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Interview dates: March 7-11, 2026

SAMPLE: National cross section of 1,611 likely voters, plus additional oversamples of battleground districts (455 total), Black voters (422 total), Latino voters (416 total), AAPI voters (211 total), and voters ages 18-29 (419 total).

FINAL

Study #15164A
CAPAF Education Survey
March 2026

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

Gender: Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or some other way?

Man.....	47
Woman	53
Non-binary/self-describe .	0

QSRV1: Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes, registered to vote.....	100	
No, not registered to vote	0	TERMINATE
Not sure	0	TERMINATE

RVRegionRestofWestAuto: In which state are you registered to vote?

Northeast.....	21
South	34
Midwest	22
Rest of West.....	12
California	11

Q26TO: 2026 is not a presidential election year, but there will be elections for U.S. Congress and other offices. How likely are you to vote in the 2026 elections?

Definitely will vote.....	79	
Probably will vote	13	
May or may not vote/it depends	9	
Probably will not vote	0	TERMINATE
Definitely will not vote.....	0	TERMINATE

QAGE: For statistical purposes only and to ensure that we have a representative sample, in what year were you born?

18-24.....	5
25-29.....	8
30-34.....	6
35-39.....	9
40-44.....	7
45-49.....	8
50-54.....	9
55-59.....	9
60-64.....	8
65-69.....	11
70-74.....	10
75 or older.....	10

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

Raceth: Again, for statistical purposes only, are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? And to ensure that we have a representative sample, please indicate your race.

American Indian or Native American	1
Asian or Asian American	4
Black or African American	11
Hispanic/Latino/Spanish origin	10
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0
White	73
Another race not listed here	1

PID7TH: Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...? Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? (IF 'INDEPENDENT':) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party, closer to the Republican Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent?

Strong Democrat	26
Not very strong Democrat	11
Closer to the Democratic Party	8
Strictly independent.....	10
Closer to the Republican Party.....	7
Not very strong Republican	14
Strong Republican.....	24
Total Democrat	45
Total Republican	45

(ASKED ONLY STRICTLY INDEPENDENTS AND REPUBLICANS IN PID7TH.)

Qmaga: Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the MAGA Movement, or would you say you are not a supporter of the MAGA Movement?

Yes, I am a supporter of the MAGA Movement ..	56
Not a supporter of the MAGA Movement.....	44

(RESUMED ASKING EVERYONE.)

QSedu: What is the last grade of school or level of education you completed?

Did not graduate high school	2
High school graduate	24
Attended technical or vocational school	4
Attended some college, but no degree.....	17
Graduated 2-year college with an associate degree .	10
Graduated 4-year college with a bachelor's degree ..	27
Obtained a master's, PhD, or professional degree ...	17

QS24prescom: Some people did not vote in last year's election for president and other offices because they were too busy, didn't like any of the choices, or for some other reason. What about you? Did you vote in the election for president? (IF 'YES, VOTED':) Which candidate did you vote for in the election for president?

Kamala Harris, the Democrat.....	45
Donald Trump, the Republican ...	45
Other candidate	2
Did not vote.....	8

QSempr: Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

Employed full time	49
Employed part time (less than 35 hours per week) .	14
Laid off/unemployed but looking for work	3
Disabled, unable to work	2
Stay-at-home parent or caregiver.....	5
Full-time student.....	1
Retired	26

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

Q1: Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as president?

Strongly approve	22
Somewhat approve	20
Somewhat disapprove.....	13
Strongly disapprove.....	45
Total Approve	42
Total Disapprove	58

Q2: In this year's election for U.S. Congress, are you more likely to vote for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate in your district?

Republican--much more likely.....	29
Republican--somewhat more likely	12
Completely undecided	12
Democrat--somewhat more likely	11
Democrat--much more likely.....	36
Total Republican More Likely	41
Total Democrat More Likely	47

Q3a: Compared with other issues you might consider when you vote [(ADD ON FORM A ONLY:) for Congress], how important is the issue of **[INSERT ITEM IN BOLD]** to you?

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING ONE OF THE MOST OR VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES

	Total One Of The Most/Very Important	One of the most important issues	Very important, but several other issues are more important	Somewhat important	A little bit important	Not important at all
The cost of living.....	89	61	28	9	2	0
Healthcare	81	45	37	15	3	1
Crime and public safety	74	31	43	20	5	1
National security and foreign policy	74	34	39	19	5	2
Taxes.....	70	27	43	22	6	2
Education	63	21	42	25	9	3
Immigration.....	59	28	31	22	12	8
The environment.....	52	19	34	26	13	8

Q3b: Thinking specifically about education issues...

