Schooling During the Pandemic

What do parents and the public say about their experiences, school funding, and education options?

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Vice President of Research



September 2020

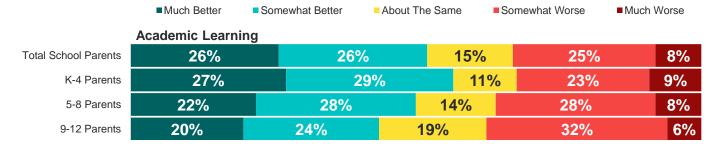
SCHOOLING DURING THE PANDEMIC



COVID-19 Impact on Learning and Development

Most school parents feel their child's/children's progress is either better or about the same compared to just before the coronavirus, especially those with children in grades K-4.

How would you compare your child's/children's progress on the following right now, compared to just before the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak?

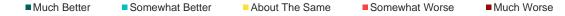


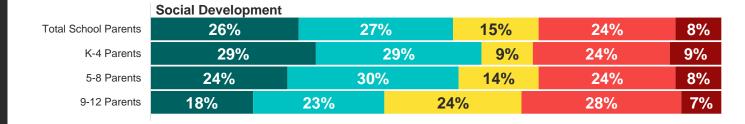


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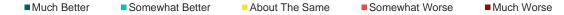




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Online, Inperson, or Hybrid Schooling Support

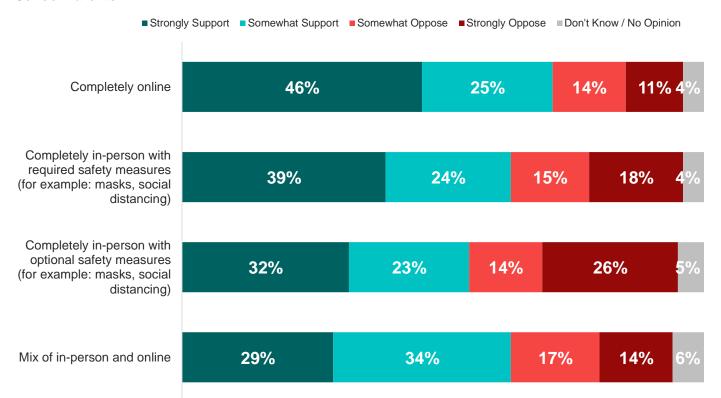
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Parents are most supportive of school being conducted completely online in the fall, followed by completely in-person with required safety measures.

Do you support or oppose the following school approaches to educating K-12 students in the fall?

School Parents





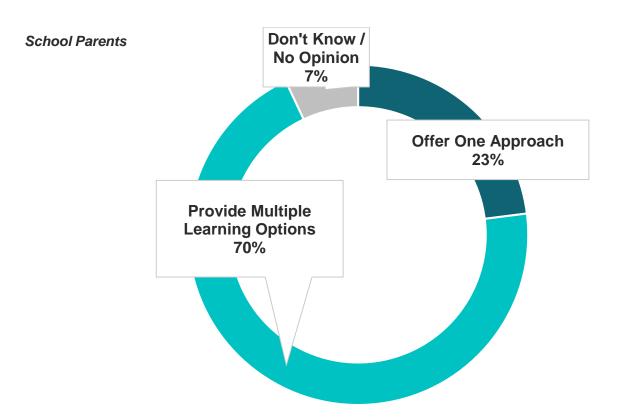
Preference for One or Multiple Learning Options

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However, parents continue to believe that schools should offer multiple learning options in the fall.

And, do you think schools should offer only one approach to educating K-12 students in the fall or provide multiple learning options?





Likelihood of Remote Learning Enrollment

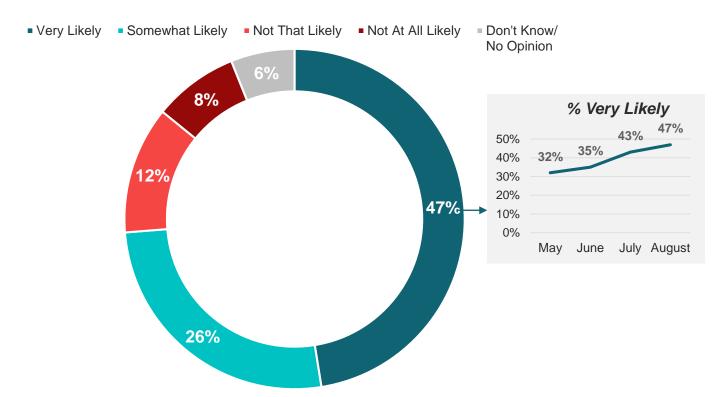
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The proportion of school parents likely to choose remote/virtual learning, over their child/children physically going back to school, has steadily increased since May.

This coming school year, if your school or school district allows for the option of e-learning instead of physically going back to school, how likely would you be to enroll your child in e-learning/distance learning provided by the school or district?

