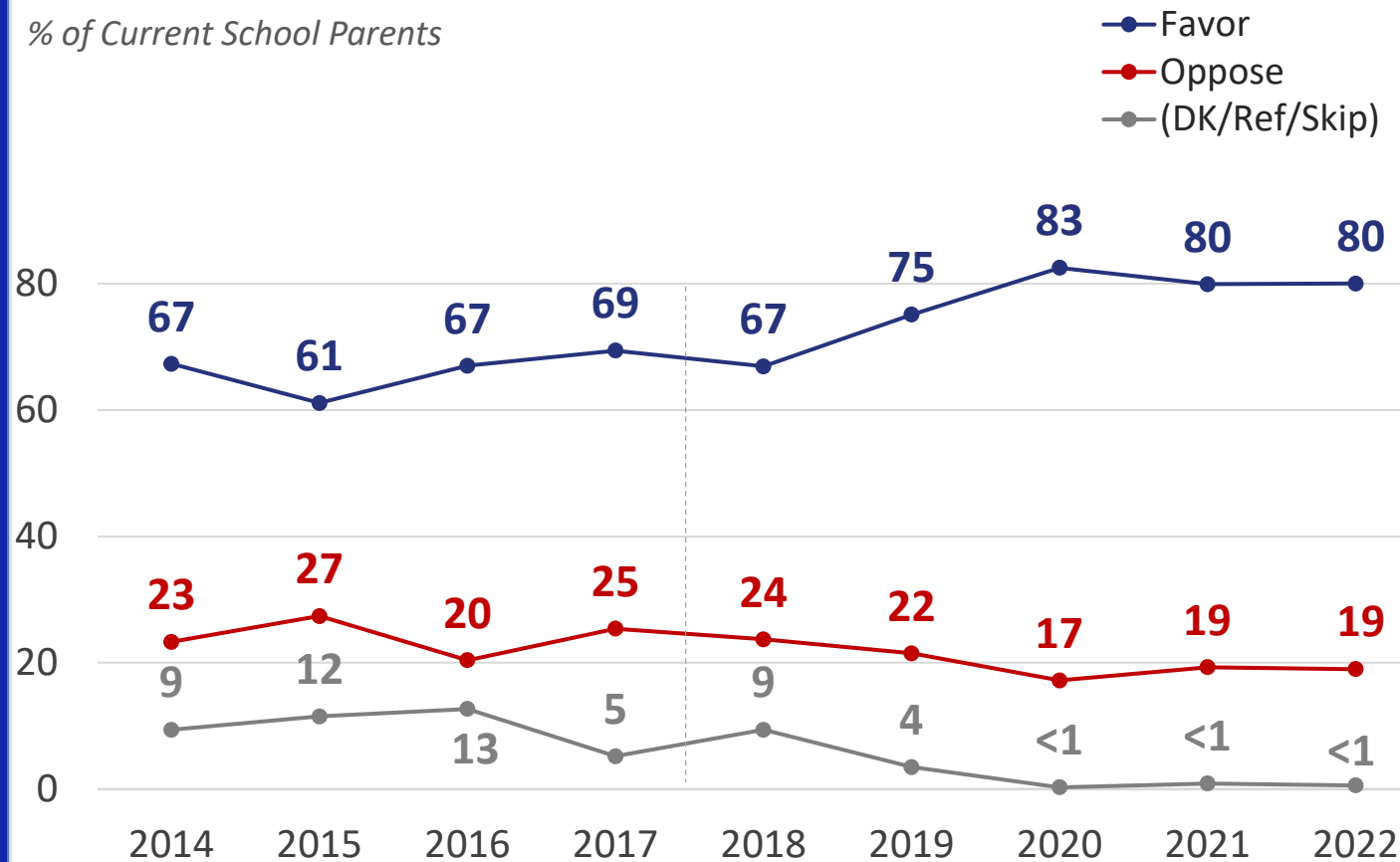
TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2014–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. 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, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q25; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2014–2015*

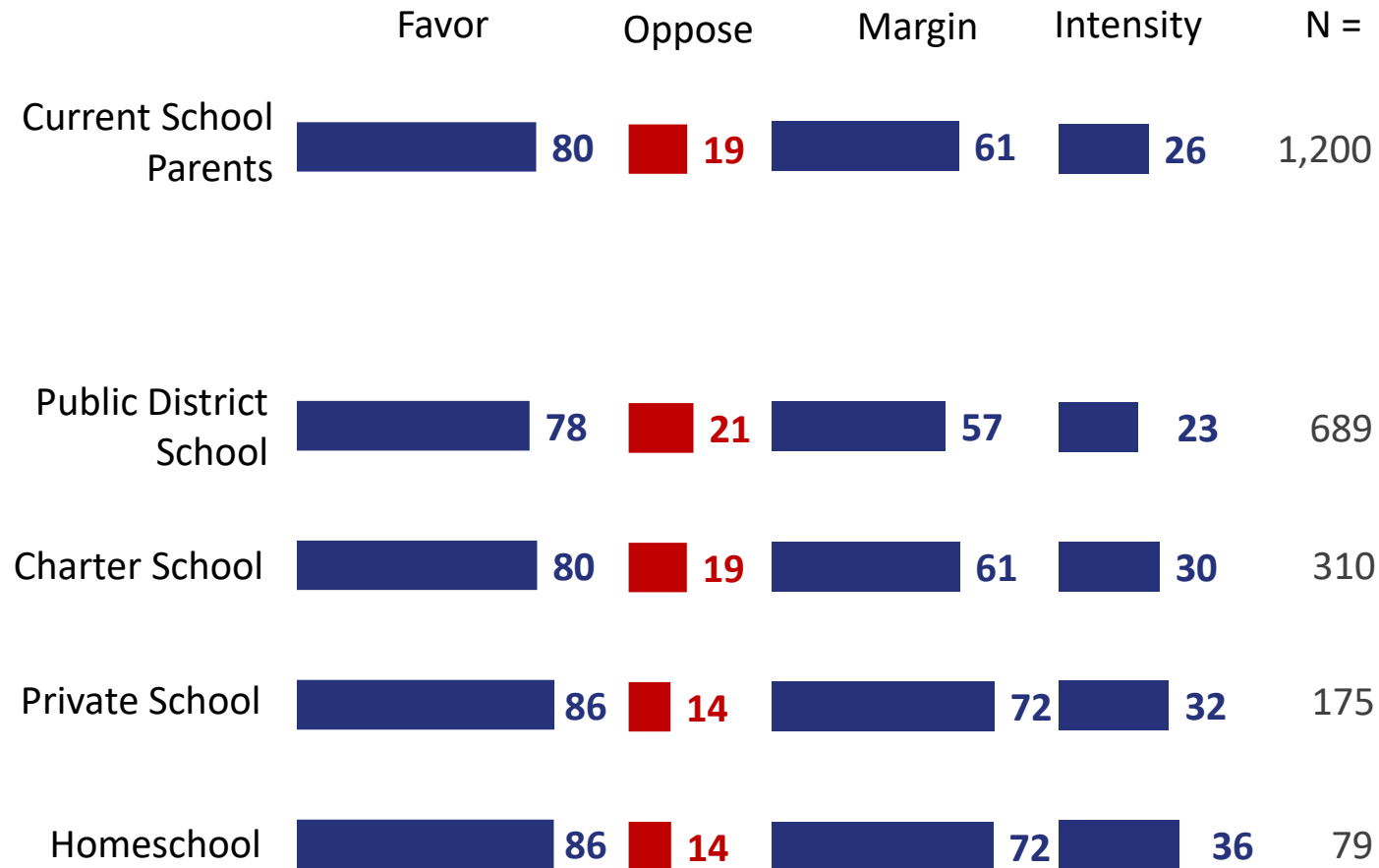
Parent support for tax-credit scholarships remained stable from last year. Parents are four times more likely to support tax-credit scholarships than they are to oppose.