Compared with other issues you might consider when you vote [(ADD ON FORM A ONLY:) for Congress], how important is the issue of [INSERT ITEM IN BOLD] to you?

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING ONE OF THE MOST OR VERY IMPORTANT ISSUES

	Total One Of The Most/Very Important	One of the most important issues	Very important, but several other issues are more important	Somewhat important	A little bit important	Not important at all
K-12 education	59	24	35	23	11	7
Technical and vocational education.....	45	9	36	34	14	7
Childcare	43	15	27	27	15	15
College education.....	41	11	30	33	15	11

Q4a: Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of education students receive in kindergarten through grade 12 in the U.S. today?

	<u>3/26</u>	<u>*8/24</u>	<u>*8/22</u>	<u>*8/20</u>	<u>*8/18</u>
Completely satisfied	7	9	9	11	10
Somewhat satisfied	40	34	33	39	33
Somewhat dissatisfied.....	33	34	32	31	34
Completely dissatisfied.....	13	21	23	17	21
No opinion	7	2	2	2	2
Total Satisfied	47	43	42	50	43
Total Dissatisfied	46	55	55	48	55

* Gallup Education Survey data of U.S. adults collected from 2018-2024.

Q4b: How satisfied are you with the quality of education students receive in kindergarten through grade 12 in your local schools?

Completely satisfied	12
Somewhat satisfied	43
Somewhat dissatisfied.....	27
Completely dissatisfied.....	11
No opinion	7
Total Satisfied	55
Total Dissatisfied	38

Q5a: Thinking about the past few years, would you say your confidence in public schools has increased, decreased, or not changed either way?

Increased	10
Decreased	58
Not changed either way	32

(ASKED ONLY RESPONDENTS WHO SAY “INCREASED” IN Q5a.)

Q5b: Why has your confidence in public schools increased? What specifically have you seen, heard, or read in recent years that has made you more confident in public schools?

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Children are learning, receiving a quality education	13
Well qualified teachers, well-trained, good teachers.....	11
Testing scores, academic performance has improved	11
Teachers are dedicated, care, are engaged with their students	9
Public schools are improving, getting better	9
Schools in my area/district are doing a good job	8
My children, family members are doing well in public school.....	8
Improved\updated the curriculum, teaching methods	8
Schools provide additional support programs for students with special needs ...	8
School security measures increased, safer schools	7
Students have access to technology	7
Schools offer more inclusivity, diversity	4
School funding increased in my area.....	3
Increased teachers' salaries/support teachers	3
All other favorable impressions.....	7
Don't know, no response	2

(ASKED ONLY RESPONDENTS WHO SAY “DECREASED” IN Q5a.)

Q5c: Why has your confidence in public schools decreased? What specifically have you seen, heard, or read in recent years that has made you less confident in public schools?

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Children lacking literacy skills, low reading scores, cursive writing not taught	12
Should focus on education, not political, religious agendas	12
Children are not learning, not retaining knowledge, not being educated	10
Declining teacher quality, don't know how to teach, not dedicated	10
Children are being indoctrinated with liberal/woke ideology, DEI	10
Not teaching relevant subjects	10
School funding is inadequate, cut budgets, siphoning it off to charter/private schools	8
Lower academic standards, social promotions	8
Children lacking math skills, rely on calculators, falling behind in science	7
Student test scores are low, declining, falling behind other countries	7
Students not taught life skills, financial literacy, left unprepared for the real world.....	7
Concerned about school safety, violence in schools.....	7
Lacking school discipline, teachers lack authority in the classroom	6
Teachers are underpaid/have no support	6
Children relying too much on technology, AI, look at screens all day.....	6
Transgender ideology, gender identity shouldn't be taught in schools	6
Trump/Republicans don't care about public education, dismantled the DOE.....	5
Teacher shortage, high staff turnover	5
Children losing cognitive, critical thinking skills, ability to learn	5
Children are bored, distracted, not motivated to learn, chronic absenteeism.....	5
All other unfavorable impressions	9
Don't know, no response.....	0

(RESUMED ASKING EVERYONE.)

Q6: In general do you have more confidence in Democrats or in Republicans when it comes to improving student learning and academic achievement in K-12 education?

More confidence in Democrats	40
More confidence in Republicans.....	34
Same confidence in both parties	9
No confidence in either party	16

ROTATE ORDER OF Q7 AND Q8 QUESTION SERIES.

Q7a: Over the years, have you become more confident or less confident in **Democrats** to improve student learning and academic achievement in K-12 education?

