

Homeschool Parent Survey

August 29 – September 2, 2024

N=1,000 K-12 Homeschooling Parents Nationwide
Margin of Error = +/- 3.4%
Online

yes.
every kid.
foundation.

Key Findings

- ✓ **Most homeschool families in the United States began homeschooling following the outbreak of COVID-19.** Eighty-seven percent of homeschool parents started homeschooling their children at the start of the 2021 school year or after. In fact, 58% of homeschool families are brand new to homeschooling, having started in the past two school years.
- ✓ **Homeschool families today are as diverse as America.** As the homeschool community continues to expand, it becomes more representative of America, sharing a similar composition to the overall U.S. population on key demographics like geography and race/ethnicity.
- ✓ **Homeschool parents do not believe their state leaders spend enough time focusing on k-12 education.** Two-thirds of homeschool parents believe their elected leaders spend too little time focused on k-12 education, while only 5% believe they spend too much time; 22% believe they spend the right amount of time. Republicans, moms, non-white parents, households with incomes under \$100,000, and both suburban and rural parents most believe state leaders spend too little time.
- ✓ **A majority of homeschool parents believe the current homeschool regulations in their states are about right.** Six-in-ten parents say current regulations in their respective states are about right, while the remaining parents are split – 16% say too tight, while 18% say too loose. Families new to homeschooling within the past two school years (58% of all homeschool families) are most receptive to new regulations – 55% about right, 15% too tight, 22% too loose, while families who began homeschooling before the COVID-19 pandemic (13% of all homeschool families) are least receptive to new regulations – 68% about right, 22% too tight, 5% too loose.
- ✓ **Homeschool parents seek more options.** Eighty-three percent of homeschool parents believe it is *very* important to give parents more options to improve their children’s education. Families who started homeschooling before the COVID-19 pandemic (13% of all homeschool families) are most sympathetic to more options (91% believe it’s *very* important).
- ✓ **Nine-in-ten homeschool parents agree that homeschool and private school children should be able to attend a public school on a course-by-course basis.** Further, 80% believe providing these children access to public schools would improve their state’s k-12 education system.
- ✓ **By significant margins, homeschool parents support Education Savings Accounts and tax-credit programs.** Eighty-four percent of parents support ESAs, while 88% of parents support tax-credit programs. In fact, a majority of parents *strongly* support each policy: 53% *strongly* support ESAs, 58% *strongly* support tax credits. Support for each policy is equally strong among families who began homeschooling before the COVID-19 pandemic and after.
- ✓ **Two-thirds of homeschool parents fundamentally believe the decision to accept state funding for education should be left to families, but for this to happen, programs like ESAs need to be established in the first place.** Only 27% of homeschool parents believe these programs are a way for government to monitor people and should not be established in the first place. At least three-fifths of every demographic subgroup supports establishing these programs.

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.

First, thinking about you and your family...

1. In which state do you live?

4-PT REGION SHOWN

- 16% Northeast
- 17% Midwest
- 46% South
- 21% West

2. Are you the parent or legal guardian of a child in your household 20 years old or under? *Select all that apply.*

- 20% Yes, I have at least one child 20 or under in my household who is too young to be in a k-12 school this current school year
- 100% Yes, I have at least one child 20 or under in my household who is in a k-12 school or education program this current school year
- 12% Yes, I have at least one child 20 or under in my household who has already graduated from a k-12 school or education program

3. For the current school year, will any k-12 children ages 5 through 20 in your household be homeschooled for at least some of their classes or subjects, including through homeschooling groups or programs, such as co-ops? Please do not include in the count any k-12 children taking online instruction offered through their traditional public school.

- 100% Yes

4. And, for the current school year, how many k-12 children ages 5 through 20 in your household will be homeschooled for at least some of their classes or subjects, including through homeschooling groups or programs, such as co-ops? Please do not include in the count any k-12 children taking online instruction offered through their traditional public school.

