



National Parents Union Survey

Survey of N=1,516 parents of public school students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade

Online survey, sample from Lucid online sample exchange

Field Dates: June 1-3, 2025

Margin of Error: ± 2.6 Percentage Points

CONGRESS/BUDGET QUESTIONS

1. [QBB - Budget Battery] Would you support or oppose Congress doing each of the following as part of a new budget bill? [DISPLAY AS GRID, OVER 2 PAGES (GROUP ITEMS 1-4; ITEMS 5-9), RANDOMIZE ITEM AND PAGE ORDER] [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

	1. Strongly support	2. Somewhat support	3. Somewhat oppose	4. Strongly oppose	5. Unsure		
	STRONG./ SOME. SUPPORT	STRONG./ SOME. OPPOSE	Strongly support	Some. support	Some. oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure
Providing tax cuts for low-income families	85%	12%	66%	19%	5%	7%	3%
Providing tax cuts for small businesses	82%	13%	48%	34%	7%	6%	4%
Providing tax cuts for middle-income families	82%	14%	51%	30%	8%	6%	4%
Providing tax cuts for families who make more than \$400,000 per year	31%	62%	15%	16%	24%	38%	7%
Providing tax cuts for large corporations	27%	67%	11%	16%	22%	45%	6%
Making cuts to SNAP (formerly known as food stamps)	23%	74%	9%	14%	17%	57%	3%
Making cuts to college financial aid programs	20%	76%	9%	10%	21%	55%	4%
Making cuts to Medicaid	16%	80%	8%	9%	18%	62%	4%
Making cuts to public education funding	15%	83%	7%	8%	16%	67%	2%

GENERAL REPORT CARD ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

Now, thinking about public education for grades kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12)...

2. [QRC - General Report Card Battery] What grade would you give each of the following for how they have handled public education overall this school year? “A” is the best grade you can give, and “F” is a failing grade. [RANDOMIZE ITEM ORDER] [DISPLAY AS GRID]

1. A	2. B	3. C		4. D		5. F		6. Unsure	
		A-B	C-F	A	B	C	D	F	Unsure
Your children’s teachers		81%	18%	47%	34%	12%	3%	2%	1%
Your children’s school principals		71%	26%	33%	38%	16%	6%	4%	3%
Your district superintendent and school board		53%	41%	19%	34%	25%	9%	7%	6%
Your state governor		39%	54%	15%	24%	24%	12%	18%	7%
President Donald Trump		36%	59%	20%	16%	15%	10%	35%	4%
U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon		28%	53%	10%	18%	23%	12%	17%	20%

SPECIFIC CHILD'S PERFORMANCE AND SCHOOL

IF HAS TWO OR MORE CHILDREN IN GRADES K-12 [QKidNum=2-6], INSERT:

[ParentIntroText] For the following questions, please respond regarding your [INSERT FIRST/SECOND/ETC] child in birth order from oldest to youngest, who is in <INSERT RESPONSE FOR APPROPRIATE CHILD FROM QKidGrade>.

[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.]

Thinking about the 2024–2025 school year...

3. [QSRC - SCHOOL REPORT CARD BATTERY] What grade would you give your child's SCHOOL on each of the following? "A" is the best grade you can give, and "F" is a failing grade. [RANDOMIZE ITEM ORDER] [DISPLAY AS GRID, OVER 2 PAGES]

1. A	2. B	3. C		4. D		5. F		6. Unsure	
		A-B	C-F	A	B	C	D	F	Unsure
Teaching your child to read at grade level		81%	18%	53%	29%	12%	3%	3%	1%
Giving parents a clear picture of students' academic level and progress		77%	22%	43%	34%	14%	5%	3%	1%
Meeting your overall expectations this school year		75%	24%	38%	37%	17%	4%	3%	1%
Providing extra academic support (e.g., tutoring) for students when needed		69%	29%	38%	31%	19%	5%	4%	3%
Giving your child a clear pathway to college		68%	29%	35%	33%	19%	6%	3%	4%
Giving your child a clear pathway to their future career		67%	30%	35%	32%	21%	5%	4%	3%
Providing adequate resources to support students' mental health		66%	31%	35%	31%	20%	7%	5%	3%
Teaching your child practical skills they will need as an adult		66%	33%	33%	33%	21%	7%	4%	2%
Communicating clear policies regarding technology and AI usage in school		63%	31%	32%	31%	21%	6%	3%	6%