Much more confident.....	15
Somewhat more confident.....	20
Somewhat less confident	15
Much less confident.....	28
Not changed either way.....	23
Total More Confident	35
Total Less Confident	42

(ASKED ONLY RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "MORE CONFIDENT" IN Q7a.)

Q7b: Why have you become more confident in Democrats on the issue of education? What positive things have you seen, heard, or read about Democrats when it comes to their record or approach to improving student learning and academic achievement?*

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Favor increasing funding for public education, against budget cuts	16
Democrats care about public education, made it a priority	16
Democrats working to improve public education, schools.....	13
Democrats have better educational policies than Republicans	12
Oppose banning books, censoring information, restricting what students learn.....	8
Republicans don't care about education, just want to cut funding, programs.....	7
Democrats working to increase teacher's salaries/support teachers.....	7
Democrats' policies benefit the average American, work for the people	6
Distrust Republicans, all other criticisms of Republicans	6
Oppose religious agendas in schools.....	6
Support Democrats, all other positive impressions of the party	5
Democrats focused on academic achievement, outperformed schools in red states..	5
Oppose dismantling the Department of Education	5
Care about children, children's welfare	4
Democrats address the needs of lower class students, school lunch program	4
Democrats working to provide an education for all children	4
Democrats invested in early childhood education, Headstart.....	4
All other positive impressions.....	8
Don't know, no response.....	1

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

(ASKED ONLY RESPONDENTS WHO SAY “LESS CONFIDENT” IN Q7a.)

Q7c: Why have you become less confident in Democrats on the issue of education? What negative things have you seen, heard, or read about Democrats when it comes to their record or approach to improving student learning and academic achievement?*

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Children are being indoctrinated with liberal/woke ideology	27
Teaching gender ideology, transgender rights, sexualize children	12
Democrats don't focus on traditional education/subjects, don't teach the basics ..	10
Democrats failed to improve the quality of education	10
Distrust Democrats, all other criticisms of Democrats	9
Democrats don't care about public education, not a priority	8
Need to focus on higher academic achievement, instead of lowering standards ..	8
Democrats promote DEI policies/subjects teaching DEI	8
Blame both parties, all criticisms of both parties	6
Not teaching traditional values, morality	5
Democrats' policies don't help the average American	5
Democrats don't love/hate America, destroying the country	4
All other negative impressions	8
Don't know, no response	2

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

(RESUMED ASKING EVERYONE.)

Q8a: Over the years, have you become more confident or less confident in **Republicans** to improve student learning and academic achievement in K-12 education?

Much more confident.....	16
Somewhat more confident.....	18
Somewhat less confident	13
Much less confident.....	32
Not changed either way.....	21
Total More Confident	33
Total Less Confident	45

(ASKED ONLY RESPONDENTS WHO SAY “MORE CONFIDENT” IN Q8a.)

Q8b: Why have you become more confident in Republicans on the issue of education? What positive things have you seen, heard, or read about Republicans when it comes to their record or approach to improving student learning and academic achievement?*

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Believe schools should focus on traditional education, teach the basics	17
Republicans eliminating teaching gender ideology, transgender rights	13
Republicans have better education policies than Democrats	13
Republicans eliminating the woke agenda, political agendas in schools	12
Support school choice, school voucher program	9
Support higher academic standards, improved test scores	8
Republicans care about education, made it a priority	8
Distrust Democrats, all other criticisms of Democrats.....	8
Republicans focusing on traditional values, morals	6
Republicans given control over to the states	6
Believe in parents' rights, giving more input, control to parents	5
Support the Republican party, all other positive impressions of the party	5
Republicans are effective, quick to make changes, get results.....	4
All other positive impressions	5
Don't know, no response	2

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

(ASK ONLY RESPONDENTS WHO SAY “LESS CONFIDENT” IN Q8a.)

Q8c: Why have you become less confident in Republicans on the issue of education? What negative things have you seen, heard, or read about Republicans when it comes to their record or approach to improving student learning and academic achievement?*

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Republicans don't care about public education, not a priority	23
Republicans cut funding for public education/schools	14
Republicans working to eliminate the Department of Education	11
Republicans taking funding away to fund private/religious schools, school vouchers ..	10
Distrust Republicans, all other criticisms of Republicans	10
The quality of education is declining, academically failing children	10
Republicans restricting what can be taught, banning books, censoring information ...	10
Blame Trump, all criticisms of Trump	10
Republicans have a political agenda, pushing ideology, misinformation	9
Republicans have a religious agenda, pushing Christianity in schools	8
Republicans cater to the needs of the wealthy, gave them tax breaks	7
Republican policies don't help the average American, average family	7
Republicans only care about themselves	6
Republicans altering/erasing history	5
Republicans ignoring the needs of lower class students, cut school lunch program ...	5
All other negative impressions	9
Don't know, no response	0

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

(RESUMED ASKING EVERYONE.)