% of Current School Parents



TAX-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Across various demographics, parents are very favorable of tax-credit scholarships. Both margins and intensities are very positive.



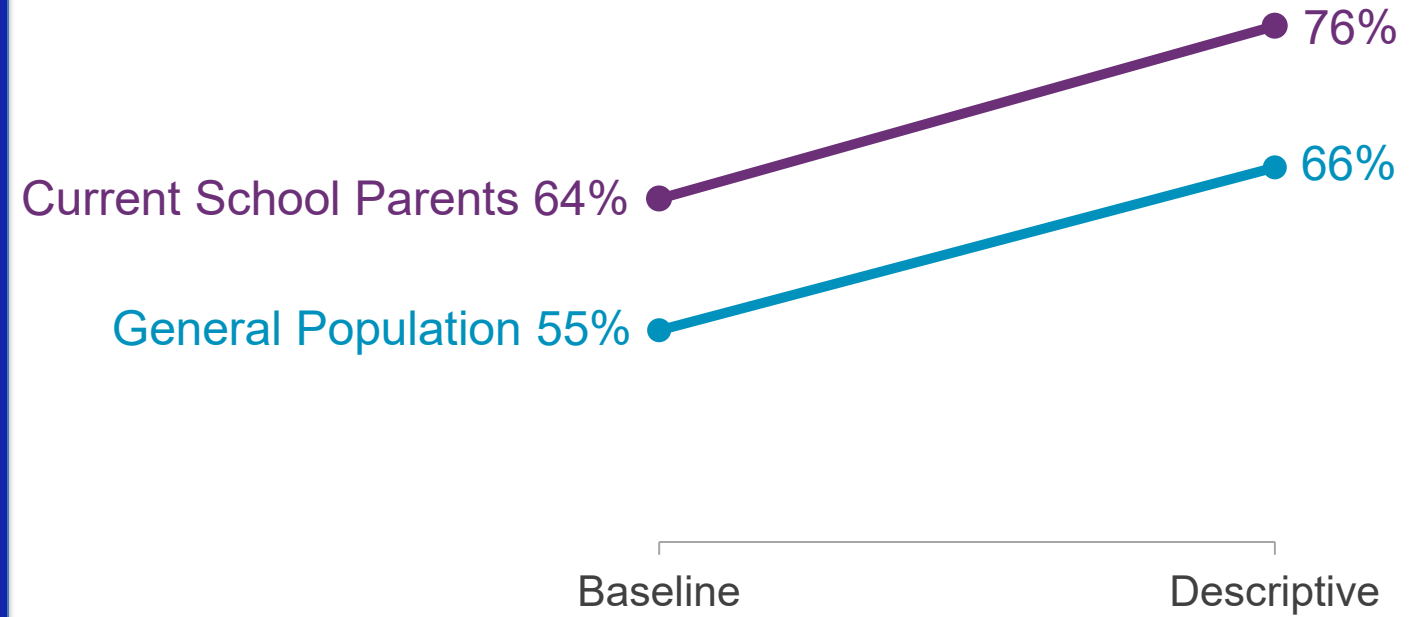
Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q25

CHARTER SCHOOLS

When given a description of charter schools, support among parents increased by 12 points for parents and 11 points for the general population.

% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"

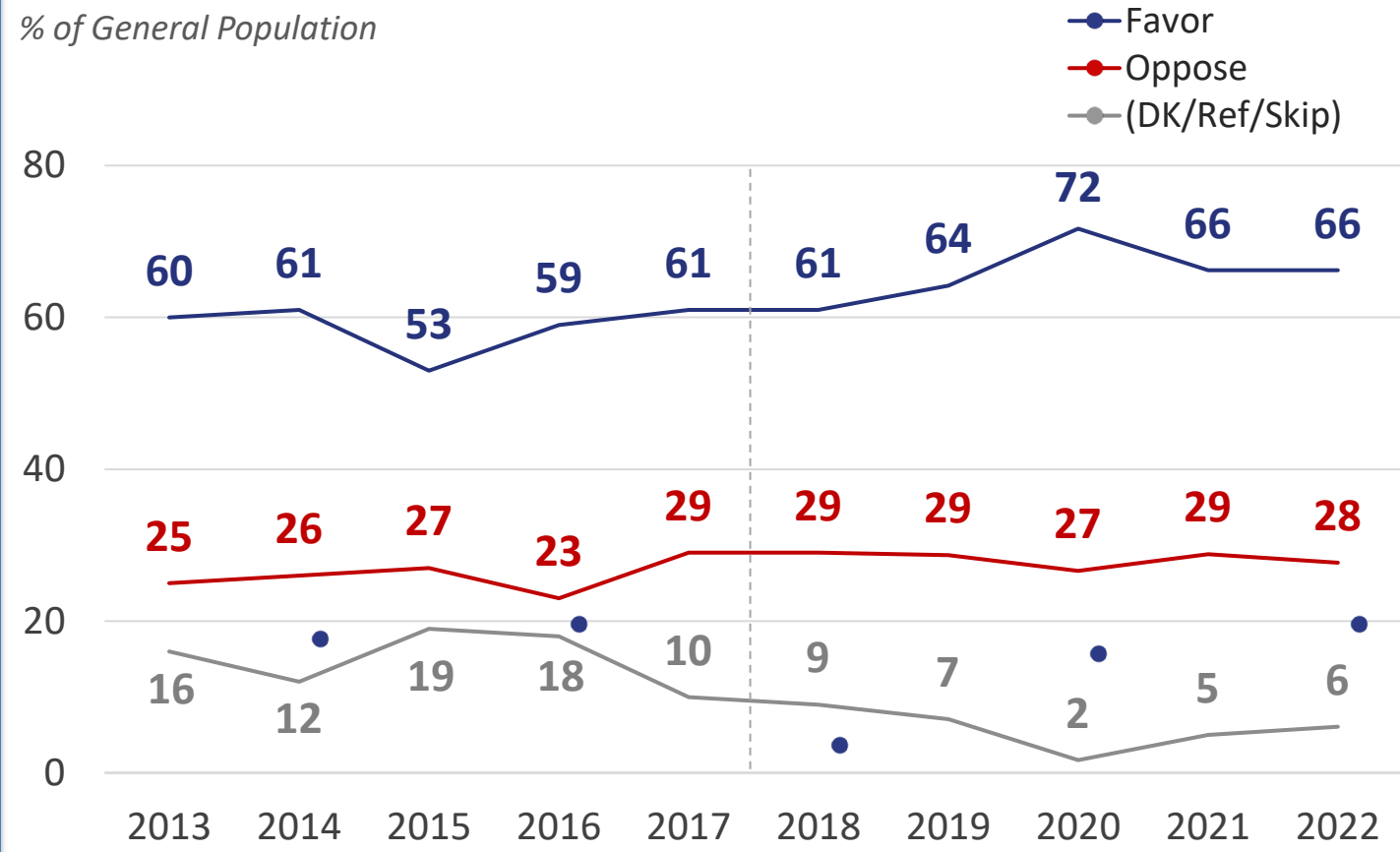


Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q16 and Q17

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter school support remained stable from 2021, with about two-thirds of Americans expressing favor.

