

# National Education Survey

N=1,500 Registered Voters | MoE = +/- 2.5% | Online

October 22-23, 2025

yes.  
every kid.  
foundation.

## Survey Data

\* denotes result less than 0.5%, while -- denotes no response.

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]

18%	Northeast
23%	Midwest
37%	South
22%	West

### 2. Are you registered to vote in [STATE FROM Q1]?

100%	Yes
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### 3. In which age range do you fall?

8%	18-24
17%	25-34
16%	35-44
13%	45-54
20%	55-64
26%	65 or older

### 4. Are you...?

52%	Female
48%	Male
--	Other

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

72%	White
15%	Black or African American
13%	Hispanic or Latino
4%	Asian
2%	Native American or Alaska Native
1%	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
*	Middle Eastern or North African
1%	Other
*	Prefer not to say

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

- 3% Some high school or less
- 22% High school diploma or equivalent
- 20% Some college but no degree
- 5% Vocational training/school
- 11% Associate's degree or 2-year college degree
- 25% Bachelor's degree or 4-year college degree
- 14% Advanced degree, such as Master's, Professional, or Doctorate
- Prefer not to say

**7.** Are you the parent or legal guardian of a child in your household in any of the following groups?  
*Select all that apply.*

- 8% A young child not yet in kindergarten
- 24% A child in kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 22% A child who has already completed 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 52% I do not have any children
- 1% Don't know

Thinking about education in general...

How much trust do you have in each of the following to make the right K-12 education decisions for children in your community?

	<b><i>TOTAL TRUST</i></b>	<b><i>TOTAL NOT TRUST</i></b>	A lot of trust	Some trust	Not much trust	No trust	Not sure
<b>8.</b> Parents and families	<b>87%</b>	<b>11%</b>	49%	38%	8%	2%	2%
<b>9.</b> State government	<b>59%</b>	<b>39%</b>	17%	42%	27%	12%	2%
<b>10.</b> Federal government	<b>41%</b>	<b>56%</b>	11%	30%	34%	23%	3%

**11.** And, who should have the most control over K-12 education decisions in your community?

- 60% Parents and families
- 27% State government
- 5% Federal government
- 8% Not sure

**12.** Which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right?

- 72% States should set their own K-12 education standards
- 15% Washington, DC should set K-12 education standards for all states
- 13% Not sure

**13.** And, which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right?

- 67% K-12 education should be controlled by those closest to students—families, teachers, and local communities
- 25% K-12 education should be controlled by national experts to ensure fairness and consistency across states
- 8% Not sure

Now, thinking specifically about the U.S. Department of Education...

**14.** Do you support or oppose eliminating the U.S. Department of Education?

**38% TOTAL SUPPORT**  
**51% TOTAL OPPOSE**

- 17% Strongly support
- 21% Somewhat support
- 18% Somewhat oppose
- 32% Strongly oppose
- 12% Not sure

**15.** Some people have proposed that instead of eliminating the U.S. Department of Education completely, we should eliminate it but ensure that K-12 funding remains and is sent directly to each state and portions of the department are merged with other federal agencies with similar responsibilities. Based on this, would you support or oppose this proposal?

**56% TOTAL SUPPORT**  
**30% TOTAL OPPOSE**

- 18% Strongly support
- 37% Somewhat support
- 16% Somewhat oppose
- 14% Strongly oppose
- 14% Not sure

**[SUPPORT PROPOSAL, N=838]**

**16.** Which of the following best explains why you support this proposal? Please rank your first, second, and third reasons.

<u>1<sup>ST</sup></u>	<u>2<sup>ND</sup></u>	<u>3<sup>RD</sup></u>	<u>Comb</u>	
15%	11%	9%	36%	Those closest to children should be making decisions about their education
12%	9%	11%	32%	States and local communities should have full authority over K-12 education
11%	9%	11%	31%	Education should return back to the states where it belongs
10%	11%	10%	31%	We can save taxpayers money by eliminating redundancy and bureaucracy
9%	10%	10%	29%	Test scores and student outcomes have barely improved in 50 years even though the department has spent trillions of dollars
9%	10%	7%	26%	The department is too political and influenced by progressives, teacher and other government unions, and civil rights activists
8%	9%	9%	26%	Federal funding is minimal; state and local taxpayers supply roughly 90% of education funding and should make the decisions
7%	8%	9%	24%	The department doesn't actually educate any children or provide any curriculum
6%	9%	9%	24%	The department puts too many costly and unnecessary regulations on states and school districts
6%	8%	7%	22%	President Trump believes in giving parents more of a say in a child's education and supports this proposal
5%	6%	7%	18%	Many of the department's responsibilities can easily be handled by other agencies
*	--	*	1%	Other reason