Q9: When you think about K-12 education and the public schools today, do you feel that the public education system is working reasonably well, needs some changes and improvements, needs really major reforms, or needs a complete overhaul?

Is working reasonably well	8
Needs some changes and improvements	44
Needs really major reforms	26
Needs a complete overhaul	18
Not sure	5
Total Working Well/Needs Some Changes	52
Total Needs Major Reforms/Complete Overhaul	43

Q10: Do you think that the [(ADD ON FORM A ONLY:) federal] government should increase funding for public education, keep the current level of funding, or decrease funding for public education?

	All Likely Voters	Form A	Form B
Increase funding a lot	30	28	31
Increase funding some	38	39	37
Keep the current level of funding	25	26	24
Decrease funding some	5	4	5
Decrease funding a lot	4	3	4
Total Increase Funding	67	66	68
Total Decrease Funding	8	8	8

Q11a: Below is a list of several different goals that public schools might try to achieve. Please rate how important you personally think each goal is for schools to focus on.

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING VERY IMPORTANT

	Total Very/Fairly Important	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Fairly important</u>	<u>Just somewhat important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>Not important at all</u>
Make sure students have strong fundamental skills in reading and literacy	96	82	14	3	0	0
Develop students' critical thinking and reasoning skills	95	75	20	4	1	0
Prepare students for good jobs and success in the workplace, whether or not they choose to attend college .	93	72	21	6	1	0
Make sure students have strong fundamental skills in math and science	93	70	23	6	1	0
Develop students' understanding of how they learn best and teach the skills they need for lifelong learning	93	65	28	6	1	0
Prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and credentials to succeed in a job that does not require a college degree	91	62	29	8	1	0
Support students' mental health and their ability to handle stress	87	59	28	9	3	1
Develop students' social skills and emotional skills like self-control and awareness of others*	90	59	31	8	1	1
Develop students' skills in dealing with technology**	88	58	30	10	1	0
Give students the knowledge to be engaged citizens in our democracy*	87	55	32	10	2	1
Prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and academic foundation to succeed in college	85	53	32	12	2	1
Teach students the importance of healthy eating and physical activity**	83	48	35	14	3	1
Develop students' skills in dealing with technology including AI*	70	35	35	20	7	4
Improve academic outcomes for boys who tend to enter school less prepared than girls**	70	34	36	21	6	3

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Q11b: Here is the list again. Please rank the three or four most important goals for public schools to focus on.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF TOP 4 MOST IMPORTANT GOALS

	Top 2 most important <u>goals</u>	Top 4 most important <u>goals</u>
Make sure students have strong fundamental skills in reading and literacy	36	57
Develop students' critical thinking and reasoning skills	28	51
Prepare students for good jobs and success in the workplace, whether or not they choose to attend college	26	48
Make sure students have strong fundamental skills in math and science	25	44
Develop students' understanding of how they learn best and teach the skills they need for lifelong learning	17	37
Prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and credentials to succeed in a job that does not require a college degree	17	35
Support students' mental health and their ability to handle stress	16	32
Develop students' social skills and emotional skills like self-control and awareness of others* ..	13	29
Develop students' skills in dealing with technology**	10	25
Give students the knowledge to be engaged citizens in our democracy*	11	24
Prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and academic foundation to succeed in college ...	10	21
Teach students the importance of healthy eating and physical activity**	6	16
Develop students' skills in dealing with technology including AI*	5	14
Improve academic outcomes for boys who tend to enter school less prepared than girls**	3	7
None of these are important	0	0

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Q12: In your opinion, who is more responsible and should be held accountable for an individual school's performance and how well students are learning: the school board and district superintendent or the principal of that individual school?

School board and superintendents at district level--much more	17
School board and superintendents at district level--somewhat more ...	17
Principals at individual school level--somewhat more	12
Principals at individual school level--much more	8
Both are equally responsible	46
Total School Board And Superintendents More	34
Total Principals More	20

Q13: For each of the following, which of these two approaches do you think should be the higher priority for improving student learning and academic achievement in K-12 education?

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING A – MUCH OR SOMEWHAT HIGHER PRIORITY

	Total Statement A Higher Priority	Total Statement B Higher Priority	A-much higher priority	A- somewhat higher priority	B- somewhat higher priority	B-much higher priority
A) We should measure student progress and hold school districts responsible for student learning, OR B) We should measure student progress and ensure state and local governments are providing the support and resources needed to improve student learning.*	43	57	19	24	31	26
A) When student achievement at a school is low, the principal of that school should be held responsible, OR B) When student achievement at a school is low, the school district and its superintendent should be held responsible.**	40	60	12	29	37	23
A) We should give families more choice of which school to send their children to, including private schools, OR B) We should make sure all families have access to good quality neighborhood public schools. ...	36	64	16	20	24	40

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Q14: How well do you think public schools are preparing students for...?

