

# National Education Survey

**N=1,000 Registered Voters**

MoE = +/- 3.1%

October 31-November 2, 2024

yes.  
every kid.  
**foundation.**

## Key Findings

- ✓ **American voters believe the country’s k-12 education system is off track.** By nearly a 2:1 margin, voters believe k-12 education in the country is heading in the wrong direction (56%) rather than the right direction (31%).
- ✓ **Republicans have an opportunity to lead on k-12 education.** While Democrats have historically been more trusted to handle education in the country, the gap is narrowing quickly—47% of voters say they would trust Democrats more to handle k-12 education, while 42% say they would trust Republicans more.
- ✓ **Voters – overwhelmingly – want local control over k-12 education spending decisions.** While three-quarters of American voters believe the federal government should fund public schools, only 28% believe the federal government should be able to tell local schools how to spend the money. When it comes to *who* should make these decisions, voters most trust the State Department of Education (20%), teachers (18%), and parents (15%).
- ✓ **Voters support ending federal funding mandates and block granting k-12 funds directly to states.** A majority (55%) of American voters support ending all federal requirements tied to education funding and instead sending the money directly to the states to spend, with only one-third of voters in opposition. When voters are more informed on the policy, support increases to 59%.
  - Resonant supportive messaging focuses on the ability of states to tailor programs to the needs of their populations, allowing them to continuously adapt programs to directly respond to changing needs now and in the future.
- ✓ **By nearly a 2:1 margin, American voters continue to support open enrollment policies.** Fifty-eight percent of voters support, with 25% *strongly* in support, ending assigning children to the public school closest to them, 25 percentage points more than the 33% who oppose.
  - Resonant supportive messaging makes it clear that voters believe every child should have access to the best public school that works for them, regardless of the neighborhood they grow up in or their family’s financial situation.

## Methodology

yes. every kid. foundation. conducted an online study of N=1,000 registered voters nationwide October 31-November 2, 2024. Fieldwork and sample were provided by Dynata, a leading data analytics company. Sampling frames and quotas were utilized to ensure appropriate sampling of the registered voter population. Post stratification weighting was conducted utilizing multiple geographic and demographic variables to ensure accurate representation. The margin of error on the full sample is +/- 3.1%.

# Survey Data

\* denotes result less than 0.5%.

Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.

## 1. In which state do you live?

### 4-PT REGION SHOWN

17% Northeast  
24% Midwest  
37% South  
22% West

## 2. Are you registered to vote in [state from Q1]?

100% Yes

## 3. Thinking about the 2024 general election for President, Congress, and various state and local offices, do you plan to vote in this election? Would you say you...

52% Definitely plan to vote  
5% Probably plan to vote  
5% It's fifty-fifty  
\* Probably plan not to vote  
4% Definitely plan not to vote  
  
\* Don't know  
  
32% Already voted early

## 4. In which age range do you fall?

7% 18-24  
18% 25-34  
16% 35-44  
13% 45-54  
20% 55-64  
26% 65 or older

5. What do you consider to be your gender?

48% Male  
52% Female  
-- Other

6. Which of the following best describes your racial or ethnic identity? *Select all that apply.*

74% White or Caucasian  
13% Black or African American  
12% Hispanic or Latino  
6% Asian or Asian American  
1% Native American or Alaska Native  
\* Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  
\* Other  
  
\* Prefer not to say

7. Are you the parent or legal guardian of a child in your household under the age of 18? *Select all that apply.*

11% Yes, I have at least one child under 18 in my household who is too young to be in a k-12 school this school year  
22% Yes, I have at least one child under 18 in my household who is in a k-12 school this school year  
34% No, I do not have children under 18 in my household  
35% No, I do not have children  
  
1% Don't know

First, thinking about the election...

**[HAVEN'T VOTED IN 2024 ELECTION YET, N=675 REGISTERED VOTERS]**

8. If the election for President were held today and the candidates were Donald Trump, the Republican, and Kamala Harris, the Democrat, for whom would you vote?

**50% TOTAL TRUMP**

**41% TOTAL HARRIS**

37% Definitely will vote for Donald Trump

13% Probably will vote for Donald Trump

33% Definitely will vote for Kamala Harris

9% Probably will vote for Kamala Harris

1% Someone else (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

6% Undecided/Don't know

1% Do not plan to vote

**[ALREADY VOTED IN 2024 ELECTION, N=325 REGISTERED VOTERS]**

9. Who did you vote for in the presidential election?

60% Kamala Harris

33% Donald Trump

2% Someone else (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

4% Prefer not to say

**8/9 COMBINED.**

**48% TOTAL HARRIS**

**45% TOTAL TRUMP**

2% Someone else

4% Undecided/Don't know

1% Do not plan to vote

1% Prefer not to say

Now, focusing specifically on the issue of education in America...

**10.** Would you say k-12 education in the country is heading in the right direction or wrong direction?

- 31% Right direction
- 56% Wrong direction
  
- 12% Don't know

**11.** Regardless of how you usually vote, which party do you trust more to do a better job handling k-12 education in America?