**[SUPPORT PROPOSAL, N=838]**

**17.** Which parts of federal involvement in education do you think cause the most problems for schools and families? *Select up to three.*

38%	Bureaucracy (i.e., slow, inefficient, red tape-heavy administration)
36%	One-size-fits-all policies (i.e., ignoring local needs and differences)
34%	Government overreach (i.e., too much control from Washington)
33%	Undermining state and parent authority (i.e., disempowering families and communities)
30%	Indoctrination (i.e., federal influence pushing political or ideological content)
28%	Unfunded mandates (i.e., establishing requirements without providing money to implement them)
26%	Confusion and inconsistency (i.e., changing rules, unclear standards)
26%	Partisanship (i.e., changes in policy as Democrats and Republicans go back-and-forth)
16%	Student loan mismanagement (i.e., delays with FASFA)
*	Other
3%	None of these

And, regardless of how you feel, how confident would knowing each of the following make you about this proposal?

	<b>TOTAL CONFIDENT</b>	<b>TOTAL NOT CONFIDENT</b>	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not that confident	Not at all confident	Not sure
<b>18.</b> A detailed replacement plan outlining state or other agency responsibilities	<b>60%</b>	<b>32%</b>	22%	38%	20%	11%	8%
<b>19.</b> Clear explanation of the benefits	<b>62%</b>	<b>31%</b>	24%	38%	19%	11%	8%
<b>20.</b> Assurance that the rights of students with disabilities remain protected	<b>63%</b>	<b>29%</b>	28%	35%	16%	12%	8%
<b>21.</b> Assurance that the rights of minorities remain protected	<b>60%</b>	<b>31%</b>	26%	34%	18%	13%	9%
<b>22.</b> Guarantee that federal funding will continue	<b>61%</b>	<b>32%</b>	25%	35%	19%	13%	7%
<b>23.</b> A gradual phase-out if needed rather than any abrupt closure	<b>56%</b>	<b>33%</b>	18%	38%	20%	13%	11%
<b>24.</b> An improved student loan and lending plan	<b>55%</b>	<b>35%</b>	20%	35%	22%	13%	10%

Next, the following are a few statements about this proposal to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education but ensure that K-12 funding remains and is sent directly to each state and portions of the department are merged with other federal agencies with similar responsibilities. For each one, please indicate if it makes you more or less supportive of this proposal.

	<b>TOTAL MORE POSITIVE</b>	<b>TOTAL LESS POSITIVE</b>	Much more positive	Somewhat more positive	Somewhat less positive	Much less positive	No change in opinion	Not sure
<b>25.</b> This proposal would save taxpayers money by eliminating layers of federal bureaucracy and merging together duplicative responsibilities.	<b>61%</b>	<b>21%</b>	28%	34%	12%	9%	12%	7%
<b>26.</b> Teachers are stressed out more than ever and leaving the profession because of the endless paperwork and restrictions they face. We need to reduce their burden and let them get back to doing what they love – teaching our children.	<b>63%</b>	<b>20%</b>	30%	33%	13%	6%	12%	6%

<p><b>27.</b> K-12 funding has increased but student test scores continue to decrease and lag behind other countries. We simply cannot continue doing the same thing and expect different results. To truly educate our kids, we must try new things and find something that works.</p>	<b>62%</b>	<b>20%</b>	32%	30%	13%	8%	10%	8%
<p><b>28.</b> Eliminating the federal restrictions the U.S. Department of Education attaches to funding would make school spending more efficient, ensuring more funds reach classrooms and our students.</p>	<b>61%</b>	<b>20%</b>	27%	34%	10%	10%	11%	8%
<p><b>29.</b> Eliminating the U.S. Department of Education and sending funding directly to states means schools can spend less time and money on paperwork and compliance for teachers and administrators and more time and money educating students.</p>	<b>63%</b>	<b>20%</b>	27%	36%	10%	9%	10%	7%
<p><b>30.</b> This proposal would let states and schools focus resources directly on students and improving outcomes, instead of administrative overhead and endless hours of required federal paperwork.</p>	<b>64%</b>	<b>18%</b>	31%	34%	10%	8%	10%	8%
<p><b>31.</b> Average reading and math scores of high school seniors are the lowest they've been in two decades. Returning full control of education to states means they can better tailor curriculum to meet the needs of their unique students.</p>	<b>60%</b>	<b>22%</b>	28%	32%	11%	11%	10%	7%
<p><b>32.</b> No one knows their communities better than state and school district leaders. This proposal would return control of education to those who know best.</p>	<b>64%</b>	<b>18%</b>	33%	31%	10%	8%	11%	6%
<p><b>33.</b> Across the country, state and local agencies have hired nearly 50,000 people to help meet federal requirements established by the U.S. Department of Education, wasting time, money, and effort that could be better spent educating our children. Schools need to be allowed to focus on teaching, not worrying about endless paperwork.</p>	<b>62%</b>	<b>21%</b>	29%	33%	12%	9%	11%	7%
<p><b>34.</b> By sending funding directly to states and communities without the federal mandates from the U.S. Department of Education, schools could better reflect the values and priorities of their local communities.</p>	<b>62%</b>	<b>20%</b>	28%	34%	12%	8%	11%	7%