4. **[QOneChange]** If you could change ONE thing about your child's public school, what is one change that you think would be beneficial for your child?
[OPEN-END] [LIMIT RESPONSE TO 400 CHARACTERS]
5. **[QPrepared]** Do you feel your child is academically prepared for next school year? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4; 4-1]
YES, DEFINITELY/PROBABLY **90%**
NO, DEFINITELY/PROBABLY NOT **9%**
Yes, definitely 54%
Yes, probably 36%
No, probably not 7%
No, definitely not 2%
Unsure 1%
6. **[QHavePrep]** Do you feel you have all the information and resources you need to help your child be academically prepared for next school year? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]
Yes 79%
No 13%
Unsure 8%
7. **[QSchoolProvide]** Would you say your child's school is [SHOW IN SAME ORDER AS RESPONSE OPTIONS: providing too much information, providing about the right amount, or not providing enough information] about ways you could help your child academically prepare for next school year? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-3, 3-1]
Too much information 5%
About the right amount of information 71%
Not enough information 21%
Unsure 3%
8. **[QHowOften]** How often would you like your child's teachers to discuss your child's performance and progress with you? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5, 5-1]
ONCE A WEEK OR MORE **29%**
LESS OFTEN **70%**
More than once a week 7%
Once a week 22%
Once a month 39%
A few times a year 29%
Once a year 2%
Unsure 2%

SPECIFIC CHILD - EARLY LEARNING

9. [QAttendedEC] Before your child was old enough for kindergarten, did your child attend any type of preschool or daycare program outside of your home? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Yes, my child attended a preschool or daycare	71%
No, my child did not attend a preschool or daycare	29%

[IF CHILD ATTENDED PRESCHOOL OR DAYCARE (QAttendedEC=1), ASK:]

10. [QECType] Which of the following best describes the type of preschool or daycare program your child attended? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

	(n=1080)
One that included a focus on preparing kids for kindergarten	81%
One that provided childcare or daycare without a focus on preparing kids for kindergarten	18%
Other	*%

[IF CHILD ATTENDED PRESCHOOL OR DAYCARE (QAttendedEC=1), ASK:]

11. [QECAge] How old was your child when they began attending that preschool or daycare program? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-6, 6-1]

	(n=1080)
Younger than 1 year old	6%
1 year old	5%
2 years old	12%
3 years old	32%
4 years old	32%
5 years old	12%
Unsure	1%

[IF CHILD ATTENDED PRESCHOOL OR DAYCARE (QAttendedEC=1), ASK:]

12. [QHowOftenEC] How often did your child attend that preschool or daycare program? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5, 5-1]

	(n=1080)
5 DAYS PER WEEK OR MORE	58%
LESS OFTEN	41%
More than 5 days per week	2%
5 days per week	57%
3-4 days per week	36%
1-2 days per week	5%
Less often than once per week	*%
Unsure	*%

[IF CHILD DID NOT ATTEND PRESCHOOL OR DAYCARE (QAttendEC=2), ASK:]

13. [QOtherCare] What was your primary childcare situation before your child was old enough for kindergarten? (If you used more than one form of care, please indicate which you used most of the time.) [RANDOMIZE 1-4]

	(n=436)
I stayed home to care for my child	45%
My child's other parent stayed home to care for my child	28%
Another family member who is not my child's parent cared for my child	22%
I hired a nanny or babysitter to provide in-home care for my child	4%
Other	1%

14. [QIfPKOffered - If Pre-Kindergarten Offered Battery] If free public pre-kindergarten had been available for your child at the following ages, would you have wanted your child to attend? [DISPLAY AS GRID] [RANDOMIZE ITEM ORDER] [RANDOMIZE RESPONSES 1-2]

	1. Yes, would have wanted my child to attend	2. No, would not have wanted my child to attend	3. Unsure
	Yes, would have wanted my child to attend	No, would not have wanted my child to attend	Unsure
At 4 years old	83%	11%	6%
At 3 years old	61%	30%	9%

[IF SAYS YES, WOULD HAVE WANTED CHILD TO ATTEND AT 4 YEARS OLD, ASK:]

15. [QPKReasonYes] What is the main reason you would have wanted your child to attend free public pre-kindergarten at 4 years old? [OPEN-END]