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING VERY OR FAIRLY WELL

	Total Very/Fairly Well	Total Somewhat/ Not That Well	Very well	Fairly well	Just somewhat well	Not that well
College.....	40	60	6	34	37	23
The future world of work**.....	28	72	5	23	38	34
The current world of work*	26	74	4	22	39	35

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Q15a: How big of an impact do you think the development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) will have on K-12 education?

Major impact.....	33
Moderate impact.....	36
Minor impact.....	10
No real impact	4
Not sure/Too early to tell	16
Total Major/Moderate Impact	70
Total Minor/No Real Impact	15

(ASKED ONLY RESPONDENTS WHO SAY AI WILL HAVE IMPACT ON K-12 EDUCATION IN Q15a.)

Q15b: Why do you think the development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) will have an impact on K-12 education? How do you think AI will change K-12 education?

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Will reduce cognitive, critical thinking skills, ability to learn, problem solve.....	20
AI is the future, children need to be able to navigate, engage with AI.....	13
Children will become too dependent, reliant on AI.....	12
Will increase understanding of subjects, help students learn more easily	11
Can't ignore AI, inescapable, will be integrated into/change education.....	11
Makes it easier to cheat, children will use AI to do their schoolwork.....	9
Children will become lazier, lose their drive to learn, become easily distracted	8
Change how students learn, adaptive learning platform, personalize learning	8
Gives access to information, knowledge, research	7
Useful tool for teachers in lesson planning, grading, administrative tasks	6
Helps/assists with schoolwork, assignments, useful tool	5
All other positive impacts	6
All other negative impacts	5
Don't know, no response.....	2

(RESUMED ASKING EVERYONE.)

Q15c: For each of the following, please rate the kind of impact you think the development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) will have on the job and employment opportunities available to...

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING IT WILL CREATE FEWER JOB AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

	It will create more job and employment <u>opportunities</u>	It will create fewer job and employment <u>opportunities</u>	Not much impact <u>either way</u>	Not sure/ Too early <u>to tell</u>
Manufacturing and service workers who do not have a college degree	20	50	14	16
Young people who are growing up today.....	25	46	9	20
Professional workers with college and graduate degrees.....	27	42	14	17
You personally	16	35	32	17

Q16: Now you will see things that some people may feel are challenges in public schools today. Please rank the two or three most important challenges for public schools to address.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF TOP 3 MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE TO ADDRESS

	Most important challenge <u>to address</u>	Top 3 most important challenge <u>to address</u>
Education has become too politicized and not focused enough on student learning	15	44
Schools are too focused on promoting every student to the next grade level over making sure they are learning	12	40
Underfunding public schools	19	39
Schools have lowered their academic achievement standards too much	12	38
Schools prioritize equity, inclusion, and political correctness over student learning and academic achievement.....	10	31
Schools are too focused on DEI, sexual orientation, and other political issues	11	30
Students' lack of engagement in school	8	28
Parents do not have enough say over what their children are taught.....	7	21
The learning loss from the COVID-19 pandemic and school closures	5	17
None of these are important challenges to address	1	1

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

Q17a: Which political party, if either, do you associate more with...?

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING THE DEMOCRATS – MUCH OR SOMEWHAT MORE

	Total Democrats More	Total Republicans More	The Democrats- much more	The Democrats- somewhat more	The Republicans- somewhat more	The Republicans- much more	Neither
Improving educational opportunities for low-income students.....	53	29	33	20	12	17	18
Supporting early childhood education ..	49	32	31	19	14	18	18
Making sure schools have the resources they need.....	47	33	30	18	15	18	20
Improving schools	45	36	27	18	15	21	19
Supporting and respecting teachers.....	44	33	27	17	13	20	22
Being champions for innovation and new ideas in education.....	42	34	25	17	15	19	24
Improving student learning	42	36	26	16	15	21	22
Preparing students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college	41	36	24	18	16	20	22
Teaching basic reading, writing, and math skills	41	37	25	16	14	23	21
Preparing students with digital literacy skills	39	33	23	17	15	18	27
Preparing students for good jobs and success in the workplace	39	38	24	15	16	22	23
Having high academic standards	38	40	23	15	16	24	22
Making sure parents have a voice in their kids' education.....	35	44	20	15	18	26	21
Holding schools accountable for their performance	34	42	21	13	19	23	24