35. Having read some more, do you support or oppose this proposal to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education but ensure that K-12 funding remains and is sent directly to each state and portions of the department are merged with other federal agencies with similar responsibilities?

<u>INIT</u>	<u>INF</u>	
56%	59%	<b><i>TOTAL SUPPORT</i></b>
30%	30%	<b><i>TOTAL OPPOSE</i></b>
18%	23%	Strongly support
37%	36%	Somewhat support
16%	14%	Somewhat oppose
14%	16%	Strongly oppose
14%	11%	Not sure

36. And, to what extent would you be disappointed if your representatives in Congress opposed or blocked this proposal?

56%	<b><i>TOTAL DISAPPOINTED</i></b>
30%	<b><i>TOTAL NOT DISAPPOINTED</i></b>
23%	Very disappointed
33%	Somewhat disappointed
17%	Not that disappointed
13%	Not at all disappointed
14%	Not sure



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

**[K-12 PARENT, N=360]**

**37.** What type of school does your child/children in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade attend? *Please select an answer for each child in K-12.*

- 47% Traditional public school in neighborhood
- 21% Traditional public school outside neighborhood
- 17% Public charter school
- 15% Private, religious school
- 11% Public magnet school
- 10% Homeschool or homeschool co-op
- 9% Private, non-religious school
- 8% Full-time online school
- 6% Hybrid/blended approach across multiple schools
- 3% Microschool
- Something else/Other (Please specify)
  
- 1% Not sure

**38.** Do you or someone in your household work in education?

- 7% Yes, I do
- 7% Yes, someone in my household does
- 3% Yes, both me and someone in my household do
- 81% No
  
- 2% Not sure

**39.** What is your household's total annual income before taxes?

- 14% Under \$25,000
- 20% \$25,000 - \$49,999
- 20% \$50,000 - \$74,999
- 17% \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 8% \$100,000 - \$124,999
- 8% \$125,000 - \$149,999
- 7% \$150,000 - \$199,999
- 6% \$200,000 or more
  
- 2% Prefer not to say

**40.** Generally speaking, what is your religious preference?

27%	Catholicism
23%	Protestantism
3%	Judaism
3%	Islam
1%	Buddhism
1%	Mormonism
14%	Another religion
25%	No religion/unaffiliated
3%	Prefer not to say

**41.** How would you describe the area where you live?

31%	An urban area or city
45%	A suburban area
10%	A small town
14%	A rural area
--	Not sure

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

<b>42%</b>	<b>TOTAL REPUBLICAN</b>
<b>40%</b>	<b>TOTAL DEMOCRAT</b>
24%	Strong Republican
11%	Not-so-strong Republican
7%	Independent but lean slightly Republican
13%	Strictly Independent
10%	Independent but lean slightly Democrat
8%	Not-so-strong Democrat
22%	Strong Democrat
3%	Something else/Other
2%	Not sure

**[REPUBLICAN, N=630]**

**43.** Would you say you are more a supporter of the Republican Party or Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement?

53%	Republican Party
39%	Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement
8%	Not sure

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

<b>36%</b>	<b>TOTAL CONSERVATIVE</b>
<b>26%</b>	<b>TOTAL LIBERAL</b>
17%	Very conservative
19%	Somewhat conservative
32%	Moderate
13%	Somewhat liberal
12%	Very liberal
1%	Libertarian
2%	Something else/Other
3%	Not sure

**45.** Thinking back to the presidential election in November 2024, regardless of how you feel today, for whom did you vote?

44%	Donald Trump
42%	Kamala Harris
4%	Someone else/Other
9%	Did not vote
1%	Not sure