[IF SAYS NO, WOULD NOT HAVE WANTED CHILD TO ATTEND AT 4 YEARS OLD, ASK:]

16. [QPKReasonNo] What is the main reason you would NOT have wanted your child to attend free public pre-kindergarten at 4 years old? [OPEN-END]

[IF SAYS UNSURE IF WOULD HAVE WANTED CHILD TO ATTEND AT 4 YEARS OLD, ASK:]

17. [QPKReasonUnsure] You indicated that you are unsure whether you would have wanted your child to attend free public pre-kindergarten at 4 years old. What factors might have affected your decision? [OPEN-END]

GENERAL VIEWS ON POLICIES AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

Now, shifting topics slightly . . .

18. [QKinderFull] Some public school districts offer full-day kindergarten for 5-year-olds, while others only offer half-day kindergarten programs.

Do you think all public school districts should have to offer full-day kindergarten?

[RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Yes, all should have to offer full-day kindergarten	74%
No, all should not have to offer full-day kindergarten	20%
Unsure	6%

19. [QPol - Policy Support Battery] Would you support or oppose the federal government doing each of the following? [DISPLAY AS GRID] [RANDOMIZE ITEM ORDER] [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

1. Strongly support	2. Somewhat support	3. Somewhat oppose	4. Strongly oppose	5. Unsure			
	STRONG./ SOME. SUPPORT	STRONG./ SOME. OPPOSE	Strongly support	Some. support	Some. oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure
Offering free public pre-kindergarten for all 4-year-olds	90%	6%	65%	25%	3%	3%	3%
Providing more subsidies to help families afford preschool or early childcare who could not otherwise afford it	90%	7%	63%	27%	4%	2%	4%
Offering free public preschool for children younger than age 4	87%	10%	59%	28%	6%	4%	4%
Increasing the child tax credit for parents of kids under age 18	86%	11%	61%	25%	7%	4%	4%
Increasing the tax credit parents can receive for a portion of their formal childcare (e.g., preschool or daycare) expenses	85%	10%	57%	28%	6%	4%	5%

20. [QProgramFocus] If the government were to invest in expanding access to preschool or pre-kindergarten programs for kids ages 3 to 4 years old, which type of programs would you prefer as a parent? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Programs that focus on preparing kids for kindergarten	78%
Programs that provide childcare or daycare without a focus on preparing kids for kindergarten	18%
Unsure	4%

21. [QILPK - Important to Learn in Pre-K Battery] Thinking in general about pre-kindergarten programs for children who are 4 years old, how important do you think it should be for them to help kids learn each of the following? [DISPLAY AS GRID] [RANDOMIZE ITEM ORDER] [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

	1. Very important	2. Somewhat important	3. Not that important	4. Not important at all		5. Unsure	
	VERY / SOME. IMPORT.	NOT AT ALL / THAT IMPORT.	Very import.	Somewhat import.	Not that import.	Not import. at all	Unsure
Social skills and how to interact with others	97%	2%	80%	17%	2%	1%	1%
To follow directions given by teachers	96%	2%	76%	21%	2%	*%	2%
Emotional skills, such as how to appropriately handle their emotions	96%	3%	75%	21%	3%	*%	1%
Fine motor skills, such as how use scissors or hold a pencil	95%	3%	72%	23%	3%	1%	1%
Early academic concepts, such as letters and numbers	95%	3%	73%	22%	3%	*%	1%
To adjust to following a schedule and routines in a group setting	95%	3%	69%	26%	3%	*%	2%
Physical skills, such as jumping, balancing, and other physical activities	92%	6%	62%	31%	5%	1%	2%

22. [QPKPlayAcademic] If you were choosing a pre-kindergarten program for your child, would you prefer a program that...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Mostly focuses on academic curriculum	14%
Mostly focuses on play and exploration	13%
Focuses equally on both of the above	72%
Unsure	2%

23. [QPKLed] If you were choosing a pre-kindergarten program for your child, which of the following educational approaches would you prefer? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

A teacher-led approach, where teachers lead children through structured lessons and learning activities	57%
A child-led approach, where children choose from various learning activities offered by their teachers and work at their own pace	38%
Unsure	5%

24. [QPKMoveSit] If you were choosing a pre-kindergarten program for your child, which type of learning activities would you prefer students to do most of the time? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Learning activities where they can move around and not be sitting in chairs	21%
Learning activities that they do while sitting in chairs at a desk or table	13%
An equal mix of both types of activities	64%
Unsure	2%

25. [QPKGroupIndividual] If you were choosing a pre-kindergarten program for your child, would you prefer a program that...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Mostly focuses on group learning activities, where children work and learn with others	19%
Mostly focuses on individual learning activities, where each child works on their own activity	11%
Has an equal mix of both	69%
Unsure	1%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Now, a few more questions for statistical purposes . . .

