

To: Interested Parties
From: Scott Foster, yes. every kid. foundation.
Re: North Carolinians Support More Access to Public Schools in the Tar Heel State
Date: April 26, 2024

A new poll by yes. every kid. foundation. finds that North Carolinians strongly support expanding education freedom in the Tar Heel state—empowering families with universal access to public schools and a greater ability to customize each child’s education to be more amenable to their unique needs.

Change is Necessary and Impactful

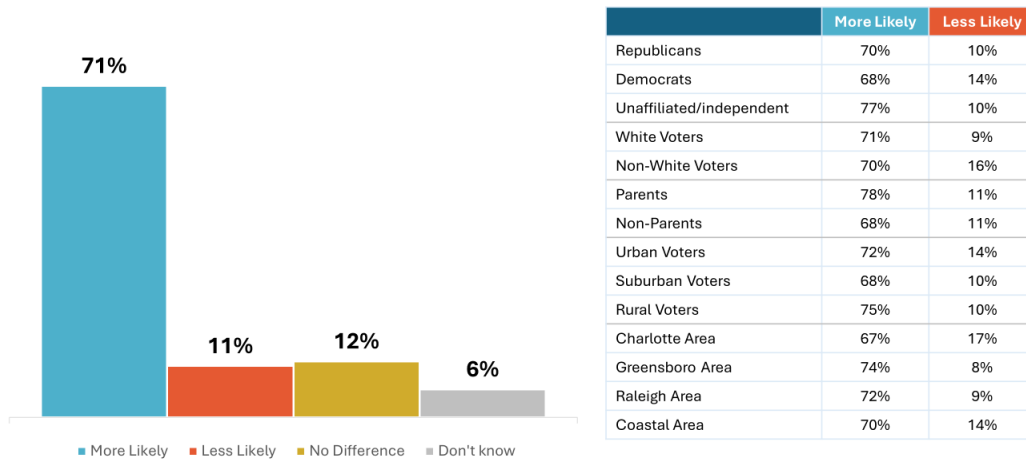
Education across the world has faced unique challenges the last few years, and North Carolina is no exception. Accordingly, most voters believe K-12 public education in the state has stagnated (33%) or declined (44%) during this time, with only 10% believing it has gotten better.

To improve the state’s K-12 system, three-quarters of North Carolinians – including 73% of Republicans, 71% of Democrats, and 78% of unaffiliated/independent voters – believe change is necessary, with two-thirds saying the state should focus on rethinking how it educates students, coming up with new ways to teach children moving forward, rather than trying to recreate the status quo of the past.

Significant Impact on Vote

Improving North Carolina’s education system is so important that by a significant 60 percentage point margin (71%-11%), voters in North Carolina are more likely to vote for a legislator who supports giving families more educational options than a legislator who does not. Large majorities of all demographic subgroups agree, including 70% of Republicans, 68% of Democrats, and 77% of unaffiliated/independent voters.

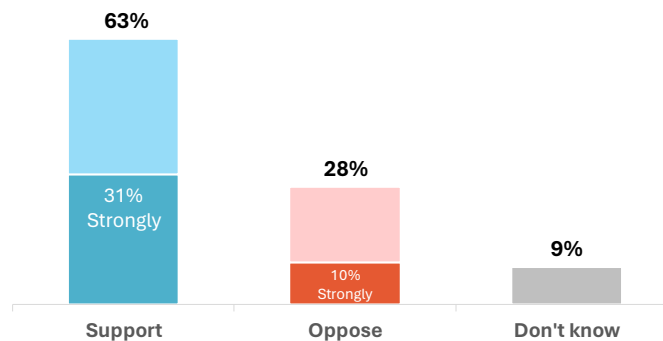
Would you be more or less likely to vote for your legislator if they supported giving families more options to educate their children in North Carolina?



Strong Support for More Access to Public Schools

One significant change voters support is ending residential school assignment. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of voters support a law that would empower children to access any public school in the state regardless of where they live. Support is high across the board, including with every major demographic subgroup.

As you may know, children in North Carolina are assigned to a public school based on their home address. Would you support or oppose the state assembly passing a law that would allow children in North Carolina to access any public school in the state regardless of where they live?



In North Carolina, aside from magnet schools in a few select counties, a child’s educational opportunities are limited by their family’s zip code, but the data make clear that North Carolina voters believe the boundaries separating students from the public school that works best for them hold them and the overall education system back.

Desire for Customization and Flexibility

The public school system is an important part of the state's fabric, so much so that seven-in-ten voters believe that all students – including private school and homeschooling students – should have access to a public school on a course-by-course basis for instruction, electives, sports, and clubs. Majorities of all major demographic subgroups agree.

Additionally, almost six-in-ten (58%) voters believe expanding access course-by-course will strengthen the education system.

Voters also recognize the inherent truth that learning is not limited to within the four walls of a school, and, accordingly, 71% support the state assembly passing a law that would allow students to receive credit for learning outside of the traditional classroom. A near equal number (68%) believe allowing more flexibility in where students learn would improve the state's public education system.

Methodology

yes. every kid. foundation. conducted a random, online survey of n=600 registered voters in North Carolina from January 26-31, 2024. The survey was stratified based on the known demographic composition of the North Carolina voter population. As the survey was conducted online, there is no calculated margin of error. A similar survey utilizing a probability-based sampling approach would have a margin of error around +/- 4.0%.