



**National Parents Union Survey**  
**Survey of N=1000 parents of public school students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade**  
**Sampled from online web panel**  
**Field Dates: October 19–27, 2020**

**EDUCATION QUALITY**

**IF HAS TWO OR MORE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12 [QChildrenNumber=2-6], INSERT: [ParentIntroText] For the following questions, please respond regarding your [INSERT FIRST/SECOND/ETC] child in birth order (from oldest to youngest) of your children who are in grades kindergarten through high school. [RANDOMIZE WHICH CHILD IS ASKED ABOUT, SPLITTING EVENLY BASED ON NUMBER OF CHILDREN. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR PARENTS OF TWO CHILDREN, ASK 50% ABOUT FIRST CHILD (IN BIRTH ORDER FROM OLDEST TO YOUNGEST) WHO ATTENDS K-12 SCHOOL, 50% ABOUT SECOND CHILD WHO ATTENDS K-12 SCHOOL. PROGRAM FOR UP TO SIX CHILDREN.]**

**1. [QKidGrade] What grade level is your child currently in (2020–2021 school year)?**

- |                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. Kindergarten            | 8%  |
| 2. 1st grade               | 10% |
| 3. 2nd grade               | 8%  |
| 4. 3rd grade               | 6%  |
| 5. 4th grade               | 8%  |
| 6. 5th grade               | 7%  |
| 7. 6th grade               | 7%  |
| 8. 7th grade               | 7%  |
| 9. 8th grade               | 8%  |
| 10. 9th grade (Freshman)   | 8%  |
| 11. 10th grade (Sophomore) | 7%  |
| 12. 11th grade (Junior)    | 8%  |
| 13. 12th grade (Senior)    | 9%  |

**2. [QKidSchoolOptions] What options is your child’s school currently offering for ways your child could attend school? Please select all options that your child’s school is offering, regardless of how your child is currently attending school. [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES] [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Students can attend in person in a classroom or on campus full-time   | 33% |
| 2. Students can attend remotely or online full-time                      | 71% |
| 3. Students can attend part-time in person, part-time remotely or online | 30% |
| 4. Something else (Please specify)                                       | 2%  |

3. **[QKidSchoolType] How is your child currently attending school? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**
- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Only in person, on their school campus            | 21% |
| 2. Only remotely or online                           | 54% |
| 3. Part-time in person, part-time remotely or online | 23% |
| 4. Something else (Please specify)                   | 1%  |
4. **[QRestSchoolType] Now, if your child's school were to allow you to choose ANY of these ways for your child to attend school for the rest of this school year, which would you choose? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**
- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Only in person, on their school campus            | 29% |
| 2. Only remotely or online                           | 45% |
| 3. Part-time in person, part-time remotely or online | 22% |
| 4. Something else (Please specify)                   | 1%  |
| 5. Unsure  | 3%  |
5. **[QTeacherComm] In the past two months, has your child's teacher communicated with you in any of the following ways? Please select all that apply. [ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES] [RANDOMIZE 1-6]**
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Provided updates about what they were teaching                                   | 49% |
| 2. Sent you a report card or similar progress report for your child                 | 44% |
| 3. Had a conversation with you about your child's academic performance              | 42% |
| 4. Asked how you felt about your child's learning and needs                         | 31% |
| 5. Had a conversation with you about your child's interests or goals for the future | 24% |
| 6. Contacted you to discuss a disciplinary issue with your child                    | 11% |
| 7. None of these  | 16% |
| 8. Unsure   | 2%  |
6. **[QParentEngagement] Do you think your child's school should be doing more, should be doing less, or is doing about the right amount to engage parents in decisions about their children's education? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**
- |                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Should be doing more            | 36% |
| 2. Should be doing less            | 4%  |
| 3. Is doing about the right amount | 56% |
| 4. Unsure                          | 4%  |
7. **[QChildSchoolQuality] Overall, how would you rate the quality of education your child's school provides? [RANDOMIZE 1-4, 4-1]**
- |                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| EXCELLENT/GOOD | 82% |
| ONLY FAIR/POOR | 17% |
| 1. Excellent   | 29% |
| 2. Good        | 52% |
| 3. Only fair   | 14% |
| 4. Poor        | 3%  |
| 5. Unsure      | 1%  |