Q17b: Here is the list again. Please rank the three or four that you personally feel are most important.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF TOP 4 MOST IMPORTANT

	Top 2 most important	Top 4 most important
Teaching basic reading, writing, and math skills	35	54
Making sure schools have the resources they need	21	39
Preparing students for good jobs and success in the workplace.....	21	39
Improving student learning	19	33
Having high academic standards	14	26
Holding schools accountable for their performance	12	26
Improving educational opportunities for low-income students.....	12	25
Improving schools	13	23
Supporting and respecting teachers.....	10	22
Making sure parents have a voice in their kids' education	11	21
Preparing students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college.....	10	20
Supporting early childhood education	11	19
Preparing students with digital literacy skills	6	14
Being champions for innovation and new ideas in education	5	10
None of these are important.....	0	0

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

ROTATE ORDER OF Q18a AND Q18bc.

Q18a: Here are a few criticisms of the **Democrats** on the issue of K-12 education. For each one, please indicate how big of a concern it is for you. If you do not think this criticism is true, accurate, or believable, please just indicate that.

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING A VERY OR FAIRLY SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS

	Total Very/Fairly Serious Concern	<u>A very serious concern about the Democrats</u>	<u>A fairly serious concern about the Democrats</u>	<u>Somewhat of a concern about the Democrats</u>	<u>Not much of a concern about the Democrats</u>	<u>This criticism is not true, accurate, or believable</u>
Democrats lower academic expectations for students who are behind rather than raising expectations for everyone.	52	33	19	15	10	23
Democrats are beholden to the big teacher unions, which pour millions of dollars into their campaigns.	50	31	19	16	15	19
Democrats oppose giving parents more freedom and choices of how to educate their children and instead would force children to attend low-performing government-run schools.	49	32	17	15	13	22
Democrats want to put the federal government in charge of education, when education should be a state and local responsibility.	48	31	17	17	18	18
Democrats want to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on new education entitlements, which will result in higher taxes.	47	28	19	19	17	17

Q18b: Here are a few criticisms of the **Republicans** on the issue of K-12 education. For each one, please indicate how big of a concern it is for you. If you do not think this criticism is true, accurate, or believable, please just indicate that.

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING A VERY OR FAIRLY SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS

	Total Very/Fairly Serious Concern	<u>A very serious concern about the Republicans</u>	<u>A fairly serious concern about the Republicans</u>	<u>Somewhat of a concern about the Republicans</u>	<u>Not much of a concern about the Republicans</u>	<u>This criticism is not true, accurate, or believable</u>
Republicans are working to eliminate the Department of Education, which protects students' civil rights and provides essential supports to students with disabilities, low-income children, and other vulnerable groups. .	58	44	13	12	17	13
Republicans prioritize tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy over ensuring needed funding for students' access to free or reduced-cost school meals and ensuring students are not hungry while they are learning.	57	43	15	12	11	19
Republicans want to censor the truth of our history and erase leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. from our books and classrooms.	55	43	12	9	10	26
Republicans support banning books from the school curriculum and school libraries, including recognized works of literature.	55	41	13	11	14	20

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

	Total Very/Fairly Serious Concern	<u>A very serious concern about the Republicans</u>	<u>A fairly serious concern about the Republicans</u>	<u>Somewhat of a concern about the Republicans</u>	<u>Not much of a concern about the Republicans</u>	<u>This criticism is not true, accurate, or believable</u>
<i>Q18b continued</i>						
Republicans support taking money away from public schools to fund private and religious schools.	54	39	15	13	15	18
Republicans withheld funding from schools to hire mental health professionals, who work to keep faculty and students safer.	48	30	18	16	16	20
Republicans prioritize developing and adopting new technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) over improving student learning and academic achievement.	47	27	19	17	17	19

Q18c: Here are those criticisms of the **Republicans** on the issue of K-12 education again. This time, please rank the TWO that are the most concerning to you.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF TOP 2 MOST CONCERNING

	<u>Most concerning</u>	<u>Top 2 most concerning</u>
Republicans are working to eliminate the Department of Education, which protects students' civil rights and provides essential supports to students with disabilities, low-income children, and other vulnerable groups.	17	36
Republicans prioritize tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy over ensuring needed funding for students' access to free or reduced-cost school meals and ensuring students are not hungry while they are learning.	14	30
Republicans support taking money away from public schools to fund private and religious schools.	13	27
Republicans support banning books from the school curriculum and school libraries, including recognized works of literature.	19	27
Republicans want to censor the truth of our history and erase leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. from our books and classrooms.	11	26
Republicans withheld funding from schools to hire mental health professionals, who work to keep faculty and students safer.	6	15
Republicans prioritize developing and adopting new technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) over improving student learning and academic achievement.	7	15
None of these are concerning.	13	13

Q19a: Suppose a [(ADD ON FORM A ONLY:) Democratic] candidate for Congress or president made education a top priority, [(ADD ON FORM X ONLY:) made a commitment to increase funding a lot for K-12 education,] and offered a clear agenda to improve student learning and academic achievement in our K-12 education system. Would this make you more likely or less likely to vote for this candidate?

