



National Parents Union Survey

N=1,511 parents of public school students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade

Field Dates: February 12-18, 2026

Margin of Error: ± 2.6 percentage points

STATE OF THE UNION

1. [QSOTUIssues] President Donald Trump will soon deliver the 2026 State of the Union Address, in which he may discuss policy priorities for the coming year. What issues do you think should be the TOP most important issues for the President and Congress to address this year? Please choose up to two. [SELECT UP TO TWO] [RANDOMIZE 1-13]

The economy	50%
Immigration	23%
Health care	22%
K-12 education and schools	21%
Taxes	13%
Crime and public safety	13%
Political corruption	13%
The state of democracy	9%
Foreign policy	5%
Gun policies	5%
The environment and climate change	4%
Abortion	3%
Race relations	2%
Something else (Please specify)	3%
Unsure	3%

2. [QChildRightsFuture] How confident are you that your children will grow up with at least the same constitutional rights and freedoms as your generation? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

VERY/SOMEWHAT CONFIDENT	61%
Very confident	26%
Somewhat confident	35%
Not very confident	26%
Not at all confident	10%
Unsure	4%

3. [QTrumpApproveEcon] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the economy? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE	44%
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	52%
Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	27%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Unsure	4%

4. [QEconPersonal] Do you think *your personal* economic situation is improving, getting worse, or staying about the same? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5, 5-1]

IMPROVING A LOT/LITTLE	30%
GETTING A LOT/LITTLE WORSE	39%
Improving a lot	9%
Improving a little	21%
Staying the same	30%
Getting a little worse	23%
Getting a lot worse	16%
Unsure	2%

5. [QEconChange] If you could change ONE thing related to the economy, what would help families like yours the most? [RANDOMIZE 1-10]

Make everyday purchases like groceries more affordable	28%
Make housing more affordable	17%
Improve job opportunities and wages	14%
Make health care more affordable	11%
Lower taxes for families	10%
Make college or post-secondary education more affordable	5%
Reduce energy costs	5%
Make childcare more affordable	4%
Reduce government spending and the deficit	3%
Expand paid family leave	2%
Something else	*0%
Unsure	2%

6. [QTrumpApproveImm] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling immigration? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE	43%
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE	54%
Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Unsure	3%

IMMIGRATION, ICE, AND SCHOOLS

7. [QICEEffect] As you may have heard, U.S. Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE) operations have recently increased in some places, including in Minnesota.

Overall, do you feel that recent ICE operations are making those places more safe or less safe for families like yours? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-3, 3-1]

More safe	29%
Neither more nor less safe	22%
Less safe	45%
Unsure	4%

8. [QIASO] Do you support or oppose the following policies? [SHOW 1 ITEM PER PAGE, RANDOMIZE ITEM ORDER] [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

1. Strongly support	2. Somewhat support	3. Somewhat oppose	4. Strongly oppose	5. Unsure
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	STRONG./ SOME. SUPPORT	STRONG./ SOME. OPPOSE	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure
Offering a path to citizenship for immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children, if they meet certain requirements	79%	16%	48%	31%	7%	9%	5%
Continuing to allow undocumented immigrant children who are living in the U.S. to attend K-12 public schools in the U.S., as is required by law	66%	26%	40%	26%	12%	14%	7%
ICE being able to detain undocumented immigrant parents when they are dropping off or picking up their children at school	25%	70%	13%	12%	18%	52%	5%
ICE being able to detain undocumented immigrant parents and students at school bus stops	25%	70%	13%	12%	17%	54%	5%
ICE being able to stop people they suspect may be undocumented immigrants based on their appearance or the language they are speaking	25%	71%	10%	15%	16%	55%	4%
ICE being able to conduct operations in school zones	24%	72%	11%	13%	15%	57%	4%
ICE being able to enter private property or homes without a judicial warrant	20%	76%	9%	11%	14%	62%	4%
ICE being able to stop minors on their way to or from school and detain them if they are not carrying proof of their citizenship or legal status	18%	78%	8%	10%	16%	62%	4%

9. [QICEEducation] If ICE were to increase operations in your community the way they have in places like Minnesota, how concerned would you be that it could disrupt your children's education or school? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

VERY/SOMEWHAT CONCERNED

75%

Very concerned

51%

Somewhat concerned

24%

Not that concerned

11%

Not at all concerned

11%

Unsure

3%

TECHNOLOGY AND AI IN SCHOOLS

Now, shifting to a different topic . . .