8. [QLearningMoreLess] At this point in the school year, do you think your child is learning more than they normally would, less than they normally would, or about the same amount as they normally would when attending school? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

- 1. Learning more 19%
- 2. Learning less 35%
- 3. About the same amount 42%
- 4. Unsure 3%

9. [Ratings Battery] How would you currently rate how your child’s school is doing on each of the following? [DISPLAY AS GRID OVER TWO PAGES] [RANDOMIZE A-I] [RANDOMIZE 1-4, 4-1]

1. Excellent 2. Good 3. Only fair 4. Poor 5. Unsure

	TOTAL GOOD	TOTAL POOR	1. Excellent	2. Good	3. Only fair	4. Poor	5. Unsure
A. Handling health and safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19	80%	16%	37%	44%	13%	3%	3%
B. Quality of teaching and instruction	75%	23%	29%	46%	18%	5%	1%
C. Assessing your child’s progress and level of learning	75%	23%	30%	46%	18%	5%	2%
D. Communication with parents	73%	25%	30%	43%	18%	8%	1%
E. Managing online learning programs or resources for remote learning	71%	25%	26%	45%	20%	6%	3%
F. Amount of time focused on instruction	71%	27%	25%	46%	21%	6%	2%
G. Providing personalized learning to meet your child’s needs	66%	32%	24%	41%	21%	11%	2%
I. Providing resources to support students’ mental health and emotional wellbeing	64%	31%	24%	40%	22%	9%	5%

10. [QImprovements] Of the following, in which one or two areas are you LEAST satisfied or think your child’s school has the most room for improvement? [SELECT UP TO TWO] [RANDOMIZE 1-9]

- 1. Quality of teaching and instruction 20%
- 2. Amount of time focused on instruction 19%
- 3. Providing personalized learning to meet your child’s needs 19%
- 4. Managing online learning programs or resources for remote learning 16%
- 5. Providing resources to support students’ mental health and emotional wellbeing 15%
- 6. Communication with you about your child’s academic progress 13%
- 7. Handling health and safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 13%
- 8. Communication with parents about school reopening plans 12%
- 9. Assessing your child’s progress and level of learning 11%
- 10. Something else (Please specify) 1%
- 11. None – Your child’s school is perfect the way it is 21%

**11. [QHearUpdates] From whom do you most often hear updates and information about what is going on at your child's school? [RANDOMIZE 1-5]**

1. Teachers at your child's school	46%
2. Principals and administrators at your child's school	25%
3. School district leaders	10%
4. Parents of other children at your child's school	8%
5. State education policy leaders	4%
6. Someone else (Please specify)	2%
7. Unsure	5%

**12. [QTrustAssess] Who do you trust most to give an honest assessment of what is going on at your child's school? [RANDOMIZE 1-5]**

1. Teachers at your child's school	43%
2. Principals and administrators at your child's school	21%
3. Parents of other children at your child's school	11%
4. School district leaders	10%
5. State education policy leaders	7%
6. Someone else (Please specify)	2%
7. Unsure	7%

**13. [QHelpSchoolwork] Other than your child's public school teacher(s), who is the primary person who helps your child do schoolwork?**

1. I am	70%
2. My child's other parent	13%
3. Another family member	6%
4. An adult who is not a relative	1%
5. My child handles it on their own	10%
6. Unsure	1%

**ASK ALL:**

**14. [QDisability] Does your child have a disability for which they usually receive specialized instruction or therapy? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

1. Yes	19%
2. No	79%
3. Unsure	2%

**IF HAS MORE THAN ONE CHILD [QChildrenNumber=2-6], SHOW TRANSITION TEXT: For the next question, you may consider any and all children in your household when answering the question.**

**ASK ALL:**

**15. [QLearningPod] Some families have chosen to form learning “pods” with other families, where a small group of children meet in-person to do remote or online learning with an adult who helps them with their schoolwork or other educational activities. Are any children in your household participating in a learning “pod” like this, or not? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

- |           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| 1. Yes    | 17% |
| 2. No     | 79% |
| 3. Unsure | 4%  |