School Parents

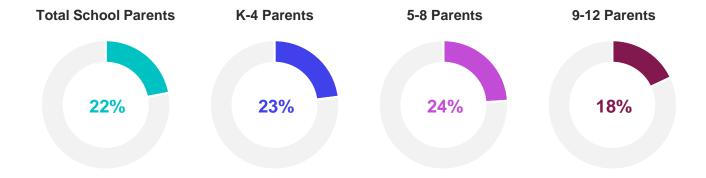




A little less than a quarter of parents have switched their child's/children's school type since February of this year. School parents with younger children are more likely to have switched than those with older children.

Please tell us the grade level for each of your children; what kind of school each child will attend this new school year; and what kind of school each child was being educated in February of this year, before any school closures.

% Of Students Switching School Type, Reported by Parents



School Type Shift

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COVID-19 Impact on Homeschooling

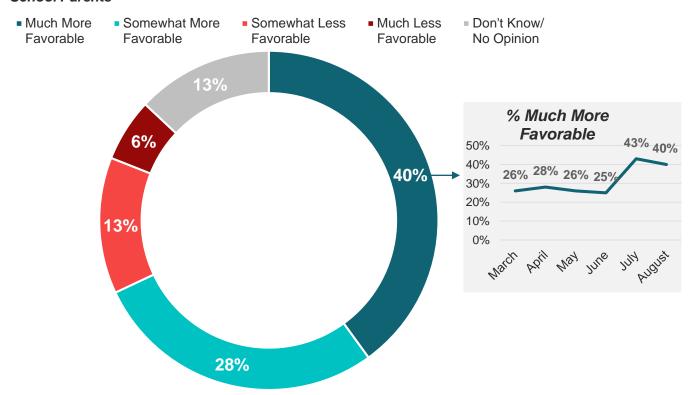
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School parents have become increasingly more favorable of homeschooling since the coronavirus outbreak started in March.

How have your opinions on homeschooling changed as a result of the coronavirus?

School Parents





Learning Pods

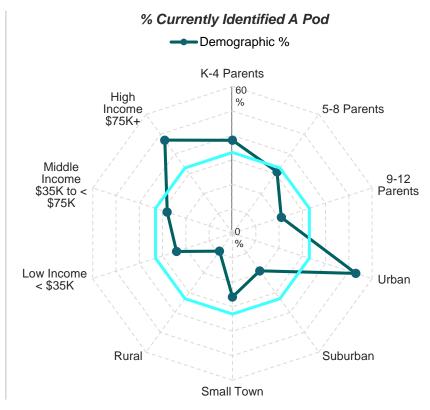
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Parents are split over participation and interest in forming a pod with other families. Those with high incomes, children in grades K-4 and living in urban areas are more likely to currently be a part of a 'pod' with other families.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, are you planning to form a 'pod' with other families?





SCHOOL FUNDING



School Spending Estimate

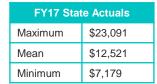
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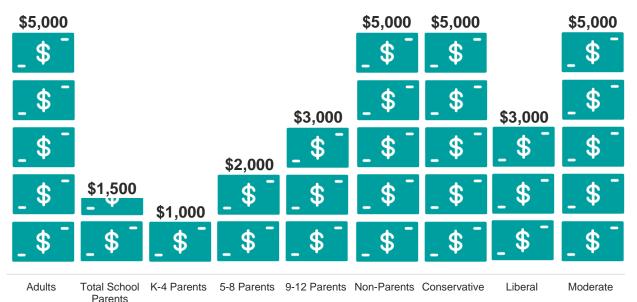
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Americans, and especially school parents, believe that government spending per student is much lower than what is publicly reported.

How much do you think is spent <u>per year on each student</u> in your state's **public schools**? Your estimate of the state average—to the nearest thousand dollars—will represent the combined expenditures of local, state, and federal governments.

Median Estimate





\$ = \$1,000

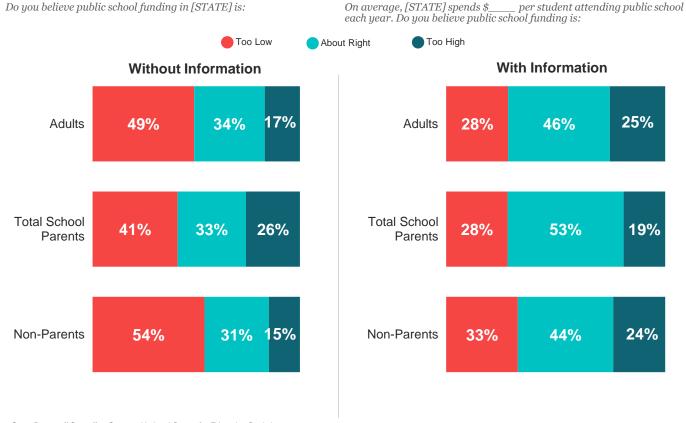


School Funding

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When given spending information, school parents were much less likely (-21 points) to believe school spending per student was 'too low'.