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.]

10. [QChildCell] Does your child have their own cell phone? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Yes	66%
No	34%

[IF CHILD HAS CELL PHONE (QChildCell=1), ASK]

11. [QTakeToSchool] Does your child take their cell phone to school with them? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

	(n=1001)
Yes	70%
No	30%

[IF CHILD DOES NOT TAKE CELL PHONE TO SCHOOL (QTakeToSchool=2), ASK]

12. [QReasonNotTakingCell] You indicated your child does not take their cell phone to school. What are the reasons they do not? Select all that apply. [RANDOMIZE 1-2] [SELECT MULTIPLE]

	(n=297)
School policies about cell phone use	74%
I don't want my child to take a phone to school	36%
Other reason(s)	4%
No particular reason	5%

13. [QSchoolCellPol] Which of the following best describes your child's school's policy about students using cell phones at school? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-3, 3-1]

Students are allowed to use their cell phones anytime, with no limits	4%
Students are sometimes allowed to use their cell phones	37%
Students are banned from using their cell phones, unless they have a medical condition or disability for which they need to use a cell phone	55%
Unsure	4%

[IF SAYS STUDENTS ARE BANNED FROM USING THEIR CELL PHONES (QSchoolCellPol=3), ASK]

14. [QBannedExtent] You indicated that students at your child's school are banned from using their cell phones unless they have a medical condition or disability for which they need to use a cell phone. Is student cell phone use at your child's school...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

	(n=832)
Banned during class and academic instruction, but allowed at certain times outside of class	63%
Banned at all times, even outside of class	37%

15. [QSchoolCellPolRecode] QSchoolCellPol and QBanExtent

Students are allowed to use their cell phones anytime, with no limits	4%
Students are sometimes allowed to use their cell phones OR are banned during class but allowed at certain times outside of class	71%
Students are banned from using their cell phones at all times, even outside of class, unless they have a medical condition or disability for which they need to use a cell phone	21%
Unsure	4%

16. [QK12CellPolicy] What do you think K-12 public schools' policy on students using cell phones during the school day SHOULD be? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-3, 3-1]

Students should be allowed to use their cell phones anytime, with no limits	6%
Students should sometimes be allowed to use their cell phones	57%
Students should be banned from using their cell phones, unless they have a medical condition or disability for which they need to use a cell phone	34%
Unsure	3%

[IF SAYS STUDENTS SHOULD BE BANNED FROM USING CELL PHONES (QK12CellPolicy=3), ASK]

17. [QShouldBan] Do you think student cell phone use at school should be...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

	(n=509)
Banned during class and academic instruction, but allowed at certain times outside of class	71%
Banned at all times, even outside of class	29%

18. [QK12CellPolRecode] QK12CellPolicy and QShouldBan

Students should be allowed to use their cell phones anytime, with no limits	6%
Students should sometimes be allowed to use their cell phones OR should be banned during class but allowed at certain times outside of class	81%
Students should be banned from using their cell phones at all times, even outside of class, unless they have a medical condition or disability for which they need to use a cell phone	10%
Unsure	3%

[IF SAYS STUDENTS SHOULD BE SOMETIMES ALLOWED OR BANNED FROM USING THEIR CELL PHONES (QK12CellPolicy=2-3), ASK]

19. [QPreventUseV2] How do you think schools should prevent students from using their cell phones at times when cell phone use is not allowed? [RANDOMIZE 1-5]

	(n=1369)
Allow students to keep their phones in their backpack or bag — not locked up or blocked in any way — as long as they don't take them out and keep them on silent	39%
Allow students to keep their phones unlocked in their backpack or bag, but require the use of "school mode" to limit which functions they can use	19%
Require students to place their cell phones in a locked cabinet or cell phone lockers in their classroom	16%
Require students to place their cell phones in a central location in their classroom, such as a cubby or holder, but don't lock them up	15%
Lock up students' cell phones in secure pouches or containers that they can carry with them but that prevent them from using their phone	8%
Another way	1%
Unsure	2%

[IF CHILD TAKES CELL PHONE TO SCHOOL (QTakeToSchool=1), ASK]

- 20. [QReasonsHavePhone] As a parent, are there specific reasons you have your child take their cell phone to school? Select all that apply, if any. [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-5]**

(n=704)