% of General Population



Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2013–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. 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.

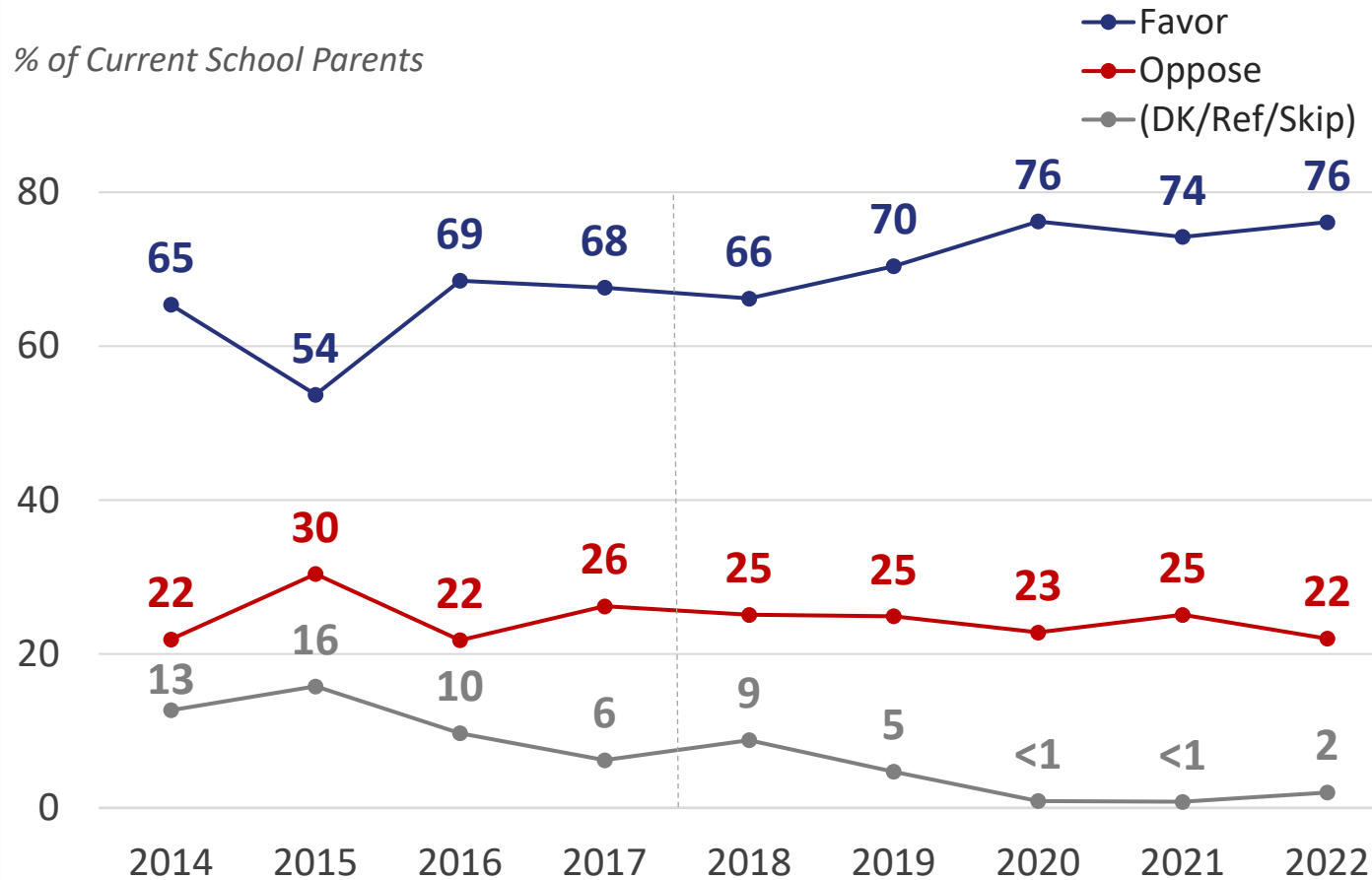
Sources: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q17; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2013–2015*

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Notes: Phone-only survey results shown for 2014–2017. Mixed-mode results (online and phone) shown for 2018–2022. 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.

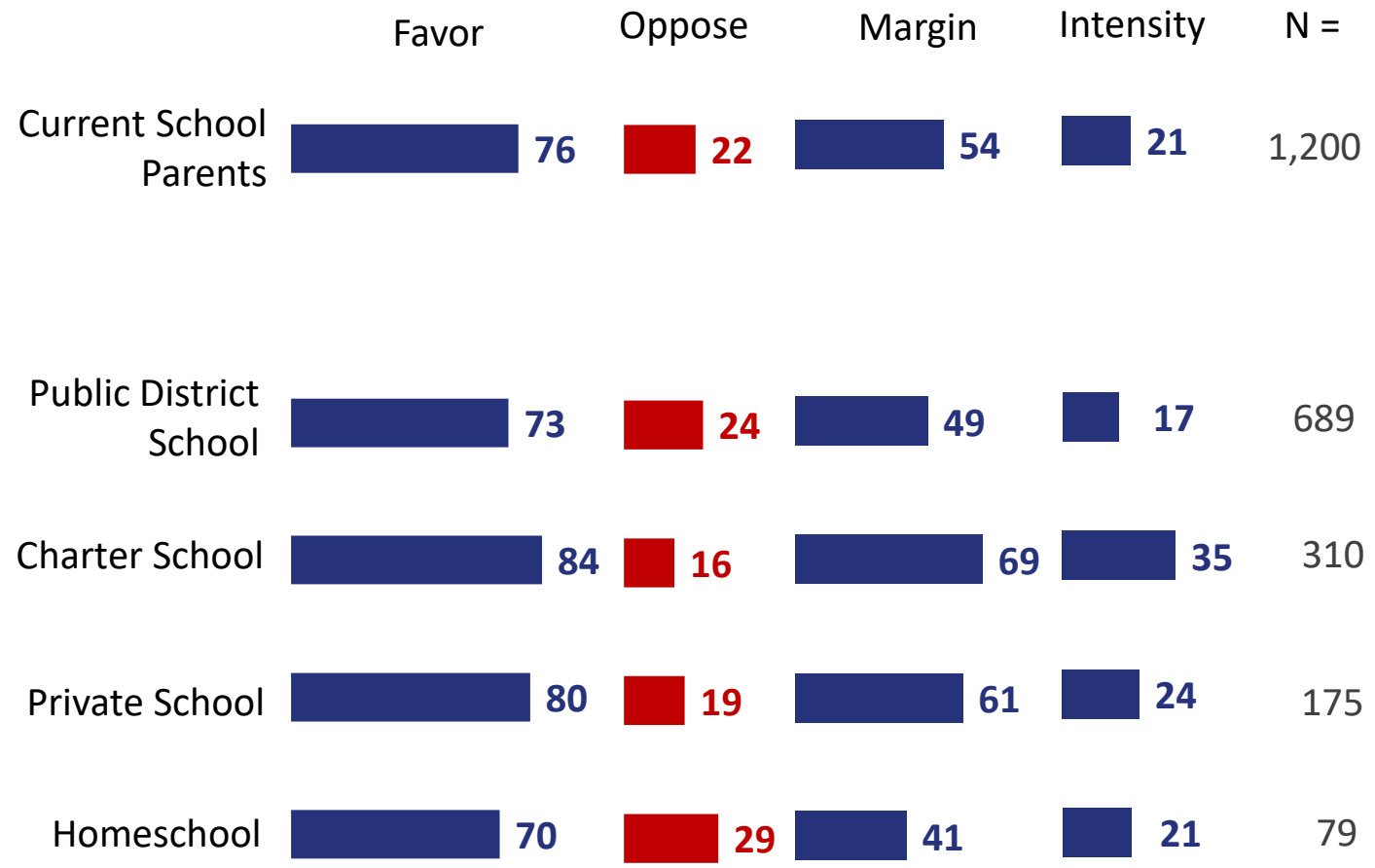
Sources: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q17; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2016–2021*; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, *Schooling in America Survey, 2014–2015*