State Per-pupil Spending Source: National Center for Education Statistics



School Funding

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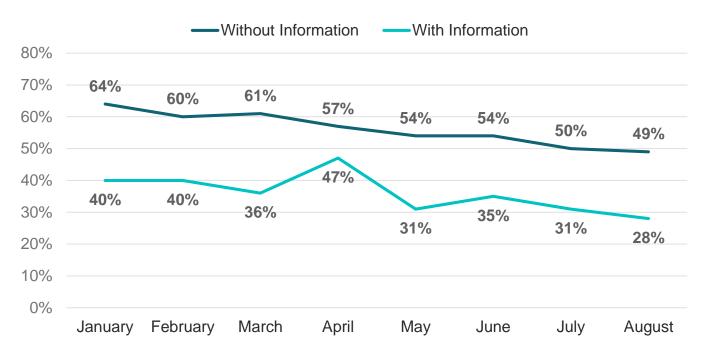
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The proportion of Americans that indicate spending is too low has steadily decreased since January among both those with and without information.

Do you believe public school funding in [STATE] is:
On average, [STATE] spends \$_____ per student attending public school each year. Do you believe public school funding is:

All Adults

% Too Low



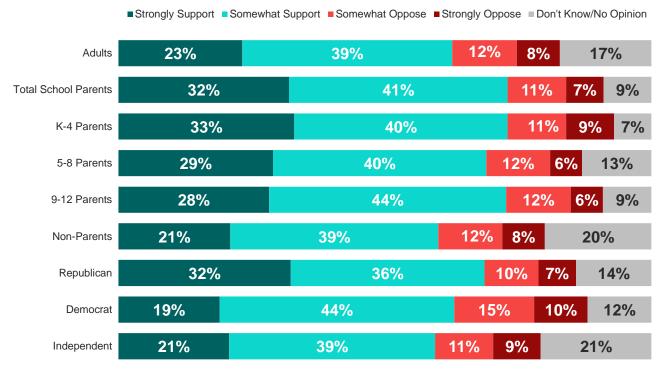
EDUCATION CHOICE REFORMS



Charter School Support



Charter schools are public schools that have more control over their own budget, staff, and curriculum, and are exempt from many existing public school regulations. In general, what is your opinion of public charter schools?

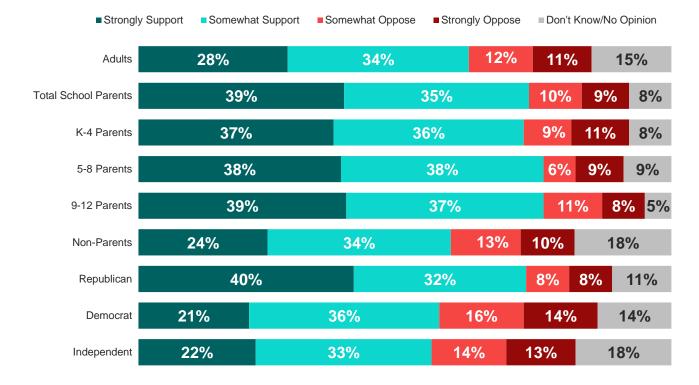




School Voucher Support

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A school voucher system allows parents the option of sending their child to the school of their choice, whether that school is public or private, including both religious and non-religious schools. If this policy were adopted, tax dollars currently allocated to a school district would be allocated to parents in the form of a 'school voucher' to pay partial or full tuition for the child's school. In general, what is your opinion of school voucher systems?





Education Savings Accounts Support

 Total School Parents
 37%
 36%

 K-4 Parents
 37%
 35%

 5-8 Parents
 37%
 34%

 9-12 Parents
 34%
 41%

■ Somewhat Support

30%

30%

29%

28%

34%

what is your opinion of an ESA system?

Non-Parents

Republican

Democrat

Independent

Adults

■ Strongly Support

An "education savings account" in K-12 education – often called an ESA – establishes for parents a government-authorized savings account with restricted, but multiple uses for educational purposes. Parents can then use these funds to pay for: school tuition; tutoring; online education programs; therapies for students with special needs; textbooks or other instructional materials; or save for future college expenses. In general,

■ Somewhat Oppose

36%

34%

39%

35%

35%

■ Strongly Oppose

8%

8%

7%

6%

9%

7%4%

8%

6%

■ Don't Know/No Opinion

7%

11%

25%

7%

5%

6%

21%

11%

10%

15%

16%

19%

24%

12%



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Looking ahead...

Continue regular polling:

- General Public
- Parents
- Teachers

New polling:

Teens

EdChoice Public Opinion Tracker:

https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com

Download monthly reports, crosstabs, questionnaires:

https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/downloads

EdChoice's Research Library:

https://www.edchoice.org/what-we-do/research

We want to be a resource for you. Please don't hesitate to contact me or other members on the research team.

Paul DiPerna paul@edchoice.org

