Public Support Grows for Higher Teacher Pay and Expanded School Choice

Results from the 2019 *Education Next* Survey of American Public Opinion on Education

Paul E. Peterson, Director
Program on Education Policy and Governance
Harvard Kennedy School

Hoover Institution, Washington, D.C.
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Education next survey, 2019

- Nationally representative sample of over 3000 adult Americans, including representative oversamples of teachers, African Americans, and Hispanic respondents.
- Administered in May, 2019
- Online survey
- Interactive graph available at Educationnext.org/edfacts/
- Survey experiments randomly assign segments of sample to different questions
Q: What grade would you give the public schools in [your community / the nation as a whole]?
Share assigning an A or B grade to the public schools ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In your community</th>
<th>In the nation as a whole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008 Percentage</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Percentage</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local schools an A or B grade

- General Public
- Republicans
- Democrats
Q: What grade would you give the [public / private] four-year colleges and universities in [your state / the nation as a whole]?
Share assigning an A or B grade to colleges and universities, by sector and location

- General public: In-state public 76, In-state private 58, Nationwide public 79, Nationwide private 66
- Republicans: In-state public 73, In-state private 49, Nationwide public 78, Nationwide private 62
- Democrats: In-state public 81, In-state private 49, Nationwide public 81, Nationwide private 70
Q: Do you support or oppose making all public two-year / four-year colleges in the United States free to attend?
Support for making college free to attend

- Two-year public colleges:
  - General public: 69%
  - Democrat: 85%
  - Republican: 47%

- Four-year public colleges:
  - General public: 60%
  - Democrat: 79%
  - Republican: 35%
Q: Do you support or oppose allowing undocumented immigrants to be eligible for the in-state college tuition rate if they graduated from high school in your state?
Support for In-State Tuition for Undocumented Immigrants

- General public: 44% Support, 44% Oppose
- Republican: 20% Support, 71% Oppose
- Democrat: 63% Support, 25% Oppose
Q: (Uninformed): Do you think that public school teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Q: (Informed): Public school teachers in your state are paid an average annual salary of $[INSERT PAY]. Do you think that public school teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?
Support for increasing teacher salaries

- General Public (Uninformed about salaries)
- General Public (Informed about salaries)
- Republicans (Uninformed about salaries)
- Republicans (Informed about salaries)
- Democrats (Uninformed about salaries)
- Democrats (Informed about salaries)
Q: Some people say that teacher unions are a stumbling block to school reform. Others say that unions fight for better schools and teachers. What do you think? Do you think they have a generally positive effect on schools, or do you think they have a generally negative effect?
Support for position that teacher unions have a generally positive effect on schools

Percentage


General public

Republicans

Democrats

Teachers

26 43 60 57
Q: Do you support or oppose basing part of the salaries of teachers on how much their students learn?
Q: Do you support or oppose basing part of the salaries of teachers on...
1. how many years they have been teaching?
2. how much their students learn?
3. evaluations by their principal?
4. whether they have a master’s degree?
5. whether they teach subjects with teacher shortages, like math and science?
6. whether they teach in schools with many disadvantaged students?
7. evaluations by their fellow teachers?
Support for basing part of teacher salaries on...
Q: Do you support or oppose the federal government continuing to require that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school?
Q: According to the most recent information available, $X is being spent each year per child attending public schools in your district. Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?
Q: Teachers with tenure cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. Some say that tenure protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons. Others say that it makes it too difficult to replace ineffective teachers. Do you support or oppose giving tenure to teachers?
Q: Do you support or oppose federal policies that prevent schools from expelling or suspending black and Hispanic students at higher rates than other students?
Support for Federal Policies Preventing Schools from Expelling Black and Hispanic Students at Higher Rates

Percentage

2018 2019

General Public (Support) 63 66
General Public (Oppose) 49 49
Republicans (Support) 40 39
Republicans (Oppose) 38 37
Democrats (Support) 27 28
Democrats (Oppose) 13 13
Q: A proposal has been made that would give low-income families with children in public schools a wider choice, by allowing them to enroll their children in private schools instead, with government helping to pay the tuition. Would you support or oppose this proposal?
Support for and opposition to targeted vouchers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Public Support</th>
<th>General Public Oppose</th>
<th>Republicans Support</th>
<th>Republicans Oppose</th>
<th>Democrats Support</th>
<th>Democrats Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>41</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>43</td>
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Q: A proposal has been made that would give all families with children in public schools a wider choice, by allowing them to enroll their children in private schools instead, with government helping to pay the tuition. Would you support or oppose this proposal?
Support for and opposition to universal vouchers

General public Support
General public Oppose
Republicans Support
Republicans Oppose
Democrats Support
Democrats Oppose
Q: A proposal has been made to offer a tax credit for individual and corporate donations that pay for scholarships to help low-income parents send their children to private schools. Would you favor or oppose such a proposal?
Support for and opposition to tax credits