26. [QBirthYear] Which range of years includes the year you were born? [TERMINATE IF MORE THAN 1 YEAR OFF RANGE INDICATED BASED ON QAGE]

1903 – 1927	-
1928 – 1945	-
1946 – 1964	2%
1965 – 1980	36%
1981 – 1996	58%
1997 – 2012	4%

27. [QPartyID] Do you consider yourself a...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Republican	36%
Democrat	35%
Independent	23%
Member of another party	*%
Unsure	6%

[IF REPUBLICAN (QPartyID=1), ASK]

28. [QPartyGOP] Would you say you are...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

	(n=555)
Firmly a Republican	70%
Not firmly a Republican	30%

[IF DEMOCRAT (QPartyID=2), ASK]

29. [QPartyDem] Would you say you are...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

	(n=530)
Firmly a Democrat	70%
Not firmly a Democrat	30%

[IF INDEPENDENT, MEMBER OF ANOTHER PARTY, OR UNSURE (QParty=3-5), ASK]

30. [QPartyLeanView] Even if neither political party perfectly represents your views, who do you agree with more often on issues that are important to you? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

	(n=431)
Democrats	23%
Republicans	22%
Both equally often	34%
Unsure	21%

31. [QPartyConsolidated] QPartyID and QPartyLeanView

Total Republican+Republican-leaning Independents	43%
Total Democratic+Democratic-leaning Independents	41%
Total Independent	16%

ASK ALL:

32. [QIdeology] Regardless of how you typically vote, would you say you consider yourself to be...? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5, 5-1]

VERY/SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE	29%
VERY/SOMEWHAT LIBERAL	24%
Very conservative	13%
Somewhat conservative	17%
Moderate	41%
Somewhat liberal	13%
Very liberal	12%
Unsure	5%

33. [QEmployment] What is your current employment status?

Employed full-time	71%
Employed part-time	8%
Freelance, contract, or temporary work	2%
Unemployed and looking for work	5%
Unemployed and not currently looking for work	1%
Stay-at-home parent or caregiver	9%
Full time student	*%
Retired	2%
Something else (Please specify)	1%
Prefer not to say	*%

34. [QIncomeHH] Which range includes your total annual household income, before taxes?

Less than \$30,000 per year	16%
\$30,000 to \$49,999 per year	16%
\$50,000 to \$74,999 per year	22%
\$75,000 to \$125,000 per year	26%
More than \$125,000 per year	19%
Prefer not to say	1%

35. [QState] In what state do you live?

States in the Midwest	21%
States in the Northeast	17%
States in the South	38%
States in the West	25%

36. [QUrbanRural] How would you describe the area in which you live? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

City	33%
Suburb near a city	42%
Small town not near a city	8%
Rural or country area	17%

37. [QMarital] What is your current marital status?

Single, never married	17%
Married	62%
Living with a partner	10%
Separated	2%
Divorced	7%
Widowed	2%
Prefer not to say	*%

SCREENERS AND INITIAL DEMOGRAPHICS FOR QUOTAS

38. [QAge] What is your age?

18 - 34	20%
35 - 49	64%
50 - 64	15%
65+	1%

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

Healthcare		11%
Food service or the restaurant industry		9%
Education or early childhood development		8%
Technology		6%
Sales		6%
Journalism or the media	TERMINATE	-
Market research	TERMINATE	-
Public relations	TERMINATE	-
None of these		67%

40. [QRegVote] Are you currently registered to vote? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Yes	89%
No	11%
Unsure	*%

41. [QParentalScreener] Are you the parent or guardian of a child or children in any of the following groups? Select all that apply, if any. (If applicable, please respond based on your child's grade level in the 2024–2025 school year.) [SELECT MULTIPLE]

A child in preschool or younger (not yet in kindergarten)		19%
A child in grades kindergarten through 12th grade		100%
A child who has already completed high school		16%
I do not have any children in those groups	TERMINATE	-
Prefer not to say	TERMINATE	-

[IF DOES NOT HAVE A CHILD IN GRADE SCHOOL [Option 2 NOT selected on QParentalScreener], TERMINATE.]