- 47% Democratic Party
- 42% Republican Party
  
- 11% Don't know

**12.** Among the following, who do you trust most to decide how federal k-12 education money is spent in local schools?

- 20% State Department of Education
- 18% Teachers
- 15% Parents
- 14% School boards
- 12% Individual schools
- 12% Federal Department of Education
- 4% Elected state leaders
- 3% Elected federal leaders
- 1% Other

For each of the following statements, please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with that statement.

	<b>TOTAL AGREE</b>	<b>TOTAL DISAGREE</b>	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<b>13.</b> The federal government should be involved in public schools nationwide.	<b>53%</b>	<b>33%</b>	19%	34%	14%	17%	16%	1%
<b>14.</b> The federal government should be more involved in my local schools.	<b>42%</b>	<b>40%</b>	14%	29%	16%	20%	20%	2%
<b>15.</b> The federal government should fund public schools nationwide.	<b>74%</b>	<b>13%</b>	41%	33%	13%	6%	6%	1%
<b>16.</b> The federal government should decide what local schools spend money on.	<b>28%</b>	<b>50%</b>	9%	20%	20%	26%	24%	1%
<b>17.</b> The federal government should be able to tell public schools nationwide how to spend money it gives them.	<b>35%</b>	<b>46%</b>	11%	23%	17%	22%	24%	2%

Moving on...

The following are a few ideas some people have suggested to improve k-12 education in the country. For each one, please indicate to what extent you support or oppose it.

	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
<b>18.</b> Ending all federal requirements tied to education funding and instead sending the money directly to states to spend.	<b>55%</b>	<b>34%</b>	20%	35%	22%	12%	11%
<b>19.</b> Ending the federal requirement that students be assigned to the public school closest to them.	<b>58%</b>	<b>33%</b>	25%	33%	22%	11%	9%

**20.** The following is a little more information about the idea of ending all federal requirements tied to education funding and instead sending the money directly to states to spend.

*Currently, the federal government provides funding to public k-12 schools in the country for things like free and reduced-price lunches and special needs support. Schools who receive this funding must spend it exactly how the government tells them to. Under this idea, states would now become responsible for students who qualify for programs like these. The federal government would still send them the money but no longer tell them how to spend it.*

Knowing more, would you support or oppose ending all federal requirements tied to education funding and instead sending the money directly to states to spend?

<b>INITL</b>	<b>INFRMD</b>	
<b>55%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
<b>34%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>
20%	23%	Strongly support
35%	37%	Somewhat support
22%	22%	Somewhat oppose
12%	12%	Strongly oppose
11%	7%	Don't know



Still thinking about this idea of ending all federal requirements tied to education funding and instead sending the money directly to states to spend... Please read each of the following statements and indicate if that statement makes you more supportive of ending all federal requirements tied to education funding and instead sending the money directly to states to spend or less supportive.

	<b>TOTAL MORE SUPPORTIVE</b>	<b>TOTAL LESS SUPPORTIVE</b>	Much more supportive	Somewhat more supportive	Neither more nor less supportive	Somewhat less supportive	Much less supportive	Don't know
<b>21.</b> Local leaders know what is better for their residents than the federal government and should be the ones making education decisions that impact their residents.	<b>55%</b>	<b>21%</b>	27%	28%	20%	12%	8%	4%
<b>22.</b> Instead of having the federal government dictate one-size-fits-all mandates for all 50 states, each state would be able to tailor programs to the needs of their populations.	<b>62%</b>	<b>17%</b>	30%	32%	18%	10%	7%	3%
<b>23.</b> States and local governments would have more control over how to spend the funds, leading to better management and more efficiency.	<b>58%</b>	<b>17%</b>	23%	35%	21%	10%	7%	4%
<b>24.</b> Education requirements are determined by each state, and thus each state should control how funding is spent in its schools.	<b>55%</b>	<b>18%</b>	23%	31%	25%	10%	8%	3%

<p><b>25.</b> Education decisions should be made by the representatives directly elected in a particular state rather than unelected bureaucrats in Washington, DC.</p>	<p><b>55%</b></p>	<p><b>19%</b></p>	<p>24%</p>	<p>31%</p>	<p>22%</p>	<p>11%</p>	<p>7%</p>	<p>4%</p>
<p><b>26.</b> By giving states more control, they can better plan and accommodate future state needs.</p>	<p><b>60%</b></p>	<p><b>16%</b></p>	<p>27%</p>	<p>33%</p>	<p>20%</p>	<p>11%</p>	<p>6%</p>	<p>4%</p>
<p><b>27.</b> States can learn from their residents and continuously adapt programs to respond directly to their changing needs.</p>	<p><b>60%</b></p>	<p><b>17%</b></p>	<p>26%</p>	<p>34%</p>	<p>20%</p>	<p>11%</p>	<p>6%</p>	<p>3%</p>
<p><b>28.</b> Instead of uniform federal mandates, states would be able to compare and contrast what works in similar states and quickly update their programs accordingly.</p>	<p><b>58%</b></p>	<p><b>16%</b></p>	<p>24%</p>	<p>34%</p>	<p>22%</p>	<p>11%</p>	<p>6%</p>	<p>4%</p>

29. The following is a little more information about the idea of ending the federal requirement that students be assigned to the public school closest to them.