**PRIORITIES, PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN GENERAL, AND REIMAGINING**

**ASK ALL:**

**Now, thinking about public schools nationally, not just the ones your children attend . . .**

**16. [QFocusTradeoff] Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

- 1. Schools should be focused on trying to get back to the way things were before the COVID-19 crisis as soon as it is safe to do so 32%
- 2. Schools should be focused on rethinking how we educate students, coming up with new ways to teach children moving forward as a result of the COVID-19 crisis 64%
- 3. Unsure 4%

**17. [QPriorityTradeoff] If you could send a message to people who make decisions about education policy and public schools, which of the following do you think they should prioritize this school year? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

- 1. Providing access to consistent, high-quality remote or online learning for public school students this school year 59%
- 2. Trying to get public school students back into the classroom this school year and implementing health and safety measures 35%
- 3. Unsure 6%

**18. [QStatewideTest] There has been some debate about whether or not schools should administer statewide academic tests this school year. Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

- 1. Even though we are in challenging times, we should continue to assess how well students are learning using statewide tests so that we can compare results to previous years and schools can identify areas students may be falling behind or need support. 51%
- 2. Since we are in challenging times, we should take a break from statewide testing this year so that teachers and students have one less thing to worry about. 42%
- 3. Unsure 8%

**19. [QOptionsPostCovid] Thinking about future school years after the pandemic is over and a vaccine for COVID-19 is widely available, do you think . . .? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

- 1. Schools should continue providing the online or remote learning options for students that they are offering now 58%
- 2. Schools should go back to having all students attend school in-person 37%
- 3. Unsure 6%

**20. [QNationalSchoolQuality] In general, how would you rate the quality of education that K-12 public schools in the United States provide? [RANDOMIZE 1-4, 4-1]**

EXCELLENT/GOOD	67%
ONLY FAIR/POOR	31%
1. Excellent	16%
2. Good	50%
3. Only fair	27%
4. Poor	4%
5. Unsure	2%

**21. [QMostImportant] Thinking about what a good K-12 public education looks like, which one or two of the following do you think are MOST important for students to learn by the time they finish high school? [SELECT UP TO TWO] [RANDOMIZE 1-7]**

1. Reading, writing, and communication skills	42%
2. Critical thinking skills	30%
3. Life skills such as budgeting	27%
4. Job-related skills for their future careers	26%
5. Mastery of math and science subjects	21%
6. Digital and technology-related skills	18%
7. Open-mindedness and appreciation for diversity	14%
8. Something else (Please specify)	1%
9. Unsure	5%

**22. [QPoliceTradeoff] Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

1. In disciplinary situations, schools should rely less on school police officers and move toward providing social emotional supports to address student needs with staff like counselors, psychologists, and social workers	59%
2. In disciplinary situations, schools should continue to rely on school police officers in the way they do now	31%
3. Unsure	10%

**23. [QChoiceTradeoff] Even if neither one perfectly describes your views, which of the following statements do you agree with more? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

1. Those who support school choice say that all parents should be able to send their child to a good quality school regardless of their zip code or financial situation, and that means public education funding should follow the student to whatever school their parents decide is best for them.	63%
2. Those who oppose school choice say that public education funding should continue to be given to public schools the way it currently is, and that school choice just encourages districts to abandon struggling schools rather than working to fix them.	25%
3. Unsure	12%

**24. [School Policies/Practices and Race Battery] To what extent, if at all, do you think the way schools handle each of the following creates greater inequality for students of color? [DISPLAY AS GRID] [RANDOMIZE A-C] [RANDOMIZE ORDER 1-3, 3-1]**

	1. This contributes a lot to inequality	2. This contributes somewhat to inequality	3. This does not contribute to inequality	4. Unsure
		1. This contributes a lot to inequality	2. This contributes somewhat to inequality	3. This does not contribute to inequality
				4. Unsure
<b>A. School disciplinary policies and procedures</b>	21%	28%	33%	18%
<b>B. How students are offered the opportunity to take advanced classes (AP or IB) or dual-credit courses</b>	20%	28%	31%	21%
<b>C. School policies regarding attendance and absences</b>	17%	26%	39%	18%



ASK ALL:

**25. [QPubSchoolAccess] Would you support or oppose changing laws to establish a right to quality public education as a civil right in the same way that the right to vote is, meaning the government would be obligated by law to provide every child access to a quality education, and that the government could be challenged in court if that right is infringed upon?**

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	76%
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	11%
1. Strongly support	45%
2. Somewhat support	30%
3. Somewhat oppose	6%
4. Strongly oppose	5%
5. Unsure	13%

## DEMOGRAPHICS

**ASK ALL:**

Finally, we have a few questions for demographic purposes.