	<u>All Likely Voters</u>	<u>Form A</u>	<u>Form B</u>	<u>Form X</u>	<u>Form Y</u>
Much more likely to vote for this candidate.	30	31	29	27	33
Somewhat more likely to vote for this candidate.	35	35	35	38	32
No difference either way.	26	26	27	27	26
Somewhat less likely to vote for this candidate.	4	3	4	4	4
Much less likely to vote for this candidate.	5	5	4	4	5
Total More Likely To Vote For Candidate	65	66	64	65	65
Total Less Likely To Vote For Candidate	8	8	8	8	9

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

Q19b: Next, you will see several different statements that a **Democratic candidate** for Congress or president might make. Please rate each one based on how likely it would make you to vote for a Democratic candidate for Congress or president who took this stand and made it an important part of their campaign.

RANKED BY PERCENTAGE SAYING MUCH OR SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR THIS DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

	Total More Likely To Vote For Democratic Candidate	Total Less Likely To Vote For Democratic Candidate	Much more likely to vote for this Democratic candidate	Somewhat more likely to vote for this Democratic candidate	No difference either way	Somewhat less likely to vote for this Democratic candidate	Much less likely to vote for this Democratic candidate
Access to quality education should be a right in America, not a privilege, and we have a responsibility to make sure that we are educating all Americans to be ready for the future.	67	10	40	28	23	4	5
Rather than making students pay for more schooling after graduation, we should expand career and technical education directly within K-12. Students shouldn't need a college degree to access good jobs. Teaching career and technical skills in high school means graduates are job-ready from day one.	65	10	34	32	24	5	5
Education is the best way to ensure every American has a fair shot at economic success.	64	9	36	28	27	4	5
Education is our best tool for overcoming inequality and economic disparities in our country, and we need to make sure there is true educational equity in America with quality schools in every neighborhood, including those that have been under-served.	62	11	34	29	26	5	6
Access to quality education and training on a lifelong basis is increasingly an economic necessity, because getting a good job depends more and more on a good education and learning new skills.	62	10	32	30	28	4	5
Every child deserves a high-quality education, which is why we should fully fund our public schools instead of spending taxpayer dollars on private school vouchers that drain resources from neighborhood classrooms and primarily benefit wealthy families. Our priority should be improving public schools that serve the vast majority of our children, not subsidizing private schools. .	61	15	37	25	23	7	9
To improve math and reading levels in public education, we need to provide incentives and supports to help schools that are falling behind. But that is not enough, principals and superintendents must be held accountable when their schools underperform and should face consequences. **.	61	11	28	32	28	6	5

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

	Total More Likely To Vote For Democratic Candidate	Total Less Likely To Vote For Democratic Candidate	Much more likely to vote for this Democratic candidate	Somewhat more likely to vote for this Democratic candidate	No difference either way	Somewhat less likely to vote for this Democratic candidate	Much less likely to vote for this Democratic candidate
<i>Q19b continued</i>							
Stress, depression, and school violence are on the rise, and our schools must do more to support the healthy social and emotional development of students. We should make a commitment to expand the availability of counseling to identify problems and help students work through them.	61	13	32	29	27	6	6
To improve math and reading levels in public education, we need to provide incentives and supports to help schools that are falling behind. *	58	15	27	30	27	8	7

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Q19c: Please look at these statements again. This time, please indicate which FOUR would make you MOST likely to vote for a candidate for Congress or president who took this stand and made it an important part of their campaign.