*Currently, children in most states are assigned to a public school based on their home address. This idea would end this federal law. Students could attend any public school in the state that has capacity, regardless of their address.*

Knowing more, would you support or oppose ending the federal requirement that students be assigned to the public school closest to them?

<u>INITL</u>	<u>INFRMD</u>	
<b>58%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>
<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>TOTAL OPPOSE</b>
25%	28%	Strongly support
33%	34%	Somewhat support
22%	20%	Somewhat oppose
11%	12%	Strongly oppose
9%	6%	Don't know

Now, thinking about this idea of ending the federal requirement that students be assigned to the public school closest to them... Please read each of the following statements and indicate if that statement makes you more supportive of ending the federal requirement that students be assigned to the public school closest to them or less supportive of ending it.

	<b>TOTAL MORE SUPPORTIVE</b>	<b>TOTAL LESS SUPPORTIVE</b>	Much more supportive	Somewhat more supportive	Neither more nor less supportive	Somewhat less supportive	Much less supportive	Don't know
<b>30.</b> Eliminating this requirement allows for a more open system in which parents could play a more active role in determining which public school their child attends based on that child's needs.	<b>58%</b>	<b>19%</b>	30%	29%	19%	11%	8%	4%
<b>31.</b> This requirement currently lets states draw district lines that segregate schools, harming minority students who end up trapped in lower performing schools with fewer resources.	<b>51%</b>	<b>20%</b>	27%	25%	24%	10%	10%	5%
<b>32.</b> Forcing children to attend the school closest to them ignores the reality that some schools just don't work for some students. Removing this requirement will allow kids to find what works for them and better set them up for success in life.	<b>60%</b>	<b>18%</b>	30%	30%	19%	9%	8%	4%

<p><b>33.</b> Many states have already passed laws that allow students to choose the public school that is best for them, regardless of where they live. The federal government is trailing behind and should end this requirement.</p>	<p><b>55%</b></p>	<p><b>19%</b></p>	<p>29%</p>	<p>26%</p>	<p>22%</p>	<p>11%</p>	<p>8%</p>	<p>5%</p>
<p><b>34.</b> A student should not be prevented from accessing a school that works better for them just because of where they live or their family's financial situation.</p>	<p><b>61%</b></p>	<p><b>17%</b></p>	<p>34%</p>	<p>27%</p>	<p>18%</p>	<p>10%</p>	<p>6%</p>	<p>4%</p>
<p><b>35.</b> Every child should have access to the best public school that works for them, regardless of the neighborhood they grow up in.</p>	<p><b>65%</b></p>	<p><b>16%</b></p>	<p>38%</p>	<p>26%</p>	<p>16%</p>	<p>10%</p>	<p>6%</p>	<p>3%</p>
<p><b>36.</b> States have district boundaries that traditionally leave underprivileged children behind. Those kids should have access to the best public schools, just like the kids of wealthy families.</p>	<p><b>61%</b></p>	<p><b>15%</b></p>	<p>33%</p>	<p>28%</p>	<p>20%</p>	<p>8%</p>	<p>7%</p>	<p>4%</p>

Now, just a few more questions for demographic purposes only...

**37.** What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- 3% Some high school or less
- 20% High school diploma or equivalent
- 18% Some college but no degree
- 3% Vocational training/school
- 14% Associate's degree or 2-year college degree
- 25% Bachelor's degree or 4-year college degree
- 16% Advanced degree, such as Master's, Professional, or Doctorate
  
- 1% Don't know

**38.** How would you describe your economic circumstances?

- 10% Poor
- 24% Working class
- 43% Middle class
- 15% Upper middle class
- 4% Well-to-do
  
- 2% Don't know
  
- 2% Prefer not to answer

**39.** How would you describe the area in which you live?

- 26% An urban area or city
- 49% A suburban area
- 11% A small town
- 13% A rural area
  
- 1% Don't know

40. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, independent, or something else?

**45%** **TOTAL REPUBLICAN**

**42%** **TOTAL DEMOCRAT**

- 23% Strong Republican
- 14% Not-so-strong Republican
- 8% Independent but lean slightly Republican
- 9% Strictly Independent
- 11% Independent but lean slightly Democrat
- 9% Not-so-strong Democrat
- 22% Strong Democrat
  
- 2% Something else/Other
  
- 2% Don't know

41. Overall, how would you describe your views on most issues?

**34%** **TOTAL CONSERVATIVE**

**27%** **TOTAL LIBERAL**

- 14% Very conservative
- 20% Somewhat conservative
- 37% Moderate
- 16% Somewhat liberal
- 11% Very liberal
  
- 1% Something else/Other
  
- 1% Don't know

42. Thinking back to the presidential election in November 2020, regardless of how you feel today, for whom did you vote?

- 46% Joe Biden, the Democrat
- 43% Donald Trump, the Republican
  
- 2% Someone else/Other
  
- 7% Did not vote
  
- 2% Don't know