More than three out of four current school parents support charter schools, matching the all-time high in 2020.



CHARTER SCHOOLS

Across various demographics, parents are very favorable of charter schools. Both margins and intensities are very positive.



Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

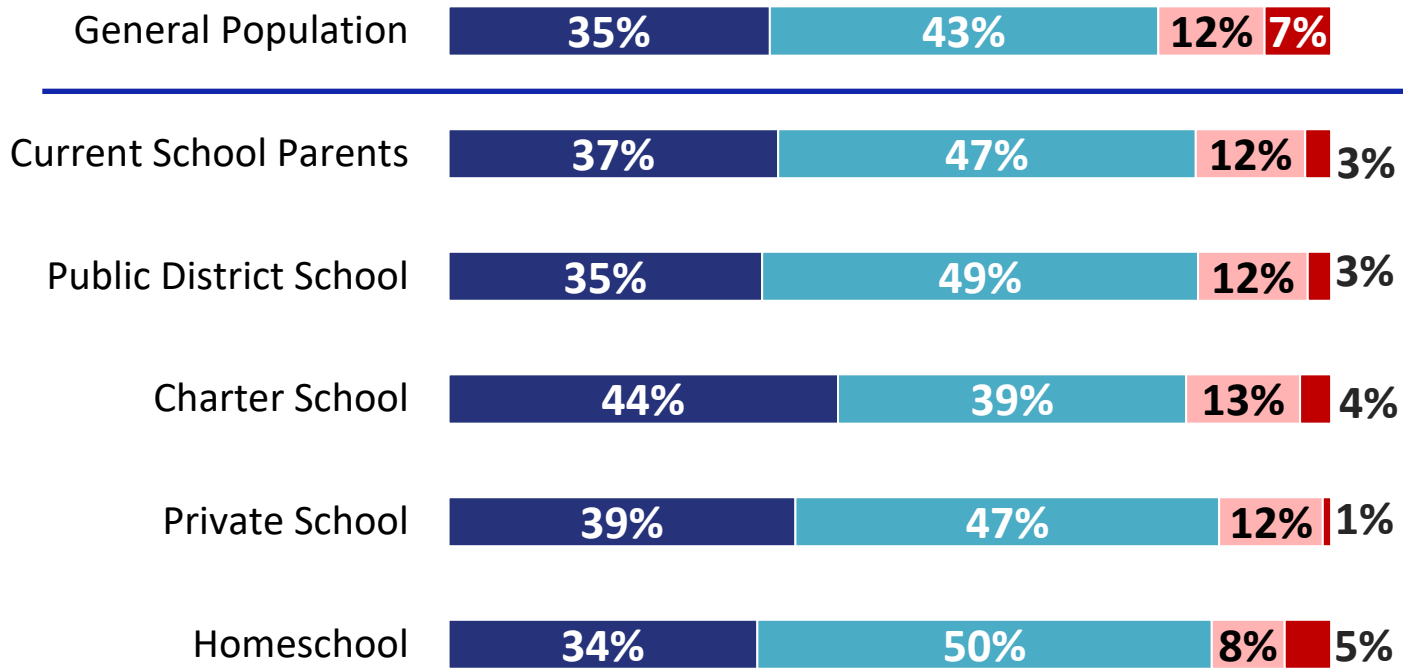
Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q17

VIEWS ON INTRA-DISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

More than three out of four Americans, including more than four out of five parents, 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**



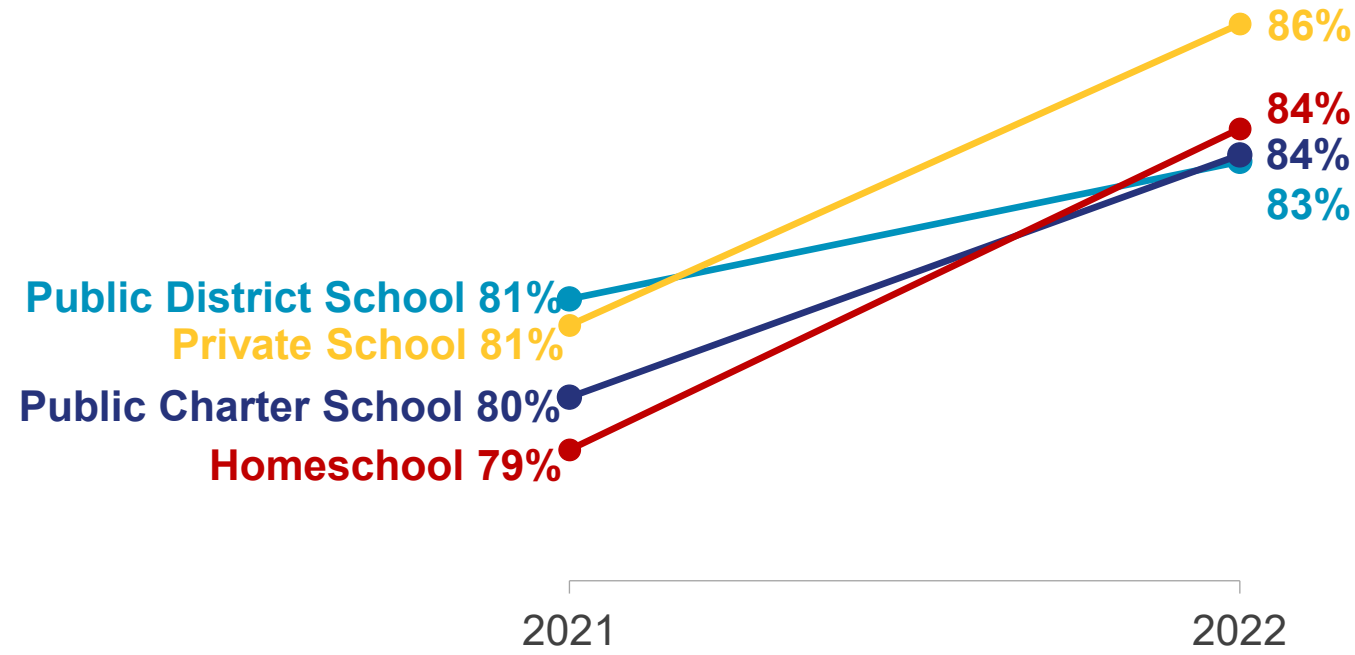
Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q26

VIEWS ON INTRA-DISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

Private school parents and homeschoolers are both five percentage points more likely to favor students being allowed to transfer to another public school within their resident school district compared to last year.