RANKED BY HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF TOP 4 STATEMENT

	Top 2 statement	Top 4 statement
Access to quality education should be a right in America, not a privilege, and we have a responsibility to make sure that we are educating all Americans to be ready for the future.	31	59
Every child deserves a high-quality education, which is why we should fully fund our public schools instead of spending taxpayer dollars on private school vouchers that drain resources from neighborhood classrooms and primarily benefit wealthy families. Our priority should be improving public schools that serve the vast majority of our children, not subsidizing private schools.	33	58
Education is our best tool for overcoming inequality and economic disparities in our country, and we need to make sure there is true educational equity in America with quality schools in every neighborhood, including those that have been under-served.	24	48
Access to quality education and training on a lifelong basis is increasingly an economic necessity, because getting a good job depends more and more on a good education and learning new skills.	21	47
Rather than making students pay for more schooling after graduation, we should expand career and technical education directly within K-12. Students shouldn't need a college degree to access good jobs. Teaching career and technical skills in high school means graduates are job-ready from day one.	23	46
Education is the best way to ensure every American has a fair shot at economic success.	23	46
Stress, depression, and school violence are on the rise, and our schools must do more to support the healthy social and emotional development of students. We should make a commitment to expand the availability of counseling to identify problems and help students work through them.	18	41
To improve math and reading levels in public education, we need to provide incentives and supports to help schools that are falling behind. *	20	39
To improve math and reading levels in public education, we need to provide incentives and supports to help schools that are falling behind. But that is not enough, principals and superintendents must be held accountable when their schools underperform and should face consequences. **	18	39
None of these.	4	4

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Due to rounding, not all tables will add to 100. When totaled responses differ from individual responses, totaled responses are more precise.

Q20a: In general do you have more confidence in Democrats or in Republicans when it comes to improving student learning and academic achievement in K-12 education?

	Q20a	Initial Ask (Q6)
More confidence in Democrats.....	46	40
More confidence in Republicans	32	34
Same confidence in both parties	9	9
No confidence in either party.....	13	16

Q20b: Compared with other issues you might consider when you vote [(ADD ON FORM A ONLY:) for Congress], how important is the issue of **K-12 education** to you?

	Q20b	Initial Ask (Q3b 2)
One of the most important issues.....	29	24
Very important, but several other issues are more important	43	35
Somewhat important	18	23
A little bit important.....	7	11
Not important at all	3	7
Total One Of The Most/Very Important	72	59
Total A Little Bit/Not At All Important	10	18

Q20c: Do you think that the [(ADD ON FORM A ONLY:) federal] government should increase funding for public education, keep the current level of funding, or decrease funding for public education?

	Q20b	Initial Ask (Q10)
Increase funding a lot	32	30
Increase funding some	37	38
Keep the current level of funding	24	25
Decrease funding some.....	4	5
Decrease funding a lot	3	4
Total Increase	70	67
Total Decrease	6	8

FACTUALS: These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

Qideol: On most issues related to government and politics, do you consider yourself...?

Very liberal	13
Somewhat liberal	17
Moderate.....	34
Somewhat conservative	19
Very conservative	17
Total Liberal	30
Total Conservative	36

Qp_imp: How important is politics to your personal identity?

Very important	29
Somewhat important.....	44
Not too important	20
Not at all important.....	7
Total Important	73
Total Not Important	27

Qparent1a: Are you the parent of any children age 18 or younger?

Yes.....	32
No	68

(ASKED ONLY OF PARENTS IN Qparent1a.)

Qchildgen: What is the gender of your child or children who are age 18 or younger? If you have multiple children, please select all that apply.

Boy.....	69
Girl	68
Non-binary/other	0

(ASK ONLY OF PARENTS IN Qparent1a.)

Qparent1b: Please indicate whether your child or children attend any of the following type(s) of schools. Check as many as apply.

A regular public school.....	78
A public charter school.....	11
A private or religious school	10
Homeschool.....	7
Total Public School	87

(RESUMED ASKING EVERYONE.)

Qparent1c: Do you have any children who are currently enrolled as a student at a college or university? Check as many as apply.

Yes, have child attending college (2-year or 4-year).	8
Yes, have child in graduate school (Masters, PhD, professional degree)	2
No, do not have child attending college or university	91
Total Enrolled At College/University	9

QSchildK12: Are you the parent of any children who are in any grade between kindergarten and 12th grade during this 2025-2026 school year?

Yes, have child/children in grades K to 12.....	29
No, do not have child/children in grades K to 12 ..	71

Qmarital: Are you...?

Now married.....	55
Widowed	6
Divorced	13
Separated.....	2
Never married	25

Qinc2: If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, what would the total be?

Less than \$10,000	3
\$10,000 to \$19,999	5
\$20,000 to \$29,999	10
\$30,000 to \$39,999	9
\$40,000 to \$49,999	8
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14
\$100,000 to \$149,999	17
\$150,000 to \$199,999	7
\$200,000 or more	6
Total Less than \$50k	35
Total \$50k-\$100k	35
Total \$100k+	30

Qurb: Which of the following best describes the area where you live?

Urban	25
Suburban	49
Small town	8
Rural	18
Total Small Town/Rural	26