- 60% One child
- 31% Two children
- 6% Three children
- 3% Four children
- 1% Five or more children

5. For how many school years have you been homeschooling your child(ren)?

- 24% This is the first year
- 34% This is the second year
- 29% Between three and five years
- 8% Between six and ten years
- 5% For more than ten years

6. Which of the following best describes the reason(s) you choose to homeschool your child(ren)?
Select all that apply.

- 47% You are concerned about safety and violence, from things like drugs, gangs, and guns
- 45% You wanted more flexibility in your child(ren)'s schedule(s)
- 41% You wanted more flexibility in what curriculum you could teach your child(ren)
- 38% You are dissatisfied with public school academics
- 35% You are concerned about bullying at school
- 30% You are concerned about public schools being influenced by politically liberal viewpoints
- 29% You want to incorporate more moral-based instruction
- 26% You are concerned about peer pressure from other students
- 25% You are concerned about your child(ren) becoming ill, from things like covid, the flu, or another disease
- 23% Your child(ren) struggled academically and needs a more personalized approach
- 21% You want to incorporate more religious/Christian-focused instruction
- 21% Your child(ren) have special needs you feel schools can't or won't meet
- 21% You are concerned about public schools being influenced by politically conservative viewpoints
- 20% You are concerned about not spending enough time with your child(ren)
- 15% You don't believe the government should be teaching your child(ren)
- 8% You and/or your partner were homeschooled
- 3% Other (Please specify: _____)

Now, for the next few questions, if you have more than one k-12 child you homeschool, please think only about your oldest homeschooled child. Please do not think about a k-12 child taking online instruction offered through their traditional public school.

7. To the best of your knowledge, approximately how much time will this child be homeschooled this school year? If you aren't sure, please just give your best estimate.

- 8% 25%
- 22% 50%
- 21% 75%
- 49% 100%

8. Which of the following statements best describes your homeschooling arrangement for this child?

- 71% This child will be homeschooled for all academic classes or subject areas this fall, which may include co-ops, virtual/cyber/online courses, and home instruction provided by a private tutor or teacher.
- 29% This child will be homeschooled for some academic classes or subject areas this fall and will also be enrolled in a private school.
- This child will be homeschooled for some academic classes or subject areas this fall and will also be enrolled in a public school.

9. Is any of this child's homeschooling provided by any of the following? *Select all that apply.*

- 65% Their mother
- 46% A teacher or tutor
- 35% Their father
- 8% Another relative
- 3% Another child's parent
- 3% Other (Please specify: _____)

10. Is any of this child's homeschooling instruction provided through any of the following? *Select all that apply.*

- 56% Online live classes
- 47% Online recorded classes
- 22% A local co-op
- 21% Another type of local homeschooling group
- 16% A local micro-school or pod
- 8% Other (Please specify: _____)

Moving on and thinking about some issues...

11. What would you say is the single most important issue you would like to see the [STATE] state legislature focus on this year?

- 21% Jobs/economy
- 19% Education
- 18% Inflation
- 9% Crime
- 8% Immigration
- 8% Healthcare
- 5% Abortion
- 4% Government corruption/reform
- 4% Taxes
- 2% Government spending
- 2% Infrastructure
- 3% Other (Please specify: _____)

12. How important is it for our elected leaders to focus on improving k-12 education in [STATE]?

97% TOTAL EXTREMELY/VERY IMPORTANT
10% TOTAL SOMEWHAT/NOT TOO/NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT

- 57% Extremely important
- 32% Very important
- 8% Somewhat important
- 1% Not too important
- 1% Not at all important

- 1% Don't know

13. If you had the chance to tell our elected leaders how to improve k-12 education in [STATE], what would you tell them? **[OPEN-END RESPONSES RECORDED]**

14. Would you say our elected leaders in [STATE] spend too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time focused on k-12 education?

- 5% Too much time
- 65% Too little time
- 22% Right amount of time

- 8% Don't know

15. How important would you say it is to give parents more options to help improve their children's education?

98% TOTAL IMPORTANT
1% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

83% Very important
15% Somewhat important
1% Not that important
* Not at all important

1% Don't know

16. Based on what you know, would you say that current homeschool regulations in [STATE] are too tight, too loose, or about right?