% of Current School Parents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"

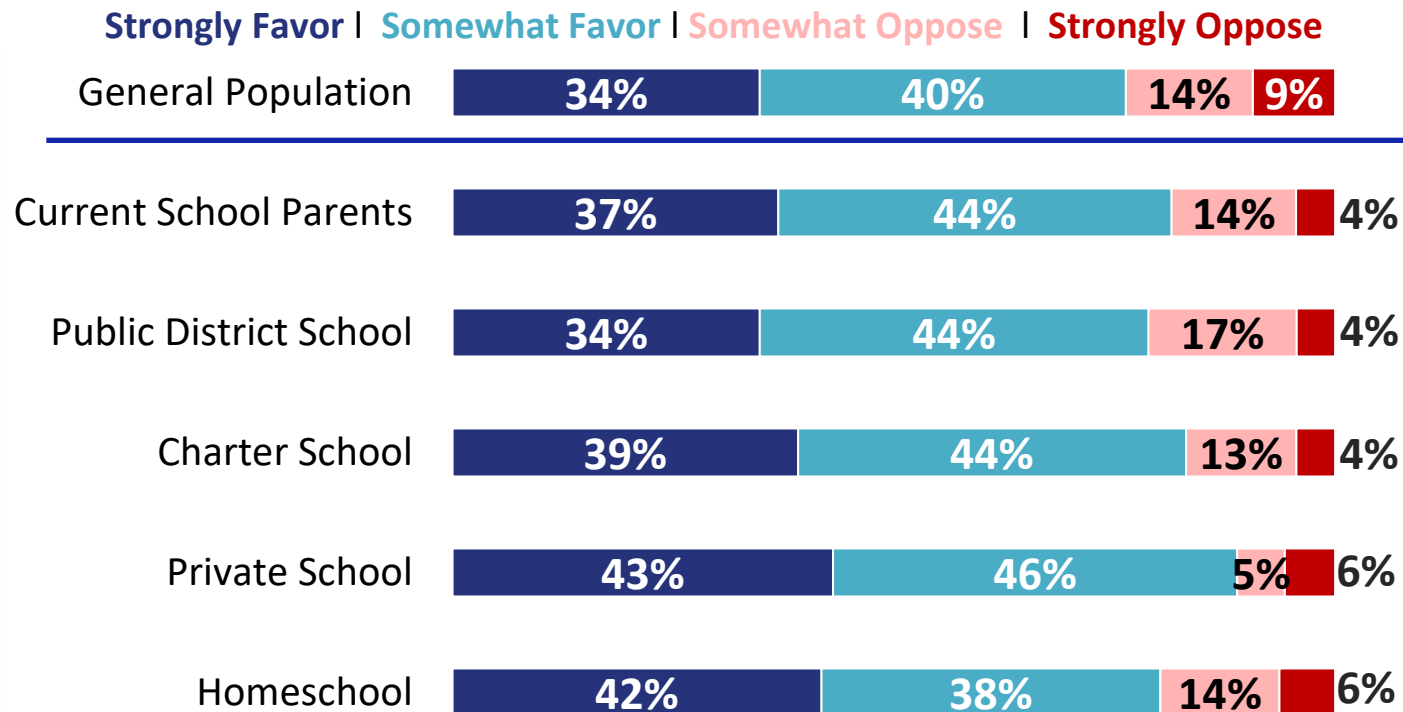


Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.
Sources: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q26; EdChoice, Schooling in America Survey, 2021

VIEWS ON INTER-DISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

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

% of Respondents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"



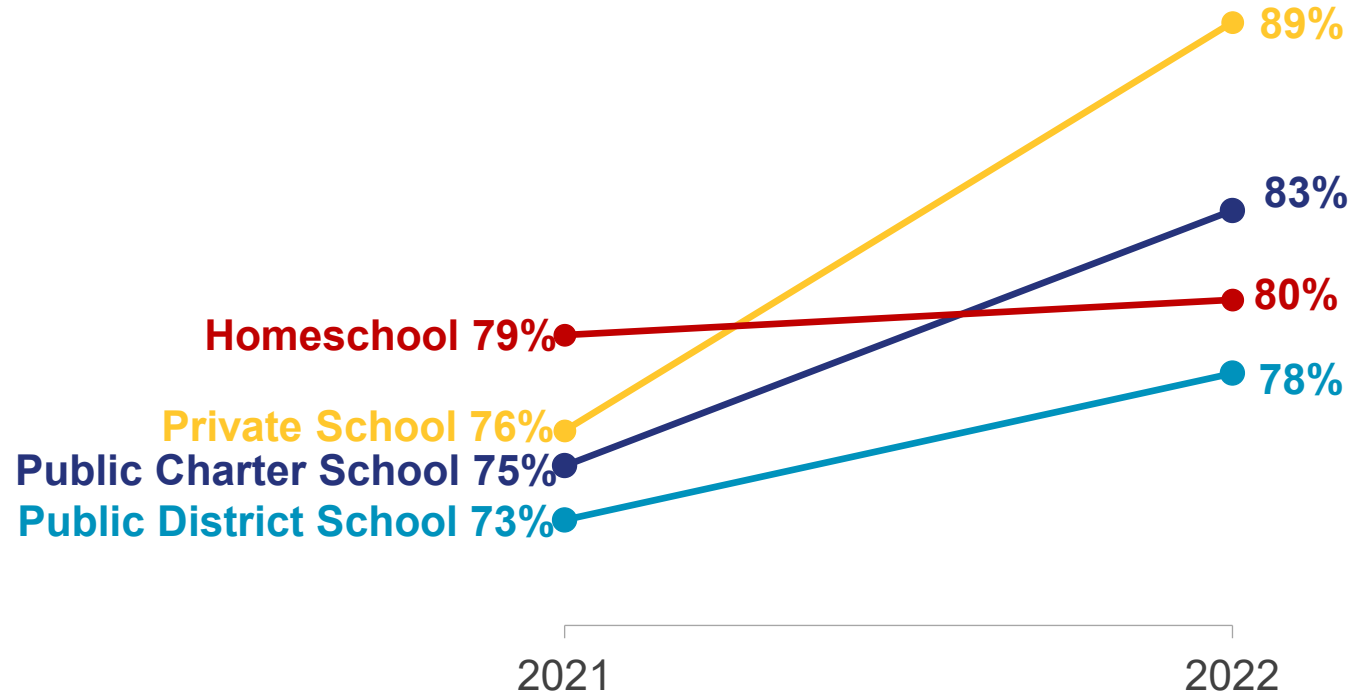
Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q26

VIEWS ON INTER-DISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

Private school parents increased their favorability of students being allowed to transfer to a public school in another district by 13 percentage points compared to last year.

% of Current School Parents Replying "Strongly/Somewhat Favor"



Notes: Respondents were permitted to skip the question, which is not shown. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Sources: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q26; EdChoice, *Schooling in America Survey*, 2021

PRIORITIZING POLITICAL ISSUES

Compared to all respondents, parents are 10 percentage points more likely to name **K–12 education** as one of their top three political issues, which is the largest difference between the two groups.