42. [QGender] Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or in some other way? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Woman	55%
Man	45%
Some other way	-

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

White	65%
Hispanic or Latino	23%
Black or African American	15%
Asian	7%
Native American or Alaska Native	2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1%
Other race or ethnicity	1%

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

High school or less	33%
Some college	18%
Associate degree	12%
Bachelor's degree	22%
Graduate degree	15%
Prefer not to say	*%

45. [QKidNumber] How many children do you have who are currently in grades kindergarten through 12th grade? (In the 2024–2025 school year)

0	TERMINATE	-
1		49%
2		35%
3		10%
4		4%
5		1%
6		*%
7		*%
8		*%
9		*%
10 or more		*%

46. [QHomeScreener] Where do your children who are in grades kindergarten through 12th grade live?

Full-time with me in my home	92%
Split between my home and the home of another parent or family member	8%
Not with me	TERMINATE -

47. [QPublicScreener] What type of school do your children who are in grades kindergarten through 12th grade attend? (In the 2024–2025 school year)

Public school	100%
Private school	TERMINATE -
Homeschool	TERMINATE -
Prefer not to say	TERMINATE -

48. [IF HAS ONE CHILD IN K-12, ASK]: Please select the current grade level (in the 2024–2025 school year) of your child who is in grade school (K-12).

[SHOW GRADES LIST]

[IF HAS TWO OR MORE CHILDREN IN K-12, ASK]: Please select the current grade level (in the 2024–2025 school year) of each of your children who are in grade school (K-12), in order from oldest to youngest.

First Child (Oldest child in K-12) [SHOW IF QKidNumber=2-10]

Second Child [SHOW IF QKidNumber=2-10]

Third Child [SHOW IF QKidNumber=3-10]

Fourth Child [SHOW IF QKidNumber=4-10]

Fifth Child [SHOW IF QKidNumber=5-10]

Sixth Child [SHOW IF QKidNumber=6-10]

Seventh Child [SHOW IF QKidNumber=7-10]

Eighth Child [SHOW IF QKidNumber=8-10]

Ninth Child [SHOW IF QKidNumber=9-10]

Tenth Child [SHOW IF QKidNumber=10]

[SHOW GRADES LIST FOR EACH CHILD]

Kindergarten	13%
1st grade	12%
2nd grade	12%
3rd grade	14%
4th grade	13%
5th grade	15%
6th grade	15%
7th grade	12%
8th grade	14%
9th grade (Freshman)	14%
10th grade (Sophomore)	14%
11th grade (Junior)	14%
12th grade (Senior)	9%

METHODOLOGY

Echelon Insights conducted a survey on behalf of the National Parents Union to understand K-12 parents' views on current topics related to public education. This survey was fielded online from June 1–3, 2025 in English among a sample of 1,516 parents of public school students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade nationwide using non-probability sampling.

The sample was drawn from the Cint/Lucid sample exchange based on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and education quota targets for parents of public school students derived from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) American Community Survey - Education Tabulation, a tabulation of 5-year data from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

Measures taken to ensure data quality included measures to prevent duplicate responses, questions designed to disqualify inattentive respondents, and the removal of respondents from the data file who answered more than one-third of the questions they were asked in less than one-third of the median response time per question.

The sample was weighted to population benchmarks for parents of public school students derived from the American Community Survey - Education Tabulation on gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and region, as well as on the following interactions derived from American Community Survey data on parents of school-age children: gender by education (college / non-college), gender by race (white / non-white), and race (white / non-white) by education (college / non-college). The sample was also weighted on gender among those who self-identified as registered voters to reflect benchmark data on voter registration among parents of school-age children from the US Census Bureau's November 2022 Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement.

Calculated as it would be for a random sample and adjusted to incorporate the effect of weighting, the margin of sampling error is ± 2.6 percentage points. This estimate of precision does not account for other potential sources of error that can occur in online surveys with non-probability samples, such as non-coverage due to the survey being conducted online.