16% Too tight
18% Too loose
60% About right

6% Don't know

17. Do you agree or disagree that all students, including homeschool and private school children, should be able to attend a public school on a course-by-course basis for instruction, electives, sports, or clubs?

89% TOTAL AGREE
6% TOTAL DISAGREE

51% Strongly agree
39% Somewhat agree
4% Somewhat disagree
2% Strongly disagree

5% Don't know

18. If more students, including homeschool and private school children, had access to any available public-school course, service, or elective, do you think this would improve or weaken [STATE]'s k-12 education system?

80% TOTAL IMPROVE
4% TOTAL WEAKEN

40% Strongly improve
41% Somewhat improve
12% Have no impact
3% Somewhat weaken
1% Strongly weaken

4% Don't know

19. Would you say that you support or oppose Education Savings Accounts, where homeschool and private school parents can use the tax dollars designated to the local school for their own children's education expenses?

84% TOTAL SUPPORT
12% TOTAL OPPOSE

53% Strongly support
31% Somewhat support
7% Somewhat oppose
5% Strongly oppose

4% Don't know

20. Would you say that you support or oppose an education tax credit program, where homeschool and private school parents would receive a direct tax credit from the state to spend on their own children's education expenses?

88% TOTAL SUPPORT
9% TOTAL OPPOSE

58% Strongly support
30% Somewhat support
6% Somewhat oppose
3% Strongly oppose

3% Don't know

21. Although neither statement below may be exactly right, which one comes closer to what you believe?

- 67% State programs like Education Savings Accounts that provide families funding for education give families back the money the state would have spent on their child in public school. Families should get to decide whether to participate or not, but we need these programs in place first.
- 27% State programs like Education Savings Accounts that provide families funding for education are a way for government to further monitor people. Government should not be monitoring us, and we shouldn't have these programs in the first place.
- 6% Don't know

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

22. In which age range do you fall?

- 1% 18-24
- 17% 25-34
- 49% 35-44
- 24% 45-54
- 7% 55-64
- 2% 65 or older

23. What do you consider to be your gender?

- 50% Male
- 50% Female
- * Other

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

- 71% White or Caucasian
- 19% Black or African American
- 13% Hispanic or Latino
- 4% Asian or Asian American
- 3% Native American or Alaska Native
- * Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- * Other

- * Prefer not to say

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

- 2% Some high school or less
- 12% High school diploma or equivalent
- 14% Some college but no degree
- 4% Vocational training/school
- 13% Associate's degree or 2-year college degree
- 31% Bachelor's degree or 4-year college degree
- 25% Advanced degree, such as Master's, Professional, or Doctorate

- * Don't know

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

- 7% Less than \$25,000
- 17% \$25,000 - \$49,999
- 18% \$50,000 - \$74,999
- 17% \$75,000 - \$99,999
- 11% \$100,000 - \$124,999
- 12% \$125,000 - \$149,999
- 18% \$150,000 or more

- Don't know
- * Prefer not to say

27. Which of the following best describes your current relationship status?

- 71% Married
- 14% Single, never married
- 8% Separated/divorced/widowed
- 6% Domestic partnership

- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

28. How often do you attend church or religious services?

- 17% More than once a week
- 31% Once a week
- 12% A couple times a month
- 4% Once a month
- 15% A few times a year
- 21% Never

- 1% Don't know

29. How would you describe the area in which you live?

- 39% An urban area or city
- 40% A suburban area
- 7% A small town
- 14% A rural area

- Don't know

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

- 40%** **TOTAL REPUBLICAN**
- 47%** **TOTAL DEMOCRAT**

- 21% Strong Republican
- 10% Not-so-strong Republican
- 9% Independent but lean slightly Republican
- 9% Strictly Independent
- 8% Independent but lean slightly Democrat
- 10% Not-so-strong Democrat
- 29% Strong Democrat
- 3% Something else/Other

- 1% Don't know

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

- 37%** **TOTAL CONSERVATIVE**
- 28%** **TOTAL LIBERAL**

- 20% Very conservative
- 18% Somewhat conservative
- 32% Moderate
- 13% Somewhat liberal
- 16% Very liberal
- 2% Something else/Other

- 1% Don't know