Percentage

General public Support
General public Oppose
Republicans Support
Republicans Oppose
Democrats Support
Democrats Oppose
Q: As you may know, many states permit the formation of charter schools, which are publicly funded but are not managed by the local school board. These schools are expected to meet promised objectives, but are exempt from many state regulations. Do you support or oppose the formation of charter schools?
Support for and opposition to charter schools

- General public Support
- General public Oppose
- Republicans Support
- Republicans Oppose
- Democrats Support
- Democrats Oppose

Percentage

2016 2017 2018 2019

- General public Support: 61%
- General public Oppose: 27%
- Republicans Support: 48%
- Republicans Oppose: 39%
- Democrats Support: 40%
- Democrats Oppose: 39%
Q: To the best of your knowledge, can charter schools hold religious services or charge tuition?
Can charter schools . . .

- Hold religious services?
  - Yes: 18
  - No: 22
  - Don't know: 60

- Charge tuition?
  - Yes: 29
  - No: 27
  - Don't know: 44
Q: What school choice measures do Democrats support?
Support for school choice among Democrats

Targeted vouchers
- White: 40
- Black: 70
- Hispanic: 67

Universal vouchers
- White: 46
- Black: 64
- Hispanic: 60

Charter schools
- White: 33
- Black: 55
- Hispanic: 47

Legend: White, Black, Hispanic
Q: What school choice measures do all respondents support?
Support for school choice (both parties) by race

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Charter schools</td>
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Legend:
- Red: White
- Blue: Black
- Yellow: Hispanic
Q: Based on your best guess, what percent of funding for public schools in your local school district currently comes from each level of government? Your answers should add to 100%.
Public School Funding by Level of Government

- **Local**: Actual 46, Estimate 35
- **State**: Actual 46, Estimate 37
- **Federal**: Actual 8, Estimate 28

Legend: teal = Actual | orange = Estimate
Q: Do you think that federal, state, and local government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?
Support for increased funding from each level of government

- Federal: 60% (Not Informed of Revenue Sharing), 67% (Informed of Revenue Sharing)
- State: 60% (Not Informed of Revenue Sharing), 50% (Informed of Revenue Sharing)
- Local: 46% (Not Informed of Revenue Sharing), 36% (Informed of Revenue Sharing)
Q: As you may know, in the last few years states have been deciding whether or not to use [the Common Core, which are] standards for reading and math that are the same across the states. In the states that have these standards, they will be used to hold public schools accountable for their performance. Do you support or oppose the use of [the Common Core / these] standards in your state?
Support for "Common Core" versus "same standards"

- General public "Common Core"
- General public "Same Standards"
- Republicans "Common Core"
- Republicans "Same Standards"
- Democrats "Common Core"
- Democrats "Same Standards"
- Teachers "Common Core"
- Teachers "Same Standards"
Q: Do you support or oppose having metal detectors at all entrances at your [child’s high] school?

Q: Do you support or oppose having one or more armed police officers on duty at your [child’s high] school whenever school is in session?

Q: How confident are you that there is sufficient security against a shooting attack at your [child’s high] school?

Q: Do you support or oppose federal policies that prevent schools from expelling or suspending black and Hispanic students at higher rates than other students?
Parent / Student Support of Policy or Agreement with Statement

- Metal detectors: 77% (Parents), 63% (Students)
- School police officers: 85% (Parents), 80% (Students)
- Security: 38% (Parents), 41% (Students)
- Discipline policies by race: 26% (Parents), 37% (Students)
The End
Q: I think the [current level of / rate of growth in] student academic performance in my school district is better than [number box, range 0-100] percent of other districts in the United States.
Estimated and Actual District Performance

- **All respondents**: Estimated level 54, Actual level 49, Estimated growth 49, Actual growth 49
- **Low-achievement-level districts**: Estimated level 48, Actual level 49, Estimated growth 45, Actual growth 42
- **High-achievement-level districts**: Estimated level 60, Actual level 53, Estimated growth 57, Actual growth 52
- **Low-achievement-growth districts**: Estimated level 52, Actual level 48, Estimated growth 41, Actual growth 28
- **High-achievement-growth districts**: Estimated level 56, Actual level 57, Estimated growth 50, Actual growth 50
Q: *(no achievement or growth info)* Students are often given the grades A, B, C, and D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools in your community?

Q: According to the most recent information available, the [current level / rate of growth] of student academic performance in your school district is better than in [INSERT X_ach_pct] percent of districts and worse than in [INSERT _100MINUSX] percent of districts. … What grade would you give the public schools in your community?
All respondents

Low-achievement-level districts

High-achievement-level districts

Low-achievement-growth districts

High-achievement-growth districts

Percentage giving A or B grade to local schools

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Achievement Levels/Growth Experiment

None

Achievement only

Growth only

Achievement and Growth