% of Respondents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3

LOW-HIGH

| Factors | General Public | Current School Parents |
|--|----------------|------------------------|
| Jobs and the Economy | 50% | 57% |
| Healthcare | 36% | 37% |
| COVID Precautionary Actions Such as the Vaccine, Social Distancing, etc. | 30% | 28% |
| Climate Change and the Environment | 27% | 27% |
| Gun Violence | 25% | 21% |
| Immigration | 21% | 20% |
| National Security and Foreign Policy | 20% | 18% |
| K–12 Education | 14% | 24% |
| Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice | 19% | 18% |
| Civil Rights and Civil Liberties | 18% | 16% |
| Elections and Voting Rights | 12% | 12% |
| LGBTQ Rights | 10% | 7% |

Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q1SSUES

PRIORITIZING EDUCATION ISSUES

More than half of Americans and school parents placed school safety in their top three K–12 education issues, while about a third of each did the same for school funding and curriculum. Parents were 7 points more likely than all adults to put **parental choice** in their top three rankings.

% of Respondents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3

| Factors | LOW-HIGH | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|
| | General Public | Current School Parents |
| School Safety | 54% | 54% |
| School Funding | 35% | 33% |
| Curriculum | 33% | 34% |
| COVID Precautionary Actions Such as the Vaccine, Social Distancing, etc. | 30% | 31% |
| Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | 27% | 27% |
| Parental Choice in K–12 Education | 19% | 26% |
| Technology in K–12 Education | 16% | 22% |
| Workforce Preparation | 18% | 16% |
| Disciplinary Policies | 15% | 16% |
| Democratic Values and Citizenship | 15% | 14% |
| Transportation Choice in K–12 Education | 11% | 11% |

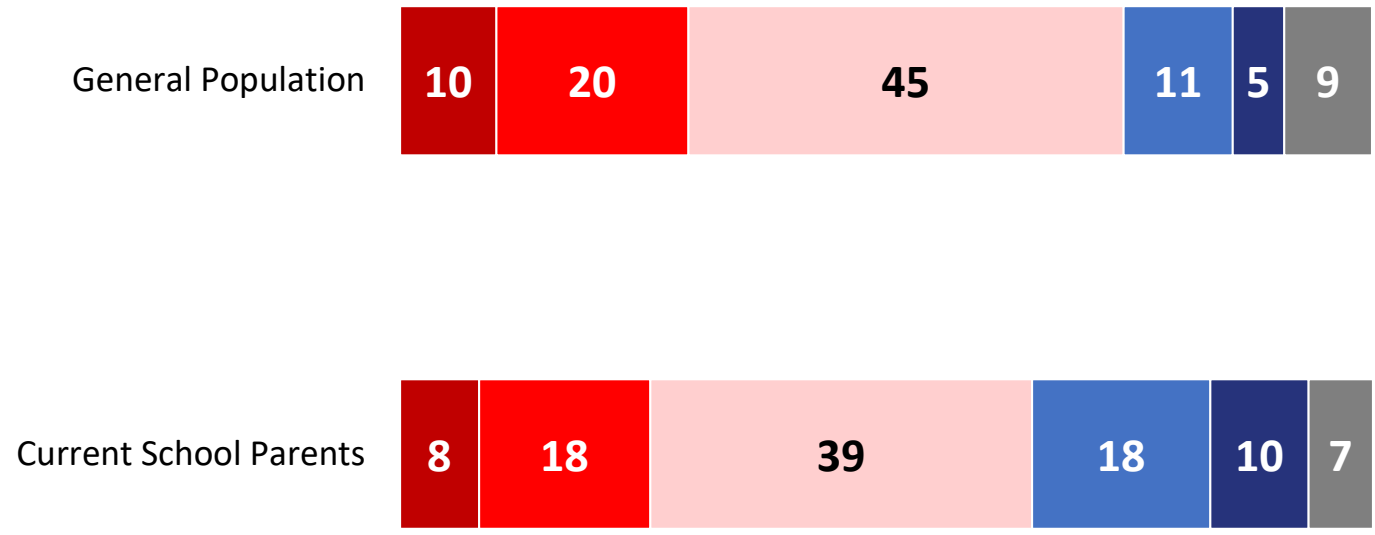
Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), QEDUISSUES

SCHOOL SPENDING

The general population is more likely to believe public K–12 education dollars are spent ineffectively than effectively.

% of Respondents

Not At All Effective | **Not That Effective** | **Somewhat Effective**
Very Effective | **Extremely Effective** | **Don't Know/No Opinion**



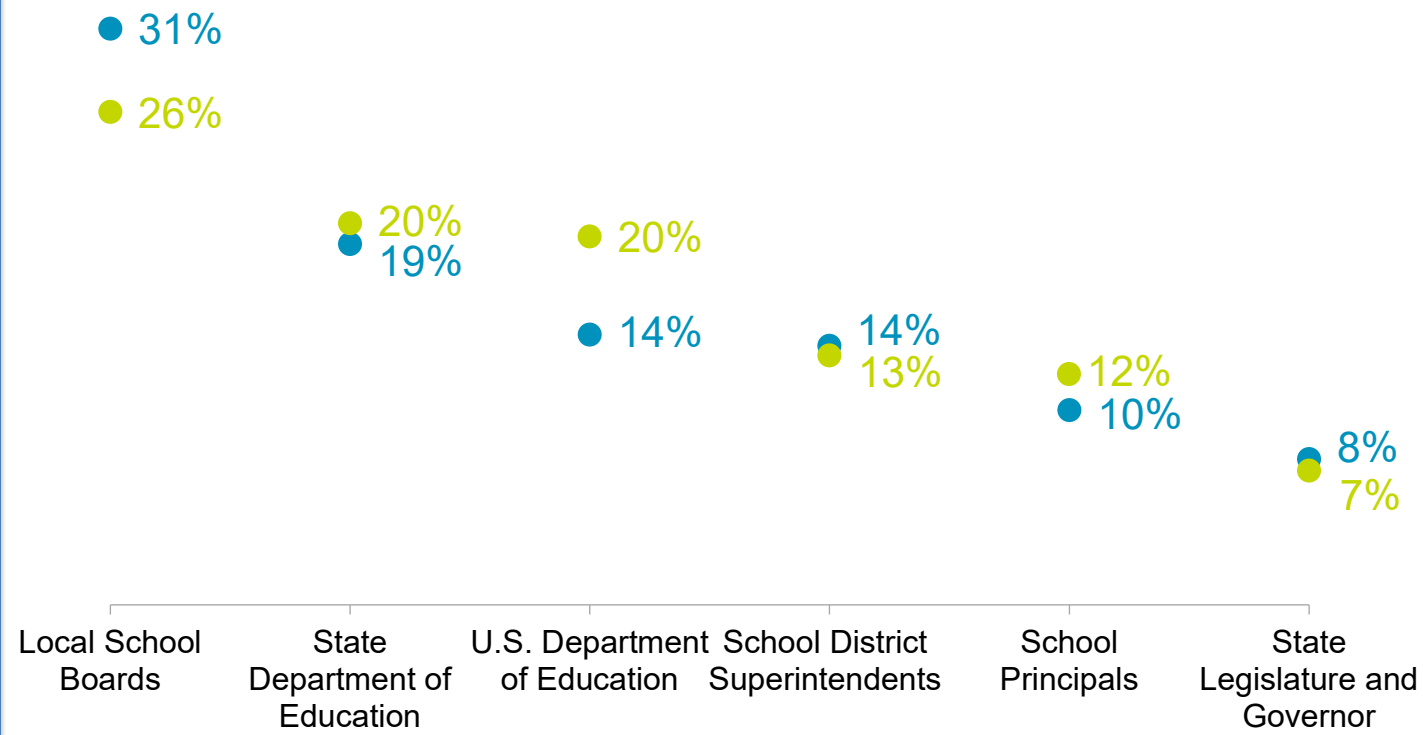
Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q30

SCHOOL SPENDING

Pluralities of Americans and parents say school boards should control education spending, but responses are rather spread among six options.

