

Education Next — Program on Education Policy and Governance Survey 2019 ~ Parent-Student Responses

For details on the methodology behind these survey responses, please see “School Choice in the Trump Era: Results from the 2019 Education Next Poll”

by Michael Henderson, David Houston, Paul E. Peterson, Martin R. West at <https://www.educationnext.org/school-choice-trump-era-results-2019-education-next-poll>.

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For questions with both “a” and “b” versions, a random half of the respondents were assigned version “a” and the other half were assigned version “b”.

For questions with both “a”, “b”, “c” and “d” versions, a random fourth of the respondents were assigned version “a”, “b”, “c” or “d”.

“Parents” are defined as respondents living in a household with one or more children between the ages of 6 and 17.

(P) indicates the parent version of a question and (S) indicates the student version

Due to rounding, column totals may not always sum to 100.

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Sample size	415	415

Grading Schools

1. Which type of school does this child attend?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Public school (but not a charter school)	84	84
Charter school	5	5
Private religious school	7	7
Private school (no religious affiliation)	4	4

2 (P). Students are often given the grades A, B, C, and D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose schools themselves were graded in the same way. What grade would you give your child's high school?

2 (S). Students are often given the grades A, B, C, and D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose schools themselves were graded in the same way. What grade would you give your high school?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	38	35
B	44	34
C	12	23
D	3	5
Fail	3	5

3. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, and D, and Fail to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools in your community?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	24	20
B	46	35
C	21	32
D	6	10
Fail	3	3

4. How about the public schools in the nation as a whole? What grade would you give them?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	3	7
B	34	39
C	48	40
D	11	11
Fail	4	4

5 (P). How academically prepared for college level work do you think your child will be when they finish high school?

5 (S). How academically prepared for college level work do you think you will be when you finish high school?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Very prepared	43	41
Somewhat prepared	42	42
Not too prepared	13	11
Not at all prepared	2	5

6 (P). How prepared to enter the workforce do you think your child will be when they finish high school?

6 (S). How prepared to enter the workforce do you think you will be when you finish high school?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Very prepared	25	28
Somewhat prepared	51	50
Not too prepared	21	16
Not at all prepared	2	6

School Spending

7. Based on your best guess, what is the average amount of money spent each year for a child in public schools in your local school district?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Average response	\$7,629	\$7,916
Actual (Average among sample)	\$13,228	\$12,769
Difference	-\$5,599	-\$4,853

8. Do you think that government funding for public schools in your district should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Greatly increase	21	27
Increase	42	44
Stay about the same	29	24
Decrease	7	3
Greatly decrease	1	2

Accountability and the Common Core State Standards

9. As you may know, in the last few years states have been deciding whether or not to use the Common Core, which are standards for reading and math that are the same across the states. In the states that have these standards, they will be used to hold public schools accountable for their performance. Do you support or oppose the use of the Common Core standards in your state?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	15	10
Somewhat support	34	25
Somewhat oppose	15	17
Strongly oppose	25	27
Neither support nor oppose	11	21

10. Do you support or oppose the federal government continuing to require that all students be tested in math and reading each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	34	20
Somewhat support	41	32
Somewhat oppose	12	19
Strongly oppose	8	18
Neither support nor oppose	5	11

School choice

11. As you may know, many states permit the formation of charter schools, which are publicly funded but are not managed by the local school board. These schools are expected to meet promised objectives, but are exempt from many state regulations. Do you support or oppose the formation of charter schools?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	21	19
Somewhat support	35	27
Somewhat oppose	17	13
Strongly oppose	15	8
Neither support nor oppose	12	33

12. A proposal has been made that would give *all* families with children in public schools a wider choice, by allowing them to enroll their children in private schools instead, with government helping to pay the tuition. Would you support or oppose this proposal?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	27	30
Somewhat support	33	28
Somewhat oppose	16	10
Strongly oppose	15	10
Neither support nor oppose	9	23

Personnel Policies

13. Based on your best guess, what is the average yearly salary of a public school teacher in your state?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Average response	\$43,820	\$41,842
Actual (Average among sample)	\$59,677	\$59,141
Difference	-\$15,857	-\$17,299

14. Do you think that public school teacher salaries should increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Greatly increase	21	23
Increase	50	44
Stay about the same	25	28
Decrease	3	3
Greatly decrease	1	1

15a. Do you support or oppose basing part of the salaries of teachers on ...
 ... how much their students learn?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	31	39
Somewhat support	37	34
Somewhat oppose	13	8
Strongly oppose	7	6
Neither support nor oppose	12	13

15b. ... whether they teach subjects with teacher shortages, like math and science?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	21	24
Somewhat support	40	35
Somewhat oppose	16	13
Strongly oppose	5	5
Neither support nor oppose	18	24

15c. ... on whether they teach in schools with many disadvantaged students?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	21	29
Somewhat support	35	32
Somewhat oppose	15	15
Strongly oppose	9	6
Neither support nor oppose	21	19

15d. ... on evaluations by their principal?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	20	24
Somewhat support	52	35
Somewhat oppose	13	13
Strongly oppose	5	11
Neither support nor oppose	9	17

15e. ... on evaluations by their fellow teachers?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	15	21
Somewhat support	35	29
Somewhat oppose	25	15
Strongly oppose	8	17
Neither support nor oppose	16	17

15f. ... on how many years they have been teaching?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	31	30
Somewhat support	43	38
Somewhat oppose	13	10
Strongly oppose	4	6
Neither support nor oppose	10	16

15g. ... on whether they have a Master's degree?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	34	35
Somewhat support	40	34
Somewhat oppose	10	8
Strongly oppose	4	6
Neither support nor oppose	12	16

16. Teachers with tenure cannot be dismissed unless a school district follows detailed procedures. [Some say that it makes it too difficult to replace ineffective teachers. Others say that tenure protects teachers from being fired for arbitrary reasons.] Do you support or oppose giving tenure to teachers?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	6	9
Somewhat support	24	23
Somewhat oppose	29	18
Strongly oppose	20	18
Neither support nor oppose	20	31

Unions and collective bargaining

17. Do you support or oppose public school teachers having the right to strike?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	20	24
Somewhat support	30	30
Somewhat oppose	16	12
Strongly oppose	19	12
Neither support nor oppose	15	21

Curriculum and instruction

18. How much should schools focus on student academic performance versus student social and emotional wellbeing? Please give a percentage for each. Your answers should add to 100%.