So that your child can use their phone if there is an emergency at school or on the way to or from school	76%
So that you can get in touch with your child or find out where they are when needed	60%
To coordinate transportation to and from school	45%
To communicate about appointments that they need to leave school for during the day (e.g., doctor's appointments)	38%
To communicate with you about their mental health or other needs during the day	33%
Other reason(s)	1%
No, there are not any specific reasons	4%

- 21. [QCurrentAI] Please indicate whether your child's school has done each of the following this school year. [DISPLAY AS GRID] [RANDOMIZE ITEM ORDER] [RANDOMIZE RESPONSES 1-2]**

	1. School has	2. School has NOT	3. Unsure
Provided information about school policies regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools	School has	School has NOT	Unsure
	37%	47%	15%
Asked parents for input or feedback on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in schools	30%	57%	13%

- 22. [QAIDecisions] Which of the following statements best describes how you personally feel about being involved in decisions regarding the use of AI tools at your child's school? [RANDOMIZE 1-3]**

I want to be involved in decisions, and I have enough information about AI tools to allow me to do so	40%
I want to be involved in decisions, but I need more information about AI tools	39%
I would rather just let the school make decisions about this and not get involved myself	16%
Unsure	5%

- 23. [QAIFeeling] Thinking about ways AI tools could be used in K-12 public education, do you think . . . ? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-3, 3-1]**

The potential benefits outweigh the potential downsides	20%
There are about equal potential benefits and downsides	52%
The potential downsides outweigh the potential benefits	18%
Unsure	10%

[SHOW QBenefitOE and QDownsideOE ON THE SAME PAGE]

24. [QBenefitOE] What is the most beneficial way you think AI tools could be used in K-12 public education? [OPEN-END]

25. [QDownsideOE] What potential downsides of using AI tools in K-12 public education are you most concerned about? [OPEN-END]

**26. [QSDP] Thinking about the education technology platforms used by students at your child's school, including any AI-driven learning tools . . .
Do you think enough is being done or more needs to be done regarding each of the following aspects of data collected by educational technology platforms? [DISPLAY AS GRID, RANDOMIZE ITEM ORDER] [RANDOMIZE RESPONSES 1-2]**

1. Enough is being done 2. More needs to be done 3. Unsure

	Enough is being done	More needs to be done	Unsure
To protect the privacy of students' personal data	26%	65%	9%
To ensure platforms notify parents if there is a concern about their child or their child's data	26%	65%	9%
To inform parents about what type of data is being collected on students	25%	66%	9%
To inform parents about how their kids' data may be used	25%	67%	8%
To give parents a say in what data is collected on their kids and how it is used	24%	67%	9%

27. [QFutureAI] Do you think your child's school is preparing them to succeed in a future where AI technology could affect jobs and the global economy? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

DEFINITELY/PROBABLY	58%
DEFINITELY/PROBABLY NOT	29%
Definitely	17%
Probably	40%
Probably not	24%
Definitely not	6%
Unsure	13%

Now, thinking about AI in general, not just AI tools in schools . . .

28. [QAChatUse] Does your child ever use generative AI chatbots (such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Snap's MyAI, Claude, Microsoft Copilot, or Character.ai) for any purpose? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]

Yes	56%
No	33%
Unsure	11%

29. [QAIGR] Do you think generative AI chatbots should or should not be required by law to do each of the following? [DISPLAY AS GRID, OVER 2 PAGES] [RANDOMIZE ITEM ORDER]

1. Should be required

2. Should NOT be required

3. Unsure

	Should be required	Should NOT be required	Unsure
Provide pop-up warnings to minors before displaying text or content related to sensitive topics, such as violence, self-harm, or abuse	86%	8%	6%
Alert a minor's parents if their child discusses or asks the chatbot about engaging in potentially harmful or illegal behavior	85%	8%	7%
Give a minor's parents the ability to limit what topics the chatbot can discuss with their child	84%	8%	7%
Require minors to get permission from a parent before they can use the chatbot	79%	13%	8%

30. [QDiffBigEdTech] How much do you know about the differences between "Big Tech" and "EdTech" companies? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]

A LOT/SOME	30%
A lot	8%
Some	22%
A little	24%
Nothing	33%
Unsure	13%

STUDENT WALKOUTS

31. [QWalkOutProtest] In general, if students want to conduct an organized walkout as a form of peaceful protest during school hours, do you think K-12 public schools should...

[RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-3, 3-1]

Allow student walkouts even without adult supervision	12%
Allow student walkouts only if they are supervised by adults	48%
Not allow student walkouts during school hours	33%
Unsure	6%

DEMOGRAPHICS

32. [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	*%
1965 – 1980	35%
1981 – 1996	59%
1997 – 2012	6%

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

Republican	34%
Democrat	33%
Independent	29%
Member of another party	1%
Unsure	4%

[IF REPUBLICAN (QPartyID=1), ASK]

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

	(n=509)
Firmly a Republican	70%
Not firmly a Republican	30%

[IF DEMOCRAT (QPartyID=2), ASK]

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

	(n=491)
Firmly a Democrat	71%
Not firmly a Democrat	29%

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

36. [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=511)
Democrats	26%
Republicans	23%
Both equally often	31%
Unsure	20%

37. [QPartyConsolidated] QPartyID and QPartyLeanView

Total Republican+Republican-leaning Independents	42%
Total Democratic+Democratic-leaning Independents	41%
Total Independent	17%

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

VERY/SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE	31%
VERY/SOMEWHAT LIBERAL	24%
Very conservative	13%
Somewhat conservative	17%
Moderate	40%
Somewhat liberal	13%
Very liberal	11%
Unsure	6%

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

Employed full-time	73%
Employed part-time	7%
Freelance, contract, or temporary work	2%
Unemployed and looking for work	4%
Unemployed and not currently looking for work	1%
Stay-at-home parent or caregiver	9%
Full time student	1%
Retired	1%
Something else (Please specify)	1%
Prefer not to say	1%

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

Less than \$30,000 per year	13%
\$30,000 to \$49,999 per year	12%
\$50,000 to \$74,999 per year	22%
\$75,000 to \$99,999 per year	15%
\$100,000 to \$124,999 per year	16%
\$125,000 or more per year	21%
Prefer not to say	1%

41. [QState] In which state do you live? [DROPDOWN MENU WITH 50 STATES]

States in the Northeast	15%
States in the Midwest	18%
States in the South	41%
States in the West	26%

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

City	34%
Suburb near a city	43%
Small town not near a city	9%
Rural or country area	14%

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

Single, never married	19%
Married	57%
Living with a partner	12%
Separated	3%
Divorced	7%
Widowed	2%
Prefer not to say	*%

SCREENERS AND INITIAL DEMOGRAPHICS FOR QUOTAS (ASKED AT BEGINNING OF SURVEY)

44. [QAge] What is your age? [OPEN-END] [TERMINATE IF UNDER 18]

18 - 34	20%
35 - 49	63%
50 - 64	17%
65+	-

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

Healthcare	9%
Education or early childhood development	7%
Food service or the restaurant industry	7%
Technology	5%
Sales	4%
Journalism or the media	TERMINATE -
Market research	TERMINATE -
Public relations	TERMINATE -
None of these	72%

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

Yes	89%
No	11%
Unsure	1%

47. [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 2025–2026 school year.) [SELECT MULTIPLE]

A child in preschool or younger (not yet in kindergarten)	20%
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.]

48. [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	*%

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

White	65%
Hispanic or Latino	23%
Black or African American	15%
Asian	8%
Native American or Alaska Native	3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1%
Other race or ethnicity	*%

50. [QRaceRecode] Recoded Race/Ethnicity

White, non-Hispanic	55%
Hispanic	23%
Black, non-Hispanic	11%
AAPL, non-Hispanic	7%
Other/2+ races, non-Hispanic	3%

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

High school or less	33%
Some college	17%
Associate degree	13%
Bachelor's degree	22%
Graduate degree	15%
Prefer not to say	*%

52. [QKidNumber] How many children do you have who are currently in grades kindergarten through 12th grade? (In the 2025–2026 school year)

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

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

Full-time with me in my home		94%
Split between my home and the home of another parent or family member		6%
Not with me	TERMINATE	-

54. [QPublicScreener] What type of school do your children who are in grades kindergarten through 12th grade attend? (In the 2025–2026 school year)

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

55. [IF HAS ONE CHILD IN K-12, ASK]: In which grade level is 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 of each of your children who are in grade school (K-12), in order from oldest to youngest.
[SHOW GRADES LIST FOR EACH CHILD]

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]

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

METHODOLOGY

Echelon Insights conducted a survey on behalf of the National Parents Union to understand K-12 parents' views on current topics. This survey was fielded online from February 12-18, 2026 in English among a sample of 1,511 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 2024 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.