% of Respondents

- General Population
- Current School Parents

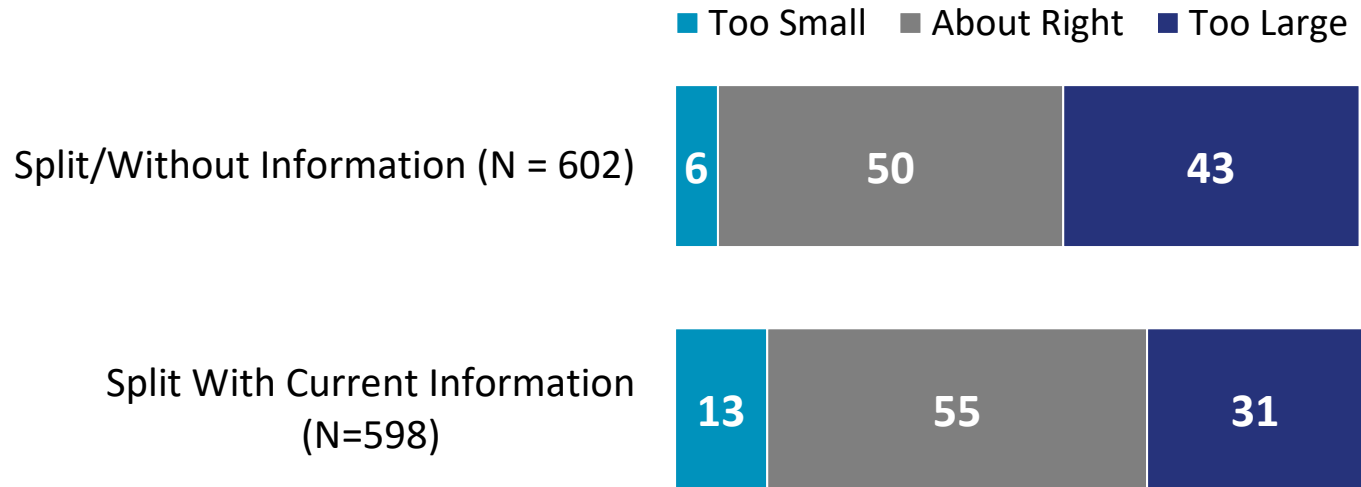


Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q38

POLICY PREFERENCES

Parents who are provided with the average class size in their state are 12 percentage points less likely to think it is too large than those not provided with any information.

% of Current School Parents by Split Sample



Question Wording A *Do you believe that the average public school class size in [STATE] is at a level that is:*

Question Wording B *According to the most recent information available, on average there are [X.X] students per full-time teacher in [STATE]. Do you believe that average public school class size in [STATE] is at a level that is:*

Note: For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question, which is not reflected in chart.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q33

POLICY PREFERENCES

Parents and the general population are similarly more willing to tradeoff larger classes for higher teacher salaries.

% of Respondents

- Smaller class size with lower-paid teachers
- Higher teacher salaries with larger class sizes

General Population



Current School Parents



Note: For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question, which along with is not reflected in calculations for the chart nor are refusals.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 *Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q32

POLICY PREFERENCES

Americans are slightly more likely to think teacher compensation should be based on a pre-determined salary schedule than being paid market-rate based on skills and knowledge.

% of Respondents

- We should continue to pay teachers based on experience and credentials according to a pre-determined salary schedule.
- We should pay teachers based on particular skills and knowledge according to what the market will bear.

General Population



Current School Parents



Note: For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question, which is not reflected in calculations for the chart.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q34

UNIFIED SYSTEM OF K-12 FUNDING

More than two out of three parents support a unified system of K-12 funding where dollars follow students to the educational setting of their family’s choosing, though nearly one out of five Americans either don’t know or have no opinion on the matter.

% of Respondents Replying

Strongly Favor | **Somewhat Favor** | **Somewhat Oppose** | **Strongly Oppose**
Don't Know/No Opinion

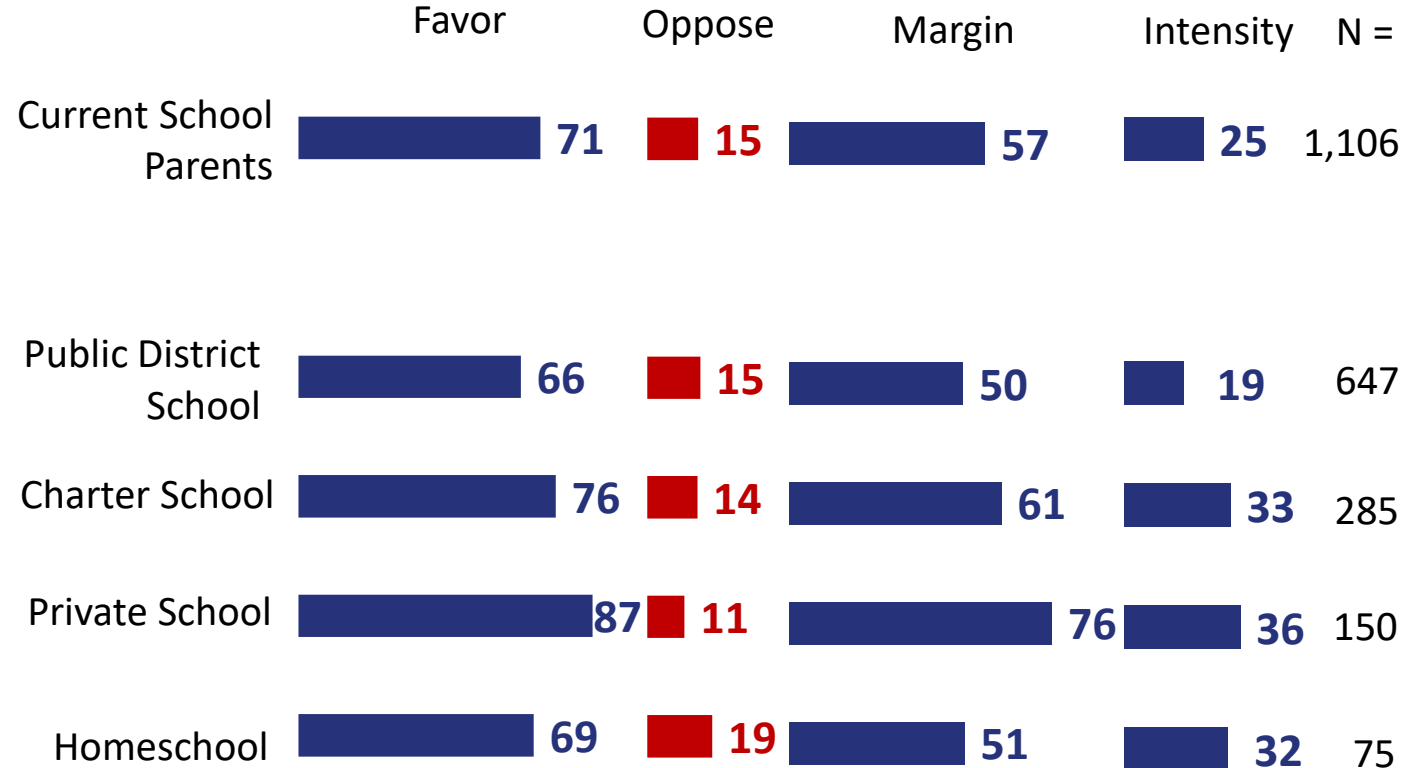


Note: For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question, which is not reflected in calculations for the chart.