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Student academic performance (mean response)	66	60
Student social and emotional wellbeing (mean response)	34	40

19. Do you think high school students should be in their core academic classes with only high school students of *similar* ability levels, or should they be in class with high school students of *all* ability levels?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Only with students of similar ability levels	54	63
With students of all ability levels	46	37

20. Do you think all high school students should be encouraged to take classes that prepare them for college, or should some high school students be encouraged to take classes that prepare them to enter the workforce directly after graduation?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
All high school students should be encouraged to take classes that prepare them for college	48	47
Some high school students should be encouraged to take classes that prepare them to enter the workforce directly after graduation	52	54

School security

21 (P). How confident are you that there is sufficient security against a shooting attack at your child’s high school?

21 (S). How confident are you that there is sufficient security against a shooting attack at your school?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Extremely confident	11	16
Very confident	28	24
Somewhat confident	40	33
Not so confident	16	17
Not at all confident	5	9

22 (P). Do you support or oppose having one or more armed police officers on duty at your child’s high school whenever school is in session?

22 (S). Do you support or oppose having one or more armed police officers on duty at your school whenever school is in session?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	55	45
Somewhat support	30	36
Somewhat oppose	9	8
Strongly oppose	2	3
Neither support nor oppose	4	8

23 (P). Do you support or oppose having metal detectors at all entrances at your child’s high school?

23 (S). Do you support or oppose having metal detectors at all entrances at your school?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	43	31
Somewhat support	34	32
Somewhat oppose	15	15
Strongly oppose	4	12
Neither support nor oppose	4	11

24 (P). Do you support or oppose screening all students at your child’s high school for severe emotional distress?

24 (S). Do you support or oppose screening all students at your school for severe emotional distress?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	40	37
Somewhat support	41	36
Somewhat oppose	10	10
Strongly oppose	3	7
Neither support nor oppose	5	11

Racial disparities (discipline)

25. Do you support or oppose federal policies that prevent schools from expelling or suspending black and Hispanic students at higher rates than other students?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	12	20
Somewhat support	14	16
Somewhat oppose	17	13
Strongly oppose	32	27
Neither support nor oppose	25	23

Immigration

26. Some people say that children who are not proficient in speaking English should initially be placed in English-speaking classrooms. Others say these children should initially be placed in classrooms taught in their primary language? Which comes closest to your view?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Should initially be placed in English speaking classrooms	65	62
Should initially be placed in classrooms taught in their native language	35	38

27. Do you support or oppose allowing undocumented immigrants to be eligible for the in-state college tuition rate if they graduated from high school in your state?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	20	27
Somewhat support	25	19
Somewhat oppose	15	12
Strongly oppose	33	25
Neither support nor oppose	7	17

Higher education

28 (P). Thinking about your child in high school, do you want that child to go to a community college to earn a two-year degree, a university to earn a four-year degree, or neither?

28 (S). When you finish high school, do you want to go to a community college to earn a two-year degree, a university to earn a four-year degree, or neither?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Community college to earn a two-year degree	21	20
University to earn a four-year degree	71	65
Neither	8	15

29. What grade would you give the **public** four-year colleges and universities in your state?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	28	35
B	54	43
C	14	19
D	2	2
Fail	2	1

30. What grade would you give the **public** four-year colleges and universities in the nation as a whole?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	16	27
B	58	46
C	19	22
D	2	3
Fail	6	2

31. What grade would you give the *private* four-year colleges and universities in your state?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	34	41
B	46	37
C	15	21
D	4	0
Fail	1	1

32. What grade would you give the *private* four-year colleges and universities in the nation as a whole?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	27	33
B	52	51
C	12	13
D	3	1
Fail	6	2

33. How about [INSERT STATE FLAGSHIP 4-YR COLLEGE]? What grade would you give it?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	38	44
B	45	36
C	11	15
D	3	1
Fail	2	3

34. How about [INSERT NEAREST IN-STATE NONFLAGSHIP 4-YR COLLEGE]? What grade would you give it?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	33	35
B	41	42
C	20	19
D	4	2
Fail	2	2

35. How about [INSERT NEAREST IN-STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE]? What grade would you give it?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
A	26	28
B	44	42
C	24	24
D	5	5
Fail	2	2

36. [NO INFO] Do you support or oppose making all public four-year colleges in the United States free to attend?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Strongly support	41	53
Somewhat support	27	24
Somewhat oppose	9	5
Strongly oppose	17	11
Neither support nor oppose	6	7

Political and religious activity

37. How frequently do you participate in political activities to support a candidate or issue, such as making phone calls, campaigning door-to-door, or distributing leaflets?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Never	59	75
Almost never	26	15
Sometimes	11	7
Fairly often	4	3
Often	1	1

38. Apart from weddings and funerals, how often would you say that you attend religious services?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
More than once a week	10	9
Once a month	26	26
A few times a year	8	8
Never	25	21

39. Would you say that you have been born again or have had a born-again experience -- that is, a turning point in your life when you committed yourself to Jesus Christ?

	Parents of High School Children	High School Students
Yes	36	33
No	64	67