**26. [QInfoSources] In what ways do you typically get information or updates about what is going in public schools in the United States? Please select all that apply. [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-6]**

1. Television news	56%
2. Social media	46%
3. Education or school-related websites	44%
4. Newspaper	25%
5. Radio	17%
6. Podcasts	8%
7. Something else (Please specify)	4%
8. None of these	4%
9. Unsure	2%

**27. [QParty] Regardless of how you typically vote, would you say you consider yourself a ... ? [RANDOMIZE SCALE R>D, D>R]**

STRONG/NOT VERY STRONG REPUBLICAN	34%	
STRONG/NOT VERY STRONG DEMOCRAT	40%	
1. Strong Republican	SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY	21%
2. Not very strong Republican	SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY	12%
3. Independent	CONTINUE TO QPARTYLEAN	22%
4. Not very strong Democrat	SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY	15%
5. Strong Democrat	SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY	25%
6. A member of another party	SKIP TO QIDEOLOGY	1%
7. Unsure	CONTINUE TO QPARTYLEAN	3%

**IF INDEPENDENT OR UNSURE [QParty=3 OR 7], ASK:**

**28. [QPartyLean] Which of the following statements would you say best describes you? [RANDOMIZE SCALE]**

	<b>(n=245)</b>
VOTE FOR REPUBLICANS	19%
VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS	22%
1. I almost always vote for Republican candidates	6%
2. I vote for Republicans more often than I vote for Democrats	14%
3. I vote for Democrats more often than I vote for Republicans	14%
4. I almost always vote for Democratic candidates	8%
5. I vote equally for Democrats and Republicans	30%
6. Unsure	29%

**ASK ALL:**

**29. [QIdeology] Regardless of how you typically vote, would you say you consider yourself to be...? [RANDOMIZE SCALE CONSERVATIVE>LIBERAL, LIBERAL>CONSERVATIVE]**

VERY/SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE	31%
VERY/SOMEWHAT LIBERAL	25%
1. Very conservative	16%
2. Somewhat conservative	15%
3. Moderate	39%
4. Somewhat liberal	13%
5. Very liberal	12%
6. Unsure	5%

**30. [QSocial] Which social media platforms or apps do you use? [SELECT MULTIPLE]**

**[RANDOMIZE 1-9]**

1. Facebook	82%
2. YouTube	72%
3. Instagram	50%
4. Twitter	34%
5. Pinterest	32%
6. Snapchat	31%
7. LinkedIn	18%
8. WhatsApp	16%
9. Reddit	15%
10. Something else (Please specify)	*%
11. None of these	3%

**31. [QIncome] Which range includes your annual household income?**

1. Less than \$30,000 per year	24%
2. \$30,000 to \$49,999 per year	23%
3. \$50,000 to \$74,999 per year	20%
4. \$75,000 to \$125,000 per year	20%
5. More than \$125,000 per year	13%
6. Prefer not to say	1%

**32. [QEmployment] What is your current employment status?**

1. Employed full-time	55%
2. Employed part-time	8%
3. Freelance, contract, or temporary work	3%
4. Furloughed or placed on temporary leave by my employer	*%
5. Unemployed and looking for work	6%
6. Unemployed and not currently looking for work	2%
7. Stay-at-home parent or caregiver	20%
8. Full time student	*%
9. Retired	4%
10. Something else (Please specify)	2%
11. Prefer not to say	*%

**IF EMPLOYED [QEmployment=1-3], ASK:**

**33. [QWorkplace] Are you currently working from your home, or do you go to work at an office or other workplace? If you are working from an office or other workplace, do you have the option to work from home, or not? [RANDOMIZE 1-3, 3-1]**