Source: EdChoice, *2022 Schooling in America Survey* (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q35

UNIFIED SYSTEM OF K–12 FUNDING

Across various demographics, parents are very favorable of a unified system of K–12 funding where dollars follow students to the educational setting of their family’s choosing. Margins and intensities are very positive.



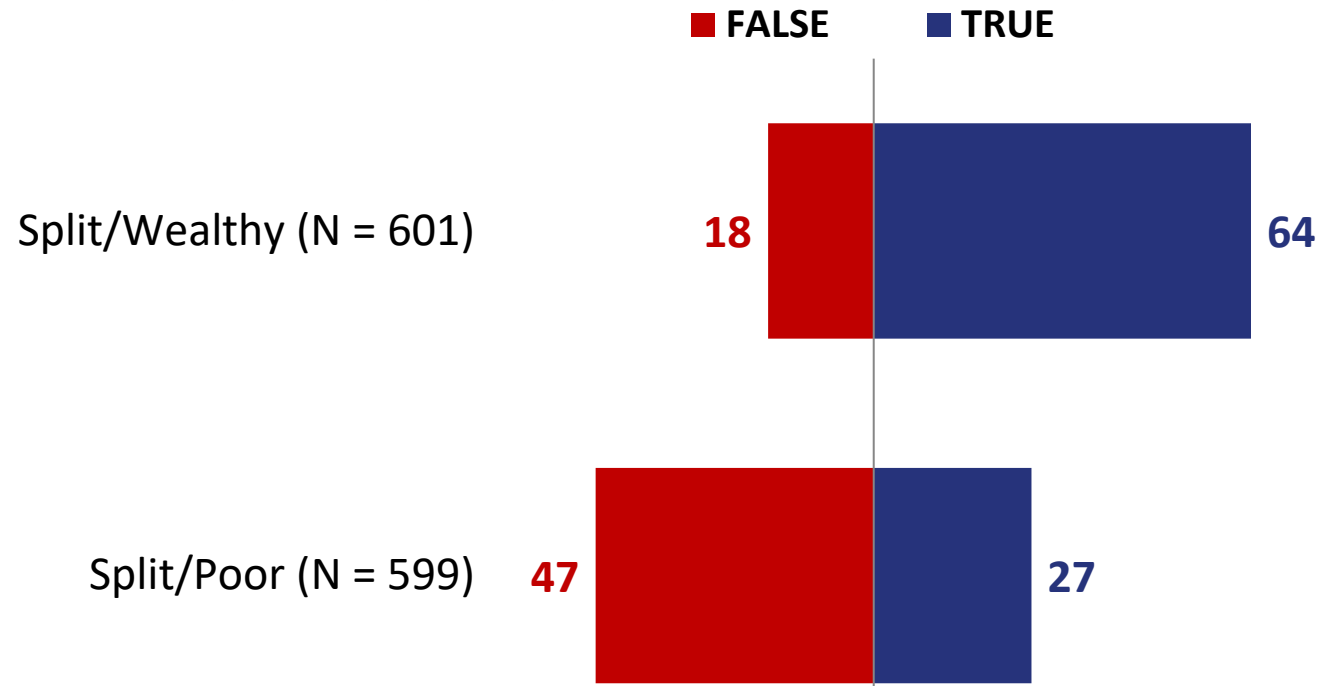
Notes: For the online survey, the respondent was permitted to skip the question, which is not reflected in calculations for the chart. For more information about school type subgroup samples, see slide 70.

Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q35

FUNDING EQUITY

In a split sample experiment where half of respondents were told wealthier districts receive more funding and half that poorer districts receive more funding, respondents thought it was true wealthy districts receive more and false that poor districts receive more. Americans are more likely to think wealthier districts receive more funding than poorer districts.

% of General Population by Split Sample



Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q36

FUNDING PRIORITIES

When considering how pandemic relief aid to schools should be spent, parents are most likely to name special education, assistance for homeless students, and mental health services as the three most important areas.

% of Respondents Providing Ranking 1, 2, or 3

LOW-HIGH

| Factors | General Public | Current School Parents |
|---|----------------|------------------------|
| Education for Students with Special Needs | 35% | 36% |
| Assistance for Homeless Students | 30% | 29% |
| Providing Mental Health Services and Supports to Students, Teachers, Staff | 29% | 32% |
| Providing Educational Technologies Directly to Students | 23% | 29% |
| Resources to Improve Preparedness and Crisis-Response Efforts | 22% | 24% |
| Career and Technical Education | 20% | 24% |
| Addressing the Needs of Marginalized Students | 18% | 17% |
| Facility Repairs/Improvements | 15% | 16% |
| Addressing Learning Loss | 14% | 17% |
| Supplemental Learning Activities (e.g. Summer and Before/After-School Programs) | 13% | 17% |
| Education for Adults | 12% | 11% |
| Resources for School Leaders | 9% | 11% |

Source: EdChoice, 2022 Schooling in America Survey (conducted April 7–May 16, 2022), Q37

SURVEY PROFILE

| | |
|--|---|
| Administration/Fielding Dates | April 7 to May 16, 2022 |
| 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 = 495 - Cell Phone = 79% - Landline = 21% Online for General Population, N = 705 Phone/Online for School Parents, N = 1,200 |

SURVEY PROFILE

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Languages | English; Spanish option |
| Median Survey Time | Phone (General Population): 19.7 minutes Online (General Population, Not School Parents): 16.3 minutes Online (School Parents): 16.0 minutes |
| Sample Sizes | General Population, N = 1,200 School Parents (Plus Oversample), N = 1,200 |
| Quotas | African-American School Parents, N = 200 [200] Hispanic School Parents, N = 203 [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/2022-schooling-in-america>

Project Contact Drew Catt, dcatt@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+) | 1,200 |
| Current School Parents | 1,200 |
| Public District School | 689 |
| Charter School | 310 |
| Private School | 175 |
| Homeschool | 79 |

Starting in Fall 2020 we modified the text in the question used for identifying parent respondents by school type – changing “regular (traditional) public school” to “public district school”. We also updated the question layout to a matrix style. This year we saw both an increase in the number of parents self-reporting they had a child in a public charter school and a small increase in the number of respondents saying they had never heard of a charter school. We advise some caution in interpreting responses based on charter school parents. We recognize the charter school sample size is a higher-than-expected result for that subgroup. In the coming year we plan to do more research to better understand the fluid school type enrollment shifts occurring since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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