	<b>(n=659)</b>
1. I currently work from home	36%
2. I currently go to work at an office or workplace, but I have the option to work from home	18%
3. I currently go to work at an office or workplace and do NOT have the option to work from home	45%
4. Prefer not to say	1%

**ASK ALL:**

**34. [QState] In what state do you live?**

1. States in the Northeast	13%
2. States in the Midwest	27%
3. States in the South	25%
4. States in the West	35%

**35. [QUrbanRural] How would you describe the area in which you live?**

1. City	33%
2. Suburb near a city	41%
3. Small town not near a city	9%
4. Rural or country area	17%

**IF MARRIED OR LIVING WITH A PARTNER, ASK:**

**36. [QSpousePartnerEducation] What is the highest level of education your spouse or partner has completed?**

	<b>(n=747)</b>
1. High school or less	28%
2. Some college	20%
3. Associate's degree	12%
4. Bachelor's degree	24%
5. Graduate degree	16%
6. Prefer not to say	-

**SCREENER AND INITIAL DEMOGRAPHICS MODULE (ASKED AT BEGINNING OF SURVEY)**

**37. [QIndustry] Do you or does anyone in your household work in any of the following industries? [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-8]**

1. Technology		4%
2. Sales		5%
3. Healthcare		8%
4. Education or early childhood development		4%
5. Journalism or the media	TERMINATE	-
6. Food service or the restaurant industry		5%
7. Market research	TERMINATE	-
8. Public relations	TERMINATE	-
9. None of these		78%

**38. [QPublicSchoolParent] Are you the parent or guardian of a public school student who is currently in grades kindergarten through 12th grade? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

1. Yes		100%
2. No	TERMINATE	-
3. Prefer not to say	TERMINATE	-

**39. [QLivingAtHome] Where do your children who are in grades kindergarten through 12th grade live?**

1. Full-time with me in my home		91%
2. Split between my home and the home of another parent or family member		9%
3. Not with me	TERMINATE	-

**40. [QChildrenNumber] How many children do you have in public school in grades kindergarten through 12th grade?**

1. 1		57%
2. 2		29%
3. 3		9%
4. 4		3%
5. 5		1%
6. 6 or more		*%

**41. [QKidsGradeLevels] In which grade levels do you have a child or children in public school (2020–2021 school year)? Select all that apply. [ALLOW MULTIPLE – LIMIT MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SELECTIONS BASED ON NUMBER OF CHILDREN]**

1. Kindergarten	11%
2. 1st grade	14%
3. 2nd grade	12%
4. 3rd grade	10%
5. 4th grade	13%
6. 5th grade	12%
7. 6th grade	11%
8. 7th grade	12%
9. 8th grade	13%
10. 9th grade (Freshman)	12%
11. 10th grade (Sophomore)	12%
12. 11th grade (Junior)	11%
13. 12th grade (Senior)	13%

**42. [QInPerson] Are any of your children currently attending school in person on their school campus, either all or part of the time?**

1. Yes	51%
2. No	49%

**43. [QRemote] Are any of your children currently attending school remotely or online, either all or part of the time?**

1. Yes	83%
2. No	17%

**44. [QGender] What is your gender? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

1. Male	44%
2. Female	56%

**45. [QRace] What is your race or ethnicity? [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-6]**

1. White	63%
2. Black	14%
3. Hispanic/Latino	22%
4. Asian	7%
5. Native American or Alaska Native	2%
6. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	*%
7. Something else	1%

**46. [QEducation] What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

1. High school or less	36%
2. Some college	22%
3. Associate's degree	10%
4. Bachelor's degree	20%
5. Graduate degree	12%
6. Prefer not to say	-

**47. [QAge] What is your age?**

1. 18-29	11%
2. 30-39	37%
3. 40-49	31%
4. 50-64	20%
5. 65+	1%

**48. [QMarital] What is your current marital status?**

1. Single, never married	16%
2. Married	60%
3. Living with a partner	12%
4. Separated	2%
5. Divorced	8%
6. Widowed	2%
7. Prefer not to say	*%